

THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE

An Evening Review and Record of News.

No. 2102.—VOL. XIV.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1887.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

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COVENT GARDEN.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

Mr. MAPLESON has the honour to announce that the OPERA SEASON of 1887 will COMMENCE on SATURDAY, March 12.

The prospectus is in course of preparation, and will be shortly issued.

The Box-office will open on Monday, March 7.

DRURY LANE.

DRURY LANE.—AUGUSTUS HARRIS, Lessee and Manager.

EVERY EVENING, at 7.25; Morning Performance EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and SATURDAY, at 1.25. THE FORTY THIEVES. The best Pantomime ever produced at Drury Lane, the finest spectacle ever seen, and played by the best and funniest company ever gathered together.

LYCEUM.

LYCEUM.—FAUST, EVERY EVENING, at 8 o'clock. Mephistopheles, Mr. HENRY IRVING; Margaret, Miss ELLEN TERRY. Box Office (Mr. J. Hurst) open 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 (413th time). Mr. William Terriss, Messrs. Beveridge, Garden, Maclean, Lyndal, Boleyn, Russell, Wentworth, Travers, &c.; Mesdames Millward, Achurch, C. Jacks, Leigh, Brennan, Nelson, &c. At 7.15, FAMILY JARS.

OPERA COMIQUE.

MISS KATE VAUGHAN'S COMEDY COMPANY.—TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER. Messrs. Robertson, James Fernandez, Forbes-Dawson, Tapping, Sydney Brough, and Lionel Brough; Mesdames John Billington, Julia Gwynne, Meyer, Susie Vaughan, and Miss Kate Vaughan. Preceded, at 7.45, by A MERRY MEETING. MORNING PERFORMANCE OF SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER on SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.15.—OPERA COMIQUE THEATRE. Manager, F. J. Harris.

VAUDEVILLE.

VAUDEVILLE.—THIS EVENING, at 8.30, SOPHIA (544th 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.

GLOBE.

GLOBE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES H. HAWTREY. NOTICE.—Owing to the severe INDISPOSITION of Mr. W. S. PENLEY this Theatre will be CLOSED, and THE SNOWBALL POSTPONED until further notice.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE. Mr. HORACE SEDGEE, 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, a 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 to 5 daily. Special reduced prices of admission for children under 12.

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, E. Gurney; 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.

SAVOY.

SAVOY.—R. D'O'LY CARTE, Proprietor 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. Brandram. 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.—EVERY EVENING, at 8, a play in four acts by Henry Arthur Jones, entitled HARD HIT. Mr. E. S. Willard, Mr. Arthur Dacre, Mr. H. Kemble, Mr. Frank Archer, Mr. P. Ben Greet, Mr. C. Dods-worth, Mr. U. Winter, Mr. Compton Coult, 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.

OLYMPIC.

OLYMPIC.—MR. EDWARD TERRY'S SEASON.—At 8.15, 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.

OLYMPIC MATINEES.—Lessee, Miss GRACE HAWTHORNE.—TO-MORROW (Wednesday), March 2, and WEDNESDAY, March 9, HEARTSEASE Miss HAWTHORNE as MARGARET GAUTIER. Doors 1.30, commence 2. FROU-FROU on March 16.

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.

CRITERION.

CRITERION THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNNDHAM. At 8, DAVID GARRICK. Mr. CHARLES WYNNDHAM; Messrs. G. Giddens, W. Blakeley, and David James; Mesdames Rose Saker, F. Paget, E. Miller, and Mary Moore. Preceded, 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.

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, Marius, Miss Camille d'Arville, Mme. 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.

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. Lutz, and John Clayton; Misses Norreys, Laura Linden, Marie Lewis, 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.

PARIS HIPPODROME at OLYMPIA. Addison-road Station, Kensington. TO-DAY, at 2.30. TO-NIGHT, at 8, The Olympian Races, Roman Chariot Races, Triple Tandem of Jumping Horses, Race of Riderless Steeds over Hurdles, the Junior Derby, the Spanish Bull-Fight, Indian Race, the wonderful Family of Lions, 400 artists and assistants. 300 Horses, Dogs, Elephants, Deer, &c. 100 Musicians. Such a show has never been seen in London. Admission, from 1s.

ART UNION OF LONDON.—Subscription One Guinea. Every subscriber receives a Fine Line Engraving, by A. Willmore, STREATLEY-ON-THAMES, EVENING, from the original by E. W. Leader, A.R.A., besides a chance of one of the numerous valuable Prizes. The List will CLOSE March 31. The work is now ready.

ZOUCH TROUGHTON, Hon. Sec. No. 112, Strand, February, 1887.

SANDOWN PARK CLUB, ESHER, SURREY.

THE MARCH MEETING will take place on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, March 4th and 5th, Commencing at 1.30 P.M. each day.

Frequent Trains from Waterloo, Vauxhall, Clapham Junction, and other stations as advertised. A Special Train (for Members only) will leave Waterloo Station, from No. 6 Platform, at 12.15 each day. H.W.F. WILLIAMS.

THE LONDON SYMPHONY CONCERTS.

MR. HENSCHEL, Conductor.

THE LAST LONDON SYMPHONY CONCERT BUT TWO.—St. James's Hall.—FOURTEENTH CONCERT, TO-MORROW (WEDNESDAY), at 8.30 P.M.

Programme:—Air with variations, lullaby, and minuet from the Suite, for strings, "In the Olden Time" (MS.), F. H. Cowen (conducted by the composer); Concerto for Violoncello (Haydn), Mr. Julius Klengel; Symphony in D minor (No. 4), Op. 120 (Schumann); Song, "Kennst du das Land" (Liszt), Miss Emily Winant; Violoncello Solo, "Variations Capricieuses" (Klengel), Mr. Julius Klengel; Overture to "The Mastersingers of Nuremberg" (Wagner).

MISS EMILY WINANT will Sing "Kennst du das Land" (Liszt), and Mr. JULIUS KLENDEL will Play Concerto for Violoncello (Haydn) and Violoncello Solo. "Variations Capricieuses" (Klengel) at the FOURTEENTH SYMPHONY CONCERT (Last but two) TO-MORROW, WEDNESDAY, 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 LAST LONDON SYMPHONY CONCERT BUT TWO.—St. James's Hall. FOURTEENTH CONCERT, TO-MORROW (WEDNESDAY), at 8.30. Vocalist, Miss Emily Winant. Solo Violoncello, Mr. Julius Klengel. Orchestra of 80 Performers.—Mr. HENSCHEL, Conductor.

FETTES COLLEGE, EDINBURGH.

A number of OPEN SCHOLARSHIPS, varying from £50 to £200, will be OPEN for COMPETITION in July to boys between 11 and 15.—For particulars apply to HEADMASTER.

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.

FREEHOLD GROUND.—CITY OF LONDON.

The Commissioners of Sewers of the City of London will meet in the GUILDHALL of the said City on TUESDAY, the 5th of April, 1887, at Half-past Twelve o'clock precisely, to RECEIVE TENDERS for the purchase of a very valuable Freehold Building Site, situate at the corner of Bream's-buildings, Fetter-lane, and possessing a frontage to Bream's-buildings of about 90 ft., as per plans and particulars to be obtained at the office of the Engineer to the Commissioners, in the Guildhall.

Tenders must be sealed, endorsed outside "Tender for Ground, Bream's Buildings," and be addressed to the undersigned at this office, and must be delivered before 12 o'clock on the said day of treaty. The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender.

Parties sending in proposals must attend personally or by a duly authorized agent at Half-past Twelve o'clock on the said day, and be then prepared (if their Tender be accepted) to pay the required deposit of 10 per cent. on the purchase-money and to execute an agreement for the completion of the purchase agreeably to the conditions of sale.

HENRY BLAKE, Principal Clerk. Sewers' Office, Guildhall, February, 1887.

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CORPULENCY.—Recipe and notes how to harmlessly, effectually, and rapidly cure obesity without semi-starvation dietary, etc. *European Mail*, October 24th, says:—"Its effect is not merely to reduce the amount of fat, but by affecting the source of obesity to induce a radical cure of the disease." Book, 116 pages (8 stamps). F. C. RUSSELL, Woburn House, 27, Store-street, Bedford-square, London, W.C.

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OFFICES OF THE INSTITUTIONS,

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"THE MOSLEM."

"AU SOLEIL."

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TWELFTH BONUS MEETING, 1887.

The Report presented at a meeting, held on the 6th January last, showed that on the rigorous bases of the Institute of Actuaries' HM and HM(5) Tables of Mortality, with 3 per cent. interest and net premiums, which together produce the highest reserves known to the Assurance practice,

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FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1887.

THE SECRET OF HOUSE OF COMMONS LOQUACITY.

It would be a mistake to suppose that the intolerable chatter that now goes on in the House of Commons is a passing affliction. In point of fact, it is the perfectly natural outcome of a new and enlarged system of representation, and might have been anticipated; though we are not aware that this particular result was foreseen as a matter of much importance.

As an unhappy M.P. wrote to the *Times* the other day, it is not altogether the fault of members of the House of Commons if debates are unduly prolonged: members *must* talk, or their constituents will fancy that they are not represented by the right sort of person. In so saying the gentleman was right; but what such an apologist should have added is, that we can't eat our cake and have it. We can't at once have all the orderly procedure of our old parliamentary system, when speaking for the most part was left to those who had something to say, and at the same time enjoy all the popularity, freedom, and universally diffused interest in politics which distinguishes the new régime. The relations between a member and his constituents have been gradually changing ever since 1832. The enfranchisement of our great manufacturing towns, together with the influence of railways, newspapers, telegraphs, debating clubs, etcetera, have created a political public as unlike anything which existed sixty years ago as the Lancashire of sixty years ago was unlike the Lancashire of 1745. So robust an appetite for discussion has been formed that it seems almost insatiable; and what goes on in the House of Commons is only a reflex of what is going on in all parts of the country. The change was not perceptible all at once. Thanks to the Whigs, a good many pocket-boroughs were still left by the first Reform Bill; while men whose parliamentary education had been acquired in the old House of Commons continued for some years to form the majority of the new. As the latter gradually disappeared, and as the former were periodically disfranchised, the traditions of the old régime grew fainter and fainter, till finally, with the two Reform Bills of 1867 and 1885, and the total extinction of the old race of members who had been led by LIVERPOOL and CANNING and PONSONBY and ALTHORPE, the change was complete. The restraining influence which these men exercised upon the House of Commons has departed, and they have been succeeded by others whose constituents regard speaking as the only test of merit; just as the Puritans regarded the power of preaching for three hours together as the one and only qualification of a religious teacher. Silent members are "dumb dogs." And thus a perennial flood of loquacity is let loose upon the House of Commons which, while it is displeasing, if not disgusting, to the country as a whole, gives great satisfaction to most constituencies individually. Each one of them expects its own man to raise his voice in the House of Commons, and is disappointed if he does not contrive to make some sort of a sensation from time to time.

A second great change which has crept over the House of Commons during the last half-century is that craving for perpetual legislation—legislation for its own sake—which it is so difficult to reconcile with either the dignity of Parliament or the duties of Government. This faith grew up during the long period which intervened between the collapse of the old Constitution and the full development of modern Radicalism. Mr. GLADSTONE has allowed that this old Constitution was "something to fight for;" and the thing to remark about it is, that both its supporters and its assailants were actuated by a genuine belief in certain great political principles lifted above the atmosphere of ordinary domestic legislation. Men were sent to Parliament then to maintain or to repeal a civil and religious system which had existed since the seventeenth century, to support in its integrity or to curtail very seriously the power of the aristocracy, to uphold or to destroy the claim of the Church of England to be a part of the State of England. Thus the considerations by which electors and elected were alike governed were independent of "programmes." Now the programme is everything. As one by one those questions of principle have been settled, men have had nothing left to differ about but questions which the old Whigs and Tories would have treated as entirely open ones. But as these have been elevated into the position once occupied by first principles, Ministers have been equally obliged to stand or fall by them; and so it has been discovered that to prevent a Ministry from carrying its measures is now a far surer way of discrediting them than by impugning their political principles. Herein we discover the natural soil and native atmosphere of obstruction. Talking out measures one after another is clearly a much longer process than delivering a set philippic once

or twice a session against the native errors of a political opponent; and as it has to be done—then we have obstruction. This is the second cause of the difficulties with which successive Governments have been endeavouring to grapple for the last eight or ten years. But fortunately there is a better cure for it at hand than either restriction or devolution; and it is this: The reappearance of first principles as the distinguishing mark of political parties instead of measures of legislation. This is one good which the new Radical party has effected for us. They have traced a line of demarcation between two parties in the country, independently of their legislative performances. It takes some time to realize such a change as this. But as soon as it is seen that Government can no longer be seriously injured by the delay of administrative measures, and that their title to public confidence lies in the principles they represent, obstruction may talk its heart out and the cloture will be unnecessary.

MODERN BUCCANEERING.

THE so called "Filibustering Case" was within a little of being a romantic story. As it is, though Colonel Sandoval has had to undergo the inconvenience of being convicted, and may have to suffer disagreeable consequences, the absurd element in the whole affair perhaps preponderates over any others. The story is briefly this. Sir William Call bought a serviceable merchant-steamer, with the ominous name of the *Fusticia*, and sent her to Antwerp. At the same time Colonel Sandoval bought two Krupp guns, with appurtenances, including gun-carriages, asserted by the vendor to be fit for nothing but firing signals from, and 20,000 rounds of ball cartridge. These he sent in another steamer to Antwerp, where they were transhipped to the *Fusticia*. There were also put on board a large number of rifles, and the *Fusticia* sailed for the West Indies, carrying besides these munitions of war Colonel Sandoval, who assumed the command of the vessel, and three other gentlemen with Spanish names. When they arrived at Trinidad they were not allowed to put into port, in consequence, it was alleged, of a revolution being in progress in the United States of Venezuela. They therefore cruised along the Venezuelan coast in a way which, if it was not revolution, was uncommonly like piracy. They took on board a hundred men, variously described as "volunteers" and "revolutionists," who were armed with Colonel Sandoval's purchases. Also they took in tow small craft containing 500 more men; and they too, were provided with rifles from the *Fusticia*. Thus reinforced, they fell in with a "long, low, dark vessel," vaguely supposed to be a man-of-war under the direction of the then uppermost party in Venezuela; and with her they fought a battle in the dark, a person on board of the *Fusticia* (now renamed the *Liberata*) described as "one of the generals," being killed. After the battle they cruised about, occasionally firing at ships or forts, and occasionally being fired at. Once they fired "at a Custom House" and missed it. Eventually they got tired of such desultory warfare, the Europeans came home, and what became of the *Fusticia* was not given in evidence.

The jury naturally enough concluded that when Colonel Sandoval ordered his cannon, rifles, and ammunition to be sent to Antwerp for the voyage which he himself accompanied as far as Trinidad he knew perfectly well what was going to be done with them. Mr. Finlay urged, on behalf of Sir William Call, that the Krupp guns were only intended for signalling and possible protection against pirates, and that the ball-cartridge might have been wanted for sporting purposes. Further, he urged that, even as it turned out, no one had any more serious purpose than "promoting the passage of a Reform Bill," and that prowling about shooting at Custom Houses is in the United States of Venezuela a recognized and permissible method of "political agitation." This bold contention, it must be feared, indicates that a study of political agitation in Ireland has demoralized the judgment of the member for Inverness. As to whether Sir William Call was privy to the proposed buccaneering the jury could not make up their minds; and it is very likely that the director of public prosecutions may decide to give him the benefit of their doubt. The most suspicious circumstances urged against him by the Crown were, that he sent the ship to Antwerp, asserting that she was to carry machinery for use in gold-mines to the West Indies, and that he was himself at Antwerp when she set sail for Trinidad. If, as his counsel suggested, he had no intention except to sell the ship and cargo in the West Indies in the ordinary way of trade, it is difficult to understand why she or her owner should go to Antwerp, or why Colonel Sandoval should be permitted to load her with rifles and cartridges. However, we have nothing to say about Sir William Call except that the refusal of some of the jury to acquit him of complicity in the attack on somebody in Venezuela justifies the Government in having put him on his trial.

The charge against the defendants was twofold. The eighth section of the Foreign Enlistment Act, 1870, makes it an offence to equip a ship with intent that it shall be "employed in the military or naval service of any foreign State at war with any friendly State." There was no dispute that the *Fusticia* was "equipped" within the meaning of this section. It appeared to be acknowledged that a revolutionary party in Venezuela, engaged in making war on the Venezuelan Government, might be a "foreign State" within the interpretation clause. But the Solicitor-General withdrew this charge, because when the ship was equipped there was no such war going on. The section does not expressly say that the war must be going on at the time when the ship is equipped, and from a merely legal point of view it is a pity that an opportunity of procuring an authoritative decision as to the meaning of the section has been lost. The other charge was under the 11th section, which forbids persons in the Queen's

dominions to "prepare or fit out any naval or military expedition to proceed against the dominions of any friendly State." Mr. Finlay urged that an "expedition" must consist of men, and that fitting out a ship to be used as the *Fusticia* was is not in itself fitting out a naval expedition. This question will doubtless be argued in the Divisional Court. Meanwhile, most people will think that Mr. Justice Smith's direction to the jury, that if Colonel Sandoval knew what his guns were going to be used for he assisted in fitting out a naval expedition, was in accordance with common sense and with law. At any rate, if that is not the meaning of the Act, it ought to be. If the victim of the proposed political agitation had been France instead of Venezuela the consequences might have been very serious.

NOTES.

The 21st of June, it is now decided, is to be the official Jubilee Day. There will be a Thanksgiving Service in Westminster Abbey, which will, we may hope, be splendid enough to do justice to the occasion. As the day is to be kept as a general holiday, all London will be at liberty to line the route of the procession, which therefore should be sufficiently magnificent to partly compensate the vast majority of persons who will not be privileged to be present at the service. Nothing can be happier than the selection of the date. All England looks at its best about Midsummer Day, and no time is so well suited to outdoor pageants and displays. As to the possibility of a rainy day, we will not think of it.

The House of Commons was again employed all yesterday in doing business, and doing it with a dilatoriness that a board of vestrymen would not endure. The Irish party, aided by their Gladstonian followers, wasted time with vigour, pertinacity, and much success. There was, of course, not the slightest chance that Parliament would refuse to have Marlborough House repaired, if Marlborough House is to be kept in existence at all, or that it should decline to pay for properly housing the British Legation in Brussels, because Belgium may be annexed by some other State some time. As there is not the least use in taking divisions on such propositions as these, even by way of "protest," it is obvious that they are only made to prevent the business of the country from being done. Of course in the case of the Irish members that purpose is not concealed. All is fair in rebellion.

Mr. Justice O'Brien gave some admirable advice to his fellow-countrymen in the course of his charge to the grand jury of Ennis. After expressing in the strongest language his horror at the murder of B'ers and the inhuman treatment of his widow, and asserting that "law had to a great extent ceased to exist in the country," he reminded his hearers how much individual Irishmen could and ought to do, independently of the assistance of the Government, to rescue their country from its present condition. "Let those persons who are engaged in trade see the ruin that is before their eyes; let those who have to meet their own engagements and cannot collect their debts determine to support each other." Mr. Justice O'Brien expressed his belief that the tyranny now existing in Ireland could not stand a day, against an earnest combination of all those to whom it is hateful—if they would only have the courage to combine.

