

THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE

An Evening Review and Record of News.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1887.

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COVENT GARDEN.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.—The Season will open SATURDAY NEXT, March 12, on which occasion will be performed Verdi's Opera LA TRAVIATA. Alfredo, Signor Runcio; Germont, Signor del Puente; Il Barone, Signor Ciampi; Marchesi, Signor Bieleto; Gastone, Signor Rinaldini; Annina, Mdlle. Bauermeister; Flora Bervoix, Mdlle. Lablach; and Violetta Valery, Mdlle. Lilian Nordica. Prior to the opera the National Anthem will be sung. Conductor, Signor Vianesi. The nightly prices of admission will be as follows: Private boxes on pit and grand tiers, £4 4s.; first tier, £2 2s.; second tier, £1 1s.; orchestra stalls (reserved), 1s. 6d.; grand circle (reserved), 7s. 6d.; pit stalls (reserved), 5s.; balcony stalls (reserved), 5s.; amphitheatre stalls (first three rows reserved), 3s.; amphitheatre stalls (unreserved), 2s. 6d.; gallery, 1s.—The doors will be open at 7.30, and the opera commence at eight precisely each evening. Box-office now open.

LYCEUM.

LYCEUM.—FAUST, EVERY EVENING, at 8 o'clock. Mephistopheles, Mr. HENRY IRVING; Margaret, Miss ELLEN TERRY. Box Office (Mr. J. Hurst) open 10 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 (420th time). Mr. William Terris, Messrs. Beveridge, Garden, Maclean, Lyndal, Boleyn, Russell, Wheatworth, Travers, &c.; Mesdames Millward, Achurch, C. Jacks, Leigh, Brennan, Nelson, &c. At 7.15, FAMILY JARS.

OPERA COMIQUE.

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

GLOBE.

GLOBE THEATRE.—Will RE-OPEN ON MONDAY NEXT, 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. Hawtrej, Wilfred Draycott, W. Lestock, Norman Bent, Stewart Dawson, and W. J. Hill; Misses Vaue Featherstone, Blanche Horlock, Florence Haydon, and Miss Fanny Brough, &c. Box Office now open.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE. Mr. HORACE SRODGER, Lessee and Manager. EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, an original Comedy-Opera, entitled DOROTHY, By B. C. Stephenson and Alfred Cellier. Preceded, at 7.45, by A HAPPY DAY, by Richard Henry. Doors open 7.30.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND.—MR. EDGAR BRUCE'S MATINEES. TO-DAY 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.; and first circle, 2s.

CRITERION.

CRITERION THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM. At 9, DAVID GARRICK. Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM; Messrs. G. Giddens, W. Blakeley, and David James; Mesdames Rose Saker, F. Paget, E. Miller, and Mary Moore. Preceded by, at 8, "WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN?" Doors open at 7.30. N.B.—MATINEE of DAVID GARRICK on SATURDAY next, at 3 o'clock. Doors open 2.30.

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.

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. THIS DAY, at 1.25 and 7.25. 111th and 112th Performances.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.—In consequence of previous arrangements made for the CARL ROSA OPERA SEASON, to commence May 2 next, the PANTOMIME CANNOT BE PLAYED after April 23, allowing only one week for the preparations for the ENGLISH OPERA SEASON. The Pantomime will thus have run longer than any previous Drury Lane Annual; and, perhaps for the first time in the history of the Theatre, after Easter. The Theatre will also remain CLOSED DURING PASSION WEEK.

THE CARL ROSA OPERA SEASON, Beginning on MAY 2, WILL LAST SIX WEEKS, during which time THE NEW OPERA, NORDISA, will be produced in London.

A ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA SEASON WILL FOLLOW; Mr. Augustus Harris wishing, in the year of her Most Gracious Majesty's Jubilee, to revive the past glories of Italian Opera by selecting the first artists from the best Italian Theatres, and uniting them at Drury Lane, will thus endeavour to obtain a perfect performance. It is, however, impossible to accomplish this except at the ordinary Italian Opera prices, which are, as a matter of fact, considerably less than those charged for first-class performances in Italy.

SAVOY.

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

HAYMARKET.

HAYMARKET.—Lessee and Managers, Mr. E. RUSSELL and Mr. G. F. BASHFORD. LAST NIGHTS of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's play, HARD HIT, at 8. 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 Rorke, Miss Lydia Cowell, and Miss Marion Terry. Booking-office open daily ten to five.

ST. JAMES'S.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Managers, Mr. HARR 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.

VAUDEVILLE.

VAUDEVILLE.—THIS EVENING, at 8.30, SOPHIA (253rd time), by Robert Buchanan. Messrs. THOMAS THORNE, Carleton, Thorne, Farquhar, Mellish, Grove, Wheatman, and LEONARD BOYNE; Mesdames Larkin, Leclercq, Venne, Forsyth, and K. Rorke. At 7.45, NEARLY SEVERED. MATINEE every SATURDAY, at 2.30.

OLYMPIC.

OLYMPIC.—MR. EDWARD TERRY'S SEASON.—At 8.15, THE CHURCHWARDEN; at 8, THE TWO BLINDS; at 8.25, HOME RULE. Last Nights, owing to expiry of lease. MATINEE at 2.30 every SATURDAY.—Acting Manager, Mr. H. T. Brickwell.

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 Paulson and Mostyn Tedde. Music by Edward Jakobowski. The cast will include Messrs. Harry Paulson, Frank Wyatt, Joseph Tapley, Sidney Harcourt, De Lange, Ashford, Miss Camille d'Arville, Mdlle. 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. Lugg, 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 10 till 5. No fees.

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

GAIETY.

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

PRINCESS'S.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE. THE NOBLE VAGABOND, by Henry Arthur Jones, at 8.15, in which Mr. Charles Warner, Messrs. George Barrett, Charles Cartwright, Julian Cross, E. W. Thomas, E. Gurney; Mesdames Dorothy Dene, Bella Titheradge, Annie Hughes, &c., will appear. Doors open 7.15. Commence at 7.45 with THE CLOCKMAKER'S HAT. Miss Hampton, &c. Box-office open from 10 to 5.

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.

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 68, ST. JAMES'S-STREET, S.W. }

WESTWARD HO!
A FAREWELL MEETING to dismiss 200 Trained Lads (who leave for Canada on the 17th inst.) will (D.V.) be held in THE LARGE HALL, EDINBURGH CASTLE, ON MONDAY EVENING, 14th inst., at Eight o'clock. JAMES RANKIN, Esq., M.P., will preside, and will be supported by many public men who take an interest in emigration. The Attendance of the General Public is desired. Admission to any part of the Hall is FREE; but as a very large audience is expected, SPECIAL TICKETS admitting to RESERVED SEATS, and possessing Facilities for Ingress and Egress, can be had on application at the Office, as below. The same 200 Lads will also, as usual, attend (by kind permission of the Secretary) THE NOON-DAY PRAYER MEETING at the Y.M.C.A., Aldersgate-street, on Monday, the 14th, when the prayers of those assembled will be asked on their behalf. Christian Friends who cannot attend the Evening Meeting are invited to be present at Noon. It is hoped that at least 600 carefully trained youngsters may be placed out in the Dominion at an aggregate cost of £5,100 during the present year; 622 Boys and Girls having been emigrated during 1886. £8 10s. will defray the entire cost of Emigrating one Boy. £51 will do the same for Six Boys; £102 for Twelve Boys; or £170 for Twenty Boys. Who, by promising one or other of these amounts, will help to give some of these young fellows a start in life? Contributions for the EMIGRATION FUND are urgently needed, and will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Wm. Fowler, Esq.; by the Chairman of Committee, S. G. Sheppard, Esq.; or by the Founder and Director, Dr. T. J. Barnardo. 18 to 26, Stepney Causeway, London, E.

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5	36 0 0	18 to 28 (even), ditto	194
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THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1887.

RUMOURS ABOUT ROUND TABLES.

THE authors, whoever they may be, of the current gossip about "approximations" and understandings between the dissident sections of the Liberal party seem to be curiously unconscious that they are attributing to the gentlemen with whose names they deal so freely either incredible foolishness or incredible levity of judgment. They make out these gentlemen to be of opinion that the great question which divided the Liberals was one that could be settled by unmeaning courtesies or by adhesion to some general formula vague enough to include any conceivable proposition. Can this really be the view taken by rational men, not to speak of experienced politicians, of a proposal to cut a nation into two semi-hostile sovereignties, and to plant a garrison of enemies, fenced round by legal fortifications, on the flank of the central seat of empire? The thoroughgoing adherents of Mr. GLADSTONE are under no such delusion. Mr. MORLEY has always spoken of Home Rule as a desperate remedy, but a remedy required by a desperate disease. His fears seem to other people somewhat degrading, but at all events he does not underrate the gravity of the operation which he urges on the country; and, though he sits at the Round Table, he cannot seriously believe that it can be averted by compromises of talk. The gentlemen who are said to feel a certain weakness growing in their knees belong to the other wing of the Liberals. We believe it is false altogether that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is meditating surrender; and indeed the people who assert the contrary in the press are notorious for habits of mendacity. It is even doubtful whether Sir GEORGE TREVELYAN has not been misunderstood. Both the gentlemen inculpated have made sacrifices, under painful difficulties, which entitle them to be believed staunch to their principles till they themselves supply evidence to the contrary; and both have especial reasons for caution before they allow themselves to be inveigled into arrangements made up of verbal subtleties. If they had refused to join Mr. GLADSTONE'S Cabinet after he had expelled Lord SALISBURY there would very probably have been no Home Rule scheme, so obscure were the Liberals who were willing to join on any terms. Both Mr. CHAMBERLAIN and Sir GEORGE TREVELYAN became members of his Government expecting that they could get his measure modified in discussion round the table of the Cabinet; but they found that nobody had a voice in the matter except Mr. GLADSTONE himself. The fact that they underwent this experience raises a strong presumption that they have not been talked into acquiescence in Home Rule through conversation round a second table.

Another assertion may be confidently made about the persons who have given currency to these rumours. They are charging some of the foremost men on both sides of the Liberal party with audacious defiance of the verdict of the country at the last general election. They must believe that these politicians suppose themselves entitled, if they can by any means whatever bring about a sort of understanding between the Unionist and Separatist Liberals, to use the present Parliament for the purpose of carrying measures as near to Home Rule as they please. It is only necessary in this view for Unionists and Separatists to agree in a set of proposals, and these may be adopted, though the inevitable and perhaps the immediate consequence be to expel Lord SALISBURY from office and place the country at the feet of Mr. GLADSTONE. There is no theory of political principle upon which such a scheme is not altogether outrageous. This Parliament is forbidden to give its sanction to any policy involving Home Rule or akin to Home Rule or leading to Home Rule. Let us call its origin to recollection. The first Parliament elected after a great constitutional revolution was dismissed for refusing to adopt Home Rule. A general election took place upon an issue of the utmost precision. It is not necessary to ask whether our Constitution admits of what in other countries is called a "mandate." But, as Lord HARTINGTON once said, the Constitution does include, and indeed all Constitutions tolerated by sane men must include, a moral mandate. When the electorate has once been consulted by the Crown on a definite question, and has elected a House of Commons on that question, the Parliament of which the House forms part must follow the people. In the present case it can have nothing to do with Home Rule or with any measure involving the principle of Home Rule; and he who suggests that it can is a bad Englishman and no patriot. But the gossip-mongers manifestly think that, if the Gladstonian Liberals can draw over the Unionist Liberals to Home Rule, or to Home Rule veiled by the merest figleaf, there is no other consideration to be taken into account and the field is open to all conceivable legislation.

Some apology is due no doubt to the gentlemen whose names have been mixed up with this scandal for so much as suggesting that they are thinking of being false to pledges which cause them

to be classed as Unionists. But it is pardonable to tax them, upon evidence which has a claim to authenticity, with some incaution. Sir GEORGE TREVELYAN'S revised version of his speech at the Devonshire Club was certainly not open to the same remarks as the garbled edition first published; but still it lays the speaker open to the imputation of much heedlessness. It is not, however, Sir GEORGE TREVELYAN or even Mr. CHAMBERLAIN who leads the Unionist Liberal party on which for the moment the majority of the House of Commons depends. It is Lord HARTINGTON, from whose speeches not one sentence can be quoted giving countenance to such a departure from political sanity. The more Conservative Liberal Unionists we believe to be perfectly conscious to what any such lapses from common sense would lead them. They would lead them to disrepute and even to ruin. The reason of their existence is the maintenance of the Union, and the mainstay of the Union is at present the Conservative Government. If they should be so taken in by soft words and flimsy reasoning as to sacrifice the principal security for the Union to vagaries which could only be excusable in a normal state of parties and in ordinary times, they will be remembered only as the most futile political combination ever formed for the discharge of a great duty too hard for their moral instability.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

THE memorandum of Mr. Edward Stanhope relating to the Army Estimates is now in the hands of Parliament and of the public. The new arrangement, by which this publication precedes the actual introduction of the Estimates, is an admirable one. The document is full of most important matter; and its careful study will greatly assist members of the House of Commons in forming a sound opinion on the proposals which will be made to them. The idea of printing such a memorandum was good, and it has been well carried out. What is more important, the document shows that the present War Minister thoroughly appreciates the principles by which he ought to be guided in the discharge of his duties.

The Estimates to be submitted to Parliament show an increase of £160,700 in comparison of the original Estimates presented last year; but this increase is partly due to what Mr. Stanhope fairly describes as the "automatic increase" of certain charges, and partly to an increase in the sum required for naval armaments, which are not under the control of the Secretary for War although he has to find the money to meet them. There has been a saving by the withdrawal of half the force in Egypt; and "the vote for the non-effective services (except in the item of retired pay) shows on all points a diminution of charge." The increases, by which these retrenchments are nearly balanced, are due to new grants to the volunteer service and demands for armaments and military stores.

Mr. Stanhope carefully analyzes the estimates of 1886-87 with a view to showing the different branches of military service in which economies might possibly be effected. Perhaps the most valuable part of his memorandum is that in which he discusses the advisability of seeking to save money by diminishing the expenditure on military stores and armaments. "It is sufficiently notorious," he says, "that reductions of army expenditure, while maintaining our existing establishment, have largely been effected in past years by drawing upon our reserve stores." This kind of economy Mr. Stanhope considers to be "neither safe nor honest." The actual amount of our military establishment is determined on grounds of policy; but, given the amount of the establishment itself, it is an imperative duty for the Department to provide that proper arms and stores are ready to be used by our troops in case of need. There are, no doubt, some kinds of perishable stores which it would be unwise for the Government to accumulate in large quantities. But permanent stores, such as clothing and boots, as well as arms and ammunition, ought always to be kept in a sufficient quantity to make us feel that our army will do itself justice in the case of a sudden outbreak of war. In these days great wars are apt to run their course with extraordinary rapidity. Complete preparation is therefore all-important. We cannot afford to wait for the events of a campaign to teach us what are our needs, and then call upon manufacturers to provide what we want. We ought to feel assured that the Government has the means of equipping our troops for the wear-and-tear of foreign service at a moment's notice, and that it is actually in possession of the indispensable materials of warfare. It is essential, for instance, that there should always be a large supply of gunpowder in the hands of the authorities. Is this the case at present? Or would it be necessary, if a war broke out, to give orders for great quantities of gunpowder which could only be obtained at a high price and after dangerous delay. We believe that is really the true state of affairs.

These considerations justify Mr. Stanhope's condemnation of the old system of false economy. It has been too common for Ministers bent on the production of low Estimates to content themselves with a small expenditure on military stores. The temptation to put off until another year the purchase of materials which, after all, will not be wanted unless a war breaks out is often too strong to resist. In the same way the defence of a

coaling station is postponed from year to year, even when we are pledged to carry it out by an arrangement with a Colonial Government which has performed its part of the bargain. Our patriotic Ministers take their chance of war. The odds are in favour of peace, and they think that the diminution of the Estimates, and their own reputation for economy, will more than compensate them for the risk of a national disaster. It is a great merit in Mr. Stanhope's memorandum that it recognizes and proclaims the dangers of this kind of economy. He does not ask Parliament to let him deplete the stores, postpone the purchase of arms, and leave the duty of defending the coaling stations to his successor. He seeks to effect economies in the administration of military affairs. This is the right method. Something has been done, and more remains to be done, in the way of diminishing unnecessary administrative expenditure. When it is once clearly perceived that recourse must never again be had to the old methods of false economy, we may hope for a more determined effort than has yet been made to secure the cheap and effective administration of naval and military affairs.

