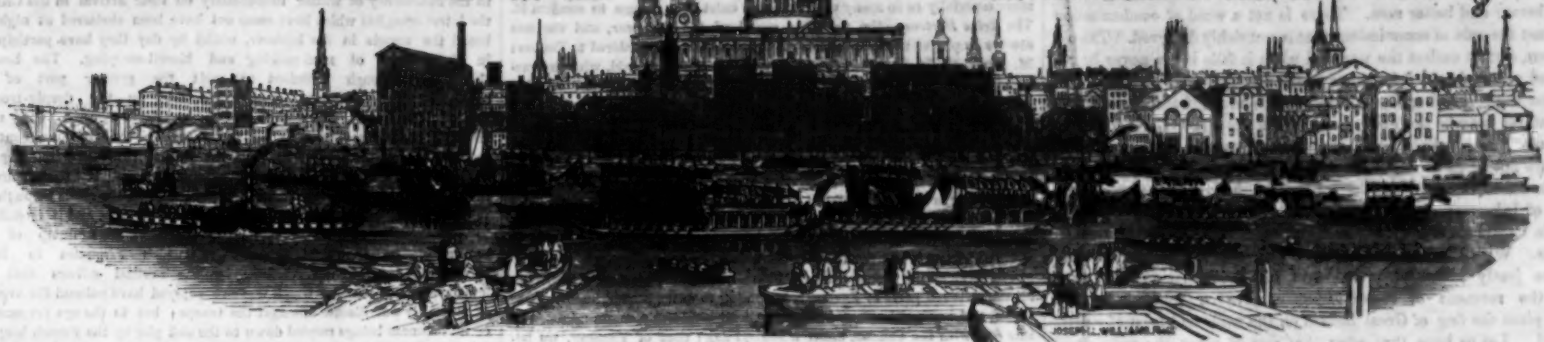


THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1855.

[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, SIXPENCE.]

REFORM OF THE CIVIL AND MILITARY SERVICE.

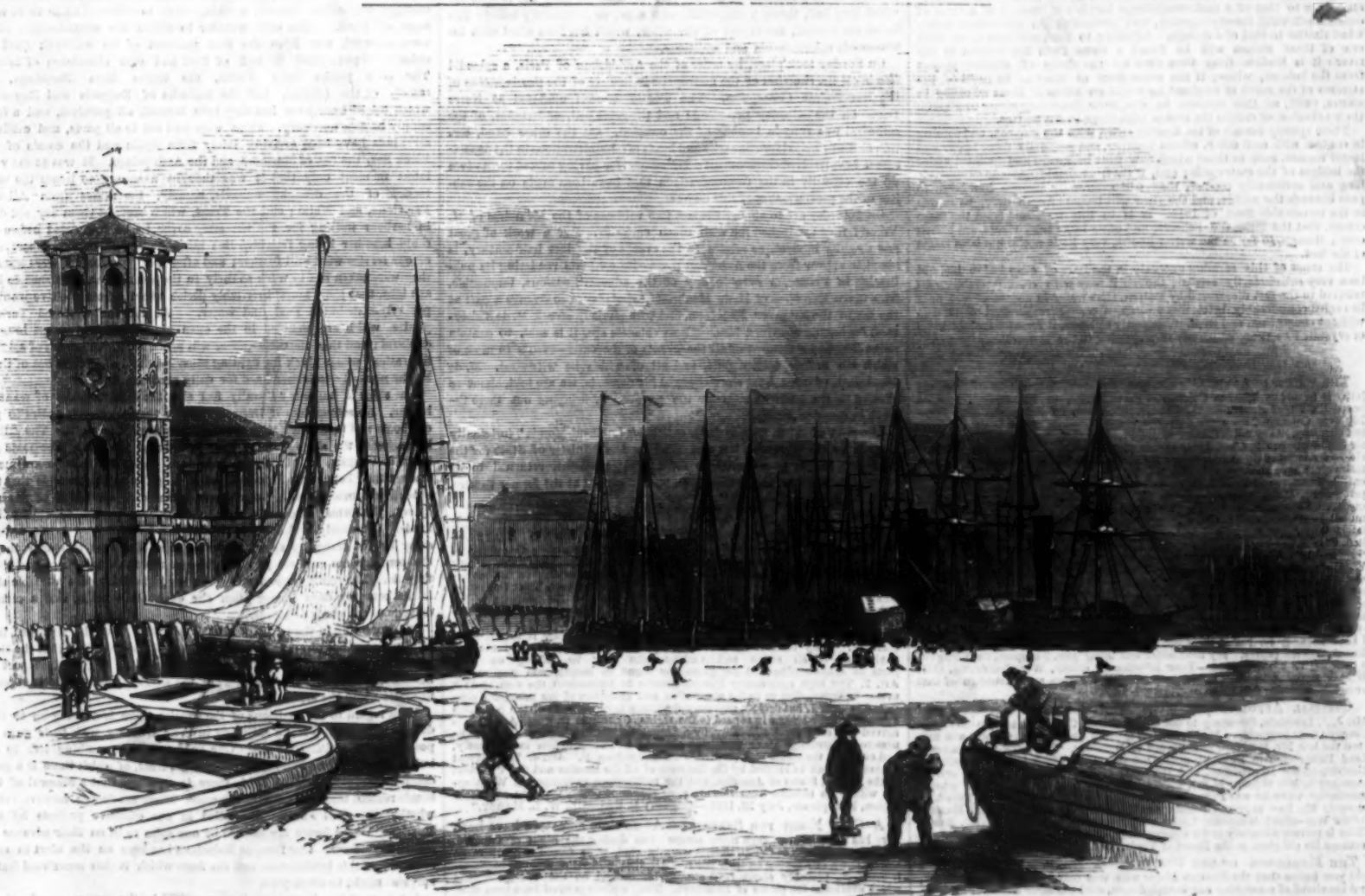
So great have been the expectations raised by the appointment of Lord Palmerston to the Premiership, that his reputation bids fair to be endangered. It is in the nature of the public mind, at times of peril or anxiety, to expect too much from its favourites. Revolutions make short work both of men and character; and War—which is the arch-anarch, the very fountain-head and parent of all other revolutions—consumes many things besides the precious gold and the more precious life-blood of nations. It sets up the new, and knocks down the old. It strips off false pretences, and, being the rudest and most primitive of powers, it appeals to the rudest and most primitive of virtues, and admits of no merits but those of Strength and Success. It tarnishes reputations that seemed as if they would endure in perennial brightness as long as history. It exalts the humble and abases the mighty of the earth. It eats up the bone and sinew of the people, and “uses up” the character of their leaders. It plays for great results, and looks for no other, and thereby confounds the jog-trot calculations of the easy men who would guide it as they would a business, or work at it as regularly as a problem. And among no people does it operate so strongly as among a people accustomed to self-government, proud of their freedom, and familiar with victory. Such a people are the English. Thus, before we have been a year at war; before we have suffered a single defeat; and while we are in the very height of diplomatic as well as of military and naval success; the public, disgusted with delay, and with the loss of a noble force from disease, neglect, and inaction, and unsatisfied with all that has been done—though much of it has been done well—seems as if it would offer up as victims to its anger and impatience not only the good name of its tried and approved servants, but the prin-

ciples upon which its government is conducted, and a portion of its own liberties. Nothing will stop its craving but brilliant and immediate success. The capture and destruction of Sebastopol, and such other humiliation as will compel the Czar to sue for peace, and consent to the diminution of his power and his territory; nothing less will stop the complaints of the nation, or allow us to relapse into that comfortable prosperity from which war has so rudely shaken us.

Lord Palmerston's Administration, in succeeding to power at a time like this, assumes responsibilities of no ordinary magnitude. It is next to impossible that he can satisfy the public wishes by any measures which he may personally adopt. He must be aided by fortune, or by the fruition of the seed sown by his predecessors, or he will be just as likely as they were to disappoint the expectations of the multitude. If our arms be successful in the Crimea, he will, without any particular merit of his own, share largely in the glory. But if we fail, or if the Russians gain any signal, although it may be only a temporary advantage, he will, though he may have done all that man can do to avert the catastrophe, share in the discredit, and forfeit the splendid reputation which it has cost him half a century to erect. If the siege last for three months longer he will cease to be the idol of the people, though he may be quite as worthy to be so as he is at present. It will be discovered that he is too old, too deeply imbued with the habits and notions of a bygone period, too inactive, and in every respect too inefficient for the post of responsibility and danger. Nothing will remain for him but to retire, to make room for others, who will suffer in the same way from the same causes, until victory shall atone for all that is past, and restore the people to good humour and to common reason.

The measures recommended and adopted by Lord Palmerston and Lord Palmerston, to extricate us from the physical and moral slough

of Balaklava, seem well adapted for the end in view. But there is a disposition to treat them as of no avail, though it would be hard to say what more can be done, unless the public liberty be put in abeyance, and a dictatorship instituted, to lead us through the war. The public, however, is not likely to run its head into that noose. Even Dictators cannot do all they please; or who could withstand Czar Nicholas, whose armies die of disease and starvation just as rapidly as those of a free people? Those who do not cry out for a Dictator insist upon a much larger army. But the malcontents do not ask themselves where it is to come from? They forget that we have no conscription, and that the country would revolt at the bare proposal of such a violent innovation upon our old habits if it were seriously made or entertained by a Minister of the Crown. Enlistment is voluntary in England. Even were our shores in danger of invasion, there would be no need of a conscription; for every Englishman would, in such a case, cheerfully become a soldier, and fight with sword and axe, in default of guns, against the invader; and every Englishwoman would urge him to the duty and cheer him in its fulfilment. They also forget that a large standing army is alien to the character and ideas of our people, and to the letter as well as to the spirit of our free Constitution; and that, consequently, when war breaks out, it must always find us more unprepared than it finds those States of the Continent where large standing armies are maintained by despotic Sovereigns as necessary appendages of their dignity and supporters of their authority. The cry against the Aristocratic system, to which Mr. Layard has lent himself, may be all very well; but misfortune will befall us as a nation if we trust entirely to a reform of that system as a remedy for the present state of things in the Crimea. If it could be abolished in a day by a stroke of Lord Palmerston's pen, the reform thus commenced would not aid us in the taking of Sebastopol.



THE FROST.—THE THAMES AT BILLINGSGATE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

The doors of advancement may be opened to merit both in the civil and the military career; but the merit will not work its way upward in a day, or a week, or a twelvemonth. If, from the year 1815, and during the forty years of peace which we have enjoyed since the then settlement of the affairs of Europe, we had endeavoured to make the army a democratic institution, it is possible, though not certain, that we might have had abler Generals than we at present possess; but we very much doubt whether we should have had braver and better men. There is not a word of condemnation against the sale of commissions that is not richly deserved. The old system cannot outlast the war, and when it falls it can never be restored. But should it be superseded to-morrow, the public should be on their guard against expecting too much from the change. Whatever may be the quality of the officers and soldiers who may emerge into daylight and into honour under a new system, we are not likely to have better men under any system, however perfect theoretically, than the noble eight thousand who gained the day of Inkerman against seven times their number; or than Sir Colin Campbell and Lord Cardigan, who did not rise by merit alone. With all our administrative defects, we have yet an army to be justly proud of. Our firm belief is that that army—or the remnant of it—will yet achieve a splendid victory and plant the flag of Great Britain on the walls and forts of Sebastopol. Let us hope that after that day of glory the public will remember its present cry for a reform in the administration of our civil and military services. For forty years the cry has been a feeble one. It only gained strength in the hour of peril and perplexity. Without passion and without prejudice let the people adhere to it after the danger shall have passed away; and the next time we are at war—a time which may Heaven in its mercy long avert from this and succeeding generations—the British nation will have something like security that it can command the best services of its best citizens. But it must look to itself, and not to its Government, to make the desired change. And further than this, it must sow good seed in days of peace and prosperity, if it expect to reap good fruit in days of war and danger.