The chairman of the Royal Albert Hall seems to be what the cabman called John Foster—"a harbitrary gent." Referring to the suggestion that it might be necessary to give the local authorities some control over the Hall, he said the corporation would not hear of it. They had the Prince of Wales as president and her Majesty the Queen as patron, and they were not going to be interfered with by the Metropolitan Board of Works. But no one supposes that the Queen or the Prince of Wales personally manages the affairs of the Hall; and the public, or at least the Kensington public, would like some security that the spirited proprietors do not make a local nuisance of the place. It would be ridiculous enough that a building, inaugurated with such a parade of lofty aims and motives, should be converted into a West-end version of the Aquarium or the London Pavilion.

The Dover Harbour Bill was read a second time in the House of Lords by a majority of five; but the arguments used against the Bill seem to have been decidedly stronger than those on which its supporters relied. The Bill is a private Bill, promoted by the Dover Corporation; and it proposes to transfer to the corporation the property which was vested by a public Act in a board created for the purpose. No precedent could be found for such a measure. The harbour is at present in the hands of a board of seven members, on which the corporation is represented by two elected members; and this body is enabled to levy rates and to borrow money, and is also entrusted with the actual management of the harbour. By the new Bill, the property of the board is to be transferred to the corporation, who will be able to apply any surplus arising from the harbour to the ordinary expenses of the town. The actual management will be entrusted to a committee, on which the representatives of the corporation will have a majority, although the

Government and the railway companies, whose representatives form the majority of the existing board, will also be represented. No complaint is made against the management of the harbour by the existing board; and the principle which has been observed with regard to most other large harbours has been to make the Harbour Board independent of the corporation, and to forbid the expenditure of the profits arising from a harbour on anything except the harbour itself.

The *Daily News* shows an unsuspected capacity for the criticism of Mr. Gladstone this morning. It says that those who know most about the matter in question "will reply to all Mr. Gladstone's arguments, first, that they do not hold water, and next, that to consider thus is to consider too curiously." It is true that the subject of Mr. Gladstone's unsatisfactory utterances is only the god Poseidon; but it would be of advantage to the readers of the *Daily News* if that journal would apply as searching a criticism to the Gladstonian method of reasoning when it is devoted to matters of immediate importance as when it serves to support an untrustworthy hypothesis about the minor peculiarities of a deity who is regarded with pardonable indifference by the majority of the men and women of the present time.

London is promised what the *Times* rightly calls "an artistic joke" of a curious kind before long. Mr. Harry Furniss is going to fill the Gainsborough Gallery in Old Bond-street with a collection of elaborate parodies on the works of the best known painters of the day. There are cynics who say that it would be a pity to abolish the House of Commons, desirable as the step might be, because then Mr. Furniss would be unable to give us any more "Parliamentary Views." Similarly, if there were no Royal Academy, we should be deprived of the delightful travesties which appear in *Punch*. Mr. Furniss is almost as good at parodying pictures as at caricaturing public men. Everybody will enjoy the Furniss Gallery. Still it is just possible that a joke on such a large scale may be found to be a trifle overdone.

That it is a proper and even a necessary thing that houses should be periodically examined by a competent authority, to the end that their sanitary arrangements shall be maintained in proper order, is pretty generally admitted; but it may be doubted whether the cause of sanitary science will be much advanced by the Inspection Bills of Mr. Lacaita and Mr. Dixon-Hartland. The worst blot of Mr. Lacaita's Bill is that it provides for inspection only once every five years. Now, if there is to be any inspection at all, it ought to be at least annual. Mr. Lacaita confines himself to hotels, boarding-houses, and such like premises; and, no doubt, there is urgent need for the sanitary regulation of large buildings occupied by great numbers of casual visitors; but this piecemeal legislation is nearly always unsatisfactory.

A very interesting account of Cardinal Jacobini, who died yesterday at noon, is furnished by the Paris correspondent of the *Times*. The telegram is ingeniously contrived so as to set forth not only the characteristics of the Cardinal, but also the important tasks entrusted to M. de Blowitz. The Cardinal was an astute diplomatist, but he could not manage to extract from M. de Blowitz the information which he required as to certain parts of a conversation which that gentleman had just had with the Pope. The Pope was no more successful in hiding his opinions from the scrutinizing eye of M. de Blowitz. At his interview with his Holiness, the famous correspondent made an apparently casual remark to the effect that exactly twenty-four hours before he had been chatting with King Humbert at the Quirinal. The Pope was taken off his guard, and expressed a warmer interest in the King's welfare than he would have done if he had had time to reflect. It is not every man who has talked freely to a Pope about a King, and to a King about a Pope; but M. de Blowitz had done both. Cardinal Jacobini felt that he had met his master; and he could only revenge himself by taking his visitor to his study at the top of a flight of 200 steps, which the spare ecclesiastic ascended so rapidly as to inflict considerable discomfort on his great companion.

The *Victory*, it is reported, is to have masts put into her once more, and to be towed out to Spithead to serve as flagship on the occasion of the Jubilee naval review. It may not be generally known that the *Victory*, besides being the oldest ship in the navy, is, so far as can be ascertained, the oldest ship at present afloat, and that the name which she bears has been borne by British men-of-war ever since the earliest infancy of the service. The first *Victory* was Vice-Admiral Sir John Hawkins's flagship against the Spanish Armada in 1588, and seems to have been built about the year 1574. Her tonnage is a matter of dispute; but we know that during part of her existence she carried fifty-nine guns, chiefly of very small calibre. She appears to have remained serviceable for many years afterwards; but by 1618 she was worn out, and early in Charles I.'s reign a new *Victory*, of 702 tons and forty guns, was launched. This vessel had a tolerably long life; but in 1651 a third *Victory* figures in the Navy List. This one was of 541 tons and fifty-two guns, and was classed as a second-rate. The fourth *Victory*, also a second-rate, was a ship of 1,029 tons and 72 guns. She gave place to a

fifth *Victory*, a crack ship of 1,921 tons and 100 guns. She was built at Portsmouth in 1737, and was lost in the Channel in October, 1744, when Admiral Balchen and considerably over a thousand men perished with her. The sixth and last *Victory* was laid down at Chatham in 1759—128 years ago—and was launched on the 7th of May, 1765. On the day of Trafalgar she was already an old ship.

Bubble-blowing parties have had their day in America. The craze that has driven them out, however, promises to become even more fashionable. Every guest at a "party" is presented by the hostess with a pin and a piece of calico, cut to resemble a donkey's tail. A large calico donkey has been previously fixed against the wall, and each guest is blindfolded in turn, twisted round three times, and told to pin the tail in its right place on the donkey. As few hit upon the right place, "the company get plenty of fun out of their game." This substitute for rational conversation is called a "donkey party:" rather a good name.

The controversy about Cremona violins which is going on in the *Standard*, seems raised on a singularly slight basis. Somebody has announced that he has discovered the secrets of the old Italian makers, and especially the secret of the varnish. He has found all about it in an Italian MS. of which he gives a rather confusing account. He believes that now the secret of the varnish has been revealed it will be possible for any maker to turn out instruments equal to Stradivari's masterpieces, and for anybody to buy them for a few pounds. Also, the Cremona varnish when applied to the sounding-boards of pianos, will marvellously increase the sweetness and resonance of the instrument. We take leave to doubt the value of Mr. Lake's alleged discoveries until he produces his evidence. His communication reads like that of an enthusiastic but puzzle-headed and not very well informed amateur.

A memorial to the men who fought and fell in the Transvaal war has been placed in St. Paul's. The recognition comes tardily; but it is only natural that Englishmen should feel reluctant to be reminded of one of the most humiliating episodes in their recent history. It is a doubtful point whether the desertion of Gordon or the surrender of Majuba Hill is the most disgraceful act in Mr. Gladstone's political career. We may leave the historian of the future to settle the question. It seems a pity, however, that the inscription on the Transvaal brass in St. Paul's is left incomplete. At present it runs: "This monument, erected by comrades, relatives, and friends, is sacred to the memory of all those who, belonging to the besieged garrisons in the Transvaal, lost their lives whilst fighting for Queen and country during the heroic defence of that province against the Boers, from the 16th December, 1880, to 2nd April, 1881." Words to something like this effect should be added: "Which defence was rendered unavailing, since the British Government (W. E. Gladstone, Premier) surrendered to the Boers, after a defeat of British troops, all that had been refused to them before."

That tenants must go without water because their landlord had become insolvent, or even had a *bonâ fide* dispute with the water company—this we knew. But it has been reserved for the Chelsea Water Company to refuse to give the water for which an occupier has actually paid (water rates, be it remembered, are collected in advance), on the ground that a neighbour who has not paid might also obtain a supply through the same pipe. Meanwhile the luckless occupier is not only suffering in health—"the smell from the drains having become intolerable"—but also is threatened with prosecution by the vestry under the provisions of the Nuisances Removal Act. It is not, apparently, contended that the water company were ignorant of the fact that the one pipe was supplying two houses. That being so, a lawyer might have thought that they would hardly have endeavoured to throw the unpleasant consequences of their own carelessness on an innocent third party; but we have long had to feel that London water companies are as much *supra legem* as the Emperor Sigismund was *supra grammaticam*. Unfortunately, the House of Commons is wholly given over to procedure, and the water companies are masters of the situation for the present.

There will be no special dog legislation this session. An announcement practically to this effect was made in the House of Commons last night by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was asked by Mr. Coghill whether the dog tax was at present evaded in the great majority of cases—whether he would undertake to remove the existing exemption from it "of dogs kept solely for the purpose of tending sheep or cattle on a farm and by shepherds;" and whether, for the protection of the public and in the interests of the Exchequer, he would consider the advisability of increasing the tax to 10s. Mr. Goschen, in reply, admitted that there was doubtless much evasion of the dog tax, but would not go so far as to say that it was evaded in the great majority of cases. It was not his intention to remove existing exemptions, nor does he propose to raise the tax. Mr. Goschen also declines to act upon a suggestion made to him privately by Mr. Coghill that every licensed dog should be required to wear a metal tablet, and he does so on the ground that such a regulation "would give great irritation both to the owners and their dogs." Mr. Goschen, in short, means to leave the dogs alone so far as the Exchequer is concerned, and in this he acts with prudence.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SANGUINARY SCHOOL OF ROMANCE.

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

SIR,—We hear of a great revival of the literature of romance. This revival is generally considered to be matter of congratulation; and so in the main it is. Yet, as you pointed out in your article on "Unnatural Literature," there is a very mischievous tendency in the works of some contemporary novelists; a tendency all the more dangerous because these writers seem quite unconscious that there is anything wrong about their books.

One of the cleverest of these gentlemen had an article on the subject of his craft in the February number of the *Contemporary Review*. With Mr. Haggard's essay as a whole I do not propose to deal; but I must say that his attack on the Young Person and her blighting influence on English fiction strikes me as neither new nor true. We have heard of that Young Person, and the obstacles she puts in the path of gentlemen anxious to write "for men and women," pretty frequently. For my part I cannot see that she has ever prevented a great author from writing with all the freedom which his art and his subject require. In despite of the Young Person, we have had, or have, Thackeray and George Eliot, the Brontës, and Charles Reade, George Meredith, and R. D. Blackmore. Will any one say that these novelists have been shrivelled into namby-pambyism by the necessity of leaving undisturbed "the maiden fancies of sixteen?" We have had novels that are manly and virile enough, notwithstanding all that has been written of the bondage of English prudery and English convention. Mr. Haggard, however, is no partisan of those who would

Paint the mortal shame of nature with the living hues of art.

He is very careful to explain that he is not in the least an admirer of the "naturalistic" school of fiction. On the contrary, nobody can be more righteously indignant with M. Zola and his sect. He describes in strong language the harm that these writers have done, and tells us that their works are works of the devil. A similar opinion is held by most wholesome-minded people; and, therefore, we may hope that our romancers will refrain from dabbling in the bestiality of Zolaesque "realism." At the same time it would be well if in their yearning after "Freedom" they did not fall into an error not so very different from, though no doubt less harmful than, that of the Zolas and the De Goncourts. To my thinking it is impossible to read some of the modern stories which claim to be of the romantic order, without feeling that there is about them an unpleasant odour of the shambles, or of the battle-field at night-fall. There is a Naturalism of Blood as well as a Naturalism of Lust; and if it is wicked to make the breach of the seventh Commandment too familiar, it cannot be wholly right to treat the sixth with levity. In a book of adventures it must, of course, be necessary to touch on that kind of hazard by which one man loses his life at the hands of another; but is there any need of this lubricity of bloodshed which is the reproach of modern romance? "Whatever there is brutal in humanity—and God knows that there is plenty—whatever there is that is carnal and filthy, is here brought into prominence and thrust before the reader's eyes," says Mr. Haggard of the Zolaists. From the carnal and the filthy the pages of our living romancers are free enough; but it seems necessary to remind them that to pore and linger on the details of bloody violence is brutal too, and that the baser part of human nature responds almost as readily to the stimulus of cruelty as to the fascinations of lust.

Perhaps I shall be told that the public like it. The taste of the age inclines to the sensational. The wine of fiction must be a brandied and vitriolized draught, or it will wake no response in our toughened palates. If this is true, so much the more reason for moderation and self-control on the part of the romance-writer. I do some of these men the justice to believe that they are animated by a high sense of the dignity and usefulness of their calling. Their very extravagances (as Mr. Haggard reveals plainly enough in his article), are due to an attempt to get beyond the artificialities of modern existence, and to soar into the "ampler æther" of imagination; nor will any one say that the painter of the ruins of Kôr and the treasure-cave of King Solomon has not succeeded. But let him and his competitors (they are becoming a multitude) consider whether they do not degrade their art when they go about to gratify a taste for torture and butchery. "The brute brain within the man's" is easily stirred. Legislation and custom have made it difficult to look on actual deeds of cruelty. We have no gladiatorial contests and combats of wild beasts, though doubtless if we had, those entertainments would "draw" splendidly. Bull-baiting and bear-baiting are abolished, and even the Prize-Ring is a prohibited amusement though apparently not an unpopular one. But if we may not see such things with our material vision, we may behold them with the eye of fancy. Education has placed this luxury within the reach of all. The "masses" read their police news and gloat over the details of the most horrible stories of crime. School-boys may indulge in the raw-head-and-bloody-bones literature which has taken the place of Gustave Aimard and Mayne Reid. And men and women who are too refined for the gutter dreadfuls, and too old for the adventures of Ned Kelly and Blueskin, may surfeit themselves at pleasure with another sort of "thrilling" romance. No doubt that sort of writing "pays." It is the taste of the time. People who know nothing else of French literature revel in the Old Bailey epic of MM. Gaboriau and Du Boisgobey. Balzac and Victor Hugo are neglected; but Flaubert's brutal "Salammbô," divested by the process of translation of its one redeeming charm of style, sells by the thousand. We cannot torture a man to death for our amusement, but we can have a full feast of agony in print, to ponder over at the fireside. Nero's living torches are out of our reach; but we can get a skilful novelist to reproduce a somewhat similar incident with lifelike fidelity. The shocking scene of the burning of the mummified bodies in "She" (all the more shocking because it is not in the least necessary to the development of the story, and is thrown in, as it were, by way of gratuitous embellishment) would certainly not have been allowed to pass without protest thirty, twenty, or even ten years ago. And as

it stands there in Mr. Haggard's pages, it is nothing less than an outrage on humanity.

The writers who are using their talents to satisfy this appetite should be aware that they have imitators and will have successors. They should recollect, too, that the appetite for horrors "grows by what it feeds on." It seems impossible to deny that such a growth is visible in the fiction of the last few years. Each new novel of the "romantic" school contains a larger element of the horrible and the sanguinary than its predecessors; and this element seems introduced simply because it is an easy means of inducing that shock of surprise for which the indolent and jaded modern reader craves. The motive is the same as that which causes the French Naturalists to make choice of their precious commodities. Cruelty and lust—these are the two potent stimuli that serve to excite imaginations which no longer respond to the fresh and healthy incentive of natural feeling. They have been found to prevail most largely not in the raw air of barbarism, but in the sick and heavy atmosphere of a civilized society that is languishing to decay. With our national habit of self-deception, we hug ourselves to think that we are not even as these Frenchmen. It may be worth while to consider whether our imaginative fiction is not in some danger of falling into a pitfall as fatal as that which has engulfed the noble literature of our neighbours. At least it is well that some warning of the peril should be uttered; and so far (except in your own pages the other day) I have not seen that the critics have so much as noticed it.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

February 28.

CAMILLUS.

LAW AND LAWYERS IN SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH University is not more unlike Oxford and Cambridge than the life of an English barrister is unlike the life of the Scotch advocate. For in Scotland, though a man may be "called to the Bar," he becomes an advocate, not a barrister, by the process. Indeed, the difference between the universities of the two countries corresponds to one marked difference in the legal arrangements; and just as there are no colleges, so there are no Inns of Court in Edinburgh and counsel are simply members of the Faculty of Advocates.

The student who proposes to be called to the Bar is required to attend for two years the law lectures of the university; or at least to procure certificates of attendance. He then usually, but not necessarily, spends one year in a writer's (*i.e.*, solicitor's) office. No premium is paid for this, and consequently it is not always easy for a student without influential friends to find admission to a good office. And yet it is necessary for him to do so: as "reading in chambers" is unknown, for the sufficient reason that advocates have no chambers to read in. But of this more hereafter. The student is sometimes paid for his work, sometimes not. Frequently, as law-stationers are a class unknown, and all their work is done within the office itself, he is set to the humble task of copying deeds. After this somewhat perfunctory preparation, it is fortunate for him that the admission examination is far from formidable. Quite sufficiently so, on the other hand, are the call fees, which amount to not less than £350.

This, however, is the only obligatory expense throughout his whole career. During the day every advocate who has, or aspires to have or even to be thought to have, any business, is to be found under the roof of the Parliament House. Hither he betakes himself punctually at ten o'clock every morning, dons his wig and gown, and hastens into the great hall—a Westminster Hall on a smaller scale—out of which the different courts open. In this *salle des pas perdus* counsel who have any case coming on are at once buttonholed by solicitors or clients; those who have none walk up and down in twos or threes, or gather in groups round the fires. A few moments later, from a pulpit at one end, a "macer" proclaims the business (calls the roll, as it is termed) that is about to be taken in his court. Suddenly an electric bell clangs, like the division-bell in the House of Commons. It announces that the judges of the First Division of the Inner House, or Court of Appeal, are taking their seats. Shortly after, a second bell, in a deeper key, makes known that their lordships of the Second Division are also prepared to begin, and by half-past ten all the courts are in full swing. The crowd in the hall diminishes, the spectators drift away into the different courts, the advocates who have no cases to conduct move off, some to a consultation in one of the private rooms, others to read law in the library, but the mass of them into court to listen to the proceedings. Though juries are hardly known in civil actions in Scotland, there is a jury-box in each court, and in the Appeal Courts it is usually packed with listening counsel in wig and gown.

