

# THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE

An Evening Review and Record of News.

No. 2106.—VOL. XIV.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 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 NEXT, March 12.  
The prospectus is in course of preparation, and will be shortly issued.  
The Box-office will open on Monday, March 7.

## DRURY LANE.

**DRURY LANE.—AUGUSTUS HARRIS, Lessee and Manager.**  
EVERY EVENING, at 7.25: Morning Performance EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and SATURDAY, at 1.25, THE FORTY THIEVES. The best pantomime ever produced at Drury Lane, the finest spectacle ever seen, and played by the best and funniest company ever gathered together.  
TO-DAY, at 1.25 and 7.25, 106th and 107th Performances.

## 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 (417th time). Mr. William Terriss, Messrs. Beveridge, Garden, Maclean, Lyndal, Boleyn, Russell, Wentworth, Travers, &c.; Mesdames Millward, Achurch, 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; Mesdames John Bingham, 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-DAY (Saturday), at 2.30.—OPERA COMIQUE THEATRE. Manager, F. J. Harris.

## VAUDEVILLE.

**VAUDEVILLE.—THIS EVENING, at 8.30, SOPHIA (2-o-h time), by Robert Buchanan.** Messrs. THOMAS THORNE, Carlton, Thorne, Farquhar, Mellish, Grove, Wheatman, and LEONARD BOYNE; Mesdames Larkin, Leclercq, Venn, Forsyth, and K. Rorke. At 7.45, NEARLY SEVERED. MATINEE TO-DAY and 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, and TO-DAY at 2.30, an original Comedy-Opera, entitled DOROTHY, by B. C. Stephenson and Alfred Cellier. Preceded, at 7.45, by A HAPPY DAY, by Richard Henry. Doors open 7.30.

## PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.

**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 Dream-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.

## 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.

## GAIETY.

**GAIETY THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, GEORGE EDWARDS.**—THIS DAY at 2, and 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'O'LY CARTE, Proprietor and Manager.**—EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, the New and Original Supernatural Opera, in Two Acts, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, entitled RUDDIGORE; OR, THE WITCH'S CURSE. Messrs. G. Grossmith, R. Barrington, R. Temple, R. Lewis, and D. Lely; Mesdames L. Braham, Jessie Bond, J. Findlay, and R. Brandram. Preceded, at 7.40, by THE CARP. Doors open 7.30. Box-office open from 9 A.M. till 11 P.M. Morning Performance of RUDDIGORE, TO-DAY and every SATURDAY, at 2.30.

## HAYMARKET.

**HAYMARKET.—Lessee and Managers, Mr. E. RUSSELL and Mr. G. F. BASHFORD.**—EVERY EVENING, at 8, a play in four acts by Henry Arthur Jones, entitled HARD HIT. Mr. E. S. Willard, Mr. Arthur Dacre, Mr. H. Kemble, Mr. Frank Archer, Mr. P. Ben Greet, Mr. C. Dodsworth, Mr. U. Winter, Mr. Compton Coult, Mr. Fenton, Mr. Ferrand, and Mr. H. Beerbohm-Tree; Miss Mary Korke, 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. HARRIS and Mr. KENDAL.** THIS EVENING, at 8, will be acted

## LADY CLANCARTY.

Drama in Four Acts, written by the late Tom Taylor. The principal characters will be acted by Mr. Kendal, Messrs. Waring, Mackintosh, 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, THE TWO BLINDS; at 8.25, HOME RULE. Last Weeks owing to expiry of lease. MATINEE at 2.30 every SATURDAY.—Acting Manager, Mr. H. T. Brickwell.

## PRINCESS'S.

**PRINCESS'S THEATRE.** THE NOBLE VAGABOND, by Henry Arthur Jones, at 8.15, in which Mr. Charles Warner, Messrs. George Barrett, Charles Cartwright, Julian Cross, E. W. Thomas, E. Gurney; Mesdames Dorothy Dene, Bella Titherage, 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.

## CRITERION.

**CRITERION THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNNDHAM.** At 8, DAVID GARRICK. Mr. CHARLES WYNNDHAM; Messrs. G. Giddens, W. Blakeley, and David James; Mesdames Rose Baker, F. Paget, E. Miller, and Mary Moore. Preceded by, at 8, "WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN?" Doors open at 7.30. N.B.—MATINEE of DAVID GARRICK TO-DAY (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, Mmes. Anadi, Miss Kate Lawler, 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. Lutz, and John Clayton; Misses Norreys, Laura Linden, Marie Lewes, and Mrs. John Wood. At 8 o'clock, THE NETTLE. Miss Cudmore, Mr. Kerr. Box-office open to till 5. No fees.

**DANDY DICK.—MATINEE TO-DAY and every Saturday, at 2.30.—COURT THEATRE.**

**PARIS HIPPODROME at OLYMPIA.** Addison-road Station, Kensington. TO-DAY, at 2.30, TO-NIGHT, at 8, The Olympian Races, Roman Chariot Races, Triple Tandem of Jumping Horses. The wonderful Family of Lions. The Six Performing Elephants (by Mr. Lockhart), the Obstacle and Foot Races for Money Prizes, and the Manœuvre 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.

**ROYAL ALBERT HALL.**

The ANGLO-JEWISH HISTORICAL EXHIBITION will open DAILY from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M., commencing MONDAY, April 4. Admission, One Shilling.

## VICTORIA INCANDESCENT LAMPS. NOTICE.

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.

By order,  
E. GARCKE, Secretary and Assistant Manager.  
112, Belvedere-road, S.E.,  
and March, 1887.

## SUNDAY BOATING in the ROYAL PARKS.

A MOTION will be made in PARLIAMENT on TUESDAY, March 29, for the RESCINDING of the ORDER permitting this Sunday desecration, recently made by the Board of Works. The motion should be supported by petitions especially from London. Send for forms to

JOHN GRITTON, D.D.  
Lord's Day Observance Society,  
20, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

## ITALIAN CHURCH, HATTON GARDEN, E.C.

TO-MORROW (Sunday), SOLEMN HIGH MASS, 11.15 A.M. GRAND SPECIAL SERVICE, 7 P.M.

## COLONIES.—Openings for PUPILS

on Good Stock and Grain Farms, and larger Estates in Canada, the United States and Tasmania. Pamphlet free.—FORD, RATHBONE, and Co., 21, Finsbury-pavement, London.

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MATTHEW HODGSON, Secretary.

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# AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND TASMANIA.—ORIENT LINE. FORTNIGHTLY MAIL SERVICE.

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:—

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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.

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

OFFICES OF THE INSTITUTIONS,

18 to 26, STEPNEY CAUSEWAY, LONDON, E.

**RADLEY COLLEGE.**—Six Scholarships—four of £50, one of £30, one of £20—will be competed for in June next. Candidates must have been under 14 on the 1st January, 1887. For further particulars apply to the WARDEN, Radley College, near Abingdon.

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

**HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.**—SURE RELIEF.—Rheumatism, neuralgia, gouty pangs, and flying pains, very distressing to a delicate system, may be readily removed by rubbing this Ointment upon the affected part after it has been fomented with warm water. The Pills taken occasionally in the doses prescribed keep the digestion in order, excite a free flow of healthy bile, and replenish the impoverished blood.

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## THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1887.

## CHURCH PATRONAGE.

THAT the Church Patronage Bill which was read a second time in the House of Lords on Thursday night may be made into a useful measure in Committee is a proposition we are willing to accept. Something of the kind has been rendered necessary by the growth of anomalies in the Church which, however harmless in practice, are not easily defensible in theory. It is the same with all other institutions. Customs and conventions gradually grow up to which no fault can be imputed except that they are not reconcilable with some principle. Then, when the more sensitive conscience of the present age takes alarm at them, it is impossible to neglect its voice; and therefore in this particular instance before us we readily subscribe to the formula that "something must be done."

One of the two principal abuses against which the present measure is directed is the sale of livings in the Church. Now, one would have thought that on this, if on any point, the assailants of the existing system might have got up a strong case. If the sale of livings floods the Church with inefficient or improper clergymen, there should be some evidence of the fact. But no evidence has yet been advanced to show that the incumbents of livings which have been purchased are distinguishable from others. It is taken for granted that the practice must necessarily produce worse men. The argument is an exclusively *a priori* one, and like many others of the same kind does not stand the test of experience. Nevertheless the system can be called a public scandal, and must be amended. The Bill restricts the right of buying livings to certain persons—*i.e.*, to public patrons, such as the universities or the Crown; to qualified parishioners who possess a certain quantity of land in the same parish; and to a Council of Presentations, of which more hereafter. But as the sale of advowsons is limited to these, these in turn must gradually become the chief if not the sole possessors of this kind of patronage. The universities, for instance, have little interest, probably, in extending their ecclesiastical patronage, and would prefer to sell some which they already possess. The Council would always be ready to buy and would seldom care to sell. And thus by slow degrees the diversity of character and opinion and the independent tone of the English clergy, which are one of the results of private patronage, would be in some measure lost to the Church of England. On the other hand, if an end is to be put to notorious abuses, if the clerical agent and sales by auction are to be got rid of, it is difficult to avoid interfering with the rights of patrons. But though difficult, it may not be found impossible to discover some other way of accomplishing the same end which shall prevent the accumulation of patronage in a few hands, and preserve to our parochial clergy those special characteristics which are the source of half their usefulness and popularity.

The second object which the Bill sets before itself is the creation of some additional check on the presentation of unfit persons, or persons who are not likely to be acceptable to their future congregations. For this purpose a curiously complicated machinery is set up; but it all comes to this—that a body called the Council of Presentations is to be formed in every diocese consisting of clergymen and laymen—two of the latter for each archdeaconry to be elected by the representatives of each parish, who are in turn to be elected by the ratepayers. This body may, as we have said, acquire and hold patronage; and it is also "to inquire into the qualifications of persons" presented to the Bishop for institution. The essential feature of this arrangement is that it gives to the parishioners a voice in the appointment of their clergyman, as they will be empowered to lay before the Bishop any objections they may entertain to any particular presentee; and the Bishop, may, if he likes, refer them for consideration to their popularly elected council. Now, if this only means that when the parishioners are acquainted with notorious facts not likely to be known to persons at a distance affecting the character or capacity of a presentee they may report them to the Bishop, it seems marvellous that they should not be able to do so as it is. But if it means that they are to have the power of setting an inquisitorial machinery in motion whenever two or three of them object to a presentee on general grounds, and hope that inquiry may rake up something to his disadvantage, no words are strong enough to condemn such a tribunal. Its advocates say that no such objections would ever be raised by parishioners, and that neither the Bishop nor the Council of Presentations would entertain them even if they were. We are not quite sure of the grounds on which this confident expectation rests. Those who know the parochial busybody will hardly count on his

acting with uniform good sense and good feeling in such a matter as this; while, on the other hand, if such representations were persistently disregarded, the cry would at once be raised that the council was a mockery, and that another must be formed, elected directly by the ratepayers. In fact the germs of the demand are in existence even now, before the experiment has been tried. Why cannot the Bishop be allowed to decide such questions? He is the fittest person to determine them, and we agree with Lord SALISBURY that he ought not to be allowed to divide his responsibility with anybody. It seems to us that by this Bill a power will be created, which is not likely to lie dormant, of putting nominees upon their trial, and of exposing every clergyman on presentation to a benefice to have his whole previous life ripped up for inspection. If the improper sale of Church patronage can be done away with by some system of supervision which shall retain the advantages of the present system, and if the constitution and functions of the Council of Presentations can be so altered as to save us from all danger of the worst excesses of popular election, the Bill will be a useful measure: otherwise it will do at least as much harm as good.

## THE HITTITES.

APROPOS of the announcement that Captain Conder has deciphered the Hittite inscriptions, a correspondent sends us the following account of a very ancient people.

The Hittites of the Bible were one of the most powerful of the tribes who inhabited Canaan in patriarchal times; and it is probable that the Old Testament allusions to them refer for the most part to the branch which at that period had migrated from Northern Syria and settled near Hebron, in Southern Palestine. Abraham purchased his burial-place, the cave of Machpelah "in the field of Ephron the Hittite." To this race, too, belonged Judith and Bashemath, Esau's wives. Ahimelech, David's companion, was a Hittite; so too was Uriah; and there were Hittite princesses amongst Solomon's wives. But of the Hittites of the north the Bible tells us little. There is not much doubt, however, that they were identical with the Kheta of the Egyptian monuments and the Khatti of the Assyrian tablets, and that their dynasties belonged to prehistoric ages. Whether they were Turanians or no, they were certainly at a very early epoch a dominant race who ruled the Semitic tribes around them.

The Egyptian sculptors represented them with a Tartar type of physiognomy. They wore pointed boots instead of sandals, and had pig-tails. In the eighteenth and nineteenth Egyptian dynasties the great capitals of the Kheta were Carchemish on the Euphrates and Kadesh on the Orontes. The site of the latter city was identified beyond a doubt by Captain Conder in 1881. As early as 1600 B.C.—that is, before the Hebrew conquest of Canaan—the extension of the Kheta southwards was checked by the Egyptians at the Battle of Megiddo; while Rameses II., about 1361 B.C., besieged and took Kadesh. The sculptures at Abu Simbel represent this great battle, and in them the Egyptian sculptors have, as usual, introduced an element of caricature. Rameses appears driving the Hittites into the river; and on the opposite bank their half-drowned chief is being held head downwards by his followers, who are endeavouring to revive him by this primitive and still popular method. The terms of the treaty subsequently concluded between Rameses and Kheta Sar were engraved on a silver plate, and also inscribed on the outer walls of the temple at Karnak. From the Egyptian description of this document we know that, although the Hittite names were not Semitic, they worshipped Ashtoreth and Set, the gods of the Syrians, Assyrians, and Phœnicians. These seem, moreover, to have been the generic names of local deities. Set appears, too, to have been identical with the Egyptian deity of that name—the God of Night, whose emblem was an ass with tail raised. The mountains and rivers of Khetaland were also invoked as divinities. The tablet further shows how advanced were their military tactics; and among their allies have been recognized the Mysians, the Dardanians, the men of Carchemish and Aleppo, the inhabitants of Mesopotamia, and of the island of Aradus. It was a confederacy of Syria and Chaldea, Phœnicia, and Asia Minor against the Pharaohs. At this period, indeed, the Hittites were nearly equal in power to the Egyptians, and the treasures which Rameses took at Kadesh prove that they were nearly as wealthy a people. Nor do their wealth and power seem to have much diminished until they were totally eclipsed by the rising power of Babylon.

But we have shown that in still earlier times than those of which we have any record the Hittites were probably a yet more powerful race. There are not wanting grounds to justify the belief that their empire at one time extended to the borders of Egypt. Although it is thought, from the evidence of the Hittite proper names, that some of the tribes north of Carchemish and Aleppo were of the same race, we have no proof that they ever spread north of the Taurus chain. To the south, however, as well as at Hebron, there are philological traces of the tribe having lived at some epoch or other at Hit on the Euphrates, at Tell Hatteh near Kadesh, and even at Kefr Hatteh in Philistia. From all this it will be seen that there is plenty of room for believing that Hittite record, if it is ever known, may take us back to prehistoric times. As to the inscriptions which are at present known to be in this script, there are five basaltic texts in relief at Hamath, one at Aleppo, six at Jerabis. At Ibreez there is a bas-relief. There is an inscription on the so-called statue of Sesostri at Karabel, and another on the statue of the weeping Niobe on Mount Sipylus. There are texts at Boghaz Keui, and at Eyuk, which is not far inland from the shores of the Black Sea. A stone bowl has lately been found at Babylon with an incised inscription of the same character as the Hamath stones. Upon this Captain Conder, in his

recent volume on "Syrian Stone Lore," tentatively based the conjecture that the key to the language might be found in Babylonia. Then there are the terra reals, discovered by Sir Henry Layard in the Record Chamber of Sennacherib's Palace at Kouyunjik, which are now in the British Museum; and the silver boss of Tarkondemos, with Hittite and cuneiform inscription, of which fortunately an electrotpe fac-simile was taken, although the original was rejected by the British Museum as a forgery and is now believed to have been lost. All these examples have established the fact that this writing was used by a people who spread themselves over Asia Minor, Northern Syria, and Mesopotamia, possibly before Egypt was a Power. It will be of great interest to know whether Mr. Gladstone's conjecture that they were identical with the *Khiteoi*, of Homer—the only allusion to them which has ever been detected in classic history—can be supported. Above all will it be interesting to see how far the arguments whereby Dr. Wright has endeavored to assign to "The Empire of the Hittites" its true place in ancient history can be verified.

## NOTES.

The news of to day is that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach has resigned office as Chief Secretary for Ireland. For this announcement the public were prepared by a variety of reports in the morning papers. According to one account Sir Michael's health has broken down under the strain of his most arduous labours. There is some truth in this; but the more immediate cause of suffering is a painful affection of the eyes, which, as we learn from the report of his medical advisers, makes it necessary that he should give up all business at once. But for their certificate, which we publish in our news columns, Sir Michael's retirement would no doubt have been explained by political differences. The Government measures for dealing with Ireland have now been broadly decided on; they will soon be presented to the Legislature; and as it is known that Sir Michael has differed from his colleagues before on this subject, even now perhaps, it will be said in some quarters that new differences really account for his withdrawal from official life. The medical certificate, however, with its array of honourable names, ought to dispose of all assertion of that kind. If not, it will be easy for Sir Michael Beach to declare that disagreement with his colleagues has nothing to do with his retirement: which we very much hope will not be for long.

We confess to having very little interest in the Procedure debate. It goes on, and will go on; and when it is ended the proposals of the Government will become as much a law to the House of Commons as the ingenuities of obstruction allow. Meanwhile, if we were compelled to say anything of the debate so far as it has gone, we should say "ditto to Mr. Courtney." But then this is a case in which there is no use in saying anything. The old order of things, in which the Speaker had to go upon clear and well-defined rules, and could always point to established law and custom whenever he interposed his authority, has been broken up. More is to be done in the same direction, which we have said, and still say, is a very doubtful one indeed. The trust that all men have in her Majesty's judges would be sapped before long if they were at liberty to decide arbitrarily and out of their own heads; and so we are afraid it will be with House of Commons Speakers by-and-by: which will be no gain certainly.

The "inveterate cockneys" who seem to believe that it is possible to get rid of tithes by a stroke of the pen must have learned something both from the discussion at the Tithe Conference and from Lord Salisbury's remarks to the deputation which waited upon him yesterday. As the Prime Minister says, it is a subject of great intricacy. On the question of the revaluation of the tithe no one but an expert in agricultural statistics can pronounce an authoritative opinion; and there are no statistics much more doubtful than those which relate to the returns from British land. As to the idea of shifting the payment of the tithe from the farmer to the landlord in name as well as in fact, it may be unobjectionable; but it is difficult to see how it will help the former. At any rate, it would not be received favourably by the Welsh anti-tithe agitators, whose objections to the tax will not be removed as long as it is paid to the parson.