THE FROST.—THE THAMES AT BILLINGSGATE.

THE severity of the weather is nowhere more strikingly seen than upon the Thames, which presents many picturesque scenes for the artist. One of these points is pictured upon the preceding page; and the large illustration at page 177 shows the river with its floating masses of ice at the same time with the conflagration upon its bank.

The Thames is now rendered entirely un navigable from Richmond to below London-bridge. The river has not been so completely blocked up since the memorable winter of 1814; and there can be no doubt that if the channel of the river were now, as then, impeded by the narrow arches of old London-bridge, the whole surface would have been frozen over some time since. The shores on either side the river present a very curious and picturesque appearance, from the accumulation of large masses of frozen snow and ice, in many places from 10 to 12 feet high, and having the fantastical forms of small icebergs. At certain periods of the tide, below Westminster-bridge the whole width of the river is covered with ice.

The writer of a letter in the *Morning Post* of Thursday has called attention to the peculiar character of the masses of ice which nearly cover the surface of the river, and are carried backward and forward by the ebbing and flowing of the tide. They are not smooth, solid, and translucent, like the ice which forms on the Serpentine, or any other standing water, but have rather the appearance of silted snow; and if closely examined they will be found to consist of spongy masses of crystals, as different in texture as in appearance from ordinary ice. This is caused by the great bulk of the ice on the Thames having been formed, not on the surface, but at the bottom, of the river. It is one of those curious phenomena of congelation known to a few careful observers of the operations of nature. Thus, during the continuance of severe frost, at a few miles up the river, where it runs with a moderately swift but smooth current, on the surface of the stream may be seen, floating down it, a number of masses of ice, of a rounded form, and varying in size from that of an orange to that of a moderately large turnip; it consists of a mass of crystals adhering loosely together, and presenting an appearance somewhat similar to that of a sponge. Adhering to the under side of at least one of these masses will be found a stone from the bottom of the river: it is broken from time to time by the rising of similar masses from the bottom, where, if the water were as clear as in most of the streams of the north of England, he would see scores of them adhering to stones, until, as they increase in size, their buoyancy either overcomes their adhesion, or carries the stones with them to the surface.

These spongy masses of ice, floating down with the current, and coming in contact with each other, adhere together, and gradually form larger and larger masses, such as those which now float backward and forward under the bridges of the metropolis; and, if the frost should continue sufficiently long and sufficiently intense, they will eventually become too large to pass beneath the arches, and the river will become frozen over, as it was in the memorable frost of 1814. It is in this way, and from the same causes, that the Elbe, the Scheldt, and other large tidal rivers, are frozen over; though, so far as the writer knows, very little notice has been taken of the fact.

The cause of this seeming anomaly in the laws of congelation has not been very satisfactorily settled; though it may with great probability be referred to the fact discovered by Dalton, that water in a state of rest may be cooled considerably below the ordinary freezing temperature of 32 deg. without congelation, and then, if suddenly agitated, it forms a spongy mass of crystals like those which are now floating in the Thames.

THE "ROYAL ALBERT" BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—The following letter is from Mr. William Griffiths, of Port Madoc, Carnarvonshire, now on board the *Royal Albert* ("H.M.S. *Royal Albert*," off Sebastopol, Jan. 30.—My dear Cousin,—Ever since we arrived here the weather has been anything but cheering, heavy falls of snow, with awful squalls from the N.E. occurring for the last three days, but this magnificent ship behaves like a yacht, although she had a twist of the rudder from very heavy pitching one night. That was fortunately very shortly put to rights. We are now moored, blocking the entrance to Sebastopol, about three miles distant—that is, within range of our pivot guns, of the same calibre as those we worked from the *Edinburgh*'s quarter at Llanmadoc. How soon we may have the pleasure of testing our metal here is almost positively secret. Something, however, could not lately that Admiral Lyons (commanding fellow he is, I like him immensely) had, after a late consultation with the general, hinted, when all was ready, "and his complement of crew-ships had arrived." "He would." "We are moored opposite their largest three-decker, the *Florian*, *Admiral*. You would be amazed at the calculation made by our lads as to what she is worth as a prize; we are at a loss to have a tug with her. No doubt that will come sooner or later. Thank God I am happy to say I enjoy excellent health as usual; but from what I hear and see through my glass occasionally of the country around, my feelings are more than usually gloomy and depressed. I have nothing further in the shape of news, but I shall, for the time being, at Dec. 2, and the papers. My next letter will bring you, I suppose, the tidings of a cork leg or a gold chain.—Your affectionate cousin, Wm. GRIFFITHS, C.G. H.M.S. *Royal Albert*." [In our last Number we gave an illustration of that vessel.]

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Lord Chancellor has appointed Mr. J. J. Lonsdale, Secretary to the Criminal Law Commissioners, to the vacant County Court Judgeship. Mr. J. Mettler, Q.C., of the Middlesex Circuit, will succeed the late Mr. Hildyard as Recorder of Leicester. The private secretaries of Lord Palmerston in Downing-street are—Mr. C. G. Clifford, who was with his Lordship at the Home-office, and Mr. W. Law, of the Treasury (late private secretary to Mr. Wilson, M.P.), who was one of Lord John Russell's private secretaries when he was Prime Minister. Mr. George Russell, of the Treasury, succeeds Mr. Law as private secretary to Mr. Wilson. Mr. R. Dalhousie Ramsay (of the War-office) is appointed private secretary to Lord Palmerston. Mr. Robert Elliot is private secretary to Sir George Grey, in the place of Lord Robert, who resumes his old place at the Board of Trade, with Lord Stanley of Alderley.

THE MURDERER OF THE WOUNDED.—I am not sure whether I told you that the Russian Major who was taken prisoner at Inkerman, and convicted of murdering our wounded men, died the other day at Scutari, apparently conscience-stricken. His own brother officers petitioned to be removed from his society, as they would not associate with him, and he pined away and died without any apparent disease.—*Letter from Constantinople.*

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

The report of the intended departure of the Emperor for the Crimea gains so much ground, and the details of such a project become so faint, that there seems but very little doubt of the veracity of the statement, more especially as so many circumstances exist of a nature to confirm it. The *Reine Hortense*—the favourite vessel of the Emperor, and the one always employed in his maritime excursions—has been ordered to Toulon; M. Merle, Préfet du Palais, has gone to Marseilles, it is said, with instructions to take the lodgings necessary for the Imperial traveller and his suite; a large number of horses have been purchased; a Commission is named—and is, it appears, engaged in the exercise of its functions—to arrange on what footing are to be established the military equipments of the Emperor; and it is further asserted that the Manifesto which is to announce the fact of the departure and the wishes and intentions of his Majesty is already written. Altogether, making due allowance for the exaggerations, the false reports and the errors that never fail to circulate round the plans of every measure of importance, there seems really sufficient grounds to treat the statement as a serious one.

The system of pleasure-trips which has become so general through all the civilised parts of Europe is beginning to extend itself beyond those limits, and arrangements are being made to establish a communication of this sort with the Crimea, under a neutral flag; that of Tuscany, we believe, is the one selected. By the same undertaking, voyages are made to Egypt, Syria, and some of the Turkish provinces. The expense of the trip will be 12,000 francs for each person, for three months. It is said that a distinguished French writer is about to join this expedition, and has already made terms with his publisher for the production of a book relating the incidents of his voyage.

The Carnival is over, and people are commencing the austerities of Lent with due strictness. The dreadfully severe weather that for the last fortnight has never for a day relaxed has had little effect on either the out or in-door gaieties of the season. The procession of the *Beaf Gras* was particularly effective, especially on the Sunday, when the decorations were fresh, and the weather, though intensely cold, fine. On Tuesday a fall of snow and snow-crystals a good deal diminished the ardour of actors and spectators.

The ball at the Hôtel de Ville on Saturday went off most brilliantly. On the same night Lady Cowley gave the last of her series of weekly receptions: it was remarkably well attended, and displayed some magnificent toilets—many of the principal English and foreign visitors and residents in Paris appearing there before going to the ball of the Préfet de la Seine.

A magnificent dinner was given at the Palais Royal by the Prince Jérôme, at which were present all the members of the Imperial family, with a single exception. The Ministers, the *Maréchaux*, and nearly all the chief dignitaries of State, were invited either to the dinner or in the course of the evening. After the repeat a long and most interesting conversation on the subject of the events of the day took place between the Prince Napoleon and the Minister of War.

On the following day the Princess Mathilde gave a dinner of adieu to Vely Pacha, who ceases not to lament openly his departure from Paris. The dinner was splendid and extremely gay.

The enrolment and organisation of the Foreign Legion, which is to be composed principally of Swiss troops, is being carried on with vigour. Upwards of 1200 young men of the Swiss Militia have already taken the preliminary steps to join this body: the Bernese Jura will, it seems, furnish a very large contingent.

A certain number of arrests have been made here in consequence of reports on the subject of secret societies, but little importance seems to be attached to the facts elicited.

The rumours respecting the revolt of the Zouaves have been ridiculously exaggerated. A certain number were sent back to France in consequence of jealousies displayed by them at the arrival of the Imperial Guard—coming, as they considered, at the last moment to reap the laurels for which they had, through the whole campaign, so laboriously toiled: this is, we are assured, the extent of the affair, which has been cited with innumerable enlargements and additions.

On Sunday took place, by order of the Archbishop of Paris, a splendid fête in all the churches of the metropolis in honour of the proclamation of the Immaculate Conception. The Pontiff himself officiated at Notre Dame on the Saturday preceding; and the great bell, or *bordoun*, of the cathedral was rung in honour of the occasion. On the other hand, certain of the principal functionaries and heads of administrations in the departments have received Government *acclamations* for having mixed themselves up too officially in the demonstrations that have been made on the subject of the proclamation of this dogma.

On Saturday are to appear the last two volumes of the *Mémoires* of M. Vèron: they are looked for with much curiosity. But a work of great and singular interest, as relates to the events of the last half-century, is about to appear from the American press—its contents rendering its publication in France, or even in any of the adjacent nations, impossible. This is the *Mémoires* of M. de Maubreuil, who played so strange a part at the fall of the Emperor Napoleon, and who publicly struck M. de Talleyrand for having disowned him. These volumes are, it is said, to contain an undisguised statement of all the events of the time—events in most of which the author took a part, and all of which he witnessed. M. de Maubreuil, who has long since changed his name, is, we are told, about to proceed to the United States for the purpose of bringing out there the work in question.