NOTES.

If the Admiralty are right in their judgment on Mr. Young Terry, late draughtsman of Chatham Dockyard, it is difficult to condemn that person too severely. Englishmen will learn with a start of shame and surprise that there has been found a Government employé base enough to sell our secrets to the agents of a foreign Power. We had hoped that, with all the mismanagement and jobbery of our public services, such things as this were never done. But is the punishment of Mr. Terry, supposing he is guilty, to stop with his dismissal? Are no further proceedings to be taken against him? A term of imprisonment, which should not be too brief, is the suitable penalty for such an offence as that which this official is said to have committed. If there is no way of punishing a breach of trust of this sort under the existing law, the law should be altered. There are many persons in the Government service who could sell their information at a price which would more than compensate them for the risk of dismissal.

The new Chief Secretary, like too many of the leading Conservative politicians, is not a very strong man physically. In any case an Irish Secretary spends a good deal of his time and energy in trying to compass the impossible feat of being in two places at once. No doubt it might be a good thing to save him from a certain amount of needless wear and tear by giving him a Parliamentary Under-Secretary. But we cannot see much in the suggestion that the office, if it is created, should be conferred on Colonel Saunderson. Such an appointment would scarcely make matters go more smoothly for the Government either in the House of Commons or in Ireland. The Irish people must endure what Mr. Bryce calls the "exasperation" of seeing policemen employed to enforce the law of the land. But there is no occasion to exasperate them unnecessarily by an appointment which would be regarded with such furious anger by the Nationalist members and their constituents.

Lord Charles Beresford, in his letter to the *Times*, adduces some cogent arguments against Sir John Lubbock's Shop Hours Bill. He indicates two classes on which compulsory closing at 8 P.M. would press hardly. First there are small traders, keepers of street-stalls, and others, who combine this source of income with other work, and do not begin business at all until 6 P.M. or later. Secondly, there is a far larger class of purchasers whose hours of work make it necessary for them to buy the necessaries of life in the evening. Lord Charles specifies several classes who cannot get away from their work until eight; and with regard to the larger number who have done work at six, he truly says that their ordinary way of life is to refresh themselves from the labours of the day as soon as they are free, and to sally forth for the purpose of shopping after the evening meal is over. There is certainly a good deal to be said against the Early Closing Bill of Sir John Lubbock; nor should Parliament be expected to carry it on the plea that the question is decided already by an unofficial census conducted by a strong partisan.

The suggestion that Mr. Chamberlain has facilitated the unity of the Liberal party by throwing overboard his principles was dealt with contemptuously by the right honourable gentleman at the Liberal Unionist conversation yesterday. Of course if Mr. Gladstone likes to throw over his latest set of principles, "rounding" on his followers once more, there is nothing to impede the political reconciliation of the Radical leaders. Meanwhile, as Mr. Gladstone has not yet done this—though he may be ready to do it when he sees his way a little clearer—the situation, according to Mr. Chamberlain, has undergone no material change. Moreover, "adverting to recent rumours as to the discovery of a *modus vivendi*, he advised those present not to believe all that they read in the evening newspapers." The particular journal intended and the fabrication referred to are, of course, clear enough. Perhaps the warning is needless. Even in these credulous days people want better evidence than the bare word of persons

who make themselves the instruments of Russian agents and Irish rebels before they will believe that Mr. Chamberlain has surrendered everything for which he sacrificed so much last year.

In the *Times* a day or two since, a misleading prominence was given to the examination of Sir N. Barnaby by Mr. Pearce before the Admiralty Contracts Commission. This examination did not begin until nearly 3,500 questions had been asked upon other matters (chiefly stores), and Sir Nathaniel was not asked more than 200 questions altogether. Many of them arose out of his examination when he was recalled at his own request; and it will be seen by the summary of the report which we print elsewhere, that no special importance is given to the particular class of contracts upon which Sir Nathaniel was interrogated. Generally it may be said that the evidence, while bringing out no specific cases of fraud or malversation or jobbery, indicates the prevalence of great laxity and thriftlessness; and it is to the prevention of this evil in future that the Commissioners have directed their recommendations.

It is said that the Emperor of Russia, whose forty-third birthday will be celebrated to-morrow, is about to join the ranks of royal and imperial authors. He has revised his diaries for the past ten or fifteen years, and has entrusted M. Zichy, the Hungarian painter, with the task of illustrating them. The work will be published at St. Petersburg in the autumn. The reigning Sovereigns who already possess more or less claim to literary distinction, are Queen Victoria, King Oscar of Sweden, King Louis of Portugal, the Emperor Peter of Brazil, the Shah of Persia, Prince Nicholas of Montenegro, and Prince Charles of Monaco.

The elevated railways in New York are a standing marvel to European visitors. Timorous persons find something very alarming in seeing trains running over their heads supported on a mere skeleton framework of iron. But these perilous-looking railways have so far proved safe enough. The stokers are charged with occasionally "dumping" cinders and other light objects into the streets; but no passenger had up to yesterday lost his life. The record has been broken by an accident which is so far quite unique. Passengers have been killed in various ways on railways, but never before have they been swept off a viaduct by the legs of a fellow-traveller protruding from a carriage-window. There seems to be endless variety in the ways by which modern science destroys its victims.

Mr. Bartley's proposal to increase the facilities open to small investors to purchase Government stock is backed by 113 other members of Parliament, and will probably be accepted by the Postmaster-General. The unthriftiness which has been one of the standing faults of the English working classes is disappearing as fast as their intemperance. Like the French, they are saving and investing; but, unlike the French, they find it difficult to find good investments for the small sums at their command. To meet the difficulty, the Post Office undertook a few years ago to buy small parcels of Consols, of the value of £10 and upwards. During the last five years, some two millions and a half have been invested in this fashion. But £10 is a good deal for working people to pay in a lump. Mr. Bartley proposes to make £2 10s. the minimum limit. Perhaps the only persons who will greatly object to the change will be the Socialists, who, no doubt, would rather not see artisans interested in the national credit and the stability of the national finances.

In the *Nineteenth Century* for this month, Earl Grey has an interesting paper on South Africa and its affairs. After a concise summary of its history of recent years, Lord Grey deals with the crucial question of the defence of our vast and scattered possessions in South Africa—a question made more serious by the aggressive policy of the Dutch party since the disaster of Majuba Hill. The eventual creation of an Afrikaner Bund—a great Dutch Power dominating the whole of South Africa from the Zambesi to the Cape—is undoubtedly much advanced by the recent settlement and recognition of the Western Zululand Republic and the negotiations now being carried on with the Transvaal Government for a junction of these two Boer republics. But Earl Grey's scheme of a strong Kaffir force for pioneering work and border defence in the British South African colonies is a doubtful one. The Kaffir has never lent himself readily to the ordinary farming pursuits of the colonists, either in Cape Colony or Natal—he is too independent and too lazy—and is unlikely to be amenable to the routine and discipline of a police or semi-military force.

One of those victims of the law's tyranny, the Anti-vaccinationists, was made the subject of a question in the House of Commons last night. Mr. Picton asked whether James Bamford was sentenced by the magistrates of Newport Pagnell, on or about the 10th of February, to twenty-eight days' imprisonment in Northampton for refusal to have his two children vaccinated; whether two of the magistrates on the bench were clergymen; whether Bamford was arrested at his work and handcuffed; and whether the Home Secretary would consider the practicability of making

some discrimination in prison treatment between ordinary criminals and conscientious recalcitrants against the vaccination laws. Mr. Matthews admitted that the man had, in default of paying fines, been sentenced to two periods of imprisonment. It was, moreover, true (and this is one of the most shocking features of the case) that two of the magistrates were actually clergymen; but it was not true that Bamford was handcuffed on being apprehended, although when being taken to the station the police-officer thought it advisable to handcuff him by one hand because he had left the county to evade the summons. He was not treated as a thief, or put to hard labour of any kind. Mr. Matthews added that he did not see his way to modify the treatment of a person who had disobeyed the law, on the ground that he acted on conscientious motives the *bona fides* of which were difficult to ascertain. The Home Secretary here exercises a sound judgment. Conscientious law breakers are among the most dangerous members of the community, and must be prepared to take the consequences of their acts.

The Dutch succession, about which the Hollanders have been very nervous since the death of the late Prince of Orange, has been settled at last. The present heir to the throne of Holland is the little Princess Wilhelmine, the child of King William III.'s second marriage, who will not reach her seventh birthday until next August, whereas her father is already turned seventy. The Chamber has decided that, failing heirs to the Princess Wilhelmine, the succession shall vest first in the Grand Duchess Sophia of Saxe-Weimar; then in the descendants of the late Princess Marianne of Prussia and of the late Queen Louisa of Sweden, and finally in the Princess Mary of Wied and her descendants. Thus the Duke of Nassau, who represents the elder branch of the House of Orange-Nassau, and was by some thought to have a strong claim, is entirely passed over—probably on account of his German proclivities. The order of succession as it now stands cannot very easily give rise to dynastic complications, since it is extremely unlikely that the descendants of the Prussian Princess Marianne or of Queen Louisa of Sweden will ever ascend the throne of Germany or Sweden. The Grand Duchess of Saxe-Weimar, the next heir after the Princess Wilhelmine, is the only sister of King William III. and a granddaughter of the Emperor Paul of Russia.

After announcing, in German fashion, the operas he intended to produce, without any mention of the singers, Mr. Mapleson has now put forth a long list of the vocalists he has engaged; from which it appears that his Italian company, at least in the very numerous prima donna department, is recruited exclusively from America. Some of the ladies' names have a German or an Italian look, and more than one is doubtless of German origin. As a matter of fact, however, every soprano and mezzo-soprano singer in Mr. Mapleson's company (the prefix of "Mademoiselle" notwithstanding) is from the United States. There are altogether seven of the American vocalists—namely, Mdle. Minnie Hauk, Mdle. Nevada, Mdle. Nordica, Mdle. Dotti, Mdle. Engle, Mdle. Jenny Broch, and Mdle. Hastreiter. The only Italian lady in the company is Mdle. Borghi, a young contralto who has recently sung with great success at Barcelona and elsewhere in Spain. Mdle. Hastreiter, though an American, may be suspected of understanding German; for she has quite lately sung at Vienna, in the German language, the part of Orpheus. Mdle. Broch is also known to be capable of singing in the tongue to which her name seems to belong. Outside the Royal Italian Opera Company as now formed there are many American vocalists of the greatest eminence: for instance, Mdme. Albani, a Canadian; Mdme. Patti, who, though not an American by birth, lived in the United States from her third to her eighteenth year; Mdle. Van Zandt; Mdle. Ella Russell; with, among concert singers, Mrs. Osgood, Miss Emma Thursby, Mrs. Henschel, Miss Hope Glenn, Mdme. Antoinette Sterling, and many more.

If the prices at the sale of the Seillière Library, to which we referred the other day, are any criterion, binding has not the same seductions for bibliophiles here that it has in Paris. With very few exceptions Baron Seillière's bindings were choice specimens of the workmanship of the best Parisian artists; but the books seem to have sold but little, if at all, the better for that. It seems, too, that romances of chivalry, in spite of their rarity, are not in any very great request. £605 is, no doubt, a good price to pay for "Tirant lo Blanch," and double what the Grenville copy was bought for. That, however, was a long time ago, and this was probably the very last chance. But £135, which the Zaragoza "Amadis" of 1508 fetched, was hardly more than half what Brunet rated it at without its superb Chambolle-Duru binding. Of course the 1508 edition might be expected to bring down the value of the next oldest, that of 1519, but scarcely so low as £29 10s.; £50 and £46 were no great prices for such very rare books as the two "Esplandians;" £59 was certainly not excessive for such a book and in such preservation as the Seillière "Florisando;" and if the curate in "Don Quixote" would have objected that £29 was more than enough for a book made up of lies and full of folly and nonsense, like "Cirongilio de Tracia," though it might be in red morocco "double," even he must have admitted that £5 was a come-down for the "swaggering fool" Olivante de Laura. That exquisite binding did not count for much is shown by the £27 brought by the Celestina of 1501, a marvellous specimen of Trautz-Bauzonnet handiwork and a book of extraordinary rarity and bibliographical interest; and, in a minor degree, by what is possibly the first edition of Quevedo's "Visions," that of Barcelona, 1627, which in an exquisite red morocco binding brought only £2, a price that would have been extremely moderate for the naked book. All the original

editions of Quevedo's "Visions," printed before the Inquisition had the book expurgated and doctored, are rare and precious; and this is the rarest and most precious of all. It would seem from these facts that there is, after all, a residuum of sanity in bibliomania.

Mr. Ward Beecher's sudden death closed a pulpit career of fifty years, the last forty of which were spent at Plymouth Church, Brooklyn. Preaching was the great object of his life, and he was possessed of almost every gift by which a preacher is likely to attract attention in America. His manner and style were original; his topics were drawn from every day life and the things most nearly concerning his audience. He was a student of the events of his own time, and felt strongly about all social and political topics of the day. He supplied his congregation with an epitome of what was being done, written, and said by their contemporaries, as well as with his own judgment on things and people. The seats of his church were sold by auction, and his wealth was considerable. He was a vigorous worker; he exercised a great influence in politics; and, no doubt, he roused the moral and religious feelings of some people whom a more saintly, modest, and learned divine might have failed to touch.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CHURCH PATRONAGE.

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

SIR,—In your excellent article on the dangers of the Church Patronage Bill you have made no reference to one important consideration. The proposed Councils of Presentations will ultimately accumulate numerous advowsons in their own hands. It is worth while to consider the probable character of their presentees. I belong to a certain corporate body which possesses the patronage of many benefices, and hence I have had opportunities for judging how a Council of Presentations would work in practice. There can be no doubt that the ruling motive would be an amount of caution approaching to timidity: there would be such an overwhelming fear of making any appointment to which exception could be taken, that men with any force of character would be passed over. The council would select "safe men," humdrum middle-aged ciphers, who could be trusted to turn the handle of the sermon-machine without raising any dust. Originality would be the deadly sin, mediocrity the cardinal virtue. Active men with individuality and power always arouse a certain amount of opposition, and would get into the black books. Men like Arnold, Stanley, Maurice, Kingsley, Robertson, Hare, Whately, Thirlwall, Liddon, Keble, who have been the salt and life of the Church, would have small chance of promotion as against respectable nonentities.

The Church Patronage Bill is designed by the Bishops for shifting from their own shoulders the risks and the costs of the responsibility, with which they are now saddled, of refusing to institute unfit presentees. From this responsibility it seems most undesirable that they should be released. A better plan would be to increase rather than to diminish it. They bring forward this Bill as a precious gift to the Church. I have long ago learned that those who come bearing gifts are to be feared.—I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

March 7.

A.

BOGUS MEETINGS.

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

SIR,—Mr. Howell's Select Committee will, if it goes the right way to work, make many interesting discoveries, all centred, I think, in one or two active but, I fear me, mercenary individualities. The *Graculus esuriens* of to-day, however, will not "go to heaven if you order him." But he will head a procession to the Reformers' Tree in Hyde Park, organize a demonstration in Trafalgar-square, found and be a "League" in himself—a council, a committee, a secretary, and a chairman by order, all by himself. He will undertake, if paid for it, to prove that the War Office, the Admiralty, Woolwich, Enfield, all the great ship-builders and gun-makers and arm and armour manufacturers, are "a felonious crew;" and, if not paid for it, to make the welkin ring with his vituperation. It will be interesting to combine the results of the evidence before the Royal Commission and before Mr. Howell's Committee in precipitating out of the solution of mendacity, trickery, and corruption which has filled so many phials of wrath and driven the public out of its wits, the *corpora vilia* that have managed so many "demonstrations" in the manner so admirably described in the *St. James's Gazette* of last night.—I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

March 7.

