

THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE

An Evening Review and Record of News.

No. 2105.—VOL. XIV.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 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 8.15, Morning Performance EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and SATURDAY, at 1.15, 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. 10th Performance.

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 (4th time). Mr. William Terriss, Messrs. Beveridge, Garden, Maclean, Lyndal, Boleyn, Russell, Wentworth, Travers, &c.; Messdames Millward, Arthur, C. Jecks, 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. Forbes-Robertson, James Fernandez, Forbes-Dawson, Tapping, Sydney Brough, and Lionel Brough; Messdames John Billington, Julia Gwynne, Meyer, Susan Vaughan, and Miss Kate Vaughan. Preceded, at 7.45, by A MERRY MEETING. MORNING PERFORMANCE OF SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER TO-MORROW (Saturday), at 2.30.—OPERA COMIQUE THEATRE. Manager, F. J. Harris.

VAUDEVILLE.

VAUDEVILLE.—THIS EVENING, at 8.30, SOPHIA (24th time), by Robert Buchanan. Messrs. THOMAS THORNE, Carleton, Thorne, Farquhar, Mellich, Grove, Wheatman, and LEONARD BOYNE; Messdames Larkin, Leclerc, Venn, Forsyth, and K. Rorke. At 7.45, NEARLY SEVERED. MATINEE every SATURDAY, at 2.30.

GLOBE.

GLOBE THEATRE.—Will RE-OPEN ON MONDAY, March 14th, with a Farical Comedy entitled THE SNOWBALL, by Sydney Grundy, preceded at 8 o'clock with a Comedietta, AFTER MANY DAYS; to conclude with CRAZED. Messrs. C. H. Hawtre, Wilfred Draycott, A. G. Andrews, Norman Bent, Stewart Dawson, and W. J. Hill; Misses Vane Featherstone, Blanche Horlock, and Miss Fanny Brough, &c. Box Office now open.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE. Mr. HORACE SEDGER, Lessee and Manager. EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, an original Comedy-Opera, entitled DOROTHY. By E. 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.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE. ALICE IN WONDERLAND.—MR. EDGAR BRUCE'S MATINEES. MONDAY Next and following days, at 2.30, until further notice, a Musical Drama-play in two acts, by Savile Clarke, founded on Lewis Carroll's delightful Stories. Music by Walter Slaughter. Doors open 2.15, commence 2.30. Box-office 10 to 5 daily. Prices for children under 12: Stalls, 5s. 6d.; balcony stalls, 4s.; balcony, 3s.; and first circle, 2s.

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; Messdames Dorothy Dene, Bella Litheridge, 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.

GAIETY.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, GEORGE EDWARDS.—THIS EVENING, at 8, MONTE CRISTO JR., a Burlesque Melodrama in Three Acts, by Richard Henry. Produced by Charles Harris. Musical Director, Meyer Lutz. At 7.30, DIMITY'S DILEMMA, a new farce by Malcolm C. Salaman. Doors open 7.15. MORNING PERFORMANCE OF MONTE CRISTO JR., EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.

SAVOY.

SAVOY.—R. D'OYLY 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; Messdames 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 Grest, Mr. C. Dodsworth, Mr. U. Winter, Mr. Compton Coutts, Mr. Fenton, Mr. Ferrand, and Mr. H. Beerbohm-Tree; Miss Mary Rorke, Miss Lydia Cowell, and Miss Marion Terry. Booking-office open daily ten to five. No fees. Doors open 7.30.

ST. JAMES'S.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Managers, Mr. HARR and Mr. KENDAL. THIS EVENING, at 8, will be revived

LADY CLANCARTY.

Drama in Four Acts, written by the late Tom Taylor. The principal characters will be acted by Mr. Kendal, Messrs. Waring, Macintosh, Cathcart, Bedford, Bauer, Mr. De Verney, B. Webster, Hendrie, Gould, Powell-Sims; Mrs. Gaston Murray, Mrs. B. Tree, Miss Huntley, and Mrs. Kendal. Doors open at 7.30; Box Office 10 to 5. No fees.

OLYMPIC.

OLYMPIC.—MR. EDWARD TERRY'S SEASON.—At 8.15, THE CHURCHWARDEN; at 8.30, THE TWO BLINDS; at 8.45, HOME RULE. Last Weeks, owing to expiry of lease. MATINEE at 2.30 every SATURDAY.—Acting Manager, Mr. H. T. Brickwell.

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 WYNDHAM. At 8, DAVID GARICK. Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM; Messrs. G. Giddens, B. Blakeley, and David James; Messdames Rose Baker, F. Paget, E. Miller, and Mary Moore. Preceded, at 7.45, "WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN?" Doors open at 7.30. N.B.—MATINEE of DAVID GARICK TO-MORROW (Saturday) 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, Mde. 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, by A. W. Pinero, at 8.30. Messrs. Arthur Cecil, H. Eversfield, F. Kerr, E. Maurice, W. H. Denny, W. Luzz, and John Clayton; Misses Norreys, Laura Linden, Marie Lewes, and Mrs. John Wood. At 8.15, THE NETTLE. Miss Cudmore, Mr. Kerr. Box-office open 10 to 5. No fees.

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

PARIS HIPPODROME at OLYMPIA. Addition-road Station, Kensington. TO-DAY, at 2.30. TO-NIGHT, at 8. The Olympian Races, Roman Chariot Races, Triple Tandem of Jumping Horses. The wonderful Family of Lions. The Six Elephants and the Manoeuvre Diabolique by 32 Lady Riders. 400 Artists and assistants. 300 Horses, Dogs, Elephants, Deer, &c. 100 Musicians. Such a show has never been seen in London. Admission, from 1s.

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The Right Hon. the Earl Cowper, K.G.
The Right Hon. the Earl of Rosebery.
Viscount Powerscourt, K.P.
The Lord Bishop of London.
The Lord Chief Justice of England.
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A. H. LORING, Hon. Sec.
It is believed that Englishmen throughout the world will always desire to perpetuate the memory of those who have served their country with that fearless honesty and singleness of purpose which were the conspicuous characteristics of the political life of the late Mr. W. E. Forster.

In this belief a Committee has been formed for the purpose of carrying out in a suitable manner the commemoration of Mr. Forster's life.

This Committee proposes that the Subscriptions should in the first instance be applied to the erection of a Statue of the late Statesman.

The Committee believes that this proposal will commend itself not only to the inhabitants of the United Kingdom, but also to their fellow-subjects in the Colonies and throughout the world, who will not forget the deep interest which Mr. Forster always evinced in matters affecting their welfare or that of the empire at large, and the strongly expressed desire in his last public utterance that he might live to see "the British realm a realm extending all the world over, and her children whom she has sent out themselves self-governing communities, united together in a bond of peace that shall be an example to the world."

It will not fail to occur to many that the measures carried into effect by Mr. Forster when in office are in themselves lasting witnesses of his unwearied efforts for the good of his countrymen; and it is believed by the Committee that those who have profited by them will desire this opportunity of showing their appreciation of the benefits resulting from his labours.

The Committee therefore invite the Subscriptions of all those who wish to avail themselves of this occasion to do honour to the memory of the late Statesman.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary, "Forster Memorial Fund," at this address; or they may be paid to Messrs. Dimsdale, Fowler, Barnard, and Co., 50, Cornhill, E.C., who have kindly undertaken to receive them.

43, St. Margaret's Offices, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

ARMY CONTRACTS, 1887-88.
ANNUAL NOTICE.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR gives notice that during the year 1887-88 TENDERS will be issued to all manufacturers on the War Office books for specific quantities of the following articles:—
Manufacturers who are not on the books, and who wish to receive invitations to tender, are desired to apply to this office by letter, stating where their factories are situated, and giving references to at least two well-known firms who are acquainted with the character of their productions.

LIST.
India Rubber goods,
Blankets,
Boots,
Brushes and Brooms,
Canvas,
Cloth and Serge,
Clothing, made up,
Cottons,
Fire Engines,
Flags,
Flannel,
Furniture, barrack and hospital,
Games,
Harness and Saddlery,
Hosiery, cotton and woollen,
War Office, Pall-mall, S.W., 3rd March, 1887.
EVAN COLVILLE NEPEAN, Director of Army Contracts.

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THE ANGLO-AMERICAN BRUSH ELECTRIC LIGHT CORPORATION, LIMITED, hereby give notice that they are still prepared to INDEMNIFY their customers against proceedings for any alleged infringement of the patents of the Edison-Swan United Electric Light Company. Further, the ANGLO-AMERICAN BRUSH ELECTRIC LIGHT CORPORATION, LIMITED, beg to notify that they have instituted proceedings against that Company for infringement of their Lane-Fox patents in the manufacture and use of the Edison-Swan incandescent lamp.

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E. GARCKE, Secretary and Assistant Manager.
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The following Steamships, belonging to the ORIENT AND PACIFIC COMPANIES will leave TILBURY as under, PLYMOUTH two days later, Naples nine days later, and Suez fourteen days later, with Her Majesty's Mails for ADELAIDE, MELBOURNE, and SYDNEY direct, taking passengers for the above, and on through Tickets for all other Ports in AUSTRALASIA:—

Tons.	H.P.	
LUSITANIA .. 3,825 .. 3,700 .. Mar. 17.		
LIGURIA .. 4,688 .. 4,200 .. Mar. 31.		
AUSTRAL .. 5,588 .. 7,000 .. April 14.		
IBERIA .. 4,702 .. 4,200 .. April 28.		
CHIMBORAZO 3,847 .. 3,000 .. May 12.		
POTOSI .. 4,267 .. 3,500 .. May 26.		
ORIENT .. 5,386 .. 6,000 .. June 9.		
GARONNE .. 3,876 .. 3,000 .. June 23.		

Loading Berth, Tilbury Dock.
Fares, £16 16s. to £70. Special Terms for Return Tickets.

Managers, F. Green and Co., 13, Fenchurch-avenue, and Anderson, Anderson, and Co., 5, Fenchurch-avenue, London, E.C. For freight or passage apply to the latter firm; or to the West-end Agents, Grindlay and Co., 55, Parliament-street, S.W.

NEW YORK.—BI-WEEKLY SERVICE OF EXPRESS STEAMERS, NORDEUTSCHER LLOYD.—One of the celebrated steamers of this Company will leave Southampton every Thursday and Sunday direct for New York, and is due there on the eighth day. Superb saloon accommodation, and cuisine of the highest class. Special train leaves Waterloo Station 1.25 p.m. on day of sailing. First Saloon fares from £11. Apply to the general agents, Keller, Wallis, and Co., 32, Cockspur-street, Charing-cross, and 5, Fenchurch-street, City.

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SANDOWN PARK CLUB, ESHER, SURREY.

THE MARCH MEETING will take place
THIS DAY (Friday) and TO-MORROW (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.A. WILLIAMS.

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FOR full particulars, see Time Book and Handbills, to be obtained at Victoria, London Bridge, or any other station, and at the following Branch Offices, where Tickets may also be obtained: West-end General Offices, 23, Regent-circus, Piccadilly, and 8, Grand Hotel-buildings, Trafalgar-square; Hays' Agency, Cornhill; and Cook's Ludgate-circus Office. (By order.) A. SARLE, Secretary and General Manager.

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BEECHAM'S PILLS are admitted by thousands to be worth above a Guinea a Box for Bilious and Nervous Disorders, such as Wind and Pain in the Stomach, Sick Headache, Giddiness, Fulness and Swelling after Meals, Dizziness and Drowsiness, Cold Chills, Flushings of Heat, Loss of Appetite, Shortness of Breath, Costiveness, Scurvy, Blisters on the Skin, Disturbed Sleep, Frightful Dreams, and all Nervous and Trembling Sensations, &c. The first dose will give relief in twenty minutes. This is no fiction, for they have done it in thousands of cases. Every sufferer is earnestly invited to try one box of these pills, and they will be acknowledged to be

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WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

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Unpaid (£2 10s.) .. £450,000 £900,000

Reserve Fund .. £210,000

Unappropriated Profits .. £8,200

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EDMUND ROUSE, Manager.

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Subscribed Capital .. £1,304,600

Paid-up Capital .. 652,300

Reserve Fund .. 315,000

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BATONS AND BAYONETS.

IT was anticipated last night that the vote for the Irish Constabulary would not be passed without a prolonged debate; indeed, an all-night sitting was considered to be by no means improbable. Ministers may be congratulated, therefore, on the fact that the vote was passed by two o'clock. But if the debate which preceded the vote might possibly have been longer, it could not have been more obstructive or more violent in character than it was. There was no attempt at a *bonâ fide* criticism of the vote. The Irish members considered, apparently, that the fact that the police had been employed in an attempt to enforce law and order was a sufficient reason to object to the vote for their maintenance. The speech in which Mr. DILLON opposed the Constabulary vote was devoted to the justification of lawlessness. It was little more than an elaborate exposition of the doctrine that unpopular laws, or laws which can be made unpopular by agitators, ought not to be enforced, and that law-breaking on a large scale is entitled to impunity. The reply of Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH was temperate in tone and convincing in matter. He clearly proved that the Nationalist agitators had produced a state of things in which a large expenditure on the constabulary was inevitable. The speeches which followed were marked by a considerable degree of irrelevancy—several members being called to order more than once—and by the bitterness of tone which is natural to law-breakers in a discussion on their natural enemies, the police. This increasing bitterness led to Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH's second speech, in which he defended the police from the specific charges brought against them. After admitting that some members of Parliament who had been engaged at a public meeting called at Cork for the purpose of intimidating jurors had perhaps got some blows from bâtons, and stating that such blows served them perfectly right, he went on to say that if "something worse than that" resulted from the holding of illegal meetings and resistance to the law, the agitators would have only themselves to blame.

The result of this remark was a storm of indignation and abuse. One after another the Parnellite leaders rose to declaim against the wickedness of the suggestion that "something worse than batons" could ever be employed against people whose only offence was law-breaking and a resistance to public authority. The angry howling and the indecent interruptions with which the House is familiar broke out at every moment. The Chief Secretary was accused of speaking with "his face and voice distorted by passion," and was described as "a Mantalini masquerading as a Cromwell." He was told that he was thinking only "of the effect upon the English constituencies and his miserable party, and whether a little bloodshed in Ireland might not cement the Unionist alliance." Mr. PARNELL joined in the furious denunciation of the Government, accusing them of wishing to "commit slaughter with impunity and to trample on the law." Mr. JAMES STUART declared that the policy announced by the Chief Secretary was in effect "to make a Poland of Ireland." Mr. DILLON declared amid Irish cheers that he had been at a meeting dispersed by the police, and that if he had had a revolver in his hand "some of those policemen would have felt it." The lowest forms of pot-house badinage played amidst the outburst of seditious invective. Mr. HEALY took advantage of an appeal to the Chairman by Mr. CHAPLIN to make a personal and irrelevant attack upon him; and Dr. TANNER indulged in clumsy witticisms against the Conservatives below the gangway, for which no excuse could be suggested except one that would aggravate the offence.

And what was the excuse for this extraordinary scene? On what pretext was vituperation substituted for debate, and the proposed discussion of the Estimates replaced by an attempt to heap obloquy on the Irish Executive, and to degrade the House to the level of a bear-garden? The whole cause of offence was comprised in the fact that the Chief Secretary had reminded the House that "something worse than bâtons"—namely, bayonets and bullets—might possibly be required as a means of enforcing the law. The point on which Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH insisted was, that if these measures were rendered necessary the blame would rest upon the agitators. But he was not allowed even to finish his sentence. The mere assumption that such means could ever be employed was enough to awake the storm of indignant rhetoric. But this assumption is one that lies at the root of all theories of government. Every one knows that an open defiance of the law must be met by the intervention of force: and that a forcible resistance to such intervention must be dealt with in the last resort by bayonets and bullets. No protest could possibly be made against Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH's statement,

except on the ground that the Irish members, and the organization which they represent, have a right to determine what laws shall obeyed and what shall be broken; and that if they can upon any occasion raise a sufficient force on the side of lawlessness to defy the bâtons of the police, the Government must at once surrender, since the employment of anything "worse than bâtons" would be barbarous and tyrannical. If governors were to forswear the use under all conceivable circumstances of any weapon more formidable than a bâton, the schemes of treasonable conspirators, and, indeed, of all kinds of criminals, would be greatly facilitated. In a peaceful district the military may never for a long space of time be called out to assist the police; but the knowledge that they could be so used is essential to the maintenance of order. If the indignation of the Irish members at the enunciation of the simple condition of political stability was feigned, they must have formed a wonderfully high notion of the extent to which insolence commands success. If it was real—and in some cases it perhaps was so—it is time that they are taught a practical lesson on the subject. The best feature of last night's proceedings is that the Government seem to recognize this necessity.

A RAILROAD THROUGH THE "IMPASSABLE."

THE reality of Russia's activity in Central Asia is not unlikely to be brought home to us with some force before long. Meanwhile, it is sufficiently exhibited in the sketch-map which will be found on another page. From this it will be seen that while some amongst us have still been maundering about "impassable deserts" Russia has pushed forward her stupendous project of a Transasiatic Railway with as much success as secrecy; so that there is now in complete working order a line running from the eastern shore of the Caspian, along the Persian frontier, to Kara Chacha, where it approaches within twenty miles of Sarakhs. There, however, it does not stop, but turns off to Merv and to Charjui on the Oxus; while branches are projected from Kara Chacha junction to Meshed in Persia and Herat in Afghanistan. The map will show at a glance what has been done and what is contemplated. The facts, we believe, are already in the possession of the Foreign Office, with others as to the massing of Russian troops on the Afghan frontier.

The completion of the line from the Caspian to a point somewhat beyond Kizil Arvat was already known in England, and it is marked on some of the latest maps. Now, however, we learn that the railway is actually laid as far as the Afghan frontier, to say nothing of its extension to the Oxus. So it is, however. Before the line branches off to Merv, it is carried as near to Herat as the frontier will allow: that is to say, it touches that point of the frontier which is nearest to the "gate of India." From this point (Kara Chacha) to Herat the road lies along the fertile valley of the Heri-Rood—easy to traverse even at present, and offering no engineering obstacles to the construction of a railway. The length of the line from Fort Michael, on the Caspian, to Kara Chacha, near Sarakhs, is about 450 miles; to Charjui, on the Oxus, it is about 670 miles; and the trains accomplish the whole journey in about forty-eight hours. To Herat, when the line is continued to that place, the journey from St. Petersburg will be made in ten days; one day less than it takes us to get to Aden, eight days less than to Bombay, eleven days less than to Calcutta, twelve days less than to Peshawur.