The most valuable part of the discussion of the Irish jury laws in the House of Lords was Lord Ashbourne's catalogue of examples of juror intimidation in Ireland. He showed—what, indeed, is well enough known to the few Englishmen who read the Irish newspapers—that jurors do their duty in Ireland at the risk, if not of their life, at any rate of commercial and social ruin. This is the kind of document issued forth by the rebel party when prisoners have been convicted on the clearest evidence. "Among the pliant jurors who did the work of the Crown were to be found two Kerry men—namely, — and —, with whom the people of Kerry have had extensive dealings in the butter trade. Farmers of Kerry, will you continue during the coming season to send butter to these worse than horrid men?" Is it to be wondered at in these circumstances that the Crown has to select its jurors? And yet we have dishonest fanatics in the country persuading the English people that to disperse a riotous mob, summoned to intimidate jurymen in the discharge of

their duty, is to bring back the days of Lord Sidmouth and the Six Acts. If a crowd assembled outside the Old Bailey to coerce a jury into acquitting a criminal, Sir Charles Warren would disperse it, and he would be doing no more than his duty. What is more, if his bâton-men were not sufficient, the soldiery would have to be called out.

There is something a little incomprehensible in the announcement that Mr. H. H. Johnston, the British Vice-Consul at the Cameroons, has been taken prisoner by the natives on the Rio del Rey. Such a thing might well happen; but the strange thing is, that, though Mr. Johnston was captured on the 4th of February, the news did not reach England for a month, and then only by private letter. According to this letter the affair was known in Old Calabar on the 5th of February. As there is a cable from there, the news should have reached the English Government by the following day. It may be hoped that the Vice-Consul's release will soon be effected. Mr. Johnston is a young man, and looks so very young that he has the appearance of a boy; but he has done hard honest work as an explorer.

Perhaps it was as well that Mr. Merivale did not succeed in recovering "thumping" damages from Mr. Carson. The author of the "White Pilgrim" has done good work for the modern stage, and made an honest effort to give the public plays which are both English and pure. Still, no dramatist can expect to be free from criticism, and it is hard to see that what was said of "The Whiphand," though it might be unfair, was slanderous. Between "chicken and champagne" on the one side and actions for libel on the other, the temptation to a dramatic critic to say civil things of any play, irrespective of its merits, is considerable.

Incidentally the action gave rise to an interesting little bit of etymological discussion. What does the word "naughty" mean in the mouths of Englishmen of the year 1887? We know what it ought to mean according to derivation. As Hood says of Miss Kilmansegg—

She had an idea, from the very sound,  
That people with naught were naughty.

In the sixteenth century it was a dignified word with a seriously bad meaning. Shylock says to the gaoler who let out Antonio—

I do wonder,  
Thou naughty gaoler, that thou art so fond, etc.;

and Shylock was evidently not joking. The word, however, like other useful and responsible words, came down in the world and was understood to be relegated to the nursery a few years ago. Now, however, Mr. Merivale contends that when you say a woman is naughty you affix a special and serious meaning to the kind of error she commits; and probably he is right. But the whole history of the word is a curious example of the way in which we English (like the ancient Greeks "*qui amant omnia dubitantius loqui*") whittle down into insignificance all our emphatic terms, or else specialize them. Are not "wicked" and even "bad" going the same way as "naughty"?

The Secretary for War has stated that he sees no reason to put any restriction on the export of horses for military purposes. Possibly it would not do to begin "protection" in this way. Still, it does seem odd that the agents of foreign Governments are hard at work buying up the best animals of our largest dealers, while our own cavalry is not half mounted and we should be at our wits' ends for more horses if a war broke out. A day or two ago we gave some account of the attempt made to recruit our cavalry stables from Canada. Yesterday at the United Service Institution there was a discussion on the advantages of Jamaica as a cavalry depot. It was urged that there are plenty of good active horses on the island which could be bought cheaply. Some of the cavalry officers maintained that the West Indian horses are too small and light, and would be ridden down by troopers mounted on heavier animals. But what a good light cavalry mounted on small horses can do has often been shown. In the Austro-Hungarian war of 1849 the Magyar Hussars on their little wiry native horses were more than a match for the helmeted Imperial Dragoons and Cuirassiers on their powerful chargers. The Jamaican horse supply, however, cannot be a very large one in any case. It is odd that more attention is not paid by our officers to Mexico and South America, where there must be plenty of horses with endurance and "snap" enough for military purposes.

A somewhat ill-judged suggestion with regard to the volunteers was made in the House of Commons last night by Baron Dimsdale, who asked the Secretary of State for War whether, having regard to the fact that it was the custom to reward volunteer officers for long service by giving them a step of honorary rank, he would take under his consideration the expediency of granting to volunteer non-commissioned officers and privates a medal or other decoration for similar length of service. Mr. Stanhope, however, saw no reason for departing from an opinion expressed in 1883 by Lord Hartington with reference to a similar proposal—namely, that as the volunteers were allowed to wear a star for every five years of efficient service, it was unnecessary and inexpedient to issue a medal or badge for long service. Medals should be restricted to war service, long and meritorious army service, and saving life. This view

of the matter commends itself to common sense. There may be too much of even a good thing, and decorations are no exception to this rule. If showered with too lavish a hand they rapidly become deteriorated in value, and as a badge of distinction lose their significance. What with temperance and other medals, there is at the present time but little difficulty in obtaining some kind of decoration; and to be undecorated will probably at no distant day be a coveted honour.

M. Taine is by no means the first French critic who has admitted the general superiority of English over French literature. It was allowed by many, if not most, of the romanticists, though none of them went so far as M. Taine, who has certainly weakened his case by putting Mr. Swinburne above Victor Hugo, as the English poet would be the first to admit. Michelet made the curious discovery that our literary superiority—which he too, Chauvinist as he was, admitted in a grudging sort of way—was due to our diet. We eat more meat than the French, and it was to English beef that the eminent historian attributed the vigour of English brains. And in support of this strange theory he triumphantly pointed to Shakespeare, the greatest of all our writers, who was, as everybody knows—so at least Michelet declared—a butcher's boy.

The statement which M. Taine made that a popular English novelist finds far more readers than Daudet or Zola, or even Georges Ohnet himself, is of course not open to question if we take into account the world of Greater Britain. The *Boston Herald*, referring to the death of Mrs. Henry Wood, calculates that not fewer than a million copies of "East Lynne" were sold in the United States. No French novel has, it need hardly be said, ever attained anything like this sale. A tenth part of it would probably be a liberal estimate in the case of the most successful works of the most successful authors. Supposing that Mrs. Wood had got a moderate royalty for every one of those copies, her gains would have equalled Mr. Besant's sanguine estimate, and she would have made as much as if she had dealt in a successful pill or a properly advertised shaving-soap.

There is one page in the Civil Service Estimates issued yesterday which cannot be read without some stir of feeling even by the most unemotional Englishman. It is that which comes under the heading "Cemeteries," and line by line upon it can be traced some of the most glorious, and a few of the most painful, memories in recent English history. The sum of £200, it appears from this, is yearly paid for the maintenance of the consolidated cemetery on Cathcart's Hill, in the Crimea; while £7 is voted for keeping the cemeteries in order at Suakim, and £5 for attending to seamen's graves at Lissa. There is also a care-taker at Isandhlwana, whose wage amounts to no more than £2 per annum; while for "looking after Guards' tomb at Bayonne" a solitary pound is annually spent. The vote altogether is a curious one.

#### PRISONERS AWAITING TRIAL.

THE report of the "Committee on the Accommodation in Court-Houses and other places for Prisoners awaiting trial at assizes and sessions" discloses a most disgraceful state of affairs. In many towns, the Committee point out, the prisoners, male and female mixed, are crowded in small rooms "as thickly as sheep in a pen," where "the worst evils of that promiscuous association against which it has been a primary object of modern prison discipline to guard must be encountered for hours and even days together by children, women, and men who may be, and some of whom are, innocent." Men and women, we are informed, are "in many such places bolted for many consecutive hours, sometimes many consecutive days, into boxes or cupboards in some instances as little as 2 ft. 4 in. by 2 ft. 1 in. (Gloucester, where prisoners have been confined in these boxes six days running), and even 2 ft. 6 in. by 1 ft. 9 in. in one instance" (Bodmin). Few people will question the justice of the Committee's remark that "it is shocking to think of human beings penned up day by day, sometimes for at least a week together, in cupboards too small for a lady's dress or for the housing of a well-kept dog;" or their opinion that it is both cruel and unjust that prisoners awaiting trial should not be shown "a little of the humanity which is extended to convicted criminals."

With regard to warmth and ventilation, the Committee are equally severe in their strictures. Many of the places of confinement, they report, are "liable to fall to 40 deg. or 45 deg., or even lower, in very cold weather. The persons confined in them can generally take no exercise of any kind. They are, as a rule, poorly clad and not particularly well fed. It offends any due sense of fair play to keep a person under conditions which must benumb his faculties, paralyze his energies, and make him physically miserable; and then, after some hours of this treatment, to call upon him at a moment's notice to struggle for his liberty, perhaps for many years, against and in the presence of persons who are, generally speaking, at all events warm."

For all this the different local authorities are of course to blame; the Government cannot interfere with the municipal arrangements. The method which the Committee suggest for supplying an effectual means of pressure upon these authorities, whose laxity is proverbial, is by giving to the Home Office power to inspect and certify the accommodation, and power to require them to provide proper receptacles where, in the opinion of the Home Secretary, the existing accommodation is inadequate. This would be a step towards remedying an evil which is such a disgrace to a civilized nation that it cannot be allowed to continue.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### THE SANITARY INSPECTION BILL.

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

SIR,—Your Note on the Bills for the sanitary inspection of houses now before Parliament bears somewhat hardly upon these meritorious attempts. To provide for inspection only once in five years is certainly anything but thoroughgoing legislation. But if once a house has been provided with sanitary appliances as complete as those specified in the proposed enactments, frequent inspection, although highly desirable, would not be of absolute necessity. Good drainage to a great extent "runs itself." Nor is it impossible to defend the discretion which Mr. Lacaita has exercised in limiting the operation of the compulsory provisions of his Bill to hotels, boarding-houses, and other such premises. Would a more vigorous and complete measure stand any chance of being carried at the present time? Taking the houses of the metropolis and of the provinces in their actual condition, we should find that hardly one house in a hundred would fulfil the very moderate requirements of Mr. Lacaita's Bill; and to put the remaining 99 per cent. into such a sanitary condition as is prescribed by this Bill would entail very considerable expense. It is, therefore, easy to foresee the determined (and probably successful) opposition which the owners of house property would show to anything like drastic legislation affecting them all round. But if confined to hotels and lodging-houses, an Inspection Bill may conceivably fight its way to the Statute Book, and would be an excellent thin end of the legislative wedge. In looking for a permanent residence it is practicable to call in the aid of an expert in drainage; but the casual visitor to a country hotel or to seaside lodgings cannot well travel with a sanitary inspector in his train.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

March 2.

DAVID F. SCHLOSS.

##### BUTTERINE.

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

SIR,—A week or two ago your columns contained some interesting papers about the butterine question, and I should feel obliged if you would allow me to add a few remarks to the articles and letters which have already appeared.

At the outset it may be conceded, as has been done by all your writers, that butterine in itself is a wholesome enough article; but that it has kept down the price of butter because of its close imitation of that article, which deceives the public. From the Board of Trade Returns for January, 1887, the increase in the imports of butterine was 22,789 cwt. compared with January, 1885; while for the same period butter shows a decrease of 9,115 cwt. Why is this? One of the reasons is that all over the country the article is palmed off on the public as butter. It is made up by the manufacturer, as you have stated, in all manner of shapes to suit the various requirements of the dealer; who gives his order for Danish or Kiel casks, Irish kits and firkins, Irish-shaped lumps, powdered rolls, fresh prints, etc.

The present legal requirements in connection with the sale of butterine seem to be—(1) That the seller shall intimate to the purchaser that the article he is selling and which is being purchased is butterine. (2) That when sold it is to be wrapped in paper having "butterine" printed upon it. Notwithstanding these requirements fraud is daily committed. The retailer knows perfectly well what he is buying, but the customer does not.

The inducement to transgress the law is, no doubt, abetted by the "policy of masterly inactivity" which seems to prevail amongst our food inspectors. When any prosecution does take place, it is generally some small shopkeeper in some back street who is offered up a victim, while offenders occupying large establishments carry on the traffic with impunity. One trick of the retailer is to place a "butterine" ticket on the article, and a price ticket, say "10d.," covering the letters "ine;" so that to the outside public the notice reads "Butter 10d."

There can be no doubt that the farming interest has been greatly damaged by the introduction of butterine. The unscrupulous butter-dealer finds it a great deal more profitable to imitate Irish butter than to encourage the manufacture of same by selling the real article. The consequence is that the Irish farmer can scarcely find a market for his produce; and if he does, he is, in the majority of cases, compelled to sell at a sacrifice. Nor is this all. A great injustice is perpetrated upon the public, and dealers who honestly retail butterine as butterine are unfairly handicapped. It is a well-known fact that, in all large towns, for one shop selling butterine as butterine there are ninety-nine shops selling it as butter—of course at a much larger profit than it would bring if sold on its own merits. Quite recently I caused about twenty samples to be bought in different parts of the City. In every case the article was sold to me as cheap butter—the price I paid being from 10d. to 1s. per pound. I had the samples analyzed; and with one or two exceptions they were found to be butterine, containing from 70 to 85 per cent. of fat other than butter fat.

For a considerable time I refused to have anything to do with butterine; but this unequal competition compelled me to become a dealer in butterine as well as butter: otherwise I should have been unable to compete with those unscrupulous dealers. In my various establishments throughout the country I sell tons of butterine daily; but in doing so I know that I am placed at a disadvantage in selling the article for what it is. I know of establishments, however, which would have no existence if it were not for the enormous profits earned through this imposition.

I understand that the matter is shortly to be dealt with in Parliament. In view of that, if there is one point which should be insisted upon, it is that of having the use of the word "butterine" declared to be illegal. But I am informed, and from the letter of your correspondents Messrs. Lovell and Christmas in your issue of the 15th ult. it appears, that any attempt in this direction is to be met with strenuous opposition. I cannot understand why this should be, and no such opposition can to my mind proceed from right

motives. The word "butterine" is misleading, and its retention will leave a loophole for the continuance of fraud. The fact that the intrinsic merits of butterine are incontestable is all the more reason for its being sold as "butterine."—  
I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
March 3.

A RETAILER OF BUTTER AND BUTTERINE.

### THEATRICAL MATINÉES.

INCLUDING all expenses, the cost to an author or actress—for actors seldom risk money on matinées—of producing a play at an afternoon performance in a London theatre averages from £80 to £100. Those who know how to set about it can give a matinée for as little as £50, and the agents or acting managers who make a specialty of matinées talk of occasions on which they have reduced the expenses still further. These stories are for a-piring dramatists or ladies who want to begin as Adrienne Lecouvreur; but they are not always without foundation. I remember an author who got off for £30 or thereabout; but this was because the actor in whose hands he put the production found a lady willing to pay £25 for the favour of getting a one-act comedietta tacked on to the afternoon's entertainment. However, the persons who talk most largely of their facilities for arranging matinées are not, generally speaking, the ones to be most trusted.

Matinées are perhaps the only theatrical productions which need not be attempted without ready money. You may sometimes get a London theatre for a season without paying for it in advance. That happens when the manager has no alternative but to shut the place up; and it is no uncommon thing for a speculator to start a company on tour in the provinces, though he has not twenty pounds in the world. In these cases there is always a possibility of success; but no one connected with the stage was ever so sanguine as to think that a matinée for testing a new play or a new Rosalind might pay itself. As a matter of fact, no one pays for a seat except a few friends. You must, therefore, be able to pay the manager of the theatre, in advance, not only for the loan of his house but for gas etc., and for the extra labour which the matinée entails on his working staff.

So many matinées are given nowadays, that it is no uncommon thing for several to take place at one theatre in a week. This means that the pieces cannot all be rehearsed at the theatre where they are to be produced. There is generally one theatre in London, at least, which is "closed until further notice," and rehearsals are often held there. Music-halls are also frequently obtained for rehearsals in the daytime. Unless one rehearsal, however, takes place in the theatre where the piece is to be produced, there is sure to be bungling. The newspapers constantly speak about "signs of insufficient rehearsal;" but often it is not so much insufficient rehearsal that prevents a piece's going well at a matinée, as the rehearsals having been held in the wrong place. The best plan is to get some actor of repute to take what may be called the technical business off your hands. It is not the remuneration you give him that will induce him to take a personal interest in a matinée. Indeed, a few pounds more or less in the way of payment for their services will not make any of your company exert themselves. What they want is a part which they think they can make something of; and if you entrust the production itself to an actor, he should have a part that pleases him. Between you, you should have little difficulty in getting together a good company. Players of good standing are always ready to appear in good parts at matinées, even though they have engagements at the time. Seeing that nine out of ten new plays produced at matinées never see the light again, this may seem surprising. But it must be remembered that when a matinée piece is successful, it may be the means of "making" some actor or actors in it.

A great deal has been written about the folly of matinée-giving; but I should say there was more sense in an author's risking £80 or £90 on a play than in publishing a book at his own expense. The book appears, and in most cases few people hear anything about it. The play, however, be it as bad as you please, gets instant attention, and the public know all about it the day after it is produced. Whatever opinion the dramatist may have of the criticisms, he cannot say that he is neglected or ignored. The audience at these matinées is chiefly composed of actors, actresses, and managers. Probably the new piece has been sent for consideration to half a dozen of the last mentioned, none of whom paid any attention to it; yet if they like it when they see it played and the critics praise it, there is no lack of offers for the piece. The managers "jump" at a matinée success; and this is what the company were playing for when they put themselves to the trouble of studying new parts. They are now identified with the success of the piece, as the manager who arranges to produce it will observe. Were it not for this incentive, few actors of any note would care to play in matinée productions; and it also explains why matinées of new pieces are generally better played than matinées which have for their object the glorification of an "amateur professional" (this is becoming a technical term) who comes out as Ophelia or Pauline.

The scenery for the matinée is provided by the manager of the theatre, and of course it is deficient if any novel effect has to be introduced. Dresses are sometimes provided by the person who gives the matinée. In that case they are merely hired from some of the costumiers. It is better to leave this to the actors themselves, when they are willing to alter dresses in their own possession to suit their new parts. There are few players of either sex who do not possess a quantity of stage-dresses, though they may have played for years in theatres where the costumes are supposed to be provided by the management. And there never was a matinée yet at a respectable theatre that was damned because of scenery or dressing.

Of course these remarks do not apply to benefit matinées. In those cases every one gives his services gratis, from the call-boy upwards.

### THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN SIAM.

No room is needed for it—not even a shed or roof of any kind to protect it from the weather. It stands in the open road, exposed all day to the bright rays of the sun and all night to the soft moisture which impregnates the atmosphere. No fear of rain in a climate where for two months past not a drop has fallen, and for four months more none will fall, save an occasional short shower—the mango rains, which save that rich crop from being burned up. No chance of damage from dirt where the smoke is only a thin fragrant vapour thrown off by the parched sticks and grass and paddy-husks with which the house-fires are made up. So there stands the tree, in front of the white-walled house whose inmates have rigged it up: an object of mild curiosity on the part of the urchins of the neighbourhood and of the few European new-comers who have seen nothing of the sort before. To the adult natives, both men and women, it is a thing to be respected, an emblem of pious generosity, a "work of merit" which will assuredly bring its maker nearer heaven. To pillage it, or even to laugh at it, would be to court a hostile fate and involve the ill-mannered intruder in punishment hereafter.