Young barristers in London who are restrained by the terrors of the legal Mrs. Grundy from cultivating their moustaches or smoking cigarettes all the morning, have been heard ere now to complain of their bondage; but the chains in which they are bound are as silken threads compared with those which fetter every movement of their Edinburgh compeers. Having no chambers, the Scotch advocate sees his clients after court-hours at his own private house. The usual time for a consultation is either six o'clock, or after dinner at nine or ten. And then solicitors have an inconvenient habit, which, though gradually dying out, is by no means extinct yet, of returning to their offices after dinner. An advocate may therefore have work sent to him at any time in the course of the evening. If he is out, the business is probably carried to another man. The crime of going out to dinner or to a ball varies according to the days of the week. On Monday it is unpardonable, on Tuesday and Wednesday heinous, on Thursday less serious, on Friday venial, while on Saturday no apology or explanation is required. The reason is, no doubt, that the courts rise by one o'clock on Saturday, and hardly sit at all on Monday.

At the Scotch Bar there is no step corresponding to "taking silk" by an English barrister. It is true that the Law Officers of the Crown, the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor-General, during their tenure of office, address the court from within the bar. It is true also that a custom has lately arisen that these officers should receive patents of precedence as Queen's Counsel in England, in order to avoid difficulties when they appear before the

House of Lords, and that they wear the dress of an English Q.C. But with this exception there are nothing but stuff gowns. The nearest approach to the English system is for a barrister to cease, as it is termed, to "write"—that is, to draw pleadings. Then, it is understood, a junior must be employed in all cases to assist him. But, as this step gives no special precedence, the junior must be literally a barrister of fewer years' standing. If the ex-Lord Advocate had only twenty years' seniority at the Bar, and he were to be associated in a case with a barrister who had never had any practice at all but who had been called twenty-one years, it appears that the great lawyer would have to play second fiddle. In its practical working this rule presses hardly upon men who have only half succeeded in their career. They may be good lawyers, safe and pains-taking, and therefore valuable as juniors; but as they get up in years they must lose their business. They cannot lead, for they lack the leader's special gifts; and yet they are of such old standing that there are few seniors left under whom etiquette allows them to serve. For such men it is fortunate that there are many Civil Service appointments open to barristers that in England would be kept within the office itself.

Strangely enough, though for a century past the Lord Advocate has been—what he only ceased to be the other day—the Minister for Scotland, in one respect he has fallen short of his less exalted English compeer, the Attorney-General: he has never been the official head of the Bar. This functionary is known as the Dean of Faculty.

In one respect Scotland has undeniably an advantage over England. It has been a point of honour with Scotchmen of all classes and all parties to maintain the dignity and efficiency of their legal system, and they have steadily refused to permit their courts to be undermanned. Obsolete courts of Exchequer or Admiralty have, it is true, been swept away. But, while England has only about thirty judges for its 28,000,000 of inhabitants, Scotland, with less than a seventh of the wealth or the population, has got thirteen. Naturally, therefore, the work is got through promptly and efficiently. The judicial arrangements are simplicity itself. The Court of Session is divided into an Inner and an Outer House. The Outer House is formed of five Lords Ordinary or judges of first instance, who sit separately. Each of them deals with all classes of civil business. Once a case is set down for any one judge, all proceedings in the cause up to final judgment come before him alone. The Inner House is the Court of Appeal. It is divided into two parts, each of four judges; the two parts exercising a concurrent jurisdiction. The First Division ranks as superior in dignity (but only in dignity) from the fact that it is presided over by the head of the law in Scotland, the Lord Justice-General. The president of the Second Division is known as the Lord Justice Clerk. From either division of the Inner House the appeal is direct to the House of Lords. Six of the thirteen are known as Justiciary Judges. They alone deal with criminal business, and they alone go on circuit. But circuit business is comparatively unimportant. No leading advocate goes circuit unless he is either specially retained or is an Advocate Depute—*i.e.*, one of the standing counsel for the Crown in criminal prosecutions. Civil business almost always goes to Edinburgh, whither criminal proceedings can be at all times, and frequently are, removed on the application of the Lord Advocate. The superiority of their procedure is yet more self-evident to Scotchmen than even the superiority of their substantive law.

THE THEATRE.

THE company which, under Miss Kate Vaughan, is now occupying the Opéra Comique with a series of revivals will hardly advance its reputation by its performance of "She Stoops to Conquer" on Saturday night. There is plenty of ability in the troupe, but it is ability for the most part misapplied, whilst the few impersonations which have individual merit are out of tune one with another. Messrs. Fernandez and Forbes Robertson are actors who have done not a little artistic work; Mrs. Billington is an actress of experience; Messrs. Forbes Dawson and Sydney Brough are young players of decided promise. But Mr. Fernandez and Mrs. Billington, when set to play Mr. and Mrs. Hardcastle, do so with a grave determination which turns old-world comedy into modern domestic drama. It is not until the passage in which the old squire administers his dignified rebuke to the apparent insolence of his guest that the actor ever seems at home in his task; whilst in hers the actress is never quite at ease. The Hastings of Mr. Forbes Dawson misses the mark in quite a different way—through rattling off his speeches and bustling about the stage as though he were the hero of a farce. Mr. Forbes Robertson, excellent as the diffident young Marlow of the drawing-room, cannot even suggest the confidence acquired by the shy gallant in his descent to the bar-parlour. It would not be fair to find serious fault with a beginner like Mr. Sydney Brough for details of comic exaggeration which are recognized by long tradition; but it may be pointed out to him that Diggory is a much more entertaining creature when his eccentricities are merely hinted at than when they are elaborated after the manner of burlesque. A sufficient indication of the awkward servant's military training is given in the stiffness of his movements; and the whole business of making him march about the room whenever he answers the bell is very easily overdone. The young actor is, however, to be commended for the dramatic intention of his sketch. The chief individual success of the representation is that scored by Mr. Lionel Brough in his familiar Tony Lumpkin, a vigorous and natural embodiment of the humours of a mischievous lout. The comedian's breadth of style and irresistible geniality are as marked as ever, but in striving to give mirthfulness to a somewhat flat performance he is inclined to exaggerate Tony's noisy eccentricities of behaviour. A young eighteenth-century squire who spends most of his time in the village alehouse should not be endowed with much refinement; but he need not be made to express his relish of a joke by throwing himself on his back across the table and kicking his heels in the air. Miss Kate Vaughan plays Miss Hardcastle prettily enough, but with very little force—a deficiency to some extent attributable, we fear, to indifferent health. Miss Gwynne, on the other hand, makes more than

usual of Constance Neville. The next comedy to be presented here is "The School for Scandal," and for this there should be secured a stronger guiding hand than seems so far to have directed the operations of the company. The proceedings began on Saturday night with a new farce called "A Merry Meeting," by Mr. Lestocq. In this the cross-purposes of two young married couples are illustrated in a fairly entertaining fashion, the burden of a bustling interpretation being very creditably sustained by Mr. Forbes Dawson and Mr. Sydney Brough.

Last night was to have seen the revival at the Globe of "The Snow-ball"—a farcical comedy ingeniously adapted from Scribe by Mr. Grundy, and originally produced at the Strand in 1879. In consequence, however, of the serious illness of one of the intending players, Mr. Penley, the representation had at the last moment to be put off, and will probably not be attempted till next week.

The revival of "Lady Clancarty," which had been fixed at the St. James's for to-morrow, is postponed till Thursday night. The characters played at the Olympic by Mr. Henry Neville and Miss Cavendish will, of course, be taken by Mr. and Mrs. Kendal; whilst Mr. Sugden, Mr. Anson, and Miss Fowler will be followed respectively by Mr. Mackintosh, Mr. Bedford (a new recruit), and Mrs. Beerbohm Tree. With the help of Mr. Marcus Stone, R.A., the drama will be mounted with a picturesque appropriateness of illustration such as it has not before enjoyed. At the Haymarket, where "Hard Hit" is flagging in power of attraction, the management has not yet decided upon its Easter production. It is probable, however, that in Mr. Wilkie Collins's "Man and Wife," or some similar revival, a temporary stopgap will be sought in a week or two's time.

Miss Helen Barry's tentative production of Mr. Blood's new and original play, "Her Trustee," takes place at the Vaudeville to-morrow afternoon. Other forthcoming matinées include that of the Dramatic Students on Tuesday next, when they promise at the Olympic their very interesting experiment with Heywood's "A Woman Killed by Kindness," a play which will well repay study. Then later on in the month Miss Amy Roselle and Mr. Gilbert Farquhar will each give a special morning performance of a new comedy, the piece chosen by the latter being from the pen of Mr. Sydney Grundy.

The "Winter's Tale" is to be added by Miss Mary Anderson to her repertoire in the course of the provincial tour which she commences at Easter. There is some talk also of Milman's "Fazio," and of a new drama. Miss Anderson's company will be headed by Mr. Forbes Robertson and Mr. Arthur Sterling.

Mr. Grove is collaborating with Mr. Philips in an adaptation of the latter writer's novel "As in a Looking-Glass," which is to have Mrs. Bernard Beere as the representative of its heroine.

M. DE LAVELEYE'S "BALKAN PENINSULA."

M. DE LAVELEYE went to the East with good recommendations; though none could have been better than his own published works. After some interesting and duly recorded political conversations at Vienna, M. de Laveleye went by invitation to Essek, on a visit to Bishop Strossmeyer; who, without proposing to bring over to the Roman Catholic religion those of his fellow-Slavs who belong to the Greek Church, is strongly in favour of a union with Rome. But Bishop Strossmeyer's most remarkable utterance had reference to the west rather than to the east of Europe, and not to religion but to politics. After the Battle of Sedan, finding that the war between France and Germany was still to be continued, the good Bishop called on the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, whom he knew well, and said that "one word from the Czar might finish the strife and obtain a peace which would not be a certain cause of wars in the future." "We regret," replied the Ambassador, "like all sensible men, the continuation of the war; but it is too much to expect Russia to quarrel with Germany in order to lose the advantage of finding, in case of need, a certain and devoted ally in France."

M. de Laveleye is friendly to England, but his political leanings render him at times unjust to England's past policy in connection with Turkey. The Crimean war he seems to regard as a contest in which Russia was fighting for the liberty of the Christian subjects of the Porte, while England and France were fighting to keep them enslaved. "England," he writes, "has not understood that her own interest commands her to favour the creation in the Balkan Peninsula of States sufficiently strong to maintain their independence." France, on the other hand, "except at the time of the Crimean war—a mistake to be imputed to the dynastic interest of Napoleon—has always protested in favour of the *rayas*." The origin of the Crimean war was a claim on the part of Russia to exercise a simple protectorate over the Christian subjects of the Porte; and that the interests of the Eastern Christians were really cared for by the allies is shown by the stipulations in their favour introduced into the Treaty of Paris. Roumania certainly benefited by the Crimean war; for her component provinces, Moldavia and Wallachia, had previously been subject to periodical Russian occupations which, with the Peace of Paris, came to an end. The policy of maintaining independent States in the Balkan Peninsula recommends itself to every one now. No one, however, thought of creating them in 1854; and the Liberals of those days considered it a good thing, while endeavouring to secure for the Balkan provinces fair government at the hands of Turkey, to keep them, in any case, from falling beneath the despotism of Russia. Writing of the Bulgarians of Macedonia, only twenty years ago, M. de Laveleye says: "The Bulgarians, poor brutes, humbly cultivating the soil, like the Finns in Finland, or the Letts in Courland, had no more the sentiment of a distinct nationality than the oxen that drew their ploughs."

M. de Laveleye does not believe that a great war will take place to decide who shall have Constantinople. To prevent such a calamity it would

only be necessary "to apply to the provinces of European Turkey the 23rd article of the Treaty of Berlin, interpreted in the sense of the system in the Lebanon." Unfortunately, there is but little reason to believe that Russian ambition, resting on an army of four millions, will allow itself to be "snuffed out by an article." In more than one place we find M. de Laveleye setting down what ought to happen, and thence inferring what will happen. The Russians, for instance, if they will only learn to behave themselves properly, will leave the Bulgarians to themselves; in which case the Bulgarians will entertain for their liberators feelings of gratitude by which they are not animated now. "The most sensible thing to do would obviously be, to draw from the failure of General Kaulbars' mission the sound conclusion that the Bulgarians mean to govern themselves and not to obey orders from St. Petersburg, and to accept this fact which every one can see." M. de Laveleye approves of the Treaty of San Stefano and condemns the clause of the Treaty of Berlin by which Bulgaria was separated from Eastern Roumelia: though he also tells us that "Russia well planted at Philippopolis would be practically master of Constantinople;" which was precisely what the framers of the Treaty of Berlin wished to prevent. When, eight years afterwards, England favoured the union of the "two Bulgarias," the Russians were no longer at Philippopolis; and a strong national and therefore anti-Russian feeling had arisen on both sides of the Balkans.

But, putting aside the past, M. de Laveleye in his opening chapter, which, being the last written, expresses his latest views, takes a lucid and impartial view of the situation in the East as it now exists. We say "impartial," because here he points out what the countries interested would do, without considering too closely what he would wish them to do. "If England," he writes, "could give up her interest in India, turn her attention to her internal development, and resolve to allow the Suez Canal to pass into the hands of France or Russia, that would be a complete scheme and work the best for the happiness of the English people. But as in the present state of opinion this policy, however desirable on economic grounds, has not the slightest chance of acceptance, the Government, of whatever complexion, will be compelled to defend the passage from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea. The Russians at Constantinople would be masters of the Suez Canal; for, having the Black Sea all to themselves and the Bosphorus for a base of operations, they could despatch to Egypt by land such an army as England could not stop. If, therefore, England can find allies, she will prevent the Russians from occupying Bulgaria in permanence; and this is the more probable because Liberal opinion is unanimously in favour of the Bulgarians and of the idea of a Balkan Federation, which Mr. Gladstone has always put forward."

M. de Laveleye's work contains "a letter from the Right Honourable W. E. Gladstone, M.P.;" which epistle is printed at the back of the title-page. There is not much in it beyond a statement which no one would dream of denying, that "the well-being, tranquillity, and liberty of the Balkan Peninsula have now come to be of a more critical importance than ever to the interests of Europe;" and the expression of a wish and a belief that, in undertaking a work on the subject, M. de Laveleye will meet with all the "satisfaction and success which prudence, energy, and ability can attain." From M. de Laveleye's account of the beneficent influence exercised by the Austrians in Bosnia, and of the maleficent influence exercised by the Russians in Servia and elsewhere in the peninsula, Mr. Gladstone will learn, or will at least have the opportunity of learning, that Russian liberators are less sincere than he has hitherto supposed, and Austrian Governors less unjust. Once, in a too-famous speech, Mr. Gladstone declared himself unable to point to one spot on the map where the Austrians could be said to have done good. M. de Laveleye declares that, if he has written at length and in great detail on the subject of the Austrians in Bosnia, he has done so, "First, to prove that every honest man, of whatever nationality, ought to bless the Austrian occupation."

THE STRENGTH OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

A writer in the current number of the *Fortnightly* having estimated the Russian army at four million, some figures taken from Colonel Vogt's "Die Europäischen Heeren der Gegenwart," just published, may tend to allay exaggerated apprehension on this score. In the first place, the estimate must be divided by two, because it includes two million of the first category of the "opolchenie," or general levy, which exists for the present on paper and can only be drawn upon when the reserves have been called out and used up. Two millions, then, is the approximate war strength of Russia when completely mobilized; to wit:—

Field Army—	Officers.	Men.	Horses.	Guns.
Peace Footing.....	19,808	535,788	74,631	1,418
War Footing	24,270	990,445	155,755	2,608
24 Reserve divisions ...	9,485	565,578	20,875	640
Depôts, garrison, and local troops raise these totals to	38,288	1,734,473	207,540	3,460
Add Cossacks	3,356	141,969	138,036	212
Irregulars	143	6,188	5,382	—
Total War strength	41,787	1,882,630	350,958	3,672

Thus the entire Russian army, inclusive of every creature that bears, or can be called upon to bear, arms on the order for mobilization being promulgated, from the Cuirassier Guards of the capital to the wild horsemen of the Amoor, does not amount to a couple of million. How many of these could be assembled on the western border to confront a European foe? For, of the above totals, but 1,275,000 men with 2,982 guns, are available for this purpose, and 400,000 are reserve divisions with their artillery, whose formation would require considerable time. The best judges opine that nothing approaching a million could be brought into the field against a western enemy.

THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

FOURTH EDITION.

MILITARY REVOLT IN BULGARIA.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

PARIS, March 1.—A despatch received here from Rustchuk of to-day's date states that the garrison of Silistria has revolted against the Bulgarian Regency.

BUCHAREST, March 1.—A despatch received here from Giurgevo states that at nine o'clock yesterday evening all available vehicles at Rustchuk were requisitioned in order to convey troops with all speed to Silistria, where the garrison had pronounced against the Regency. Troops from Varna and Shumla are also marching upon Silistria.

THE AUSTRIAN MILITARY PREPARATIONS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

PESTH, March 1.—The Bill to be submitted to the Delegations on their assembling here to-day demands a credit of 52,500,000 fl. Of this amount, 16,200,000 fl. is to be employed in meeting the expenses entailed by the precautionary military measures already carried out, and 8,300,000 fl. in further urgent measures, while the remaining 26,000,000 fl. is to be held available for emergencies. In the preamble it is specially pointed out that these demands are in no way dictated by any design on the part of Austria-Hungary of assuming the offensive.

ENGLAND AND SAN DOMINGO.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

NEW YORK, March 1.—Advices from Hayti, under date February 10, state that some excitement prevailed in the republic of San Domingo, owing to a report alleging that the British intended to seize the island of Tortuga.

THE BURMESE POLICE.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

CALCUTTA, March 1.—A sufficient number of recruits for the police in Burma not having been obtained, the 10th and 33rd Regiments Bengal Infantry are under orders for Burma.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS IN ITALY.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

ROME, March 1.—The task of forming a new Cabinet having been successively declined by Count di Robilant, Signor Biancheri, and Signor Farini, it is believed in parliamentary circles that the King will now once more summon Signor Depretis as the only statesman likely to command a majority in the Chamber.

THE PORTE AND THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

PHILIPPOPOLIS, Feb. 28.—MM. Grekoff and Kaltcheff arrived here this afternoon from Constantinople. M. Grekoff continued his journey immediately to Sophia. The delegates state that the attitude of the Porte towards the Bulgarian Government is of an encouraging character. Riza Bey, Ottoman Commissioner to Bulgaria, is expected to pass through here shortly by special train.

THE MONTENEGRIN ARMAMENTS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

CASTELNUOVO, Feb. 28.—The Turkish authorities at Scutari have suddenly refused to allow the Montenegrin agents to remove a quantity of ammunition which had arrived in course of transit from Antivari to Rijeka, via Bojana.

THE EARTHQUAKES.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

ROME, Feb. 28.—Another slight shock of earthquake was felt at Diano Marina to-day.

(CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAM.)