The engineer of the Central Asian Railway is General Annenkof; and most creditable to him is the rapidity with which he has overcome the difficulties of his task. The Fort Michael—Kizil Arvat section was comparatively easy, and was completed in 1881. From this point the route lay along the edge of the Kara Kum desert, where shifting sands constitute the surface of an absolutely treeless and waterless region. So dubious was the Russian Government of the practicability of going further, that the ukase authorizing General Annenkof to proceed was not issued till the end of April, 1885. The General at once pressed the Persians, Turkomans, and Bokharans into his service, and he proceeded with the extension works in July. By the 29th of November the line was finished as far as Askhabad; on the 2nd of July, 1886—exactly a year after the commencement of the work—the first train entered Merv. On the 30th of the following November the triumphant locomotive arrived on the banks of the Oxus; and since the 12th of December the whole line, from the Caspian to Kara Chacha and on to Charjui, has been in full working order. The shifting sands were transformed into a permanent way by the means which Stephenson employed in crossing Chatmoss, only with worse materials; for Annenkof had no faggots, and was obliged to make the best he could of a desert plant called *saksoul*. With thickly matted layers of this plant he formed a solid roadway; and, by sowing its seeds along a belt on either side of the line, he prevented the sand from advancing and overwhelming the way when made. Fuel was supplied by the naphtha and petroleum wells of the Caspian shores; water was brought in conduits from the rivulets which flow down the northern slopes of the Kopet Dag, and, on the remoter sections, from the Tadjen and the Murghab. These conduits follow the course of the line so far as the levels allow. In the great desert section between Merv and the Oxus deep-sunk wells have revealed the existence of abundant water, and at every station there is an ample supply for ten locomotives a day.

The line has been placed under what would be called in this country enlightened management. The carriages are provided with wide low seats to enable the passengers to seat themselves *à la turque*, and with a special compartment for ablutions; there are other carriages for the use of women—*des harems ambulants*; and for pilgrims pamphlets are distributed indicating the best itinerary to Meshed from the nearest point at which the railway approaches that city. Due attention has been paid to the commercial purposes served by the new line. Arrangements have been made

with the steamship companies of the Volga and the Caspian to call at the Caspian terminus and open offices there; while the merchants of Bokhara and the Persian provinces have been induced to enter into relations with those offices. Again, every effort has been made to converge the trade routes upon the points at which the railway touches; and it is mentioned that when the first trains arrived at Charjui, in the month of December, they found awaiting them a number of Bokharan caravans laden with wool, silk, and cotton. Two ferry-steamers which have been placed on the Oxus brought from Bokhara to the Charjui bank, in the first week of the opening of the line, no fewer than 80,000 bales of cotton; and it is expected that these little boats will prove the precursors of a commercial flotilla, which will collect at Charjui the trade of Khiva on the one hand and of Badakshan on the other.

Thus, from both a political and a commercial point of view, the new line is of the highest importance. Politically, it is important as placing the "gate of India" within easy reach of the central resources and power of Russia; commercially, it is important as draining into Russia the trade of the vast region north of Afghanistan.

NOTES.

The Speech from the Throne to the Reichstag conveys little or no information on the subject of greatest interest in European politics. So far as we can see, the position continues pretty much what it was before the late Reichstag was dissolved. True, a new Parliament has been elected, a Government majority has been secured, and it is certain that the addition to the German army will be voted without much opposition. This increase, according to the Speech, will materially assist the Government in pursuing a pacific policy. Why this should be the case is as difficult to understand now as ever; nor does the Emperor give any further explanation. Germany takes Prince Bismarck's action on trust, and to a certain extent Europe must be content to do the same. But in the meanwhile we get no assurance that all danger of war is at an end. The situation is precisely the same as it has been any time during the last three months. The docility of the German Parliament cannot do away with the possibility of a Russian collision with Austria or a Russian alliance with France.

Says the *Daily News* of the Clanrikarde and other evictions: "A sum of between £2,000 and £3,000 has been drawn from the pockets of industrious Englishmen and Scotchmen for the purpose of evicting tenants whose entire rental was £92." Very likely. A very much larger sum is frequently "drawn from the pockets of industrious Englishmen and Scotchmen" for the purpose of tracking down and punishing criminals from whom not even £92 can be got back. Even when a murderer is hung, which is a transaction on which nobody makes any profit at all, there is a considerable sum of money spent. The *Daily News* does not seem to understand that the business of government is to see that the law is not broken, even when to make it obeyed involves a large outlay and no pecuniary return.

Sir William Harcourt is a versatile gentleman and not sensitive; but probably he wishes that his own speeches delivered five years ago could be blotted out of recollection. As it is, they stand recorded, and there is nothing to prevent persons with inconveniently good memories, like "West Briton" in the *Times*, from publishing elegant extracts from them. It is instructive to be reminded that the land agitation in the hands of the Parnellites "was an agitation whose object was to destroy the union of the empire and to overthrow the established Government of the United Kingdom;" and that Mr. Parnell "wants to get rid of landlords in order that he may get rid of the English Government." That was the opinion in October, 1881, of the statesman who now tells us that Irish sedition is the natural and inevitable consequence of the rejection of Mr. Parnell's Bill for confiscating half the rents in the autumn of 1886. But in 1881 Mr. Parnell was not Sir William Harcourt's leader's leader.

The show of hackneys and hunters at Islington this week is the third which the two societies have held, and one is glad to find that the reports agree in describing it as not only the largest but the best of the three. Both the Hackney Horse and the Hunters' Improvement Society are doing good work in increasing the facilities for rearing half-bred horses which farmers are only too ready to get hold of; and the breeding of hunters and other horses suitable for military purposes must assuredly be made more easy when a number of sires such as those which received the *imprimatur* of experienced judges and veterinarians at Islington this week are distributed throughout the country. It is not surprising that the council of the Hunters' Improvement Society should cast longing eyes upon the three or four thousand pounds given to the races known as Queen's Plates, and should suggest that this sum, which now does nothing towards that improvement of the breed of horses generally for which it was originally given, ought to be made the nucleus of a fund for offering other and more practical inducements to breeders or those who, with a little encouragement offered, would become breeders. The question of our horse supply generally is a most important one, especially in these days when foreign Governments are prohibiting the export of horses and coming in to buy so freely of us; and for this reason, if for no other, the motion which Lord Ribblesdale is to bring forward

in the House of Lords next week will lead to an interesting debate, even if nothing more practical should come of it than of a similar discussion which Lord Rosebery started some years ago.

The proposal to widen the lower portion of the new Charing-cross street by sacrificing the steps of St. Martin's Church is one that finds favour in the eyes of the First Commissioner of Works. Last night, Mr. Plunket expressed his opinion that the widening of the new street might very well be carried out by removing the steps of the church, which now project into the roadway, and which he was satisfied could be removed without impairing the architectural effect of the building. It is, however, doubtful whether parliamentary sanction could be obtained for a proceeding which might be considered by some eminent architectural authorities an act of vandalism. Many people would hardly agree with Mr. Plunket in his conviction that the removal of the steps would not injuriously affect the appearance of the portico of St. Martin's Church.

A correspondent writes:—Your interesting article on "Uncanny Photography" sheds light on a question that has for several years puzzled me considerably. I have in my possession a carte-de-visite portrait of a gentleman of apparently somewhat advanced age. I now plainly perceive that the picture represents the collected and compounded features of a large number of individuals. Owing to the complexity of the types, accurate analysis is difficult; but I am confident that in this strange face I can distinguish the characteristic lineaments of the late Joseph Balsamo, otherwise Count Cagliostro; of Mr. Barnum; of that famous American patriot, Benedict Arnold; of the model who sat for Mr. Tenniel's portrait of The Hatter in "Alice in Wonderland;" of the lamented Joanna Southcott; of Generals Booth, Kaulbars, and Tom Thumb; of M. Zankoff, and of Mdme. Blavatsky.

What is sauce for the gander is (occasionally) sauce for the goose. It is not often that a gentleman has the moral courage to bring an action for breach of promise of marriage; but when he does he may be successful, even under the present imperfect system, which does not allow ladies to sit on juries. An instance of the sort was the case which came before Mr. Justice Denman yesterday in the Queen's Bench Division. The gentleman had pledged his young affections (he was a widower and not much over fifty) to the niece of a wealthy kinsman. They waited for five painful years, but the rich uncle still persisted in living on; and these two faithful hearts continued to be sundered. At length he died and left his property to the lady, who sent her swain the deceased gentleman's watch and chain and hinted at a future meeting—in the next world. The lover did not see it in that light, and asked a jury to give him damages to solace his injured feelings. The jury awarded him seven-and-twenty pounds; which shows that even elderly maiden ladies cannot always change their minds for nothing.

Whether Tungi Bay belongs to Portugal or to Zanzibar is not a question which this country is necessarily bound to determine. In 1817 England formally recognized that part of the East African coast as within Portugal's sphere of influence; the recent Anglo-German agreement recognizes it as belonging to Sultan Seyyid Burghash. But there is nothing contradictory in this. Portugal's old claims to sovereignty over many parts of both Eastern and Western Africa have been allowed to lapse because never really exercised; and in recent years the Sultan of Zanzibar has been the man in possession at Tungi Bay. But it appears that the Sultan, in a letter to the King of Portugal last year, consented to discuss and settle the question of Tungi Bay in some particular way; now he declares that he must refer the matter to the friendly Powers. This latter course, on the face of it, does not appear unreasonable; and unless it can be shown that the Sultan is playing off the Anglo-German agreement against his undertaking to the King of Portugal, the Governor-General of Mozambique will find it difficult to excuse himself of undue haste in proceeding to overt acts of hostility.

There are apparently few occupations more pleasant and profitable than that of a skilful London beggar; and it must be admitted to their credit that beggars are as a rule perfectly satisfied with their lot. No amount of imprisonment will deter them from pursuing when at liberty an avocation that has irresistible charms to those who are acquainted by experience with its advantages. This persistency in begging is illustrated by the case of a man described as a "sturdy-looking vagrant," who was yesterday charged at the Southwark Police Court with begging outside Waterloo Station. According to the evidence of an officer of the Mendicity Society, the prisoner was "a continual pest in the neighbourhood," and had been several times convicted. On one occasion he had, in consequence of his known bad character, been sentenced at the Surrey Sessions to twelve months' imprisonment, with the unpleasant accompaniment of twenty lashes. On being asked by one of the warders in Wandsworth Gaol "Why a strong and hearty man like him did not work for a living," he replied, "Only fools and horses worked, and he wasn't 'juggins' enough to soil his hands while he could make fifteen or sixteen bob a day by begging." He is now committed again for trial as an incorrigible rogue, and will perhaps receive more imprisonment and more lashes. Yet he will doubtless appear in the streets again and resume his begging operations, which are for the moment

interrupted. Nor should we blame him too severely; for it is really surprising how people can, to use his own words, be "juggins" enough to labour when they can find benevolent persons ever ready to support them in idleness.

A question in Parliament last night elicited the somewhat remarkable reply that the Socialist performance of Sunday cost the metropolis the services of nearly 4,000 extra constables and a cash expenditure of about £80. If Mr. Matthews had given an approximate calculation of how many constables and how many sovereigns the demonstration cost per Socialist engaged, his reply would have been even more interesting. The question, we are informed, "of regulating such meetings in the future" is now under the Home Secretary's consideration. If 4,000 policemen are wanted to regulate each meeting, to say nothing of the comfort of the tens of thousands of quiet citizens who are hustled out of their ordinary roads or interrupted at their customary church services, perhaps the Home Secretary will go one step further and consider the propriety of doing more than regulating it. It is possible, perhaps, that even a less sum than £80, judiciously spent in enabling the leaders of the movement to advertise themselves effectively in a less inconvenient fashion, would enable the authorities to dispense with both regulation and prohibition.

The boot difficulty is now pretty well understood to be the great school difficulty: as regards attendance, we mean. See, then, what goes on at Rousdon, which is near Lyme Regis, and is, we believe, Sir Henry Peek's property.

Managers of schools in sparsely populated country districts are often troubled by the irregular attendance of scholars, especially in bad weather, owing to want of boots. This difficulty has been almost overcome at Rousdon by the following plan, which would no doubt work equally well elsewhere. On Monday morning Mr. Burgess, the master, after receiving the week's school-pence in advance, takes from the children any coppers their parents may have sent on boots account, entering on each child's separate card the ordinary penny, but sometimes two or three pence, as the case may be. A good strong pair of boots made in the neighbourhood costs on an average 7s.; but at the year's end few of the cards total over 5s. So to make up the necessary sum the opportunity is given to each child to earn, out of school-hours, half a crown, by committing to memory, sometimes portions of Scripture bearing on the diocesan examination, sometimes easy poetry; it being clearly understood that all are perfectly free to learn or not, as they please. For 1886, half the forty-six Divine and Moral Songs for Children, by Dr. Watts, was set, and the ninety-six competitors earned between them £9 13s. 3d. (sixty the whole half-crown, eleven of these being in the infant school, showing very good home influence; six over two shillings, four over eighteen-pence, fourteen over, twelve under, a shilling), with the result that, with but few exceptions, all the children commenced the winter thoroughly well shod—season now making little or no difference in average attendance, though, one with another, all have to walk a mile each way.

THE BULGARIAN DISTURBANCES.

ASSUREDLY, there is no sign of weakness in the Bulgarian Government; nor can it be said of these recent risings at Silistria and Rustchuk that they reveal any lack of confidence, or any dwindling of patriotic feeling, amongst the people. The Government might have been pardoned if, after so long a period of anxiety and suspense, it had been overtaken by despondency when the news of the "revolt" reached Sophia. But if we may trust the usually veracious Reuter, the Regency acted with the utmost promptitude and vigour. Immediately "orders were issued to the troops at Rustchuk and Varna to march on Silistria, capture the place, and shoot the officers." The troops arrived yesterday morning at five o'clock, to find the revolt at an end, its leader killed, and the officers who joined him all gone "over the border;" where the Roumanians will probably take care of them. A *Times* correspondent gives a graphic account of the Silistrian attempt (we reprint it on another page), and it will be seen that it was almost painful in its poverty and its failure. The wretched Colonel Kristeff appears to have been altogether out in his reckoning, when he fancied his pronunciamiento would succeed either with the troops or the people; but in spite of the fact that failure stared him in the face from the beginning, he went desperately on with the adventure till he was shot dead in the street.

Till this morning it was generally believed in Europe that the rising at Rustchuk was a really formidable affair; and it certainly turns out to have been a sanguinary one. But there, too, the rising has been suppressed, after a hard fight, in which "all the insurgent officers have been either killed, wounded, drowned, or taken prisoners." In this case the militia rose against the mutineers, and that seems to have taken the heart out of them. They fell back from the barracks where they were besieging the loyalist soldiery; the soldiery sallied out; the insurgent pioneers were driven to the Danube, where they tried to escape in boats; they were stopped by a gun-boat; and there was an end of the revolt. Meanwhile, the Government at Sophia were not idle. It is reported that yesterday afternoon about thirty persons were arrested, including MM. Karaveloff and Tsapoff. These men, it seems, were in communication with the conspirators at Silistria and Rustchuk, and were prepared to create disturbances at Sophia.

However, there is an end of all that—for the present, at least. Unless these events have been misreported—which there is no reason

to believe—they seem to show that there are no such discontents with the Government, either in the army or the civil population, as we have been lately told there were; while the promptitude and confidence with which the rising was met will have no small effect on their position in the eyes of the world at large. But how all this will be taken in Russia is quite another thing. There the events of the last three days cannot fail to exasperate feelings of humiliation and anger which were violent enough already; and it is impossible to look without misgiving for what will happen next.

A MYSTERY EXPLAINED.

So far, the mysterious change that has come over so many of our cutlasses and bayonets since they were tested remains unriddled. This is the explanation of it:—

The real history of these bayonets commenced as far back as the introduction into the British services of the Martini-Henry rifle in 1868-69. And it is necessary to state certain particulars connected with the introduction of that arm, so that the whole subject may be properly understood.

The first barrel fitted to the long, not the present short, Martini action, was a long Snider-Enfield barrel of the infantry pattern. The bore of this barrel, however, was .450 instead of .577, which was the calibre of the Snider long Enfield. The barrel substance was therefore thicker, and well able to stand the increased charge of 85 grains of rifle-powder and 480 grains bullet; the Snider charge having been 70 grains, with a 480 grains bullet. The barrel shot splendidly, putting at 500 range twenty shots upon a foot-square bullseye, one over the other, the marking of the shots appearing like a picture of a bunch of grapes. The increased weight of metal in the barrel well compensated for the additional charge of powder. The whole arm was admirably balanced. It did not kick or throw up in firing. Its recoil upon the shoulder was scarcely felt.

The committee that was experimenting with the rifle, however, decided that one form and dimension of rifle should be adopted for all the services; there being at that time in use the long Snider Enfield, the short Sergeants' rifle, the short Royal Engineers' rifle of oval bore, and the naval short rifle of five grooves. Almost simultaneously with this decision, the committee came to the conclusion that it was impossible to continue the long action, owing to the thin weak Boxer rolled sheet-brass cartridge bending and getting out of shape so much that it was at times difficult to push it into the barrel-chamber by thumb-pressure. The original barrel was shortened; yet the rifle shot well, and was fairly steady at the shoulder under firing. But now some War Office official, bent upon economy, insisted that the long Snider triangular bayonets should be retained, to save the manufacture of the new-pattern straight flat sword-bayonet devised at Enfield Lock for the shortened Martini-Henry. It was, however, soon found that the sockets of the Snider bayonets would not fit the shortened arm at its muzzle: the muzzle being larger at the point to which it had been cut down, than it was at the end of the barrel of the long arm. So the know-alls at the War Office, in conjunction with the committee, decided to shave down the barrel so as to make it fit the sockets of the long Enfield Snider bayonets then in the hands of the infantry. But, to make the barrel proportionable, it had to be "turned" outside throughout its whole length: by which it became dangerously lightened and weakened, especially towards the muzzle; while its weight and dimensions were now thrown out of all proportion to the weight of powder and bullet, causing it when fired to throw up and kick violently against the shoulder. In short, wild firing was one of the results of the alterations.