A VICTIM.

MODERNISM IN ARCHITECTURE.

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

SIR,—Pray allow me a small space in which to remark on the article in your issue of the 3rd inst., in reference to the competitive designs for the proposed cathedral at Liverpool.

The writer of the article in question incidentally claims—in opposition to the teaching of all art-history—that, instead of by gradual and persistent evolution, art-style can experience complete resurrection after centuries of death! Every evidence in every style shows this to be an impossibility.

We delight in recognizing in Westminster Abbey and Strasburg Cathedral—and, for that matter, in Stonehenge itself—the expression of art vitality, for the reason that these buildings were, in their day, the natural outcome of its current modernism.

There can be no real art-life which fails to express modernism. Antiquarianism is repugnant to the art-spirit. A specious system of compilation and paraphrase cannot pass for anything really akin to originality. All temple

Architecture was but the exaltation of that which found expression in domestic and civil uses; yet in the modern employment of Gothic architecture to everyday life even architects holding to the creed have despaired of such possibility. Scott, Street, and Burges could make nothing of it.

But the test of tests in all architecture must be in its due concord with the most advanced painting and sculpture of its time. Through the half-century of the now collapsing revival—so called—of mediævalism in architecture, not one painter or sculptor of mark can be pointed to as the fruit of its influence. This is significant of the abortive nature of the movement.—I am, Sir your obedient servant,

March 5.

STUDENT.

MR. HAGGARD'S ROMANCES.

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

SIR,—On looking at the third edition of "She," I find that I have an unexpected ally in my protest against the "Romance of Horror"—to wit, Mr. Rider Haggard himself. When I read "She" in its original form, I was struck and offended by the ghastly account of the "hot-potting" of Mahommed, the Arab servant, and the picture of the dying man rolling on the ground and feebly clawing at the glowing torment thrust over his head. Mr. Haggard, on second thoughts, appears to have decided that this realistic incident had better be modified. As it stands now, Mahommed is not hot-potted at all, but accidentally shot dead by Holly. This is a considerable improvement.

And now, having perhaps said some hard things of Mr. Haggard, I beg leave to offer him my sincere congratulations on that exquisite tale "Jess," which seems to me worth a dozen "She's"—immortal women, impassable swamps, lions, crocodiles, mutes, mummies, pillars of fire, and all. The writer who can draw a character like that of poor Jess, and give us the picture of the dying girl falling asleep on her sleeping lover's breast, has no occasion to resort to burning bodies and Vanishing Ladies. Except that it is a trifle sketchy, it appears to me an admirable story—full of pathos, tenderness, and character, and with plenty of adventure which is exciting and not often extravagant. I hope Mr. Haggard will keep as much as possible to his "Jess" rather than to his "She" manner. He may not win more readers, but he will have more chance of becoming a truly great writer. Everybody ought to read "Jess" first, because it is delightful; secondly, because it tells in graphic fashion the miserable story of the surrender to the Boers, and the "indelible disgrace" of Majuba Hill, which it is not well that Englishmen should lightly forget. If anybody, not impeded by age, sex, or profession, can peruse Mr. Haggard's account of that infamous humiliation without indulging in some profane swearing at the wicked folly and cowardice which brought it upon us, he is blest with a better temper than, Sir, your obedient servant,

March 9.

CAMILLUS.

POLITICAL "ARTFUL DODGERS."

THE gentlemen whose business is to get up bogus meetings have other employments of a similar kind. There is, for example, the bogus deputation. Is it desired to influence the Legislature, the Government, or even a private member, for or against a particular measure? Nothing is easier. You form an association, which shall serve as a starting-point. Just as any two men can accomplish the crime of conspiracy, so can any two men form themselves into an association. But three or four are better, while half a dozen would come perilously near making the thing genuine. Having enrolled the members, you proceed to elect an executive council, with some of them doubling the parts of president, chairman, secretary, and treasurer; and "offices" are at once taken at the private address of the secretary. The high position of honorary president may safely be offered to the local member of Parliament, or, if he is on the wrong side, to the opposing candidate. It is obvious that an organization of this kind is useful for many purposes. A dozen such organizations exist in London at this moment, if an institution can be said to exist which, as often happens, is created and dissolved within a month. Perhaps it would be more correct to say that there are at least a dozen men in London who pass their lives in the formation of bogus political associations. The group which now calls itself the Grand United Radical League will next week become the Working Man's Free Beer Society, and the week after will be the Home Rule Mission to Dock-Labourers. It is no exaggeration to say that one-half of the working men's associations that figure in the newspapers as taking part in this or that movement are, except as to the three or four persons who have created them, downright frauds. Well may one wonder what their object may be.

In the first place, their members are always on the look-out for some one whose interests they can offer to serve by sending "delegates" to political meetings, or by getting up a deputation, or by promoting a petition to Parliament. So far the motive and the process are identical with those of holding bogus meetings; but the extraction of money from the victims of the fraud calls for a higher degree of talent. In the case of bogus meetings, the pretext is that certain necessary expenses have to be met; but obviously there is not much expense about deputations or petitions. The more frequent method is to ask for subscriptions, and it succeeds fairly well; the practice being to give individual subscribers something that looks like value for their money. That is to say, the association will, on its own initiative, support, by means of a deputation, a petition, or a resolution, the measures in which a subscriber may from time to time be particularly interested. The "Executive Council" "note with approval the efforts of the honourable member for the New Cut on behalf of the downtrodden masses;" or they present a petition "from the inhabitants of East London" in favour of his pet Bill—and so on.

One illustration is worth a column of description. It is within our knowledge that, not very long ago, a gentleman who is still the member for

an East London constituency was presented with a bogus address. He, of course, thought the compliment was genuine; but in point of fact it was got up by a knot of persons whose hope, presumably, was to obtain employment at the then approaching election. The address, when drawn up, was given to a law-stationer to be engrossed on vellum, and he, knowing his customers, was harsh enough to refuse to part with it without payment. At one time matters looked very awkward. A mass-meeting had been got up in one of the open spaces, and was on its way to the appointed place, and at that moment the promoters of the affair had not got possession of the address. Up to within an hour of the time fixed for the presentation it had not left the law-stationer's hands. Cajolery, threats, entreaties were alike thrown away upon him. At last, in despair, the promoters went out and, it is believed, pawned something to raise the money; and an hour later were figuring as the representatives of legions of working men, who, out of love for their parliamentary representative, had, from their slender resources, subscribed, etc. After all, this is not so bad as attempting to get money for carrying on a "working man's movement" on the strength of reports in the newspapers of meetings that were never held at all. Instances of that sort have been brought to our knowledge: we could, if it were worth while, give names, dates, and places.

Another trick is this. The association (as embodied in the president or secretary) carefully reads the daily papers, for business purpose. Suppose he sees that Mr. Chamberlain has made a slashing attack on Mr. Gladstone. He forthwith holds a meeting, and passes a resolution in this wise:—"The Radical Home Rule Association of Newington Butts has read with deep indignation the unmanly language employed by Mr. Chamberlain towards their revered leader, and begs to assure him of its warmest sympathy, as well as of its devotion to the great cause of Irish freedom. The secretary is hereby instructed to send a copy of this resolution to Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Chamberlain, and Lord Salisbury, as well as to the member for this division." In due time replies are received. A meeting is held to see who has been "drawn." Mr. Gladstone is a "moral certainty," Mr. Chamberlain probable, and Lord Salisbury—well, scarcely. Resolution and reply make a paragraph that most of the papers will print. It is confided to a friendly reporter, who is of course paid by every newspaper that takes his "copy;" and the spoil is divided. This business of "drawing" letters from public men for the mere purpose of selling them to the newspapers is, we are informed, considerable. But to practise it with success you must have an association, and change its name frequently.

Harmless enough dodges these, it may be said. But the system gives an utterly false idea of the opinion of classes or of the general public upon current questions, and is thus capable of doing much harm. Especially does it mislead the more ignorant and unthinking sections of the community; and it is these that rule the roost. The safest course is to mark as "bogus" everything not obviously genuine. "Executive Councils" especially should be distrusted. Any association with a solid substantial membership will have no difficulty in making its influence felt; and the real importance of political societies is generally in the inverse ratio to their fussiness.

BEFORE THE BIRDS COME.

IN the first half of March the country seems to awake in earnest from its long wintry sleep. Only close observers up to that time have noticed the mighty mother stirring in her dreams; but they have watched what is almost the earliest sign of spring, the tender leaflets breaking in shy rosettes from the honeysuckle's stem, the renewed activity in the rookery, the golden-crested wren beginning to twitter, the stock-doves forgetting their coyness and resorting to the abodes of men and choosing their nesting-trees. As the days grow longer, birds select their mates, and the little companies in which so many of them have sociably spent the winter gradually break up. I noticed partridges flying in a covey this year on the 24th of January, but they had paired on the 30th. This is more than a fortnight earlier than the date given in White and Markwick's Calendar, and is to be accounted for by the exceptionally fine weather. In February there is sure to be much stir among the tomits and jackdaws. Valentine's Day is popularly assigned in Devon as the day on which jackdaws pair. A few days after it this year jackdaws were sitting solemnly in pairs making love (a jackdaw's love-making is of the gravest description) on the weathercock and battlements of a church in that county. Redwings and fieldfares fly in this month from our fields and hedgerows, and seek the great pine-forests of Norway. Their spring songs are welcomed by village and sæter as are the homely thrush's strains with us. A good many winter visitors silently steal off from the estuaries and coast, each to its favourite haunt in the stern north. There, during the brief summer, amid a wealth of flowers and marvellous myriads of mosquitoes—as Mr. Seebohm's interesting researches have shown us—are bred the countless hosts of waders and water-birds that will visit next autumn more temperate climes.

These emigrants from our shores will ere long be replaced by our well-loved summer visitors—that multitude of soft-billed birds which invades orchard and garden, flits down the side of brooks, and causes "the budded quicks" to ring again with their gleeful notes. Meantime, white violets and primroses are venturing out on the sunny sides of lanes, buds are swelling in hedge and tree, while trout rising faintly in the shallows show that flies are being born into what is still (thanks to east winds) but a cold world. Hazels and alders are hung with catkins. A few warm showers, and that faint green mist will gather round the larches which preludes their burst into full leaf. In the eastern counties a long train of "sea-gulls and rooks" is fluttering after the ploughboy as he gladly hails the present open weather. In the wilder parts of the country the raven has built its nest and soon will be sitting.

The Herefordshire proverb says, "A raven always dines off a young one on Easter Sunday."

As all this activity among the native birds and vegetation is at its height the migratory birds which make our country their home in summer begin to arrive. Ornithologists are now on the look-out for them, and the first appearance of each kind is duly and carefully noted. That curious bird the wryneck, so dear to the classical scholar from its associations with witchcraft in Theocritus and Virgil, is the first to arrive; and certainly the weird manner in which its head seems to turn every way as if on a pivot, while, mouselike, it crawls up and round an old well, goes far to account for its reputation as an uncanny bird. The wheatear is another early visitor. It is supposed to be the Laureate's "sea-blue bird of March," but I believe he has never spoken conclusively on the point. With the coming of the swallows spring may be said to begin. The trout-fisher is usually the first to see one or two sand-martins revisiting the old familiar stream above which the holes in the sand bank tell of their last year's nesting labours. Eagerly are the pretty little birds welcomed, as they circle round the hand-bridge like torn bits of paper caught up in a mimic whirlwind amid the wild breezes at the end of March. They are followed after about a week's interval by the chimney-swallow, and again after another week by the active black-and-white house-martin. Here the ornithological knowledge of most men stops; but the naturalist spies the form or catches the early notes of many more immigrants—the willow-wrens, chiff-chaffs, garden warblers, whitethroats, and the like. He is constantly on the watch before the leaves expand and shrubbery and hedgerow are smothered in greenery and wild flowers. When once the woods have put on their summer dress, it is very difficult for even the most skilled eyes to discern these inconspicuous visitors, which skulk and hide and twist in and out of the stems of flowering plants and among the foliage. The swift, now removed by strict ornithologists from the swallow family, is a very late bird to arrive, and one of the earliest to leave. It is associated by all bird-lovers with the heart of summer, and, as it darts with a wild scream round street-corners or round some old cathedral towers, it is not surprising that it has earned for itself in the Midland Counties the name of "devil." Last of all our summer friends, but certainly not the least loved by every gardener, comes the meek unobtrusive fly-catcher. It is dependent upon a good supply of flies, and must wait—perhaps in the Riviera—until this is assured to it.

While speaking of the coming of the birds it would be ungrateful to forget either the labours of the committee appointed by the British Association to investigate bird-migration or the still more needful toils of the different lighthouse-keepers round our coasts. The committee has now published six reports, of which it may be truthfully said that each is more interesting than its predecessor. All bird-lovers should study these careful tabulations of immigrants. Many curious facts come out in them; though it is premature, perhaps, to expect the discovery of many general laws respecting migration, the unseen paths of birds through the night, the unaccountable assemblage of birds in a morning where previously there was not one of the family visible. But then laws will gradually emerge, it may be hoped, from the mass of interesting notes which are being brought together by the co-operation of the watchers on our light-ships and light-houses. The most singular facts, I am inclined to think, which their researches have hitherto established, is that besides those families of birds which have long been known to be regular migrants, there is a constant migration always going on of individuals from our common birds usually supposed to be stationary natives. Thus magpies are continually passing from England to the Continent along our eastern coasts, and being replaced by arrivals of the same bird from Holland and Belgium. So too with blackbirds, robins, larks, rooks, starlings, and other of our familiar birds. These departures and arrivals seem influenced more or less by the supply of food; but there is much that is strange and unexplained as yet in what has now to be accepted as a fact.

"THE OBSTRUCTOMETER."

Few people who are not regular frequenters of the House of Commons are really aware of the degradation of its proceedings under the present régime of deliberate obstruction. It is some years since Mr. Parnell defined the policy of his party in a speech at Cork. "We are a party," said he, "occupying an independent position in the House of Commons, pledged to remain aloof from every English party who will not concede to Ireland the right to home government; pledged, in the words of Mr. Fred Lucas, to be a separate element in the Legislature, and, if necessary, 'disorderly, disorganizing, interfering with every business that may be transacted as far as it is expedient and feasible.'"

The programme here laid down is nightly carried out in the House of Commons. To the shame of English politics, some English members are eagerly helping to carry it out. By a singular but not unprecedented coincidence, it is from those who have canted most often and most loudly about the rights of the majority and the majesty of the popular will that the ranks of the English Obstructionists are recruited. It is impossible, of course, to give any true idea of the brutality of speech and manner which marks the performances of the Obstructionists in the House of Commons. No one who has not seen an Irish "debate" in actual operation can quite realize the type of men to whom it is proposed to hand over the lives and fortunes of our fellow-countrymen in Ireland. Pity that educational exhibitions of an Irish night cannot be given throughout the country. It is a safe thing to say that no community, from Orkney to Scilly, would submit itself for a day to the domination of the men who followed Mr. Dillon on Thursday last. But the Gladstonites are sanguine enough to believe that our fellow-countrymen in Ireland will be terrorized into accepting that which we should repudiate and resist. It remains to be

seen how far their comfortable anticipations will be justified. Meanwhile, there are some relevant facts connected with the situation in the House of Commons which can be recorded, and which are well worth noting.

Between the opening of the present session on the 28th of January, and the 4th of March inclusive, the House sat twenty-two days for the transaction of business; and it may be said that in all that time no business of any kind was done, except the passing of a portion of the Estimates.