ROME, Tuesday, 11 A.M.—Slight shocks continue in the Italian Riviera, but without doing much damage. Telegrams from Oneglia state that the place is a ruin. Eight thousand of the inhabitants are camped out under tents, being afraid as yet to return to the shelter of more substantial buildings. There are 100 wounded at Oneglia. The work of the relief parties proceeds uninterruptedly at Diano. Several dead bodies were dug out again yesterday. Many of the population have removed to the steamer and remain there for safety. The distress among the homeless is still very great, despite the efforts made on all hands to relieve them.

THE VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS IN HAWAII.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 28.—The latest advices from Hono'uulu report that the volcano of Mauna Loa is again in eruption, and that all the craters in the vicinity have become active.

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN GERMANY.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

BERLIN, March 1.—The *National Zeitung* states that the American Socialists have sent a third contribution of 10,000 marks to the Social Democratic party here to assist them in the electorate struggle.

THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF A WARD IN CHANCERY.

The *Freeman's Journal* to-day publishes a letter professing to come from the girl Ethel Roe, a ward in Chancery, who recently disappeared in a mysterious manner from the house of her grandmother in Dublin. The letter, which is dated Metz, February 22, is as follows:—

Sir,—I was very much amused on reading the various accounts of my departure from 27, Pembroke-road. The tale is an extremely simple one. I left of my own free will, as a child naturally and very rightly wishes to be with her mother. I therefore profited by the first opportunity afforded me to escape, and was accompanied by a faithful friend to my present destination. I need not add how delighted I am to be in my home with my mother, sisters, and brothers, whom for the past four and a half years I earnestly longed to join. I should also express a hope that all advocates of liberty of conscience will approve of the step I have now taken, as it will afford me an opportunity of practising the Roman Catholic religion, in which I always believed, and which of late years I have been always taught to execrate.—Truly yours, ETHEL ROE.

This letter has been shown to the girl's uncle, who says he believes that it is in her handwriting; but he is convinced that she wrote it under compulsion of the "faithful friend." He says that the girl's mother gave her up to her grandmother, and had never asked to have her sent back again. She and her brothers and sisters were baptized Protestants. The uncle says he is convinced that the girl was decoyed from the house by false representations.

The *Freeman's Journal* says that the girl was assisted in her flight by a working man, to whom she confided her wish to escape. She walked out of the house early in the morning, clothed only in her nightdress, flannel petticoat, and shoes and stockings. A warm overcoat, a soft hat, and a pair of trousers were quickly supplied. Her long fair hair was cut off, and Ethel was transformed into a boy. She was then confided to a faithful woman-servant with whom she went to Belfast, crossed to Greenock, thence to Leith, whence she sailed for France.

THE PROSPECTS OF LIBERAL REUNION.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* writes:—As to the reconciliation of ideas upon Irish government between Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Chamberlain, correspondents are in far too much hurry, and even suppose that the compound curve which Mr. Chamberlain has to execute can be undertaken round the leg of any dining-table at which they may exchange perhaps a dozen words in the evening within the next fortnight. More reasonable politicians look to next recess as the time for symptoms of reunion in the party, and to next year as the probable period for complete success.

On the same subject the London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* says: I do not think, nor do prominent Gladstonians think, that much can be inferred from the fact that Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Chamberlain have met, and will meet again, at the same dinner-table. Politics are sometimes sweetened by social intercourse, and a good dinner has before now helped opposing statesmen to understand each other. But I do not believe that the pleasant chat of the dinner-table will do much to bridge over the differences which separate Mr. Gladstone from the Liberal Unionists. With regard to the Round Table Conference, all that can be said is that both Sir William Harcourt and Mr. Chamberlain continue to be hopeful. Mr. Chamberlain's letters and speeches, I am informed, differ very much from his tone in private. While publicly he is full of bitterness and venom, privately he is conciliatory and moderate, and hence it is that the Conference still goes on.

THE CHARGE AGAINST A PAYMASTER.

At the Central Criminal Court to-day, William Henry Browning, late paymaster at Chatham, who has retired with the honorary rank of colonel, again surrendered to his bail upon a charge of fraudulently applying money and with falsifying the accounts. The case for the prosecution was closed last evening. Mr. Steed, one of the witnesses for the prosecution, was recalled, and stated, in reply to questions, that at the time of the alleged occurrences the defendant was in the receipt of about £600 per annum, and that his retiring allowance was £250 per annum. A letter was put in from the defendant to the War Department, asking to be allowed to examine the books with the view of ascertaining where the mistakes arose.

Mr. Lockwood then addressed the jury in defence, and urged that before they could convict the defendant they must be of opinion that he intended to defraud the War Department. He did not for a moment contend that the mistakes in the adding up of the books to the extent of £3,700 was the result of accident. His contention was that they were not made with the intention to defraud, nor were they made with the object of putting a single shilling into his own pocket. He reminded the jury that the defendant had for thirty years been engaged in the military service, and that about £100,000 per annum passed through his accounts. Since the year 1872 the defendant had been continually in arrears with his books, and the amount had gradually increased until it reached the present amount. He commented strongly upon the fact that there was no evidence whatever that any of the money found its way to the defendant's pocket.

The jury found the prisoner guilty. Sentence was postponed.

THE SUPPOSED MURDER OF COLONEL FENDALL.

The Reverend C. H. B. Fendall, head master of Woodcote House School, Bagshot, Surrey, arrived in Birmingham this morning, and identified the body of the gentleman who was found dying on Saturday night in Birmingham, under circumstances described on another page, as that of his brother, Colonel Fendall, of the Military Depot, Shrewsbury. Further investigation of the case (a correspondent says) suggests another theory as to the manner in which the deceased gentleman came by his death. The hospital surgeon thinks it quite possible that he fractured his skull by falling downstairs and his head striking the edge of one of the stairs.

FATAL FIRE IN UPPER TOOTING.

A fatal fire occurred early this morning in Moyna-road, Upper Tooting. A paperhanger named North and his wife awoke to find flames close to their feet, the room being on fire and their means of escape downstairs cut off. On the arrival of the fire-brigade from the station close by they and their children were rescued, with the exception of the baby, who was suffocated.

PRINCE ALEXANDER.

A telegram from Darmstadt states that Prince Alexander's condition has decidedly improved, and that his Highness is now free from fever.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by Colonel Clarke and Mr. Sykes, M.P., arrived at Charing-cross Station at half-past four this morning by special train from Dover. His Royal Highness was received at Dover by Mr. Myles Fenton, General Manager of the South-Eastern Railway, who accompanied the train to London.

ILLNESS OF THE EMPEROR OF BRAZIL.

A Reuter's telegram from Rio de Janeiro says it is announced that the Emperor of Brazil is ill, but that his Majesty's condition affords no ground for uneasiness.

THE IRISH SHRIEVALTY.

A Bill is printed to-day which proposes to remove the disqualification of holders of retail spirit licenses in Ireland for the office of high sheriff. It is backed by Mr. John O'Connor, Mr. Sexton, and other Irish members.

ARREST OF SUSPECTED MURDERERS IN IRELAND.

Six young men of the farming class were arrested this morning on suspicion of being concerned in the murder of Murphy, the water-bailiff, on the slopes of Mangerton Mountain, Muckross, near Killarney, on the 20th ult. The prisoners belong to Kilcummin, situated about eight miles from the scene of the murder. Some of them have been previously prosecuted for outrages, and all have been suspected as prominent Moonlighters for some months.

SERIOUS FIRE AT A FARMSTEAD.

This morning a fire occurred at a farm-house, three miles from Chorley, resulting in twenty-one head of cattle, three horses, and a lot of poultry being burned to death. When the fire was discovered the roof of the barn had fallen in, and it was impossible to rescue the cattle. There was no water for the fire-brigade to use, and consequently the fire was left to burn itself out.

ST. DAVID'S DAY.

Favoured by fine weather, the festival of St. David was kept with the usual honours at Windsor; and, it being the opening day of the aquatic season at Eton College, the customary procession of boats to Surly Hall and back took place upon the Thames. The flotilla was under the supervision of Lord Amp'hill, captain of the boats.

THIS DAY'S RACING.

CROYDON.

QUALIFYING STEEPLECHASE. (Two miles.)—Plank (Halsey), 1. Co-heiress (Nightingall), 2. Gladstone (A. Hall), 3. Rousseau (Brooker) and Ocyete (Eayres) also started. Betting: 6 to 5 agst Co-heiress, 9 to 4 agst Gladstone, 100 to 30 agst Plank, 20 to 1 bar three offered. Won by six lengths; bad third. Ocyete was fourth. Romsey also started, but fell.

STEWARDS' STEEPLECHASE. (Two miles.)—Royal Fern (Captain Lee Barber), 1. Grammarian (Mr. W. Beasley), 2. Catalina (Mr. G. Lambton), 3. Fontenoy (Mr. Thompson) also started. Betting: 5 to 4 agst Royal Fern.

The Queen will hold a Council at Windsor Castle at one o'clock on Saturday.

The Prince of Wales has addressed a letter to the Chancellor of Cambridge University, inviting the co-operation of its members in the foundation of the Imperial Institute as a Jubilee memorial.

Lord Claud Hamilton, M.P., who has been considerably indisposed recently, is about to leave London for two or three weeks' cruise in the Mediterranean.

Colonel Eustace Burnaby, who was mentioned in despatches for his services in the last Afghan war, has been selected for the command of the King's Own Light Infantry (South Yorkshire Regiment).

Lady Jessel has given £2,000 to University College Hospital for the establishment of a "George Jessel" bed in that institution, in memory of her late husband.

It is stated that the testimonial to be presented to Mr. Schnadhorst at a public banquet next week amounts to upwards of £10,000. On the same day the Liberal secretaries and agents throughout the country will entertain Mr. Schnadhorst at luncheon and present to him a handsome album.

A telegram from Hobart, Tasmania, says that the Honourable W. Moore having declined the post of Minister of Lands, it will be retained by the Honourable N. J. Brown.

The German squadron at Zanzibar sailed for Cape Town to-day.

William Smith, a labourer, an aged man, has been apprehended at Shrewsbury on a charge of murdering his grandchild, aged five weeks, by hitting it on the head with a pair of tongs.

A meeting of citizens of Liverpool was convened by the Mayor for noon yesterday to consider what steps should be taken by the tradesmen to celebrate the Jubilee. Only four gentlemen responded to his worship's invitation, and after waiting some time without receiving any addition to their numbers they withdrew.

THIS DAY'S MONEY MARKET.

CITY OFFICE 13, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street.

Twelve o'clock.

The Stock Markets open dull this morning. Operators are unwilling to engage in new ventures, and are waiting upon events. The time for military action is close at hand, and every one feels that it would be rash to incur new risks until the intentions of the Powers becomes clearer.

Quarter past Two.

There is no animation in the Stock Exchange to-day, and the tone of the markets is somewhat dull in consequence. Operators are awaiting the result of the Paris Liquidation, and the conclusion of the Settlement in Consols is taking up attention. Consols show no change, and Home Railways are hardly altered. Caledonian, however, is flat on the announcement of the Glasgow and South-Western dividend at $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. less rate than was declared

a year ago. Mexican Railway stocks and Grand Trunk of Canada issues are dull, and American Securities flat. Foreign Government Securities are in some cases rather easier, but the movements in prices are nominal.

The discount houses have raised their allowance for deposits $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—namely, to 3 per cent. for sums at call, and to $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for amounts at notice.

The following are the changes as compared with yesterday's closing prices:—In the English Funds, Consols for money and the account (April) are unchanged at $100\frac{3}{4}$ to $100\frac{1}{2}$ and 101 to $101\frac{1}{4}$, Reduced and New Three per Cents. at $101\frac{3}{4}$ to $101\frac{1}{2}$, and New Two-and-a-Half per Cents. at $88\frac{3}{4}$ to $88\frac{1}{2}$.

In Home Railways, Caledonian has fallen $\frac{1}{2}$, North British $\frac{1}{8}$, North-Eastern $\frac{1}{8}$, and South-Eastern Deferred $\frac{1}{8}$; but Brighton A has risen $\frac{1}{2}$, and Midland $\frac{1}{8}$. In Canadian and Foreign Railways, Grand Trunk First Preference stock has fallen $\frac{1}{4}$, Canadian Pacific shares $1\frac{1}{8}$, Mexican Ordinary $\frac{1}{2}$, the First Preference $\frac{1}{4}$, and the Second $\frac{1}{4}$; but Grand Trunk Ordinary has risen $\frac{1}{8}$, and the Third Preference $\frac{1}{8}$.

In Foreign Government Bonds, Egyptian Guaranteed has fallen $\frac{3}{4}$, the Unified $\frac{1}{4}$, Hungarian Four per Cent. Gold Rentes of 1881 $\frac{1}{8}$, and Italian Five per Cents. of 1861 $\frac{1}{8}$; but Spanish Four per Cents. have risen 1-16, and Turkish Groups III. and IV. $\frac{1}{8}$.

In American Securities, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage Bonds have fallen $\frac{1}{4}$, Central Pacific $\frac{1}{4}$, Illinois $\frac{1}{8}$, Lake Shore $\frac{1}{8}$, Louisville $\frac{1}{4}$, New York Central $\frac{1}{4}$, and Ontario $\frac{1}{8}$; but Pennsylvania has risen $\frac{1}{8}$.

The dividend on Glasgow and South-Western Railway Ordinary stock is announced at the rate of $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum, against 4 per cent. per annum a year ago; the amount carried forward being £6,039, against £6,069 last year.

The prospectus is issued of the Bavarian Lead Company (Limited), having a capital of £120,000 in 50,000 preference and 70,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. The present issue is of the 50,000 ten per cent. preference shares, with participation in extra profits and priority in any final distribution of assets. Of these shares 20,000 have already been subscribed for by the directors and their immediate friends. The company is a reconstruction of the Bavarian Lead Company (Limited), with the object of providing additional capital to work the mine on a larger scale, and to clear off existing liabilities. The property is situated at Frieberg, in the Upper Palatinate of Bavaria, and covers about 1,500 acres of mining rights, in which, it is said, a deposit of lead-ore of great purity and extent exists. The company's concessions are said to be held in perpetuity direct from the State, free of royalty, and subject to ordinary taxes and a nominal rent.

ENGLISH GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Consols	100 $\frac{3}{4}$	100 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto Account (March)	101	101 $\frac{1}{4}$
Reduced Three per Cents	101 $\frac{3}{4}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
New Three per Cents	101 $\frac{3}{4}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
New Two-and-a-Half per Cents	88 $\frac{3}{4}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
India Stock Four per Cent.	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103
Ditto Three per Cent.	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Four per Cent. Rupee Paper	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Rupee Paper	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank of England Stock	997	999
Metropolitan $\frac{3}{4}$ per Cent.	107	107 $\frac{1}{2}$

COLONIAL GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Canada 4 per Cent. of 1910-35	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
N.S. Wales 4 p. C. of 1903-5-8-9-10	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
N. Zealand 4 per Cent. Cons. Ins.	95	96
Queensland 6 per Cent. 1891-95	106	118
S. Australian 4 p. C. of 1894-1916	97	99
Tasmanian 6 per Cent. of 1893-1901	106	120
Victoria $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. of 1904	105	107

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

United States $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Bonds	111 $\frac{1}{2}$	111 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Four per Cent.	130 $\frac{1}{2}$	131 $\frac{1}{2}$
Virginia Funded Bonds	53	54
New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage Bonds	47	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
Central Pacific Shares	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Denver and Rio Grande Shares	26	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
Illinois Shares	132	133
Lake Shore and Michigan Southern 100-dol. Shares	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
Louisville and Nashville 100-dol. Shares	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
New York Central Shares	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	115 $\frac{1}{2}$
New York, Lake Erie, & Western 100-dol. Shares	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Preference Six per Cent.	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Second Mortgage Bonds	101	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
New York, Ontario, and Western Shares	18	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ohio and Mississippi Shares	28	28 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oregon and California Seven per Cent. Preference Shares	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pennsylvania Shares	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$
Philadelphia and Reading Share	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto General Mortgage Bonds	106	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
Union Pacific Shares	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wabash, St. Louis, and Pacific Ordinary Shares	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto 100-dol. Preference	31	31 $\frac{1}{2}$

BRITISH AND FOREIGN RAILWAY STOCKS.

Caledonian	98	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
Great Eastern	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	67
Great Northern Ordinary	111	112 xd
Ditto A	98	99
Great Western	133 $\frac{1}{2}$	133 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lancashire and Yorkshire	114	115 xd
London and Brighton Ordinary	127	127
Ditto A	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	115 $\frac{1}{2}$
London, Chatham, & Dover Ord	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Preference	98	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
London and North-Western	160 $\frac{1}{2}$	160 $\frac{1}{2}$
London and South-Western	123 $\frac{1}{2}$	124 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
Manchester, Sheffield, & Lincoln	66	67
Ditto A	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
Metropolitan	102	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
Metropolitan District	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
Midland	122 $\frac{1}{2}$	123
North British	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
North-Eastern	151 $\frac{1}{2}$	151 $\frac{1}{2}$
North Staffordshire	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
South-Eastern Ordinary	124	125
Ditto Deferred	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grand Trunk of Canada Ordinary	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto First Preference Stock	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Second Preference Stock	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Third Preference Stock	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Guaranteed	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canadian Pacific Shares	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
Buenos Ayres & Pac. 7 p.c. Shares	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto 7 p.c. Debentures	25	25
Lombardo-Venetian	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mexican Ordinary	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Eight per Cent. First Pref	117 $\frac{1}{2}$	118 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Six p. Cent. Second Pref	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	80
Ditto Six per Cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock	221	223

MISCELLANEOUS SHARES.

Australian Agricultural	117	122 xd
Anglo-Am. Brush Light (£3 paid)	2	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hudson's Bay	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	23
National Discount	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	11
Peninsular and Oriental Steam	59	61
Royal Mail Steam	31	40
Suez Canal	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	77

FOREIGN STOCK MARKETS.

Argentine Six per Cent. of 1868	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Six per Cent. of 1871	102	104
Ditto 6 p. Cent. Hard Dol. Bonds	71	72
Austrian Four p. Ct. Gold Rentes	85	87
Ditto Five per Cent. Silver	62	64
Brazilian Five per Cent. of 1865	100	101
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1871	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1875	98	99
Ditto $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. of 1883	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
Buenos Ayres Six per Cent. of 1870	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Six per Cents. of 1873	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chilian $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Conversion	93	99
Chinese Six p. Ct. of 1895, March	110	112
Ditto Six p. Cent. of 1895, June	108	110
Costa Rica 5 per Cent. Bonds A	67	69
Ditto B 4 p. Ct. now 5 p. Ct. 1888	60	62
Egyptian Three p. Ct. Guarantee	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Five p. Ct. State Domain	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Four per Cent. Unified	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Five per Cent. Preference	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Four p. Ct. Daira Sanieh	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$
Entre Rios 6 p. Ct. 1886	90	92
Ditto 6 p. Ct. Ry. Mortgage	93	94
French Three per Cent. Rentes	78	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. of 1872	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
Greek Five per Cent. of 1879	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1881	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1884	59	60
Hungarian Gold Rentes of 1881	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$
Italian Five per Cent. of 1861	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	94
Mexican Old Three per Cent.	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto of 1864	12	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Norwegian Four per Cent. of 1880	102	104
Peruvian Six per Cent. of 1870	75 5-16	75 7-16
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1872	12 7-16	12 9-16
Portuguese Three per Cent.	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
Russian Five per Cent. of 1871	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1872	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1873	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. of 1875	85	87
Santa Fe 5 p. Ct. N. C. Ry. Mort	91	100
Ditto 5 p. Ct. Extensions Mort	89	91
Spanish Four per Cent.	63 5-16	63 7-16
Ditto Two per Cent.	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
Swedish Four per Cent. of 1880	102	104
Turkish Six per Cent. Group 1	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Nine per Cent.	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Six & Five per Ct. 3 & 4	13 7-16	13 9-16
Ditto $\frac{1}{2}$ p. Ct. Tribute Loan of 1871	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1874	92	94
Ditto Five per Cent. Defence	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	81
Uruguay Unified Five p. Ct. of 1883	48	48 $\frac{1}{2}$

BANKS.