The construction of the monument—for such it is on a small scale—is not so very unlike that of our Teutonic Christmas-trees. A gigantic "pot" is made for it by joining together a light framework of wood. The frame is probably octagonal; but its corners are obscured and rounded off by the profusion of ornaments which are piled upon it. Great leaves of plantain—larger than a man's whole body—are torn up into squares and oblongs and stretched over the frame. Wreaths and festoons of flowers, whose heavy odour scents the whole air around, hang about the edges and sides. Upon the flat surface which in the case of a common Christmas tree would be earth is set out a heterogeneous assortment of fruits and other eatables far too numerous to describe. Bananas are there in many varieties, from the small delicate yellow ones, hardly larger than a woman's thumb, to the great green ones as long and thick as a moderate sized cucumber. Then there are nuts of many sorts, in little neat dishes, made by bending the plantain-leaves into square, round, and oval shapes, with turned-up sides;—cakes, too, which would look wonderfully tempting even to the most dainty of English children, and tarts filled or covered with some of those mysterious pink, white, and yellow creams, upon which the European fears to venture. Other dishes and baskets, all of bent leaf, contain divers sweetmeats, very luscious and sticky-looking, and apparently made of some perfumed gum mixed with sugar and preserves of a kind unknown beyond the Indo-Chinese Peninsula. Between and among the dishes and baskets are stuck long sticks and wires, surmounted by paper flags, and every here and there a thicker wire supporting a candle or rushlight. Tapers of yellow scented wood rise up like tiny plantations among the green; and in the midst of all is the stalwart trunk of the tree itself.

This is not a pine, or generally an entire tree of any kind. More often it is the branch of some bigger tree, selected for its convenient shape and symmetrical appearance. The tree, of course, looks best at night, but it is pretty also by day. For, besides the tapers perched on its branches, there hang from them also little Chinese lanterns, which are gay and bright even in the sunlight as they sway in the lazy tropical air. Gold and silver tinsel glitters everywhere among the bright green of the tree-leaves. Then at the end of the boughs are rigged up a variety of those light "twirligigs" which turn with the slightest movement of air; exhibiting here a tiny windmill, there a butterfly, there a spinning-top, and a score of other fantastic objects. Underneath the boughs are oranges of all sorts and sizes and the "forbidden fruit" of Eden. Fabulous animals made of leaf, husk, and cork dangle by the thinnest of thread. Here also may be seen great fat fish, made of interwoven rushes so skilfully that each triangle of interlacing rib represents a different coloured scale; boats and ships too, made of woven paper or rushes, and with rigging of bamboo-sticks and cotton à l'anglaise. These, when the fête is over, will be floated off down river on the tide, having lighted tapers in them: messengers to the departed relations of the merry-makers. When the maker of the fête is rich there are handsome presents on the tree-boughs—earrings, necklaces, and all sorts of ornaments. As for cigars and cigarettes, these are strewn in profusion amongst the dishes on the "ground-floor." And the least scrupulous of passers-by would hardly dream of taking one without leave: especially if, as usually happens, there is a "reading-desk" at hand.

Seldom is the Christmas-tree to be found at the way-side unaccompanied by a neighbouring structure almost as curious as itself. A long flat platform is raised, like a four-post bedstead, on short legs. There is a flat back to it, as to a four poster, hung with white, or other colour, and light crimson. Usually also there is a canopy of white and crimson, and there are posts of bamboo more or less covered with bright colours. At the head of the bed is a yellow mat and a triangular cushion—the resting-place of the priest. At the appointed hour the priest takes his seat on the divan. He unfolds and holds before him, with hands wide apart, the scroll from which he is to read. Then, with grave immovable face, he reads, in loud drawling chanting voice, the sacred words of the Buddhistic prayer. Facing him is a sort of clerk—an old man seated on the platform, whose joined hands are raised above his forehead in prayer. And all around are the curious good-tempered faces of the Siamese audience picturesquely grouped—some standing, some leaning against the posts, some squatting, and a few lying flat on their faces. Many of the squatters have also their joined hands raised high in prayer. All are reverent in their own light-hearted way.

Long, very long, the prayer goes on in its droning tones. Then comes the distribution of gifts; the chief of which go, of course, to the yellow-robed priest.

## SWORD-PLAY.\*

FENCING with foils is supposed to represent a combat with duelling swords; but the representation is in certain respects conventional. Hits are counted only on the body: a fencer, therefore, has no occasion to think of guarding his head, arm, hand, or leg, though a sword-thrust in any of these places might be disabling or even dangerous. All attacks ought to be parried; and therefore, when simultaneous hits are exchanged, the attacker is in the right, and the party who should have parried is in the wrong. And it is true that one who so acts in a real combat acts rashly and foolishly, for it is almost certain that he will be badly hurt; still he may inflict an equal or greater hurt on the adversary, and so long as there are fools in the world a prudent man must take thought how to meet their folly. In an assault with foils, again, there is time to study the adversary's play, to correct errors and surprises, and, within certain limits, to try experiments. In a real combat the first serious hit is generally decisive, so that a prudent combatant will risk as little as possible. Hence it follows that movements and combinations of movements which are common in the fencing-room, and brilliant when they succeed, could not be ventured on in the field. It may be said that this ought in strictness to condemn them in the fencing-room. But to abolish the conventions of fencing would largely detract from its value as a recreative exercise; and as modern fencing exists on its own merits as an exercise, and not for the sake of duelling, there is no good reason for doing this. French masters accordingly distinguish between ordinary fencing and the "*jeu d'épée*" or "*jeu du terrain*" which is appropriate to a serious encounter. The principles and methods of sword-play are not different from those of foil-play, but they are adapted to conditions requiring greater caution and greater allowance for unforeseen chances. In a country where duelling is unknown the study of the resulting modifications is a matter of pure curiosity, but it is none the less interesting. In France it still has a practical value.

M. Jacob, a well-known Parisian master, has now produced an essay dealing exclusively with sword-play in this sense. He assumes the reader to be acquainted with the general theory of fencing, and does not profess to add anything to it. The problem might be stated thus to a fencer accustomed to the ordinary method: If you had to meet an adversary of unknown strength, in an assault to be decided by one or two hits, and hits on all parts were to count without distinction, what cautions would you use? Evidently there is matter for reflection here. M. Jacob's fundamental points will be readily accepted by any one who has made trial in the fencing-school of assaults on the principle of *touche partout*. But in saying that they carry conviction when stated we by no means intend to say that the explicit statement and demonstration of them was superfluous.

The first point is that the guard must be formed in readiness to defend the hand and arm, and at need the head and leg, no less than the body. To satisfy this requirement the blade has to be almost horizontal instead of pointing upwards. Then attacks have to be made with much more caution and preparation than in the fencing-room; indeed, it is well to deliver as few attacks as possible, but rather manœuvre for the chance of a riposte; and the *dégagement de vitesse* which would win deserved applause in an assault is hardly ever justifiable in the duel. Hence the distance will generally be greater than in the ordinary assault. In defence, again, only the safe and strong parades are to be used, those which possess the quality of *autorité*. Herein we marvel that M. Jacob, without a word of explanation, replaces tierce by sixte throughout. For the position of the hand in tierce (with the nails down and the thumb innermost) is certainly stronger; and we venture to think that the gain of quickness by using sixte is slight at best with the foil, and imperceptible with the sword. We may err in this; but if we err, it is in the good company of M. Camille Prévost.

Precepts of this kind, it must be remembered, are only an emphasizing of what a careful fencer observes even in "playing at foils." Many good fencers use in the assault an offensive-defensive guard hardly different from M. Jacob's duelling guard, and are hardly ever within distance except at the moment of delivering a thrust. The less close and certain parries of prime and quinte are not much commended except for occasional show; though we have known a combination of septime and quinte to be useful against really formidable attacks in the low line, and give a good riposte. Again M. Jacob says: "*Les parades doivent être plus accentuées à l'épée qu'au fleuret. . . . Tout en accentuant les parades, il faut éviter les écarts d'épée et tâcher de maintenir la pointe droite dans la ligne. . . . On y arrive en tenant la poignée plus ferme qu'au fleuret et en parant par un mouvement sec des doigts et du poignet, qui s'arrêtent aussitôt et retiennent bien l'épée dans la ligne.*" This is very just; but we remember that a good many years ago Robert (ainé) laid great weight on this same *mouvement sec* in his regular fencing lessons. He explained how the fingers should close on the grip in the instant of forming the parry, "*pas avant, pas après.*" All this, however, only goes to justify M. Jacob's main position. Average foil-play tends to be lax; and what he seeks to prove, and in our opinion does prove, is that nothing short of the most correct and careful foil-play can be accepted as the beginning of sword-play.

M. Jacob is happy in his literary sponsors, who introduce him to the reader in the manner of which only Parisians have the secret. Their skill of complimenting a friend in public in a way that is not vulgar advertisement is a thing to be admired by other nations, not emulated; we have it not "*dans la main.*" In these pages we find M. Ranc and M. Paul de Cassagnac on the best of terms; M. Paul de Cassagnac appears, moreover, as a man of peace, and pays an unexpected compliment to England

and the United States (for, though he names no country, we cannot presume that he was thinking chiefly of Switzerland or Norway): "*Dans les pays où les mœurs et la législation couvrent la dignité humaine, le duel n'existe pas.*" For this sentiment, and for the rest of his amusing epistle, we would gladly wish M. de Cassagnac any reward we could think of; but he tells us that his son, not yet seven years old, already parries the counter of quarte by hereditary instinct, and we do not see what more he can desire.

## TRADE AND FINANCE.

The money market yesterday was decidedly easier. The rate for short loans ranged from 3 to 3½ per cent., and that for discount from 3 to 3¼ per cent. It will be in the recollection of our readers that the Bank return issued on Thursday showed a very large increase in the "other deposits"—that is, in the unemployed supply at the disposal of the outside market; and this increase was obtained from the loans from the Bank. It seems odd that the outside market should borrow from the Bank at 4 per cent. in order to employ the money outside at from 3 to 3½ per cent.; but it is to be recollected that the artificial dearthness of money is at present due to the fact that since Lord Sherbrooke's change in the mode of collecting the revenue when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, a disproportionately large part of the revenue of each year is collected in the first three months, and chiefly in February and March; that the receipts in those two months, or at least for six weeks of them, greatly exceed the expenditure; and that, consequently, there accumulates in the Bank of England a very large amount of money. An artificial scarcity is thus produced in the outside market, with the result that the Bank has control of the rates of both interest and discount. About the end of March, however, the expenditure begins to be very large, and then the payment of salaries about quarter-day adds still further to the disbursements from the Treasury; while on the 6th of April the interest upon the National Debt is paid. The result is that towards the end of March the supply in the outside market begins to become larger, and in April there is usually a great decline in the value of money. The consequence is that the taker of a three months' bill now looks forward to the probability that for two out of the three months money will be very cheap, and it consequently may be worth his while to borrow at 4 per cent., and employ it at from 3 to 3½ per cent. The calculation is liable to be upset, of course, by the outbreak of a war; but then the City is once more in an optimistic mood, and refuses to believe that war will break out.

The stock markets were all dull yesterday. The German Emperor's speech made rather an unfavourable impression. The brief telegrams of the day before had raised hopes which were disappointed by the fuller account of yesterday morning, particularly the passage in which the Emperor stated that his relations with other Governments were the same as in November last, which implied that all that had been said by Prince Bismarck would be said over again when the Army Bill comes up for discussion. Furthermore, the reports from Bulgaria caused an uneasy feeling. Although the insurrectionary movements appear to have been suppressed, the fact that there have been mutinies was regarded as disquieting. It was interpreted as an indication that Russia is seeking for a pretext to interfere; and as the season for military operations is now close at hand, it is feared that when she wants a pretext she will not be long in finding one, whether it be continued disturbance or not. The movements in Bulgaria taken in connection with the reports concerning Afghanistan thus deepened the impression made by the German Emperor's speech. The market for Foreign Government bonds here has been led for some years past by the Continental Bourses, more particularly by the Berlin Bourse, where the speculation in Foreign Government bonds originated about three years ago; and when it was found that the Continental Bourses were all dull yesterday the market here remained weak to the very close, and the other markets were influenced by the department for Foreign Government bonds. All departments are under the impression of political events and take their tone very largely from the market for Foreign Government bonds. Home Railway stocks consequently were depressed, and so were American, especially as the opening prices at New York were telegraphed somewhat lower.

Although the stock markets were all depressed yesterday, there was extremely little business doing, and consequently very little movement. It is really more an absence of business than a fall that has to be reported. Neither speculators nor investors care to buy at present. Speculators are afraid to increase their risks and investors expect to be able to buy on more favourable terms. Consequently, all are standing apart, and the inactivity in Europe reacts upon New York, where there seems also a disposition to wait and watch. Probably this disposition was increased by the selling by a great Parisian speculator two or three days ago, to which we referred at the time. Russian bonds of 1873 declined ¾, Spanish, Italian, and Hungarian ¾ to ¾, Egyptian Unified ½, and Domain and Daira ¼ to ¼. Portuguese also fell ¼. Consols recovered 1-16; while Home Railway stocks generally declined, Brighton A ¾, North Staffordshire and South-Eastern Deferred ½ each, North-Western, Great Northern A, and Great Eastern ¾ each, Sheffield A, Metropolitan, and Chatham Preference ¼ each, and North British ¾. Grand Trunk of Canada stocks, which had risen so rapidly the two preceding days, gave way from ½ to 2, and Mexican Railway stocks fell from ½ to 1¼. American Railroad securities declined from ¾ to ¾.

Thursday's Bank of France return shows a decrease of £144,520 in the gold, which is again down to nearly 48¾ millions sterling, and an increase of £44,880 in the silver, which considerably exceeds 45¾ millions sterling. There is thus a decrease of £99,640 in the coin and bullion, which, however, exceed 94½ millions sterling. The discounts increased £77,920, and the advances £286,160. There was thus an increase of £364,080 in the "other securities." The note circulation increased £2,023,400. The public deposits decreased £825,600, and the private decreased £2,050,160.

\* "*Le Jeu de l'Épée.*" Leçons de Jules Jacob rédigées par Émile André. Préfaces de MM. P. de Cassagnac, A. Ranc, et A. de la Forge. (London: Trübner and Co. Paris: Paul Ollendorff. 1887.)

## THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

## SPECIAL EDITION.

## RESIGNATION OF SIR M. HICKS-BEACH.

We are authorized to state that the Right Honourable Arthur Balfour, M.P., will succeed Sir Michael Hicks-Beach as Chief Secretary for Ireland.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach has been ordered to take complete rest in the country for a time, and intends, so soon as his general health is sufficiently re-established for the journey, to visit Germany for further medical advice as to the condition of his eyes. Pending the result, he will remain a member of the Cabinet without office.

The following report on Sir Michael Hicks-Beach's health has been issued:—

63, Brook-street, March 4, 1887.

We have to-day examined professionally the Right Honourable Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, and, having regard to the facts that he has a cataract in either eye and that his general health is gravely deteriorated, we are very decidedly of opinion that he will, should he continue to discharge the duties of his official life, break down altogether in health, and that when the time arrives for the operation on the eyes he will probably be in a state that will render an operation imperfectly successful.

(Signed) WILLIAM JENNER, M.D., F.R.C.P.  
ROBSON ROOSE, M.D., F.R.C.P.  
G. ANDERSON CRITCHETT, F.R.C.S.E.

Since I examined the eyes of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach in November last a marked increase has taken place in the density of the cataracts. The sight both for distant and near objects has also deteriorated to a considerable extent, so that Sir Michael can now with difficulty decipher print or writing which is small or indistinct.

(Signed) G. ANDERSON CRITCHETT, F.R.C.S.E.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach entered Parliament in 1864, at the age of twenty-seven. In the short-lived Conservative Administration which succeeded to power in 1867 he held successively the posts of Under-Secretary to the Home Department and Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade. In 1874 he for the first time undertook, though in circumstances less arduous than the present, the duties of Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, which he discharged until 1878, when he entered the Cabinet as Secretary of State for the Colonies. In Lord Salisbury's first Administration he was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader of the House of Commons. On the formation of the Government which issued from the electoral contest of last year he returned to his old post at the Irish Office, where his services are too recent and conspicuous to need recital.

Mr. Arthur James Balfour, who succeeds Sir M. Hicks-Beach as Chief Secretary for Ireland, was born in 1848 and was educated at Eton and Cambridge. He was Assistant Secretary to the Marquess of Salisbury when his lordship was Foreign Secretary in 1878-80. He accompanied Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury to Berlin in June, 1878. He was President of the Local Government Board from June, 1885, to January, 1886. In July of the latter year he was appointed Secretary for Scotland, and was admitted to the Cabinet in the following November. Mr. Balfour represented Hertford from 1874 to 1885, since which year he has sat for the Eastern Division of Manchester.

## CABINET COUNCIL.

A Cabinet Council was held at the Foreign Office at noon to-day. All the members were present, including Sir Michael Hicks-Beach and Lord Ashbourne. Mr. Hugh Holmes, the Attorney-General for Ireland, was in waiting to give assistance in the consideration of the Irish question. The Cabinet rose at a quarter to two, when all the Ministers except Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, who remained with the Prime Minister, left for their respective offices.

## THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR IRELAND.

The rumours that General Sir Redvers Buller is about to resign arise probably (the Exchange Telegraph Company says) from the fact that his appointment as Under-Secretary for Ireland was for a term of six months; and, as the term is about to expire, the Government is making inquiries regarding the best means of filling the vacancy should it occur. Among other suggestions, there is one that Sir Redvers Buller should be succeeded by a parliamentary Under Secretary.

## THE "COERCION" BILL.

The *Irish Times* London correspondent says of the Government Coercion Bill:—I understand that the Marquess of Hartington is dissatisfied with what he considers its perilous mildness. He has expressed an opinion, based on personal experience of Irish administration, that the necessity of the situation is thorough legislation going to the root of the evil. He has declared his belief that the Ministerial scheme is moulded on lines which involve the risk of failure; his special contention being that the National League, being left intact, will be able, by means of the machinery open and secret which it controls, to counteract the efforts of the Government.

## THE "NO-TAX" MOVEMENT.

The Exchange Telegraph Company understands that the leaders of the Irish party give the most unqualified contradiction to the statement that a No-Tax campaign is about to be commenced. Mr. Dillon himself repudiates the statement that he is to take the leadership of the movement.

## RAILWAY COLLISION.

This morning during a dense fog a collision occurred between two passenger-trains at Laister Dyke Station, Bradford. The 8.30 A.M. train from Bradford to Leeds dashed into the Shipley train, which was standing at the platform, the driver being unable to distinguish the signals. Several carriages of the Shipley train were wrecked; but the passengers, who were fortunately few in number, escaped with a severe shaking. The line was cleared in fifty minutes and traffic resumed.