The piece of Alex. Dumas (fil.), entitled "*Le Demi-Monde*" (originally written for the Gymnase, but demanded by the Minister of State for the *Frangais*), has, in consequence of another arrangement, returned to its original destination, and is shortly to be represented at the former theatre.

THE CONVENTION BETWEEN RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

The convention between Russia and the United States, defining the rights of neutrals in war, signed at Washington on the 16th (22nd) July, 1854, is now published, and runs as follows:—Art. 1. The high contracting parties recognise as lasting and unalterable the following principles:—a. That free ships make free goods; that is, that goods and merchandise the property of the citizens or subjects of one of the belligerents are free from capture and confiscation in neutral ships, contraband of war alone excepted. b. That neutral property on board an enemy's ship is not subject to confiscation, if lawful merchandise. "They bind themselves to apply these principles to the trade and navigation of all states and nations who may be willing on their parts to acknowledge and recognise the same as lasting and unalterable." Art. 2. The high contracting Powers reserve to themselves the coming to a nearer understanding as to the application and extension of the principles contained in Art. 1, but declare expressly that they form the basis of the principles governing their actions in regard to the rights of neutrals in war. Art. 3. It is agreed that all nations who may, by a formal declaration, express their readiness to acknowledge these principles shall be at liberty to join in this treaty, and enjoy all the rights and privileges resulting from it. Art. 4. This present convention shall be ratified by the Emperor of all the Russias and the President of the United States of America, and the ratifications exchanged at Washington within ten months from this date, or sooner if possible. Done at Washington, in duplicate, July 22, 1854.—(Signed) E. STOECKL, W. L. MARCOT.

A COLD NIGHT FOR SENTRIES.—At no time since we have been here has the cold ever been more severe than during the night of the 23rd. Two of our sentries at Camp, though warmly clad, were frozen to death while sitting down or sleeping on their posts. All that night the Russian reconnoitring force, probably about 8000 strong, bivouacked on the Worosneff road which overlooks the plains of Balaklava. Their sufferings must have been most severe; for on the morning of the 4th, as the frost still continued, the enemy fell back and recrossed the Tchernaya at Tcherson, leaving only a few Cossacks to watch our movements.—*Letter from the Camp.*

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, February 23rd, 1855.

NOTWITHSTANDING eight or nine successive days of a milder temperature and more open sky than our troops have felt and seen for some time past, the army is still labouring under its usual amount of fatigue and sickness. Experience having proved the danger of exposing newly-arrived troops to the inclemency of winter immediately on their arrival in the Crimea, the latest draughts which have come out have been sheltered at night on board the vessels in the harbour, whilst by day they have participated in the labours of road-making and biscuit-carrying. The heat of the sun, although sufficient to melt the greater part of the snow, is not powerful enough to dry up the deeply-frodden roads. Our men having to plod wearily through the mire, whether on fatigue parties or to labour at the trenches, continue to suffer severely. Those who have the good fortune of being kept on board ship do not suffer so much from cold, perhaps; but the impure air of Balaklava, the foul miasmata inhaled in making the roads through the village, are of themselves a cause of fever and disease; and it is difficult to pronounce which is most fatal—the cold and damp of life in camp, or the foul atmosphere which stagnates in Balaklava. It is said, nevertheless, by the medical officers that the few days of fine weather which we have enjoyed have reduced the average of mortality and disease amongst the troops; but to the eye the number of unfortunate beings carried down to the sick pier by the French hospital drivers is not in the least decreased; and the woeful aspect of the greater part tells the suffering which they have been forced to endure before their turn came for discharge to the general hospital. In the ghastly countenances and skeleton appearance of most of them one reads a world of suffering; whilst by the stiffened lineaments of a few, one perceives that the last breath has expired in the transit from the camp to the beach. The wretched survivors have of late found bounteous relief on their entrance to Balaklava in the newly-erected store raised by the care of the officers of the *Caradoc*. There Dr. Sked presides over the distribution of cups of tea and spirituous stimulants to the unfortunates who want them, and gives them strength to bear the transfer from the back of a mule to the boats, and from these to the transports in the harbour.

It may be easily conceived that the reduction of our force by disease and exposure has kept back and paralysed, to a very great extent, every species of labour. The guns have been slow in their transit to the trenches; their weight being too great, and the mud in which they had become imbedded too deep, to permit of their speedy carriage by our weakened force and enfeebled men. But if the want of hands has been severely felt here, how much more so has it not been visible in the transport of provisions and stores of every kind, and in the daily labour required in the harbour of Balaklava. Disease has had its fling in our camp. Our soldiers have perished in some regiments faster than in others; future inquiry may serve to ascertain the causes of this mortality and place the responsibility on the right shoulders; but is it not deplorable to think that the longer the evil is suffered to exist, the smaller becomes the chance of the survivors? In the harbour of Balaklava the greatest evils result from the want of necessary hands. The Commissariat, the Ordnance, almost all the departments suffer from the same want. Might they not have had the foresight to obtain labour from more military sources long since, when they became aware of the difficulties which were entailed on our engineers and generals by the daily decreasing force available for the purely military departments? Was it not already sufficiently distressing to see the trenches and *places d'armes* insufficiently manned and guarded, without adding to that distress by putting soldiers to the fatigue of providing their own food by marching to and fro fourteen or sixteen miles to get it? Was it to be expected that the army, which was insufficient for its own immediate duties on the ground which it occupied, would be capable of carrying up stores and houses and erect them for themselves? Labourers were required, but no attempt was made to obtain them. A few wretched Tartars from Eupatoria were to be seen now and then moving through the streets, and carrying loads; but what was required—men of vigorous frame, for purposes of carriage, carpenters, smiths, working men in fact—of these there were none at hand. The cold weather to which the commissariat cattle were exposed, was from the first moment of its outbreak fatal to animals impoverished by lack of food and over abundance of labour. The pack ponies from Varna, the mules from Barcelona, the camels of the Crimea, and the bullocks of Bulgaria and Roumelia, which might have lived had they been housed, all perished, and a fresh supply became necessary. Ships were sent out to all parts, and cattle of all kinds have been arriving lately from Spain and the coasts of the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmora, and the Archipelago. It was at the very latest moment only that it was thought necessary to house the most tender of the draught animals, namely, the mules from Alicante, Barcelona, and Malta; and the *Trent*, which brought them lay six days in harbour waiting for the necessary cover to be completed before she could land her living freight. But mismanagement in this department of our service went still further; and after the poor beasts were housed, they were taken out to work so early in the morning and returned so late at night, that they must inevitably perish shortly from positive want of properly-distributed food and water. As for the wretched Turkish ponies, which are picketed in the open air, their fate cannot long be doubtful; and then the consequence will again be fatigue parties of soldiers for rations whose pluck for fighting must inevitably be taken out of them by the necessity to labour hard for daily sustenance.

The ships in harbour naturally feel also the disadvantages of want of labour. No sooner does a transport arrive than it receives orders to put out boats and load them with the freight consigned to them. The sailors belonging to the ships perform their portion of the task. The boats are laden and taken to the shore; but, once there, the chances are many against their being unladen within a week. The consequence is that the shore is encumbered with ships' boats laden with all kinds of goods—stores, platforms, wooden planks, parcels, and perishable stuff of all kinds. Ultimately the ships to which the boats belong being ordered away by the transport agent, there is a sudden rush to empty them: the contents are cast out on the shore—in the mud, anywhere, and there they lie. The result generally in these cases is delay of a valuable ship in harbour for days longer than she ought to remain, and a certain damage to the goods or stores.

It is consoling in the midst of all this to notice that the wretched hospital marquee has disappeared entirely from Balaklava; and that the sick, whose cases are not considered sufficiently bad to require transport to Scutari, are waitingly housed in some of the wooden huts which lie in such numbers along the beach.

With regard to the positions of the armies there is nothing up to this date to note. The French are ready in their trenches, with their guns in position, and waiting for us. Our engineers have nothing left to do but to put their guns in position; and if the frost, of which there is a good depth to-day, continues to hold, there is no doubt that a renewal of the bombardment may be instantly expected. There are doubts, however, as to whether we shall not be forestalled in our offensive projects by the Russians, whose forces are noticed by our spies to be on their advance in considerable force. Our force at Balaklava has been on the alert in consequence of this intelligence, and the fears which it has occasioned lest a surprise might be attempted.

A new variation in costume is now noticed in the motley crowds which gather upon the shores of Balaklava. The smock-frock and red woollen comforter of the British "navy" are conspicuous amid the fur-clad and

top-booted soldiers, the flat-faced small-eyed Tartar, and the dirty and ragged Greeks and Maltese, who ply their various small trades about the place. The navvies have commenced work in clearing a space for their rails and sleepers. They are ruddy with health, and astonish everybody by the labour which they are enabled to get through; but there is great discontent among them on account of the lack to them of an indispensable element of existence. The "navvies" want their beer. Beer, however, there is none, and each fresh complaint has been therefore met by an additional supply of rum. At this moment they receive no less than four rations of rum per day, and this, so far from satisfying the men; appears to have led to some very mutinous proceedings on board the ships. The Provost-marshal, Captain Johnson, has had to deal with some of the culprits, and probably the distribution of a few dozen will compensate for the effects of the rum; but it may be suggested, I think, with propriety, that the complaints of the navvies should not be met by any further supply of ardent spirits. Our soldiers only receive one ration of rum daily; the navvies, therefore, receive three times more than the soldiers, which ought to satisfy them.

The arrival of reinforcements, both French and English, continues. The drain on our camp from continued sickness does not make these new arrivals swell the numbers of our available force. As regards the French it would be a mistake to suppose that they do not suffer. Their sick are, in proportion to their force distressingly numerous. It is only because our army is so small that we feel the loss severely. I mention this because I find comparisons made between our forces and those of the French, which, if they were true, would tend to show that Englishmen are less fit for work, and of less vigorous constitutions, than the French. This is a mistake. Again, as regards Cavalry, it is perfectly correct that the French Chasseurs d'Afrique have kept their beasts in condition, whilst the chargers of our regiments have all perished. The horses of the Chasseurs d'Afrique are Arabs accustomed from the time they were foaled to the open air, and the vicissitudes of a hot and cold climate, like that of Northern Africa. They have rarely if ever enjoyed the luxury of a stable; but it is by no means the same case as regards the Hussar regiments and the Artillery of France. The horses of the latter are taken care of as are ours, and the result has been the same in the army of General Canrobert as in that of Lord Raglan. Almost all the cattle of those arms in both services have perished.

No great battle had taken place before Sebastopol up to the latest date, nor had any attempt been made to assault the formidable town. Our telegraphic accounts from Balaklava, which come down as far as February 19, repeat the stereotyped phrase that "the siege works are pushed forward with great activity;" and add further, that "the railway from Balaklava to the English Camp is far advanced;" which cannot be correct, as the construction of seven miles of railway, even in the most favourable weather, is not so very easy an affair.

By the steamer *Euphrate*, which left Constantinople on the 17th inst., we learn that the approach of a Russian army of 35,000 men, from the Belbec towards Balaklava, took place on the 7th; that the Allied forces were under arms on the 8th and 9th, in apprehension of an attack; but that the Russians did not risk a conflict. They had, however, taken up a threatening position on the 9th, and were throwing up works on the heights near Kamars. The French had bombarded the town on the night of the 10th, but nothing is said as to what the result had been. The Russians still continued to make sorties every evening.