In face of all these facts, the new arms with the lightened barrel were issued to the army and navy; patches being fixed on to the upper bands of the naval arms, to fit into the haft of the cutlass-bayonets which had been made when the five-grooved Snider rifles were issued to our seamen.

Two disagreeable things were soon discovered. One was that our infantry now possessed a rifle which, when used as a pike, was shorter by nearly six inches than the rifle of any other European Power. The commanding officers of infantry regiments protested against their men being armed with a rifle which, for bayonet use, was so much and so objectionably shorter than the weapon of all other European soldiers; and so the Duke of Cambridge insisted on the infantry arm being brought up to the length of the long Snider as a pike. Reluctantly the War Office gave way, and orders were given to Enfield Lock to devise a new triangular bayonet. Then arose another difficulty. It was found that if the Snider bayonet form and substance were adhered to in a longer weapon, that weapon would be several ounces heavier, and that in firing with bayonet fixed the increased weight would seriously affect the aim of the soldier and put a strain upon the much-lightened barrel. A bayonet was therefore devised which had only half an ounce more weight than the Snider, but which had a little over 5½ inches more length. Consequently the new bayonet was a long attenuated weapon whose bearing-strain at the part where most strength is required was seriously weak. Such is the triangular bayonet with which our infantry are armed to-day; and it is acknowledged by even the Enfield Lock experts that it is not a good weapon for use even against savages, and still less for bayonet contests with European troops; of whom many have long sword-bayonets of excellent form, dimensions, and general quality.

So much for the results of economy at the War Office as affecting the triangular bayonets. We now come to the naval cutlasses.

The result of shaving down the barrel of the Martini-Henry was, that, in the first place, the sockets of the cutlasses did not fit the muzzle of the arm; and, in the second place, that the cutlasses, which had been made for the naval Sniders, were much too heavy for the lightened barrel. Their weight, when fixed upon the rifle, affected its stability and aim in a greater degree than the triangular bayonet did. In short, the cutlass

bayonets, as they were, could not be used with the lightened barrel. Their sockets had to be altered, and their weight had to be reduced.

Now these cutlasses had been made in 1869: some of them at Birmingham, by a British sword-maker. But by far the larger number were made at Solingen, in Germany. Here were two makers producing cutlass-bayonets, each turning them out on his own particular methods of manufacture: with the natural consequence that in temper and in general treatment during production they were by no means identical, although they might and doubtless did bear the same tests. This must be borne in mind; because it bears on the after-treatment of the cutlasses in lightening them. It must be noted that we have weapons sent to Enfield Lock for alteration upon one method, which in their original condition were not alike in characteristics through differences of treatment in the course of manufacture. And then other circumstances came in.

Just about the period when these cutlasses were sent to Enfield for alteration there was a change of superintendents. A superintendent who had been in charge of the department for seventeen years left the War Office service altogether. An officer was appointed to the post who had no previous experience whatever in the manufacture or treatment of small-arms. Neither had the assistant superintendent any such previous experience.

Now, it is well known to every one who served at Enfield Lock for a considerable time after the change of superintendents, that a great number of alterations were carried out in the factory: alterations, we mean, in methods of treatment and processes of manufacture. The courses of treatment which the cutlasses went through were, letting down (that is, softening by heat), grinding down to dimensions and weight, retempering, polishing, etc. And, as we have already remarked, two distinct makes of cutlasses were put through these processes of alteration without regard to any differences in the original manufacture. The processes of letting down, retempering, or even grinding down swords are difficult and delicate operations at any time, requiring the greatest care by all who have the work in hand. And these operations have now become more difficult and delicate than ever, owing to the weapons being nowadays rolled or rydered instead of forged by hand by slow processes. Moreover, it is well known that, when such an article as a sword is softened by fire-heat, a portion of the carbon it contains goes out of it. If the weapon is also reduced in substance, to bring it to its former temper and stability is a matter of extraordinary difficulty.

It has been stated in both Houses of Parliament that the cutlasses were altered during the year 1871. This is an error. The deliveries for alteration and the processes through which the cutlasses went occupied four or five years; the work being carried on under the supervision of the superintendents of the Royal Small-Arms Department, whose business it was to return the cutlasses to the navy in as good a condition as when they were sent in for alteration. But neither of these superintendents had any previous experience of the production of any kind of small-arms; and it is now certain that the cutlasses were not returned to the navy in the same state as when they were sent to Enfield Lock. Recent discoveries have proved this conclusively. Therefore the public should know what processes the weapons underwent: whether any alteration was made in methods of treatment during the letting down and retempering of the cutlasses; whether the course of treatment was correct and sound, and the work properly looked after.

THE THEATRE.

THE late Mr. Tom Taylor's historical drama "Lady Clancarty," which was originally produced at the Olympic early in 1874, might easily have been recognized as a play likely to be revived more than once. It had the great advantages of a fresh and interesting plot and of *dramatis personæ* that might readily be made effective. In popular estimation these merits were pretty sure to outweigh such defects as the prosaic treatment of a romantic theme, and the redundancy of dialogue which was heavy without being impressive. Readers of Macaulay will recollect his suggestion of a work of fiction to be founded upon the strange adventures of the Earl of Clancarty, who was separated for years from the child-bride married to him when he was fifteen. And, indeed, the playwright could hardly wish for more promising materials than those supplied in the trials undergone by Clancarty as a Roman Catholic and ardent Jacobite; in his imprisonments and escapes; and, finally, in his surreptitious interviews with the faithful young wife who, by the aid of Lady Russell, ultimately wrung his pardon out of King William. Happily, although Mr. Taylor did not rise to the poetic level of his subject, he contrived, as was his wont, to manufacture a thoroughly workable play. The opening scenes of "Lady Clancarty" introduce with much ingenuity the leading personages and motives of the piece; the historical colouring is neatly managed, and the necessary thread of subordinate story is dexterously interwoven with the rest. There was therefore ample justification for the reproduction last night undertaken at the St. James's, though the experiment led both company and audience rather wide of their accustomed track. As far as the spectacular element of the revival was concerned, nothing more successful could well have been achieved. With the help of Mr. Marcus Stone, the management has contrived to provide a series of stage pictures rich in appropriate detail and singularly faithful in their illustration of dress and upholstery in the not very æsthetic days of Dutch William. The thing is well done without being overdone, and the large amount of money expended upon it has been most judiciously laid out. But if the outlay is to be remunerative the drama must be played throughout with more spirit than was last night infused into any save one or two of its scenes. It was far too long before the performers got into the swing of their work. They were nervous and timid, letting the play down just when it most wanted artificial support. One of the chief defaulters in this respect was Mr. Kendal, who could not compensate by his admirable touches of light comedy

for his lack of the robust spirit which enabled Mr. Neville's Clancarty to carry all before him. Mr. Kendal improved, however, as he went on; whilst Mrs. Kendal, overcoming at length her obvious nervousness, roused hearty sympathy for the heroine's impassioned appeals on behalf of her gallant young husband. The actress was quite at her best in the touching scene in the prison where, disguised as a laundry-maid, Lady Clancarty makes her way into her husband's cell; and when most was asked of her most was consistently given. The popular hit of the evening was that scored by Mr. Mackintosh as King William, an effective part in which one would have expected to see Mr. Hare himself. Mr. Mackintosh's success was gained in spite of a rather perilous suggestion of Dutch accent; and it was a legitimate triumph of skilful character-acting—bold, dignified, and full of quiet force. Of "Scum" Goodman, on the other hand, Mr. Bedford made much less than was made by Mr. Anson in the original cast; though one could hardly regret the modification of the painful episode of lynch-law which nearly closes the traitor's career. In the bright comedy part of Lady Betty Noel, Mrs. Beerbohm Tree was disappointing. The pert frivolities of the feather-headed damsel seemed strained, and were altogether too modern in manner. As Lady Betty's lover, Lord Woodstock, Mr. Webster made a satisfactory first appearance; but Mr. Bauer and Mr. Waring appeared ill at ease as the Earl of Portland and Lord Charles Spencer. On the whole, the company did not do either itself or the play full justice, and the representation is sure to improve greatly with the confidence which it should gain from its cordial reception yesterday evening. There are so many good points in the revival that it will be a thousand pities if lack of nerve and grip should prevent its securing the interest of the public.

There was nothing very fresh in the subject chosen by Mr. J. J. Blood for the new play produced by Miss Helen Barry at the Vaudeville on Wednesday afternoon. Most novel-readers and theatre-goers are familiar with the sufferings of ladies whose objectionable husbands allow themselves to be considered dead, and then at the most awkward moment come forward to demonstrate their inconvenient existence. This is the chief thing that happens in the earlier scenes of "Her Trustee;" but later on an unusual turn is given to the hackneyed situation by the welcome death of the troublesome husband just after he has formulated his customary demand for blackmail. By the machinations of the widow's solicitor, who is the fraudulent trustee of her property, she is charged with her husband's murder. Of course the charge breaks down, and the lady is ultimately enabled to bestow her hand upon a worthy suitor to whom she had already given her heart before she discovered that she was not a widow. Her heart-rending sorrows afforded Miss Helen Barry an opportunity of displaying passionate emotion in her earnest but laboured manner; whilst the rôle of the wickedest lawyer seen on the stage for a long time was made as reasonable as might be by Mr. Beauchamp. By far the most striking impersonation, however, was that of the odious husband, by Mr. Fernandez, who seemed to rejoice to get back to the kind of work in which he excels. Miss Fanny Brough, who is always artistic in her varied undertakings, also took creditable part in a performance, which certainly did full justice to a rather stiff and conventional piece.

The production of "The Snowball," which had to be postponed on Monday night, is now fixed at the Globe for the 14th inst. Mr. Penley will not, it is feared, be included in the cast of Mr. Grundy's comedy. Another play by this writer will be revived at a special matinée at the Criterion by Mr. Gilbert Farquhar under the title "May and December." The original name of the comedy, which failed to obtain the Lord Chamberlain's licence and was presented at a private performance, was "The Novel Reader."

The representations of Mr. Savile Clarke's version of "Alice in Wonderland"—now suspended at the Prince of Wales's for two or three afternoons while the miniature company visits Brighton—are to be resumed on Monday next.

AMERICAN VINES IN FRANCE.

THE excitement about the replanting of the ruined French vineyards has recently entered on an acute stage. Five years ago the dealers in American vine plants, seeds, and cuttings had it all their own way; and the more enterprising of the vineyard proprietors were investing large sums of money in varieties of *Vitis Estivalis* and *V. Riparia*. One had no business in an agricultural society's meeting unless he could talk glibly of the Black Jacquez of Mississippi and Missouri, and knew all its seventeen other names, besides its supposed ancestor the Herbemont. Then there was Norton's Virginia from the Potomac, the Cynthia or Red River, the Cunningham, the Clinton, the Solonis, the York Madeira, and the Taylor and its hybrids. But since then millions of Clintons and Taylors have been uprooted for their hollow failure in resistance to the phylloxera; while other supposed varieties of the same family, *V. Riparia*, are following in their wake, for they will not take grafts from the French vines; and 15,000 of these stocks have all perished together in one vineyard alone near Montpellier. The truth is that practical men are now waking up to the fact—long well known to botanists—that the hybridizations of vines in their wild American habitats have been infinite, and that thus it is not easy to get a phylloxera-proof *Estivalis* or *Riparia* uncrossed by the worthless *V. Labrusca*. But the loss of years and capital is hard to bear; and hence there is just now a considerable amount of stir, and also of that mode of motion which we know as heat. I myself have cautiously experimented with American vines in south-western France for some years, but can as yet give very few positive recommendations. More time is required. So far, the Chasselas de Fontainebleau grafted on American Solonis stocks gives a good result; but the growth of the wood is slow. The Herbemonts on their own roots are unequal; some plants growing ahead fast enough, while others lag behind most discouragingly. One year their large bunches of small black grapes are delicious, the next nothing but verjuice is produced. The Elvira and the Noah, said to be American seedlings from the Taylor, produce a small golden-green luscious muscat grape, which has the fatal habit of dropping from its small

bunches as it ripens. Useless for wine in France, it gives a fair brandy. The Cunningham, a southern *Estivalis*, seems to prefer an early grave.

Recent French vine congresses seem to have hammered out the opinion that it is no longer of any use to sow vine-seeds imported from America. The Yankees are on the opposite tack, of course, and allege that all their hybridizations of American by French vines are failures. The Viticultural Society of Lyons points to a "king of hybrids," the Saint-Sauveur, obtained from seeds of the American Jacques (*Estivalis*) gathered in France, which is said to resist both mildew and the phylloxera and to give an excellent wine. The Vialla (at first named La Tourate) another French seedling from the American Clinton (*Riparia*), is also highly spoken of as a stock on which to graft the European vines; and there is a third hybrid between the Spanish grape Pedro Ximenes—the wine so called was popular in England 300 years ago as Peter-see-me—and *V. Rupestris*, a common wild thing known in America as the bush-grape. Great things are prophesied for this novelty. These three varieties are, in reality, all that are left standing by the discussions in the congresses. Meanwhile the stern fact stares them in the face, that the French vintage of last year produced little more than two-thirds of the average of the last ten bad years, being a falling-off from 1885 of 750,000 gallons.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE HITTITE INSCRIPTIONS.

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

SIR,—The Orientalist in your columns last night no doubt owns some well-known name. Perhaps he is one of the dozen scholars who are to decide as to my failure. As my memoir is not yet ready, I will only say that I think the Orientalist is rather in a hurry. I will say further that the sound *mo* does not occur in the cuneiform inscription translated by Professor Sayce to which he refers, and that I have never stated that any Hittite symbol is to be read as the letter *p*. I will further say that I find my comparison of the (so-called) Hittite and Egyptian to be sound in principle, though I have made mistakes, I discover, in detail. Finally, I will say that I have never before claimed to be able to read these texts.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

March 4.

C. R. CONDER.

THE THAMES CONSERVANCY BY-LAWS.

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

SIR,—Mr. Story Maskelyne's Thames Preservation Act has given new powers to the Thames Conservancy to enforce order on the Thames, and to make by-laws for this purpose. Some new regulations were clearly required to abate the nuisance created by the excessive number of house-boats and steam-launches and to control bathers and trespassers.

Last year the Thames Conservancy issued a probationary code of by-laws under the new Act. This code was full of faults, and did not obtain sanction of a Secretary of State. It was withdrawn; but it has been revised, and was republished on the 19th of February. With its provisions for preserving order and decency, and for restraining roughs from trespassing, I find no fault; but to one of its leading features there is a great objection. It proposes to enforce registration for all row-boats as well as for house-boats. (Steamers are registered and numbered under a preceding Act, and are not dealt with on this score by these new by-laws.) There is no real necessity for registering and painting numbers and badges on small pleasure-boats, whether they are private or are let for hire. Experience of the river shows that those who own private boats are not in the habit of committing outrages which would require identification of the craft. On land, a brougham or landau is not required to be numbered; and there is no ground for suggesting any departure from that principle when dealing with an aquatic highway. Further, registration would not serve to bring offenders to justice, even if offences were committed by unknown persons hiring boats, since the Thames Preservation Act does not contain any provisions to compel a person, on demand, to give his name and address; nor does it compel a lessor of a boat to obtain the name of his customer. Still less does it make the lessor of a row-boat liable for any mischief done by a hirer. Therefore, even if a hired boat could be traced by its number, no clue would be obtained thereby against the occupant, if the occupant was an unknown person in the first instance.

One effect of this compulsory registration would be that Cantabs or other provincial oarsmen, coming to the Thames for a Putney match or Henley Regatta, could not launch a single boat on the sacred river until they had sent to the Conservators a list of all the boats they own, the dimensions of the same, etc., had paid heavy fees, received a registration receipt, and had the required badge or number painted on their boats. It is difficult to conceive greater injustice or absurdity! Such a regulation would seriously cripple regatta interests, discourage boating, and, as one result, lower the income of tolls from locks. Equally absurd is it that the fleet of pleasure craft at Oxford, or of the crack rowing clubs of London, Thames, Leander, and Kingston, which have encouraged sport without injury to any one for years past, should now be disallowed from navigating their home river, except under the condition of being expensively registered and labelled like omnibuses or hackney cabs. Registration is only needed where there is misconduct; it was sadly wanted as against steam-launches, but no cause has ever been shown for applying the principle to those rowing frequenters of the Thames who were the worst sufferers from the steamer-plague. Parliament was asked to give powers to the Conservancy to protect rowing-men and riparians against steam-launch rowdiness, house-boat trespasses, bathing indecencies, and the birds'-nesting nuisance; but it was never intended that the Conservancy should abuse the powers newly confided to them, by bullying the rowing public for the sake of extorting a certain amount of income under the cloak of registration fees. If the Conservancy are short of cash, let them obtain it in a more legitimate manner, by raising the lock tolls to the old tariff of 6d. minimum at each lock. No rowing-man will grudge this, if the funds thus gained are spent in improving the navigation.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant

March 1.

W. B. WOODGATE.

TRADE AND FINANCE.