## THE REVOLT IN BULGARIA.

## RUSSIAN OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

ST. PETERSBURG, March 5.—The *Official Messenger* to-day publishes the following statement upon the recent revolt at Silistria:—

As far as can be judged from all the information to hand, the rising was the consequence of the pressure which has been weighing upon Bulgaria since last year, but more particularly since the time when power was seized by the leaders of a certain party which derives its strength from resorting to unscrupulous means. Many Bulgarian officers who were compelled to emigrate, and who belonged to the best military class, could not look on in cold blood while the Bulgarian army, for the good organization of which they had made no slight exertions, forgot its original destiny and became the blind tool of a political party. A feeling of indignation caused these officers notwithstanding their small resources to resolve upon an audacious enterprise. It is very probable that the failure of the negotiations which have been proceeding at Constantinople between M. Zankoff and the Delegates of the Regency precipitated the outburst of indignation on the part of the emigrated officers and their partisans. While sincerely regretting unnecessary bloodshed, the Imperial Government perceives in the Silistria revolt a fresh proof of the abnormal conditions under which Bulgaria is placed. Nevertheless, the Imperial Government, not abandoning the hope that circumstances will lead to the re-establishment in that country of an order of things which will unquestionably secure the legal rights of the Bulgarian people, intends to continue to adhere to the mode of action which it has hitherto adopted in the Bulgarian question, and which has been explained in previous Governmental communications.

RUSTCHUK, March 4, Evening.—A battalion of the Tirnova Regiment has arrived here. A court-martial has been sitting since noon to-day to try ten officers, eleven sergeant-majors, and five or six civilians, who were the prime movers in the rising. The accused pleaded guilty. The proceedings are attended by the foreign Consuls and a large number of the general public. Sentence will be pronounced to-night. Among the wounded prisoners is a Russian subject, formerly an officer in the Bulgarian army. Perfect tranquillity prevails here.

PHILIPPOLIS, March 4.—The news of the revolts at Silistria and Rustchuk has produced great indignation here, the public demanding the immediate punishment of the traitors. Some officers have been arrested here; but perfect order otherwise prevails.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 5.—The semi-official *Journal de St. Pétersbourg*, referring to Riza Bey's mission at Sophia, declares that it has little confidence in its success, though approving the desire of the Porte to contribute to a pacific solution of the Bulgarian question.

(CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAM.)

BUCHAREST, Friday Morning.—The wounded rebels who took part in the garrison revolts at Rustchuk and Silistria have been summoned to appear before courts-martial. It is affirmed that the Regency have arrested all the Zankoffists at Sophia, two hundred of whom have been imprisoned.

## DISSOLUTION OF THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT.

(CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAM.)

STOCKHOLM, Saturday.—In the First Chamber to-day, the representatives refused to grant two votes which were demanded; and in the Second Chamber only ten assented to the duty on corn proposed by the Government. The King thereupon dissolved the Riksdag and intends appealing to the country.

## THE HOTCHKISS GUN COMPANY.

The subscription-list of the Hotchkiss Gun Company was closed yesterday at four o'clock. The applications covered the amount of the capital about fourteen times over. Although the number of applications was very great, and there was much interest felt all day in the issue, there was nothing like the excitement which the Allsopp issue caused. The premium on the ordinary stock varied during the day from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4, on the preference stock it was about  $2\frac{1}{4}$ , and on the debentures the quotation ranged from 2 to 4, which was a very wide quotation indeed. The number of applications would have been very much greater, however, were it not that recent experience has taught intending subscribers that the chance of getting allotments is exceedingly small. Though the subscription-list was closed yesterday, it is announced that country applications received by the first post this morning will be considered.

The ordinary shares are this morning quoted at a premium of 3 to  $3\frac{1}{4}$ , and the preference shares at a premium of 1 to  $1\frac{1}{4}$ .

## THE CAMBRIDGE PROFESSORSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

The election of a successor to Sir William Vernon Harcourt in the Professorship of International Law at Cambridge University took place to-day. The choice of the electors fell upon Sir Henry James Sumner Maine, LL.D., K.C.S.I., Master of Trinity Hall. The Professorship was founded and endowed by the late Dr. Whewell. The salary is £500 per annum. The Professor is required to give yearly a course of at least twelve lectures upon the subject of international law; and by the founder's express injunction he is "to make it his aim in all parts of his treatment of the subject to lay down such rules and to suggest such measures as may tend to diminish the evils of war, and finally to exterminate war between nations." Sir W. V. Harcourt had held the Professorship from its foundation in 1867.

## HIGHWAY ROBBERY IN WESTBOURNE-TERRACE.

Yesterday afternoon the wife of Mr. Russell Roberts, a barrister, residing at 35, Lexham-gardens, was robbed in broad daylight in Westbourne-terrace. Mrs. Roberts was walking along carrying in her hand a purse containing a considerable sum of money and a card-case, when she was suddenly attacked by two men. She was seized by her wrists and thrown violently against a wall, and then on the ground, while the men tried to unclasp her hands. She resisted, screaming meanwhile for help; and finally, seeing that she could not retain both purse and card-case, released her hold of the case. The robbers then ran away towards Bishop's-road, Mrs. Roberts following them calling "Police!" and "Thieves!" but no policeman was to be seen, and the passers-by did not attempt to stop the thieves, who made good their escape.

COLLIERY EXPLOSION IN BELGIUM.—140 MINERS  
ENTOMBED.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

MONS, March 5.—An explosion of fire-damp occurred this morning in a colliery at Guaregnon. At the time of the explosion 150 miners were at work in the pit. Only ten of these men have been saved, and 140 remain entombed. Many of the galleries have fallen in, and the work of rescue is consequently proceeding slowly and with difficulty.

## DISASTERS AT SEA.

Captain Garrick, of the screw-steamer *Stag*, from West Hartlepool, has arrived at Cardiff, and reports that while coming up the Bristol Channel on Thursday evening he came into collision with a vessel, ketch-rigged. He immediately reversed engines, and afterwards steered round to see whether the vessel required assistance; but owing to the dense fog prevailing nothing could be seen of the ketch. He fears she sank with all hands.

A dense fog prevailed on the Mersey early this morning, causing serious delay to traffic. About noon the Waterford steamer *Rignold* landed at the stage the crew and passengers of the African steamer *Angola*. The steamers were in collision early this morning about two miles west of the bar light-ship, and the *Angola* was sunk.

## CHARGE OF ATTEMPTING TO MURDER.

Isaac Whitman, living at Canning Town, was arrested this morning on a charge of attempting to murder. He was last night in a disorderly house, and complained of having lost some money. A woman named Mary Ann Kurson endeavoured to turn him out of the house, when he drew a revolver and fired at her, wounding her in the neck. The woman was removed to the Poplar Hospital, where she lies in a critical condition.

## THE UNIVERSITY BOAT-RACE.

The Oxford crew concluded their practice on the home water this afternoon. On Monday they proceed to Bourne End for ten days' practice on Cookham Reach.

The Cambridge crew took their last row on the Cam this morning, being out for an hour and a half. The boats were afterwards sent on to Putney.

## THIS DAY'S RACING.

## SANDOWN PARK.

HUNTERS' HURDLE RACE. (Two miles.)—Rosier (Dollery), 1. Burton Agnes (Nightingale), 2. Two started. Betting: 13 to 8 on Burton Agnes. The non-favourite made all the running, and won in a canter by fifteen lengths.

MAIDEN HUNTERS' STEEPLECHASE. (Two miles.)—Iolo (Captain Owen), 1. Baccy (Mr. Barton), 2. Home-bred (Mr. Jones), 3. The following also started:—Brunette (Mr. Flac), Bowman (Hall), Semerwater (Eayres), and Modena (Dollery). Betting: 7 to 4 agst Bowman, 4 to 1 agst Baccy, 5 to 1 agst Iolo, 7 to 1 agst Modena. Baccy made most of the running to the last fence, where Iolo headed him and won by a length and a half; four lengths between second and third.

SELLING HUNTERS' HURDLE RACE. (Two miles.)—Romance (Captain Owen), 1. Dorothy (Mr. S. Woodland), 2. Punchbowl, 3. The following also started:—Special (Mr. Purefoy), Mercia (Mr. Berwick), Patience (Mr. Waller), Melleray (Sensier), Crafty (Mr. Carew), Sandycove (Mr. Barton), and Romsey (Collins). Betting: 11 to 8 agst Mercia, 7 to 2 agst Melleray, 5 to 1 agst Punchbowl, 8 to 1 agst Dorothy, 10 to 1 agst Romance, 10 to 1 agst Patience. Mercia fell at the second hurdle, and Patience made play followed by Melleray and Romance to the bend for home, where Melleray took the lead, but quickly gave way to Romance, who won by six lengths; a neck between second and third. Patience was fourth, and Sandycove last. Punchbowl, to be sold for £50, should have been included in the entries.

PRIORY HUNTERS' STEEPLECHASE. (About three miles.)—The Saint (Mr. Barton), 1. Beckhampton (Mr. Craddock), 2. Plank (Mr. Thirlwell), 3. Nightingale (Mr. Collis) and Lord Coventry (Mr. Waller) also started. Betting: 15 to 8 agst The Saint, 2 to 1 agst Beckhampton, 5 to 1 agst Lord Coventry, 6 to 1 agst Plank. The Saint made all the running, and won by four lengths; bad third. Nightingale was last.

SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE RACE. (About two miles.)—Resin the Bow (Nightingale), 1. Alda (Barker), 2. Springwood (Captain Lee-Barber), 3. The following also started:—Edward (Sensier), Mainstone (Martin), Gosport (Mr. Woodlands), Lead On (Eayres), and Rhoderick Dhu (Collins). Betting: 9 to 4 agst Springwood, 4 to 1 agst Edward, 5 to 1 agst Alda, 6 to 1 agst Resin the Bow, 7 to 1 agst Rhoderick Dhu.

## BETTING ON THE COURSE.

GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE.—9 to 1 agst Why Not (t), 10 to 1 agst Bellona (t and off), 100 to 7 agst Chancellor (t and w), 25 to 1 agst Sinbad (t), 25 to 1 agst Savoyard (t).

## THIS DAY'S MONEY MARKET

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

Twelve o'clock.

The Stock Markets all open dull and weak this morning. The political news is not considered reassuring. Although the military mutinies in Bulgaria have been put down, it is feared that Russia may take advantage of them to interfere, while the continued war preparations in Austria-Hungary intensify the uneasy feeling. Still there is no considerable selling. Business is simply paralysed.

Half-past Two.

The Stock Markets were quiet to-day in all departments, but the closing prices showed some recovery from the dulness of the early hours, on a better tendency being telegraphed from Paris; but the Berlin Bourse was reported to be dull. The English Funds were steady and unchanged. Home Railways improved to a slight extent in some cases, and Grand Trunk of Canada stocks were steady and rather better. Mexican Railway stocks were quiet. Foreign Government Securities were inactive, but fairly good in tone all things considered. American Securities had been flat, but closed above the lowest, although still at a decline on the day.

The sum of £91,000 in gold was sent into the Bank to-day.

Money was in quiet demand to-day in the open market at 3 per cent. for short loans, and there was a fair supply of bills at 3 to 3½ per cent.

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

In the English Funds, Consols for money and the account (April) were unchanged at 100½ to 100¾ and 100½ to 101. Reduced and New Three per

Cents, were also unchanged at 99¾ to 99½ ex div., and New Two-and-a-Half per Cents. at 87¾ to 88¼ ex div.

In Home Railways, Caledonian advanced ¼, Great Western ¼, North-Western ¼, North British ¼, and North-Eastern ¼; but Metropolitan declined ¼. In Canadian and Foreign Railways Grand Trunk First Preference stock improved ¼, the Second ¼, the Third ¼, and Mexican First Preference ¼.

In Foreign Government Bonds, Egyptian Unified declined 3-16, French Three per Cent. Rentes ¼, Mexican Old Three per Cents. ¼, Peruvian of 1870 ¼, the 1872 ¼, Spanish Four per Cents. ¼, Turkish Groups III. and IV. 3-16, and Uruguay Unified of 1883 ¼; but Argentine Hard Dollar Bonds rose ¼, Hungarian Rentes ¼, Russian of 1871 ¼, and the 1872 ¼.

In American Securities, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage Bonds fell ¼, Central Pacific shares ¼, Milwaukee ¼, Illinois 1, Lake Shore ¼, Louisville ¼, New York Central ¼, Erie ¼, the Second Mortgage Bonds 1, Ontario shares ¼, Ohio ¼, Pennsylvania ¼, Reading ¼, and Union Pacific ¼; but Virginia Funded Bonds rose ¼.

The Eastern rates of exchange are:—Bombay, 1s. 5 19-32d.; Calcutta, 1s. 5 19-32d.; Hong Kong, 3s. 2¼d.; and Shanghai, 4s. 6½d.

In the silver market to-day bars were quoted 46d. per oz.

A prospectus is issued of the London Improved Cab Company (Limited), having a capital of £200,000, in shares of £2 each. The first issue of 75,000 shares is now offered for subscription. The company is formed for the purpose of providing London on a large scale with a greatly improved cab-service. Broughams and Victorias, as worked in Paris, will form a special feature, and the rolling stock will also include the well-known "Forder" hansom and four-wheeled carriages of greatly improved pattern. The company intend to commence operations within three months after the allotment of shares, and hope to have 200 vehicles working on the streets before the end of May next.

Applications are invited for 4,500 unallotted shares of Willis's Rooms (Limited), having a capital of £65,000, in 13,000 shares of £5 each. The company was formed to purchase as a going concern and carry on the business of Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's, from the 1st of July last. The Rooms, it is remarked, are of world-wide repute, and have been patronised continuously for upwards of a century by royalty, nobility, and the élite of society. During the first six months the business has been of such a satisfactory nature that the directors have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent.

The allotment letters in Winfields (Limited) have been posted.

ENGLISH GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.		FOREIGN STOCK MARKETS.	
Consols .. .. .	100½ 101	Argentine Six per Cent. of 1868 ..	101 103
Ditto Account (April) ..	100½ 101	Ditto Six per Cent. of 1871 ..	100 102 ½
Reduced Three per Cents ..	99½ 99¾ xd	Ditto 6p. Cent. Hard Dol. Bonds ..	70½ 71½
New Three per Cents ..	99½ 99¾ xd	Austrian Four p. Ct. Gold Rentes ..	80 83
New Two-and-a-Half per Cents ..	87¾ 88¼ xd	Ditto Five per Cent. Silver ..	62 64
India Stock Four per Cent. ..	100½ 101	Brazilian Five per Cent. of 1867 ..	68½ 69½
Ditto Three per Cent. ..	85 85½ xd	Ditto Five per Cent. of 1871 ..	98 99
Ditto Four per Ct. Rupee Paper ..	70 70½	Ditto Five per Cent. of 1875 ..	98 99
Ditto 4½ per Ct. Rupee Paper ..	72½ 73½	Ditto 4½ per Cent. of 1883 ..	91½ 92½
Bank of England Stock ..	297 299	Buenos Ayres Six per Cent. of 1870 ..	99 101
Metropolitan 3½ per Cent. ..	106½ 106¾ xd	Ditto Six per Cents. of 1873 ..	99 101
COLONIAL GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.		Chilian 4½ per Cent. Converter ..	99 101
Canada 4 per Cent. of 1910-35 ..	103½ 104½	Chinese Sixp. Ct. of 1895, March ..	110 112
N.S. Wales 4 p. Ct. of 1903-5-8-9-10 ..	101½ 102½	Ditto Sixp. Ct. of 1895, June ..	108 110
N. Zealand 4 per Ct. Cons. Ins ..	95 96	Costa Rica 5 per Cent. Bonds A ..	6 ½ 6½
Queensland 6 per Cent. 1891-95 ..	106 118	Ditto B 4p. Ct. now sp. Ct. 1888 ..	59 60
S. Australian 4 p. Ct. of 1894-1916 ..	97 99	Egyptian Three p. Ct. Guarantee ..	97½ 97½ xd
Tasmanian 6 per Ct. of 1893-1901 ..	106 120	Ditto Fivep. Ct. State Domain ..	91½ 92
Victoria 4½ per Cent. of 1904 ..	105 107	Ditto Four per Cent. Unified ..	70 71 79 9-16
AMERICAN SECURITIES.		Ditto Five per Cent. Preference ..	94½ 94½
United States 4½ per Cent. Bonds ..	111½ 111½	Ditto Four p. Ct. Daira Sanieh ..	67½ 6¾
Ditto Four per Cent. ..	130½ 131½	Entre Rios 6 p. Ct. 1885 ..	91 93
Virginia Funded Bonds ..	54 55	Ditto 6 p. Ct. Ry. Mortgage ..	93 94
New York, Pennsylvania, and ..	47½ 47½	French Three per Cent. Rentes ..	78 78½
Ohio First Mortgage Bonds ..	47½ 47½	Ditto 4½ per Cent. of 1872 ..	106½ 107½
Central Pacific Shares ..	37½ 37½	Greek Five per Cent. of 1870 ..	77½ 78½
Chicago Milwaukee, and St. Pau ..	93½ 94½	Ditto Fiveper Cent. of 1881 ..	50½ 51½
Denver and Rio Grande Shares ..	25½ 25½	Ditto Five per Cent. of 1884 ..	58 59
Illinois Shares ..	131½ 132½	Hungarian Gold Rentes of 1881 ..	75½ 75½
Lake Shore and Michigan ..	97½ 97½	Italian Five per Cent. of 1861 ..	93½ 93½
Southern 100-dol. Shares ..	97½ 97½	Mexican Old Three per Cent. ..	20½ 21½
Louisville and Nashville 100-dol ..	62½ 62½	Ditto of 1864 ..	21½ 22½
Shares ..	62½ 62½	Norwegian Four per Cent. of 1880 ..	102 104
New York Central Shares ..	115½ 115	Peruvian Six per Cent. of 1870 ..	14½ 14½
New York, Lake Erie, & Western ..	34½ 34½	Ditto Five per Cent. of 1872 ..	11½ 12½
100-dol. Shares ..	74 75	Portuguese Three per Cent. ..	53½ 54½
Ditto Preference Six per Cent ..	100½ 101	Russian Five per Cent. of 1871 ..	9½ 9½
Ditto Second Mortgage Bonds ..	100½ 101	Ditto Five per Cent. of 1872 ..	92 93
New York, Ontario, and Western ..	17½ 18	Ditto Five per Cent. of 1873 ..	91½ 91½
Shares ..	27½ 28½	Ditto 4½ per Cent. of 1875 ..	85 87
Ohio and Mississippi Shares ..	18½ 19½	Santa Fé 5 p. Ct. N. C. Ry. Mort ..	89 91
Oregon and California Seven per ..	18½ 19½	Ditto 5 p. Ct. Extensions Mort ..	89 91
Cent. Preference Shares ..	59 59½	Spanish Four per Cent. ..	61 63 3-16
Pennsylvania Shares ..	59 59½	Ditto Two per Cent. ..	46½ 46½
Philadelphia and Reading Shares ..	13 13½	Swedish Four per Cent. of 1880 ..	102 104
Ditto General Mortgage Bonds ..	105½ 106½	Turkish Six per Cent. Group 1 ..	20½ 21½
Union Pacific Shares ..	59½ 59½	Ditto Nine per Cent. ..	13½ 13½
Wabash, St. Louis, and Pacific ..	17½ 17½	Ditto Six & Five per Ct. ..	38½ 38½
Ordinary Shares ..	17½ 17½	Ditto 4½ p. Ct. Tribute Loan of 1871 ..	69 69½
Ditto 100-dol. Preference ..	19½ 20	Ditto Five per Cent. of 1854 ..	92 94
BRITISH AND FOREIGN RAILWAY STOCKS.		Ditto Five per Cent. Defence ..	80½ 80½
Caledonian .. .. .	91½ 92½	Uruguay Unified Five p. Ct. of 1883 ..	48½ 48½
Great Eastern .. .. .	65½ 66	BANKS.	
Great Northern Ordinary ..	110½ 111½ xd	Anglo-Egyptian .. .. .	16 17
Ditto A .. .. .	96½ 97½	City .. .. .	18½ 19½
Great Western .. .. .	133½ 133½	Colonial .. .. .	29 31
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	114 115 xd	Consolidated .. .. .	6½ 7½
London and Brighton Ordinary ..	125 125	Imperial Ottoman .. .. .	9½ 9½
Ditto A .. .. .	123½ 123½	London and County .. .. .	81 82
London, Chatham, & Dover Ord ..	21½ 22	London and Westminster ..	63 64
London and North-Western ..	100½ 100½	London Joint Stock .. .. .	36 37
London and South-Western ..	123½ 124½ xd	National Provincial (Ls paid) ..	46½ 50½
Manchester, Sheffield, & Lincoln ..	65 69	Union of London .. .. .	36 3
Ditto A .. .. .	35½ 35	MINING SHARES.	
Metropolitan District .. .. .	108 108½	Cape Copper .. .. .	22 23
Midland .. .. .	122½ 122½	Indian Consolidated .. .. .	7½ 7½
North British .. .. .	95½ 95½	Mason and Barry .. .. .	7½ 7½
North-Eastern .. .. .	151½ 151½	Montana .. .. .	8½ 8½
North Staffordshire .. .. .	91 92	Mysore Gold .. .. .	13-16 15-16
South-Eastern Ordinary .. .. .	125 126	Oregon Gold .. .. .	4 4½
Ditto Deferred .. .. .	102½ 102½	Richmond Consolidated ..	10 10½
Grand Trunk of Canada Ordinary ..	74½ 74½	Rio Tinto .. .. .	25 30
Ditto First Preference Stock ..	56½ 57½	St. John del Rey .. .. .	3½ 3½
Ditto Second Preference Stock ..	56½ 57½	Tharsis Sulphur .. .. .	2½ 2½
Ditto Third Preference Stock ..	56½ 57½	United Mexican .. .. .	2½ 3½
Ditto Guaranteed .. .. .	7½ 7½	TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SECURITIES.	
Canadian Pacific Shares .. .. .	60½ 61	Anglo-American .. .. .	31 32
Buenos Ayres & Pac. p. Ct. Shares ..	23½ 24½	Brazilian Submarine .. .. .	10½ 11
Ditto p. Ct. Debentures .. .. .	125 125	Consolidated Telephone ..	3½ 3½
Lombardo-Venetian .. .. .	7½ 7½	Direct United States .. .. .	8 8½
Mexican Ordinary .. .. .	54½ 54½	Eastern .. .. .	10½ 10½
Ditto Eight per Cent. First Pref ..	117 117½	Eastern Extension .. .. .	11½ 11½
Ditto Six p. Cent. Second Pref ..	78½ 78½	Globe Ordinary .. .. .	4½ 4½
Ditto Six per Cent. Perpetual ..	121 123	Ditto Preference .. .. .	11½ 11
MISCELLANEOUS SHARES.		India rubber, Gutta-percha, and ..	21 22
Australian Agricultural .. .. .	117 122 xd	Telegraph Works .. .. .	3-16 3-16
Anglo-Am. Brush Light (Ls paid) ..	2½ 3	Oriental Telephone .. .. .	37½ 38½
Hudson's Bay .. .. .	22½ 22½	Telegraph Construction ..	10½ 12½
National Discount .. .. .	14 14	United Telephone .. .. .	10½ 12½
Peninsular and Oriental Steam ..	38 40	Western and Brazilian .. ..	7½ 8
Royal Mail Steam .. .. .	77 77½	TRAMWAY SHARES.	
Suez Canal .. .. .	77 77½	Dublin .. .. .	10½ 10½ xd
		Glasgow .. .. .	12½ 13 xd
		Liverpool Un. Tram. and Omnibus ..	10½ 11½ xd
		London .. .. .	19 19½
		London Street .. .. .	19 19½
		North Metropolitan .. .. .	20½ 21½