Anglo-Egyptian	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
City	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Colonial	30	32
Consolidated	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Imperial Ottoman	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
London and County	81	82
London and Westminster	63	64
London Joint Stock	35	37
National Provincial (£12 paid)	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
Union of London	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$

MINING SHARES.

Cape Copper	22	23
Indian Consolidated	7 1-16	7 13-16
Mason and Barry	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Montana	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	7
Mysore Gold	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4
Oregon Gold	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4
Richmond Consolidated	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rio Tinto	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
St. John del Rey	29	32
Tharsis Sulphur	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
United Mexican	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SECURITIES.

Anglo-American	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	22
Brazilian Submarine	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	11
Consolidated Telephone	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4
Direct United States	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eastern	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eastern Extension	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Globe Ordinary	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Preference	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
India-rubber, Gutta-percha, and Telegraph Works	21	22
Oriental Telephone	3-16	5-16
Telegraph Construction	37	38
United Telephone	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Western and Brazilian	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8

TRAMWAY SHARES.

Dublin	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
Glasgow	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 xd
Liverpool Un. Tram. and Omnibus	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
London	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
London Street	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	20
North Metropolitan	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$

THE EGYPTIAN QUESTION.

Sir H. D. Wolff had yesterday an hour's conference with Kiamil and Said Pashas, the Ottoman Commissioners deputed to negotiate with him. The conversation (a Constantinople telegram says) which was conducted very amicably on both sides, turned on the reorganization of the Egyptian tribunals and army. The discussion was adjourned until Thursday.

According to the *Liberté*, negotiations, which appear to have a chance of success, have been recently opened between the French and English Governments with the object of finding a *modus vivendi* reconciling all interests as regards Egypt.

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.

It is stated in diplomatic circles in Vienna that the sharp retort of the *Cologne Gazette* and other German semi-official papers to the Russian attacks on Germany was followed up by serious diplomatic representations in St. Petersburg; the result being that the offending letters were disowned in the *Politische* and the *Nord*. In spite of this, the relations between the Russian and German Cabinets are said to be still somewhat strained. The Berlin *Politische Nachrichten* remarks that the situation has not yet lost anything of the peace-threatening character which compels Germany to provide against every contingency in order not to be surprised by events. A letter from Strasburg, published in the *Berlin Post*, announces that on the 26th inst. the Government issued an order for the Provincial Union of Alsatian Choral Societies to be dissolved. There appears, says the correspondent, to be a well-founded suspicion that the Union was not foreign to the aims of the French League of Patriots. It is further stated that all associations which under their rules refuse to accept Germans as members, or do on principle, as matter of common knowledge, exclude Germans, will also be dissolved shortly; and the laws dealing with associations, as well as the police regulations with respect to foreigners, will be generally rigorously enforced. Moreover, the measure adopted some time ago by which no French military men were to be permitted to make any stay in Alsace-Lorraine, except under a special permit, will be extended so as to apply to civilians also.

THE NEW ALLIANCE.

According to reports which have reached Vienna, the Italian treaty with Austria and Germany is more comprehensive and favourable than was expected. It will not be defensive only, but also offensive. In case of a war with Russia, Italy undertakes to place 200,000 men at the disposition of its allies in the East; and, if war breaks out in the West simultaneously, 200,000 more along the French frontier. The *Political Correspondence* states that Spain is also preparing for an armed neutrality, beyond which it will not engage itself.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

The Durban correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* telegraphs:—A detachment of troops will leave shortly for the new territory of Zululand. The new Republic is negotiating with a view to joining the Transvaal. It is reported that 1,000 Boers are preparing to invade Swaziland. Should this intention be carried out, it is not improbable that difficulties will arise, as there are large numbers of English emigrants there working in the valuable gold-fields.

MR. BRIGHT AND MR. SLAGG.

A Manchester correspondent who drew Mr. Bright's attention to some remarks made by Mr. Slagg, M.P., on the 14th of February, at Burnley, on the Plan of Campaign, and Mr. Bright's opposition to Church rates, has received the following reply:—

Reform Club, Feb. 23, 1887.

Dear Sir,—The quotation from Mr. Slagg's speech shows the poverty of his case and the depth of humiliation in the matter of argument to which the English allies of the Irish conspiracy are driven. He refers to my speech in the Rochdale Churchyard on the question of Church rates. The meeting was held to oppose, not the payment of a rate, but the imposition of, the making of, a rate. The parishioners had by law the right to make a rate or to refuse it. I spoke against the rate, and the meeting and the great mass of parishioners of our parish were against it. What this has to do with the Plan of Campaign worked by the Irish conspiracy I cannot imagine. It is evident that Mr. Slagg's party feelings have clouded his judgment.—Yours very truly, JOHN BRIGHT.

CORRUPTION IN THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

The Odessa correspondent of the *Daily News* gives the views on the Russian army of a Russian staff officer with whom he has had a conversation. In reply to the correspondent's question as to the issue of a single-handed conflict between Russia and Austria, the staff officer said:—

I say distinctly that I believe the Russian arms would suffer a crushing defeat, which would be more crushing if such a conflict were to ensue shortly. Our army requires a thorough reorganization, but we utterly lack any prominent organizing genius. We want honest military leaders and administrators. Our mobiliary transport system, which during the last war with Turkey was found so scandalously defective, was very properly condemned, and a number of dishonest administrators were nominally punished instead of being shot or knouted. What do you say of a transport system under which it was possible during the vitally critical days of Plevna for a few batteries of artillery to occupy five months in transit from St. Petersburg to the front? One of those batteries of horse absolutely disappeared on the way. You ask what became of it? I need not remind you that sound horseflesh and good saddlery are commodities readily convertible into cash, and the guilty speculator—it would be impolite in Russia to use a harsher term—into whose pockets such moneys go either concocts plausibly false reports, or deserts, or is promoted by more exalted rogues who can make a lucrative use of their subordinate's services. This utterly rotten system is the ineradicable curse of our country, and one of these days it will entail upon us a crushing disaster in face of the perfected organization of our enemies.

Our War Ministry (the officer continued) will on paper show you a perfected organization; unhappily, it does not exist in fact.

You have recently calculated and published what would appear the overwhelming fighting strength of Russia. Your estimates are apocryphal, devoutly as I may wish they were not. One portion of those millions exists on paper only; another portion is wretchedly armed and equipped. Look at the physique of some of the new battalions forming part of the enormous garrison in this city. Elsewhere things are much worse. Our ranks are swollen by hordes of recruits who know little or nothing of the effective use of the arms of precision with which they are furnished. They are not of the material which is capable of being moulded into a hard-fighting body. They are starved and wretchedly equipped under the detestable control of army contractors in collusion with administrative chiefs. Thousands upon thousands of these men would sink under a couple of days' arduous march.

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

We are authorized to state that the Queen has been most graciously pleased to signify to the executive committee of the Women's Jubilee Offering her intention to devote to some charitable object, hereafter to be determined by her Majesty herself, whatever sum there may be beyond the amount which will be required for the reproduction of Marochetti's equestrian statue of the Prince Consort at Glasgow.

A meeting of the Royal Commissioners for the Adelaide Jubilee Exhibition was held yesterday in the Levée Room, Old Horse Guards; the Duke of Cambridge, president, in the chair. During the five months previous to the appointment of the Royal Commission, 207 exhibitors applied to the London committee for 30,791 feet of space in the Industrial Department; but during the five succeeding months these numbers have been increased by 677 exhibitors, and 66,561 feet of space, which more than covers the whole ground originally allotted to the northern hemisphere, additional buildings having been required for the Machinery Department. New South Wales and Victoria have transferred to Adelaide the contents of their courts, which attracted so much attention, at the recent Colonial and Indian Exhibition, besides voting considerable sums to assist their exhibitors to do honour to the celebration of this Jubilee year in Australia.

SIR GEORGE TREVELYAN AND THE IRISH QUESTION.

At a meeting of the Aberdeen Unionist Liberal Committee yesterday a letter was read from Sir G. O. Trevelyan, replying to an invitation to visit Aberdeen. The requisition, he said, bore evident signs of being exceptionally weighty and influential, and he was proud to have earned the confidence of such a body of men. His own view of the present situation was that the Irish question must be dealt with promptly and thoroughly, radically and remedially; and it could only be so dealt with by a reunited Liberal party. The events of the last eight or nine months in Parliament and in Ireland had conclusively shown that such was the case. For the reunion on terms honourable to all concerned he believed the moment to be ripe. The opinions on the practical points of the problem held by leading Liberals with whom he was acquainted were such as he was satisfied would admit of their working together without any of them losing their respect for each other or themselves. If these were the views of those who had invited him to Aberdeen, he would try and make arrangements to come, though it would not be very soon. The committee passed a resolution thanking Sir George for his letter, and asking him to come to Aberdeen during the present spring. The requisition was signed by 1,700 persons.

AUSTRIAN BAYONET TESTS.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* writes:—"The test of bayonets in the Austrian army is more minute than that applied in any other country. Firstly, the blade is placed in a machine *ad hoc*, and bent in both senses to a given extent. Secondly, a blow is struck with the flat of both sides on a block of hard wood. Thirdly, a blow is struck with the edge and afterwards with the blunt side also on a block of hard wood: both of these tests are made by special machines. Fourthly, a few bayonets in each lot are broken so that the rough surface of the metal may be examined. Fifthly, the dimensions of each weapon are tested by comparison with models. A wood fire is always used to temper the metal. Coal is never employed. The metal is heated until it assumes a dark red colour. It is then cooled in river or rain water. The following process is also in use:—The blades are placed in iron cases, each blade being covered with refuse of horn. The cases are closed with clay, and remain in the fire until the contents get cherry red. They are then withdrawn, opened, and the blades are thrown into water to cool, and afterwards brushed. The moment for withdrawing the cases from the fire is ascertained by means of a test-nail, that can be put in and taken out as the process goes on."

THE CANADIAN FISHERIES QUESTION.

A Washington telegram announces that the Conference Committee on the Retaliation Bill has decided to report its disagreement to the respective Houses of Congress, the members being hopelessly divided regarding the limitation to be placed on the prohibition of traffic with Canada.

PERSECUTION OF WESLEYANS IN TONGA.

The secretaries of the Wesleyan Committee of Privileges inform us that communications have been received by the president of the Wesleyan Conference from New South Wales, by telegram, confirming the previous details as to the persecution of many members of the Wesleyan Church in Tonga. The whole question was specially considered at a meeting of the Wesleyan Committee of Privileges held in London yesterday, at which many of the principal ministers and laymen of the Wesleyan body were present. The president of the conference (the Reverend Dr. Young) presided. The committee decided to take all necessary steps for bringing this case urgently and immediately before the imperial authorities.

A TRANSVAAL MEMORIAL.

There has just been placed in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral a Transvaal Defence Memorial Brass, subscribed for by the friends and relatives of the men who fell in the hostilities waged against the Boers seven years ago. The monument is an exceedingly handsome piece of work, 9 ft. long, by 6 ft. high, and is in the form of a triptych, the two side-panels being occupied respectively by figures of a British soldier and a Boer colonist. The middle panel contains a list of the names of those to whose memory the monument is dedicated, introduced by the following inscription:—"This monument, erected by comrades, relatives, and friends is sacred to the memory of all those who, belonging to the besieged garrisons in the Transvaal, lost their lives whilst fighting for Queen and country, during the heroic defence of that province against the Boers, from the 16th December, 1880, to 2nd April, 1881." The memorial, which has been admirably executed by Mr. J. Matthews, is surmounted by a beautifully chiselled medallion of the Queen's head, with the motto "*Pro Regina, pro Patria*."

A RUNAWAY ENGINE.

An exciting and alarming incident occurred at Rochester yesterday afternoon, when a Royal Engineer traction engine bolted down a steep declivity, known as Frindsbury-hill, owing to the slow driving-pin coming out. The driver, Sapper Blair, stuck to his post, and, with wonderful nerve, steered the engine through quite a maze of vehicles; but, in endeavouring to turn the runaway up a side lane, he was intercepted by a kerb, and came into collision with a brick wall. The engine was disabled, and the wall wrecked. Blair escaped; but the stoker was thrown, and so badly injured that he was taken to the hospital.

THE MELBOURNE EXHIBITION.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

MELBOURNE, March 1.—The Executive Commissioners of the Melbourne Centennial International Exhibition have forwarded a circular to Great Britain and the other European States and to the United States of America. The preamble says that the Victorian Government have decided to hold an exhibition of arts, manufactures, industrial processes, and products of all nations. The exhibition will be opened on the 1st of August, 1888, in order to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the colony of New South Wales, and will remain open for six months. The buildings will be specially erected in the Carlton-gardens, Melbourne, and will be open in the evenings as well as during the day. The Commission invites the British, foreign, and colonial Governments to participate in the undertaking, and trusts that steps will promptly be taken by them for the completest possible representative display. It is pointed out that the population of Australasia is 3,500,000, that the imports of British goods annually amount in value to £32,000,000, and that 7,700 miles of railway are open for traffic; while over 2,000 miles of line are in course of construction. It is requested that applications for space may be made before the end of August this year. The space will be free and the motive-power free. Power is reserved to reduce the railway carriage, and to free goods admitted in bond. It is also requested that all particulars for the official catalogue may be sent in before June, 1888. Inventions will be protected by the Patent Laws of Victoria. Goods will be received from the 1st of May, 1888, and the courts will be completed by the 15th of July of that year. The Commission desires to make the exhibition specially interesting in manufacturing processes, machinery, etc., in motion, and objects of manual labour. There will also be a picture-gallery lighted by electricity. The awards will be made by qualified jurors. The countries represented will nominate their own jurors. There will be gold, silver and bronze medals, and certificates of honourable mention. It is added that all particulars may be obtained from the Agent-General in London, or the Executive Commissioners in Melbourne.

ITALY AND ABYSSINIA.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

ROME, March 1.—Another battalion of the line will leave for Massowa on the 10th inst. The reinforcements dispatched from Italy since the battle of Saati have amounted to 2,500 men.

ENGLAND AND CHINA.

The Emperor of China has decided within the last few weeks to considerably strengthen his military camps in Chinese Turkestan. Large forces are to be drafted to that country, which lies to the north-west of British India. These movements have the complete approval of the British Government, the relations between China and Great Britain being of the most friendly character. It is understood that this reinforcement of Chinese garrisons in Turkestan has been carried out in pursuance of a tacit understanding between England and China, and with the view of protecting the Eastern empire.

SUPPLEMENTARY NAVAL ESTIMATE.

A Supplementary Naval Estimate for £277,000 was issued to-day. Of the total, £105,000 is for machinery and ships built by contract, £79,000 for naval stores, and £76,500 for the conveyance of troops. In the "machinery and ships built by contract" vote, £41,000 is for hulls of ships building by contract, £50,000 for gun-mountings and torpedo carriages and gear, and £12,000 for armour-piercing projectiles; in the "naval stores" vote, £65,000 is for purchase of armour-plates; and in the "conveyance of troops" vote, £40,500 is for hire of transports, and £15,600 is an appropriation in aid to make good the deficit consequent on the non-payment of the Egyptian contribution.

LOSS OF A BRITISH STEAMER.

Lloyd's agent at Vigo, telegraphing to-day, says:—The steamer *Valparaiso*, of Liverpool (bound from Liverpool to Vigo, Lisbon, Pernambuco, Bahia, Rio Janeiro, Montevideo, and Valparaiso), is ashore on Borneira Rock, Vigo Bay, and will probably be a total wreck. The *Valparaiso* is an iron screw-steamer of 3,575 tons gross, built at Glasgow in 1873, and owned by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, Liverpool.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

The Exchange Telegraph Company learns that the Postmaster-General will during the current week attend a meeting of all sections of the House of Commons, held at his request, to consider the proposal of the Government to raise the maximum yearly deposit in post-office savings' banks from £30 to £50, and the total deposit to individual investors from £200 to £300.

AN ARTISTIC JOKE.

A novel exhibition, for which the *Times* ventures to prophesy no little success, is being prepared by Mr. Harry Furniss, of *Punch* celebrity. He has taken the Gainsborough Gallery in Old Bond-street, which he will fill some time before the opening of Burlington House with a display of elaborate travesties of the works of all the best-known artists of the day. There will be seventy pictures in black and white, many of them of large size, turning into good-natured ridicule the works of every painter, good and bad, whose pictures are familiar to the public. A "Pygmalion and Galatea in Lowther Arcadia" will represent the president; a vast empty room, all boards and walls, will parody the large and half-filled canvases of Mr. Orchardson; "Cows in Sky(e)" will show Mr. Davis, the painter of Highland cattle, illustrating a favourite nursery rhyme; "The Three Switches" will reflect the rapid execution of the painter of "The Three Witches," Mr. M'Whirter. Mr. Herkomer, the Admirable Crichton of modern art, will be represented in the act of performing the feat of simultaneously delivering a lecture, painting a portrait, and engraving a plate. The painter of "Gordon's Last Messenger" is mercilessly caricatured in "Tracts in the Desert;" Mr. Macbeth's brawny heroines of the Fens are here, brawnier even than in the artist's pictures; and the portrait-painters are represented by a number of backs—the faces of modern portraits being, according to Mr. Furniss, entirely uninteresting. Mr. Fildes will be taught that it is as easy to idealize the flower-girls of Drury-lane as their sisters of Venice, and Mr. Marcus Stone's sentimental heroine will be seen seated on her favourite flight of steps, more disconsolate than ever. Perhaps the most amusing of all the pictures will be the "Lady Godiva" of Mr. Horsley, the treatment of which, of course, has reference to that artist's well-known views about the nude in art.