Very wisely, we venture to think, the directors of the Bank of England again refused yesterday to lower their rate of discount. The conduct they are now pursuing is slowly increasing their stock of gold. Unfortunately, the increase is not as considerable as is desirable; but still it is something, and we are glad that the directors are persisting in the course they have adopted. They are doing a good business too. During the past week their loans and discounts amounted to nearly 2¼ millions; and during the past three weeks there has been an increase in the "other securities" of over £3,800,000. It is unfortunate that they did not take measures to get control of the market earlier, and thus to increase the probability of attracting gold; for it will be seen from the figures we have just quoted that they would have easily recouped themselves for any expenditure they might have been put to. Owing to the usual outflow of notes into circulation at the beginning of March, there is a decrease in the reserve; but it still exceeds 15¼ millions, and, owing to the large addition to the deposits, there is a considerable drop in the proportion to liabilities. Still, the Bank holds over nine shillings idle in its coffers for every sovereign for which it is liable. This would be an extremely strong position were its stock of gold larger; but, considering the condition of the Continent and the various demands that from time to time may come upon the Bank, its stock of gold, though materially increased since Christmas, is still entirely inadequate. Yesterday the Bank did a fair business in discounts, it being found worth while to carry to the Bank short bills, which are not in demand in the outside market; but there was no borrowing. For the moment the outside market is fully supplied. The addition to the "other deposits" for the week ended Wednesday night was £1,161,000, after the considerable revenue payments had been made. The result is that the "other deposits," in which, as our readers will recollect, are included the unused funds at the disposal of the outside market, now exceed 24 millions. This being so, and the demand being slack, owing both to the check given to trade by the war scare and to the paralysis to speculation, the supply in the outside market is ample for the moment. During the past three weeks, however, the Bank has lent to the outside market over 3¼ millions. If this sum were taken off, the "other deposits" would be reduced to very little over 20 millions. Consequently the outside market is really not well supplied; but owing to the large loans obtained from the Bank the available supply for the moment is sufficient. It remains to be seen whether the outside market will nevertheless have to continue drawing upon the Bank. The collection of revenue has evidently continued large during the week, for there is an addition to the public deposits of £971,000. The revenue return issued on Wednesday morning showed that in the week ended Saturday night the collections were not as large as in the preceding week. It would seem, however, that in this week they are proceeding more rapidly.

The stock markets were firmer yesterday. The absence of news led to the general inference that the rising in Silistria was not serious; and later in the day the brief telegraphic report of the German Emperor's Speech from the Throne strengthened the impression that peace, after all, will be maintained. It is, of course, understood that, after all Prince Bismarck's recent utterances in the Reichstag, the Government can hardly admit that there is no danger to the peace; and therefore the very best construction is put upon everything that looks like a hopeful expression as regards the future. Rumours respecting an attack upon the Ameer of Afghanistan at one time, indeed, had rather a depressing effect; but that effect was removed by the report of the German Imperial Speech. Another favourable influence was the absence of selling from the Continent. On Wednesday there was a good deal of selling of American Railroad securities on Parisian account, said to be by a great speculator who operated on an enormous scale recently. That selling, however, ceased yesterday; and, furthermore, the improvement on the New York Stock Exchange had an encouraging influence here. Altogether, the feeling was much more hopeful, but still there was very little business doing. The chief speculators still regard the political future as too uncertain to venture upon increasing their risks; and the public is holding altogether aloof. There is, therefore, extremely little business doing, and the rises in quotations are much more due to the impressions inside the House than to actual operations either by the general public or by speculators proper.

The foreign Bourses were steady yesterday, and generally the movements in quotations here were upward. Russians of 1873 rose ¼, Portuguese ¼, Hungarian ¼, Italian ¼, and Egyptian Unified ¼. At one time of the day the advance was greater; but towards the close there was an easing off. Still, at no time was there much business doing. When politics look more hopeful, speculators who had sold at low prices generally buy back at least a portion of what they had sold, and this sends up prices, for very small transactions in the present state of markets have an unduly great effect; but of any other kind of business there is exceedingly little. Consols and New and Reduced declined from 1-16 to ½, and there was extremely little movement in Home Railway stocks. Caledonian, Great Eastern, Metropolitan, Midland, and South-Eastern Deferred all declined from ¼ to ½; but Great Western, Chatham Ordinary, District, North British, and North-Eastern advanced from ¼ to ½. In the morning there was a sharp advance in Grand Trunk of Canada stocks, from ¼ to 1¼, in continuance of the rise of the previous day, caused by the dividend announcement. The full advance, however, was not maintained. At the close the Guaranteed stock was down ¼; while the rise in the other stocks was only from ¼ to ½. In American Railroad securities there was a rise of from ¼ to ¾, the more general advance, however, being about ½. There is exceedingly little life in the market. As yet the disposition here is rather to sell than to buy American Railroad securities. The control is now entirely in American hands.

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.—[Advrt.]

THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

FOURTH EDITION.

THE GOVERNMENT "COERCION BILL."

When what is called the Government "Coercion Bill" is produced, as it will be as soon as the Procedure Rules debate is finished, it will be found, we believe, to be a comparatively mild measure, though it may yet prove sufficient for its purpose. There will be no suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, probably; though of course much will depend upon what happens in Ireland before the introduction of the Bill. At present, we believe, the Government propose to confine themselves to such measures as enlarging the powers and strengthening the hands of the stipendiary magistrates; with the object of applying the penalties of the law in a more prompt and summary way to those who violate the liberties of the Queen's subjects, work illegal plans of campaign, speak treasonable or incendiary language, or get up illegal meetings. In short, the Government propose mainly to provide for the breakdown of the jury system. But of course, as we said before, their plans may alter if the Irish conspiracy takes a turn for the worse.

THE BULGARIAN INSURRECTION.

INSURGENT OFFICERS SHOT.—ARREST OF CONSPIRATORS.

MORE RISINGS REPORTED.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

PARIS, March 4.—A telegram received here from Giurgevo of to-day's date states that risings have occurred at Tirnova and other places, and that the insurgents are masters of Tirnova. It is added that telegraphic communication between Sophia and the provinces is interrupted.

BELGRADE, March 3.—The army reorganization scheme of General Horvatovics has been abandoned. In consequence of the disturbed state of things in Bulgaria, the Servian Government has decided to send troops to the frontier. A rumour is current that the reserves are to be called out. Herr von Hegelmüller, the Austro-Hungarian Minister, is expected to arrive here on the 7th inst.

SOPHIA, March 3 (3 P.M.).—Colonel Kristeff, the commander of the garrison at Silistria, declared against the Regency on Monday last. On the news arriving here, the Government ordered the troops at Rustchuk and Varna to march on Silistria, capture the place, and shoot the rebel officers. The troops reached Silistria this morning at five o'clock, and marched into the town without opposition. On their arrival, they discovered the dead body of Colonel Kristeff. The other officers had escaped into Roumania. In this city no great importance is attached to the revolt.

7 P.M.—About thirty persons were arrested here this afternoon, among them being MM. Karaveloff and Tsapoff, as it was discovered that they were in communication with the conspirators at Silistria and Rustchuk. It is also asserted that they had prepared a plot and enlisted in their service thirty armed men, not with the hope of upsetting the Government but in order to create disturbances and thus give rise to complications.

The rising at Rustchuk has been entirely suppressed, and all the insurgent officers have either been killed, wounded, drowned, or taken prisoners. It appears that the Pioneers, after arresting several officers of the garrison, including their own commander, proceeded to the infantry barracks and summoned the troops there to surrender. The latter refused to do so, and shots were exchanged. The militia then rose against the mutineers, who, perceiving this, retreated, and were attacked by the infantry coming out of the barracks and driven in the direction of the Danube. The Pioneers then tried to escape in boats, but were fired at and stopped by a gun-boat. Among the insurgent officers who are seriously wounded are Lieut.-Colonel Filoff and Major Ouzounoff. Both these officers were notorious for their sympathy with Major Bendereff.

RUSTCHUK, March 3, 10.15 P.M.—The insurgent officers of the battalion of sappers have all been taken prisoners. Besides Major Ouzounoff and Colonel Filoff, another insurgent major was seriously wounded in the fighting yesterday. The total number of killed and wounded amounted to about fifty. Further despatches from Silistria show that the revolt at that place was solely the work of the commandant, and that he was killed by the troops of the garrison, who at once submitted to the Government troops on their arrival before the town. The rising was thus quelled without any fighting. Tranquillity is now completely restored here, and the town is illuminated in celebration of the suppression of the revolt. Among the officers who have been taken prisoners are several ex-Bulgarian officers from Roumania, who succeeded in entering the town during the engagement between the insurgents and the people.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 4.—The semi-official *Journal de St. Pétersbourg*, in an article to-day on the risings in Bulgaria, says:—"Without prejudging the bearing of the present movement in Bulgaria, it can certainly be said that it was not unexpected; everything, on the contrary, leading to the belief that there would be an outbreak of discontent." The journal then expresses the desire that the Bulgarian people may be spared the horrors of civil war, and that normal order may be restored after eighteen months' anarchy.

(CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAM.)

BUCHAREST, Friday.—The Regency has proved victorious, and the disturbances both at Silistria and Rustchuk are now thoroughly quelled. The Government have ordered that the officers who instigated the revolt shall be shot. The announcement of this determination has produced the liveliest indignation in Russian circles, where it is freely asserted that the inevitable consequence of such a course will be a Russian occupation of Bulgaria.

INCENDIARY RAIDS ON RENTPAYERS IN LIMERICK.

GREAT DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

An extraordinary series of outrages was perpetrated last evening in the eastern part of the county Limerick. An armed band of incendiaries proceeded to the estate of Colonel Frend, at Boskill, near Boher, and maliciously set fire to several hayricks and outhouses belonging to the tenants. They next visited some tenants on the estates of Lord Cloncurry, Mr. Shine, and other landlords, setting fire to all the hay that had been stored in barns, and also to the offices and dairy premises of the tenantry. The entire district of Boher, Abington, Caherconlish, Boskill, and the contiguous townlands was ablaze all night with burning hay and houses. The incendiaries succeeded in getting away before the police had time to learn the particulars. A large number of tenants were sufferers by the outrages, and a great amount of property was destroyed. The reason for the outrages is supposed to lie in the fact that some of the tenants had paid their rents against the wishes of others. No loss of life or personal injury was reported.

A "NO TAX" CAMPAIGN THREATENED.

The London correspondent of the *Liverpool Courier* writes:—I have reliable authority for stating that the "No Tax plan of campaign" has actually been resolved upon. Archbishop Croke will head it, Mr. Davitt may probably take a leading part, and Mr. Dillon certainly will. St. Patrick's Day is about the date when the flag of anarchy will be unfurled in Ireland with the blessing of the Roman Catholic hierarchy upon it. Not a few of the members of Mr. Parnell's party disapprove of the new departure, and Mr. Parnell himself is reported to be hesitating, but the Gladstonian leaders, although fully informed as to what is likely to take place, will simply hold their tongues and leave the Irish anarchists to do the work that Mr. Gladstone desires. The crisis will be led up to by wholesale defiance of the law and violence of speech, and everything will be done to provoke the authorities to interrupt the lawlessness of the Catholic clerics.

The London correspondent of the *Dublin Express* states that the tone of Mr. Dillon's speech in the House of Commons last night was generally regarded as "lending a colour to the story in circulation that a No Tax war is to be declared, and that it is to be led by Mr. Davitt and a notorious cleric."

Our Dublin correspondent telegraphs:—It is reported to-day that Archbishop Croke's No Tax manifesto has already almost borne fruit in the county Wicklow. An officer of the Inland Revenue applied for the income tax in a certain quarter, where he got an absolute refusal alleging the Archbishop's letter as a reason for refusing to pay the odious tax. After some argument, however, the tax was paid.

ACCIDENT TO MR. GLADSTONE'S CARRIAGE.

The Press Association says:—Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, who dined yesterday evening with Mr. Knollys, at Queen Anne's-mansions, left shortly after 11 P.M. for Dollis-hill, Lord Aberdeen's seat, near Willesden, in an open phaeton drawn by one horse. The fog was very thick at the time. Hyde Park was reached with much difficulty by midnight, the coachman having to lead his horse at a walk. The animal then suddenly came to a standstill and fell, having attempted to go up some steps, which had not been perceived. Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone left the phaeton, and the horse was loosed from the harness as quickly as possible. Further progress towards Dollis Hill was considered impossible, and Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone returned to Carlton House-terrace, reaching it with some difficulty at one o'clock. The Press Association, upon inquiry this afternoon at 21, Carlton House-terrace, was informed that Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone had not suffered from the contretemps. News of the accident rapidly spread, and there were many callers this morning.

THEATRICAL LIBEL CASE.

Mr. Justice Field, with a special jury, had again before him to-day the case of Merivale and wife v. Carson. The plaintiff, Mr. Herman Merivale, and his wife were the authors of a play called "The Whip-Hand," and they sued the defendant, the editor of the *Stage*, to recover damages for an alleged libel contained in an article published in that journal on the 7th of May, 1886. The portion of the article most objected to was as follows:—

"The Whip-Hand," the joint production of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Merivale, gives us nothing but a hash-up of ingredients which have been used *ad nauseam* until one rises in protestation against the loving, confiding, fatuous husband with the naughty wife and her double existence, the good male genius, the limp aristocrat, and the villainous foreigner. And why dramatic authors will insist that in modern society comedies the villain must be a foreigner and the foreigner must be a villain is only explicable on the grounds, we suppose, that there is more or less romance about such gentry. It is more in consonance with accepted notions that your Continental croupier would make a much better fictitious prince, marquis, or count than would (say) an English billiard-marker or stable-tout; and so the Marquis Colonna, in "The Whip Hand," is offered up by the authors upon the altar of tradition and sacrificed in the usual manner when he gets too troublesome to permit of reconciliation of husband and wife and lover and maiden, and is proved also, much as usual, to be nothing more than a kicked-out croupier.

The plaintiff's allegation was that the inference to be drawn from the article was that the motive of the play had reference to sexual immorality; whereas it was founded upon the gambling of a wife unknown to her husband. The defendant alleged that the article was fair comment upon a matter of public interest, published *bona fide* and without malice. Mr. Lockwood, Q.C., Mr. Boxall, and Mr. Newson appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Cock, Q.C., and Mr. Houghton represented the defendant.

Mr. Herman Merivale, one of the plaintiffs, gave further evidence, deposing that "The Whip Hand" was a perfectly pure play; whereas, the article imputed that it was founded upon sexual impropriety. Mr. Grimston, whose professional name is Garthorne, also gave evidence as to the receipts of his company, which performed the play at Cambridge, Liverpool, and elsewhere.

Mr. Cock submitted that there was no evidence to go to the jury that this was not fair criticism, and also no evidence that it bore the innuendo imputed to it.

His lordship said he thought the case should go to the jury.

Eventually the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages 1s.

ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE SHOCK AT NICE.

A Central News telegram from Nice says:—There was a slight earthquake shock here at five o'clock this morning. Some alarm was occasioned but no damage was done.

ANNEXATION IN UPPER BURMA.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

CALCUTTA, March 4.—The Kubo Valley, in Upper Burma, on the Manipur frontier, has been annexed to British territory. This measure is expected to have the effect of pacifying the country watered by the Upper Chindwin River. The 44th Goorkha Infantry at present occupy the Kubo district.

THE HOTCHKISS GUN COMPANY.

There is an active demand for prospectuses of the Hotchkiss Gun Company, and before noon to-day the whole capital had been subscribed twice over. The ordinary shares are at a premium of $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4, the preference $2\frac{1}{2}$, and the debentures 2 to 4.

OBSTRUCTION IN PARLIAMENT.

The Exchange Telegraph Company learns that, backed by the promise of support from a large body of their followers, the Government have resolved to resort to all-night sittings if necessary to get through urgent votes in Supply. Last evening a private member submitted to Conservative members for approval a written promise to be in attendance day and night, to include Saturdays if required, in order to get through the Estimates and take up the Procedure Rules. The document, with over 150 signatures, was placed in the hands of Mr. Smith last night.

RESIGNATION OF AN ALDERMAN.

The Lord Mayor has received this morning a letter from Mr. Alderman Waterlow, stating that the numerous and increasing demands upon his time make it impossible for him to carry out either his corporate or magisterial duties in a proper and efficient manner, and it is therefore with much regret that he has to tender to the Lord Mayor the resignation of the position which he holds as Alderman of the Ward of Queenhithe. Mr. Alderman Waterlow, who is a nephew of Sir Sydney H. Waterlow (Lord Mayor, 1872-73), served the office of Sheriff of London and Middlesex in the mayoralty of Sir William M'Arthur, and was elected Alderman of Queenhithe Ward in October, 1882, on the death of Mr. Alderman Walker. It would have been his turn to be elected Lord Mayor in September, 1888. He was the youngest member of the aldermanic body, with one exception.

THIS DAY'S RACING.

SANDOWN PARK.

LADIES' PLATE. (About three miles.)—Crafty (Mr. F. Carew), 1. Friday (Mr. G. Lambton), 2. Two started.

SELLING HURDLE RACE. (Two miles.)—Philosopher (Barker) and Chartreuse (Nightingall) ran a dead heat for first place. Alda (Sale), 3. Edward (Sensier) also started. Betting: 5 to 4 agst Chartreuse, 2 to 1 agst Philosopher, 9 to 2 agst Edward, 6 to 1 agst Alda.

BETTING ON THE COURSE.

LINCOLNSHIRE HANDICAP.—14 to 1 agst Fullerton (t), 16 to 1 agst King Monmouth (t), 20 to 1 agst Monsieur de Paris (t and w).

GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE.—10 to 1 agst Why Not (t f), 200 to 12 agst Chancellor (t).

MALTON.

OPEN STEEPLECHASE. (About three miles.)—Bay Comus, 1. Regal, 2. Two started. Betting: 5 to 1 on Bay Comus. Won by a distance.

HOWE HILL HUNTERS' OPEN HURDLE RACE. (Two miles.)—Fireaway walked over.

THIS DAY'S MONEY MARKET.

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

The German Emperor's Speech has not made a favourable impression on the Stock Exchange, especially the statement that the relations of Germany with Foreign Powers continue the same as last November is received with some apprehension. Consequently the market for Foreign Government Bonds opens depressed, Russian and Egyptian Unified Bonds being quoted $\frac{3}{4}$ lower than last evening. There is, however, little doing; the disposition being to wait upon the Continental Bourses. The other departments are inanimate, though American Railroad Securities are in some cases higher.

There is less doing to-day in the Money Market, and the rate for short loans is $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., while discount is quoted $3\frac{3}{4}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for short bills, and $3\frac{1}{4}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for three months' paper.

Quarter past Two.