## THE INSURRECTION IN BULGARIA.

The report received from Paris yesterday that fresh outbreaks had occurred in Bulgaria is not confirmed. The Bucharest correspondent of the *Times* gives further details of the suppression of the revolt in Rustchuk and Silistria. The outbreak at Rustchuk was put down with exemplary severity. It appears that the battalion of Pioneers had been corrupted by the enemies of the Regency. The battalion attacked the troops of the line, who took shelter in the barracks, and were on the point of surrendering when the militia intervened, put an end to the combat, and dispersed the rebels. The insurgents were completely crushed, and numbers of them escaped into Roumania. They are greatly astonished at their failure, having been led to believe that the population would side with them. The reports which have reached Bucharest speak of 200 killed and wounded; but there is no saying whether these accounts are true. The refugees who have landed at Giurgevo all say that the troops of the garrison fairly swept the streets with their fusillade. All the refugees who enter Roumania are being despatched to Bucharest, whence they will be sent to Sugovista, in the mountains.

The number of killed and wounded at Silistria is said to be much greater than was reported at first. The troops behaved very well, fired steadily, and pursued the insurgents into every hole and corner. The revolt was suppressed chiefly through the action of the population, which rose against Colonel Kristeff. By the time reinforcements reached the city the revolt was virtually suppressed. Colonel Kristeff ordered cannon to be fired into the town from the fortress to overawe the population; but this only exasperated the people. All the gunners who were denounced as having fired have been shot. Colonel Kristeff made two attempts to escape, but was brought back by his men, by one of whom it is said that he was shot. A telegraph clerk, on hearing of Colonel Kristeff's *pronunciamiento*, at once reported it to Sofia. Ten minutes later the insurgents took possession of the telegraph office. Twenty officers who joined in the revolt escaped to Ostrov. They have been arrested, and papers have been found on some of them which show that MM. Karaveloff, Zanoloff, and Zankoff were privy to the insurrections. Bendereff, who is believed to have been the chief organizer of the movement, is not likely to give trouble for a long time, as he will have to answer before a Roumanian court for having conducted a conspiracy in that country against a friendly State. There are now in Silistria 4,000 Government troops, while Shumla, Varna, and Rustchuk are strongly garrisoned. The people of Rustchuk have offered an ovation to the militia for their energetic and patriotic action. M. Radoslavoff, the Prime Minister, and Colonel Nicolaieff, the War Minister, have sent telegrams to the garrisons at Silistria and Rustchuk thanking them for their conduct.

MM. Karaveloff, Nikoforoff, Zanoloff, and twenty-two other persons have been arrested at Sophia, where a state of siege has been proclaimed. The town is perfectly quiet. A large crowd mustered before M. Stambouloff's residence and cheered until he came out. He spoke a few words, asking the assemblage to disperse quietly, and promising that the Government would do its duty. It is a kindness (the *Times* correspondent says) to those accused of complicity in the insurrection to arrest them, for the people would probably lynch them if they remained at large. Mme. Karaveloff was hooted in the streets yesterday morning, and had to hurry home. At her request a police guard has been placed at her door. The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says:—

There is now no further doubt that the mutiny in the Danube fortresses formed part of a vast conspiracy promoted chiefly by foreign agents with the aid of foreign gold. It was destined to upset the Regency, and to place the Government of the principality in the hands of an unscrupulous clique, headed by half a dozen intriguers, whom the authorities at Sophia have found it advisable to send to the lock-ups. The failure of their plot promises to have a two-fold result; it is likely to strengthen the Regency and the Government, and to further discredit Russia with the army and people. Far from paving the way for Russian intervention, this last *coup* has removed all pretext for it, as it has proved the existing Government to be quite able to maintain order. It is worthy of note that at Bucharest and Belgrade it was understood that, if the insurrection had spread or had lasted another forty-eight hours, Russian troops would have proceeded to occupy Bulgaria. As it is, the report comes from different quarters that Russia has promised impunity to the conspirators. Not a hair of their heads is to be touched. Twelve civilians, including M. Karaveloff, and five officers were marched off to gaol yesterday afternoon. Some of them are old hands at conspiracy, and have been in trouble for high treason before. They were arrested at a fashionable café while playing billiards and cards. Confident, no doubt, in Russia's protection, they displayed the utmost indifference. The only thing that seemed to annoy them was the screeching and howling of the populace, who jeered them on their way to prison. "You scoundrels, you ruffians; long live the Government!" yelled the multitude, as the convoy of conspirators passed along. Apart from this unpleasant incident and a few days spent in confinement, M. Karaveloff and his followers will have incurred no personal inconvenience. Their patrons will provide for their liberation, particularly as they are sure to be wanted again. Their example is encouraging for the discontented elements in the neighbouring States.

The diplomatic world in Vienna, it is stated, looks forward with much anxiety to the difficulties which, it is feared, will arise when the question of the trial of the Bulgarian conspirators comes to the front.

## THE ROUMANIAN ARMY.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

BUCHAREST, March 5.—The *Official Gazette* to-day publishes the decree for the formation of three new regiments in the Dobruja: one of light cavalry (Calabashi) and two of infantry (Dorobanji), for which a special credit of 3,500,000 leis has been provided in the War Estimates.

## THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

BERLIN, March 5.—The results of the second ballots, which have now been nearly completely received, show that the new Reichstag is composed of 221 supporters and 176 opponents of the Septennate.

## EARTHQUAKE SHOCKS IN GREECE.

A Reuter's telegram from Athens says:—Successive slight shocks of earthquake were felt from noon to midnight yesterday at Philiatra, their direction being south-west by south.

## THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

A telegram from Liverpool at eleven o'clock to-day says:—The cotton market opened quiet with a fair demand. Probable sales 10,000 bales. Prices on the spot are firm, and have risen three points. The following transactions are reported for delivery:—March-April, 15-64d.; May-June, 17-64d.; August-September, 22-64d.

## THE DUCHESS OF RICHMOND.

The bulletin issued this morning respecting the condition of the Duchess of Richmond says:—"The Duchess of Richmond and Gordon is not so well."

## PRINCE ALEXANDER.

A Reuter's telegram from Darmstadt says:—Prince Alexander is now convalescent, and is making satisfactory progress towards complete recovery.

## THE SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

The proprietors of the South-Eastern Railway met to-day at the offices, London Bridge (Sir Edward Watkin in the chair) to consider Bills to authorize the Bexley-heath Railway Company to extend their railway to Blackheath; to confer further powers upon the Metropolitan Railway Company as to their surplus lands; to empower the South-Eastern to subscribe to the Metropolitan Company; to make further provision as to the joint undertakings of the Metropolitan and District Railways; and to authorize the South-Eastern and the Submarine Continental Railway Companies to continue experimental works for a tunnel beneath the Straits of Dover. A further special meeting was convened to authorize the directors to subscribe to the fund for the Imperial Institute. The chairman explained the reasons for the various Bills, and stated that there was no foundation for the assertion that the board sprang any proposals upon the shareholders. With respect to the unfortunate Channel Tunnel business, all that was wanted was to keep it alive until the people of England some fine morning awakened to the desirability of putting an end to the sufferings of traveling across the Channel by allowing persons to go under it. The carrying out of such a scheme would enormously increase the price of the stock of the company. Mr. Adams read a letter from a shareholder who stoutly protested against the revival of the Channel Tunnel scheme, and against subscribing any money to the Imperial Institute fund in any other way than he chose. Mr. Henderson, Mr. Jennings, and Mr. Rhodes also protested against the Channel Tunnel proposal and the former handed in a protest. The chairman stated that he could not receive the protest, but, if desired, Mr. Henderson could demand a poll. He (the chairman) then added that he thought it desirable to continue the experiments in connection with the tunnel works; for they had already found coal at certain borings at Calais. (Hear, hear.) Lord Brabourne seconded the approval of the respective Bills, which after further discussion were agreed to. The chairman then opened the proceedings of the special meeting with respect to the proposed contribution of the shareholders on behalf of the company to the Imperial Institute fund, and said that as this was the fiftieth year of the company's operations he hoped that the proprietors would be sympathetic. The opening of the Institute would be very advantageous to the company. He therefore proposed that the company contribute £1,000 to the funds of the Institute. Lord Brabourne seconded the motion, and, after some discussion, it was carried.

## THE PRIZE FIGHT AT EALING.

At the Brentford Petty Sessions this morning, David Bourke, nineteen, fishmonger, 18, Firman's-place, Commercial-road, E., and William Hopwood, twenty-three, cabinet-maker, 30, Collingwood-road, Bethnal-green, were charged with having been engaged as principals in a prize-fight at Worsington-lane, in the parish of Pervivale; and Robert Feltham, licensed victualler, John Baldock, dealer, and Thomas Low, fishmonger, were charged with having assisted them. Police-constable Goldswain said that yesterday morning he was instructed to proceed to the neighbourhood of Green Ford, where a prize-fight was supposed to have taken place. He went to Horsenden-lane with two other constables, and there saw a number of men come from a field, including all the prisoners. Bourke and Hopwood had the appearance of having been engaged in a fight. Hopwood, on being told the charge, said, "It was not a prize-fight." On the way to the station the same prisoner said, "We didn't know you were a policeman. We thought you were a gentleman out hunting." Hopwood and Bourke were very much marked; Hopwood more than the other. Corroborative evidence having been given by other constables, the prisoners were remanded.

## A CRIME-STAINED VILLAGE.

There is a charming Arcadian village called La Tour, situated near Privas, in the Southern Department of Ardèche, which (the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says) has become uninhabitable, owing to the number of crimes which have been committed therein of late. A short time ago a widow named Roche was murdered there by her nephew and niece after she had made her will in their favour, and on Wednesday two small farmers quarrelled with each other over a small strip of ground which each claimed as his own. The dispute was adjusted by one of the improvised litigants kicking the viscera out of his antagonist and leaving him for dead on the field. The inhabitants of La Tour, justly terrified at the epidemic of crime which has swept over their once peaceful hamlet, have left their homes in a body and migrated to less bloodstained regions. One may well ask, where were the *gardes champêtres*, or the gendarmes, while these crimes were being perpetrated. Rural France has of late had an unenviable notoriety for crime, and all its villages have hardly been like those blissful abodes depicted by Florian.

## STRANGE SCENE IN PARIS.

An extraordinary scene was witnessed on Thursday on the lower or riverside part of the Quai du Louvre, Paris, where the wash-houses which float in the Seine are moored. While the laundresses were busily engaged in their avocations, some itinerant musicians came and played a selection of popular airs. The nymphs of the washtub instantly left their boat and organized an *al fresco* ball on the quay, to the delectation of all the vagabonds in the locality and the amazement of the serious folk who happened to be passing near the place. The *laveuses* footed it with great spirit to the merry measures for some time, when a policeman suddenly appeared among them and ordered the wandering fiddlers and harpists to put up their instruments and the washers to return to their soapsuds. Thereupon the crew of loafers, furious at the termination of an entertainment which was giving them so much pleasure, fell upon the policeman, and, after having beaten and stabbed him, were about to throw him into the river, when three or four of his colleagues came up and charged the herd of rascals with their swords. There was then a general stampede, the blackguards making off in every direction. Six of them were, however, arrested. The attacked policeman had a narrow escape from death. Before help arrived he was altogether at the mercy of his assailants; not one of the crowd of people who witnessed the proceedings from the upper part of the quay venturing to go to his assistance.

## THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.—REPORTED RUSSIAN NOTE.

A report has reached Vienna that a Russian Note has been issued announcing that the Czar had resolved to withdraw from the Three Emperors' Alliance and to resume his complete freedom of action. The report has made no impression whatever in Government or diplomatic circles there, as the existence of such a Note is strongly doubted. The Vienna correspondent of the *Standard* who states that the report came from Madrid, says:—"I have reason to believe that the Note really exists, having been written about three weeks ago. It is even asserted that its existence was known at the Quai d'Orsay before any one in Madrid heard of it. It is remarkable that this Note, which was sent out a few days after M. Katkoff's anti-German article in the *Moscow Gazette*, and shortly before the St. Petersburg letters in the *Politische and Nord*, should be made public just now, on the morrow of the Bulgarian rising, which the *Journal de St. Petersburg* so heartily sympathizes with, and which it declares was not unforeseen. It is not too much to say that this Note marks the beginning of a new chapter in the development of the Eastern Question."

The Austrian Delegation yesterday approved unanimously and without debate the Ministerial Bill authorizing the credit of 52,500,000 fl. on account of extraordinary military expenditure. The public sitting only lasted about ten minutes. The Committee reporter spoke a few words explaining the necessity of the demand and concluded: "Our silence speaks better than the most eloquent debate." The Committee of the Hungarian Delegation unanimously voted the military credit. Notwithstanding the denials given from time to time to the reports of movements of troops (a Vienna telegram says) extensive military preparations continue to be made by Austria-Hungary, especially in Galicia, where the erection of wooden huts is proceeding, and where the forts are being armed, and ammunition and provisions are being stored.

The construction of the uncompleted portion of the strategical railway lines in Galicia is being pushed forward as rapidly as possible, a large number of men being employed on the works. In fact, every provision is being made for defence against Russia, although it is believed that these precautions are regarded as principally necessary to meet the eventuality of a Franco-German war in which success might lie with the French. It is apprehended that in such a case public opinion in Russia might imperatively urge a settlement of accounts with Austria-Hungary, and it is questioned whether the Russian Government would be strong enough to withstand the national impulse. At the military conferences held last week under the presidency of the Emperor, which had special reference to the preparations above mentioned, all the necessary measures were resolved upon to meet any serious contingency that might arise, and the selection of the officers to whom superior commands would be entrusted was decided upon. Despite all these precautionary measures, however, the opinion prevails in Austrian official and military circles that peace will not be disturbed this year, and a special desire is felt to avoid complications with Russia.

In political and military circles in Bucharest the passage of Russian troops through Roumania for Bulgaria is regarded as entirely probable at no distant date. Opinions differ concerning the attitude to be adopted by the Government in such a contingency. M. Bratiano declared a few days ago to an intimate friend that Roumania would fight the Power first entering Roumanian territory, whether on the east or north, or on the west or north-west.

The failure of Russian influence in regard to the despatch of a Special Commissioner to Bulgaria, and the improved Anglo-Turkish relations, have (the Constantinople correspondent of the *Standard* says) created so much ill-humour on the part of the Russians, that M. de Nelidoff has handed to the Porte a strong Note, calling upon the Turks to fulfil without delay their engagements regarding the payment of the indemnity to the Russian subjects, the so-called sufferers by the late war.

## THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

A special general meeting of the proprietors of the Metropolitan Railway Company was held this morning at the Cannon-street Hotel, to consider a Bill to confer further powers upon the company, and also a proposal to sanction the payment of a sum of money in furtherance of the Imperial Institute scheme. The chairman (Sir Edward Watkin) in explaining the provisions of the Bill, stated that it referred to the company's surplus lands, to the abolition of the previously proposed contribution to the St. John's wood Railway connection, and to the scheduling of the capital account so as to enable the shareholders to see exactly what the company's capital accounts were. He moved, and Mr. Pochin seconded, the adoption of the Bill. This, after some discussion, was carried.