EGYPTIAN CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence on the affairs of Egypt and the Soudan is issued to-day, the despatches coming down to the 29th of November last. The correspondence deals chiefly with the steps taken to open up trade with the Soudan after the pacification of the disturbed districts. The first step in this direction seems to have been taken after the capture of Tamai in October last, by the opening of markets near Suakim, announced by telegram from Sir Henry Wolff, on the 20th of October last. Affairs on the frontier, and the advance of dervishes to Wady Halfa are also dealt with in many of the despatches. It appears that the dervishes depended on the Bazingers, or black irregular troops, formerly in the Egyptian army, who had been driven from time to time by the force of circumstances to join the rebels. Sir Henry Wolff proposed to offer a reward to these Bazingers to leave the dervishes and come over to the Egyptians again, and this proposal was approved by Lord Iddesleigh. The question of retaining British troops at the unhealthy station of Assouan was raised by Sir Henry Wolff in a telegram on the 15th of June last, and Sir Frederick Stephenson's opinion having been asked, he replied on the 6th of July that he considered that necessity, political as well as military, required the retention of English troops at Assouan for the present. Sir Henry Wolff and Sir Evelyn Baring agreed with him that the further withdrawal of English troops and stores would encourage the advance of the enemy and unsettle the native and European population. The report of the Commission on the affairs of the Daira Sanieh was forwarded by Sir Evelyn Baring on the 3rd of July last; and, as a result, it was obvious, he remarked, that the Director-General, and some of his subordinates would have to be dismissed. The appointment of Ahmed Ferid Pasha as Director-General followed on the 12th of July; and on the 23rd of July M. le Beaucaire, the French representative at Cairo, replied to the charges made against the French Controller, which he stated were not, in the opinion of M. de Freycinet, well founded. The French representative defended the action of M. Gay-Lussac in availing himself with tact and moderation of his right of interference, and said the French Government could not blame him for it. Respecting the rumour of an intended British occupation of Thasos, Lord Iddesleigh addressed the following letter to Mr. Egerton:—

Foreign Office, Sept. 28, 1886.

Sir,—In the course of conversation to-day the French Chargé d'Affaires, in speaking of Egypt adverted to the British occupation and the painful impression produced in France by reports that we meant to make our stay there permanent, and to occupy Thasos. I told Count d'Aubigny that there had been no change in the policy of this country with regard to Egypt, and that the report about Thasos is wholly unfounded.—I am, etc.,

(Signed) IDDESLEIGH.

POST OFFICE APPOINTMENTS.

"Atlas," in the *World*, says:—I have seen a paragraph stating that Mr. Stevenson Blackwood, C.B., is about to resign the secretaryship of the Post Office, that the appointment will be at the disposal of Mr. Raikes, the Postmaster-General, and will probably be given to Mr. Patey, now third secretary. Mr. Raikes will not have the chance of inducing a member of his family into the berth, for the appointment rests with the Treasury, and will probably be given to some outsider for whom promotion is required. If Sir Algernon Turner, the Financial Secretary, were appointed, the salary of a redundant and useless office, specially created for Sir Algernon's benefit, would be saved. It is not improbable, I hear, that Mr. Raikes will be shortly "promoted" to a colonial governorship of some importance.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE GOLD COAST.

Sir Henry Holland, Secretary of State for the Colonies, in a letter addressed to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, denies that the Government have been apathetic in regard to British trading interests on the Gold Coast. Steps have been taken to stop the attacks of the Adansis tribe on native traders on their way to the coast, and to keep open the trade routes with the interior. With this view the Government have consented that, on certain conditions, the Sefrohi country should be included in the British protectorate.

EXECUTION OF A WOMAN IN AMERICA.

Mrs. Roxolana Druse was hanged yesterday at Herkimer, New York, for the murder of her husband in 1884. The rarity of the execution of women in New York attracted considerable attention to the execution. The prisoner died without suffering, although her shrieks, until the executioner stopped them, penetrated from the gaol to the streets. The convict began her husband's murder with a revolver, and she hired a boy, who continued firing at her order until the pistol was empty. She then chopped off her husband's head. An adult daughter helped her to cut the body into pieces small enough to put in the stove in which they were consumed. Petitions for a reprieve were freely signed, and a special law was in her behalf introduced into the Legislature forbidding the hanging of women. The murderess confessed her guilt, but alleged that her husband threatened to strike her. She also asserted that she was assisted by her lover; but this story was not supported by evidence.

THE BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL AND THE TEETOTALLERS.

Speaking last evening at a meeting in connection with the Union Presbyterian Church of England, Fountains-road, Kirkdale, Mr. W. E. Brooks in the course of an address said that a few weeks ago there appeared in two religious publications, called *The Christian* and *Christian Herald*, these lines, with reference to the gift of £10,000 by Sir A. B. Walker to the building of the Liverpool Cathedral:—"If we could gain the ear of our episcopal brethren in Liverpool, we would suggest that they should with righteous scorn refuse to accept this gift from the brewer magnate; every pound of it must represent so much of the degradation of the people." Mr. Brook sent a copy of the passage to the Bishop of the diocese, and yesterday received his reply as follows:—"The Palace, February 26, 1887. I thank you for your letter and the extract of the *Christian Herald* which it contains. I fail to see the wisdom of the paragraph. Some of the noblest and best men I have known in my life have been brewers, and I think it hard to say that a brewer shall not be allowed to give money to a religious object if he wishes.—Yours, etc., J. C. LIVERPOOL."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

FLORILINE—For the Teeth and Breath—Is the best Liquid Dentifrice in the world; it thoroughly cleanses partially decayed teeth from all parasites or living "animalcules," leaving them pearly white, imparting a delightful fragrance to the breath. The Fragrant Floriline removes instantly all odours arising from a foul stomach or tobacco smoke; being partly composed of honey, soda, and extracts of sweet herbs and plants, it is perfectly delicious to the taste, and as harmless as sherry. Sold by Chemists and Perfumers everywhere, at 2s. 6d. per bottle.

The ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE may be ordered of all newsvendors and booksellers in town and country, or by subscription from the Office. Terms (payable in advance):—For Three Months, 9s. 6d.; Six Months, 19s. 6d.; Twelve Months, 39s. Post-office orders (to be made payable at the Post Office, Ludgate-circus) should be addressed to E. SOUTH-COTT, St. James's Gazette Office, Whitefriars, E.C. The SPECIAL EDITION on SATURDAYS ONLY (posted in time for delivery in the Country on Sunday Morning) forwarded for 6s. 6d. per annum to any part of the United Kingdom.

SUPPOSED MURDER OF COLONEL FENDALL.

A mysterious death, the result, it is thought, of foul play, is being investigated by the Birmingham police. On Saturday night a man was taken to the General Hospital in an unconscious state, suffering from severe injuries to the back of the head. He died in the hospital early yesterday morning. Two persons, Theresa Rooney, of Bagot-street, and Joseph Lester, of Lancaster-street, have been arrested on suspicion of causing his death. Shortly after eleven o'clock on Saturday night the deceased was seen to be taken out of Rooney's house in an unconscious state. He had been staying there for several hours, and it is believed that he was there struck with some blunt instrument on the back of the head. The appearance of the deceased was that of a military man, and the coat he was wearing bore the name of Colonel Fendall. In one of his pockets was found a bill made out in the same name, and his linen was marked "G. N. F." George Newton Fendall, according to the "Army List," was senior colonel commanding the Shropshire Regimental District of Shrewsbury. The police at Shrewsbury were communicated with, and a detective from Shrewsbury last night identified the body as that of Colonel Fendall, who left Shrewsbury on Saturday to see an opera at Birmingham. The prisoners Rooney and Lester were brought before the magistrates yesterday and remanded. It is stated that Rooney and the deceased were seen to go together to the former's lodgings, situate in a low quarter of the town. Quarrelling afterwards took place in the house, and sounds were heard as of furniture being thrown about; but as this kind of thing frequently took place no notice was taken of it by the neighbours. Shortly before midnight Rooney fetched a cab, and her visitor, whom the cabman found lying on the floor insensible, bleeding from a wound on the head, was conveyed in it to the hospital. Rooney explained to the hospital authorities that the man had been found lying in Lichfield-road; but this explanation was considered unsatisfactory. Rooney says she met the deceased near the theatre after the performance.

Colonel Fendall received his commission in 1846, and has since seen considerable service, principally in India. In 1851-52 he served with the 53rd Regiment against the hill tribes on the Peshawar frontier, and received the medal with clasp that was given for the campaign. He served with distinction throughout the Indian Mutiny (1857-59), and officiated as Deputy-Adjutant Quartermaster-General at Lucknow until the close of the rebellion in Oude. He was mentioned in despatches, and received his brevet of major and the Mutiny medal with clasp. Since then he has been gazetted lieutenant-colonel and full colonel, and with the latter rank he served in the Egyptian war of 1882, and was present at the surrender of Kafr Dowar and Damietta, receiving the Egyptian medal and the Khedive's Star.

A FRENCH MARRIAGE.

A *cause célèbre* which is interesting Parisians a good deal has just been begun at the Dijon Assizes. The Comte de Molen, formerly sub-prefect of Les Andelys, and a man who is well known about town, is charged with having attempted to murder his wife and her grandfather. The Comtesse de Molen is the daughter of a retired chemist of Paris, whom (the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says) the rather prodigal and pleasure-loving Count married for her money, only, however, to treat her, after he had squandered a considerable amount of her *dot* on his mistresses in the Quartier de l'Europe, with (as is alleged by the lady's counsel) the most barbarous cruelty. It appears that the scion of nobility even called his spouse a fishwife, a *bourgeoise*, and a *requinquée*; and on one occasion knocked down his mother-in-law, then his father-in-law, and, finally, broke the finger of a servant who interfered. The version of the family jars given by the lawyers engaged by the Count is that, when M. de Molen had his bride with him in the country, at his château, she not only refused to go away on an electioneering expedition with him, for the purpose of giving clothes to the poor and cakes to their children, but refused to live with him. She began to sigh after the dissipations of Paris, and longed for an apartment in the Avenue de l'Opéra, near her beloved Palais Royal. Yielding to her entreaties, the Count took her to Paris, where she introduced him to some of her numerous female friends, among whom were a pretty actress and a dancer from the Opéra. During the social evenings spent with these friends the Count avers that he had his eyes opened. The upshot of the disputes was that M. de Molen and her friends claimed the return of her marriage portion, and took legal possession of the Count's château. The couple were then separated; the husband consoling himself with an actress from the Nouveautés. During the preliminary proceedings in relation to a divorce suit M. de Molen went to her solicitors at Dijon, accompanied by her maternal grandfather, M. Boissin. She was met by her husband, who happened to be going to his solicitors; and he, taking a revolver out of his pocket, fired twice at her. Her grandfather threw himself before her, and received the two bullets in his body. M. Boissin is now convalescent, but the bullets have not been extracted. This extraordinary trial attracted a large number of people to the Dijon Court House. The Comte de Molen energetically denied the charges brought against him. The accused man has had a peculiar career. He was arrested, but subsequently liberated on an alibi, for the murder of M. Barrême, Prefect of the Eure, whose subordinate he had once been.

BARON SEILLIERE'S LIBRARY.

Yesterday was the opening day of the sale of this choice collection by Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson. There was a fair attendance, and competition was keen over certain rarities, but no very fancy prices were obtained. The highest price paid for a single lot was £325, given by Mr. Ellis for a beautiful fifteenth-century Latin manuscript of the Bible, from the beginning of Genesis to the Epistle of St. James, richly designed. The rebound Sunderland copy of Augustine, printed on vellum, which cost its owner £280, was sold for £175. A first edition of Aymon, in Gothic letter fetched £200; first edition Bertrand de Guesclin, £125; the only copy of the first edition of Amadis de Gaule (black letter) known to exist, £135; Boutillier, supposed to be the first book printed at Abbeville, £110; a fine Gothic letter Romance of King Arthur (the only known copy), £106; Caesar's Commentaries, in an exquisite sixteenth-century Italian binding, £71. The total proceeds of the day's sale were £2,898.

BETTING IN FRANCE.

It is stated that the Prefect of Police has decided on the suppression of the bookmakers' stands on the Paris race-courses. The semi-official announcement of that measure had a depressing effect on the betting community who were assembled on the Vincennes course yesterday. On and after next Thursday, when there are races at Auteuil, no one will be allowed to have a betting-stand.

HOW ELEVEN MILLIONS WERE SPENT.

The report of Sir William Dunbar, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, upon the navy appropriation accounts for 1885-86 contains some surprising information as to the way in which the vote of credit was spent. The vote was granted on the 27th of April, 1885, to pay for the withdrawal of the British forces from the Soudan, and to prepare for a war with Russia, which then seemed imminent. The vote was for eleven millions, three of them for the navy and eight for the army. It is with the navy appropriation alone that Sir William Dunbar now deals. He remarks that, contrary to rule, no estimate was framed when the vote in question was granted; and he expresses the opinion that had there been any real, even imperfect, attempt to frame a scheme of proposed expenditure, excess might not have been avoided, but the causes of it would have been apparent, and the investigations of a Select Committee rendered unnecessary. The tendency, Sir William Dunbar says, was "to consider the vote of credit too much in the light of a sum placed at their disposal by Parliament to meet any expenditure unprovided for in the ordinary votes." "The expenditure out of the vote of credit to a considerable extent represents, perhaps unavoidably, a dead loss to the public. Ships have been taken up at a great cost and never used, and the cable for the Baltic, manufactured at a cost of £113,000, never left the contractors' premises, and was resold to them for £80,000."

Coming to that portion of the report which deals with the hire of vessels taken up for employment as armed cruisers and gun-boats, we find that the chartering was done on two scales, according as the crews were "retained for the Government" or not. In ten cases the higher rates were paid, and for the entire period of hire, although neither men nor ships were wanted for a day. Only five vessels out of all those hired appear to have been used by the officials for any period of the time for which they were hired, and only two cases of abatements in the sums contracted for occurred. Upwards of £700,000 went in this way. Sir William Dunbar observes with regard to this: "It appears to me to be not unworthy of notice that at the date when the danger of an immediate outbreak of hostilities would seem to have passed away, little more than one or two months of the period of hire had expired in eleven cases, and little more than two or three months in the remaining five. Apart, therefore, from considerations of public policy, ample opportunity would appear to have existed for endeavours to effect arrangements with the owners in the interests of financial economy. With regard to the rates of hire, it was found, on examination, that the higher rates had been paid in ten cases; but the payments were not supported by any documentary evidence that crews had been provided by the owners." And if payment of hire at the higher rate was right, there is "no explanation of the circumstances which rendered necessary the retention of the crews for so long a period after the apparent assurance of peace."

Another branch of the special preparations was the order from Messrs. Whitehead and Co., the torpedo manufacturers, of 200 torpedoes at £300 apiece. Only 100 of these torpedoes were delivered in the financial year under review, and these only should have been paid for. But the Department advanced £21,184 in respect of the 100 yet to be delivered; and when the Comptroller-General pointed out that Messrs. Whitehead's contract entitled them to no such payment, it was explained that, if the rate of delivery contemplated by the contract had been maintained, 175 torpedoes would have been delivered within the financial year, and would have been chargeable on the vote of credit in the usual course. So it was decided to pay as if Messrs. Whitehead had been up to time. Sir William Dunbar maintains that this payment should not have been chargeable on the vote at all. Regarding the following further items no completely satisfactory explanations have been forthcoming: Machinery for propelling her Majesty's ships, £198,267; ships etc. building by contract, £171,152; steam-launches, pinnaces, etc., £26,801. All that the Admiralty says when challenged is that "the orders for the machinery, ships, and launches were given in view of the circumstances which gave occasion for the grant of the vote of credit, and therefore the expenditure is considered properly to be covered thereby."

Then for new works we find a number of payments which are declared to be "improperly classified as 'special preparations.'" Over twenty thousand pounds was spent in this way; among the new works considered specially necessary by the imminence of war being: "Dredging at entrance to docks, Chatham, £2,885; coal-sheds and jetty, Esquimault, £1,729; and new sheds etc. for torpedo-boats at Falmouth, Bermuda, Malta, and Esquimault, costing altogether about £12,000." Much of this work seems to have been ordered long after the war scare was over; some of it was part of the ordinary outlay of the year.

The Comptroller gives the following specimen of payments in October and November, 1885, when the crisis was supposed to be over, marked as "Special Preparations," and charged to vote of credit:—

Materials.	Amount.	Taken on charge.
48 pint decanters	£6 0 0	22 Oct., 1885.
Hand-basins, etc.	11 1 2	20 " "
Steel nails	13 1 0	19 " "
Freshwater sand	19 10 0	22 " "
Knife-powder	0 5 0	15 " "
Sockets for table legs	7 3 0	17 " "
Deck candles	298 12 2	7 Nov., 1885.
3 stew-pans	0 11 2	12 " "
2 dozen dough-scrapers	0 17 0	10 " "
205 yards double damask	39 14 4	11 " "

Sir William Dunbar thinks that the money for the stew-pans, the knife-powder, and the pint decanters might have been found elsewhere than in the vote of credit; but the Admiralty thought differently. This Bill, they explained, was merely a sort of preliminary payment for samples of stores ordered out of the vote. "The contractors," said the officials, "require time for the manufacture and supply of these stores." Sometimes, however, the contractors seem to have delivered them faster and sooner than the officials expected or were prepared for, as witness the following:—

In two cases which came under notice, payments amounting to £1,453 were found to have been made to the owners of two transports in respect of stores placed on board, but never used. In these instances the owners declined to make any abatement from the full amount due to them in consideration of the stores not having been used, observing that the utensils were of absolutely no use to them whatever, and that the firm from whom they were purchased had refused to take them back even at a considerable reduction in price. It appears from the papers on the subject that the owners were willing to hand over the stores in question to the Admiralty, but that this offer was not accepted in consequence of a representation that the stores were of no use to the Transport Department, "that the proceeds of sale by auction would probably barely cover cost of carriage; while to retain them in store would be to occupy valuable store-room, with the certainty of the articles deteriorating, and little chance of their being utilized."

This explanation, it is observed, seems to afford such an illustration of the manner in which rigid adherence to hard-and-fast rules entails considerable cost upon public funds that it appears to be not unworthy of notice.

HOW CHAINS ARE FORGED AT CRADLEY HEATH.

Colonel C. E. Stewart, late Assistant-Commissioner in the Afghan Boundary Commission, writes to us as follows:—

Lord Brabourne having been asked by the chain-makers of Cradley Heath, near Birmingham, to send some members of the Association for Promoting State-directed Colonization, over which he presides, to them, to explain the aim and objects of the association, I went there for that purpose, accompanied by Lieutenant Mansfield Smith, R.N. I will say nothing of the association I represented, except that the necessity for State-directed colonization was most forcibly brought home to me by what I saw.

On arrival at Cradley Heath, which is a poor-looking village in Staffordshire, we found at least 2,000 chain-makers assembled in a large wooden building which had been lent by the Salvation Army for the meeting. On entering, the sight that met our view was a sad one. The greater portion of the assembly was composed of men; though some hundreds of women were present, many with babies in their arms. Such pale wan faces among the women and children! while even the men looked pinched with hunger. In spite of the hungry look, they were cheerful, and tried to make the best of a very hard lot. While waiting for the proceedings to commence they sung several of Moody and Sankey's hymns in a very effective manner, under the leadership of a Salvationist. After the business connected with our association was finished, I asked for information about chain-making and the strike then going on; and was told by Mr. T. Horner, the chain-makers' secretary, and others the following facts connected with their industry.