During that period a small party, composed of Irish and English Parnellites, have made the following record. Thirty members have delivered between them 256 speeches. The names of the gentlemen are as follows:—

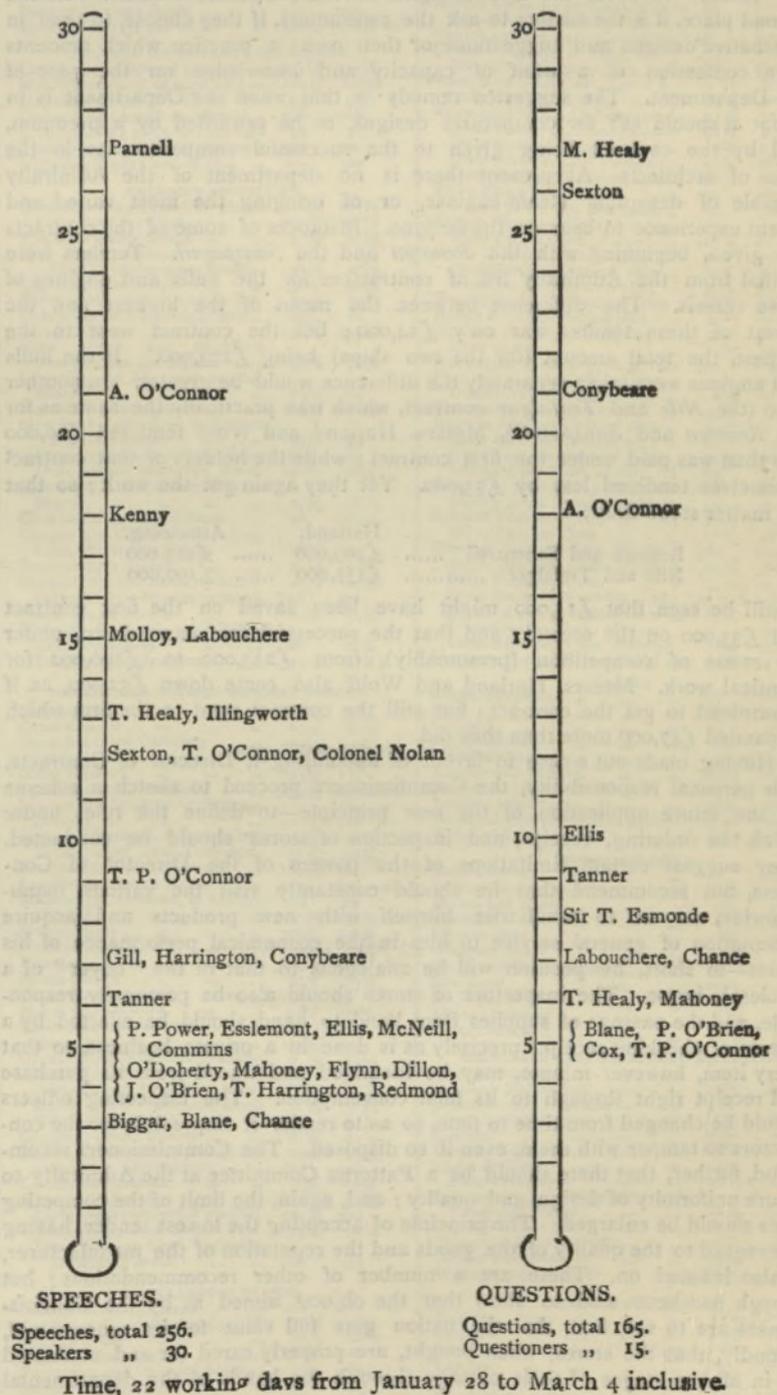
Messrs. Biggar.	Messrs. Harrington, T.	Messrs. O'Brien, J. F.
Blane.	Harrington, E.	O'Connor, J.
Commins.	Healy, T.	O'Connor, T. P.
Conybeare.	Illingworth.	O'Connor, A.
Chance.	Kenny.	O'Doherty.
Dillon.	Labouchere.	Parnell.
Esslemont.	Mahoney.	Power, P.
Ellis.	M'Neill.	Redmond, W.
Flynn.	Molloy.	Sexton.
Gill.	Nolan, Colonel.	Tanner.

During the same period of time fifteen members have asked 165 questions. The names of these gentlemen are as follows:—

Messrs. Blane.	Sir T. Esmonde.	Messrs. O'Brien, P.
Conybeare.	Messrs. Healy, M.	O'Connor, T. P.
Cox.	Healy, T.	O'Connor, A.
Chance.	Labouchere.	Sexton.
Ellis.	Mahoney.	Tanner.

No account is taken in these lists of the frequent interruptions which we owe to the gentlemen named; nor of the occasions upon which some of them have been called to order by the Speaker for wilfully disregarding the ruling of the Chair or abusing the patience of the House.

It is right that the country should know by whom its time is wasted. We therefore propose to keep an account of the performances of the thirty representatives whose names we make public. To-day it will be sufficient to give the record of some of the greatest offenders as the basis of our observations. As time goes on we have no doubt that others, whom we may spare for the present, will be entitled to a similar publicity. The following is the latest reading of the "obstructometer":—



THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.
FOURTH EDITION.

THE REPORT ON ADMIRALTY CONTRACTS.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

The Royal Commission on the Contract System of the Admiralty will recommend considerable changes, chiefly with the view of fixing personal responsibility upon the officials who at present are practically irresponsible. The Commissioners complain of grave defects in the existing arrangements, of the want of co-operation between the various departments, of the delay in furnishing information as to what is purchased and the cost of it, and generally of a great want of community of action between those who order the stores, those who receive them, those who inspect them, and those who use them. Considerable attention is paid in the report to the subject of the inspection of stores, and the defects of the existing system are pointed out at some length. Some of the revelations as to the qualifications of the examining officers are very curious—as, for example, that very subordinate members of the clerical staff, having no special knowledge whatever, have been entrusted with the inspection and acceptance as fit for service of large quantities of food, clothing, and other supplies. As a rule, the officials who examine the stores are those who use them; so that with all their known and unknown defects, they pass into consumption without any possibility of being checked or traced. The Commissioners think it would be desirable to have all the stores delivered at one central dépôt, so that a complete stock can be kept; and it is believed that the cost of distributing them to the various dockyards, etc., would be very trivial compared with the present loss by waste.

With reference to the contracts for the hulls and engines of ships of war, it is pointed out that at present the Admiralty has a list of contractors who are held to be competent to carry out this class of work; and the practice is to invite tenders from them, subject to the approval of the Secretary to the Admiralty. A great many complaints are made as to the operation of this system. In the first place, the specifications upon which tenders are invited are so defective that large sums have to be paid as "extras" to cover the after-thoughts of the Admiralty officials. In the second place, it is the custom to ask the contractors, if they choose, to send in alternative designs and suggestions of their own: a practice which amounts to a confession of a want of capacity and knowledge on the part of the Department. The suggested remedy is that when the Department is in doubt it should ask for competitive designs, to be rewarded by a premium, and by the contract being given to the successful competitor, as in the case of architects. At present there is no department of the Admiralty capable of designing steam-engines, or of bringing the most varied and recent experience to bear on the designs. Instances of some of the contracts are given, beginning with the *Renown* and the *Sanspareil*. Tenders were invited from the Admiralty list of contractors for the hulls and engines of these vessels. The difference between the mean of the highest and the lowest of these tenders was only £14,000; but the contract went to the highest, the total amount (for the two ships) being £223,000. If the hulls and engines were taken separately the difference would be greater. In another case (the *Nile* and *Trafalgar* contract, which was practically the same as for the *Renown* and *Sanspareil*), Messrs. Harland and Wolff tendered £66,000 less than was paid under the first contract; while the holders of that contract themselves tendered less by £33,000. Yet they again got the work; so that the matter stood thus:—

	Harland.	Armstrong.
Renown and Sanspareil	£209,000	£223,000
Nile and Trafalgar	£157,000	£190,000

It will be seen that £14,000 might have been saved on the first contract and £33,000 on the second; and that the successful firm came down, under the stress of competition (presumably), from £223,000 to £190,000 for identical work. Messrs. Harland and Wolff also came down £52,000, as if determined to get the contract; but still the contract went to the firm which demanded £47,000 more than they did.

Having made out a case in favour of appointing a Director of Contracts, with personal responsibility, the Commissioners proceed to sketch a scheme for the future application of the new principle—to define the rules under which the ordering, receipt, and inspection of stores should be conducted. They suggest certain limitations of the powers of the Director of Contracts, but recommend that he should constantly visit the various manufacturing factories, so as to familiarize himself with new products and acquire information of general service to him in the economical performance of his duties—in short, his position will be analogous to that of the "buyer" of a wholesale house. The inspectors of stores should also be personally responsible, and the passage of supplies from hand to hand should be effected by a system of checking receipts precisely as is done in a private business, so that every item, however minute, may be identified and traced from its purchase and receipt right through to its final consumption. The inspecting officers should be changed from time to time, so as to render it impossible for the contractors to tamper with them, even if so disposed. The Commissioners recommend, further, that there should be a Patterns Committee at the Admiralty to secure uniformity of design and quality; and, again, the limit of the competing firms should be enlarged. The principle of accepting the lowest tender, having due regard to the quality of the goods and the reputation of the manufacturer, is also insisted on. There are a number of other recommendations; but enough has been said to show that the objects aimed at by the Commissioners are to see, first, that the nation gets full value for its money, and, secondly, that the stores, when bought, are properly cared for and accounted for in all the stages of their passage through the hands of the departmental officers.

THE EXECUTIONS IN BULGARIA.—RUSSIAN NOTE.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

VIENNA, March 9.—The Russian Government has addressed a Circular Note to the Great Powers, inviting them to exercise their influence at Sophia "with a view to the prevention of atrocities" during the struggle of Bulgarian political parties for power. The Circular was despatched from St. Petersburg prior to the executions at Rustchuk; but when it reached the Powers the death sentences on the conspirators had been carried out.

St. PETERSBURG, March 9.—The semi-official *Journal de St. Petersburg* to-day contains an article accusing the Bulgarian authorities of having tortured their prisoners, and describes the executions of the Silistria and Rustchuk insurgents as atrocities committed by the Bulgarian dictators under the name of summary executions. The article proceeds as follows:—

These acts of revolting brutality have resulted in enlightening public opinion on the worth of the pretended defenders of order; and the Porte, at the pressing instance of the Russian Ambassador, supported by the German Ambassador, charged Riza Bey to visit the prisoners and at least put a stop to atrocities which the Sultan's representative could not witness with indifference without compromising the authority of the Suzerain and encouraging usurpers. We hope that these excesses will at length produce the conviction that it is a matter of urgency to terminate the martyrdom of the unfortunate nation called into existence by the devotion of Russia, but handed over to anarchy by the too great toleration of Europe. There are limits to patience, and these limits have been transgressed.

AFFAIRS IN MOROCCO.

(FROM THE SECOND EDITION OF THE "TIMES.")

MADRID, March 8.—A journal published at Ceuta states that the Sultan of Morocco, on learning that a cable had been laid from Europe to Tangiers, gave orders that it should be cut at once.

According to letters from Morocco, the Sultan will go to Fez at the end of next month, and Muley Elamin, his uncle, has been appointed commander of the expedition to Oujda, on the Algerian frontier. 1,500 tents have been requisitioned for the use of the expeditionary corps.

THE LIBERAL UNIONISTS.

STATEMENT BY MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Press Association supplies the following summary of Mr. Chamberlain's remarks at the Liberal Unionist Conversation last night.

The right honourable gentleman, in a speech of ten minutes' duration, referred to the improved relations existing between the two sections of the Liberal party, but contended that such incidents as the recent election at Burnley and Sir George Trevelyan's speech at the Devonshire Club last Wednesday would do more than anything else to increase the difficulty of an early reconciliation. The effect of such incidents was to raise the hopes of the Gladstonian Liberals much higher than there was any ground for. He hinted at indiscretion on the part of Sir George Trevelyan, and said he (the speaker) thought the Gladstonian Liberals would find that they had made a mistake in throwing up their hats before they were out of the wood. The right honourable gentleman then proceeded to recapitulate the points on which no surrender was possible on the part of the Liberal Unionists. He had no intention of giving way an inch in his demand that the Imperial Parliament should retain its supremacy with representatives from every section of the United Kingdom within its walls. No scheme for dealing with the question of Irish government would be satisfactory which did not make it clear that the central authority proposed to be established in Dublin should be subordinate to the Imperial Parliament and not co-ordinate with it. He would insist, moreover, that such powers as were intended to be given to the Dublin body should be delegated and clearly defined, the principle of simply reserving certain subjects for the consideration of the Imperial Parliament being inadmissible. Another vital point was the maintenance of law and order, the responsibility for which must continue in the hands of the Imperial Parliament. He would never consent to the handing over of the Protestant counties of Ireland to a Dublin Parliament against the will of the inhabitants. On these points he was determined not to yield. He added that there seemed to be every disposition on the part of the Gladstonian Liberal leaders to treat these matters as open questions. Adverting to the Irish land question, he dwelt strongly on the fact that the Gladstonian Liberals had absolutely surrendered the Bill of last year. There were minor details which would of course be under discussion; but this was a very important decision, and he congratulated the Unionists upon having saved the country from a Bill which even by now, had it passed, would have brought disaster. He spoke in terms of cordial approval of the objects of the newly founded Liberal Union, and congratulated the members upon being in such good fighting trim. They still had the fort to hold, and they were not so foolish, while negotiations were going on, to stack their arms, while the enemy remained drawn up with their fingers on the triggers of their rifles.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES FOR 1887-88.

The Army Estimates for 1887-88 were published this morning. The total number of men on the home and colonial establishments of the army, exclusive of those serving in India, is stated at 149,391, a decrease of 2,476. The estimate for this force is £18,393,900, as compared with £18,234,200 for the past year, or a net increase of £160,700. This increase is irrespective of a supplementary estimate for £459,000, issued the other day, for the past year, which will convert the apparent increase into a decrease of £298,300.

The following is a statement of the principal points of difference between the Estimates of 1887-88 and those for 1886-87:—

INCREASES.—Reduced Indian contribution for effective services, 100,000*l.*; additional day in Leap Year, 30,000*l.*; regimental pay and deferred pay: net increased charge for, 22,000*l.*; growth of army reserve, 25,000*l.*; militia and volunteers, 47,000*l.*; naval armaments and stores, 292,000*l.*; field-guns and magazine-rifles, 82,500*l.*; rewards to inventors, 16,500*l.*; decrease in colonial contributions, 13,000*l.*; miscellaneous increases (net), 16,800*l.*; non-effective services (gross), 46,000*l.*; total, 690,800*l.*

DECREASES.—Extra expenditure in Egypt, 233,000*l.*; native garrison of Suakim not provided for, 58,000*l.*; supplies—fall in prices, and reduction of men, 90,000*l.*; works—reduced expenditure and increased appropriations in aid (sale of lands, etc.), 63,500*l.*; clothing: reduction of men, etc., 36,500*l.*; increased proportion of Egyptian contribution appropriated in aid of Army Estimates, 15,000*l.*; increased Indian payment for non-effective services, 34,100*l.* Total, 530,100*l.* Net increase, 160,700*l.*

THIS DAY'S PARLIAMENT.

The Speaker took the chair in the House of Commons at a quarter past twelve o'clock.

THE CHARGE AGAINST THE CORPORATION.

Mr. Bradlaugh asked the First Lord of the Treasury, in reference to a statement made by Sir R. Fowler at a banquet last night, whether the motion with reference to an investigation affecting the City Corporation was postponed solely in consequence of a letter from himself (Mr. W. H. Smith), in which it was stated that, in a matter of such importance to the party charged, Mr. Smith thought they should have somewhat more time to consider the course proposed.

Mr. W. H. Smith replied that he did make that representation to Mr. Bradlaugh without any communication whatever with any of the parties, feeling that it was his duty to represent that fact to the honourable gentleman, looking at the position which he (Mr. Smith) occupied in the House.

THE DEBATE ON PROCEDURE.