There is a generally dull tendency in the Stock Exchange, due to the unsettled state of foreign politics and the want of active business; but the Paris Bourse is tolerably steady. The English Funds are sustained by the better supply of money, and Consols show 1-16 per cent. improvement. Home Railways are very quiet, and prices are in several cases rather weaker on the day. Brighton A shows a fractional decline. The traffic return of this company for yesterday shows an increase of £118. Grand Trunk of Canada stocks are flat on sales to take advantage of the rise of the past two days, and Mexican Railway stocks have given way with them. Foreign Government Securities show a slight reduction in several of the leading descriptions; but French issues are firm and Greek Bonds also.

The following are the changes as compared with yesterday's closing prices:—

In the English Funds, Consols for money are unchanged at 100 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 100 $\frac{3}{4}$; but the price for the account (April) has advanced 1-16 to 100 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 101. Reduced and New Three per Cents. are unchanged at 99 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 99 $\frac{3}{4}$ ex div.; and New Two-and-a-Half per Cents. at 87 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 88 $\frac{1}{4}$ ex div.

In Home Railways, Caledonian has fallen $\frac{1}{8}$, Great Eastern $\frac{1}{4}$, Great Western $\frac{1}{4}$, Brighton A $\frac{1}{8}$, Chatham Ordinary $\frac{1}{8}$, the Preference $\frac{1}{2}$, North-Western $\frac{1}{4}$, Sheffield A $\frac{1}{4}$, Metropolitan $\frac{1}{4}$, Midland $\frac{1}{4}$, North British $\frac{1}{4}$, and North-Eastern $\frac{1}{4}$; but Lancashire and Yorkshire has risen $\frac{1}{2}$. In Canadian and Foreign Railways, Grand Trunk Ordinary has fallen $\frac{1}{4}$, the First Preference 1, the Second 1, the Third $\frac{1}{4}$, the Guaranteed $\frac{1}{4}$, Canadian Pacific $\frac{1}{4}$, Mexican Ordinary $\frac{1}{2}$, the First Preference $\frac{1}{2}$, and the Second $\frac{1}{2}$.

In Foreign Government Bonds, Egyptian State Domain has fallen $\frac{1}{4}$, the Unified $\frac{1}{4}$, the Preference $\frac{1}{4}$, the Daira Sanieh $\frac{1}{4}$, Hungarian Gold Rentes $\frac{1}{4}$, Italian Five per Cents. of 1861 $\frac{1}{4}$, Mexican Old $\frac{1}{4}$, Portuguese $\frac{1}{4}$, Russian of 1873 $\frac{1}{4}$, Spanish Four per Cents. 1-16, and Turkish Groups III. and IV. $\frac{1}{4}$; but French issues have improved $\frac{1}{4}$.

In American Securities, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage Bonds have fallen $\frac{1}{8}$, Milwaukee $\frac{1}{4}$, Denver $\frac{1}{4}$, Louisville $\frac{1}{4}$, Erie $\frac{1}{4}$, Ohio $\frac{1}{4}$,

Reading $\frac{1}{4}$, Union Pacific $\frac{1}{4}$, and Wabash Preference $\frac{1}{4}$; but Lake Shore has risen $\frac{1}{8}$, and New York Central $\frac{1}{4}$.

The Eastern rates of exchange are:—Bombay, 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Calcutta, 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Hong Kong, 3s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and Shanghai, 4s. 6d.

Yesterday's Bank of England return shows an increase of £204,374 in the coin and bullion, which now exceed 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions. As £123,000 came from abroad, about £81,000 must have returned from the internal circulation. On the other hand, notes went out amounting to £485,310. Consequently the reserve decreased £280,936, but still amounts to £15,300,122. The proportion to liabilities has fallen $\frac{1}{4}$ to 46 per cent. The large increase of £2,223,692 in the "other securities" shows that the Bank has done in the past week an exceedingly good business, which accounts for the increase of £1,161,722 in the "other deposits," which now exceed 24 millions. A large part of the loans from the Bank, however, went to swell the public deposits, which increased £971,298. The Government securities increased £503,359, presumably through increase of investments.

Messrs. Antony Gibbs and Son invite subscriptions for the share and debenture capital of the Hotchkiss Ordnance Company (Limited), the share capital being £800,000, divided as follows:—45,000 ordinary shares of £10 each, and 35,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £10 each. The debenture capital is £300,000 in 5 per cent. mortgage debentures of £100 each (secured by a first charge upon the undertaking redeemable) at the price of £110 by annual cumulative drawings commencing the 1st of January, 1888. Of these various issues £60,000 in debentures, 1,500 preference shares, and 1,500 ordinary shares will be allotted at par as fully paid up to the managing directors, who agree to take them in part payment of the purchase-money; 5,500 ordinary shares will be subscribed for and allotted to the vendor at par. Messrs. Gibbs reserve the right to subscribe for and have allotted to them at par 8,000 ordinary and 4,000 preference shares. The business has been in existence since 1873, and conducted until his death by the late Mr. Hotchkiss, in conjunction with the present managing directors. It is intended to continue the business as a limited company in England and by a société anonyme in France, the latter being vested in the English company, and included in the purchase. The business has a world-wide reputation, and the earnings from the year 1880 to the present time have been considerable and steadily progressive. The books of the firm for the years 1884, 1885, and 1886 have been carefully investigated by Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co., whose certificate is annexed to the prospectus, and they show the following net results:—1884, £99,923; 1885, £163,293; and 1886, £185,278.

ENGLISH GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Consols	100 $\frac{1}{4}$	100 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto Account (April)	100 $\frac{1}{4}$	101
Reduced Three per Cents	99 $\frac{1}{4}$	99 $\frac{3}{4}$ xd
New Three per Cents	99 $\frac{1}{4}$	99 $\frac{3}{4}$ xd
New Two-and-a-Half per Cents	87 $\frac{3}{4}$	88 $\frac{1}{4}$ xd
India Stock Four per Cent.	100 $\frac{1}{4}$	101 xd
Ditto Three per Cent.	85	85 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
Ditto Four per Cent. Rupee Paper	69 $\frac{1}{4}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Rupee Paper	71 $\frac{1}{4}$	72
Bank of England Stock	297	299
Metropolitan $\frac{3}{4}$ per Cent.	100 $\frac{1}{4}$	100 $\frac{3}{4}$ xd

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 $\frac{1}{4}$	102 $\frac{1}{4}$
N. Zealand 4 per Cent. Cons. Ins	95	96
Queensland 6 per Cent. 1891-96	106	118
S. Australia 4 p. C. of 1894-1916	97	99
Tasmanian 6 per Cent. of 1893-1907	106	120
Victoria $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. of 1904	105	107

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

United States $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Bonds	111 $\frac{1}{4}$	111 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto Four per Cent.	130 $\frac{1}{4}$	131 $\frac{1}{4}$
Virginia Funded Bonds	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage Bonds	48	48 $\frac{1}{4}$
Central Pacific Shares	37 $\frac{1}{4}$	37 $\frac{3}{4}$
Chicago Milwaukee, and St. Paul	94 $\frac{1}{4}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
Denver and Rio Grande Shares	25 $\frac{1}{4}$	26
Illinois Shares	132	133
Lake Shore and Michigan Southern 100-dol. Shares	98 $\frac{1}{4}$	98 $\frac{3}{4}$
Louisville and Nashville 100-dol. Shares	63 $\frac{1}{4}$	63 $\frac{3}{4}$
New York Central Shares	111 $\frac{1}{4}$	116 $\frac{1}{4}$
New York, Lake Erie, & Western 100-dol. Shares	34 $\frac{1}{4}$	35
Ditto Preference Six per Cent	73 $\frac{1}{4}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto Second Mortgage Bonds	101 $\frac{1}{4}$	102
New York, Ontario, and Western Shares	27 $\frac{1}{4}$	28 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ohio and Mississippi Shares	28	28 $\frac{1}{4}$
Oregon and California Seven per Cent. Preference Shares	18 $\frac{1}{4}$	19
Pennsylvania Shares	59 $\frac{1}{4}$	59 $\frac{3}{4}$
Philadelphia and Reading Shares	19 $\frac{1}{4}$	19 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto General Mortgage Bonds	102	103
Union Pacific Shares	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Wabash, St. Louis, and Pacific Ordinary Shares	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	18 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto 100-dol. Preference	30 $\frac{1}{4}$	30 $\frac{3}{4}$

BRITISH AND FOREIGN RAILWAY STOCKS.

Caledonian	97 $\frac{1}{4}$	97 $\frac{3}{4}$
Great Eastern	65	66 $\frac{1}{4}$
Great Northern Ordinary	110 $\frac{1}{4}$	111 $\frac{1}{4}$ xd
Ditto A	97 $\frac{1}{4}$	98 $\frac{1}{4}$
Great Western	133 $\frac{1}{4}$	133 $\frac{3}{4}$
Lancashire and Yorkshire	114 $\frac{1}{4}$	115 $\frac{1}{4}$ xd
London and Brighton Ordinary	125	123
Ditto A	113 $\frac{1}{4}$	114
London, Chatham, & Dover Ord	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	22
Ditto $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Preference	97 $\frac{1}{4}$	97 $\frac{3}{4}$
London and North-Western	160 $\frac{1}{4}$	160 $\frac{3}{4}$
London and South-Western	123 $\frac{1}{4}$	124 $\frac{1}{4}$ xd
Manchester, Sheffield, & Lincoln	65	67
Ditto A	35 $\frac{1}{4}$	35
Metropolitan	108 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Metropolitan District	38 $\frac{1}{4}$	38 $\frac{3}{4}$
Midland	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$
North British	99	99 $\frac{1}{4}$
North-Eastern	151 $\frac{1}{4}$	15 $\frac{1}{4}$
North Staffordshire	91 $\frac{1}{4}$	92 $\frac{1}{4}$
South-Eastern Ordinary	125	126
Ditto Deferred	102 $\frac{1}{4}$	103 $\frac{1}{4}$
Grand Trunk of Canada Ordinary	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	13 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto First Preference Stock	71 $\frac{1}{4}$	73 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto Second Preference Stock	57 $\frac{1}{4}$	58
Ditto Third Preference Stock	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto Guaranteed	75	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Canadian Pacific Shares	61 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Buenos Ayres & Pac. 7 p. C. Shares	23 $\frac{1}{4}$	24 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto 7 p. C. Debentures	126	128
Lombardo-Venetian	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Mexican Ordinary	54 $\frac{1}{4}$	55
Ditto Eight per Cent. First Pref	110 $\frac{1}{4}$	117 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto Six per Cent. Second Pref	78 $\frac{1}{4}$	79 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto Six per Cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock	121	123

MISCELLANEOUS SHARES.

Australian Agricultural	117	122 xd
Anglo-Am. Brush Light (43 paid)	25 $\frac{1}{4}$	3
Hudson's Bay	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	22 $\frac{3}{4}$
National Discount	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	11
Peninsular and Oriental Steam	59	61
Royal Mail Steam	38	40
Suez Canal	77	77 $\frac{1}{4}$

FOREIGN STOCK MARKETS.

Argentine Six per Cent. of 1868	101	103
Ditto Six per Cent. of 1871	100	102 xd
Ditto 6 p. Cent. Hard Dol. Bonds	70	71
Austrian Four p. C. Gold Rentes	86	88
Ditto Five per Cent. Silver	62	64
Brazilian Five per Cent. of 1865	98 $\frac{1}{4}$	99 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1871	98	99
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1875	98	99
Ditto $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. of 1883	91	92
Buenos Ayres Six per Cent. of 1870	100	102
Ditto Six per Cents. of 1873	98 $\frac{1}{4}$	99 $\frac{1}{4}$
Chilian $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Converter	99	101
Chinese Six p. C. of 1895, March	110	112
Ditto Six p. C. of 1895, June	108	110
Costa Rica 5 per Cent. Bonds A	66	67
Ditto B 4 p. C. now 5 p. C. 1888	59	60
Egyptian Three p. C. Guaranteed	97 $\frac{1}{4}$	97 $\frac{3}{4}$ xd
Ditto Five p. C. State Domain	91 $\frac{1}{4}$	91 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto Four per Cent. Unified	70 $\frac{1}{4}$	71 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto Five per Cent. Preference	94 $\frac{1}{4}$	94 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto Four p. C. Daira Sanieh	67 $\frac{1}{4}$	68
Entre Rios 6 p. C. 1886	91	93
Ditto 6 p. C. Ry. Mortgage	93	94
French Three per Cent. Rentes	78 $\frac{1}{4}$	78 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. of 1872	100 $\frac{1}{4}$	107
Greek Five per Cent. of 1872	77 $\frac{1}{4}$	78 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1881	5	60
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1884	58 $\frac{1}{4}$	59 $\frac{1}{4}$
Hungarian Gold Rentes of 1881	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	75 $\frac{3}{4}$
Italian Five per Cent. of 1861	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	94 $\frac{1}{4}$
Mexican Old Three per Cent.	24 $\frac{1}{4}$	27
Ditto of 1864	1	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Norwegian Four per Cent. of 1860	102	104
Peruvian Six per Cent. of 1870	15	15 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1872	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$
Portuguese Three per Cent	53 $\frac{1}{4}$	53 $\frac{3}{4}$
Russian Five per Cent. of 1871	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1872	92	93
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1873	92 $\frac{1}{4}$	92 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. of 1875	85	87
Santa Fé 5 p. C. N. C. Ry. Mort	93	100
Ditto 5 p. C. Extensions Mort	89	91
Spanish Four per Cent.	63 9-16	63 11-16
Ditto Two per Cent.	46 $\frac{1}{4}$	46 $\frac{3}{4}$
Swedish Four per Cent. of 1880	102	104
Turkish Six per Cent. Group 3	20 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto Nine per Cent.	3	13 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto Six & Five per Cent.	38 $\frac{1}{4}$	13 5-16
Ditto $\frac{1}{2}$ p. C. Tribute Loan of 1871	69	69 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1854	92	94
Ditto Five per Cent. Defence	80 $\frac{1}{4}$	80 $\frac{3}{4}$
Uruguay Unified Five p. C. of 1883	48 $\frac{1}{4}$	49

BANKS.

Anglo-Egyptian	16	17
City	18 $\frac{1}{4}$	19 $\frac{1}{4}$
Colonial	29	31
Consolidated	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Imperial Ottoman	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
London and County	81	82
London and Westminster	63	64
London Joint Stock	36	37
National Provincial (12 paid)	49 $\frac{1}{4}$	50 $\frac{1}{4}$
Union of London	35	3

MINING SHARES.

Cape Copper	23	23
Indian Consolidated	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	1
Mason and Barry	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Montana	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Mysore Gold	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	7
Oreogum Gold	13-16	15-16
Richmond Consolidated	4	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Rio Tinto	103-16	105-16
St. John del Rey	25	27
Tharsis Sulphur	34 $\frac{1}{4}$	34 $\frac{1}{4}$
United Mexican	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SECURITIES.

Anglo-American	20 $\frac{1}{4}$	33 $\frac{1}{4}$
Brazilian Submarine	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	11
Consolidated Telephone	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Direct United States	8	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Eastern	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Eastern Extension	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Globe Ordinary	49 $\frac{1}{4}$	49 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto Preference	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
India-rubber, Gutta-percha, and Telegraph Works	21	22
Oriental Telephone	3-16	5-16
Telegraph Construction	37 $\frac{1}{4}$	38 $\frac{1}{4}$
United Telephone	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	13
Western and Brazilian	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	8

TRAMWAY SHARES.

Dublin	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$ xd
Glasgow	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	13 xd
Liverpool Un. Tram. and Omnibus	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	11 $\frac{1}{4}$ xd
London	19	19 $\frac{1}{4}$
London Street	19 $\frac{1}{4}$	20 $\frac{1}{4}$
North Metropolitan	20 $\frac{1}{4}$	21 $\frac{1}{4}$

THE BULGARIAN INSURRECTION.

FIGHTING AT SILISTRIA AND RUSTCHUK.

The military outbreaks at Silistria and Rustchuk have been suppressed, after some fighting in both places. Fuller particulars of the outbreaks are given in telegrams from Rustchuk and Bucharest. The *Times* correspondent, telegraphing from the latter town, gives the following account of the events in Silistria:—

The ringleaders of this plot at Silistria were Bendereff, Dimitrieff, Dikoff, and Kavaloff, all cashiered ex-officers of the Bulgarian army. On Saturday evening Colonel Kristeff summoned the soldiers of the garrison by bugle-call, announced that the Regents had resigned and had fled, and proposed that M. Zankoff should be proclaimed Regent of Bulgaria. About 200 soldiers cheered; the rest, numbering nearly 700, reversed their arms and marched back into barracks, crying "God save Bulgaria, free and independent!" In the barracks these soldiers voted by acclamation that Captain Krivandoff, commanding the 3rd company, should take command of the garrison and should telegraph to Sophia for instructions. At 10 P.M. on Saturday evening there was an engagement between Kristeff's soldiers and the loyal troops near the telegraph-office. Three men were killed, but the loyalists kept the station. On Sunday morning Kristeff rode through the town on a white horse, bearing a Russian flag. He was twice shot at; but, riding back to the fortress, he massed his troops, and a second engagement took place. By this time all the reservists in the town had taken up arms and marched to put down the insurrection. Kristeff's troops retreated, and only a few stray shots came from the inner circle of the fortifications. Throughout Monday there was no fighting, and Kristeff remained inside the fortress. On Tuesday morning he sallied out, and as his sortie was not expected he rode into the town shouting, "God save Bulgaria and the Czar!" The shops were closed, and the people stood upon the doorsteps apathetically. Krivandoff, hearing of what had happened, marched his troops straight into the fortress and occupied it without encountering resistance, except from two sentries, who were killed. Kristeff, on riding back, was met by a sharp fusillade, and retreated on to the market-place, where he encamped. On Tuesday morning the troops of the Shumla garrison had approached the town, and Kristeff made another attempt to rally the population. Failing in this, he rode out of the city and endeavoured to rouse the populations of the neighbouring villages. He had two soldiers walking beside his charger, who scattered Russian proclamations as they went. It seems that he met with no response in the villages, for towards evening he attempted to escape, but was captured by his men and brought back. Yesterday (Wednesday) he rode again into Silistria, no longer on his white horse, but on a miserable roan hack, and preceded by a Parliamentarian carrying a white flag. As soon as he debouched on to the market-place a hot fire was opened by the Shumla troops, who were stationed at the street-corners, and he at once dropped from his horse, shot through the head. His soldiers took to flight, screaming that they had been betrayed. All the officers among them have since been arrested, and the city is quiet. Two officers and sixteen soldiers besides Kristeff were shot.