The work is piece-work, the men generally taking the iron to their homes to manufacture, though some masters have it made up on their own premises; but even then the work is paid by the piece. A man working sixty hours in the week, and taking no half-holiday on Saturday, can in that time make 7 cwt. of chain, of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter, for which he receives at the rate of from 1s. 8d. to 1s. 10d. per cwt. Even at the higher figure of 1s. 10d. per hundredweight, this would amount to 12s. 10d. Out of this he has to pay a boy as blower 3s. a week, also to pay 3s. 6d. for the small coal called breeze necessarily used in working up this amount of iron, and 1s. has to be expended in carrying the materials to the master's place of business. This leaves 5s. 4d. as the full wages of a man for hard blacksmith's work for a week of sixty hours. If two men work together, a blower can be hired between them, to whom each man pays 2s.; and, under these circumstances, the net earnings of an able man would amount to 6s. 4d. a week. If 8 cwt. of chain were made in the week the earnings would amount to a little more; but few men can make this quantity, and that not regularly every week, so 6s. 4d. may be considered the full wages that it is possible for an industrious and good workman to earn in a week.

When the father of a family can by his utmost exertions only earn the above sum it becomes necessary that his wife and daughters, if he have any, should earn their own keep, and women work at the forge at chain-making in very large numbers. Working at a forge with men does not seem an occupation fitted for women and girls, and the evil effects of this work upon them, both morally and physically, are very evident. One woman showed me her hand, which was covered with immense hard corns produced by the constant use of the hammer during so many hours a day, and said should women do work that hurt them like that. The moral results of young men and young women working together at the hot forges often in the scantiest attire, is also lamentable. I have heard sad tales of women forging chains up to a very short period of their confinement. For sixty hours' hard work, only fit for a strong man, those poor women receive about 3s. 6d. clear, after paying for breeze and share of blower's wages. Imagine a wage of 3s. 6d. for a week of such toil.

At last this state of affairs could be endured no longer: the chain-makers struck for an increase of wages. Several of the most important masters approved of the strike, and I understand some actually contribute money. Much help is being given by the Nut and Boltmakers' Association, whose secretary, Mr. Juggins, was present at the meeting. Other associations are also helping. As there are 2,000 chain-makers on strike, and these men and women have many depending on them, the whole number who have been rendered utterly destitute by this strike is about 8,000. They have no union of their own, so it is necessary to raise a considerable sum to give even a little help weekly. They say they worked hard and starved, and now they play and starve. This is the twenty-ninth week of the strike, and the sums that have been collected only allow of four quarter loaves, worth 1s. 4d., and 1s. being paid to each family weekly—making a total of 2s. 4d. per family, consisting of a man, his wife, and one child. If there are more children, a very small increase is given; but the whole sum in bread and money given to a family of ten persons is only 4s.

These chain-makers ask that a hard-working and efficient man should be able to earn about 14s. a week and a woman 7s.; though they think if the man earned as much as 14s. he could keep his family decently and the women would not be obliged to work at the forges. I was shown a chain such as is used to put over the back of a cart-horse and hold up the shafts. The workmen are paid 1½d. for making these chains; cost of iron, galvanizing, etc., about 5½d.: total cost 7d. But they are sold in retail shops at about 5s. each. The chain-makers ask that out of this enormous profit a little more than 1½d. should go to them.

I now appeal to the men and women of England to send help to these starving people. I shall very thankfully receive subscriptions of even one shilling in amount if sent to 51, Redcliffe-square, South Kensington.

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

TRADE AND FINANCE.

The stock markets have fallen into a stagnant state, from which the German elections have failed to arouse them. The pessimist feeling of a month ago, it is true, is passing away; but there is still too much apprehension to permit of active speculation. Yesterday was the eve of the Liquidation on the Paris Bourse; and though it is known that little business has been done in Paris during the past month, still there was some anxiety as to the result. The market there, however, was steady. The Berlin Bourse, on the other hand, was quiet; apparently waiting for Thursday's Speech from the Throne. For the time all other influences are subordinate to politics. The number of new companies coming out and the success attending all that have a sound basis, and many even that have not, is one among several pieces of evidence that there is a vast accumulation of money waiting investment. Trade is improving. Confidence has been restored. If therefore peace were assured, there is little doubt that business would be very active. But the fear of war paralyzes enterprise, and until that fear is allayed markets are likely to continue stagnant.

During the early part of yesterday the stock markets showed dulness, in consequence of hesitation until the tendency of the Continental Bourses should be made known, and also owing to attention being engrossed by the progress of the Settlement in Consols; but later in the day the tone improved, and continued firm to the close, with certain exceptions. Consols declined $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. on the supply of stock at the monthly Settlement having increased, causing the contango to advance to 2 per cent. per annum. Home Railways showed at first hardly any change; but during the afternoon some good buying of Brighton A stock and others was effected, in connection, it was believed, with some information concerning the Railway Rates Bill, introduced last night in the House of Lords, and a general advance in prices was established of more or less importance. Brighton A rose $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and closed at a rise of $1\frac{1}{4}$. South-Eastern A also advanced $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., Great Northern A $\frac{1}{4}$, Chatham Preference $\frac{1}{4}$, North British $\frac{1}{2}$, and some others $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$. Foreign securities had been dull at a fractional decline, but recovered, and closed firm at about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. improvement on the day for the leading stocks, Spanish Four per Cents. advancing $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. American securities were weak all day owing to the unsettled market of Saturday in New York; and when the telegrams came to hand during the afternoon reporting an irregular opening there prices fell away further and closed flat. Milwaukee fell $1\frac{1}{4}$, Lake Shore $\frac{1}{4}$, Louisville and Erie Ordinary $\frac{1}{4}$, and others $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$. There was no life in Canadian Railways; but Grand Trunk issues were steady during the after-part of the day. Mexican Railway stocks opened at a slight decline, which was soon recovered, and prices closed firm at an advance on the day on fresh buyers coming forward at the early reduction.

Money was in greater request and shorter supply yesterday than it has been since the stringency commenced, and the open market experienced great difficulty in satisfying requirements, owing to the calling in of a large sum—about a million sterling, we believe—by the London and Westminster Bank, in connection with the return of the Allsopp deposits. Both discount houses and stock-brokers found it necessary to apply to the Bank of England, where a large business in loans was transacted. Outside the rate for short loans was $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 per cent., and the rate of discount was firm at $3\frac{1}{4}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; but there was not a large supply of bills offering.

We understand that the Hotchkiss Gun Company is likely to be brought out to-morrow as a limited liability concern with a capital of a million. It is to be introduced to the investing public by a house of the highest standing, whose name is a guarantee for the accuracy of everything stated in the prospectus. After paying the debenture interest and preference dividend, and providing a sinking-fund sufficient to extinguish the debenture mortgage in a few years, we have reason to believe that there will be shown to be earnings to pay on the ordinary shares dividends of not less than 20 per cent.

Although the impression has been very general that a favourable result in the case of the German elections would be followed by a considerable rise in Stock Exchange prices, we fail to see any grounds for the opinion. There has been a recovery of 4 or 5 per cent. all round since the heavy fall during the recent scare; and this is a very considerable recovery considering all the circumstances of the case. It is quite true, of course, that the desire to influence voters will no longer lead to alarmist speeches, alarmist leading articles, or a concoction of alarmist rumours, and that the cessation of these may tend to calm the public mind all over Europe. But, on the other hand, there is no real change in the situation, so far at least as the general public can observe. The best informed in the City profess still to believe that peace will be maintained; and, even if they are right, the uncertainty is still too great, and the chance of further scares so probable, that it is extremely unlikely we shall see any material rise. When all is said, Foreign Government bonds are still very high—in some cases a great deal too high—and it is impossible to see what any speculator can hope to gain by buying at the present prices under present political conditions. American Railroad securities, on the other hand, are sure to rise in the course of the year. But even American Railroad securities are not likely to advance much at present; for sales by Europeans in New York have been enormous since Christmas, and it takes some time to absorb such a quantity of stock. Besides, it is not worth the while of the great operators in New York to try to force up prices in the present temper of the European markets. Lastly, Home Railway stocks are very high, and, although trade has improved and is likely to improve materially should peace be maintained, and, consequently, railway prospects will improve with it; still there is no likelihood of a rise in these stocks until the political atmosphere is completely cleared.

The directors of the South African Company (Limited) report that the company have received possession of the mine and other property, and that work is now being carried on on account of the company.

MESSRS. HATCHARD, 187, PICCADILLY, W., keep a large Stock of all the New, Standard, and Children's Books, Bibles, Prayer-Books, &c. Discount 3d. in the 1s. Libraries arranged.—[ADVT.]

THE MORNING PAPERS.

THE GOVERNMENT AND ARCHBISHOP CROKE.

The *Standard* remarks that to recognize the criminality of such incitements as the no-tax manifesto of Archbishop Croke is one thing; to decide as to the opportuneness or the manner of Government interference is another. Probably the Archbishop, when he drafted his incendiary letter, was thinking a good deal more of the necessity of giving a fillip to American liberality than of the possibility of initiating a no-tax campaign. But all experience goes to show that action taken to satisfy the tastes of the Irish-American Extremists has a tendency to produce the scenes which the Transatlantic patrons of the Parnellite movement expect and pay for. Neglect did not kill the Plan of Campaign; and though Archbishop's Croke's departure is very different from that of Mr. Dillon, the thing may grow.

BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The *Times* says that the public will hardly be guilty of an ungenerous scepticism if they decline to believe that all the speeches delivered and all the divisions challenged in Committee of Supply yesterday originated in convictions absolutely disconnected with the Irish situation. There were many members who were entitled to speak on purely financial grounds, but many others have lately developed an interest in the details of the Estimates.

The *Standard* remarks that anything was good as a peg for dilatory speech-making last night. The debate—or, to be accurate, the series of conversations on the items of the Supplementary Estimates—illustrated the determination of the Irish members to make the most of their remaining days of licensed volubility and the facilities which the existing rules place within their reach.

The *Daily News* says that a rather impudent attempt had been made by influential supporters of the Government outside the House to bully the Opposition into abstaining from criticism of the Estimates, on pain of being charged with deliberate obstruction. Language of this sort is, the *Daily News* says, discreditable nonsense. If the House of Commons is not carefully to consider the public expenditure of the country, the sooner it is abolished as an expensive farce the better.

The *Morning Post* urges that economical reformers must proceed by other means than those of capriciously seeking to cut down different Estimates. A perusal of the report of last evening's proceedings in Committee of Supply will satisfy any one that no substantial gain, either economical or otherwise, can be secured to the country by endeavouring to reduce particular votes by sums which the economists venture to think are not needed for the attainment of duly specified objects. The Executive must necessarily be in a better position to know what is actually indispensable than outside critics, and this view is invariably taken by the House of Commons. But it is perfectly legitimate to inquire whether the Government take care that the money granted to them by the House of Commons is judiciously expended, and inquiries such as this, if carefully conducted, would probably lead to highly satisfactory results.

MODERN DINNER-PARTIES.

The *Standard* observes that the hostess of the present day exercises catholic and comprehensive hospitality, studying not to grace her table or to fill her rooms with people all resembling each other, but rather to bring unlike into contact with unlike, and to find as much variety in the sum total of her guests as possible. One cause of this beneficent change is, no doubt, the increasing tolerance of the age; but the working out of the new order of things is due almost entirely to the sex that is endowed with tact in conduct and flexibility in opinion. A clever woman has sympathy for every conceivable subject, if it be properly handled, but an exclusive and fanatical idolatry concerning none. Though she sympathizes with all prejudices, she shares none; she can tolerate any one who can talk well and conduct himself decently. Thus she can put up with a good deal of imperfection of manner in men, provided they bring some contribution to the sum total of entertainment. True diversion in society—indeed, true pleasure—is to be extracted, she has discovered, only from the play of mind and the conflict of intellects. Like never rouses like. A certain amount of antagonism, either expressed or latent, is indispensable to the full display of mental energy. The *Standard* does not know that, in consequence, men like each other any better. But, at any rate, they generally learn to dislike each other less; and that is something. Even when no distinct difference of opinion is elicited, there always occurs among guests of various tastes and contrasted views great brightness and lightness of talk. Nobody dogmatizes when everybody else may possibly disagree with him. This object is not, perhaps, deliberately intended by the women who bring together notabilities supposed to be discordant. But the effect is such as has been described; and society, at least, gains immensely by it.

OUR NAVAL ADMINISTRATION.

The *Manchester Guardian* regards the reorganization of the Intelligence Department as perhaps the most important of all the reforms which have recently been undertaken at the Admiralty. The great question for the country now is, Upon what lines is our future naval administration to be conducted? It will be no great consolation to Englishmen to know that they possess a vigilant Intelligence Staff if they are not assured at the same time that these officers have within their range of view a system of defence which is as complete and as prepared for any sudden emergency as the resources of the country can make it. Take, for example, the question of a rapid mobilization of the fleet. At present such a measure is simply impossible. The means should exist of sending promptly to sea, fully manned and equipped, every serviceable ship in the fleet. This is very far from being the case at present, and unless the Admiralty provide the means mere reports from the Intelligence Department will help us but little.

THE "JUSTICIA" CASE.

The *Times* cannot say that the offence of which General Sandoval has been found guilty is a very heinous one, or at all such as to cover a man with disgrace. Different nations have different ways of changing their Governments, and even the same nation has different ways at different periods. At present we ourselves manage those necessary transitions with all possible decorum. Fifty years ago they were not effected without the aid of election riots, pelted candidates, and broken heads. In Venezuela they have not yet got so far on the road to peaceful change. If a vote of want of confidence has to be passed people have to descend into the streets to do it, and it is not carried without some shooting, possibly a good deal. A friendly critic would probably represent General Sandoval as aiding in a constitutional movement of a quite usual kind. He has declared for the Opposition; he wishes to turn out the Government; and he proceeds to do so in the usual way. But an Opposition often miscalculates. Here a Radical orator's epigrams sometimes fail to reach their adversary; in Venezuela, the Opposition may "take a shot at the Custom House and miss it." These things are a matter of latitude, and we must not judge the deeds of Carapana by the standards of Westminster. At the same time, we must be careful to protect ourselves. England is not going to get herself into fresh Alabama troubles because a Venezuelan refugee has views about Venezuelan government, or because certain shareholders in Venezuelan mines are dissatisfied with their concessions.

A LADY'S ACCOUNT OF THE EARTHQUAKE.

A lady correspondent at San Remo sends the following account of her experiences of the earthquake at that place:—

Shake! shake! shake! Rumble! rumble! rumble! Then a shower of something over one's head, as at 6.30 A.M. on Ash Wednesday we jumped out of bed with the dreadful certainty that we were in the midst of an earthquake. In less time than it takes to write, the whole family congregated together. A pause, and then again another fearful shake and clatter of falling plaster; and, in such clothes as could be hurriedly hustled on, we found ourselves in the garden anxiously looking round to see what had befallen our friends. Those that have experienced earthquakes need no reminder of the helpless feeling occasioned by them; to those who happily have been exempt, words would fail to explain it. Faint and weary with expecting yet more shocks; looking for the houses to fall, the earth to open, a tidal wave to overwhelm; hearing every minute from different passers-by of whole villages being wrecked, churches having fallen, and hundreds of people having been buried in the ruins of the old town—we sat down and sighed! Hot coffee having somewhat soothed our shaken nerves, we set out to see our neighbour of the Villa M—and consult together as to what we were to do for the night; our villa being so manifestly unsafe in the cracked and shattered condition of its upper story. Oh, if only the night were over! was the burden of our song, as with constant milder shocks—enough very forcibly to show us we were not yet on *terra firma*—the day passed. These frequent tremblings becoming very monotonous, we sally forth to see how our friends have fared. We hear of one who has rushed from an hotel in the town, the frills of her night-gear distinctly perceptible, beseeching shelter in a friend's villa. Another we meet having bounded down the stairs of an hotel half-dressed, having just gone the length of giving her face a "dry wipe." Then we arrive at a large tent destined for invalids whose nerves will not stand the top-rooms of hotels. Tired, we retrace our steps, comparing notes with many, and enlivened occasionally by a slight tremor. At sunset, shriek the natives, there will be yet another dreadful "tremblement de terre." So for sunset we wearily watch. The sun "se couche" quietly and placidly; then it is "à minuit" our last hours are to come, when the house "va certainement tomber." And so matters went on. After dinner, partaken of close by the windows, we spread on the floor all available mattresses and lay ourselves down, prepared for any emergency. Some sleep, we suppose, visited our sardine-like packed family; but the constant small upheavals were not soporific, and at two o'clock, after a short but sharp rumble, the chef and parlour-maid, rushing in, besought us, almost with tears, to leave the house. "Vite! vite! Tout le monde!" were out. We should all be killed. And had we not shown signs of being amenable, we verily believe we should have been dragged out by main force; so, swathing ourselves in blankets, we left the villa S—. Not many steps off we met a young lady with much more carefully attended-to toilet, and, as was befitting, escorted by blanket-embellished beau. We directed our steps to the Berigo Road, the great promenade of San Remo; and many and curious were the sights and sounds. After each shake of the earth screams came up from the town, the hotel-bells rang wildly, and occasionally some shrill voice would be heard giving some startling intelligence. A black mass engrosses our attention. "A prayer-meeting," suggests one. "I will see what it is," says the brave one of our party; and she solemnly and decidedly marches up to a bed of mesembrianthemum. Human legs have only limited strength, and ours beginning to fail, we turn our steps homeward; and by dint of foraging in the kitchen and an etna, we soon have a very acceptable meal in the garden. The morning light found us in appearance slightly dissipated and wistfully glancing at the rising sun. Calmly and beautifully it rose; and so began another day—a day which we own with thankful hearts has been free from any great alarms. We have terrible reports from a village about four miles off, where it is feared fifty people have been crushed to death by falling houses. No actual loss of life in San Remo; though many have been wounded and much damage done to buildings. This afternoon there are notices on the wall, sent by a Genoese astronomer, to say that the earthquakes are over. Let us hope he is a true prophet.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

SONS.
BURNAND, Mrs. Harry C., at Instow Cottage, Addiscombe, Feb. 22.
CARDEN, wife of Captain H. W., Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and Paymaster Connaught Rangers, at Manor Cottage, Templemore, Ireland, Feb. 17.
GAME, Mrs. J. Aylward, at Westwood Lodge, Sydenham, Feb. 27.
HOLMES, Mrs. John, at Brooke Hall, Norwich, Feb. 24.
NOPS, Mrs. Walter, at Richmond, Surrey, Feb. 27.
RÖMER, Mrs. Heinrich, at Allestrasse, Barmen, Germany, Feb. 25.
WHITE, wife of Rev. Robey R., M.A., Vicar, at St. Augustine's Vicarage, Scissett, near Huddersfield, Feb. 26.
WILLS, Mrs. Frederick, of Backwell Hill, Somerset, at Mount Waltham, Netherhall-terrace, Hampstead, Feb. 25.