Mr. A. O'Connor resumed the debate on procedure by moving a verbal amendment to the cloture rule. He explained that under the rule as it stood the cloture could be applied to the last of several amendments, and after that question was decided the main question could be put without any continuation of the debate on the original amendment. The object of the alteration he proposed was to allow any further motion to be brought forward which might be necessary. Mr. W. H. Smith opposed the amendment, stating that the point had already been decided by a large majority. He contended that the House must rely upon the safeguard afforded by the judicial position of the Chair against any undue use of the cloture. Mr. Sexton, in supporting the amendment, said that unless the power of moving amendments was reserved, the result would be that while the House would continue to be a House of Legislature, it would no longer deserve to be called a House of Parliament. Mr. O'Doherty also supported the amendment.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre asked whether it was the intention of the Government to make any concession as had been promised, either on the subject of putting the items of a vote separately, or on the subject of applying the cloture to the separate amendments to a clause. Mr. W. H. Smith said he had promised to consider the matter with a very earnest desire to meet the views of the House as far as he possibly could; but he had been unable to arrive at any form of words, and no form had been suggested which would prevent the raising of purely dilatory motions for the purpose of obstruction. Full authority was given to the Chair to secure the complete rights of every member and full and complete discussion of every question before the House, and he could do no more. Mr. Osborne Morgan spoke in support of the amendment. Mr. Clancy, Mr. J. E. Ellis, Mr. J. O'Connor, Mr. Gill, and Mr. Lane supported the amendment.

A MYSTERIOUS PARCEL FOR THE PRINCE OF WALES.

A Reuter's telegram from Washington says:—A parcel, posted in Boston and addressed to the Prince of Wales, has been retained at the Dead-Letter Office here owing to non-payment of postage. On being opened it was found to contain a glass tube filled with white liquid, with two wires running through it, the whole carefully packed in cotton. The contents of the parcel will be tested.

A SUMMONS SERVER SHOT AT.

A Tralee correspondent telegraphs:—Last evening a summons server, named McNeill, was fired at near O'Brennan, after having served a summons for trespass on an evicted farm. One bullet passed his ear and a second near his leg. Two other shots were fired at him. It is stated that McNeill had been previously shot at in Tralee.

THE HOTCHKISS GUN COMPANY.

A batch of letters of regret were last evening sent out to applicants for Hotchkiss shares, and others will follow during the next day or two. The probability is that the allotments will be made at the end of the week. The ordinary shares are this morning at a premium of 4.

SUNDAY BOATING.

Mr. Henry J. Atkinson, M.P., this morning received the following letter:—"Foreign Office, March 8, 1887.—I am desired by the Prime Minister to inform you that the Government have decided to treat the Sunday boating question as an open one, and not as a Government matter.—I am, dear Sir, faithfully yours, HENRY MANNERS."

THE JUBILEE EXHIBITION AT MANCHESTER.

At a special meeting of the Manchester City Council to-day it was resolved to invite the Prince and Princess of Wales to visit Manchester and open the Jubilee Exhibition. It was stated that their Royal Highnesses were quite willing to visit Manchester, and the invitation is extended to any member of the royal family who could make it convenient to accompany the Prince and Princess. A hope was expressed that the Queen would visit the exhibition later in the year.

THIS DAY'S RACING.

KEMPTON PARK.

HUNTERS' FLAT RACE. (Two miles).—Hugger Muger (Mr. A. Coventry), 1. Rosier (S. Woodlands), 2. Fitz Roy (Captain Owen), 3. Barton (Blake) also started. Betting: 7 to 4 on Hugger Muger, 9 to 2 agst Fitz Roy, 5 to 1 agst Barton, 7 to 1 agst Rosier.

THIS DAY'S MONEY MARKET.

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

The Stock Markets all open better this morning, and there is more doing than has been since the war scare began, though the amount is still small.

The demand for money in the open market is quiet, and short loans are quoted 2 3/4 per cent., the rate of discount being easy at 2 3/4 per cent.

Quarter past Two.

The firmness of tone that characterized the Stock Markets this morning has been maintained, but there has been very little fresh movement; a knowledge of the general tone of the Continental Bourses being awaited Consols and New and Reduced continue firm at 1-16 to 1/8 per cent. improvement, and there is also a pretty general advance in Home Railways; but the movement is of chief importance in the "A" stocks. Grand Trunk of Canada stocks and Mexican Railway issues are firm in common with other classes, and

American Railways have also improved, but have not shown much animation as yet. Foreign Government Securities are better in tone under the influence of the closing of accounts for the fall both here and on the Continent.

The following are the changes as compared with yesterday's closing prices:— In the English Funds, Consols for money have advanced 1/8 to 101 1/8 to 101 1/4 and 1-16 for the account (April) to 101 5-16 to 101 7-16, Reduced and New Three per Cents. 3/8 to 100 1/8 to 100 1/4; but New Two-and-a-Half per Cents. are unchanged at 88 to 88 1/2.

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

In Foreign Government Bonds, Brazilian Five per Cents. of 1875 have risen 1/2, Egyptian State Domain 1/4, the Preference 1/4, the Daira Sanieh 1/4, Hungarian Gold Rentes 1/4, Italian 1/4, Peruvian of 1870 1/8, Russian of 1873 1/8, Spanish Four per Cents. 1/4 Turkish Group II. 1/8, Groups III. and IV. 1-16, and the Defence 1/4; but French Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Rentes have fallen 1/4, Greek of 1881 1/2, and Portuguese Three per Cents. 1/8.

In American Securities, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage Bonds have risen 1/8, Central Pacific shares 1/4, Milwaukee 1/8, Lake Shore 1/8, Louisville 1/4, Erie 1/4, the Second Mortgage Bonds 1/4, Pennsylvania shares 1/8, Reading 1, Union Pacific 1/4, and Wabash Preference 1/2.

The premium on gold at Buenos Ayres has advanced to 34.25 per cent.

The Delagoa Bay and East African Railway Company (Limited) announce an issue at par of £400,000 (part of an authorized capital of £500,000), in debentures of £100 and £500, bearing interest at 7 per cent. per annum; 5 per cent. deposit is payable on application, 15 per cent. on allotment, and the balance extending over a period of four months. The company has been formed for the purpose of constructing and working a railway from Delagoa Bay to the Transvaal, under a ninety-nine years' concession from the Portuguese Government. Considerable grants of land and minerals are said to be included in the concession. The concession is at present vested in a Portuguese company, and it may be necessary to carry out the concession through that company; but in that case this company would hold practically all the shares of the Portuguese company.

Table with multiple columns: ENGLISH GOVERNMENT SECURITIES, COLONIAL GOVERNMENT SECURITIES, AMERICAN SECURITIES, FOREIGN STOCK MARKET, BRITISH AND FOREIGN RAILWAY STOCKS, MISCELLANEOUS SHARES, BANKS, MINING SHARES, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SECURITIES, TRAMWAY SHARES.

THE BULGARIAN INSURRECTION.

THE EXECUTIONS AT RUSTCHUK.

Accounts are given to-day of the execution of the condemned insurgents at Rustchuk. The nine prisoners were conveyed in cabs on Sunday morning at three o'clock, escorted by a guard, to the place of execution, situate about five kilometres from Rustchuk, on a plain by the side of the Rasgrad road. On their arrival some infantry with fixed bayonets formed a square, and the president of the court-martial read the sentences. The prisoners embraced one another, and a priest gave them his blessing. Their eyes were bandaged, and they were placed in a row, each in front of the grave dug for him. Before each prisoner were posted three soldiers, armed with revolvers, who, at the word of command, given by an officer, fired twice. All the members of the court-martial and several officers of the Rustchuk garrison were present at the execution, but not a single citizen. The condemned men faced death with stoical courage. Before their execution each of them spoke a few words acknowledging the justice of his punishment. Major Panoff said that in stirring up rebellion he had thought to serve the Slav cause, and that so long as Petroff and Zachary Stoianoff governed Bulgaria similar risings would occur.

Captain Bolmann, who was surrendered to the German Consul on the ground that he was a Russian subject, has arrived in Bucharest. He is wounded in both legs. The condition of Colonel Filoff is regarded as hopeless. It has been ascertained that Majors Ouzounoff and Panoff, who were executed, were in possession of Russian passports. The wives of many of the condemned conspirators and a number of refugees are now in Bucharest, and are receiving pecuniary support from the wife of the Russian Minister.

No protest has as yet been received from Russia on account of the sentence and execution of the Bulgarian officers who were provided with Russian passports, and in well-informed quarters in the chief European capitals the opinion is gaining ground that Russia will not depart from her policy of inaction. In Russian diplomatic circles in Vienna the necessity of a rapprochement between the Cabinets of Vienna and St. Petersburg and the re-establishment of the three Emperors' alliance is strongly advocated.

THE AMENITIES OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Cowley Lambert, M.P., has sent the following correspondence to the *Times* :—

March 7, 1887.—Sir,—I have just copied the enclosed extract from the *Dublin Daily Express* of to-day's date, and I offer you the opportunity, which I imagine you will gladly take, of assuring me that the statement alluded to is altogether without foundation.—Yours faithfully, COWLEY LAMBERT. To Dr. Tanner, M.P.

Extract from the *Dublin Daily Express*, March 7, 1887.—“At Macroom a telegram was received from Dr. Tanner, the member for the division, saying that God Almighty was working in their favour in having afflicted the Chief Secretary with blindness.”

March 7, 1887.—Dr. Tanner begs to acknowledge the receipt of a letter signed Cowley Lambert, and, recognizing the fact that the communication is merely intended as a studied insult or else as a stupid specimen of puppyish self-sufficiency, Dr. Tanner declines to answer.

THE IRISH LAND ACTS COMMISSION.

The report presented by Mr. Knipe, the tenant-farmer member of Lord Cowper's Commission on the Irish Land Acts, was issued yesterday. Mr. Knipe says: “I regret that I have felt compelled to dissent from the report presented by my colleagues for the reasons stated in a letter addressed by me to Lord Cowper, with the request that it might accompany their report. I approve in the main of several of their recommendations, particularly the shortening of the judicial term from fifteen to five years, and the immediate revision of judicial rents, the proposal in regard to the leaseholders, and other questions to which I refer. But on the subject of combination among tenants, and the recommendations bearing upon the question of social order, it appears to me that sufficient weight has not been attached to the important evidence which many intelligent and influential witnesses gave as to the cause of agitation and combination. The report from which I dissent, viewed from my standpoint as a tenant-farmer, does not adequately represent the gravity of the situation or the severity of the crisis—a crisis arising not only from the alarming and continuous fall in prices of all commodities on which the farmer has to rely for the maintenance of his family and for the payment of rent, but also intensified by the late disastrous seasons, and the consequent decreased productiveness of the soil. Nor are the effects of the great decline in value of agricultural produce, in the failure of a large number of tenants to pay rents fully recognized from the official returns laid before the Commission by the Registrar-General.”

A NEW TELEPHONE.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* states that he was present yesterday at some telephone experiments between Paris and Brussels with a new apparatus known as the “micro-telephone push-button.” These experiments were made on behalf of the two telegraphic administrative departments of France and Belgium; and the new apparatus is said to be the most perfect yet produced. As its name indicates, it has the form of an ordinary electric push-button. When the button has been pushed in, and has made a sound at the other extremity, it is taken out, and is found to be attached to a long electric wire. There is thus exposed the telephonic plate, which is extremely sensitive, so that where it is necessary to speak at short distances it is not necessary to come close to the instrument. For communications in the same street, or the same house, the operator places the upper part near himself, and without changing his position he can speak with the correspondent at the opposite extremity. He is not obliged to put his ear to the part which contains the button and brings back the reply. Thus, for short distances those who make use of this apparatus speak in their ordinary tone, without changing their customary attitudes. They may sit or walk about, and speak just as if those they are addressing were present. When great distances intervene, as in the experiments performed yesterday, in which the speakers and hearers were separated by 200 miles, it is necessary to come nearer to the apparatus, but without being obliged to speak quite close to it. But what makes this apparatus the most successful of telephonic instruments is that it can be made for half a crown—that is to say, for not more than the price of the ordinary push-button. Now, as it can be fitted to the electric wire of the ordinary ringing apparatus, it follows that it introduces a complete change in our ordinary modes of intercourse. At front doors, in the interior rooms of houses—everywhere in short where the ordinary electric buttons are used—the telephonic button may be introduced. It will by this means be possible to give or receive instructions, to know who is knocking at the door, to communicate, in short, by speaking as well as by ringing. On the advantage of this in every-day life it is unnecessary to dwell. The railway companies are making experiments with this apparatus as a means of communication between compartments of carriages. It is being fitted up on trial in hotels.

The inventor is Dr. Cornelius Herz, one day nominated Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour, next day described as an emissary of Germany, and lastly as the friend, adviser, and confidant of General Boulanger. He is in reality an electrician whose inventive talent has been stimulated by his residence in America. The French Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, under whose auspices the experiments were carried out, has approved the report made to him, and proposes to give orders for the introduction of the new apparatus into all the public administrative departments as soon as it comes into use, for as yet it has only been an experiment.

FRANCE AND CHINA.

Notwithstanding the compromise arrived at between the Chinese authorities and the French Government with reference to the cathedral at Peking, the Imperial Government (the Shanghai correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphs) refuses to recognize in any way the pretensions of the French representatives to exercise a special protection over the native Catholic population.

The recent massacres or riots in Szechuen have offered an occasion for an emphatic assertion of this repudiation of the French claim. It will be remembered that a rich Christian merchant named Lo was accused of offences in connection with the disturbances at Chung King. The charges made against him are believed here to be absolutely false. He was nevertheless sentenced to death. The French Minister, acting under orders specially sent from the Quai d'Orsay, intervened on his behalf. In pointed disregard of the representations thus made, the prisoner has been executed. The incident excites remark as a decisive illustration of the determination of the Imperial Cabinet to maintain its denial that France has any exceptional right of protection on religious grounds. The Pope, it is held, can alone speak with moral authority as head of Catholic Christendom.

A telegram from Tientsin says :—The exceptional privileges formerly enjoyed by the French Consulates in China in regard to the protection of Catholic Christians have virtually lapsed, owing to the action of Germany and Italy, who, acting in accord with the Chinese Government, have definitively agreed to instruct their Consuls to extend protection to German and Italian Catholics respectively, in religious as in other matters. The Pope has also consented to exercise his authority as head of the Roman Catholic Church to support the views of the German and Chinese Governments in this matter.

EXTRAORDINARY RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

A singular accident happened yesterday morning upon the New York Elevated Railroad. A fire having broken out in a house adjoining the railroad, the flames were driven across the line, and the trains dared not attempt to pass through them. Train after train came up to the spot, until there were cars extending for a mile waiting on the track. Becoming impatient of the delay, many of the passengers on their way to business left the cars to walk to the nearest stations, whence they would descend to the streets. They had to proceed along a footpath, only two feet wide, utterly unprotected by railing, and which was originally provided solely for the use of the railway servants. Suddenly the blocked trains began to move, and the affrighted passengers on the narrow footpath were seized with panic. Some crouched down beside the cars. Others grasped at anything projecting from the moving trains on which they could lay hold. One man attempted to enter a car by climbing up to the window; but he only got halfway in, and his legs projecting outside brushed more than twenty persons off the footpath into the street below. Four were killed on the spot, and six received serious injuries; while a good many more were hurt less seriously.

THE CHARGES AGAINST THE CORPORATION.

Replying to the toast of “The Houses of Parliament,” last evening, at the dinner of the Port of London Sanitary Committee, at the Guildhall Tavern, Sir Robert Fowler, M.P., said that some of those present might expect him to say a word about the attack which had been made on the Corporation in general, and on him individually with reference to the time when he filled the position of Lord Mayor. All he could say, however, was that on behalf of the Corporation he had challenged the fullest inquiry into the charges. They shrank from no investigation; they were prepared to meet every charge that could be made against them; and it was by no wish of theirs, but contrary to their wishes, that the investigation was deferred from Monday night to next Thursday. On behalf of the Corporation he had challenged the fullest inquiry; and he was sure, speaking in the presence of a distinguished body of citizens, that he only expressed their wishes. As to himself, he had no doubt he should be able to give a satisfactory answer to any charge that might be made. He thought he should do well to defer any remarks upon the subject to a future occasion, when he believed that the Committee appointed to investigate the matter would have reported in a sense which would not be very satisfactory to those who brought the charges. Sir Robert Fowler then spoke of the respect for the Corporation of the City of London which he had noticed during his visit to Australia.