The chairman then read a letter from the offices of the Imperial Institute inviting subscriptions to the scheme, and added that the matter of the Imperial Institute was one of controversy. He had, however, obtained the opinion of many of the most influential shareholders, and they were desirous of identifying the company to some extent with the great imperial undertaking. (Hear, hear, and "No, no.") He should, however, bring it before the meeting as a matter of their own interest and business. If they could get a permanent exhibition at South Kensington it would add largely to their traffic, and he believed that the company would get therefrom something considerable. The proposed small contribution would lose much of its value if it were given in any bickering and grudging spirit. They would all, he believed, sympathize in the loyal feeling towards the best of women and the most righteous and constitutional Sovereign any country was ever blessed with. (Cheers.) The very modest sum he should ask them to contribute had been estimated at about  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the pound. The chairman then proposed a resolution to the effect that the directors be authorized, either by way of donation from the company or by an appeal to the proprietors, to subscribe £500 to the funds of the Institute provided that any shareholder who declined to be a party to any such donation should have his proportion returned to him with the next dividend warrant. Mr. Pochin, who seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, regretted that the chairman had appealed to the business interests of the proprietors; for he (the speaker) believed that, irrespective of such interests, every shareholder would consent to the proposed contribution to so loyal a scheme. (Hear, hear.)

## THE ENGLISH CRICKETERS IN AUSTRALIA.

The special correspondent of the *Sportsman*, telegraphing from Melbourne, says that a match between Shaw's eleven and an eleven of Victoria was commenced there yesterday. The home team went in first. Gunn was ill, and a substitute was found for him; but he will probably be able to take the field to-day. Thanks principally to the steady defence of Bruce and M'Ilwraith, the Englishmen were fielding all day, and when stumps were drawn one wicket was still to fall, the total being 245. Flowers was the most successful bowler. Bruce made 62, M'Ilwraith 64, Trumble 4, Horan (not out) 23, M'Shane 45, Midwinter 7, Morris 4, Houston 2, Worrall 2, Phillips 0, and Cother (not out), 27; extras 5.

## MR. WHITBREAD'S DIVISION.

In the division last night on Mr. Whitbread's amendment to the cloture rule, to leave out the words "or an infringement on the rights of the minority," the majority against the amendment of 277, including tellers, was composed of 235 Conservatives and the following 42 Liberal Unionists:—Lord Hartington, Mr. Goschen, Sir Henry James, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Caine, Mr. Craig Sellar, Mr. Anstruther, Lord Baring, Mr. Bickford-Smith, Mr. Biddulph, Mr. A. H. Brown, Mr. J. Caldwell, Mr. R. F. F. Campbell, Mr. Coghill, Mr. Collings, Mr. John Corbett, Sir Savile Crossley, Sir W. Crossman, Viscount Ebrington, Honourable A. R. D. Elliot, Honourable Hugh Elliot, Mr. Finlay, Mr. Lewis Fry, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Hobhouse, Mr. Thomas Lea, Sir John Lubbock, Mr. F. W. Maclean, Mr. Mildmay, Mr. More, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Pitt-Lewis, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. W. P. Sinclair, Mr. Sutherland, Mr. F. Taylor, Mr. Thorburn, Mr. Verdin, Honourable G. R. Vernon, Mr. J. Powell Williams, Mr. Wodehouse, and Viscount Wolmer. The minority of 202, including tellers, was composed of 133 Gladstonian Liberals, including Mr. Childers, Sir William Harcourt, Mr. John Morley, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. Shaw Lefevre, Mr. Mundella, Sir Charles Russell, Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth, Sir Lyon Playfair, Mr. Arnold Morley, Mr. Marjoribanks, Mr. H. H. Fowler, Mr. R. W. Duff, and Mr. Broadhurst; 4 Liberal Unionists—Sir T. F. Grove, Mr. Heneage, Sir Henry Hussey Vivian, and Mr. George Dixon; and 65 Parnellites.

## REPORT OF THE PATENT OFFICE COMMITTEE.

The report of the committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the duties, organization, and arrangements of the Patent Office is issued to-day. The committee report that the section of the Act which requires that if an application for a patent has been made, and before it has been granted another application is made bearing a similar title, the examiner shall report whether the specification appears the same, and if so, notice shall be given to the applicants, has proved a failure. Its operation has been rather mischievous than otherwise, as notices have been given when applications are not really for similar inventions, and omitted when they were, in fact, identical. The department charged with the business of the section costs from £3,000 to £4,000 a year, and its abolition is recommended. The committee consider that the system of examination is complicated and costly, and should be revised. A recommendation is made that the time allowed to applicants to amend their specifications had been limited to one month, as under the present system unlimited time is allowed, and specifications are frequently amended from knowledge supplied by subsequent specifications which have been filed. A roll of qualified patent agents is recommended, as the present system is open to abuse by unscrupulous persons.

## THE EARLY CLOSING BILL.

From the fifth report of the Select Committee on Public Petitions, it appears that up to the 1st of March fourteen petitions, bearing 3,986 signatures, had been presented to the House of Commons against the Early Closing Bill. Eleven petitions (with 1,668 signatures) had been presented in favour of the Bill.

## CAMBRIDGE LOCAL EXAMINATIONS.

The Cambridge University Local Examination lists published this morning show that, excluding the colonial candidates, 6,096 passed in the various classes—namely, 340 senior boys, 3,119 junior boys, 878 senior girls, and 1,759 junior girls. The total failures number 2,438.

## A STEAMER STRANDED ON THE GOODWIN SANDS.

The steamer *Waesland*, belonging to the Red Star Line, and bound from New York to Antwerp, went ashore at five o'clock yesterday afternoon on the Goodwin Sands, during a dense fog. The passengers, thirty saloon, twelve second cabin, and about seventy steerage, and the crew, were rescued by the steam-tug *Douro* and landed at Deal. The steamer was successfully floated off this morning after a large quantity of her cargo had been thrown overboard. She then proceeded to Antwerp in charge of three tugs.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, left Buckingham Palace yesterday afternoon at a quarter to five, escorted by a detachment of the Royal Horse Guards (Blue) for Paddington Station, whence the royal party travelled by special train to Windsor, which was reached at twenty minutes to six o'clock.

Arrangements in connection with the Queen's projected visit to the Continent have now been nearly completed. Her Majesty will probably leave England on the 4th of April for Aix-les-Bains, where she will stay about seventeen days, when she will proceed to Germany for three days, returning thence to England towards the end of April.

It is announced in last night's *Gazette* that the Queen will hold a Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace on Friday, the 18th inst., and that the Prince of Wales will hold a Levée at St. James's Palace, on behalf of her Majesty, on Friday, the 11th inst.

The Princess of Wales, accompanied by the Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud, visited Olympia, at Kensington, yesterday afternoon, to witness the performance of the Paris Hippodrome. The Prince and Princess last evening went to Toole's Theatre.

It is announced that the Crown Princess of Denmark gave birth to a son yesterday afternoon.

In the House of Commons last night it was, on the motion of Mr. Plunkett, ordered that a Select Committee should be appointed to reconsider the plans and proposals for an Admiralty and War Office. An instruction to the Committee will be that they report whether some or all of the existing Admiralty buildings may with advantage be retained.

Thirty vestries and other local bodies in the metropolis have petitioned Parliament in favour of the renewal of the Coal and Wine Dues.

Sir Henry Holland has left town with Lady Holland till Monday, on a visit to Lord Leconfield at Petworth House.

Up to the 1st of March 113 petitions, bearing 11,523 signatures, had been presented to the House of Commons in favour of the Hares Preservation Bill.

Mr. Chamberlain has sufficiently recovered from his indisposition to enable him to resume his attendance at the House of Commons.

At a sale of riding and coaching stallions, the property of the late Mr. John Grant, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, held by Messrs. Tattersall yesterday, Mr. Burdett Coutts, M.P., gave 910 guineas for a stallion named Truefit. In all 165 horses were sold, realizing a total of £12,386.

## BANKING AND INVESTMENTS IN IRELAND.

A parliamentary paper has been issued containing the report of the Registrar-General for Ireland on certain statistics of banking in Ireland and investments in Government and India stocks on which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland. The results of an analysis of the tables given in the report are stated thus:—

1. That in December, 1886, there was an increase of cash balances in the Irish joint stock banks as compared with the corresponding period in 1885, amounting to £802,000, or 2.7 per cent. 2. That there was an increase of £949,000 in cash balances in the Irish joint-stock banks in December, 1886, as compared with June, 1886. 3. That there was a total increase in the deposits in savings banks in Ireland in December, 1886, as compared with the same period of 1885, amounting to £268,000, or 6.4 per cent., of which increase £242,000 was in post-office and £26,000 in trustee savings banks. 4. That there has been an increase of £110,000 in the deposits in savings banks in December, 1886, as compared with the previous June. 5. That there was an increase in the amount of Government and India stocks on which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland of £391,000 in December, 1886, as compared with the same period of 1885. 6. That in December, 1886, there was a diminution of £404,000 in the amount of Government and India stocks on which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland as compared with June of the same year. 7. That in December, 1886, there was a diminution of £125,000 in the amount of bank-note circulation as compared with the corresponding period of 1885. 8. That there was an increase of bank-note circulation to the amount of £633,000 in December, 1886, as compared with June of the same year.

The *Economist* points out that the growth in deposits is all the more noteworthy, because of the decrease in the population of the country.

If we compare the amount of the deposits with the number of the population the statement is:—

	Estimated Population.	Total Deposits.	Average per Head.
1886 .....	4,888,000	£34,623,000	£7.1
1885 .....	4,900,000	33,553,000	6.8
1880 .....	5,327,000	33,135,000	6.2
1875 .....	5,309,000	36,451,000	6.9
1870 .....	5,413,000	27,004,000	5.0
1865 .....	5,592,000	20,663,000	3.7
1862 .....	5,775,000	16,556,000	2.9

The total deposits thus average nearly a pound a head more than they did in 1880, and yet the contention of the Nationalists is, that the country has become so much impoverished, that burdens which it was possible to bear five years ago have become impossible now. It may possibly be that the deposits have increased because of the withholding of rents. We take it that the Registrar's tables take account only of moneys standing at the credit of Irish depositors; and it is possible that if rents had been paid some of this money might have been transferred by the landlords to their credit in English banks. This, however, does not seem a very probable explanation of the growth; and even if there were anything in it, it would point not to inability, but to unwillingness on the part of tenants to fulfil their obligations. And the significance of the increase in banking deposits is all the greater, because it has taken place concurrently with an augmentation of the investments of Irishmen in Government and India stocks.

## A PLAGUE OF RATS IN NEW YORK.

An American contemporary describes a Norwegian rat, which is now playing such havoc in New York, as so big and so savage that an ordinary cat is no match for him. Most of the Up Town hotels maintain in their cellars a permanent staff of from a dozen to a hundred cats; but even the maximum number of four-footed rat-catchers is insufficient to prevent the Norwegian monsters from penetrating to the rooms, and gnawing to pieces everything that they can put their incisors on. But worse remains to be told. The number of Norway rats living at free quarters in New York is computed to reach the amazing aggregate of one billion. A six-story building in the upper part of New York was a few months ago condemned as unsafe, because one side of the structure had dangerously settled. When the workmen who pulled down the house reached the basement they found it literally paved with rats, and an entire day was occupied in drowning the noisome little pests by means of a hose and fire hydrants. It was then ascertained that the rats had so pertinaciously burrowed under the supports, in order to get at a provision warehouse on the other side of the wall, that the lowermost courses of bricks had disintegrated, so that the wall above had begun to sink. The proprietor of a provision warehouse in South-street, New York, testified that in the course of forty-eight hours the rats had eaten into a dozen boxes of cheese and lard, and bored innumerable holes in two or three barrels full of cider, so that the cellar was inundated with the fermented juice of the apple. The next day, shocking to relate, more than a hundred rats, dead drunk from tipping cider, were found on the floor of the cellar.

## THE JEWS OF THE WORLD.

Concerning the figures of the entire Jewish population on the globe there is a difference of opinion among the statisticians; but the "Hebrew Annual" declares that France contains 600,000; Germany, 562,000, of whom 39,000 inhabit Alsace and Lorraine; Austria-Hungary, 1,644,000, of whom 688,000 are in Galicia and 638,000 in Hungary Proper; Italy, 40,000; Netherlands, 82,000; Roumania, 265,000; Russia, 2,553,000 (Russian Poland, 768,000); Turkey, 105,000; Belgium, 3,000; Bulgaria, 10,000; Switzerland, 7,000; Denmark, 4,000; Spain, 1,900; Gibraltar, 1,500; Greece, 3,000; Servia, 3,500; Sweden, 3,000. In Asia there are 300,000 of the race; Turkey in Asia has 195,000, of whom 25,000 are in Palestine, 47,000 are in Russian Asia, 18,000 in Persia, 14,000 in Central Asia, 1,900 in India, and 1,000 in China. In Africa, 8,000 Jews live in Egypt, 55,000 in Tunisia, 35,000 in Algeria, 60,000 in Morocco, 6,000 in the Tripolitan, and 200,000 in Abyssinia. America counts 230,000 among her citizens, and 20,000 more are distributed in other sections of the Transatlantic continents; while only 12,000 are scattered through Oceanica. In short, the entire total of the Hebrew race on the surface of the globe is estimated at 6,300,000.

## HORSES FOR GERMANY.

A Nantwich correspondent writes: "A Cheshire dealer has received instructions from Germany to buy a large number of horses for military purposes, and has accompanied a representative of the German army to several horse fairs." A Dungannon correspondent telegraphs that at Moy fair, which was held yesterday, over 200 horses, suitable for cavalry purposes, were purchased by German agents. Owing to the unusual demand prices were considerably enhanced.

## THE WEEKLY PAPERS.

## THE ATTITUDE OF THE GLADSTONIAN OPPOSITION.

The *Saturday Review* considers that the principal interest of the debate on the new Rules of Procedure centres in the attitude and action of the Gladstonian Opposition. Do Sir William Harcourt, Mr. Morley, and Mr. Campbell-Bannerman deem it consistent, with the bare obligations of men who have been Ministers of the Crown, to sit by and tacitly countenance the attempts of a lawless minority to render the execution of law impossible? This is no issue of disputed policy; the sophistry of the pretence that it is will not deceive the simplest mind in the country. The question for men in their position, and with the responsibilities attaching to it, is not whether future legislation for Ireland ought to originate in an imperial or in a local Parliament, but whether the authority of the Executive or the resistance of the rebel should prevail in Ireland. That, and no other than that, is the question raised when the Irish constabulary vote is opposed on Friday night, and the *Saturday Review* wants to know what the occupants of the front bench have to say in defence of the attitude which they assumed towards it.

The *Spectator* says that if things go on for two or three weeks longer as they have gone on during the earlier part of the session, the time will come when the Government will say that this inability to move is simply intolerable, and that an appeal must be made to the country on the question of whether a parliamentary majority is to have its own way or not. If that appeal is made in a condition of things such as now prevails; if Sir William Harcourt's great talents are still being used, as they are being used now, simply to play into Mr. Parnell's hands; if Mr. Gladstone's reserve is still as great as it is now, or is only broken through as it was on Tuesday night, the question which will really go to the constituencies will be this—"Will you give Home Rule, or will you put down obstruction?" We should then have another defeat of Mr. Gladstone, and a solid Conservative majority against him. Mr. Gladstone, the greatest Liberal Minister of the century, would retire finally under a cloud, and would retire not so much for his Irish policy as for the want of apparent magnanimity which led him to permit his followers to avail themselves of every paltry means at their disposal for making the position of his opponents untenable and intolerable. That decision on the part of the constituencies would be a right though a painful one.

## THE FEEBLENESS OF GOVERNMENT IN IRELAND.

The *Economist* sides with the critics of the Government who say that the existing law in Ireland is not worked, that murderers are not hunted down with detectives and rewards, that open offenders (particularly if they are Leaguers) are not prosecuted, and that when the police (in cases, say, of eviction) are resisted by force, they do not fire. In fact, such powers as the State possesses are not employed, and while Parliament battles over procedure rules a whole kingdom is falling into habits of contempt for law. The Government is in Ireland too deferential to opinion, and forgets that it is not appointed either to conciliate or to exasperate the public, but simply to see that the law as it stands is carried out.

The *Saturday Review* declares that mere legislation designed to facilitate the processes of law and to expedite the action of judicial tribunals will not touch the real root of mischief in Ireland. At best it can but check the efflorescence of open and violent crime from this parent stem, which will still continue to put forth shoots of anarchy and disorder in other directions and of other kinds. The Government in London must condescend to notice its successful rival in Ireland, and Ministers must grasp the fact that it is idle for them to attempt to govern that country until their rival has been put down. The course which her Majesty's Ministers will be pursuing, if they adopt the particular legislative policy attributed to them, can only be appreciated by imagining that Ireland is at this moment under the physical, as it is under the moral, occupation of an invading army. What would be thought of the Government of the country if in that case it were announced that they intended to acquiesce in the presence of this hostile force, and to make no direct attempt to dislodge it, but would confine themselves to taking measures to protect the lives of the inhabitants of the country?

## THE APPROACH OF WAR.

The *Spectator* cannot but believe that war is rapidly approaching. The speech of the German Emperor not only contains no reassuring word, but is based on the theory that Germany has only the "plenitude of her own strength" to defend her against attack. The Austrian Government continues its armaments with almost reckless haste. It is concentrating its cavalry in Galicia, a flat province nearly as large as Scotland, in which the huge masses of Russian horsemen could operate with effect, and it has informed the Hungarian Delegation, through Count Kalnoky, that although it desires peace, war might be upon the dual monarchy at a moment's notice. The Delegation, therefore, though sensitive about the difficult financial position of Hungary, voted £5,000,000 of extra money for the army without debate. The Prince of Montenegro, who has no financial resources, has mobilized and armed 35,000 men, and is palpably waiting for some signal to act, either in Macedonia or on behalf of the enemies of King Milan in Servia. That signal will, it is believed, be given by disturbances in Bulgaria; and the facts indicate that orders to give it have already been secretly issued.

The *Economist* cannot help thinking that the military outbreaks in Bulgaria are of evil omen. It would not be difficult for Russia to manufacture out of these revolts a pretext for active intervention in Bulgaria, which would precipitate a conflict with Austria; and, while the *Economist* does not desire to predict war, while it still hopes that peace may be kept, not so much because the nations do not want war, or rather want what they fancy war alone can give them, but because they may wait, and wait so long for the best time to strike the first blow, that the situation will of itself change completely; yet it cannot help fearing that the Silistria and Rustchuk revolts may possibly turn out to be those "events of secondary importance" which Count Kalnoky evidently regards as the precursors of war.

## HOW TO BUY SWEET VOICES.

The *Saturday Review* remarks on the rather tell-tale oratory of Mr. Howell and Mr. Bradlaugh when bringing their charges against the Corporation of London. They showed, it says, a very remarkable familiarity with the art and mystery of applying the external pressure from which they professed to be anxious to defend the freedom of the House. Mere documents would never have made Mr. Howell understand the exact value of the entries about chuckers-out, chairmen, enthusiastic audience, bannermen, and so forth. Therefore it is, doubtless, that he and others are so anxious to limit the scope of the inquiry, and therefore Mr. Gladstone supported them in their efforts to make the reference as narrow as possible. Superficially, there is something plausible in Mr. Gladstone's contention that there is no parity between spending of private money by private persons and misuse of public money by a corporation. This is true, but beside the question. Mr. Howell attacked the Corporation for attempting to influence the House of Commons unduly. If this is a breach of privilege in them, it would be so equally in a private person. If the House is to take

notice of such as organize bogus public meetings, there is no reason why it should stop at the Corporation, though no doubt such a limitation of the field of inquiry would be highly convenient to some honourable members. It will be a thousand pities if so excellent an opportunity of exposing the real character of the demonstrations, public meetings, and processions which are now familiar weapons in party fighting were lost. If it can be shown that the same arts are used on both sides, there will be no great cause why any sane man should complain. Much the contrary, for we shall have made a step towards totally discrediting and abolishing one of the oddest and most disagreeable humbugs hitherto invented—namely, the humbug called “the imposing demonstration,” which is, in fact, a mob of persons, all ignorant, and many of them frequently venal.