DAUGHTERS.
ANGELL, wife of Mr. Lewis, C.E., at Burleigh House, The Grove, Stratford, Essex, Feb. 25.
BELL, Mrs. C. F. Moberly, at Ramleh, Egypt, Feb. 21.
FENTON, Mrs. H. A., at Burwood, Caterham, Feb. 24.
JONES, Mrs. I. D., at Vicarage-road, Leyton, Feb. 24.
KINDER, Mrs. Charles H., at Double Bay, Sydney, Jan. 17.
LORING, Mrs. A. H., at Brunswick-gardens, Feb. 25.
MACIVER, Mrs. David, at Wanlass How, Ambleside, Feb. 26.
PARK, wife of Captain C. W., Devonshire Regiment, at Bonchurch, Feb. 27.
SALES, Mrs. Arthur, at Blackheath-terrace, Blackheath, Feb. 26.
WELLS, wife of Poulett, M.B., at Belsize Park, N.W., Feb. 25.

MARRIAGES.

BROADHURST-STEWART.—At Glasserton, Wigtownshire, N.B., Henry B., son of Mr. Henry T. Broadhurst, to Margaret, daughter of Mr. Robert H. J. Stewart, of Physgill, Wigtownshire, N.B., Feb. 22.

SHAW-EXSHAW.—At Willow-lane Church, Norwich, Mr. Otho Shaw, of Arrow Park, Cheshire, to Odette, daughter of Mr. T. H. Exshaw, of Sennowe Hall, Norfolk, and Rue Saint Genès, Bordeaux, Feb. 17.

DEATHS.

ARROWSMITH, Annette, widow of Mr. H. F., at Hove-villas, West Brighton, Feb. 25.
ASHTON, Ellen E., widow of Mr. Joseph, at Osborne-terrace, Clapham-road, S.W., Feb. 23.
BARCLAY, Mr. Donald, J.P., at Sunny Bank, Mayfield, Sussex, aged 84, Feb. 26.
BATEMAN, Emma A., widow of Captain J. M.P., of Oak Park, Tralee, and Leslie Park-road, Croydon, at High Holborn, W.C., aged 64, Feb. 25.
BENNETT, Thomas W., son of Mr. John G., of Upton, Cheshire, at All Saints' School, Bloxham, aged 11, Feb. 24.
COUCH, Mr. Richard E., Barrister-at-Law, son of the Right Hon. Sir Richard, at Preston, Brighton, aged 41, Feb. 25.
FAIRWEATHER, Miss Ellen C., late of Eaton-terrace, S.W., aged 63, Feb. 21.
FOX, Mr. Samuel, of Deepcar, Sheffield, at North Cliffe Lodge, East Yorkshire, aged 71, Feb. 25.
HARKER, William, son of the Hon. George, of Melbourne, Australia, aged 35, Dec. 14.
HENDERSON, Barbara J., at Blatchington-road, West Brighton, aged 83, Feb. 24.
HIGGS, Emily R., wife of Mr. Charles P., at Cranham Lodge, Cheltenham, aged 70, Feb. 25.

HOOKEY, Rev. George S., M.A., late Vicar of St. John's, Burgess-hill, Sussex, at Melrose-gardens, W., aged 66, Feb. 26.
HUNT, Brigade-Surgeon John H., at the North Camp, Aldershot, aged 53, Feb. 23.
JONES, James, son of the late Rev. James, Vicar of Naseby, Northants, aged 36, Feb. 17.
JONES, Henrietta M., wife of Rev. J. D., Vicar of Old Colwyn, North Wales, Feb. 22.
LEWIS, Mr. Hayward, at Lyndhurst-grove, Camberwell, aged 41, Feb. 24.
MACKENZIE, Alexander J., son of Mr. Alexander, of Scatwell, N.B., at Pietermaritzburg, Jan. 19.
MILLS, Mr. George F., at Bronteville, Southsea, aged 46, Feb. 25.
PASS, Mr. Robert, formerly of Boston, Lincolnshire, and Queen's College, Oxford, son of the late Mr. John Pass, of Boston, at Ventimiglia, aged 63, Feb. 10.
STEVENSON, Rev. Thomas, M.A., at St. Mary's Vicarage, Harrington-square, aged 55, Feb. 27.
SWABEY, Charlotte, widow of Mr. Henry B., at Worcester-terrace, Bath, aged 81, Feb. 24.
WOODY, Mr. Robert L., at The Moat House, Tamworth, aged 74, Feb. 25.

STOCKS AND SHARES.

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

COLONIAL GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Canada, Dominion of, 5 p. ct. 1903	112	114
Ditto, ditto 4 p. ct. 1904-5-6-8	103½	104½
Cape of Good Hope 1890-1900	—	—
Ditto 1891	—	—
Ditto 5 p. ct. 1900	107	109
Ditto 4½ p. ct.	102	104
Ditto ditto (June & Dec.)	101	103
Natal 4½ p. ct. (Mar. & Sept.)	101	103
Ditto 5 p. ct. 1900-1901	101	103
New South Wales, 1888 to 1894	105	107
Ditto 5 p. ct. 1895 to 1900	105	107
Ditto 2 p. ct. 1872 to 1893	105	107
New Zealand 6 p. ct. 1891	110	112
Ditto 5 p. ct. 1914	102	104
Ditto 5 p. ct. Consols	107	109
Ditto 6 p. ct., March 15, 1891	107	109
Ditto ditto (June & Dec.)	106	108
Ditto 4½ p. ct. 5-30, 1879-1900	—	—
Ditto ditto 10-40, 1883-1912	103	105
Ditto ditto 1889	101	103
Quebec (Province of) 5 p. c. 1901	103	105
Ditto ditto 1906	103	105
Queensland 6 p. ct. 1891-1896	106	108
Ditto 4 p. ct. 1913-1915	98	100
South Australian 6 p. c. 1891-1900	115	117
Ditto ditto 1901-1912	106	108
Ditto 5 p. ct. 1911-1912	100	102
Ditto 4 p. ct. 1909	100	102
Ditto ditto 1916	100	102
Straits Settlements Gov. 4½ p. c.	103	105
Tasmanian 6 p. ct. 1895	110	112
Ditto 4 p. ct. 1 July, 1908	100	102
Victoria 6 p. ct. 1891	100	102
Ditto 5 p. ct. 1894	105	107
Ditto 4 p. ct. 1893-1901	101	103
Western Australian 4½ p. ct.	105	107
Ditto ditto 4 p. ct.	101	103

REGISTERED AND INSCRIBED STOCKS.

Canada 4 p. c. Stock Reg., 1904	104	105
Do. Loan for £4,000,000, 1910	103½	104½
C. of Good Hope 4 p. c. Stock Reg	98	99
Do. (Loan of 1883) Ins	99	100
Ceylon 4 p. c. Inscribed Stock	102	104
Natal 4 p. c. Consol. Stock Reg	95½	97½
New South Wales 4 p. c. Ins	106½	107½
Do. 3½ p. ct. Stock Ins	94	95
Do. 3½ p. ct. Stock, 1883	—	—
Queensland Stock Ins.	90	100
S. Australia (Loans of 1882-3-4)	100½	101½
Victoria 4 p. c. Railway Loan	102½	103½
1881, Inscribed Stock	102½	103½
Victoria 4 p. c. Loans of 1882,	104	105
1883, and 1884, do. 1908	103½	104½
W. Australia Loan of £525,000 Stk.	103½	104½

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Massachusetts 5 p. ct. 1888	101	103
Atlantic First Leased Lines Rental	—	—
Trust	75	77
Baltimore & Potomac 1st M'n Line	124	126
Central Pacific of California Six	—	—
per Cent. First Mortgage	116	118
Delaware and Hudson Canal	—	—
Mortgage Bonds, 1894	112	117
Denver & Rio Grande 1st Con. M.B.	80	82
Lehigh Valley Con. Mortgage	131	135
New York Central and Hudson	—	—
River Seven per Cent. Mort.	133	138
New York, Pennsylvania and	—	—
Ohio Third Mortgage	4½	5½
Norfolk and Western Preferred	49	50
St. Louis Bridge 1st Pref. Stock	104	106
Ditto 2nd Preferred Stock	52	54
Do. 1st Mortgage Gold Bonds	133	138
Union Pacific Railway 1st Mort.	116	118
Union Pacific Land Grant	100	105

STERLING BONDS.

Allegheny Valley, 1910	132	134
Atlantic First Leased Lines Rental	—	—
Trust, 4 p. ct. Mort. Debts	84	86
Baltimore and Ohio 6 p. c., 1902	121	123
Ditto 6 p. ct. 1910	124	126
Ditto 5 p. ct. 1877	111	113
Memphis and Ohio	116	119
N.Y.C. & Hudson River 6 p. ct.	113	117
Pennsylvania General Mortgage	126	129
Ditto Consolidated	119	121
Pittsburg & Connellsville 6 p. c.	128	130
Union Pacific Rail. Omaha Bridge	123	128
United N. Jersey Ry. Canal 1894	110	112

RAILWAYS.—BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

Atlantic and St. Lawrence 6 p. c.	139	141
Bombay, Baroda, & Central India	—	—
guaranteed 5 p. ct. ..	160	163
Buffalo and Lake Huron	11½	12
Canada Central Five per Cent.	108	110
First Mortgage Bonds	105	106
Can. Pac. S.L. 5 p. c. First Mort.	105	106
Chicago and Grand Trunk 6 p. c.	106	108
Demerara 7 p. c. Perpetual Pref	123	124
Eastern Bengal 4 p. c. Guar. Deb. St.	106	108
East Indian, Annuity A	22½	23
Ditto Annuity B, £1 per annum	24½	25
Ditto Def. Annuity Cap. Guar.	—	—
4 p. ct.	116	119
Do. Irredeem. Deb. Stk. 4½ p. c.	119	121
Great Indian Peninsula Guarant.	—	—
ted Five per Cent. ..	144	147
Do. 4 p. ct. Deb. Stock	107	109
Hamilton & N.W. 1st M. 6 p. c.	105	107
Madras guaranteed 5 p. ct. ..	125	127
Ditto ditto 4½ p. ct. ..	118	122
Ditto ditto 4½ p. ct. ..	112	116
Melbourne and Hobson's Bay	—	—
United 5 p. ct. Bonds	107	109
M. of Canada Sterling 1st Mort-	—	—
gage ..	100	102
Do. (Con.) 5 p. ct. 1st Mort	98	100
Nizam's State Railway Guarant.	—	—
ted 5 p. ct. Shares ..	105	108
N. of Canada 6 p. c. Pref Stock	104	106
Ditto 5 p. ct. 1st Mortgage	104	106
Ditto 3rd Pref. Bonds A and B	94	96
Ditto North. Exten. 6 p. c. ..	104	105
Ditto ditto 6 p. c. Impr. Mort.	104	105
Ditto 4 p. ct. Deb. Stock	82	84
Ont. & Quebec 5 p. c. Perp. Deb. St.	109	110
Oude & Rohilkund g. 5 p. ct.	125	127
Ditto 4 p. ct. Deb. Stock	105	107
St. John and Maine	30	33
Scinde, Punjab, & Delhi g. 5 p. c.	—	—
South Indian guar. 5 p. ct. ..	125	127
Ditto 4½ p. ct. Deb. Stock	114	116
S. Mahratta Guar. 4 p. c. till 1889	101	103
Ditto 4 p. ct. Deb. Stock	105	107
Tasmanian Main Line Debenture	—	—
4 p. ct. Stock	83	86
Toronto, Grey, and Bruce 4 p. ct.	—	—
1st Mortgage	84	85
Wellington, Grey, and Bruce 7	—	—
per cent. Bonds, 1st Mortgage	98	100

BRITISH RAILWAYS.

East London Consolidated	9	11
Furness Consolidated	102	105
Glasgow and South-Western Con.	101	103
Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding	—	—
Junction Shares	16½	17½
London, Tilbury, & Southend Co.	135	139
Mersey	6	8
North London Consolidated	175	180
Rhymney	150	160

RAILWAYS.—DEBENTURE STOCK.

Caledonian 4 p. ct.	116	118
East London 6 p. ct.	140	160
Ditto 5 p. ct.	110	120
Ditto 6 p. ct. 1874	90	100
Ditto 6 p. ct. 1875	60	70
Glasgow and S. West. 4 p. ct.	114	116
Great Eastern 4 p. ct.	116	118
Ditto A 5 p. ct.	142	144
Ditto B 67 redm. 5 p. c.	132	134
Ditto 4½ p. ct.	129	131
Ditto East Anglian 4 p. c.	115	117
Great Northern 4 p. ct.	118	120
Great Western 4 p. ct.	118	120
Ditto 4½ p. ct.	122	124
Ditto 4½ p. ct.	131	133
Ditto 5 p. ct.	145	147
Lancashire and York, 4 p. ct.	117	119
London & Blackwall, 4½ p. ct.	120	122
London and Brighton, 4 p. ct.	115	117
Ditto Perpetual 4½ p. ct.	129	131
London & Chatham Arb. ½ p. ct.	124	126
Ditto ditto B 4½ p. ct.	123	125
Ditto ditto 4 p. ct.	108	110
Ditto ditto 1883	108	110
London & North-Western 4 p. ct.	119	121
London & South-Western 4 p. ct.	118	120
Ditto ditto B 4 p. ct.	118	120
Ditto ditto 3½ p. ct.	102	104
London, Tilbury 4 p. ct.	114	116
Manch. & Sheffield 4½ p. ct.	128	130
Metropolitan 4 p. ct.	115	117
Ditto 4½ p. ct.	126	128
Ditto 3½ p. ct.	98	100
Metropolitan District 6 p. ct.	157	160
Ditto 4 p. ct.	106	108
Midland 4 p. ct.	118	120
North British 4 p. ct.	115	117
Do. E. P. and D. B. 5 p. ct.	—	—
North-Eastern 4 p. ct.	118	120
Ditto 4½ p. ct.	130	132
North London 4½ p. ct.	131	133
North Staffordshire 4½ p. ct.	121	123
South-Eastern Perp. 4 p. ct.	117	119
Ditto ditto 5 p. ct.	142	144
Taff Vale 4 p. ct.	110	113

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Antwerp and Rotterdam	21	23
Bahia and San Francisco, g. 7 p. c.	22½	23½
Brazilian Imperial Central Bahia	21½	22
Ditto 6 p. ct. Debenture Stock	111	113
Buenos Ayres Great Southern	159	161
Ditto Extension	14½	14½
Ditto 5 p. ct. Debenture Stock	119	121
Buenos Ayres and Ensenada Port	8	9
Ditto 8 p. ct. Preference	13½	14½
Ditto 5 p. ct. Deb. Stock	103	110
Buenos Ayres and Pacific Pref.	23½	24½
Buenos Ayres and Rosario Ord.	138	141
Ditto ditto 7 p. c. Pref.	14½	14½
Ditto ditto 5 p. c. Deb. Stock	113	115
Central Argentine Limited	108	110
Ditto 6 p. ct. Debent. Stock	137	140
C. Uruguay of Montevideo, Lim	11	11½
Do. Permt. 6 p. c. Deb. Stock	128	130
Conde d'Eu, Lim., g. 7 p. ct.	15	16
Copapo	38	42
Dutch Rhenish	16½	17½
Ditto New	4	6
Ditto ditto 1872	½	1
East Argentine, Lim., g. 7 p. ct.	98	100
Ditto 6 p. ct. Deb. Stock	111	113
Great Western of Brazil g. 7 p. c.	19	20
Ditto 6 p. ct. Deb. Stock	112	114
Imp. Brazilian, Natal, and N. Cruz	6½	7½
Lima, Limited	6	6½
Namur and Liège 14 p. per annum	11½	12½
Ditto 6 p. ct. Preference	26	28
N.-W. Uruguay 6 p. ct. 1st Pref	67	69
Ditto, ditto, 5 p. ct. and Pref	45	47
Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin)	12½	13
Prov. Orei-Vitebsk g. 5 p. ct.	17	18
Recife and Sao Francisco g.	103	105
Riga and Dunaberg	14½	15½
Royal Sardinian	10	10½
Ditto Preference	10½	11½
Royal Swedish	3½	3½
Ditto Preference	3½	3½
Sambre and Meuse	9½	10½
Ditto 5½ p. ct. Preference	11½	12½
San Paulo Brazilian guar. 7½ p. c.	40½	41½
Ditto 5½ p. c. Debenture Stock	130	132
Smyrna and Cassaba, Limited	23½	23½
Ditto 7 p. ct. Preference	25½	26½
Southern Brazilian Rio Grande	—	—
Do Sul Guaranteed 7 p. ct.	21½	22½
Varna	2½	3½
West Flanders	10½	11½
Ditto 5½ p. ct. Preference	11½	12½
West. of Buenos Ayres 6 p. c. Bds	110	112
Do. do. 5 p. c. Mort. Deb.	99½	100½

LAND COMPANIES.

Canada Company	84	87
Canada North-West Land	2½	2½
Natal Land and Colonization	4	5
Newfoundland Land	½	½
Otago and Southland Investment	1½	2
Peel River Land	83	85
Scottish Australian Investment	195	205
South Australian	60	63
S. Austrin. Land Mort. & Agency	2½	2½
Van Diemen's Land	24	26

TELEGRAPH SHARES.

Anglo-American Preferred	52	53
Ditto Deferred	11	12
Cuba, Limited	11½	11½
Ditto 10 p. ct. Preference	18	19
Eastern 4 p. ct. Debent. Stock	101	103
Eastern Exten. 6 p. ct. Debent.	104	107
Great Northern of Copenhagen	13½	13½
Indo-European, Limited	24½	35½
London P. Brazilian, 6 p. c. Deb.	100	103
Reuter's, Limited	6½	7½
Submarine	185	195
Ditto Scrip	—	—
West India and Panama 1st Pref.	8½	9
Western Union of U.S. & M. Bonds	123	127

ADVERTISEMENTS.

NATURAL HEALING.

GENERALLY the causes of disease are of the most simple character, and we may suppose that attention to hygienic measures and natural laws would speedily eliminate the disturbance. Of this, however, very few think. It were far better in many instances to do nothing medicinally, because Nature would work on in her own way, and correct the defect, if some simple, favourable external conditions were afforded. There are many ways in which we can assist Nature in her work; for instance, if we cut our fingers, the only share we take in the work of healing is to join the severed parts together, covering the wound with a false skin to keep out foreign elements, and Nature accomplishes the rest. So in more serious affections, it is always best to let Nature effect the healing and for us to assist only by affording more favourable conditions under which she can work.

If we can bring to bear upon the deranged system the like agents which Nature employs, it is natural enough to suppose that we are on the road to securing more rapid results than by simply leaving Nature alone. When the system has been weakened by false treatment, or the ailment has been neglected too long, it is incumbent upon us to use such natural methods as are calculated to effect restoration. It is then that Magnetism, which is one of Nature's chief and most potent forces, becomes invaluable. It affords, at once, better conditions under which the recuperative powers can work more effectually, and whereby the cause of the mischief is gradually rectified, and eventually overcome. Nothing foreign to the healthy development of the system is introduced, therefore nothing irritates even the most delicate organism. Quietly the normal, harmonious balance which should ever exist in order to health is restored, and the various symptoms, perhaps arising from a simple functional irregularity, are eradicated.

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