LORD SELBORNE ON DISESTABLISHMENT.

The Earl of Selborne, acknowledging the receipt of copies of Mr. Gladstone's and Mr. Chamberlain's letters on the question of the disestablishment of the Church in Wales, has addressed the following letter to his correspondent :—

30, Portland-place, W., March 6.

Sir,—I return the enclosures in your letter. My opinion on the subject to which they relate has already been made public in the concluding chapter of my “Defence of the Church of England;” which in a third edition, whenever that is called for, will be strengthened and enlarged. All, therefore, who can be influenced by the knowledge of my opinion are aware that it is inflexibly opposed to the attempt to separate the Welsh from the English Church, as well as to Disestablishment in general. Whenever that question becomes “practical,” it will be found that very many Liberals, as well as all Conservatives, will unite in steadily opposing any such measure.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
SELBORNE.

THE EARTHQUAKES.

At Mentone yesterday morning, about half-past eleven, a fresh shock of earthquake was experienced, which lasted five seconds. The cracks on the buildings ran from the south-east to the north-west. Immediately before it occurred subterranean thunder was heard. Those who are arriving from Italy are still very nervous, mainly on account of the predictions which have been made that fresh catastrophes are to be expected at the full moon. Many persons in consequence are preparing again to bivouac in the open air.

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

THE BREACH OF TRUST BY A DOCKYARD OFFICIAL.

The official who was yesterday referred to as having sold to agents of foreign Powers designs of British ships is stated to be Mr. Young Terry, one of the principal draughtsmen of Chatham Dockyard. The following official notice was posted at the dockyard yesterday:—"Mr. Young Terry, draughtsman, having betrayed the trust reposed in him, by selling information acquired by him in his official capacity, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have directed that he be publicly dismissed, and he has been dismissed accordingly.—W. CODRINGTON, Admiral Superintendent." It is stated that for some time past the Admiralty authorities had vainly endeavoured to trace the perpetrator of the breaches of trust of which they had become cognizant. As a last resource the aid of the Criminal Investigation Department of Scotland-yard was invoked. A test plan, made up in the same way as test letters to detect Post Office robberies, was resolved upon. The ideas of some entirely new and original fittings were submitted to the authorities at Chatham, and, of course, found their way to the Chief Constructor's office and from there to the chief draughtsman's office. In a very short time all the supposed confidential facts found their way into the possession of a gentleman connected with the American Legation in London. The representatives of the Criminal Investigation Department, by means of tracing letters and cheques, were enabled to make a report to the Admiralty. On Friday morning Mr. Elgar, director of dockyards, and another gentleman went to Chatham, and Mr. Young Terry, chief draughtsman, was sent for, and was at once told what he was accused of. He was taken completely aback, and could not answer for a minute or two; but eventually admitted that he had supplied information, but denied that he had the slightest knowledge for what use it was intended. He explained that he had supplied information asked for to a gentleman in London, and that he in turn had passed it on to a third person, and thus it had reached the American Legation. Mr. Terry was then suspended from further duty, and yesterday morning he was dismissed. Mr. Terry, who is forty-four years of age, served his apprenticeship in Chatham Dockyard. He showed considerable aptitude in his profession and was for some years employed in the superintendence of the manufacture of steel plates for the Government. He then returned to Chatham as a draughtsman, and, being a fairly good linguist, has often been employed in conducting foreigners over Chatham yard. For some time he was acting foreman of the yard. So much was he thought of that every effort was made to get him confirmed in that capacity, but the Admiralty appointed Mr. W. Pearce to the post, and Mr. Terry had to go back to the draughtsman's office. Mr. Terry, it is stated, had always been considered a man of irreproachable character, was a prominent local Freemason, and acted as churchwarden of the parish in which he lived.

THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

BERLIN, March 9.—Intelligence from St. Petersburg describes as premature the statement of the *Cologne Gazette* that an imperial ukase was about to be issued for the increase of the Russian army.

THE PAPAL SECRETARY OF STATE.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

ROME, March 9.—Monsignor Rampolla, the Papal Nuncio at Madrid, has declined the Pontifical Secretaryship of State on the ground of ill-health. The Austrian Government recommends Monsignor Vannutelli, the Nuncio at Vienna, for the post; but the Pope is understood to favour the appointment of Cardinal Schraffino.

A RAILROAD THROUGH THE "IMPASSABLE."

Mr. Henniker Heaton yesterday gave notice in the House of Commons that he will on Thursday ask the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether it was true, as stated in the *St. James's Gazette* of the 4th inst., that a railway had been constructed by the Russian Government from the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea to Charjui, on the Oxus; that the line of the said railway approached to within twenty miles of Sarakhs, on the Russian-Afghan frontier; and that at this point a great massing of Russian troops had already taken place.

CONVOCATION AT WINDSOR CASTLE.

The Queen received at Windsor Castle yesterday afternoon an address from the members of the Upper and Lower Houses of the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury. Her Majesty read the following answer to the address:—

I receive with great satisfaction your loyal and dutiful address, and I thank you heartily for the expression of your feelings of affection towards my throne and person, on the occasion of my attaining the fiftieth year of my reign. I rejoice with you in observing the substantial progress of the Church of England and the increasing zeal manifested alike by clergy and laity. The willingness of the laity to organize a voluntary representative body to assist with their counsel and advice, when required, the deliberations of the Houses of Convocation is much to be commended. I hear with regret, and with the utmost sympathy, that many of the clergy and their families have shared in the sufferings unhappily so prevalent at this period of depression. I thank you for your prayers on behalf of myself and my beloved family, and I earnestly hope that, by the divine blessing, peace and prosperity may be abundantly bestowed on the Church of Christ in all parts of my dominions.

THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.

A Central News telegram from New York says:—The *New York Times* states that it is authorized to announce that the control of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad has passed into the hands of Mr. Alfred Sully, of New York. The Sully syndicate already have the control of the Jersey Central Railroad, the Reading, the Richmond Terminal, the Richmond and Danville, the East Tennessee, the Virginia, and Georgia systems. These lines have a united length of 16,000 miles. The transaction also includes the transference of the vast Baltimore and Ohio telegraph system. This, it is rumoured, will ultimately be taken over by the Western Union Company.

THE POST OFFICE.

The differences in the Post Office have been satisfactorily arranged. The Secretary to the Post Office has assented to the promotions made by Mr. Raikes, and the protest recently made by the officials has been formally withdrawn. Under the circumstances, the Postmaster-General does not intend to take any further disciplinary notice of what has occurred.

GENERAL BULLER AND THE RENT QUESTION IN IRELAND.

The *Irish Times'* London correspondent, in a *résumé* of General Buller's evidence before the Cowper Commission, represents him as saying:—"I think there is in certain localities an organized stand against the payment of rent, but rent generally is fairly well paid. I think the National League would if they could prevent the payment of rents, and are now doing their utmost to prevent rents being paid; but the improvement in payment of rent is because tenants are getting reasonable allowances. I believe that a great majority of tenants in Kerry, Clare, and part of Cork are anxious to pay." In answer to the query "where reasonable allowances were made?" General Buller replied, "Not exactly. There are a great many men who are anxious to pay who do not require an allowance at all, and who would pay if they dared. They are coerced, and in fear of the intimidation that is rampant in the country. The intimidation is not lessened." Being asked, "Are the tenants prevented from paying their rent partly by terrorism, and partly from inability and poverty?" General Buller said: "Yes, and partly from bad advice, the *United Ireland* scheme, and that sort of thing. The three worst districts that I have got I really thought were settling down, when Mr. Dillon and other members of Parliament went there preaching, and the excitement they have created will, I fear, again disturb the people. The speeches we are hearing and reading have paralyzed if not stopped purchase, and they have demoralized the districts that I thought were settling down." General Buller advocates a produce-rent. Respecting the National League, he says: "Owing to the organization of the League, the enforcement of legal obligations has become an impossibility. No doubt these intimidatory moonlighting bands support the authority of the League by their action and by boycotting."

FATAL RIOT AT YOUGHAL.

The excitement at Youghal, caused by the expected arrest of Father Keller on a charge of contempt in refusing to give evidence in bankruptcy proceedings in regard to the Plan of Campaign, culminated in serious rioting last night. A large force of police, who arrived by train were met in the centre of the town by a crowd of some thousands of people, with bands. The people sang "God Save Ireland," and stones were thrown. The police charged with fixed bayonets, driving the crowd back; but they rallied, and were addressed by Nationalists. The police again charged, and more stones were thrown. A man named Hanlon received a bayonet-thrust, from which he died. Portions of broken bayonets were picked up. It was found that bars of iron had been placed to obstruct the train by which the court messenger was expected, but he did not arrive. The military are kept under arms. The greatest excitement prevails in the town.

Father Keller has received a letter from his Bishop, who expresses approval of his conduct and adds: "Whatever the legal penalties may be, our present rulers seem to forget, in their declamations on the observance of law, that there is something above law and that is justice, and that whilst circumstances may arise (as they have done often in this country) that would warrant one in disobeying the law, no circumstances can ever arise that would justify a man in acting in opposition to the plain dictates of justice; and it is by these latter precepts that I am sure any course you may adopt will be guided."

A STRANGE SACRIFICE.

A letter from Honolulu, published by the *New York Herald*, reports that Princess Likelike, sister of the King, has starved herself to death, desiring to offer herself as a sacrifice to the goddess whose anger is supposed to have caused the recent eruptions of the Mauna Loa volcano in Hawaii.

The Queen has appointed Lord Esher, the Master of the Rolls, to be a member of the Universities Committee of the Privy Council.

The *Standard* is asked to say that there is no foundation whatever for the impression that Mr. Balfour has only accepted temporarily the Irish Chief Secretaryship, or that any further changes in respect to it are in contemplation.

Dr. Codrington, who is with the Bishop of Melanesia in the Southern Seas, has telegraphed to the authorities of Wadham College, Oxford, his acceptance of the valuable Sussex living of Wadhurst, which has been vacant for over four months.

Princess Christian presided yesterday at the annual distribution of prizes to the students of the Royal Female School of Art in the theatre of the University of London, Burlington-gardens.

Under the provisions of the Bank Holidays Act, 1871, the Queen has issued a proclamation appointing Wednesday, March 23, a special bank holiday for the borough of Birmingham.

The Emperor of Brazil is officially pronounced to be convalescent.

Colonel G. B. Wolseley, C.B., has been selected for the command of a brigade of the Bengal army.

Prince Ibrahim Hilmey Pasha was yesterday initiated into freemasonry, on the proposal of Lord Suffield and Colonel F. Hughes-Hallett, M.P., at the Drury Lane Lodge, No. 2,127 on the roll of English lodges.

A meeting of the Site and Works Committee of the Church House Memorial was held yesterday afternoon, at 2, Dean's-yard. The committee unanimously agreed upon the selection of a site, and determined to take steps for the acquirement of it.

A man named Jones, living at Golden Hill, North Staffordshire, had his head blown off yesterday while using dynamite in a mining operation.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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

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

DUTY.
Knowest thou yesterday, its aim and reason,
Workest thou well to-day for worthy things
Calmly wait to-morrow's hidden season,
Need'st not fear what hap so e'er it brings
VEGETABLE MOTO.

CLARKE'S World-famed **BLOOD MIXTURE** is warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities, from whatever cause arising. For scrofula, scurvy, skin and blood diseases, and sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. Thousands of testimonials. In bottles, 2s. 6d., and in cases containing six times the quantity, 12s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

SELL LONDON, SELL LONDON, SELL LONDON. See this week's *Punch*—"Another SELL." Any one who wishes to obtain something like a sovereign for a shilling should apply to the Agency whose telegraphic address is "Sell London." Buy **SELL'S** **DICTIONARY OF THE WORLD'S PRESS, 1887.** 1,200 p.p. Illustrated. Price 2s. **SELL'S** Advertising Offices are at 167, Fleet-street, London.

The **ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE** may be ordered of all Newsvendors and Booksellers in Town and Country. Terms:—Three Months, 9s. 6d.; Six Months, 19s. 6d.; Twelve Months, 39s.

THE LATE REVEREND HENRY WARD BEECHER.

As stated in our later editions yesterday, the Reverend Henry Ward Beecher died at New York at half-past nine o'clock yesterday morning. The deceased was the fourth son of Mr. Lyman Beecher, one of the most popular preachers of his day, and Mrs. Roxana Foote Beecher, and was born at Litchfield, Connecticut, in 1813. The father was in some respects the most remarkable of the family, and he enjoyed great celebrity in his day as a preacher. He began life as a blacksmith, and he was of mature age when he went to college to study for the ministry. He was of an extremely eccentric turn of mind, and believers in heredity need look no further back for the origin of many of the peculiarities of his more gifted son. His prayer on one occasion for the Government of the day, then pursuing an unpopular course, was: "O Lord, grant that we may not despise our rulers, and grant that they may not act so that we can't help it." Mr. Lyman Beecher was emphatically of the Church Militant, and from his precept and example his children learned to be always fighting something in human evil—particularly slavery. Henry Ward Beecher was educated at Amherst, and afterwards, under his father, at Lane Theological Seminary, an institution founded by the Presbyterians to enable young men to study for the ministry, and to maintain themselves by manual labour at the same time. His first cure was at Laurenceburgh, Indiana, and thence, in 1839, he went to Indianapolis, which he left for Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, in 1847. Here he built up his fame as the greatest preacher in the United States. His preaching was in some respects a great manifestation of himself. Sometimes the moral of his sermon seemed to have come from afar off, but that perhaps only served to make it the more strikingly unexpected. "The devil is distributive in our days," he once told his hearers; "some of him is in Governments, some of him is in judges." Just what people might probably be wishing they could say for themselves, he had a knack of saying for them; and when he thought they saw the humorous side of a difficulty he never treated it with a long face. He did not confine himself to the Scriptures for his texts, but chose them sometimes from proverbs, from poems, and even from the every-day utterances of profane men. On one occasion a thrill of horror ran through the land, and convulsed the "uncol' guid," when it was reported far and wide that Mr. Beecher had selected for his text the unseemly words, "It's damned hot," and had discoursed upon this theme to an overflowing audience upon a sultry evening in July. The eccentric preacher explained that the above words had saluted his ear as he entered his church to perform evening service, and he thought it no inappropriate moment to repeat them, in order to impress upon his hearers that blasphemy was one of the great vices of slave-owners and Southern men, whom it ill-became a Northerner, when he repaired to a place of holy worship, to imitate. He did not take up quite so extreme a position as Garrison and Wendell Phillips, but he was always a thorough anti-slavery man; and if he chose to work rather with the Free Soil, afterwards the Republican party, it was because their methods appeared more practical. On one occasion he created an immense sensation by introducing into his pulpit a beautiful quadroon girl, who was anxious to purchase her own freedom and stood pledged to return to slavery if she failed. Men emptied their pockets into the plates, and women stripped off their jewellery, and the needful amount was raised. Mr. Beecher became well known throughout the United States as an advocate, both in the pulpit and on the platform, of peace and temperance, as well as of political reforms, taking the Republican side in politics. When the *Independent*, a semi-religious weekly newspaper, was established, he became a constant contributor to its columns, and was chief editor of the paper from 1861 to 1863, when he surrendered the post to Mr. Theodore Tilton. As the great crisis approached, Mr. Beecher, alike as preacher, as platform orator, and as journalist, wielded an immense power throughout the Northern States. Every week his sermons appeared regularly in the *Independent*, and were eagerly read throughout the States. These sermons were not unfrequently manifestoes of the party of emancipation. He lived in an ideally comfortable house on Columbia Heights, overlooking the East River—a house richly furnished with paintings and sculptures, curios, and books; and at his country seat he had one of the best farms and flower-gardens in the United States. He was a journalist, and an able one, and he had been owner and editor, as well as contributor. He put his pew-rents up to auction every year, and had the best seats knocked down to the highest bidders. He earned thousands of dollars as a lecturer, to say nothing of the large annual income of his pastorate. Such a life of the world and in the world was not free from the world's mischances. His hair had long been grey when, in 1874, a startling charge was brought against him by Theodore Tilton, a brother lecturer and journalist—a charge which involved the honour of Tilton's wife. It was investigated by a committee of Plymouth Church; and, though in the end Beecher was acquitted, his character can hardly be said to have gained in sanctity in the course of the protracted proceedings. The recollections it left in many quarters must have influenced his reception in England on the occasion of his final visit last year. He wrote one indifferent novel, "Norwood," and published about fifteen volumes of sermons, besides innumerable lectures, one series of them, "On the Best Methods of Preaching," delivered as a college course in the Yale Divinity School.