Omer Pacha, instead of going to Eupatoria from Varna, as was reported, had gone to Balaklava, where he arrived on the 9th, on which day a Council of War was held.

Letters from the Camp, of the 5th inst., state that an additional mortar battery was about to be erected on the Inkerman heights—a proceeding which the Russians did not seem to approve. A small steamer of theirs, called the *Sphère*, and mounting five or six heavy guns, was, therefore, sent from under the shelter of the land every two or three minutes, which gave the working party the whole benefit of the well-directed broadside, and then returned close in shore the instant she had fired. As it is no part of the plan of the Allies to show the enemy the strength and position of their works, the steamer was enabled to do this with almost perfect impunity. In the Carling Creek, which is immediately under the intended battery, the enemy have also constructed two large rafts of solid timber, and mounted each with two 15-inch mortars. These are in turn rapidly hauled round into the centre of the creek by means of warp, and throw their shells with terrible accuracy upon the Inkerman heights. As yet they were said to have done little mischief beyond rendering the progress of the work slower, by compelling the men to throw themselves on their faces the instant the shell falls near. Both the shot and shell practice of the enemy in this direction is described as beautiful, and as quite equalling the best of the kind at Woolwich.

All this time the Russians continue daily to strengthen their defences by all the arts known to modern warfare. Most of the batteries now bristle with stockades and abatis, and are all protected in front with wide and deep ditches. What their resources are inside their lines can only be guessed at, but if they at all resemble the exteriors in any manner the storming of the place will be no easy task.

The bombardment of the town was to begin as soon as all the guns were placed and the ammunition ready. It is said that the English lines alone will fire away 430 tons of shot in twelve hours, and the French lines nearly 600 tons; so that any one may calculate the amount required for an incessant bombardment of fifty or sixty hours. The English have already about 1400 tons of shot and shell at Camp, and when about 600 tons more are added to that it was expected that they would commence firing.

The latest accounts represent the position of the English army as much improved. Hunting, warm clothing, and provisions were in abundance; and the arrival of a number of mules, which will soon be followed by more, enabled the men to obtain supplies from Balaklava more easily.

Nothing of importance had taken place at Eupatoria. It was said that General Osten-Sacken, at the head of 40,000 men, was about to make an assault; but no fear was entertained for the result, should he venture to do so. The place was defended by nearly 30,000 men, and the earthworks are now sufficient for defence against almost any force which the Russians can bring against the town.

The French journals publish, with expressions of satisfaction, reports of the improving condition of the English army. The *Débat* gives insertion to a letter dated Balaklava, Feb. 2, in which the following passage occurs:—

Our allies are now in full restoration, as they phrase it. Provisions abound, the soldier has already forgotten that he was ever upon half rations, the winter clothing is distributed, and barracks are beginning to cover the quay of Balaklava. Many of the men are dressed in Hungarian fur coats, and wear immense waterproof boots. The improved state of the weather has greatly contributed to these ameliorations. The lately impassable gorge of Balaklava may now be traversed with little difficulty. The land transport service, moreover, is now executed with considerable rapidity, thanks to the reinforcement of 250 mules brought by the steamer *Trant*, magnificent animals from Alicante, under the control of 46 Spanish and Maltese muleteers. I met a file of these yesterday carrying up the materials of the wooden houses.

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS.

In addition to the different spots on the Russian Baltic coasts that have been strengthened against an attack from the sea, the two fortresses Narva and Jamburg have during the past year been very considerably fortified, for the purpose of protecting Peterhof and St. Petersburg from the consequences of a landing on the south coast or an invasion from the Prussian frontier. This has been the work of General Von Berg, to whom the Governorship of Revel was entrusted last year; and it is he who has been most conspicuous in organising the force called the Baltic Corps. Now that he has finished his task on the southern coast to the Emperor's perfect satisfaction, he has been removed to Finland, to perform the same on the north coast.

The following extract of a letter from Helmsing, after stating that the six battalions of Finland Rifles are rapidly advancing in their organisation, and are expected to be ready by March, says:—"All the men are crack shots; there is scarcely one that cannot hit the head of the popinjay with their small rifle-balls." The ardour for battle of these "Freischützen," it is added, is admirable. True or not, there can be no doubt

that these battalions are in process of organisation; that they will be armed with the most approved weapons that the Government can procure from Liège or elsewhere; and that their number will amount to about 4000 effective. In case, therefore, of our fleets being sent to the Baltic, it will be doubly requisite to arm marines and picked sailors exclusively with the Minié muskets and rifles, and to practice the men constantly therewith.

The *Cologne Gazette*, in its correspondence from Constantinople, mentions the circulation at Pera and at Galata of Russian proclamations, in which an appeal is made to Slavonic sentiments. It is said which Russia seems to have in view, and she appears to wish to cause the same part to be played by Serbia as was lately done by Greece. These anonymous documents point out Austria as being the most dangerous enemy of the Slavonians.

The *Hamburg Borsenblatt* and other journals confirm a recent telegraphic announcement of a forced loan and heavy regulations just imposed by the Czar for the purposes of the war. The enactment of extraordinary measures fully confirms our recent accounts of the desperate condition of Russian finances, and must seriously aggravate the previously onerous burdens of the impoverished taxpayer.

The following manifesto, which has been issued by the Emperor, will show that he does not place very much reliance upon the Vienna negotiations:—

We, by the grace of God, Nicholas I., Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias, &c., make known:—

Our faithful and beloved subjects know how much we desire to obtain, without recourse to the force of arms, without a greater effusion of blood, the object which we have had constantly in view—that of defending the rights of our co-religionists, and in general of all the Christians in the East. That desire is also known to all those who have followed with attention and impartiality the march of events as well as the invariable tendency of our acts. We have been, and will still remain, strangers to any other mainpring of action—to any other view in matter of faith or conscience. Even now, true to those principles which we have adopted, we have announced our consent to the opening of negotiations with the Western Powers, who, with the Ottoman Porte, have formed a hostile alliance against us. We think that we are entitled to the same sincerity on their part—to the same disinterestedness of intentions; and we do not lose the hope of obtaining the re-establishment of peace—so much desired, and so precious for the whole of Christianity. Nevertheless, in the presence of the forces which they array against us, and of the other preparations which they are making to contend with us—preparations which, despite the measures taken for the opening of the negotiations, are not discontinued; but, on the contrary, daily assume larger dimensions—we are constrained, on our side, to think of measures to increase the means which God has given us to defend our country—to oppose a firm and powerful barrier to all attempts hostile to Russia—to all projects that menace its safety and its greatness.

This, the first of our duties, we accomplish; and invoking the support of the Most High, with entire faith in His grace, with full confidence in the love of our subjects (animated like ourselves with the same sentiment of devotion for our faith, for the orthodox Church, and for our beloved country), we address this new appeal to all classes of our subjects, ordaining:—

The formation of a General Militia of the Empire.

The measures relative to the formation and organisation of this militia have been examined and confirmed by us, and are embodied in detail in special regulations; they will be everywhere carried out with punctuality and zeal.

More than once Russia has been menaced, and has undergone sad and cruel trials; but she always found her salvation in her humble faith in Providence, and in the close and indissoluble bonds which unite the Monarch with his subjects, his devoted children. Let it be so again to-day. May the Almighty, who reads every heart, who blesses pure intentions, grant us His assistance!

Given at St. Petersburg, the 29th of January, of the year of Grace 1855, and in the 34th year of our reign. (Signed) NICHOLAS.

AUSTRIAN MILITARY PREPARATIONS.

According to an order which received the sanction of the Emperor on the 14th inst., the Austrian army corps are to be in their new position by the 15th of March. The dislocations consequent on the order are to commence on the 1st of March, by which day the baggage-waggons are to be in readiness with each division of the troops. The artillery is being increased and improved continually. Every week the iron foundries at Axar deliver a large number of cannon, which are mounted on their carriages in the ordnance department at Vienna, where by imperial command a new and formidable park of artillery is to be collected. The works at Vienna are superintended by the Archduke William, who has bestowed great attention on artillery. All the gun factories are fully employed in the manufacture of the new rifles, with which all the regiments of infantry are to be supplied by March 1. A large convey of ammunition was sent off from Vienna to Craoow on the 10th inst., and another was to follow on the 19th, by the Northern Railway. Large quantities of munition are also sent to the Principality, and a convey left Vienna on the 15th for Bucharest.

THE PROPOSED TREATY WITH PRUSSIA.

The *Journal des Débats* of Tuesday contains a leading article signed "S. De Sacy," giving an account of the pending negotiations between Prussia and the Allied Western Powers. After noticing the difficulty by which the Berlin Cabinet had considered itself precluded from acceding to the treaty of Dec. 2, M. De Sacy says:—

The differences which had arisen between Austria, France, Great Britain, and Prussia, are nearly adjusted, and the Four Courts will shortly be united as they were before the 2nd of December, to seek in common the best means of re-establishing the peace of Europe. This is the real purpose of the sending of General Wedel to Paris, and of the Baron Von Uedom to London. It is hoped that their efforts will be crowned with full success. A first result is already obtained. The overtures which the envoys of the King of Prussia have made to the two Governments have not been rejected; on the contrary, the two Governments have considered that they might take them as starting-points from which a practical conclusion may be attained. The Baron Von Uedom and General Wedel propose a form of convention; the Cabinets of the Tuilleries and St. James's propose a different one. It appears that the two drafts do not differ essentially as to their substance. Prussia offers to promise all that Austria has promised—that is to say, an alliance against Russia; but only on three cases, which are formally specified—that is to say, if Russia should attempt to invade the Principality of— if Russia should attack Austria on her own territory—or if the Czar should withdraw his acceptance of the Four Points, as interpreted in the moment of December 28. As a consequence of this convention, Prussia would expect to have a place in the conferences at Vienna.

DECLARATION OF BELGIAN NEUTRALITY.

In the Belgian Chamber of Representatives, on the 15th inst., M. Orts desired to be informed what course the Belgian Cabinet would pursue if invited to join the Western Alliance against Russia. M. Henri de Broeckere, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, replied that no invitation had been made to Belgium by the Western Powers to join their alliance. The articles of the treaties of 1815 and of 1839, which constituted the kingdom of Belgium, impose on that Power a perpetual and obligatory neutrality. That condition is the very essence of its independence and nationality. The Five great Powers, in imposing on Belgium that obligation, engaged in return to protect her from all attack, at the same time that the treaties in question permitted her to defend herself. From these considerations it was evident that there could not be any idea of Belgium intervening in the armed contests of Europe, as on the day on which she would so act, she would cease to be an independent State, and would behold her existence come to a close.

REVOLUTION IN PERU.

The mail just delivered by the West India steamer brings intelligence from Panama of the final overthrow of the Government party in Peru, and the consequent success of Castilla. Particulars are given of the last battle between the two armies, and the entrance of the conqueror into Lima. During the action two entire battalions of the Government forces went over to the Revolutionists, and very shortly after Echagüe's army was routed completely, and fled precipitately from the field. Several of the superior officers on both sides were killed or wounded. Upon the entry of the successful party into Callao, it was expected that the castle would make an obstinate resistance, as extensive preparations had been made for defence; but a few moments sufficed to settle all preliminaries, as the castle surrendered without firing a shot, and the utmost quietness and good order immediately prevailed, and universal expressions of admiration of the happy consummation were heard on every side. These events have renewed public confidence greatly, and it is expected that much good will grow out of them.