The insurrection at Rustchuk appears to have broken out immediately after troops had left the town to put down the Silistria rising. A part of the garrison left behind attempted to get up a pro-Russian movement. Bands marched through the city crying "Down with the Regency!" and two officers named Cardjeff and Panoff careered about demanding the election of the Metropolitan Clement as Regent. During Wednesday night Major Ouzounoff, with a battalion of engineers, surrounded the barracks, made prisoners of the officers who were in the town, and established a military cordon. The people thereupon took up arms and themselves surrounded the insurgents. An engagement ensued, the firing lasting from four in the morning till four in the afternoon, when the leaders of the revolt took to flight and embarked on boats to cross the Danube. Owing to the heavy fire poured upon them, however, they were forced to abandon the boats and take refuge on an island in the middle of the stream, where they were subsequently captured. All were more or less wounded, Major Ouzounoff and Colonel Filoff and some others being so seriously injured as to necessitate their being conveyed to the hospital. The regiment imprisoned in the barracks and the other officers arrested by the insurgents have been set free, and the authority of the Regents was completely restored. The town was yesterday *en fête* in celebration of the suppression of the revolt.

The revolutionary movement in Bulgaria (the St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Daily News* says) is beginning to excite much attention there. Only a few days ago the press urged non-interference in that country, in order that Russia might be able to pay full attention to Franco-German affairs. Now, the papers pretend to fear that the events on the Danube will take such a serious turn that Russia will be obliged to interfere "against her will." According to the military organ, the *Sviet*, a council of war has assembled under the presidency of the Emperor, and is discussing what is to be done. It is remarked as being strange that some of the commanders who are to attend the council should have been summoned to St. Petersburg as early as last week, and others on Monday. Thus, General Gourko reached the capital on Sunday; General Roop, from Odessa, on Tuesday.

THE EGYPTIAN QUESTION.

A Constantinople telegram says that Sir H. D. Wolff had a conference of an hour's duration yesterday with the Ottoman Commissioners. The subject of discussion was again the scheme for the reorganization of the Egyptian tribunals and army. Nothing was decided, and another conference will be held on Monday next.

In view of the financial position of Egypt, the Khedive has (the Cairo correspondent of the *Times* says) expressed his intention of presenting the State with all his palaces except two at Cairo and one at Alexandria. This gift, made by Tewfik Pasha entirely on his own initiative, uninfluenced by any suggestion, reflects the highest credit on his patriotism.

THE DEFECTIVE CUTLASSES.

Orders were yesterday received at the Small Arms Factory, Enfield, to at once discontinue the testing of the sword-bayonets and cutlasses belonging to the navy which are known as "converted." It is understood that the order has arisen from a decision of the special committee which has been considering these weapons, and that the committee has resolved to condemn the whole of the questionable arms as being too soft for use owing to the effects of the process of conversion. It is expected that the cutlasses will be immediately replaced by others of a trustworthy kind.

TROUBLES IN RUSSIA.

Serious troubles have just occurred with the peasantry in the provinces of Kherson and Podolia and the adjoining districts. It appears the cattle-plague has become so virulent and widespread that orders were given by the authorities for the destruction of cattle in certain districts on the payment of half their value to the owners. The peasantry resisted this arrangement, and in one case a large body, armed with agricultural implements, threatened the officials. Troops were, of course, summoned to the spot; but the newspapers are not permitted to publish details, and nothing more can be ascertained. The same (the St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Times* remarks) may be said of the conspiracy discovered in the military schools, and the large number of consequent arrests. The most impenetrable mystery is maintained. It is reported that the Czar had one or two of the conspirators brought before him, and that their conduct was so rude as to preclude the possibility of imperial clemency. Rumours are openly circulated every day of trials and hangings in the fortress; but the authorities and all concerned continue to shroud their doings in profound silence and secrecy.

THE EARTHQUAKES IN ITALY.

Although seven days had elapsed since the earthquake, one person still living was yesterday dug out of the ruins of the houses at Diano Marina, and at Taggia a whole family, who had taken refuge in a cellar, were extricated alive from the debris. The engineers at Oneglia, having made a thorough inspection of the town, report that only a small number of the houses are habitable, and it will be necessary to build huts to serve as a temporary shelter for 7,000 people.

THE BAR COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Bar Committee will be held in the Luncheon-Room, Lincoln's Inn, on Tuesday next, when among other questions which will be discussed are resolutions that a committee be appointed to inquire and report whether there is any binding rule or custom which prevents a member of the Bar from seeing or doing business for clients personally without the intervention of a solicitor; and also whether there are any, and what, exceptions to such a rule.

CRIME IN COUNTY LIMERICK.

In opening the Limerick Assizes yesterday, Mr. Justice Johnstone, addressing the grand jury, said he was sorry to find the county had made no advance towards peace and order. Serious offences had increased, and, either through terror, intimidation, or sympathy, the victims would not come forward to identify those who went roaming through the country committing violence upon peaceable inhabitants when they were arrested. He believed it was vastly more terror than sympathy that deterred them from coming forward. It was not his duty to suggest a remedy for the present state of things; he could only say that the disorderly state of the county Limerick showed no sign of improvement.

BUTTERINE.

A large and influential deputation, representing the butterine manufacturers in this country and on the Continent, had an interview with Baron Henry de Worms, M.P., at the Board of Trade Offices, Whitehall, yesterday, with reference to the proposed legislation on butterine. Mr. Carpmel, in introducing the deputation, said that their desire was that action should be taken to prevent any compulsory change in the name of the article which was sold as butterine. Baron Henry de Worms, in reply, said that the only object of the Government was to protect the public against possible fraud and not to protect one branch of industry against another. The Bills to which the deputation objected were private Bills, and it was for the House of Commons to decide in the matter. The deputation then withdrew.

TRIAL BY JURY IN FRANCE.

A strong contrast to the sentence pronounced on Wednesday on the Comte de Molen (the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says) is to be found in the acquittal by a Paris jury of M. Henri Pellet, a distinguished chemist, who some time ago fired on a lady friend of his wife, with whom he had carried on an intrigue, and on a young student for whose attentions she had deserted him. The woman was hit in the head and one of the man's eyes was destroyed; yet at the trial Pellet was pronounced innocent. This verdict, which was received with some surprise, has excited general disgust. It now seems to be an established rule with Paris juries that any one who uses a revolver in a love affair may go scot free. Since the memorable day on which Marie Bière, who spoiled her lover's beauty in the Rue Auber, was acquitted, and left the court with a capital advertisement, there have been many similar miscarriages of justice. The public have been long-suffering, but loud groans are now being heard—groans not confined to any clique or party. All confidence in the impartiality and discrimination of Paris juries is for the moment destroyed, and a few more scandals of the kind might lead to a downright agitation for their suppression.

THE 110-TON ARMSTRONG GUN.

The third series of firings of the 110-ton gun with experimental charges was carried out yesterday at the butts of the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, under the direction of Colonel Maitland, R.A. (Superintendent of Gun Factories), by Captain Holden, R.A. (Proofmaster), and Lieutenant Lowe, R.A. (Assistant Proofmaster). The heaviest powder-charge as yet fired was endured by the gun and its fittings without the slightest injury, and gave admirable results, both in velocity of projectile and lowness of gas-pressure within the chamber of the gun. The first round fired was with 850 lb. of German prismatic powder of a kind similar to that fired on previous occasions, but from a different maker. The velocity attained by the shot was 2,142 ft. per second, the gas-pressure 19½ tons on the square inch of the chamber, which is 8 ft. 3 in. long. The second round was with prismatic powder, specially made at Waltham Abbey for this gun. The weight of the charge was 960 lb.; the velocity of the projectile 2,104 ft. per second, and the gas-pressure only 15.7 tons—a very remarkable result, showing that the mode of reducing the speed of combustion under the new system is now thoroughly well understood at the Government Works. The third round was with 850 lb. of the same powder as the first round, the results being, velocity of shot (1,800 lb. weight) 2,149 ft., and gas-pressure 19.9 tons. The extraordinarily high velocities attained by the projectiles and the confining of the gases generated within such low pressures—which might probably be safely raised to thirty tons without exerting undue strain on the gun—are exceedingly satisfactory features in the practice so far carried out.

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

RUSSIA AND CENTRAL ASIA.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

ST. PETERSBURG, March 4.—The semi-official *Journal de St. Pétersbourg* to-day referring to recent intelligence from Chinese Turkestan, declares that the relations between Russia and China do not warrant any credence being attached to these announcements. In regard to the preparations for a holy war being made by the Ameer of Afghanistan, that journal says:—"We should not be surprised to learn that they cause more alarm at Bombay and Madras than at the Russian headquarters in Central Asia, where no attack of any kind is meditated against the possessions of Abdur Rahman."

AUSTRIA, GERMANY, AND ITALY.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

ROME, March 4.—The *Opinione* to-day, in another leading article upon the renewal of the alliance between Italy, Germany, and Austria, says:—

The statements published by several newspapers concerning the negotiations which have been proceeding between the three countries are incorrect. We can only assure our readers that throughout the negotiations Italy aimed above all at the preservation of peace. As a matter of course, she had to safeguard her own special interests, which are of a twofold character. One the one hand, she must assure herself that her position in the East shall not be weakened; and, further, that if the treaty be confirmed it shall signify that Italy and Austria are both animated by the same sense of justice, and recognize the necessity of reconciling their interests in the Eastern Question. On the other hand, the equilibrium in the Mediterranean must be guaranteed. It is not to be supposed, in fact, that in her negotiations with the central Powers Italy's interests in this respect have not been properly protected so as to render impossible the recurrence of certain incidents which disturbed her in the past.

In conclusion, the semi-official journal says:—"Whoever speaks of stipulations alleged to have been made by Italy with an aggressive object must be ignorant of the line of conduct pursued by her Government. Italy deserves the confidence of all States desiring peace."

SERVIA AND BULGARIA.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

PHILIPPOLIS, March 3.—Medals for gallantry displayed during the war between Servia and Bulgaria were distributed among the troops here yesterday. To-day being the anniversary both of the signature of the treaty of San Stefano and of the conclusion of peace between Servia and Bulgaria, the whole country is *en fête*.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

BERLIN, March 4, 3 A.M.—The following additional results of the second ballots in the elections to the Reichstag have been received:—Hanau—Gelnhausen: Herr Nickel (New German Liberal), 11,806 votes, against Herr Schier (Conservative), 11,709 votes. Munich, First Division: Herr Sedlmayer (National Liberal), 8,780 votes, against Herr Ruppert (Centre), 7,362 votes. Duchy of Lauenburg: Herr Berling (New German Liberal).

PORTUGAL AND ZANZIBAR.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

LISBON, March 4.—A despatch received yesterday from the Governor of Mozambique announces that the Portuguese occupied the whole of the Bay of Tungi and the village of Messingane on the 23rd ult., and captured the fortress of Tungi on the 26th ult. The Governor returned to Mozambique yesterday with the corvette *Afonso de Albuquerque* and the gun-boat *Bengo*.

M. DE LESSEPS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

PARIS, March 4.—M. de Lesseps yesterday, in conversation with several persons, is represented to have given a formal denial to the statement that he was entrusted with a political mission to Berlin, for which city he will leave on the 8th inst. The object of his journey is merely to deliver to M. Herbet, the French Ambassador there, the insignia of Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour. After staying three days in the German capital, he will return direct to Paris.

THE DUCHESS OF RICHMOND.

The condition of the Duchess of Richmond and Gordon is now regarded more hopefully. This morning's bulletin says:—"The Duchess of Richmond has gained some strength since yesterday. Her Grace has less pain; but has not slept. The pulse has improved, and the temperature is better."

MR. GLADSTONE AND AGRICULTURE.

The chairman of a meeting of farmers recently held at Foveran, Aberdeenshire, to consider the present state of agriculture, has received the following acknowledgment of the resolutions sent to Mr. Gladstone:—"I have received with much regret and sympathy the resolutions you have sent me. I have a very high opinion of the farmers of Aberdeenshire, and believe that they are the last men who would complain without serious cause. The present apparent improvement of trade may, I hope, act upon agriculture; but I fear the unsettled Irish question prevents Parliament from giving to the subject all the attention it deserves."

THE TRUCK SYSTEM IN SCOTLAND.

Mr. Alexander Redgrave, Chief Inspector of Factories, in his report upon the truck system in Scotland, issued this morning, recommends that all wages should be paid in current coin of the realm in all occupations; that a deduction from wages for medical attendance and medicine is quite justifiable; that similar deduction for subscription to a benefit society is an essential advantage to employes; and that a deduction for materials, tools, gunpowder, and dynamite used in works and mines is desirable if not necessary.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

The annual return of the volunteer corps of Great Britain for 1886, issued to-day, shows that the authorized establishment of that force is now 253,935, and that 220,829 were returned last year as efficient—or 97.39 per cent.—out of a total number enrolled of 226,752, against 97.42 per cent. in 1885; the non-efficient being thus 5,923. The number present at inspections was 196,293, or 86.57 per cent.—a very slight falling-off from 1885, when it was 86.98 per cent. There were 6,020 officers and 12,673 sergeants who passed as proficient for the special grant of 50s., against 5,946 and 12,422 respectively in 1885; and 789 officers passed in tactics, compared with 728 in 1885.

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

A letter was recently addressed to the Queen by Messrs. Burch, Page, and Snow on behalf of the committee of the Jubilee Fund now being raised in support of the London hospitals, dispensaries, and convalescent homes. Her Majesty, in reply to a request for her acquiescence in the scheme, has caused the following answer to be sent:—

Privy Purse Office, Buckingham Palace, Feb. 21.

General Sir Henry Ponsonby has received the Queen's commands to thank Mr. Burch for his letter of the 14th inst. Although her Majesty is unable to express any special approval of any one of the numerous schemes which are proposed for celebrating her Majesty's jubilee, the loyal feelings which prompt them are most gratifying to the Queen.

THE CHARGES AGAINST THE CITY CORPORATION.

Just before the House of Commons rose this morning Mr. Howell moved that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon certain charges brought under the notice of the House by Mr. Howell, member for the North-East Division of Bethnal-green, and Mr. Bradlaugh, member for the borough of Northampton, alleging improper use and malversation of public funds of the Corporation of London by or with the consent of members and officials of such Corporation; that it be an instruction to the Committee that they take evidence on oath with power to send for persons, papers, and records. Sir Robert Fowler said the charge brought before the House was that he, when Lord Mayor of the City of London, in 1884, personally corruptly spent money of the Corporation for certain purposes. That being so, when the Committee was appointed he thought that, as the charge involved the honour of a member of that House he should be entitled to ask that that charge should be investigated before any other charge was taken. Mr. Howell said that though he had made a definite statement he made no personal charge against the honourable baronet, and the charge he had brought forward he meant to substantiate. Mr. Bradlaugh said the charge he had made was a specific one; he would prove it up to the hilt. The motion was agreed to.

THE "ROUND TABLE" CONFERENCE.

The London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* writes:—"I am in a position to say that the Round Table Conference has almost, if not quite, come to an agreement. Mr. Gladstone has found it quite possible to give effect to the principle of Home Rule on the principles contained in the Act constituting the Dominion of Canada, and therefore there is no longer any serious conflict between him and Mr. Chamberlain. An agreement in principle has been reached, though the details of the arrangement have yet to be worked out. The Home Rule scheme which will ultimately emerge from the Round Table Conference will be found to give Ireland a large measure of autonomy, and at the same time to secure the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament and the essential unity of the three kingdoms. On one point I believe Mr. Chamberlain has obtained considerable concession. The appointment of the Irish judges will remain with the Imperial Government, and this provision will go some way to meet the views of Sir George Trevelyan and men of his type. It is not likely, however, that an immediate or formal statement of the results of the conference will be made public."

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT'S INCONSISTENCY.

The *Glasgow Herald*, remarking on Sir William Harcourt's letter, traces his record regarding the Scottish crofters, and adds:—"This zealous advocate of the immediate redress of agrarian grievances, this resolute opponent of any attempt to reinforce the law to enable it to deal with agrarian disorder, himself allowed the grievances of the crofters to remain unredressed for over a year after a Royal Commission had reported on them, and yet midway reinforced the law with a military expedition to suppress the disturbances which, as he would now say, were directly traceable to a condition of things that ought to have been altered as soon as it was disclosed."

THE CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.

The Civil Service Estimates issued to-day show a total of £17,931,508, a decrease of £85,160 on those of last year. There is an increase of £125,884 in Class IV., mainly caused by the increase of the cost of public education; but a decrease of £125,577 in Class I., chiefly arising from the less amount asked for public buildings and for surveys of the United Kingdom. There is also a decrease of £50,602 in Class III., the lessened cost of prisons being the chief cause.

ILLNESS OF MR. W. LOWTHER.

The Honourable W. Lowther, M.P. for North Westmoreland, has for some days been lying ill at his Westmoreland residence. It is hoped that rest and abstention from his parliamentary duties for a short time will effect his complete recovery.

A whip of an urgent nature was issued to Conservative members yesterday, asking them to be in their places to-night.

Prince Albert Victor of Wales, who will be accompanied by Captain the Honourable Alwynne Greville and Major Miles, will leave London on the 17th inst., in the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer *Rosetta*, for Gibraltar.

In addition to opening the Queen's Hall on the 14th of May, the Queen has consented to lay the first stone of the Technical Schools, which form part of the People's Palace scheme, and for the cost of which the Drapers' Company have voted £20,000.

Arrangements are being made in Plymouth for holding the next Wesleyan Conference in that town.

Mr. E. Whitaker, Superintendent of Records at the Registrar General's Office, Somerset House, has been appointed to succeed Mr. William Cloude who recently resigned the Secretaryship of that department.