THE BREAD AND FOOD REFORM LEAGUE.

The following letter has been received by the honorary secretary of the Bread and Food Reform League:—

Marlborough House, Pall-mall, S.W., March 5, 1887.

Dear Madam,—I have had the honour of laying before the Prince and Princess of Wales your letter and enclosure. I am desired by their Royal Highnesses, in reply, to thank you for having been so good as to transmit for their information an account of the efforts which are being made by the Bread and Food Reform League to promote the healthy nutrition of the people, and to assure you that the movement has the hearty good wishes of their Royal Highnesses.—I remain, dear Madam, yours truly,

FRANCIS KNOLLYS.

INLAND REVENUE PROSECUTION.

The Dowager-Lady Augusta Mostyn was summoned at Conway yesterday, for non-payment of duty upon armorial bearings. Her ladyship, who had not paid the duty for ten years, was interrogated by the Inland Revenue authorities as to the possession of certain articles of plate at Gloddaeth Hall, in which she has a life interest. These, it was explained, belonged to her son, Lord Mostyn, but she admitted using a gold seal bearing the family crest. Mr. Chamberlain, who defended, said that her ladyship was under the impression that, being a dowager, she was not liable to the duty. Mr. Purdon, who represented the Inland Revenue, pressed for a penalty which would cover the ten years during which the duty had been unpaid. A fine of 20s. was imposed.

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

OUR MILITARY ORGANIZATION

The Army Estimates for 1887-88, which were issued this morning, are accompanied for the first time by a memorandum by the Secretary of State for War. The cost of all the military services within this country, deducting the expense of guns supplied to the navy, was last year about seventeen millions and a quarter; and the total of all our forces, including colonial garrisons, reserve, militia, yeomanry, and volunteers, was over 547,000. This year deducting always the amount voted for naval armaments, the charge will be somewhat less, and it is proposed so to arrange the national forces that the regular army will be able, if necessary, to send two army corps anywhere, retaining a nucleus at home on which another army can be built up. The militia, which is gradually increasing in strength, would be completely utilized, either at home or for colonial garrisons, and the volunteers would be assigned places in the scheme for the defence of these islands; some of them being encouraged to take their places in the active field army for engineering and medical staff purposes. Each of the army corps would have four battalions more than was originally contemplated, together with a strong cavalry division, and behind the two corps sufficient troops would be sent to guard lines of communication. Remarking on the reduction of the strength and the number of the batteries of horse artillery and the conversion to field artillery, Mr. Stanhope says:—

The conversion of the batteries of horse into field artillery has been the subject of much comment. But, as was pointed out by Lord Napier of Magdala in a recent debate, the existing proportion in our army of horse to field artillery is larger than that in the German, and slightly larger than that in the French army. The real value of horse artillery batteries is to be found wherever extreme rapidity is required, and in all other cases they possess disadvantages in the large cost which they involve, and in the increased number of horses which are necessary, and which require far more food, forage, and transport in time of war. It is, moreover, represented that the tendency of modern artillery tactics is against the frequent moving of artillery when once in action; and, therefore, except in the case of the batteries which are attached to, and move with, cavalry, extreme rapidity of movement is not required. The simple fact is that we have at present more horse artillery than is required for two army corps and a cavalry division, while we have not enough field artillery. If Parliament is prepared to sanction a large increase to this latter force, then it may be ready also to leave intact the former. But I do not think I should be justified in asking the country to bear the additional expense this would cause while the excess of horse artillery above the requirements of two corps and a cavalry division remains as now. And short of this—if the mobilization scheme is to have any real existence—there is no alternative but the conversion already decided on.

Then we are told that there is a serious deficiency of artillery to provide garrisons for the fortresses at home and abroad, for our coaling stations, and for some of our seaports, besides filling up the batteries in India to full strength. "It has therefore been proposed to raise the establishment of the garrison artillery at home to forty batteries, exclusive of depôts, and to keep those forty batteries up to a full strength of 128 non-commissioned officers and men. This represents an increase of about 1,800 men over those now serving, with an addition of only sixteen officers."

Turning to the auxiliary forces, continues the Secretary of State, no change is proposed either in the militia or in the yeomanry. The volunteer force has now been included in the mobilization scheme for the general defence of the country. In the event of any necessity arising, every corps within a fixed distance of the harbours and forts to be defended will be called upon to join the other land services in garrisoning those places; while the remaining volunteers outside those limits will be mobilized at such points as the circumstances of the case require. But if the volunteers are really anxious that the services they are prepared to render should be turned to account at such a crisis to the greatest advantage, they must be prepared to co-operate with the military authorities in supplying the deficiencies which at present exist, rather than in supplementing those branches of the service of which the numbers are already adequate, if not excessive. No further increase in volunteer rifles will be encouraged; but recruiting for artillery and engineers and submarine miners may for the present be as brisk as possible. The volunteers are to receive an increase of their capitation grant, though in a form somewhat different from that recommended by the Committee. They are to have a capitation grant of 35s. per efficient; but after the coming financial year some extra knowledge in shooting will be required to constitute efficiency. In concluding his memorandum, Mr. Stanhope says:—

Satisfactory progress is being made in supplying the artillery with the new field-gun. Further experience tends to confirm the very favourable estimate which has been formed of it. By the close of the present financial year nineteen batteries will have been furnished with it. The Estimates now presented make provision for nine more batteries, thus completing the equipment of the two army corps. After a series of exhaustive experiments with every description of magazine rifle, the Committee specially charged with this question have found themselves able to recommend two forms of rifles (the Lee-Burton and the Improved Lee) for final trial. If this should prove to be, in either case, satisfactory, as there is every reason to hope, the construction of the new magazine rifle will be proceeded with as quickly as possible. It will be observed that provision is made in the estimates for carrying on the works of defence at our coaling stations, and for providing them with guns, beside the amount to be voted for the work of submarine mining. The sum taken is somewhat in excess of that which has for the last two years been included in the Estimates. It will enable the defences of Hong Kong, Sierra Leone, and approximately, those of Singapore, to be completed. Some advance will be made in other cases also; but it cannot be denied that an acceleration of this work beyond the rate of progress laid down in 1884 would be eminently desirable, especially as it is well known to everyone who has looked into the subject that more than one station of primary importance still remains undefended. But, at any rate, no Government could possibly justify to itself any less expenditure for this object, because it would involve the neglect of precautions as to the necessity of which there has hitherto existed a very general agreement.

In one part of his memorandum Mr. Stanhope has the following with regard to stores:—Reductions of army expenditure have largely been effected in past years by drawing upon our reserve of stores. There have been occasions when considerations of economy have reduced this to a dangerously small amount. But indiscriminate reductions, effected for such an object, are neither safe nor altogether honest, and I hope that the time may soon come when the necessary reserve of stores will be authoritatively fixed in all branches, and rigidly maintained in all circumstances.

NEW YORK and ENO'S FRUIT SALT.—"Sir,—Can I purchase your Fruit Salt in New York; if so, where? Was presented with a bottle in England last summer—did me no end of real, solid good for my bilious attacks. Think there's nothing made like it in the States.—Yours, faithfully, AMERICANUS." —CAUTION.—Examine each Bottle, and see the Capsule is marked "ENO'S FRUIT SALT." Without it you have been imposed on by a worthless imitation. Sold by all Chemists. Directions in Sixteen Languages How to prevent Disease.—Prepared only at ENO'S FRUIT SALT Works, Hatcham, London, S.E., by J. C. Eno's Patent.—[ADVT.]

TRADE AND FINANCE.

Up to Saturday night last the receipts into the Exchequer were £82,964,166, being £1,755,697 in excess of the receipts at the corresponding date of last year. During the last week there was collected £2,035,015. There were still three weeks and four days to bring to account. If the collections during this time are at the same rate as last week, there will be received £7,645,051, making the total revenue of the year £90,609,217, or £740,217 more than the Estimates. Customs show an increase up to Saturday night last over the corresponding period of last year of £291,000, and Excise a decrease of £273,000, giving an increase for the two together of £18,000. Stamps show an increase of £221,000, and income tax an increase of £1,405,000. The expenditure up to Saturday night was £80,503,330, being £1,466,134 less than for the corresponding period of last year. For the week the disbursements from the Exchequer were £1,534,472.

Gold amounting to £42,000 was sent into the Bank of England yesterday, of which £14,000 was from Buenos Ayres. The import thus continues, but in a very small volume, leaving the Bank altogether inadequately provided against a serious political crisis on the Continent or other untoward eventuality. Nevertheless the value of money tends downwards. The quotation for three months' bills is $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent; while the rates for short loans range from $2\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 per cent.

The tone of the stock markets yesterday was firm. Lord Salisbury's speech on Saturday has strengthened the City belief, shaken but never quite borne down, that peace will somehow or other be preserved; and the calm with which Russia has received the news of the Bulgarian executions has further confirmed the belief. The truth is, that the economic influences tending to raise prices are so strong that when acute apprehension of war is allayed the speculative movement resumes its course. At the end of last year and the beginning of this speculation was overdone. In New York, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Amsterdam, and London there was an enormous account open for the rise, and a liquidation of bad business was inevitable. The fall in prices was exaggerated by the war scare. Now speculation is restricted within very moderate limits, while, on the other hand, there is a large speculative account for the fall, and consequently the influences forcing up prices are once more asserting themselves. An alarmist speech by Prince Bismarck, massing of troops by any of the Great Powers, or other event plainly threatening hostilities, would of course keep them in abeyance; but, as it is, nothing new happens. The military preparations go on, it is true; but they are accompanied by assurances that they are simply defensive. Although, however, quotations were advanced yesterday in all the markets, there was very little business. A few operators are plucking up courage; but the great majority look on and wait, while the general public wholly abstains.

Of the five great nations likely to be involved in a European war, should war break out, Germany has one unquestionable advantage in the smallness of her debt. According to the Statistical Abstract for the principal and other foreign countries just issued by the Board of Trade, on the 31st of March, 1885, the debt of the German Empire amounted to no more than £31,073,000; and there has been no increase worth speaking of in the interval. It is true, of course, that the States composing the Empire have debts; but in no case are the debts considerable, except in that of Prussia; and it is to be recollected that a great part of the Prussian debt has been incurred either for the construction or the purchase of railways, which are profitable to the State, and that the State besides owns very large properties of various kinds. In the matter of debt, whether we consider the Empire or the States composing it, the advantage of Germany is very marked. But let us now turn to France, her western neighbour and, possibly, enemy. The Statistical Abstract estimates the capital value of the debt of France on the 1st of January, 1885, at £789,372,946, and there have been considerable additions made to the debt since. The debt of France is thus the heaviest in the world, and of Great States that of Germany is the smallest. Coming next to Russia, we find the debt is given by the Statistical Abstract at £446,745,000; but this does not include the railway duty, amounting altogether to £91,542,000. Consequently the total debt of Russia slightly exceeds 538½ millions sterling. Coming in the next place to Austria-Hungary, we find the debt of Austria Proper and the joint debt of the Austro-Hungarian Empire stated by the Statistical Abstract at £276,984,000. This, however, does not include the special debt of Hungary, which amounts to £67,888,540. Consequently the total debt of Austria-Hungary and the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy amounts to £344,872,540; and the States composing the Hungarian Kingdom and the Cisleithan Empire also have debts. In the last place, the debt of Italy at the beginning of last year amounted to £453,599,120. It thus appears that of the five States France has the greatest debt, Russia the next greatest, Italy the next, Austria-Hungary the next, and Germany by far the least. Adding the debts of the five States together, they amounted at the dates given in the Statistical Abstract to the enormous sum of £2,157,204,606.

The report of the Queensland National Bank for the half-year ending the 31st of December, presented to the shareholders at Brisbane on the 19th of January, stated that the net profits, after making provision for rebate, interest accrued on deposits, and bad debts, amounted to £55,723, including £8,156 from the previous half-year, and after deducting £4,560, the amount of tax on note circulation. The directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, leaving £10,396 to be carried forward.

A dividend of 2s. per share is proposed by the directors of the United Limmer and Vorwohle Rock Asphalt Company (Limited) in their annual report, together with an addition of £1,500 to the reserve, leaving £191 to be carried forward.

The report and accounts of the Val de Travers Asphalt Paving Company (Limited) shows that, after providing for a balance dividend of 12s. per share (making $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the past year), £3,271 will remain to be carried forward.

THE MORNING PAPERS.

THE CONCILIATION CONFERENCES.

The *Standard* thinks it only natural that those who are concerned in the Conciliation Conferences should omit no opportunity of creating the impression that they will—at some time or other—lead to the desired settlement. But there is a suspicious haziness about these assurances which nothing will dissipate save a more or less definite indication of the progress which has already been made, and the principles that have promoted that progress.

THE NEW SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND.

The *Daily News* says that the appointment of the Marquess of Lothian to succeed Mr. Arthur Balfour as Secretary for Scotland will not increase the popularity of the Government with the Scotch members. The new Secretary will be in the House of Lords, and therefore inaccessible. Nor can it be said that the personal eminence of the new Minister compensates for his disqualification as a peer. Lord Lothian is a useful wire-puller and electioneering agent of the Tory party in the Lowlands. But he is a man of no personal distinction, and has done nothing to justify promotion to a high office in the State. Mr. Balfour's airy superciliousness was occasionally resented by the representatives of his native land. But he is a man of ability, who had made his mark in Parliament below the gangway before his uncle came into office. Lord Lothian is, to speak in plain language, a political nonentity, compared with whom even Sir William Hart-Dyke might be called eminent. The Lord Advocate will have to act as whipping-boy in the Commons for a colleague over whom he can exercise no control.

MR. STANHOPE'S MEMORANDUM.

The *Standard* considers Mr. Stanhope's memorandum in explanation of the Army Estimates an extremely satisfactory document. For the first time in this generation, something like an honest and straightforward statement of army requirements has been put before the country, so that men of ordinary business capacity may now form some idea of the condition in which we stand as a military Power. On the whole, the state of our military forces, not including India, may be said to be this—half a million of men, an undue proportion being infantry; an expenditure of something over seventeen millions; hitherto no real organization for war; an attempt now to be made to produce such an organization, beginning with two army corps. But is it real, or will it collapse, like former attempts? That is the vital question.

The *Morning Post* remarks that the memorandum conveys information in an accessible form which a week of desultory debate in Parliament could not supply. It plays the part, in short, which has heretofore generally been played with much more trouble and much less efficiency by the report of an occasional Commission.

THE NEW MOBILIZATION SCHEME.

The *Times* gathers from the new mobilization scheme that there is a stirring among the dry bones of official fossils; but at the present stage it considers that it would be rash to form any very sanguine expectations as to its value. If it commands the assent of Parliament and the country it must be thoroughly understood, as Mr. Stanhope repeats, that there is no use in going into it at all unless we are determined to abide by it and carry it out systematically. It must not be pushed by one Government and neglected by the next, or supported by one House of Commons and starved by the succeeding one. It is, the *Times* imagines, even a more serious affair than appears on the surface of Mr. Stanhope's account; but the more serious it is the more perilous is our prolonged neglect of precautions which every other State regards as elementary and imperative.

THE TREACHERY AT CHATHAM DOCKYARD.