#### THE PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The *John Bull* feels that no decent Englishman can nowadays take up his newspaper of a morning without a sense of intense humiliation at the daily account of the proceedings of the House of Commons, and at the depth of unmitigated blackguardism to which it is rapidly sinking. There is only one remedy. That remedy is, not the cloture nor any reformation of procedure, but the summary expulsion of the whole of the Irish Murder League, bag and baggage, out of our British Parliament, and the total disfranchisement of Ireland, which would henceforth be governed like a Crown Colony.

#### THE LICENCE GIVEN TO THE SOCIALISTS.

The *Saturday Review* thinks the attitude of the authorities towards the Socialists rather imbecile. It is a scandal that during months a body of loud-mouthed and rowdy agitators have been allowed to carry on a “campaign” of mere nuisance. As a natural consequence they have not learned to appreciate their insignificance, but to realize their happiness in being able to misbehave with impunity. They live by doing this kind of thing, and, however contemptible a part of the nation they may be, they are great men in their own world. In the meantime police magistrates have to deal weekly with assaults arising out of these Socialist meetings, and made by larrikins who think they have a right to commit any outrage provided they assume the Socialist pretext. Orderly congregations, again, go to church with such confidence as they can get from Ministerial assurances that the police will act with vigour at some undefined future date. Everything is to be regulated at some future date, as the Home Secretary explained to Mr. Fisher on Thursday night when answering his questions as to the cost to the country of the Trafalgar-square meetings. Until that time arrives, it appears from Mr. Matthews's own words that these roughs' holidays give extra work to from two to three thousand policemen, and cost the taxpayer about £140 each. This must be stopped, and Trafalgar-square meetings must be prohibited, if the Government is to escape reprobation and something like contempt.

#### AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

The *Spectator* cannot see how an impecunious author is to dispense with a publisher, or how he is to find a publisher unless he allows him a profit not only on his outlay and trouble, but on his risk, which is an important detail not susceptible of frank explanation in black and white. How in the world is a publisher, when the book has succeeded, to appraise the amount of risk which he really ran, and which might vary from total loss to a loss of 1 per cent.? He cannot do it, and the only course is to let him fix his own terms, subject to competition and to the chance of seeing himself left idle. If he breaks his contract, let him be sued like any other tradesman, and be avoided by all authors thenceforward; but to dictate to him a contract is as impossible as to regulate the interest of money by law. Mr. Besant's model contract is a capital one, or would be, if the first 500 or 750 copies were left with the publisher to cover risk; but there are no means of compelling the trade to adopt it, nor would it be just to use them if there were. The *Spectator* dislikes the half-profit system as much as Mr. Besant, because author and publisher are certain to calculate “profits” on different systems, and their relations are, therefore, strained; but, if publishers see no other way of compensating themselves for risks, what is to be done? Risk, till all authors are well off, must be the essence of the publishing trade.

### THE MORNING PAPERS.

#### THE BEST DEPOSITORY OF THE POWER OF CLOSURE.

The *Times* is of opinion that a proportional majority is, upon the whole, the best depository of the power of closure; but as that appears to be an unattainable solution in the present state of opinion, the next best safeguard is to require the demand for closure to commend itself to the impartial judgment of the Speaker.

The *Standard* finds a want of substance in the most taking periods of Sir William Harcourt's speech. The Speaker is a judge now. He has to say whether a member is talking relevantly or irrelevantly, whether he is conforming or not to the traditions and discipline of the Chamber—whether, for instance, he is “arguing with the Chair” or speaking with the respect due to that authority. In all these cases a certain judicial element appears. The Speaker is a judge of fact as well as law. To add to his functions that of interposing—in extreme and exceptional cases—to prevent the unjustifiable silencing of a minority, is surely no monstrous or dangerous extension of them.

#### LORD SALISBURY AND THE TITHE QUESTION.

The *Daily News* observes that Lord Salisbury did not give much comfort to the deputation which represented to him yesterday the grievances of the tithe-payers. His speech was a confession, which a good many other people had made before him, that he had no idea of the difficulty and complexity of the question till he began to investigate it. It is satisfactory to know that the Government Bill is likely to be a larger measure than was originally promised; but even then it is not likely to be large enough.

The *Morning Post* adopts Lord Salisbury's view that the redemption of the tithe is the only solution of the problem which offers a reasonable prospect of permanent settlement. How far it may be possible to effect such redemption, and by what methods, is another question; but all will agree with Lord Salisbury in his desire that this question should be settled as speedily as may be possible.

#### THE IRISH CONSPIRACY.

The *Dublin Express* hails the outrageous speech of Mr. Dillon as most opportune to the Loyalist cause and as showing to the English people the Parnellites undisguised, as the fierce and rebel gang they really are. This brings us closer by a good many weeks to the time when honest men can go about without fearing for their lives and when law will become once more a terror to evil-doers. When they behave thus in Parliament, what must they be on an Irish hillside? One grand quality which the Irish Government must exhibit if they would not lie on a bed of thorns is firmness and a strong resolve to make the authority of the law felt.

### THE REVIEWS.

Beside the initial paper on Russia, the *Fortnightly* has the first of a series of articles on “Wealth and the Working Classes,” by Mr. W. H. Mallock, who is so far engaged in clearing the ground—otherwise in teaching grown-up folk the A B C of the subject. As he pertinently remarks, “every schoolboy” may know these things; but then he forgets them so soon after leaving school. Two particularly neat definitions one notes: (1) A man's income is the amount of work he can get done for him by others; (2) Capital is another word for the necessary tools of labour. “Our Task in Burma” is a retrospect, in which “Conservative” brings out, among other things, the fact that the very ease and rapidity of our conquest was the partial cause of the subsequent troubles: we had to deal with a disbanded army which had not been defeated. “French Aggression in Madagascar” amounts to a defence by General Willoughby of his own official acts. No doubt he made a brave stand both in the military and diplomatic stages of the conflict with France, which none the less obtained everything worth fighting for. If the word “protectorate” cannot be found in the treaty of the 17th of December, 1885, the thing signified is there. Canon Fremantle's contribution to the “New Reformation” symposium offers an amusing instance of the anxiety of some clergymen not to be thought behind the age, or what they suppose to be its tendencies. Theologians are cautioned not to “quarrel with those who think of the Supreme Power rather after the analogy of force or law than according to the strict idea of personality, provided that the moral nature of man be held fast and its supremacy acknowledged.” Anent “The Canadian Fisheries Dispute” Lord Lorne is rather disappointing. He proves the enormous strength of the Canadian case, and the courtesy and forbearance Canadians have invariably shown in the exercise of undoubted rights. And after? Well, perhaps we had better walk round an unpleasant conclusion. Let us appoint a “scientific Commission as to the best common use of these sea harvests, and then it will be time to see whether natural products cannot again pass the boundary-lines under some provision made for the good of both peoples.”

The *National Review* opens with a welcome statement of “The Truth about Tory Democracy,” by Mr. Baumann, M.P., who has enjoyed exceptional opportunities for gauging the opinions of the artisan class. For one thing he will answer; and that is, that they are willing and proud to bear their fair share of the burdens of empire. Most of all men, probably, they despise a policy of scuttles. Mr. Ernest Beckett holds a brief for Lord Randolph; concerning which we will only say that where that dexterous advocate has failed to make good his case no junior is very likely to win a verdict. Exaggeration and epigram apart, there is a good deal of truth in the view of “The Effects of Civilization upon Women,” by “A Woman,” who complains that since the introduction of machinery on a large scale her sex has been crowded out of no fewer than eighteen different industries. Perhaps the most serious loss is that of the business of baking, which (as we know) has gone not to English men but Germans, while the bread has certainly not improved in quality. A timely contribution is Lord Courtown's on “Celts and Teutons in Ireland,” or a few more figures to illustrate the hollowness of the “Nationalist” agitation, *quâ* national. Thus in Wexford county the total number of voters on the register of 1885 was 19,348, of whom 9,681 bore Teutonic and 9,667 Celtic names. So much for the “hateful ascendancy of race over race.” It is significant, too, that the number of inhabitants of Ireland who spoke Irish only had diminished—according to the Census returns—from 163,275 in 1861 to 64,167 in 1881. The drift of Mr. R. S. Gundry's “India and Tibet” is that China has a determining influence in the latter country: which, with the goodwill of the Peking Government, will probably be soon thrown open to British commerce. Arguing for the retention of the coal and wine dues, Mr. R. G. Webster strongly confirms the view of the facts which was taken from the first in the *St. James's Gazette*. Whatever the theory of the matter may be, he remarks, it has been found that where coal is retailed by the hundredweight—*à fortiori* by the 7 lb.—there is no difference in the price charged, whether it be vended within or without the taxable area.

The *Nineteenth Century* leads off with a vigorous and eloquent polemic by the Duke of Argyll, who vindicates the teaching of Canon Liddon from the strictures recently levelled against it by Professor Huxley. Soon the Duke quits his well-secured position to take the offensive, in so bold and happy a fashion as to make one regret that a similar spirit should not be displayed all along the orthodox line. Anxious to inform the British public as to “The True Position of French Politics,” M. Reinach explains that General Boulanger is a person of really no consequence. “We have determined to speak of him as little as we can in French newspapers.” While giving his cordial adhesion to the idea of “Imperial Federation,” the Prime Minister of New Zealand contends that its realization must imply the withdrawal of England from interference in Continental politics. But then Sir Robert Stout looks to the Australia of a reasonably near future to help—if need be—in the defence of our Indian dominion. With an Australia indissolubly linked to us and constantly growing in wealth and population, we should be able to regard the Eastern Question, and European affairs at large, with a more platonic interest than has hitherto been possible. “The Dulness of Museums,” by the Reverend J. G. Wood, contains a forcible plea for the introduction of a little more imagination into the arrangement of those somewhat formidable places of instruction. Of course he refers especially to museums of natural history. As the subject of his latest panegyric, Mr. Swinburne has selected Cyril Tourneur; to whom Charles Lamb assigned a juster meed of praise when he commended the beauty of a single dialogue in the “Revenger's Tragedy.” In a valuable paper on “The Prospect in South Africa,” Lord Grey once more recommends the forming of a Kaffir force under British officers; which would doubtless be adequate to the repression of internal disturbances. The articles by Mr. Gladstone and Dr. Jessopp we have already noticed.

In the *Contemporary*, Lord Thring discourses of “Home Rule and Imperial Unity,” about which he has no particularly original observation to put forth. Agrarian reform, we are told (not for the first time) is necessary for the pacification of Ireland; but agrarian reform cannot be carried into effect without “an

Irish Government; therefore the measure of separation required to set up such a Government must be granted. It is earnestly to be hoped that every one of Mr. Gladstone's peers will not consider himself under an obligation to take part in this discussion. Pointing out the revolutionary nature of "The Radical Programme," Lord Selborne insists that Englishmen must not expect to pull down one venerable institution after another, and yet escape the consequences of their acts. If we get into the temper of 1789 the chances are that we also shall have our 1793. The object of Captain Conder's most interesting paper is to check some of the over-hasty inferences of modern exegesis by the light of ancient monumental inscriptions. Thus, in opposition to Wellhausen, he remarks on the early and wide diffusion of the name Jehovah, and on the unmistakeable evidence of a Semitic belief—long before the era of Moses—in a system of future reward and punishment. Dr. Martineau's scheme of "The National Church as a Federal Union" is propounded in so fair-minded and conciliatory a tone as to constitute in itself a genuine "eirenicon." But can he seriously hope that the High Anglicans of to-day would have anything to do with a "Church Assembly" partially elected by non-episcopalians? And if they were driven Romewards, or into a schism of the "Non-juring" kind, one hardly sees how the cause of unity would be promoted.

### PREACHERS IN LONDON TO-MORROW.

**ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.**—Morning, 10.30, Prebendary Wace; afternoon, 3.15, Canon Gregory; evening, 7.0, Rev. L. R. Phelps.  
**WESTMINSTER ABBEY.**—Morning, 10.0, Rev. H. A. Cotton; afternoon, 3.0, Canon Rowsell; evening, 7.0, Rev. W. Donne.  
**ST. MARGARET'S, Westminster.**—Morning, 11.0, Archdeacon Farrar; evening, 7.0, Archdeacon Lefroy.  
**CHAPEL ROYAL, WHITEHALL.**—Morning, 11.0, the Dean of Winchester; afternoon, 3.0, Archdeacon Lefroy.  
**CHAPEL ROYAL, ST. JAMES'S.**—Noon, the Bishop of London.  
**CHAPEL ROYAL, SAVOY.**—Morning, 11.30, Rev. Henry White; evening, 7.0, Rev. J. F. Kitto.  
**LINCOLN'S INN CHAPEL.**—Morning, 11.0, Canon Kirkpatrick (Warburton Lecture); afternoon, 3.0, Rev. C. J. Ball.  
**GRAY'S INN CHAPEL.**—Morning, 11.30, Rev. Dr. Stokoe.  
**ROLLS CHAPEL, Chancery-lane.**—Morning, 11.0, Rev. John Congreve.  
**ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL, Albemarle-street.**—Morning, 11.0, Rev. Francis Palmer.  
**BERKELEY CHAPEL, Mayfair.**—Morning, 11.30, and afternoon, 3.0 (Children's Service), Rev. T. Teignmouth Shore.  
**ST. ANDREW'S, Ashley-place.**—Morning, 11.0, Rev. H. H. Montgomery; evening, 7.0, Rev. A. Gerald Bowman.  
**CURZON CHAPEL, Mayfair.**—Morning, 11.30, and afternoon, 4.0, Rev. Dr. Ker Gray; evening, 7.0, Rev. R. Stewart.  
**ST. PHILIP'S, Regent-street, Waterloo-place.**—Morning, 11.15, and evening, 7.0, Rev. Harry Jones; afternoon, 4.0, Lecture, "Vegetarianism," Professor Mayor.  
**ROYAL MILITARY CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks.**—Evening, 6.0, Rev. J. Bond.  
**ST. AGNES'S, Kensington Park.**—Morning, 11.0, Rev. H. C. Shuttleworth; evening, 7.0, Rev. Thomas B. Dover.  
**ST. NICHOLAS COLE ABBEY, Queen Victoria-street.**—Morning, 11.15, Rev. T. Hancock; afternoon, 3.45, Canon Scott Holland (for men only); evening, 7.0, and 8.15, Rev. H. C. Shuttleworth.  
**ST. BRIDE'S, Fleet-street.**—Morning, 11.0, Rev. E. C. Hawkins; evening, 7.0, Rev. Dr. Vaughan.  
**ALL HALLOWS' Barking, E.C.**—Morning, 11.0, Rev. E. C. Coney; afternoon, 4.0, Rev. W. Bellars; evening, 6.30, Rev. A. J. Mason.  
**ST. HELEN'S, Bishopsgate.**—Morning, 11.0, Rev. Dr. Cox.  
**ST. GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS.**—Afternoon, 3.30, Rev. J. F. Kitto (for men only).  
**FRENCH PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE SAVOY, Bloomsbury-street.**—Morning 11.0, and afternoon, 3.0, Rev. A. A. Dupont.

**FOUNDLING CHAPEL.**—Morning, 11.0, Rev. Dr. Momeie.  
**PRO-CATHEDRAL, Kensington.**—Morning, 11.0, and evening, 7.0, Canon Keens.  
**ST. MARY'S, Moorfields.**—Morning, 11.0, Rev. L. G. Vere.  
**FARM-STREET, Berkeley-square, W.**—Morning, 11.0, Father S. Hayes; afternoon, 4.0, Father Coleridge.  
**UNION CHAPEL, Islington.**—Morning, 11.0, and evening, 6.30, Rev. Dr. Allon; afternoon, 3.30, Mr. W. B. Fife.  
**METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE, Newington Butts.**—Morning, 11.0, and evening, 6.30, Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.  
**THE CITY TEMPLE, Holborn Viaduct.**—Morning, 11.0, and evening, 7.0, Rev. Dr. Joseph Parker.  
**CHRIST CHURCH, Westminster road.**—Morning, 11.0, and evening, 6.30, Rev. Newman Hall.  
**BLOOMSBURY CHAPEL, Bloomsbury-street.**—Morning, 11.0, and evening, 7.0 (to young men), Rev. James Baillie.  
**BELGRAVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Halkin-street West, Belgrave-square.**—Morning, 11.0, Rev. Adolph Saphir; evening, 7.0, Rev. Hugh Shearer.  
**KENSINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Allen-street.**—Morning, 11.0, and evening, 7.0, Rev. Charles Moinet.  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND, Kensington Park-road, Notting-hill.**—Morning, 11.0, and evening, 7.0, Rev. Dr. H. Sinclair Paterson.  
**ST. COLUMBA'S (Church of Scotland), Port-street, Belgravia.**—Morning, 11.0, Rev. Donald Macleod; evening, 7.0, Rev. W. P. Paterson.  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Regent-square.**—Morning, 11.0, Rev. J. Oswald Dykes; evening, 7.0, Rev. A. F. A. Moir.  
**SCOTTISH NATIONAL CHURCH, Crown-court, Covent-garden.**—Morning, 11.0, and evening, 6.30, Rev. M. Philip. (Communion services.)  
**FALCON-SQUARE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, Aldersgate-street.**—Morning, 11.0, and evening, 6.30, Rev. A. H. Storrow.  
**PADDINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, Marylebone-road.**—Morning, 11.0, and evening, 7.0, Rev. G. D. Macgregor.  
**WHITEFIELD'S TABERNACLE, Tottenham-court-road.**—Morning, 11.0, and evening, 7.0, Rev. J. Jackson Wray.  
**ITALIAN CHURCH, Hatton-garden, E.C.**—Morning, 11.15, and evening, 7.0, Rev. J. Redman; afternoon, 4.15, Rev. D. Crescitelli (Italian).  
**FRENCH PROTESTANT EVANGELICAL CHURCH, Monmouth-road, Westbourne-grove, Bayswater, W.**—Morning, 11.0, and evening, 7.0, M. le Pasteur du Pontet de la Harpe.  
**THE THEISTIC CHURCH, Swallow-street, Piccadilly.**—Morning, 11.0, and evening, 7.0, Rev. C. Voysey.