OUR GENERALS DURING LAST WAR.—Lord Raglan stated before the military committee which sat last year that, with the exception of Lord Lyndoch and Sir Thomas Picton, he had no general officers in command in the late war above 40 years of age. The Duke of Wellington was a Major-General at 23, the Marquis of Anglessey at 34, Lord Dalhousie at 38, Lord Stratford at 38, Lord Hill at 39, Lord Herford at 39, Sir George Murray at 40, Lord Combermere at 31, Lord Londonderry at 32.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

DESPATCH FROM LORD RAGLAN.

(From the *London Gazette* of Tuesday night.)

WAR DEPARTMENT, Feb. 20.

Lord Panmure has this day received a despatch and its inclosures, of which the following are copies, addressed to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle by Field Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B.:

Before Sebastopol, Feb. 6, 1855.

My Lord Duke.—I mentioned to your Grace on Saturday that the weather had broken. The frost was very severe on that night, and the thermometer down at 12°, and the wind was very high and piercingly cold.

Sunday was rather milder, and yesterday was fine. To-day the glass has fallen, and there is every appearance of rain.

I am happy to state that the medical officers consider that the general condition of the men has improved, although apparently there is no diminution in the number of the sick.

The enemy has made no movement of importance, but great convoys of waggons have been observed to go into Sebastopol, laden either with ammunition or provisions.

I enclose the casualties to the 4th inst.

Lieutenant-Colonel Collingwood Dickson, of the Royal Artillery, an excellent officer, whom I have before had occasion to bring to your notice, was slightly wounded on the 4th instant, when making a reconnaissance in company with some French officers.

I have, &c., RAGLAN.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c.

NOMINAL RETURN OF OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, AND PRIVATES KILLED AND WOUNDED, FROM JAN. 28th to FEB. 17th, 1855.

KILLED. 30th Foot: Lance-Corporal Chas. Douglas. 44th: Private Thomas Greenfield. WOUNDED. Royal Artillery: Capt. and Lieut.-Col. C. 5th: Private Owen Morrison, slightly. 6th: Private John Mullaly, slightly. 1st Royals: Private Bryan Silk, and Peter. 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade: Sergeant Geo. Vols, severely. 7th Foot: Private Thomas Kelly, severely. J. S. BUCKNALL, ESQUIRE, Adjutant-General.

THERE are now no less than seven vessels in dock in the new yard at Keyham, including the *Duke of Wellington*; and on the whole of them parties of artificers are engaged in getting them ready with all possible dispatch. Rear-Admiral Seymour left on Thursday week, on receipt of a telegraphic message from the Admiralty. His visit is connected with preparations for the Baltic fleet of 1855, of which he is to be the second in command. Admiral Corry is to succeed Admiral Seymour as the Superintendent of the Dockyard. Captain W. K. Hall, of the *Bulwag*, will, it is said, be Admiral Seymour's flag captain.

It is not intended to send any more regiments from the Mediterranean to the Crimea. It is usual to have five battalions at Gibraltar, five at Malta, and five at the Ionian Islands. There are now but four (the 17th, 54th, 60th, and 92nd) at Gibraltar; two (the 72nd and 91st) at Malta; and three (21st, 46th, and 82nd) at Corfu. These regiments are not numerically strong, and they will be aided in their garrison duties by several regiments of militia.

The North Lincolnshire Militia are under orders for Aldershot, Hampshire, where a permanent camp of 20,000 men is to be formed. The greater part of the South Lincolnshire Militia have volunteered for foreign service, and are expecting orders for the Mediterranean. It is said they will go to Corfu.

HER MAJESTY having accepted the services of the Militia for duty in the Colonies, the following regiments have received orders to hold themselves in readiness for immediate embarkation, viz.:—The Royal Wilt, Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Methuen, twenty-four officers and 620 men, and the Royal Lancashire, Lieutenant-Colonel Clayton, seventeen officers and 320 men. Both these regiments form part of the garrison of Portsmouth; they are destined for the Ionian Islands—in all probability, Corfu. The former will, it is expected, embark in Her Majesty's ship *Neptune*, if not both regiments, as soon as she is ready for them.

The East Kent Militia, which has been doing garrison duty at Woolwich since the 4th of August last, on Friday and Saturday last opened volunteering for service in the Mediterranean. On those two days 527 men took the oath, and each man received £3. It is anticipated that more than the number will come forward, and make the required amount, 589.

The four old contractors in Birmingham for military small-arms supplied 10,000 Minié rifles to the Board of Ordnance from December 1 last year to the 17th of the present month. These numbers are independent of the supplies rendered by the new contractors during the same period.

A TRIAL of a newly-invented self breech-loading and priming carbine has been made at the School of Musketry at Hythe. Sixty shots can be fired from this weapon in seven minutes; out of that number, at a range of 100 yards, 47 struck the bull's-eye. Total immersion in water of the carbine, loaded, did not affect its explosive power, the fuse being readily discharged. The rapidity of the firing did not produce the slightest derangement, the piece neither requiring oiling nor cleaning.

It is rumoured that the command of the large encampment preparing at Aldershot will be entrusted to Sir De Lacy Evans.

The Reserve Dépôts at Malta are to consist of five battalions, and to be commanded by a Colonel. Two officers have already been selected for this duty.

The medical department is to be removed from St. James's-place to the house now occupied by the Board of Clothing, at Whitehall.

A CLERK from the War-office has been ordered to Singapore to superintend the outlay of £50,000 for the purchase of mules.

On Monday Major-General Sir Frederic Smith, R.E., traced out the lines of huts at Aldershot for the encampment of 30,000 men, which are expected to be up and serviceable in the course of the ensuing month.—(We shall engrave a View of the Site, with a Plan.)

It being in contemplation to station the Royal Sussex Artillery Militia at Eastbourne, preparation has been made in a portion of the martello towers for the reception of the Royal Artillery, who will vacate the Circular Redoubt, to render available the requisite accommodation for the militia. The remainder of the martello towers are understood to be in course of repair, and will soon be ready to receive the number of men necessary to render them effective. As yet the actual means of defence are limited to but few guns; probably as the spring advances each tower will be provided with its full complement. Various other batteries are to be proceeded with as the spring becomes more advanced.

THE Duke of Devonshire recently addressed a letter to Lord Palmerston, requesting to know whether Her Majesty would sanction the formation of a troop of yeomanry for the Northern Division of Derbyshire. To this letter an answer has been sent from Sir George Grey, in which he says:—"As no increase to the number of yeomanry corps has been recently sanctioned, and there is nothing particularly requiring the services of a corps of yeomanry in the Northern Division of Derbyshire, I do not consider it necessary to recommend to Her Majesty to accept the services of the volunteers, who, as your Grace has stated, are ready to enrol themselves. At the same time I have to convey to your Grace the expression of the sense entertained by the Government of the public spirit which has dictated the offer."

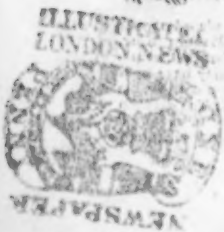
THE Victoria Rifle Corps will muster for drill every Thursday evening during the next two months at Allen's Riding-school, Seymour-place, Bryanston-square.

THE INSURGENTS AT NANKING.

THE accompanying View represents the town of Nanking as it appeared in the month of July last, at which time H.M.S. *Rattler* lay for some days close to it. The approaches of the town, as will be perceived, are defended by stockades, the whole river front being lined with masked batteries, well manned, while a large number of stakes and bamboo points are driven into the ground, so as to prevent any body of men from advancing in line. The masked batteries on both sides of the creek leading to the city gate, called Tung, are shown in the Sketch, together with the look-out towers, which command a view of the surrounding country.

A Correspondent who has recently returned from China describes the appearance of the insurgents as exceedingly grotesque, on account of their allowing the hair to grow, contrary to the prevailing custom in the Celestial Empire. The most faithful sketches of many of the Chinese soldiers would be taken for gross caricatures in this country. The great chiefs wore a red pasteboard helmet, surmounted by the figure of a lion, and adorned with a tassel. The head-dress of the minor leaders is a yellow cap, which droops behind in rather a picturesque manner. Their arms consist of halberds, short swords, and matchlocks, and are all so wretchedly bad that the returns of killed and wounded amount to a very small figure, notwithstanding all their engagements.

The strange and interesting correspondence which took place last year between the English, the leader of the insurgents, the Eastern King, and the so-called Holy Ghost, was sent home by Her Majesty's Flimptentary, but has not yet been made public. Whatever may have been the feeling of the insurgents generally, the leaders did not show the slightest disposition to court the advances of Europeans. The Eastern King is said to have all the haughty and offensive manner of a Canton Chinaman. The general belief that his success would lead to a more cor-



YOUNG NANKING REBEL.

all commercial intercourse does not, therefore, seem to be well founded. All accounts, however, agree in representing the insurgent king as a very able man. Though called an impostor as all their adherents are, they have made their position good, he is certainly a very clever man, and is plainly evinced by the wonderful manner in which he contrives to rule his followers.



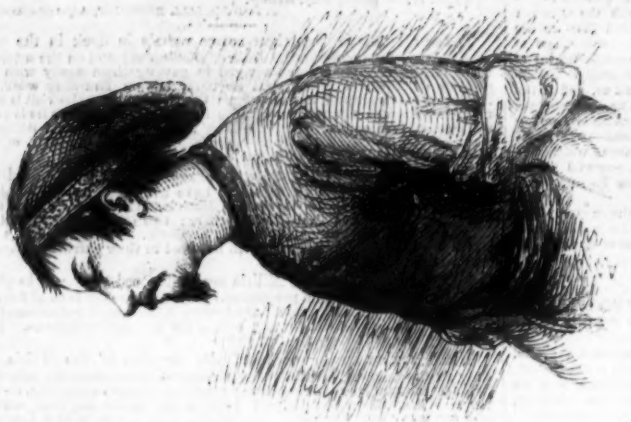
WOO, GOVERNOR OF CHIEKIANG-POO AND KWACHOO.

The latest news relating to the Rebels is that the Imperialists, led on by Mandoo, officers, had defeated them in Kiang-si, Hunan, and Hu-pek. In many encounters, and retaken several important cities on the Yang-tse-kiang. There is now so large a naval force, British and American, near Canton, that the city is safe from attack, but it is said that trade is at a stand, without a prospect of being resumed until its



REBEL OF THE KWACHOO PROVINCE.

avenues are closed of the banditti who infest them. A conclave, consisting of Sir John Bowring, Sir James Stirling, Captain Abbot, Dr. Parker, and Mr. Consul Robertson, was held recently at the Admiral's residence. Fighting by the Triad bands against the associated villagers on shore, and against the war-junks on the river, still continued, to the utter destruction of commerce.