The *Daily Telegraph* hopes the Admiralty will not end with dismissing Mr. Young Terry. It seems nothing less than monstrous that a trusted servant of a most important department of State should be able to engage in overt acts of treason with no worse punishment in store than dismissal from his official position, accompanied by such attendant disadvantages as may naturally accrue therefrom. The matter must be sifted to the very bottom, and the person or persons found guilty must be punished with the utmost rigour of the law. It would be absurd to suppose that mere dismissal from the service will be sufficient to act as a deterrent upon further crimes of the same sort. Mr. Young Terry may, of course, be able to disprove all the charges brought against him. If, however, he fail to do this, and be found guilty of the treasonable practices imputed to him, he will assuredly deserve something harder to endure than the loss of office and its emoluments. Why should he be allowed to retire comfortably on the profits of his nefarious and unpatriotic transactions? If he be proved a traitor, the felon's cell, and not a comfortable Continental villa, should be his lot.

SENSATIONAL ECONOMICS.

The *Times* echoes Mr. Stanhope's wish that the time may soon come when the necessary reserve of stores will be authoritatively fixed in all departments and rigidly maintained in all circumstances; but it fears there is only one guarantee for honest adhesion to such a policy—the existence in every successive Administration of that unswerving rectitude and patriotism which forbid men to tamper with national interests to serve their petty personal ends. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, the *Times* observes, had to ask last April for an increase of £341,000 in the vote for warlike stores, and had to explain that the vote of the year before itself showed an increase of £955,000 over its predecessor. Nor was this all; for out of the vote of credit no less than a million and a half was devoted to the very purposes for which this vote exists—the maintenance at a normal level of our stock of guns, gunpowder, and other munitions of war. It is not too much to say that this large and rapid increase in the sums spent on warlike stores indicates a previous exhaustion of our stocks of the necessities of national existence which is nothing short of a national scandal and a disgrace to the Administrations that permitted it.

ARCHBISHOP CROKE'S LETTER.

The *Dublin Express* says that Archbishop Croke's letter will not be regarded as satisfactory, or remove the impression among the people, which was repeated in the Nationalist organ, that he did suggest the No Tax manifesto which he has now disclaimed.

THE SELECTION OF A SUCCESSOR TO GENERAL BULLER.

The *Times* observes that the greatest circumspection must be exercised in filling up the place of Sir Redvers Buller, who is to leave Ireland in a couple of months. The Irish Executive has already been involved in the most serious difficulties in consequence of ill-considered appointments, and, at the crisis we have now reached, it is imperative that no further mistake should be committed. The restoration of law and order in Ireland must largely depend upon the manner in which the stipendiary magistrates use the powers to be conferred upon them under the summary jurisdiction clauses of the Criminal Procedure Bill, and it is certain that they will not act with the necessary vigour and steadiness unless they receive unflinching support from Dublin Castle. A weak or shifty official in the Under-Secretary's office would almost certainly cause irreparable mischief.

THE ART MAGAZINES.

In the *Portfolio* for March, the frontispiece is a good etching by Mr. C. O. Murray, after David Roberts's "Burgos Cathedral" in the National Gallery. The picture is not so characteristic of Roberts as some; for its beauty lies not so much in that sense of line and structure in which he was scarcely surpassed, as in depth of chiaroscuro and in colour. These qualities Mr. Murray has rendered with success. A second plate is an Amand-Durand fac-simile from Claude's etching "The Rising Sun." It is excellent: we should like to see what M. Amand-Durand could do with one of Claude's freer etchings, such as the "Dancing Goats." A third plate reproduces a dramatic design by the late Warwick Brookes. He seems to have been a bit of a pasticcist; for in a second design he has made use of a figure from Landseer's "Maid and the Magpie." To the letterpress Mr. Walter Armstrong contributes the first of his promised series of articles on the Scottish Painters, and Mr. Reginald Blomfield the last of his papers on "Half-Timber Houses in the Weald of Kent." Mr. Blomfield's illustrations to his own articles are very crisp and delicate.

The frontispiece to the *Art Journal* is also by Mr. C. O. Murray. It is an etching after Mr. Seymour Lucas's "Fugitive from Sedgemoor." Though good as an etching "in the abstract," it scarcely reminds us enough of the peculiar quality of the painter's work. Some woodcuts after other pictures by Mr. Lucas are satisfactory; but the most telling of the minor illustrations are the "process" pictures after Myrbach in the second of M. Villars's articles on his impressions of England. A paper on "Houghton Hall and the Walpoles," written and illustrated by Mr. F. G. Kitton, should be read; and so should the notes on London exhibitions at the end of the number.

Last year one of the most notable pictures at the Academy was Mr. Solomon J. Solomon's "Cassandra." It was hung high; but every one saw it, and not a few with admiration. It has been etched for the *Magazine of Art* by Mr. J. Dobie. Mr. Solomon's conception was so faulty that no rendering of it could be quite satisfactory; but Mr. Dobie's work is delicate, and suffices at least to bring out the technical power of his original. A paper on "Wootton House," by Mr. Grant Allen, is readable and very well illustrated; while a few words on the "Practical Education of the Artist," by Sir James Linton, should be read by all who care to know how an artist should be trained. Room must be found for a few words in warm praise of a woodcut by Mr. Ch. Baude, after Sir Frederick Leighton's "Condottiere." It is an excellent cut, reproducing the President's manner to perfection, and it is very well printed.

The third *livraison* of the second year of *Les Lettres et Les Arts* is, perhaps, too exclusively *lettres*. It is made up of the instalments of one or two tales, of a musical "Pantomime" by M. V. Joncières, of a few copies of verses, and a *chronique* put into narrative and christened "Comme on s'amuse." The whole number is readable, but it is just a little too light for the magnificent style in which this review is got up. And there is another drawback to allowing letters to have it so much their own way. The pictures have to be strictly illustrations, designed expressly for the letterpress; and so they are pretty sure to fall as a whole below the artistic standard one looks for in such a publication. With such a process as their "photogravure" to use, one looks to the publishers of *Les Lettres et Les Arts* to give us each month some fine art finely reproduced. The plates in the present number are exquisite so far as they go. One of them, a young woman preparing for the *bal d'opéra*, would be "bad to beat." It is from a delightful design by M. L. Doucet, to whose subtle "values" and sheeny textures it is marvellously faithful.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

SONS.
BLEADEN, wife of Rev. W. H., at St. John's Parsonage, Aberdeen, March 6.
CARRAN, wife of Major A., 33rd Regiment, at Upper Gloucester-place, March 6 (stillborn).
DENISON, wife of Mr. Charles M., Barrister-at-Law, of the Middle Temple, at Bedford-gardens, Bedford-road, Clapham, March 8.
FARRER, wife of General R. T., C.B., at Bealings House, Great Bealings, Suffolk, March 5.
SCOTT, Lady Charles, March 7.

DAUGHTERS.
DEARE, Mrs. Charles R., at Port Elizabeth, Cape of Good Hope, Feb. 9.
HARDIE, wife of Mr. George, J.P., at Essex Lodge, Upper Norwood, S.E., March 7.
HOLLINGTON, Mrs. T. W., at Bridgen Hall, Enfield, Feb. 28.
REAY, wife of Rev. T. O., of Prittlewell Vicarage, March 4.
WILKS, Mrs. James W., at Hamilton-road, High-bury Park, N., March 7.

MARRIAGES.

CHEESWRIGHT-COVENEY.—At All Saints', Finchley-road, St. John's-wood, Mr. Henry Cheeswright, late of Ealing, to Hannah, widow of Mr. Benjamin Coveney, of Acacia-road, St. John's-wood, March 5.
DADSWELL-JOHNSON.—At St. Mark's, Dalston, Mr. Douglas G. Dadswell, of Uckfield, Sussex, to Annie L., daughter of Mr. W. Johnson, of The Limes, Dalston, March 5.

GIBSON-LE BRUN.—At St. Mary's, Islington, Colin C. M., son of the late William L. Gibson, M.D., of Dundee, Scotland, to Matilda S., daughter of the late Mr. James Le Brun, of the island of Tenerife, Feb. 22.
WHITEHEAD-THURSTON.—At Old Lakenham Church, Norwich, Mr. John E. L. Whitehead, of Cambridge, to Susan, daughter of the late Mr. W. Thurston, of Cambridge, March 3.

DEATHS.

ANDREWS, Arthur E., son of the late Mr. John, M.R.C.S., of Salisbury, at Torquay, aged 27, March 1.
BARNARD, Mr. Henry, at Park Farm, East Meon, Petersfield, aged 72, Feb. 26.
BATEMAN, Mr. Thomas K., of Morley, in the county of Derby, at Alveston House, aged 55, March 2.
COX, Elizabeth M., widow of Mr. Alfred, at Southbourne, aged 65, March 3.
CROFT, Anne K., widow of Sir John, Bart., of Dodington, Kent, at Gloucester-place, Portman-square, aged 81, March 5.
DARLEY, Stewart B., son of the late Capt. Henry, H.M.A., aged 34, March 1.
DETMOLD, Mr. Julius A., at Arlington House, Tunbridge Wells, aged 76, March 5.
DICKENSON, Jane, wife of Mr. John, at Albany-street, Regent's Park, aged 69, Feb. 23.
FERGUSON, Miss Mary A., at Spencer-road, St. John's-hill, S.W., aged 81, March 5.
HANLY, Kate T., wife of Mr. Edward, at Killmurray-grove, Bray, county Wicklow, aged 53, March 4.
KING, Mr. John W., late of H.M. Customs, at Bartholomew-road, N.W., Feb. 23.
MARTIN, Mr. George H., at Harefield-road, Brockley, S.E., aged 69, March 3.

NICHOLL, Christiana J., daughter of the late Right Hon. John, of Merthyr Mawr, Glamorganshire, at Nolton Court, Bridgend, March 5.
NUNN, Maria, widow of Mr. Roger S., of Colchester, at The Oaks, Colchester, March 5.
OSMOND, Mr. John, late of Axford Upper Farm, Ramsbury, Wilts, at Temple House, Frilsham, Berks, aged 83, March 4.
OXLEY, Mary G., wife of Mr. Robert, at Eton-road, Haverstock-hill, March 3.
SANDES, Captain George, jun., 4th Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers, son of the High Sheriff of Kerry, at the County Club, Tralee, aged 25, March 3.
SIMPSON, Mr. James T., of Moorgate-street and Furnival's Inn, at Holles-street, Cavendish-square, aged 58, March 2.
TARBOTTON, Marriott O., of The Park, Nottingham, aged 54, March 6.
WELLER, Margaret, daughter of the late Mr. Edward, at Red Lion-square, March 5.
WILKINSON, Charlotte, daughter of the late Rev. Henry, M.A., sometime Head Master of King Edward VI. Grammar School, Sedburgh, Yorkshire, at Chesterton Lodge, Longford, Gloucester, March 5.
WILLAN, Lowry J., son of Mr. Frank, of Thornhill, Bitterne, aged 10, March 5.

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MARCH, 1887.

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- (c) About 10,000 acres of Government land granted under the concession in alternate blocks along both sides of the railway.
- (d) One square kilometre of land on the Harbour of Delagoa Bay, forming a very valuable adjunct of the new town destined to be built at the terminus of the railway.
- (e) A portion of Government land on one of the islands in Delagoa Bay, given for the purpose of the erection of warehouses and other offices.

2. The Concession also provides:—

- (a) For a free right of way through Government lands.
- (b) For the exemption of the Railway from any special tax.
- (c) For all materials for the construction and working of the Railway being admitted free of duty for the term of fifteen years.
- (d) For the right to cut timber from the Government forests.

The Concession is at present vested in a Portuguese Company, and it may be necessary to carry out the Concession through such Company, but in that case this Company would hold practically all the shares of the Portuguese Company.

The line will be about 52 miles long and command the only good harbour for about 2,000 miles on the East Coast of Africa. Plans, surveys, and estimates have been carefully prepared and approved by the Portuguese Government and the Company's Engineer, and the works have already been commenced, some twelve miles having been graded.

The railway tariffs can be fixed by the Company without the intervention of the Government.

This line will be the most direct and the only commercially practicable route from the sea to the Transvaal and Swaziland, and must from its geographical position command absolutely the entire traffic from the coast to all this portion of Africa.

Near its terminus are the principal gold-producing districts of the Transvaal—viz., De Kaap, Barberton, Moodie's, and the Komati. The Swaziland fields (including Forbes' Reef and Pigg's Peak, are within a very short distance of the railway. The milling machinery now at work is equivalent to hundreds of stamp-heads, and large quantities of additional machinery are either in process of erection or in course of transit to the fields. This alone, according to all past experience, would justify the building of a railway many times the length of this line. The white population of these fields is now many thousands, and is rapidly increasing.

At present supplies for the Transvaal are chiefly brought by wagon from Durban, a distance of about 500 miles, so that the completion of this railway would save some 350 miles of wagon-hauling.

The railway will open up the coal-fields of Lebombo, Swaziland, and the Transvaal, and make Delagoa Bay a great coaling station; in fact, being the half-way house to the Indies, it would become the coaling station for Africa, the Australias, and the East Indies, and of vital importance should the Suez Canal ever be closed.

OFFICIAL ESTIMATED TONNAGE.—In the official report made by J. J. Machado, Major of Engineers, Portugal, dated as far back as August 5th, 1882, ordered by the King of Portugal, and issued through the Ministry for the Navy and Colonies, on the probable traffic over this route to and from the Transvaal, the imports are given at 34,000 tons, and the exports at 20,000 tons of ordinary goods, and 40,000 tons of

minerals. Based on this tonnage the following estimates (passenger traffic, local goods traffic, and foreign mails not being included) were then made:—

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS.		ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
IMPORTS—		Working expenses at £500	
34,000 tons at £2	68,000 0 0	per kil.	45,000 0 0
EXPORTS—		Administration expenses in	
20,000 tons (ordinary goods)		London, Lisbon, and	
at £2	40,000 0 0	Delagoa Bay, say	3,000 0 0
40,000 tons (minerals) at			
£1	40,000 0 0		
	£148,000 0 0		£48,000 0 0

Major Machado states in his report to his Government that all Transvaal goods, both exports and imports, must traverse the whole extent of this line.

Major Machado's estimates were made some years ago, before the importance of the gold-fields was recognized. The Transvaal is now rapidly developing into one of the richest gold-fields of the world, and the influx of population into the country is immense. As an instance, the population of the district of Barberton (which three years ago had not a single house) is now estimated at from 10,000 to 12,000, exclusive of natives, is daily increasing, and the commerce of the district justifies already the existence of three banks.

In view of the rapid development of the gold-fields during the last three years, the increase in the traffic over this route has been such that the revenue of this line from the commencement will probably be at least double the above, which, after allowing for working expenses, should leave a net profit of about £200,000 per annum.

The proceeds of the present issue of debentures will be quite sufficient to secure the completion and equipment of the railway.

The Directors have concluded a contract with Sir Thomas Tancred to construct the railway, with the necessary rolling-stock, within the estimates of the Company's engineer by the end of October next.

The concession and form of debenture can be seen at the offices of the Company's Solicitors.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application for debentures can be had of the Company's Bankers, Brokers, and Solicitors, or of the Secretary at the offices of the Company.

Should a less amount of debentures be allotted than is applied for, the surplus paid on application will be appropriated towards the amount due on allotment. Where no allotment is made, the amount paid on application will be returned without deduction.

London, 7th March, 1887.

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Name in full

Signature

Address

Occupation

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PROSPECTUS.

THIS Company was formed to purchase as a going concern, and carry on the business of Willis's Rooms, King Street, St. James's. The transfer of the business to the Company took effect from the 1st of July last. These Rooms are of world-wide repute, and have been patronized continuously for upwards of a century by royalty, nobility, and the élite of society.

Willis's Rooms occupy a superficial area of upwards of 8,000 ft. in one of the most valuable and central positions at the West-end of London, and are specially and admirably adapted for balls, soirées, reunions, concerts, regimental dinners, Masonic and other banquets, and public meetings. The business, as is well known, is of an exceptionally select and profitable character, and under the management of the Company is being so conducted as to be beyond reach of competition of any rival establishment.

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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