At the half-yearly rent audit for the Annandale estates of the Duke of Buccleuch, held at Lockerbie yesterday, a reduction of 10 per cent. upon the rents for the half-year was granted to the tenants.

It has been determined by the Secretary of State for War not to issue to the Irish militia infantry regiments this year the 10,000 Martini-Henry rifles which had been allotted towards the rearmament of that force a few months ago.

A telegram received at New York from Winnipeg states that Colonel Gilder's Polar expedition, which started from that place on the 2nd of October last, has returned there.

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

DRESSES AT THE DRAWING ROOM.

At the Drawing Room held by the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday her Majesty wore a train and bodice of black velvet and silk trimmed with Russian sable over a black silk skirt trimmed with tulle and jet. Her Majesty wore a white tulle veil, surmounted by a coronet of diamonds, a necklace and earrings of diamonds, and the Koh-i-noor as a brooch. Orders—the Ribbon and Star of the Garter, Victoria and Albert, Crown of India, Royal Red Cross, Golden Lion of Hesse, and the Saxe-Coburg and Gotha Family Order. The Princess of Wales wore a dress of silver grey and silver brocade, with draperies of the brocade and crape embroidered in silver looped with grey and silver marabouts, train of brocade lined with satin duchesse and bordered with silver fringe and marabouts, corsage to correspond. Headdress, a tiara of diamonds, feathers, and veil; ornaments, pearls and diamonds. Orders—Victoria and Albert, the Crown of India, St. Catherine of Russia, and the Danish Family Order. Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein wore a train and corsage of black striped velvet, the train being lined in red satin, over a petticoat of the same material, with a jet tablier over red satin. Headdress, a tiara of diamonds, feathers, and veil; ornaments, diamonds. Orders—The Victoria and Albert, the Crown of India, and the Royal Red Cross. Princess Beatrice wore a dress and train of ruby velvet embroidered with beads of the same colour. Headdress, diadem of rubies and diamonds, feathers and veil; ornaments, rubies and diamonds. Orders—The Victoria and Albert, the Crown of India, the Royal Red Cross, and St. Isabella of Portugal, the Hessian and the Saxe-Coburg and Gotha Family Orders. The Duchess of Albany wore a dress of black corded silk, bead embroideries, and black veil; ornaments, pearls and diamonds. Orders—Victoria and Albert, Crown of India, Gotha, Royal Red Cross, and St. John of Jerusalem. Princess Louise of Wales wore a train of pearl white satin broché, lined faille and bordered in tulle and bouquets of lilies of the valley, corsage to correspond, trimmed tulle and lilies over a jupe of tulle in bouillonnées and plisses, looped with bouquets of lilies of the valley; ornaments, pearls, diamonds, and rubies. Order—Victoria and Albert. Princess Victoria of Wales wore a dress the same as Princess Louis; ornaments, diamonds and pearls. Order—Victoria and Albert.

Among the presentation dresses (writes a correspondent of the *Daily News*), one was much admired, which was composed of soft white muslin, with fringes and bouquets of lilac. This formed the petticoat and train, while the bodice was made of white satin, trimmed with sprays of white lilac. The bouquet carried with this was white lilac. Two sisters wore white dresses trimmed with white acacia and plumes of white feathers. The specialty of these gowns lay in the marvellous manner in which several miles of tulle had been frothed and foamed into snowy ridges and puffings and softly falling cataracts of flounces. A very lovely woman, tall, dark, graceful, and with the colouring of a June rose, wore a dress which on any one less handsome would have proved a complete extinguisher. It was made of velvet in the new shade of rose, very bright and glowing. A border of dark sable running round the whole train seemed to frame in the glow of the velvet. The petticoat was of crêpe matching the colour of the velvet, and striped with a beautiful embroidery in which gold and crystal were artistically mingled. The front was edged with a glittering fringe of gold and crystal, which fell over a ruche of silk in the tail of the velvet. This was pinked out like the edges of vine-leaves, and was further softened by surrounding waves of folded crêpe. The bodice was in velvet trimmed with folds of crêpe in front, the folds leaving uncovered a small space which was filled in with a few upstanding frills of crêpe, which had a curiously pretty effect. A line of dark fur followed the outline of the folds of crêpe, crossing on the top of the arm, where a glimpse of white shoulder showed between the bars of fur, which thence fell crosswise on the arm. It is difficult to gather from a written description any idea of the unique charm of this dress. Another of great beauty was made with bodice and train of brocade copied from the antique, in which the pearl-tinted ground was strewn with clusters of flowers in delicate tints. The train was lined with Rose Dubarry satin, and edged with a broad band of beaver. The petticoat was of a similar satin to that which lined the train, and was embroidered in tones of colour matching the flower on the brocade. The back was pink crêpe trimmed with ruches of the same. The bodice also was trimmed with folds of pink crêpe. A fair American wore a train of "jubilee" brocade. The colour was white, brocaded in blue and silver, with a design in which the rose, shamrock, and thistle were tastefully combined. The whole was edged with ruches of soft blue crêpe, tied with blue bows and lined with blue satin. The petticoat was of blue tulle exquisitely draped, the folds being caught here and there with great clusters of pink-shaded roses without foliage. The bodice, made of the brocade, was trimmed with folds of blue crêpe, crossing each other in front, and with sleeves also formed of folds of crêpe.

A beautiful combination of colours was found in a train of watercress-green velvet lined with white satin, and edged with a rich Romanesque brocade in gold and soft green, the design of which was copied from the tracery on some old Italian architecture. This was worn over a petticoat of white satin, showing through folds of watercress-green crêpe, and trimmed with a fine passementerie of green and gold worked on lisse. An unusual combination of tints was seen in a dark heliotrope satin embroidered with pale pink flowers relieved with dull green foliage and a few white blossoms. This train was lined with shrimp-pink satin. The petticoat was of heliotrope satin with a slight addition of the embroidery. Two sisters went dressed alike in gowns which achieved an æsthetic success. The colours are scarcely describable. The silk was in a tone of the softest and palest pink. The velvet was exactly the colour of the foam on sparkling Burgundy. The two combined in a marvellous way. The skirts were in silk veiled with a single cloud of tulle in the deeper tint. The train, in velvet of the deeper shade, was lined with the paler, and was caught up on the right shoulder in a manner that allowed the side to fall in curves and undulations in which the lining contrasted effectively with the velvet. A very long end of ribbon velvet in the deep shade and one of ribbon in the pale fell together from the top of the arm to the very edge of the skirt. The whole effect was excellent. Though the colours are indescribable, the impression they left on the mind was amethystine. Another charming toilet was of soft silk in the very palest tone of apple-green. The shade was precisely that of the very first and youngest leaves of the lilac-tree that unfold in April days. The bouquets were exquisite and for the most part deliciously fragrant. White lilac was in much request. Lily of the valley was another favourite. A posy of this flower alone was much admired for the grace with which the blossoms were arranged. The bouquets were nearly all tied up with ribbons matching the dress or its trimmings. Tulips were effectively used, their parrot-like tints of brilliant red and gold forming an appropriate corollary to brocades in which these colours were faintly shadowed forth. They seemed to have been collecting their forces in order to shine more gloriously in the flowers.

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THE MORNING PAPERS.

FACTION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The *Times* observes that a robust and unwavering faith in the vitality of parliamentary institutions is indispensable to the peace of mind of any public-spirited Englishman who watches what is happening from day to day in the House of Commons. It is not only that obstruction, once the patented invention and private property of a few irreconcilables, is now widely spread and unblushingly avowed among politicians closely associated with distinguished party leaders. It is not only that new methods of delaying public business are continually introduced and adopted with zeal or regarded with chastened resignation by responsible statesmen. The mischief goes far deeper and is much more dangerous. Obstruction, even in its most insidious forms, may be encountered by changes in the rules of the House; but it is difficult to see how any such changes can prevent the subversion of order, authority, and law which is wrought by the ruinous influence of faction. A large section of the Opposition, soured by defeat, have learnt to imitate the conduct of the Parnellites, and, perhaps, to better their instruction. What is still more serious is the change of demeanour towards the Speaker among some English and Scotch members and, at least in one instance, on the front Opposition bench. Mr. Gladstone himself is always deferential to the Chair; but some of his followers prefer to emulate the independent spirit of Mr. Healy or Dr. Tanner. This may be merely a question of manners, though the *Times* is afraid it is something more.

The *Standard* considers that the close identity of parliamentary morals as well as of political aim that has now been established between the extreme wing of Mr. Gladstone's following and the party of Mr. Parnell will tend to serve the common cause, may be doubted. The inference of all honest observers will be, that, baffled in their desire to snatch a verdict from the constituencies, they are now bent, by any means, on making good their contention that Ireland is ungovernable, and that the only way to secure a respite is to grant what the Irish members claim. That means, in short, that we are to buy a precarious truce by abandoning the rights and property of Loyalists to persons who share Mr. Dillon's agrarian ethics and are absolutely unrestrained by his scruples. It is satisfactory to note that, after something like nine hours' debate, the Constabulary Vote was at length carried by a majority of 246 against 121 votes. The Parnellites evidently did not obtain much Liberal support.

The *Daily Telegraph* says:—We make use of no hastily considered language in declaring that the present condition of the Imperial Parliament, and the spectacle afforded by the daily and nightly wrangle maintained within its walls, constitute an affront to the nation, an injury to its dearest interests, and a disgrace to those noble traditions which once made it the model of all constitutional assemblies. The public at large outside its doors have no adequate notion of the way in which week after week the national time is wasted and the national concerns are set at naught. It is necessary to be present at the deplorable and degrading scenes which have replaced all ancient dignity and honesty of debate to realize the miserable straits to which successful audacity and shameless cunning have brought the House of Commons. We are beholding the daily progress and the apparent triumph of a conspiracy against the State, in aspect innocent, but really deadlier and more guilty than many which in bygone times have been summarily dealt with. This state of things must cease. At any cost, by whatever action, the Government of the country must show itself equal to the emergency and crush once for all the plot which in Ireland perpetuates misery and at Westminster maintains a malignant obstruction.

The *Daily News* says that angry partisans will charge the Irish members with obstructing public business; but if there is a vote which ought to be amply debated, and which gives a legitimate opportunity for calling attention to grievances, it is that for the Irish constabulary. As a mere matter of pounds, shillings, and pence, it might hardly be worth while to spend an evening in discussing an expenditure of a few thousands; but the vote embodies and represents the principle on which our government of Ireland is carried on.

The *Yorkshire Post* says it is time to stop, if necessary with a high hand, this drivel in the House of Commons. The country is out of patience—most of all with the scandalous and disgraceful state of lawlessness and anarchy which exists across St. George's Channel. It is necessary, if Government is not to sink into utter contempt, that the reins of authority should be tightened, and that people should feel that the empire is not to be allowed to sink into a state of anarchy and general lawlessness for lack of men who possess the courage and decision to put their feet down upon a scandalous state of things in the House of Commons and a still more scandalous state of things in Ireland.

The *Irish Times* says that, amongst the many extraordinary similar scenes which in recent years the House of Commons has witnessed, none certainly has been so painful or humiliating to Irishmen of intelligence and independence as that of last night. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach certainly used strong language; but what right had Mr. John Dillon to cry out when answered in speech as rough as his own? He has driven the Government into speaking and acting thus.

THE SITUATION IN EUROPE.

The *Times* cannot regard it as a hopeful sign that the German Chancellor should advise the Emperor to say no more than that the foreign relations of Germany remain as they were when the military proposals were first mooted. Prince Bismarck is no longer under any temptation to adopt an alarmist tone for parliamentary purposes. If, therefore, any marked improvement had taken place in the general European situation, there was nothing to be lost by avowing it.

The *Morning Post* also believes that the speech will scarcely satisfy the public that the triumph of the Septennate in the last German elections has ensured the peace of Europe.

THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN BULGARIA.

The *Standard* finds it difficult to believe that the present revolutionary movement in Bulgaria has not been prepared by exceedingly dexterous hands and if Russia has given the signal for revolt, it is probable that the train has been laid and fired in several places. Should the Government succeed—as there is little doubt that it will—in baffling the designs of the hired agents of Russia, it ought not again to abstain from meting out sharp justice to the offenders. No Government can continue to exist that allows avowed conspirators to walk about unmolested. What is the real and final intention of Russia? Is it to abandon its agents in case they do not succeed; and will the abandonment of them go to the length of permitting them to be openly and heavily punished? These are the questions the consideration of which must inspire much anxiety. But surely the three European Powers would not again allow the Czar to throw his shield over men who had notoriously and openly striven to overturn a Government they have all recognized. Europe has tolerated a good deal from Russia. But there ought to be a limit to its indulgence.

The *Daily News* remarks that Bulgaria is a veritable Naboth's vineyard to the Czar, and, until the Balkan communities combine in self-defence, will always be an incentive to some sudden effort of ambition.



MAP OF THE RUSSIAN TRANS-ASIATIC RAILWAY (see p. 3).

THE MAGAZINES.

In *Blackwood* the crisis of "Sarracinesca" is fast approaching; and "Diane de Breteuille" makes satisfactory progress. The last promises to be a bright wholesome story, though these denizens of the "noble faubourg" seem to lie under some painful obligation to remind each other of their titles. The "Old Saloon" contains a good deal of sound criticism, notably on Mr. Cotter Morison, rather neatly hit off as a "Positivist Dissenter." The epigram on the Greville Memoirs the critic is mistaken in supposing he has printed for the first time: it appeared a dozen years ago in one of the "society" journals. The writer of "Russian Soldiers and Russian Armaments" gives the pith of the volume recently published by the English War Office; he does not believe that invading Russia would be a match for defending Germany—chiefly because of that untrustworthiness of Russian officers which Skobelev admitted and deplored. Sir Theodore Martin has a spirited paraphrase of the Ode to Pyrrha: to the more literal translation which accompanies it we continue to prefer Milton's—the "dank and dropping weeds," for instance, to the "brine-bedabbled clothes." "The First Move of the Separatists" is written in a hopeful and therefore a right strain; but is it quite correct to say that "the conspirators against the efficiency of Parliament and the union of the empire have been baffled and put to rout"? That is to allow them a troublesome power of rallying.

Beside some additional "Byroniana"—a more cruel publication than Mrs. Beecher Stowe ever perpetrated—*Murray's Magazine* has some valuable and quite practical hints on the "Education of the Eye and Fingers," by Mr. James Nasmyth, who presents an expert's estimate of the loss sustained by householders of all classes in England from the breakage of china, earthenware, and glass. Two millions sterling, it appears, represent the value of property destroyed by the domestic cat in a single year. Mrs. Bishop's "Under Chloroform" is a poetic phantasy of considerable merit; the psychic imaginings deserve to be compared with the sensuous visions of "Kubla Khan." Once through the gate of his dream Coleridge got free of metaphysics. In "Turkey and the Prophets," the Turks are reminded that they have still some excellent cards to play: especially as they can put more men in the field than in 1877.

To *Longman's Magazine* Mr. Theodore Bent contributes a delightful account of the Oven Islands, in the Ægean; which offer the most perfect example of patriarchal government that can be found in the world probably. The inhabitants all descend from a common ancestor—a retired sponge-fisher—who lives to exercise absolute sway over his descendants. In fiction, "Allan Quatermain" is, of course, the principal attraction; but the pretty little tale of "Sorel," by the author of "Christina North," should not be passed over. "At the Sign of the Ship" Mr. Andrew Lang gives an opinion on the controversy of the novelists: whom he rightly warns that they will for ever have to consider the feelings of the Young Person.

Time has a good paper on "The Round Table Conference," by Mr. St. Loe Strachey, who puts the attitude of Mr. Chamberlain towards Home Rule in its true light. Assuredly the coming leader of the Radical party does not mean to hang the millstone of a Parnellite alliance round his neck. But the treat of the number is Mr. George Moore's "Defensio pro Scriptis Meis" about as

amusing a piece of literary egotism as we remember to have met with. Detailing the composition of "A Drama in Muslin," he pronounces Alice Barton the "most modern of women," not to say the only serious creation of modern times. "Heretofore novelists have hardly if ever got away from Helen of Troy and Juliet."

We have already noticed Lord Wolseley's estimate of Lee in *Macmillan*; we may add that it includes an interesting summary of the Confederate commander's views on the negro question. Lee "hated slavery," and told Lord Wolseley that "he had long intended to gradually give his slaves their liberty." Under the head of "Lynch Law," Mr. A. H. Paterson gives an account of his own active participation in the execution of two unfortunates; who, however, deserved their fate. Among his recollections of the late Master of Trinity, the Bishop of Carlisle inserts a felicitous pun. It was disputed whether somebody had been a lawyer or a coachmaker. "Why not split the difference," asked Thompson, "and say he was a conveyancer?"

In *Temple Bar* we have a lively causerie on Lord George Gordon, who is pronounced not mad but bad. As we are returning to his times, it is well to remember that the riots grew out of processions which began "in perfect order and decorum." It is suggestive, too, to read how Thursday's Cabinet authorized Lord North "to prepare the civil officers to take measures to keep the peace," and how Lord N. "forgot to do so" till two o'clock of the fatal Friday. From "The True Story of Pickwick" it transpires that Thackeray applied in vain for the post of illustrator to the original issue. The *Argosy* opens with a few graceful stanzas to the memory of Mrs. Henry Wood, whose novel of "Lady Grace" has now acquired an exceptional value. It would in any case have repaid careful reading. The "Letters from Majorca" imply that that beautiful island will not be quite a desirable residence for Britons till hotel-keepers have learned to separate natives from visitors. A Balearic swineherd makes his presence too much felt at the *table d'hôte*.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* comes well 'up to its average. In "Chin-chin-wa" Mr. Charles Hannan imagines the adventures of an English renegade who should turn Chinaman; and the idea is powerfully worked out, though why our sympathies should be invoked on behalf of such a creature passes understanding. With regard to "The Fight for Home Rule," Mr. J. H. McCarthy avers that "the only serious enemy to the cause" is Lord Randolph Churchill. Of the stories in *Belgravia* we like "Mark Oldshaw's Revenge" the best. "Murder or Suicide," too, is well told, with the merit of ending in neither.