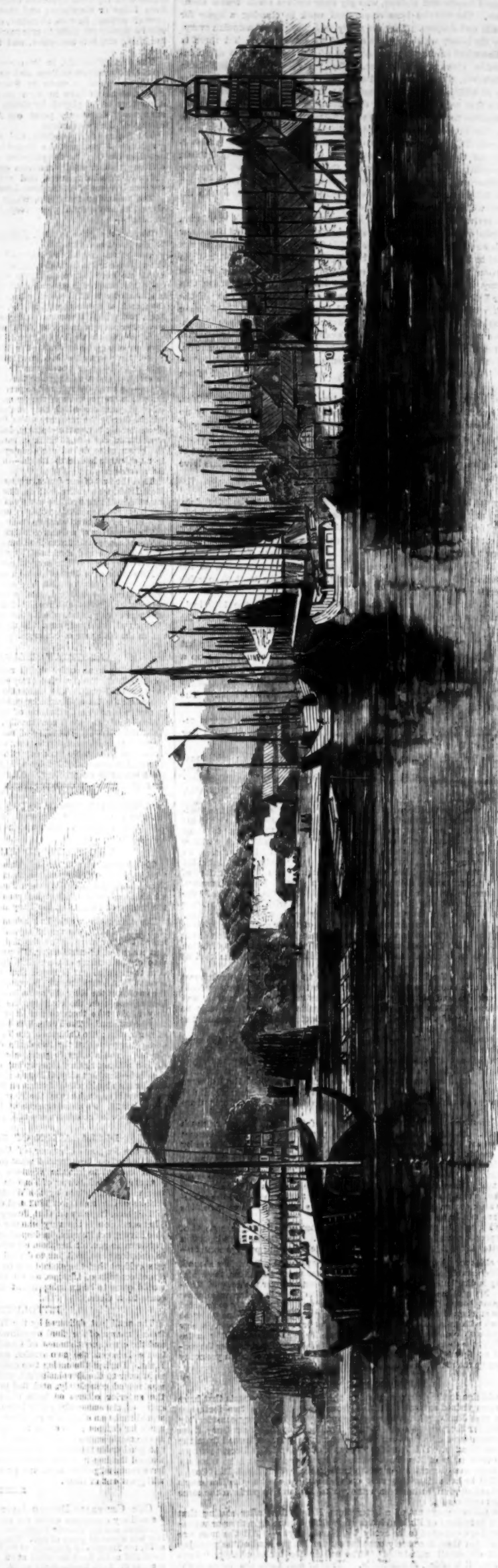


INSURGENT CHIEF NOMINALLY COMMANDING 15,000 MEN.

The appearance of Admiral Stirling's squadron in the river of Canton had caused the rebel chief to entertain fears lest they might find our ammunitions against them, and has had the effect of temporarily checking their advance. Sir James Stirling is very busy surveying the rear of the factories, it being his intention to mark off a certain part of the western suburbs, which shall be considered neutral ground.



NANKING INSURGENT SOLDIER.



THE SUBURBS OF NANKING, AND THE CITY WALL, WITH THE STOCKADES CONSTRUCTED BY THE INSURGENTS.



ARRIVAL OF THE BURMESE ENVOY AT CALCUTTA, WITH THE LETTER OF THE KING OF AVA.

EMBASSY FROM AVA TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA.

ACCORDING to letters lately received from Calcutta, the topic of the day was the Embassy from Ava:—"The present King of Ava, previous to the revolution which seated him on the throne, bore the title of Prince of Mengdon. Mengdon is the name of a little district on the extreme northern frontier of Pegu. At the annexation it was included in the British boundary, and the King feels as William of Nassau felt when Orange was dismantled. His personal vanity is wounded, and he has condescended at last to treat with the Power which has defeated him. He has sent an Envoy to Rangoon, with instructions to proceed to Calcutta, and there obtain from the Governor-General the restitution of Mengdon. The price offered, it is said, is a treaty recognising the conquest of Pegu, and perhaps some advantages in the way of trade. This is the popular belief, but information direct from the province ascribes to the King a second and somewhat nobler object. He is anxious for the restitution of Bassein, the south-west division of Pegu—a district as large as Suffolk, and comprising the best river and harbour in the province. A glance at a recent map will show that the annexation has completely shut out Burmah Proper from the sea. The deprivation is severely felt by the people, whose pride it wounds, and by the Monarch, whose profits as sole trader in his own dominions are materially diminished. The last request, of course, will never be conceded. It is not merely that in Asia concession is equivalent to weakness—the gift would derange the administration of the province. No duties could be collected while a foreign Power placed its own imports on the best harbour in the kingdom; and no crime could be repressed while the criminal remained within an hour's journey of immunity."

At the time the above was written the Ambassador was anxiously expected at Calcutta; and, by aid of an obliging Correspondent in that city, we are enabled to illustrate the Envoy's reception. He is an official who

was known in the war as the Dalla Woon, or ruler of Dalla—a place which is to Rangoon what Southwark is to London. In that position he showed himself friendly to the British, and more attentive to his word than the majority of his countrymen.

Our own Correspondent states—"The interview took place in the Marble-hall of Government House at Calcutta, on the 13th December, before a crowded assembly of spectators who had been invited to attend. The Envoy was seated on the right of the Governor-General, with Major Playre, who acted as interpreter during the interview. They were dressed in long dark red velvet chogahs, edged with yellow satin; and curious conical-shaped hats, ornamented with gold. The first introduction being over, a letter from the King of Ava was presented to the Governor-General. It was cased in red velvet, and carried in a gold cup. Presents from the King of Ava were then brought in and placed in front of the Governor-General. They consisted of silks of many patterns, gold cups, rubies of considerable value, ornamental swords, carved ivory and papier-mâché boxes, elephants' tusks, &c. The Governor-General, having presented each of the Envoy's with a diamond ring, and other articles of value, retired. I send you a sketch showing the etiquette displayed in conveying the King's letter from place to place. It is under the exclusive charge of one of the Envoy's, who, apparently, never lets it out of his hands. He considers it necessary to have a carriage entirely to himself, and can only be moved under the shade of eight umbrellas—the Burmese emblem of Royalty."

CYCLONE AT BOMBAY.

On the 1st ult. Bombay was visited by a cyclone, or hurricane, which commenced about midnight by a gale from the S.E. by E.; the force of the wind on the square foot, as ascertained at the Observatory, being 10 lb. At one it had veered round to the S.E., and the pressure had increased to 15 lb.; at two it was S.E., and the pressure 21 lb.; at three it was S.E.



EFFECTS OF A CYCLONE, AT THE APOLLO BUNDER, BOMBAY.

by E., and the pressure 35 lb.; at five the pressure had fallen to 29 lb.; at six to 21 lb., and the wind had got round to W.N.W.; at seven the pressure had fallen to 3 lb. on the foot. It is difficult to realise, until having experienced it, the effect of a wind pressure of 35 lb. on the foot, but it is apparent that nothing living could stand up on open ground against it. A man weighing 15 stone, or 162 lb., presents a surface of about eight square feet, the pressure on which with a wind force of 35 lb. to the foot will be 280 lb.—more than a third greater than his weight; so over he must go.

The night will never be forgotten by those who experienced such a visitation for the first time. The vortex of the cyclone did not pass over

the Observatory, and the force of the wind there must have been considerably exceeded on the range of hills forming the western coast of the island, and covered with the country-houses of the richer inhabitants. Next morning the gardens appeared as if a heavy roller had passed over them from the south-west; and the various directions in which the tall Palmyra palms had fallen afforded a palpable indication of the revolving character of the storm.

The following is from the *Telegraph and Courier*—

At five o'clock in the morning the scene at the Apollo Bunder was frightful. Underneath the saluting battery the debris of the wrecks was heaped. Pieces of bunder-boats, ropes, spars, and all the material of the Harbour boats were

strewn all over the bay. Hundreds and hundreds of cotton bales were floating about, uncared for and unlooked after. The view from the Custom-house Bunder was most terrific. The steamer *Phlox*, sunk beneath the Castle walls, had only her paddle-boxes visible above water; while the positions of the steamers *Sir James W. Smith*, *Sir George Russell Clark*, and *Snake* (Government steamers), were only known by their funnels appearing above water. The new Government steamer *Assaye* parted her moorings during the night, and struck the hard ground near the dockyard, and has been much injured. The *Hastings* went on shore early in the morning. The *Margaret* cutter is smashed all to pieces. The *Alondra* small cutter has also become a total wreck, and four pilot-boats have been entirely lost. The Governor's barge and that of Sir Henry Leake have totally disappeared. Five large merchantmen are on shore—some masts gone; and about 100 bungalows are lost. The *Nerbuddah* cutter has become a total wreck, and the brig *Fulmar* is much disabled. The fort on the morning of the storm presented a curious appearance. The streets were literally strewn with tiles. Trees which one would have thought could have withstood the tempests on ages were either uprooted or broken in twain like twigs. The crosses of the west side of the Cathedral were blown off, and the police-station was so dismantled that the Court of Petty Sessions had to be held in the magistrate's private room. The theatres and the Supreme Court-house have been more or less injured; and the flag-staff has been entirely blown down.

THE CADELL TESTIMONIAL.

THIS superb gift is a well-merited tribute to the exploratory enterprise in Australia. It consists of a solid centre ornament, executed in gold, with silver figures of the emu, kangaroo, and sheep, surrounding the base; the upper portion of the design consisting of an oak-tree, its branches being fitted for glass dishes or wax lights. The base bears the following inscription:—

Presented by some of the Settlers of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, to FRANCIS CADELL, Esq., in commemoration of his having first opened the Steam Navigation and Commerce of the River Murray. 1858.

This characteristic piece of plate has been ably executed by Messrs. Smith, Nicholson, and Co., of Duke-street, Lincoln's-Inn-fields.



GOLD CANDELABRUM PRESENTED TO MR. FRANCIS CADELL, THE AUSTRALIAN EXPLORER.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Feb. 26.—1st Sunday in Lent. Sir Christopher Wren died, 1723.
 MONDAY, 27.—Napoleon I. embarked from Elba, 1815.
 TUESDAY, 28.—Dr. Arbuthnot died, 1786.
 WEDNESDAY, 29.—Ember Week. Montaigne born, 1533.
 THURSDAY, March 1.—St. David.
 FRIDAY, 2.—John Wesley died, 1791.
 SATURDAY, 3.—Boswell died, 1711. Otway born, 1621.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 3, 1855.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
10 10	9 50	9 30	9 10	8 50	8 30	8 10

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1855.