### HUNTING APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

**STAGHOUNDS.**  
**HER MAJESTY'S.**—Tuesday, Gold Hill, Chalfont St. Peter's; Friday, The Warren House—11.45.  
**MID KENT.**—Wednesday, Ightham (for outlying deer); Saturday, Lenham—12.  
**NEW FOREST.**—Monday, New Park Lodge; Thursday, Vinney Ridge—11.  
**ROTHSCHILD'S.**—Monday, Wingrave; Thursday, Weston Turville—11.30.  
**FOXHOUNDS.**  
**BRAUFORT'S, DUKE OF.**—Monday, Calcot Barn; Tuesday, Portcullis, Chipping Sodbury; Wednesday, Swalletts Gate; Friday, Holt; Saturday, Lower Woods—12.  
**BERKSHIRE, OLD.**—Monday, Yelford; Wednesday, Tyford; Friday, Piddell Farm—11.  
**CAMBRIDGESHIRE.**—Monday, Old Warden Park; Tuesday, Wareley; Friday, William the Fourth—11.  
**COTSWOLD.**—Monday, Rowel Gate; Wednesday, Andoversford; Saturday, Rendcomb Lodge—12.  
**COTSWOLD, NORTH.**—Tuesday, The Kennels; Thursday, Hidcote Quarry; Saturday, Hinchwick.  
**CRAVEN.**—Monday, Inkpen Village; Wednesday, Wash Common; Thursday, Mildenhall Borders; Saturday, Ashridge—10.45.  
**CRAWLEY AND HORSHAM.**—Monday, Pease Potage; Tuesday, Washington—11.30; Friday, Lodge, Leonardlee—11; Saturday, Horsebridge Common—11.15.  
**CUNARD'S, SIR B.**—Monday, Highcroft, Husbands Bosworth; Thursday, Burton Overy; Saturday, Stockerston Cross Roads—12.  
**ESSEX, EAST.**—Tuesday, Bulmer Tye; Thursday, Champion Lodge; Saturday, St. Ann's Castle—11.  
**ESSEX AND SUFFOLK.**—Tuesday, R.A. Barracks, Colchester (breakfast)—10.30; Friday, Raydon Station—11.  
**ESSEX UNION.**—Monday, Hockley Bull; Tuesday, Fortune of War; Thursday, Graces Walk, Bad-dow; Saturday, Hutton Hall—11.  
**EARTH'S, MR.**—Monday, Horse Shoes, Warfield; Wednesday, Wentworth; Friday, Odham; Saturday, Thorpe Place—11.  
**GOODWOOD.**—Monday, Midhurst Common; Tuesday, William Wood; Thursday, Up Park; Saturday, Farm Wood—11.30.  
**GRAFTON.**—Monday, Little Preston; Wednesday, Stoke Plane; Friday, Syresham; Saturday, Cowper's Oak—11.30.

**H. H.**—Monday, Chawton House; Tuesday, Beantworth; Thursday, Lone-on Lodge, Stratton; Friday, Colemore Church; Saturday, Upton Grey—11.  
**HERTFORDSHIRE.**—Monday, Tewin Water; Wednesday, Silsoe; Friday, Stagenhoe Park; Saturday, Kensworth House—11.  
**HEYTHROP.**—Monday, Heythrop; Wednesday, Adlestrop; Friday, Bourton Bridge; Saturday, Wilcote—12.  
**HURSLEY.**—Monday, Hursley Pound; Friday, Leckford Hut—11.  
**ISLE OF WIGHT.**—Monday, Freshwater; Wednesday, Bere Ley; Friday, Calbourne—11.  
**KENT, EAST.**—Monday, Littlebourne; Wednesday, Acrise Mill; Friday, Petham—11.  
**KENT, WEST.**—Monday, South Park and Platt Village; Tuesday, Horse and Groom; Thursday, Meopham Green; Friday, Shore; Saturday, Shoreham Station—10.45.  
**NORFOLK, WEST.**—Monday, Mileham; Wednesday, Castle Rising; Friday, Bradenham Green—11.  
**OAKLEY.**—Monday, Cranfield; Tuesday, Hinwick House; Thursday, Wootton; Saturday, Pertenhall—10.45.  
**PUCKRIDGE.**—Monday, Braughing; Wednesday, Mr. Asplin's, Triplop Place (by permission); Saturday, Cambrilow Green—11.  
**QUORN.**—Monday, Ashby Folville; Tuesday, Charley Cross Roads; Friday, Wartonby Stone Pits; Saturday, Kempstone Hall—12.  
**SOUTHDOWN.**—Monday, Eastdean; Tuesday, Blackboy's; Wednesday, Rottingdean; Friday, Picoombe; Saturday, Glynde—11.  
**SUFFOLK.**—Tuesday, Rymer Point; Saturday, Cockfield Greyhound—11.  
**SURREY UNION.**—Tuesday, Bones Gate, Chessington—11.  
**SUSSEX, EAST.**—Monday, Staplecross; Wednesday, The Cliffs, Fairlight; Thursday, Bexhill; Saturday, Gardener Street—11.30.  
**TEDWORTH.**—Tuesday, Huish Mill; Thursday, Pill Heath; Saturday, Amesbury—11.  
**VINE.**—Tuesday, Clarkengreen; Thursday, Worting; Saturday, West Heath—10.45.

### HARRIERS.

**BERKSHIRE VALE.**—Tuesday, Aston Tyrrold; Thursday, Brightwell Farm; Saturday, Bow Bridge—11.  
**EASTBOURNE.**—Tuesday, Willingdon; Saturday, Links—11 (to finish the season).

### THE FUR SEAL.

A correspondent of the *Times*, writing from San Francisco, gives an interesting account of the Pacific fisheries dispute, in the course of which he points out the necessity for the fur seal being protected against extermination. He says: If sealskin is to continue to protect the lungs of mothers in climes where the hardiest races of men are bred, extended protection should be afforded to the Pribylov Island fisheries. The fur seal has been completely exterminated from all his other old habitats. In the Kerguelen group and other islands of the South Pacific and South Atlantic the supply was soon exhausted by ruthless slaughter. In the Falkland Islands, also, and on the islands and coasts of South America, sealing vessels had it all their own way; until now, with the exception of a few thousands preserved near Cape Corientes by the Argentine Government, there are no known breeding-grounds left to the fur seal south of the Equator, and to the north of the four islands, now leased by the Alaska Company, are the only places where fur seals are known to congregate in any numbers. But the fur seal is a remarkable animal. Very little will cause him to desert a breeding-ground. In the breeding season the old males each take up a certain position ashore and attract around them many females. The young males disport themselves elsewhere, unconquered by the attractions of the other sex, until five or six years' growth gives them strength to beat off all competitors and form a harem for themselves. These unattached males and all others not in the harems may be killed without evil effect; but if any of the old males or their females be killed, or the breeding-place disturbed by the firing of guns, or presence of human beings, or shedding of seal-blood, the chances are that the place will be deserted by the seals. Then, if the "fishery" is not to be destroyed, some one must have absolute control over the breeding-grounds. But this control must also extend over the sea for many miles round, for the seals feed or disport themselves in the water for twenty or twenty-five miles around the island, and, if attacked, especially with firearms—for they are peculiarly susceptible to sounds—this also will lead them to desert that particular island. It is also necessary to look even further than this. The seals from the Pribylov Islands at the end of the breeding season depart southwards. How far they travel is not yet ascertained, but that they go fishing for six or eight months is certain. If they are disturbed in these fisheries or in those nearer the islands, or in their travels to and fro, they may readily seek other pastures and other breeding-places. Moreover, if driven from their known haunts, they may wander, with great loss of life, in search of new homes and not find them. For instance, the islands to the north of the Pribylov group are well populated with polar bears; the seas to the south teem with sharks, while all around a variety of "fish" are ready to prey upon them, the catcher whale being specially partial to seal-flesh, instances being known where specimens killed have been found to contain ten to fifteen captured fur seals. Ten to fifteen pounds weight of fish is estimated as the average daily food for a seal; so that the five or six million seals which are said annually to visit the Pribylov Islands must have in the year something like five million tons of fresh fish, or the annual supply of 100,000 sea-skins, or, say, 40,000 sealskin saques, will fail. Consequently, if the area where the seal obtains his food-supply, or the safe places where he breeds, are disturbed, the seals will in large numbers attempt to migrate. If even in one year they discover no other safe places in which to breed and feed, an enormous loss of seal life is certain to follow, and it is perfectly possible under such conditions in a few years to exterminate a whole race of seals. It is therefore evident that, if the only remaining fur seal fisheries are to be preserved, control over an extended area of sea must be maintained. It should be noted, also, that the English are specially interested, inasmuch as all the skins of the Alaska Company, are sent direct to London, there to be dressed and placed for sale in that market-town of the civilized world.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

**BIRTHS.**  
**SONS.**  
**GOTLEY**, wife of Rev. G. Henniker, at Tysoe, Warwickshire, March 2.  
**GRAY**, wife of Mr. Walter, M.R.C.S.E., at Hols-worthy, North Devon, March 2.  
**LOBS**, wife of Mr. John, M.L.S.B., at Cawley-road, Victoria Park, E., March 3.  
**PICCIOTTO**, Mrs. James, at Marylands-road, W., March 3 (stillborn).  
**DAUGHTERS.**  
**BAINES**, Mrs. Edward M., at Park View, Harrogate, March 2.  
**CHARRINGTON**, Mrs. Ernest, at Thurlow-square, March 2.  
**LLOYD**, Mrs. Francis A., at Oxford-gardens, W., March 2.  
**MONROE**, Mrs. H. E., at Chettle Lodge, Blandford, March 3.

### MARRIAGES.

**DAVIES-MCLAREN.**—At Dunedin, N.Z., Dr. J. M. Lloyd, son of Mr. T. Davies, of Bank House, Cardigan, South Wales, to Maude, daughter of Mr. Robert McLaren, of Dunedin, Feb. 22.  
**LAWSON-DAVIDSON.**—At Newmills House, Currie, Mr. Robert P. Lawson, of Blackburn, to Gemima H., daughter of the late Mr. George Davidson, of Dean Park, Balerno, March 3.

### DEATHS.

**BALL**, Mr. George, late of Palmerston-buildings, Old Broad-street, aged 73, March 1.  
**BATEMAN**, Mr. Thomas K., late of Morley, in the county of Derby, at Alvaston House, aged 55, March 2.  
**BOUSFIELD**, Mr. Samuel, at Norfolk Cottage, Horsham, aged 73, Feb. 28.  
**CLARK**, Mary, wife of Mr. Sidney H., at Russell-street, Brighton-road, aged 31, March 2.  
**GILMORE**, William B., son of Mr. M. S. (Retired Bengal C.S.), of Beaufort-villas, Twickenham, at Colorado Springs, U.S.A., Feb. 25.  
**GREER**, Mr. Arthur J., Deputy Surgeon-General, H.P., late of the 21st Fusiliers and 17th Lancers, at Thornton Lodge, Northallerton, Yorkshire, aged 56, March 3.

**HAWES**, Mr. James T., of Spring Field, Upper Clapton, aged 79, Feb. 28.  
**HIGGINS**, Julia F., wife of Mr. A. W. B., Deputy Inspector of Forests, Madras, March 1.  
**MARSTON**, Isabella, daughter of the late Colonel Molyneux, at Baden Baden, Feb. 22.  
**PRIOR**, Charlotte, daughter of the late Mr. John H., of Bath, at Exeter, aged 83, Feb. 24.  
**SIMPSON**, Mr. James T., of Moorgate-street and Furnival's Inn, at Holles-street, Cavendish-square, aged 58, March 2.  
**SLADE**, Ann S., widow of Mr. James, at Pulteney-street, Bath, aged 91, March 2.  
**YOUNG**, Emma G., wife of Major-General C. B., R.E. (Bengal Retired), at Manor-road, Forest-hill, aged 63, March 1.

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The public and the press have for many years complained of the inferior service of four-wheeled vehicles in the metropolis; and there can be no doubt that the new service of well-equipped coupés and improved carriages will be largely patronized.

The Victorias will be readily obtained from the stands, and are sure to be largely taken advantage of by ladies and visitors to London for shopping and ordinary driving. This comfortable vehicle is much used in many other cities; but hitherto it has not been available as a licensed vehicle for general use in the metropolis.

There are about 4,000 four-wheelers and 7,000 Hansoms at present licensed in London. The former, with few exceptions, are far from creditable to the metropolis, and of the latter, only about 1,000 are of the Forder build, and a large portion of the remaining 6,000 are antiquated.

The Directors have satisfied themselves that there is abundant room for profitable enterprise in remodeling the cab service of London under proper and experienced management and on a sufficiently extensive scale. They have made careful calculations of the probable cost of carrying out the objects of the Company, and they estimate that with the present issue of capital an efficient service of six hundred vehicles can be at once established.

The cost of 1,440 horses and 720 vehicles, which will be required to properly work a regular service of 600 cabs and victorias, is estimated at £115,200; while the cost of harness, clothing, liveries, and general outfit is estimated at £17,220.

The Company intend to commence operations within three months after the allotment of shares, and hope to have 200 vehicles working on the streets before the end of May, and thereafter to increase the number at the rate of 15 per week until the whole 600 vehicles provided for in the prospectus are at work.

The Directors are strengthened in the view that the Company will supply a want and can be managed upon a remunerative basis by the experience of the large and highly profitable Cab companies in Paris. London has a very much larger population than Paris, and the enterprise will not be hampered, as it is there, by burdensome Town dues and State taxes.

According to the report of the Compagnie Générale de Voitures (General Cab Company) of Paris for 1885, which works a regular service of 3,133 vehicles, the cost of Town dues and State taxes alone amounted to 40 per cent. of the net receipts. Notwithstanding this, the net profit for the year, exclusive of interest, was £140,572. The following paragraph is a translation from the printed report of the Compagnie Générale for 1885:—

"The Cab Company has, in fact, paid in 1885—in the way of taxes and duties both to the State and to the City of Paris—the sum of 1,985,517 francs, which represents nearly 10 per cent. of the gross receipts, and 40 per cent. of the net receipts of our working."

The average amount per cab per day which the Compagnie Générale de Voitures of Paris receives as rent from the drivers is 13s. 4d., and the Directors believe a higher average is obtainable in London, but have based their estimates of profit upon this figure.

The present issue of capital will provide for a constant service of 600 cabs, and the Directors have formed the following estimate:—

600 Vehicles at 13s. 4d. for, say, 313 days	£125,200
Less 10 per cent. for non-lets	12,520
	£112,680

Expenditure, including ample provision for depreciation and maintenance.....	89,984
	£22,696

Equal to a Dividend of 15 per cent. on the present issue of capital.

The clerical accuracy of the above estimate has been certified by the auditors of the Company, to whom have also been submitted translations of the accounts of the Paris Cab Company for the year

1885, and the net profit stated above is certified by the auditors to be in accordance with these accounts. It will be seen, from the above estimate being made out for only 313 days, that it is not proposed to work on Sundays.

In making this estimate, the Directors have carefully considered every possible item of expenditure, and while they would have intending shareholders view it purely as an estimate, they have endeavoured, so far as their experience guides them, to err, if at all, on the side of safety.

If, however, the hire of Hansoms be taken at 16s. per diem (which the directors believe can be readily obtained), and the average yield in respect of vehicles of all kinds be taken at between 15s. and 16s. per diem, all the year round, the profits would yield a dividend of over 20 per cent. Experience proves that when a cab is well-horsed and equipped, it will earn 25 per cent. more than an inferior turn-out.

The saving to be effected by working a Cab Company on a large scale as compared with the present system of small proprietors, will of itself be sufficient to yield a large profit.

It is anticipated that a remunerative branch of the Company's business will be the letting of carriages for private use. This class of business is carried on on a large scale in Paris, where it has proved highly profitable, being largely taken advantage of by visitors and residents.

It is intended that the principal Clubs, Hotels, &c., shall be in direct communication by telephone with the depôts, so as to afford every facility for the hiring of the Company's vehicles with the least amount of trouble.

During the past five years immense changes have taken place in the metropolis. The area has been greatly increased, the configuration of the streets has been altered, and numerous hotels on a large scale have been built. All this has tended to greatly increase the general movement of the resident and visiting population, as is shown by the increased receipts of the Metropolitan and Suburban Railways and the Tramway and Omnibus Companies, all of which have greatly improved and added to their services. There has, however, been little or no improvement in the cab service, and the directors consider there is abundant scope for it.

It is intended to apply in due course for a Stock Exchange quotation and settlement.

A contract has been entered into between the Company and Mr. Hugh Hutchinson Gardiner, trading as Gardiner and Company, Army Contractors, of Queen Victoria-street, E.C., dated the 3rd March, 1887. There is also a contract between the said Hugh Hutchinson Gardiner and Forder and Company, Limited, dated the 1st March, 1887. Both can be inspected at the offices of the Solicitors of the Company.

Copies of the memorandum and articles of association can be inspected at the office of the Solicitors to the Company.

Applications for Shares should be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus and sent, with the deposit, to the Company's Bankers. In any case where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned to the applicant in full.

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During the first six months of their control of the business, the same has been of such a satisfactory nature that the Directors have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent.

Since the purchase of the business by the Company, the Board has been much strengthened by the addition to it of Mr. Alfred Best, for many years proprietor of the Freemasons' Tavern, and the Queen's Hotel, St. Martin's-le-Grand, now acquired by the General Post Office for its extension, and Mr. W. Crichton Saunders, Head of the Refreshment Department at the House of Commons, whose practical knowledge and experience of this special kind of business are of the greatest possible value.

The list of engagements of the Rooms already entered into for the present season far exceeds that of several previous years, and the fact that few vacant dates remain, proves beyond all doubt that the season will be one of great success. A list of the engagements already booked can be inspected at the offices of the Company or of their Solicitor. The Directors are confident that the profits on these engagements for the remaining six months of the year will amply suffice to maintain this dividend and carry forward a sum to reserve, as it is not their intention to declare a higher dividend until a substantial reserve fund has been formed.

The Directors have added to the already existing business that of Wine Merchants and Public Caterers, and they are satisfied that a subsidiary business of this nature can be conveniently conducted without any appreciable outlay for plant or other expenses. The Directors confidently anticipate that this class of business in connection with the Rooms will result in largely enhanced profits.

The purchase-money for the premises, goodwill of the business, furniture, fixtures, stock-in-trade, stores, and other effects above referred to, was £55,000, of which the Vendor has taken £10,000 in shares, and arranged mortgages of £23,500, at 5 per cent. interest, on the security of the property. The purchase-money has been based upon valuations of the goodwill and leases made by Messrs. FAREBROTHER, ELLIS, CLARK, and CO., Messrs. ORGILL, SWAN, and ORGILL, and MARSHALL N. INMAN, Esq., M.S.A.; also a valuation of the plant, furniture, plate, fixtures, and stock-in-trade by Messrs. Richard Smith and Co.; these valuations, together with the inventory of the furniture, fittings, and effects, can be seen at the Offices of the Company. The business is almost entirely of a ready-money character, requiring but little working capital.

The services of Mr. Edwin Dawkins have been secured as Manager and Secretary, he having for sixteen years previously held a similar position at the Freemasons' Tavern.

The only contracts entered into by the Company are for the purchase of the premises dated respectively the 28th June and 16th July, 1886, and made between Mr. James Taylor, the Vendor, of the one part, and the Company of the other part, and an agreement as to management between the Company and Mr. E. Dawkins of the same date. These contracts, together with copies of the Leases and the Memorandum and Articles of Association, can be seen at the offices of the Company, or their Solicitor.

A Stock Exchange settlement has been granted.  
 Forms of Application for the remaining Shares can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, 26, King-street, St. James's.  
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