In the *English Illustrated Magazine*, Mr. Baring-Gould brings the half-pathetic, half-burlesque tale of "Jacquetta" to its only legitimate conclusion. Admirers of Hugh Conway will be glad to see how faithfully, in "Gerald," Mr. Stanley Weyman has reproduced the mystico-lurid manner of the master. Of the illustrated articles, the "Country of George Sand" and "Our Fishermen" are both of them informing, and pleasantly so.

Cassell supplies the usual amount of good and useful literature: some of the papers, indeed, are attractive enough to be provokingly short. It is quite impossible to do justice to "Bulls and Bears" in a couple of pages, however thrifly you use your space. The "Gatherer" announces, *inter alia*, a discovery about bees' stings, which their possessors have apparently no business

use as offensive weapons. A respectable bee employs his in capping the honey-comb and infusing formic acid into the honey to make it keep.

Good Words offers some capital "popular" instruction on the sun by Sir William Thomson, who thinks it would be "exceedingly rash" to reckon on its light for more than 6,000,000 years to come. Well, then, we must make ourselves content with the six millions. Mr. Francis Underwood has much to tell of Longfellow—e.g., how he refused payment for his charming song of "Daybreak." He said "it was such a trifle." We have it, too, on the best possible authority, that the poet of "Evangeline" never set foot in Nova Scotia.

The *Sunday Magazine* has a few readable notes on "Spiders," which we are cautioned not to call insects. Mr. Theodore Wood's "The Shore in Winter" is another light lecture in natural history; incidentally he reminds us that the doctrine of the immortality of animals long since found so orthodox an advocate as Dr. Adam Clarke.

Harper gives its place of honour to an exhaustive account of the New York Police Department, which has evidently attained to a high degree of efficiency. To show how discipline is maintained, we are told of a policeman who on his "day off" left the station-house at 6.20 A.M., was convicted of drunkenness and disorderly conduct at eleven, immediately reported to the superintendent, thence to the Police Board, and by 1 P.M. had ceased to be a member of the force. Mr. Theodore Child on "Duelling in Paris" is agreeably anecdotic. He communicates a letter from M. Rochefort, who has ascertained that "duelling is a product of Catholicism."

The *Atlantic Monthly* would be worth getting if only for the genial commencement of "Our Hundred Days in Europe," by Dr. Wendell Holmes; who goes into raptures over the rosy cheeks of English children, greatly admires the "thoroughly groomed" landscape, but absolutely declines to gossip about his London hosts. Mr. Lowell's copy of verses hardly explains the preliminary flourish of trumpets we recently heard; for which, however, Mr. Lowell was in no way responsible.

Among the good things of *Olympia* we may mention the third of the "Chats with Celebrities," of which Mr. W. B. Woodgate is the subject. It is a comfort to hear that that eminent oarsman thinks well of the rising generation: having no doubt that it is stronger, because better fed, than the youth of former years. "The average boy of sixteen in 1887 weighs fully seven pounds more than the boy of 1857." Mr. Woodgate ought to know.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

- SONS.**
ALEXANDER, Mrs. Francis, at Eccleston-square, March 2.
BURKIDGE, wife of Rev. Edward V., at St. Martin's Vicarage, near Chirk, Salop, March 2.
HOME, Mrs. F. Wyville, at Gordon-villas, Woodside, Surrey, Feb. 28.
SKINNER, Mrs. Thomas, at Gazzi, Messina, Sicily, Feb. 24.
STALLIKRASS, Mrs. J., at Hilldrop-crescent, Feb. 27.
VENTRIS, wife of Lieut.-Colonel F., and Essex Regiment, at Lee, Feb. 20.
WATTS, Mrs. Walter W., at Eldon-villas, Peckham-road, Feb. 28.
- DAUGHTERS.**
FRY, Mrs. Alexander G., at Ramsden-road, Balham, Feb. 28.
IVORY, wife of Mr. Holmes, W.S., at Lennox-street, Edinburgh, March 2.
KITSON, Lady, at Gledhow Hall, Leeds, March 2.
LOYD, Mrs. Francis A., at Oxford-gardens, W., March 2.
OWEN, Mrs. T., at Thornlaw-road, West Norwood, March 2.
PONTIFEX, Mrs. F. E., at Wellesley House, Sistova-road, Balham, March 2.
ROBERTS, Mrs. Edwin, at Ladbroke-crescent, W., Feb. 27.

MARRIAGES.

- BRUMELL—ARNISON.—At Jesmond Parish Church, Bertram, son of Mr. George Brumell, of The Willows, Morpeth, to Margaret W., daughter of Mr. J. S. Arnison, of Sandford House, Newcastle-on-Tyne, March 2.
HUTTON—FURNER.—In Bayswater, George B., son of Captain Howard Hutton, of Auckland, N.Z., to Lillian M., daughter of Mr. George H. Furner, of Ontario, Feb. 9.
KOMAROWSKY—MARTINOFF.—In Moscow, Lieut.-General Count Komarowsky to Mademoiselle Emilie Martinoff, Feb. 20.
LEWIS—WYBURN.—At Carlton-avenue, Brooklyn, U.S.A., Sidney H., son of Mr. William R. Lewis, of Paternoster-row, London, to Jennie, daughter of Mr. Robert Wyburn, Jan. 26.
- McAFEE—MORRIS.—At Surat, Mr. Francis L. McAfee, B.A., Principal of Irish Presbyterian High School Ahmedabad, Bombay Presidency, to Rosa Morris, Lady Superintendent of the Training College, Ahmedabad, daughter of the late Mr. James Morris, of Mornington House Clapham-road, London, Dec. 22.
MODERA—RIACH.—At St. Mary's, Wimbledon, Conrad, son of Mr. Frederick Modera, late of Hopefield, Didsbury, to Effie S., daughter of Mr. Malcolm S. Riach, of Grosvenor-hill, Wimbledon, March 1.
STUART—STODART.—At the Edinburgh Hotel, Edinburgh, Mr. Laurence Stuart, of Manila, to Janet S., daughter of Mr. David Stodart, of Lanark, March 2.

DEATHS.

- ARMITAGE, Mr. William J., of Windsor-road, Forest-gate, E., and Old-street, E.C., aged 53, Feb. 28.
BOUSFIELD, Mr. Samuel, formerly of Streatham-hill, Surrey, at Horsham, aged 74, Feb. 28.
CARRY, Haviland, son of Rev. E. T., Vicar of St. Ippolyts, Hitchin, at Aldenham School, aged 24, Feb. 2.
ELLIOT, Sir Walter, K.C.S.I., etc., of Wolfelee, at Wolfelee, Roxburghshire, aged 84, March 1.
ELSERV, Mr. Thomas, late of Guildford, at Bagshot, aged 71, Feb. 28.
FRASER, Emily, widow of Mr. John M., at Palace-houses, Bayswater-hill, aged 72, Feb. 28.
FULTON, Jane, daughter of the late Mr. James, of Lisburn, Ireland, at Dacre Park, Lee, aged 85, Feb. 25.
GREGORY, Mr. Thomas, late of Hull, at Portland-road, South Norwood, aged 65, Feb. 28.
HALL, Christina T., infant daughter of Mr. J. W. Teverill, at Wetherdene, Thatcham, Berkshire, Feb. 27.
HILL, Cicely, widow of the Rev. Charles D., of Vaiding, Kent, at Grove, Bedford, aged 80, Feb. 27.
JEFFERY, Mr. William, of Manor House, Romsey, at Eastleigh, near Southampton, aged 78, Feb. 28.
- LAUBER, Caroline, widow of Mr. Ludwig, of Brighton, at Ramsden-road, Balham, S.W., Feb. 27.
MACLEOD, Elizabeth R. D., widow of Mr. William K., of Brest, France, at Leemount, Queenstown, aged 71, Feb. 25.
MARSHALL, Mr. William S., formerly of the Strand, at Boldshay Hall, Bradford, aged 56, Feb. 24.
PLOWDEN, Ellen, widow of Mr. Augustus U. C., Bengal C.S., at Beechlands, Malvern Wells, Worcestershire, aged 69, March 1.
PODMORE, Hodgson, son of the late Mr. Robert, of the Stock Exchange, at Grand Rapids, N.W.T., Canada, aged 56, Dec. 22.
PRYCE, Jane, wife of Mr. David T., of Bronwylfa, Corwen, aged 59, March 1.
REES, Mr. John J., at Mount Pleasant, Mayfield, Sussex, aged 66, Feb. 27.
TRENCH, Elizabeth S., widow of Mr. William S., at Monkstown, county Dublin, aged 82, March 1.
WEBB, William A. V., son of Deputy-Surgeon General W. M., at Ainslie-place, Edinburgh, aged 6, March 1.
WHITE, Jane, wife of Mr. Thomas, J.P. for the County of Worcester, at The Newlands, Bromsgrove, Feb. 26.

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O. C. Waterfield, Esq., Director Imperial Ottoman Bank.

RESIDENT IN FRANCE.
Vice-Amiral en retraite Jean P. E. de Fauque de Jonquières, G.O., Membre de l'Institut.
General de Division en retraite Charles Antoine Thomas, G.O., &c., &c.
Mons. Theodor Favarger, Managing Directors.
Mons. Jacques Creuzé De La Touche, Will join the Board after Allotment.

BANKERS.
Messrs. Smith, Payne and Smiths, Lombard-street.

SOLICITORS.
Messrs. Bircham and Co., 46, Parliament-street, Westminster, S.W., and Winchester-house, Old Broad-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.
Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co., Gresham-street, London, E.C.

SECRETARY (pro tem.).—J. H. P. Bevan, Esq.
OFFICES.—Winchester-house, Old Broad-street, E.C.

The business of Hotchkiss and Co. has been in existence since the year 1873, and was conducted until his death (which occurred in February, 1885) by the late Mr. B. B. Hotchkiss in conjunction with the present managing directors, and since his death by them alone. It has now been determined to continue this business by means of a Limited Company in England and by a Société Anonyme in France, the interests in the latter being vested in the English Company and included in the purchase. The business has a world-wide reputation, and the earnings from the year 1880 to the present time have been considerable and steadily progressive. The books of the firm for 1884, 1885, and 1886 have been carefully investigated by Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co., whose certificate is annexed, and show the following net results:—

	£	s.	d.
1884	99,923	4	5
1885	161,293	1	5
1886	185,278	12	1

These figures are arrived at after a more than ordinary proportion of revenue has been written off each year in respect of buildings, plant, and machinery.

The business has been taken over from the vendor as a going concern, as from 1st January, 1887, from which date the Company is entitled to all the profits. The orders now in hand indicate an increase of business over that of the last two years, and further extensive contracts are being negotiated.

Assuming, for the sake of example, the divisible profits to be £160,000, that sum would be applicable as follows:—

1. To the payment of interest and sinking-fund of the Debentures	£31,500
2. To the payment of a dividend of 7 per cent. on the Preference Shares	24,500
3. To the payment of a dividend of 20 per cent. on the Ordinary Shares	90,000
	146,000
Managing Directors' percentage, as stated below	£3,650
Surplus	10,350
	£160,000

Any surplus, except in so far as it may be considered advisable to form a reserve, would be available for increased distribution between Preference and Ordinary shares, both of which will rank for dividend *pro rata* after 20 per cent. has been paid to the latter. After the redemption of the Debentures, the above sum of £31,500 will be available for distribution as dividend on the shares.

The English Company acquires from the vendor, as from the 1st January last, the whole of the assets of the Hotchkiss business (less the liabilities shown in balance-sheet and the undivided profits of the year 1886), together with the factory, plant, machinery, materials, guns, and ammunition manufactured and in course of manufacture, the very valuable patents

and contracts, royalties, leases, as well as the whole of the interest in the French Société Anonyme, for the sum of £1,050,000, leaving £50,000 for working capital which, in the opinion of the Managing Directors, is amply sufficient.

The Managing Directors—Messrs. Favarger, Koerner, and De Latouche—who so successfully conducted the business with Mr. Hotchkiss until his death, and since then alone, have entered into a contract to remain with the Company, and to give their exclusive services to its management for a period of fifteen years, terminable after five or ten years. Should the period be so determined, the Managing Directors are still precluded from engaging in any similar business for the residue of years up to fifteen years. After a dividend of 15 per cent. has been paid to the Ordinary shareholders, the said Managing Directors will become entitled to one-tenth of surplus net profits.

Captain R. Macneill, who was the sole representative of the late Mr. Hotchkiss in England for the last seven years, will continue to assist the Company, and the Directors will have the advantage of his advice and experience at the Board.

The works of the Company are at St. Denis, near Paris, where a factory employing from 700 to 800 hands is in full operation. The business has been conducted with great intelligence, and special economy of labour is exhibited in all the manufacturing departments. About two years ago the British Government desired that orders for the construction of war material should be executed in England, and consequently a contract for a term of ten years certain, dated 15th June, 1885, was made with the firm of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Mitchell and Co., Limited, by whom the orders received from the British Government are executed on account of the Hotchkiss Company. Similar arrangements have been made with the Gruson-Werk for the manufacture of Hotchkiss Revolving Cannon and Ammunition for the German Government, and negotiations of a like nature with other Governments are now in progress, rendering the business an international one, and modifying the effect of any edict prohibiting the export of war material in time of war.

Hotchkiss Guns and Ammunition have been adopted by nearly all the European Powers, the United States of America, and by several of the South American States, and form an important part of the regular armaments of the following Governments:—

England, India and the Colonies	Holland
France	Spain
Germany	Greece
Russia	Norway
Austria	Portugal
Italy	China
Denmark	United States of America
	South American States.
	Etc., etc., etc.

Since the original patents were obtained (the most important having been taken out in December, 1881), improvements and additions have been from time to time made and patented which effectively prolong the patents.

The business of the firm is now securely established, and there is a constant and increasing demand for its manufactures.

Measures have been taken to protect and indemnify the Company against any existing claims made in respect of the Company's patents.

The Vendor, acting under the guarantee of certain parties, has recently purchased the business and property from the heirs and legal representatives of the late Mr. Hotchkiss, and from the representatives of the firm of Messrs. Hotchkiss and Co.; he has fixed the purchase-money to be paid by the Company as above; he has agreed out of the profits to acquire and make over to the Company, or as it may direct, the freehold land, on which the leasehold works are now erected at St. Denis, and to defray all the preliminary expenses of the formation, registration, and raising of the capital of the Company.

COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF MESSRS. PRICE, WATERHOUSE AND CO.
44, Gresham-street, E.C.,

24th February, 1887.
We have examined the Books in Paris of Messrs. Favarger, Koerner de Latouche et Cie., Ancienne Maison Hotchkiss et Cie., for the three years ending 31st December, 1886, and we have to report that, after making what in our opinion is a very ample provision for depreciation of Plant, Machinery, and Buildings as a going concern, the net profits, before charging interest on partners' capital, were as follows:—

	Francs.	Cents.	Sterling (at 25.25 per £)
Year ending 31st December, 1884	2,523,061	28	99,923 4 5
Year ending 31st December, 1885	4,123,150	09	161,293 1 5
Year ending 31st December, 1886	4,678,234	85	185,278 12 1

(Signed) PRICE, WATERHOUSE, & CO.

The following Contracts have been entered into, viz.: 1. Two Agreements dated the 10th of February, 1887, between William Curtis Gulliver, Maria Harriet Bissell Hotchkiss, of the first part; Maria Harriet Bissell Hotchkiss, Frederick Abijah Hotchkiss, Dwight Hotchkiss, Dorlton H. McKelvey, of the second part; Theodor Charles Favarger, Alfred Christopher Koerner, and Jacques Creuzé de Latouche, of the third part; and Bronson Willett (hereinafter referred to as the Vendor) of the fourth part. 2. An Agreement dated the 2nd of March, 1887, between the said Bronson Willett of the one part, and the Company of the other part. 3. An Agreement, dated 2nd of March, 1887, between the Company and Messieurs Favarger, Koerner, and De Latouche. 4. Contracts with a syndicate which has guaranteed the subscription for the share and debenture capital now offered, and applicants will be deemed to have notice thereof. There may be other existing contracts within the meaning of Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867, but, in order to prevent any questions, applicants must be deemed to waive any further compliance with that section.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and of the Form of Debentures, and of the above Contracts Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, may be inspected at the offices of Messrs. Bircham and Co., 46, Parliament-street, S.W.

Application for Shares must be made on the form enclosed with the prospectus, and forwarded, together with the deposit of 5 per cent., to Messrs. Antony Gibbs and Sons, No. 25, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C.

In the event of no allotment being made, the money will be returned in full.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from Messrs. Antony Gibbs and Sons, No. 25, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C.; from Smith, Payne, and Smiths, Bankers; from the Offices of the Company, Winchester House, Old Broad-street, E.C., and No. 49, Parliament-street, S.W. London, March 3rd, 1887.

WHAT IS THIS DISEASE THAT IS COMING UPON US?

LIKE a thief at night, it steals upon us unawares. Many persons have pains about the chest and sides and sometimes in the back. They feel dull and sleepy; the mouth has a bad taste, especially in the morning. A sort of sticky slime collects about the teeth. The appetite is poor. There is a feeling like a heavy load on the stomach; sometimes a faint all-gone sensation at the pit of the stomach, which food does not satisfy. The eyes are sunken, the hands and feet become cold and feel clammy. After a while a cough sets in, at first dry, but after a few months it is attended with a greenish-coloured expectoration. The afflicted one feels tired all the while, and sleep does not seem to afford any rest. After a time he becomes nervous, irritable, and has evil forebodings. There is a giddiness, a sort of whirling sensation in the head when rising up suddenly. The bowels become costive; the skin is dry and hot at times;

the blood becomes thick and stagnant; the whites of the eyes become tinged with yellow. There is frequently a spitting up of the food, sometimes with a sour taste, and sometimes with a sweetish taste; this is frequently attended with a palpitation of the heart; the vision becomes impaired, with spots before the eyes; there is a feeling of great prostration and weakness. All of these symptoms are in turn present. It is thought that nearly one-third of our population has this disease in some of its varied forms. It has been found that medical men have mistaken the nature of this disease. The disease is Dyspepsia or Indigestion, for which Seigel's Curative Syrup is a certain remedy.

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