A SINGULAR fate has attended Mr. Roebuck's Committee of Inquiry into the State of the Army before Sebastopol. It drove Lord John Russell from the Cabinet, broke up the Aberdeen Ministry, placed Lord Palmerston in power, and launched Lord John into the new career of diplomacy, where he is very likely to distinguish himself, and be of essential service to his country. But the doings of Mr. Roebuck's Committee, or rather of the mere proposal to institute it, have not ended with these achievements, considerable as they are. We now learn that it has "dislocated" the Palmerston Administration, and deprived it of the services of three of its most prominent, if not its most able, members. Lord Palmerston, with a tact and good sense which are characteristic of his whole public career, was too wise to resist the appointment of a Committee on which it is evident that the country, no less than the House of Commons, had set its mind. He interfered with Mr. Roebuck's independence no further than to stipulate, as the price of his acquiescence, that the Committee should include the names only of such gentlemen as would inspire the public with confidence that the inquiry would be ably as well as honestly and impartially conducted. In other words, he objected to the persons originally designated by Mr. Roebuck, and suggested another list;—to which Mr. Roebuck assented. But Sir James Graham, Mr. Sidney Herbert, and Mr. Gladstone, disapproved of the appointment of the Committee in any form or shape whatever; a political mistake on their parts, from the effects of which it will take them long to recover. Hereupon issue was joined; and Lord Palmerston remaining firm to his purpose of consenting to the inquiry, these three gentlemen have ceased to form a part of the Ministry. We shall not seek to depreciate the talents or the services of public men of such high standing and character, or join in the silly outcry against two of them as "Peelites." We acknowledge, and have often acknowledged, the ability and industry of each and of all of them; but we cannot bring ourselves to look upon their secession from the Cabinet as a calamity, or as a circumstance in any way to be deplored. Sir James Graham is thoroughly a man of business. He was an acquisition to the Government, and inspired confidence in all who had transactions with him in his official capacity. But his loss can be easily supplied, and public opinion can designate half-a-dozen or a dozen members of the Lower House who can undertake and perform the duties of Naval Minister at the present time. Mr. Gladstone's secession will not excite much regret. He was respected more than liked; and the people had a suspicion, which may or may not have been well founded, that the war would lag as long as he remained Chancellor of the Exchequer; not from any want of zeal on his part, but from his "crochet," that in war as well as in peace it is the duty of a great nation to avoid loans, and to pay its expenses from year to year, as they are incurred. Mr. Gladstone was suspected of holding such doctrine, and of endeavouring to act upon it—even at the present moment, when it is necessary for the nation to put forth its whole energies, and to spend within the year twenty, fifty, or even a hundred or two hundred millions of money, to ensure the humiliation and defeat of the enemy. The next Chancellor of the Exchequer will have only to avoid committing himself to a similar heresy to enlist on his behalf the good will of the people; and if Lord Palmerston will select a new man for the office, and avoid encumbering himself in that capacity with Sir Charles Wood or others who have failed in it, there is little fear that his Administration will suffer either in credit or in strength from the loss of Mr. Gladstone. The secession of Mr. Sidney Herbert is still less important. He gave no strength to the Ministry of Lord Aberdeen; and his acceptance of office under Lord Palmerston was the most unfavourable circumstance connected with the new Ministry. In losing the services of Mr. Herbert, Lord Palmerston loses a colleague whose reputation was damaged. We are not of opinion that Mr. Herbert and the Duke of Newcastle deserved all, or any part of the odium thrown upon them for the mismanagement of the war; but they filled the post of responsibility, and were unsuccessful. For this reason they must be content—even though morally innocent—to bear the blame that always attaches itself to failure. If they have been wronged, they will find an opportunity to right themselves; and Time, the great redresser of injuries and healer of animosities, will do them all the justice they deserve. If in the interval their own consciences absolve them, they can bear the brunt of temporary unpopularity, and be none the worse for it.

At the time at which we go to press we have heard, on no certain authority, the names of the gentlemen selected by the Premier to fill up the three vacancies thus unexpectedly created, but shall publish in later editions such statements as may appear worthy of credence, or as may be officially announced. Upon the whole we see nothing to regret, but much to rejoice at, in the secession. The Parliament, like the country, is thoroughly in earnest. Both demand inquiry as to past mismanagement and present inefficiency; and both are willing to vote all the means, both in men and in money, that are necessary to carry on the war with spirit and success. Lord Palmerston, if equally in earnest—as there can be no reason to doubt—will find strength on every side of him, only awaiting his summons to enter the public service.

This aspect of affairs is ominous of impending calamity on the cause of the Czar. Notwithstanding all the ravages which disease and mismanagement have made in the gallant army of Great

Britain, there remain 10,000 or 12,000 men fit for any enterprise; while the French and the Turks have each a force sufficient to defy the hosts of Menschikoff and Liprandi. From the daily reports that reach us from the Crimea, and from the improvement in the condition of the weather, as well as in the state of the Allied armies, no less than from the movement perceptible in the armies of the Czar, it is evident that a great battle is impending, and that important news may be hourly expected. Whether that battle be fought before Eupatoria against the Turks, or before Sebastopol against the British and French, or whether the assault, so ardently desired by the soldiers of the Allied armies, shall be undertaken, we entertain no doubt that the result will be glorious to our arms, and advantageous to our cause. The Emperor of the French, who in one of those bursts of enthusiasm which on rare and great occasions illuminate the dark and silent but not cold atmosphere of his inner life, had determined to proceed in person to the Crimea, and lead his troops to victory, has foregone his intention; possibly on account of the consternation which the idea excited in France, but more probably because, on cool reflection, he deemed it not unlikely that the great battle might have been fought before his arrival, and that he might lose dignity, as well as incur risk at home, by being, in common parlance, "a day after the fair." Whatever be the cause of the Emperor's change of mind, it is a matter of rejoicing to his best friends that he has not obeyed the impulse that beset him. If his Majesty must place himself at the head of an army—if he must lead his brave soldiers to victory and plant the eagles of France on the towers and towns of an enemy—there is a chance before him which may yield him greater honour and glory than even a campaign, or part of a campaign, in the Crimea. Prussia has not yet joined the Western Alliance. The King still hesitates, and at the last moment he may decide to cast in his fortunes with those of the Czar. In that case the Emperor Napoleon might well leave the Crimea to the armies and the generals already in possession of it, and take his place as Generalissimo of the French Army of the Rhine. The post would be one of danger and of glory; but with the humiliation of both Prussia and Russia, and the re-establishment of the kingdom of Poland in the perspective, it would be one in which his presence and example, and the enthusiasm excited by his name, would be of more benefit to the common cause than anything which he could accomplish in the Crimea.

In the meantime, the mission of Lord John Russell to Paris, Berlin, and Vienna has filled the friends of Russia with perplexity and discouragement. The Austrian alliance, in case of the refusal of Russia to yield to certain conditions—acceptance of which would amount to a moral as well as physical defeat—will become an alliance, not of documents and protocols, but of swords and guns, and half a million of hands ready, and eager to wield them. The Austrian people as well as the Court go heartily with the Western Powers; and Frenchmen are as popular in Vienna, as Englishmen are in Paris. The old jealousy between France and Austria has never existed during the reign of the Emperor Francis-Joseph; and the jealousy which the events of Hungary and Lombardy, in 1848 and 1849, created in the Austrian mind against Englishmen, and especially against Lord Palmerston has been happily removed, and the ancient friendship thoroughly restored. And this good understanding, while it will yield us excellent armies in support of the anti-Russian cause, may perhaps operate to bring the Czar to reason without the necessity of prolonging the contest. The King of Prussia already begins to waver; and if he, backed as such a policy would be by the whole Prussian people, should finally resolve to unite with the Allies, and leave the Czar to his fate, it is scarcely possible to believe that Nicholas would resolve to fight single-handed against all Europe. His last proclamation to his people betrays his sense of impending danger. It is warlike in tone, but conciliatory in spirit; and takes care to impress upon the world that his military preparations are defensive, and not offensive, and have been forced upon him by the hostile attitude assumed towards "Holy Russia" by all Europe. So be it. The Vienna Conference is a reality this time, and not a sham; and the Czar knows it.

THE MINISTRY.—The current rumour is that Sir Charles Wood is to succeed Sir James Graham at the Admiralty, where he once was Secretary; Mr. Cardwell is to succeed Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Baines to take Sir G. Grey's place at the Home-office, while Sir G. Grey replaces his cousin at the India Board.

THE VIENNA MISSION.—Lord John Russell left his residence in Chelsea-place on Tuesday morning, shortly after seven o'clock, for the purpose of proceeding on his diplomatic mission to Vienna. His Lordship was accompanied by Lady John Russell and his two daughters. At eight o'clock his Lordship arrived at the South-Eastern Railway station, where he was received by Mr. Wetherell, the station-master, and conducted to the express-train, in which, accompanied by one of his daughters, he proceeded, at ten minutes past eight, direct to Dover. Lady John Russell and his Lordship's other daughter returned immediately afterwards to Chelsea-place. His Lordship first visits Paris, where he will have an interview with the Emperor of the French, after which it is understood that he will go direct to Berlin, so that his arrival at Vienna must necessarily be delayed for a few days.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE ARMY.—The following, we have reason to believe, is the list of this Committee as finally agreed upon for nomination on Mr. Roebuck's motion:—Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Drummond, Sir John Pakington, Mr. Layard, Colonel Lindsay, Mr. Ellice (sen.), Lord Seymour, Sir George Cornewall Lewis, General Peel, Mr. John Ball, Mr. Brampton.

MEETING OF CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.—A very numerous meeting, comprising a large body of peers, and nearly 300 members of the House of Commons, was held at Lord Eglington's house, in St. James's-square, on Tuesday. Lord Derby addressed the meeting at length. He alluded to the line of conduct pursued by him during the late political crisis, and stated his views and opinions generally upon the position and prospects of the Conservative party. His Lordship's speech was received most enthusiastically; and a vote expressing the entire and continued confidence of the Conservative party in their leader—as moved by the Earl of Strathmore, seconded by Mr. R. Palmer, M.P. for Berkshire, and carried unanimously.

MEETING IN FAVOUR OF MR. ROEBUCK'S MOTION.—A large meeting of the inhabitants of Marylebone was held at the Literary Institution, Edward-street, Portman-square, on Wednesday evening, for the purpose of "protesting against Mr. Roebuck's Committee being buried." The meeting was addressed by Mr. Mowatt, M.P., Mr. Lewis, Mr. Nicholas, Mr. Bell (the late candidate for the borough), and other gentlemen, all of whom spoke strongly in condemnation of the way in which the war has been mismanaged, and urged the necessity of inquiry. A talk of a Government Commission was to elicit inquiry. Resolutions were passed in favour of the appointment of "a fair and impartial Committee," and urging Ministers to prosecute the war with unflinching energy and vigour.

CHARLES MACKAY'S SONGS.—The lyrical works of this gentleman—whose success as a writer of songs, patriotic, social, and descriptive, has scarcely been equalled in our time—are at length collected, and will speedily be published in a single volume, which is about to issue from the press of Messrs. Bradbury and Evans. It will be welcomed to every English household.—*Weekly Chronicle.*

THE COURT.

The Queen and the Prince Consort, with the Royal children, continue in the enjoyment of excellent health. Her Majesty has given dinner parties thrice during the week, and on several occasions, taking advantage of the severity of the weather, has enjoyed driving exercise in a sledge.

On Sunday the Queen and Prince Albert, with the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, and the Princess Alice, the ladies and gentlemen of the Court, and the domestic household, attended Divine service in the private chapel of Buckingham Palace. The Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor officiated.

On Monday the Queen and Prince Albert, with the Princess Alice, drove out in a sledge. Lord Alfred Paget, with the Maids of Honour, followed in a second sledge. The Prince Consort, in the course of the day, visited the Wellington Barracks, for the purpose of seeing some of the wounded men of the Grenadier Guards (of which regiment his Royal Highness is Colonel) lately returned from the Crimea. In the evening the Queen had a dinner party, the company at which included his Serene Highness Prince Nicholas of Nassau, the Portuguese Minister (the Count de Lavradio), Earl Grey, Viscount and Viscountess Canning, Lord and Lady Wodehouse, and Lord Seaton.

On Tuesday Prince Albert presided at a meeting of the Council for the Management of the Duchy of Cornwall, held at the office in St. James's-square. In the evening the Queen and his Royal Highness honoured the Olympic Theatre with their presence.

On Wednesday the Queen and the Prince drove out in a sledge. The Prince and Princess Arthur, with the Hon. Mary Seymour and the Equerry in Waiting, were out in a second sledge during the afternoon. In the evening the Royal dinner party included Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston, Lord Pamure, Lady Alfred Paget, Lady Elizabeth de Ros, and the Right Hon. the Speaker.

Last evening (Friday) the Queen gave a grand dinner to his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, General Sir De Lacy Evans, the Earl of Cardigan, and a distinguished party.

The Countess Walewska gave a ball, last evening, at the residence of the French Embassy, Albert-gate House. The *réunion* may be described as impromptu, the invitations having been sent out only a very short time. Notwithstanding this circumstance nearly all the leading members of the diplomatic world and aristocracy now in London were present.

The Countess Colloredo had an afternoon reception at Chandos-house on Thursday.

A matrimonial alliance is arranged to take place between the Earl of Munster and his cousin, Miss Kennedy Erskine, eldest daughter of the Lady Augusta Gordon Hallyburton, by the late Hon. Kennedy Erskine.

THE FIRST LIFE GUARDS.—The officers of this regiment (past and present) gave a complimentary banquet on Tuesday evening, at Grillon's Hotel, to their old and esteemed comrade, Colonel the Hon. James Macdonald, upon his recent return from the Crimea.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, FEB. 23.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer.		Mean Temperature of the Day.	Departure of Temperature from Average.	Degree of Humi- dity.	Direction of Wind.	Rain in Inches.
		Highest Reading.	Lowest Reading.					
Feb. 16	Inches. 29.927	33.8	16.3	24.9	- 14.0	79	N.E.	Inches. 0.00
" 17	29.878	33.3	22.0	25.6	- 13.4	80	N.E.	0.00
" 18	30.007	33.5	16.0	20.6	- 18.5	92	E.	0.00
" 19	29.988	34.8	8.0	21.4	- 17.8	74	N.E.	0.00
" 20	29.718	36.0	20.9	27.2	- 12.1	72	N.E.	0.00
" 21	29.840	30.2	20.2	25.0	- 14.3	70	E.	0.00
" 22	29.929	31.5	16.3	23.4	- 14.0	75	—	0.00

Note.—The sign — denotes below the average.

The reading of the barometer decreased from 29.93 in. at the beginning of the week, to 29.84 in. by the afternoon of the 16th; increased to 30.01 in. by the 18th; decreased to 29.67 in. by the 20th; and increased to 29.95 in. by the end of the week. The mean for the week, at the height of 52 feet above the level of the sea, was 29.90 inches.

The weather throughout the week has been as rigorous as in previous weeks. The mean temperature of the week was 24.3°, which is 14.9° below the average. The mean daily temperature was 18.6° below the average on the 18th, and was 17.6° below on the 19th; the least depression was 12.1° below on the 20th.

The reading of the thermometer in air on the 19th, in the morning, was as low as 8°.

There has been no week ending Feb. 22 of so low a temperature on record as that of the past week. The Thames is now almost entirely un navigable at Greenwich; at high water the river is completely covered by ice. LEWISHAM, Feb. 23, 1855.

JAMES GLAISHER.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The births of 903 boys and 912 girls were registered within the metropolitan districts within the week ending Feb. 17; in all 1815 children. The deaths of 741 males, and of 734 females, were registered within the same time: in all 1475 persons—a number exceeding the calculated amount by 285, and which has been caused by the long continuance of severe weather.

REPEAL OF THE TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE.—The annual meeting of the Association for Promoting the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge was held on Wednesday night in the large room, Exeter-hall. The apartment was densely crowded, there being about 900 persons present. The chair was taken at eight o'clock by Mr. Milner Gibson, M.P. Amongst the gentlemen on the platform were Mr. Cobden, M.P., Mr. Bright, M.P., Mr. A. Pellatt, M.P., &c. The Chairman, after alluding to what had already been effected by the association, said he had now to congratulate them on the important fact that the Government had agreed to abolish the newspaper stamp. The bill had not yet been printed and circulated; but having had an opportunity of seeing the manuscript, he stated what the provisions of the measure were. The bill was introduced by Mr. Gladstone, the Chancellor of the Exchequer—he was afraid he must now say the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, for it was reported that he had resigned his office from differences and dissensions in the Cabinet. The bill proposed, in the first place, to abolish the compulsory stamp altogether, and to repeal the tax on news. It proposed that all printed matter, up to the weight of four ounces, should be capable of being transmitted through the Post-office at a charge of 1d. for each transmission. The bill abolished the security system, and repealed those disgraceful statutes enacted by Lord Castlereagh in times gone by, and known by the name of the Six Acts. These propositions might be considered to be the leading features of the measure, but there were also clauses in the bill which were evidently introduced out of regard to what might be called the vested interests of the established press. It had been contended that the right of retransmission without an additional charge was a privilege highly valued by the established press. The bill offered, in consequence of that claim, to the established press, that if they chose to print a portion of their impression upon stamped paper, that portion of the impression shall be transmitted and retransmitted without any additional charge for a period of seven days. As it was considered that there were some large papers—he believed there was one in that metropolis well known to them all which exceeded four ounces in weight—there was a clause that papers of a certain size of superficial square inches, even though they exceed the weight of four ounces, should have the privilege of retransmission during seven days without any additional charge. That latter provision was to be in operation for a period of ten years. After expressing his opinion that the proposed measure would be a great boon to the people, he went on to say that the association would not be satisfied until the Paper-duty was repealed also. That was the natural result of the repeal of the Newspaper Stamp-duty; and he had great hopes that they would be long succeed in repealing the remaining tax on knowledge. Mr. Cobden, Mr. Bright, Mr. Waite, and Mr. George Dawson afterwards addressed the meeting in favour of resolutions for the abolition of the duty on paper, and expressing satisfaction at the determination of Government to abolish the newspaper stamp.

BREAD RIOTS AT WHITECHAPEL.—During the whole of Wednesday evening and Thursday morning the inhabitants of the east end of London were in a state of great excitement and alarm, in consequence of the riotous conduct of a number of unemployed Irish labourers, who not only perambulated the principal thoroughfares for several hours in large numbers, but caused the greatest consternation among the shopkeepers, into whose premises they forcibly entered, and daringly ransacked the contents. In many instances tradesmen were brutally ill-treated and thrown into the street, while their premises were cleared of their contents and carried away by the mob. On Thursday morning, at ten o'clock, orders were sent for an additional force of constables to the vicinity of the workhouse, and accordingly Inspectors Marsh and Smith were in attendance in the neighbourhood. At eleven o'clock there were no fewer than 1500 dock labourers at the doors of the workhouse, waiting for relief; and it required a great number of officers to prevent accidents among the starving applicants. Mr. Freeman and Mr. French, the overseers, were present during the morning rendering the necessary relief. Each man had a quarter loaf given to him, and was told to call again next day.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

THE far-famed Bernal collection, over which the hammer of Mr. Christie is suspended, for final settlement on the 8th of March, is valued at £50,000, and the Society of Arts has properly petitioned the House of Commons for that sum to secure so choice a collection for the people. This country has made great mistakes in suffering unique collections of real importance to be dispersed. The Lawrence collection of drawings of the ancient masters is a case in point, the whole collection having been offered to the public for scarce a third of what it afterwards produced—for scarce a fourth of what it would now sell for. We trust that, even in these war times, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer will listen to such a proposition as that now made with a favourable ear. Once scattered, it is impossible to bring it together again. Mr. Christie's hammer will divide and waft it no one knows where.

Even in these dull times for literature, a publisher has been found to venture his capital in giving the questionable MS. "Moreduin" an appearance in print. Mr. Sampson Low—the London agent for Barnum's Life—is the Quixote of publishers on this occasion; we shall therefore soon be enabled to see what it is like in point of merit; if it is more akin to Ireland's "Vortigern" than Sir Walter's "Waverley." The facsimile that is shown continues to be condemned by those most conversant with Scott's handwriting. Scott always wrote for the press on the largest size uncut paper, so as to get three or four of his printed pages into one of manuscript. The MS. of "Moreduin" is on paper much smaller than Sir Walter was accustomed to use. Here our comments on "Moreduin" must cease till it comes before us with Mr. Sampson Low's "Imprimatur."

Lord Brougham is about to print in the edition of his works now in course of publication the whole of the correspondence of George III. with his Minister (Lord North) on the subject of the American War. The original letters were lent by Lord Glenelg to George IV., and never returned. The belief is, that "the first gentleman in Europe" destroyed them. Lord Brougham will print them from copies made from the originals by Sir James Mackintosh.

A curious dispute between the Earl of Ellesmere and the trustees of the British Museum has just been concluded, and the trustees (very much against their will) compelled to relinquish their hold upon some manuscripts belonging to Lord Ellesmere of which they had improperly possessed themselves. The wonder is, not so much that the trustees should have bought stolen goods, but that, when they found that they were stolen, they should have persisted in retaining them. Another singularity in the affair is that several of the manuscripts have been long in print, as from the originals in the collection of Lord Ellesmere; so that the trustees, or those who purchased for them, ought to have been aware that what was privately offered for sale could not be the property of the pretended owner. Still, in the face of this evidence, and in defiance of the positive identification of the documents by the gentleman who printed them some years ago in a volume of which many hundred copies were circulated, the trustees insisted upon keeping them, and thereby really incurred the peril of being treated as the receivers of stolen goods, actually knowing them to be stolen. We have heard the name of the guilty party, but we refrain from publishing it, because it could do no good, and the matter has been sufficiently exposed to prevent his being entrusted in future with any other manuscripts. Lord Ellesmere only sought to re-obtain what beyond dispute was his own property; but the trustees, having done a serious wrong in the first instance, were obstinate in defending it, and it was not until the Law Officers of the Crown (themselves trustees) had given their decided opinion that the authorities of the British Museum had not a leg to stand upon that Lord Ellesmere had his own manuscripts once more put into his own hands. Whoever may have advised the trustees in the commencement, he has in the end caused a good deal of laughter at their expense.

Mr. Samuel Cousins, the distinguished engraver, has been elected (as we hinted he would be, some fortnight ago) a full Royal Academician. He is the first engraver who has been admitted to such an honour; for Bartolozzi was elected, not as an engraver, but as designer. This was capriciously done by the Academy to annoy Sir Robert Strange. There is a talk of admitting another engraver a full Royal Academician, making the number of Academicians forty-two, instead of forty; but certain school-boy conditions will, it is said, have to be complied with, which the most eminent engravers are unwilling to fulfil. The Academy should not stand on antiquated formalities, but elect into its ranks at once Mr. J. H. Robinson, Mr. Doo, or Mr. Burnet. They have now as a member the most eminent mezzotint engraver in England; they should, therefore, admit the most eminent line engraver in England. The art of line engraving in its perfection is fast dying out amongst us. Mr. Robinson, Mr. Doo, and Mr. Burnet are not likely to have any fitting successors. It is more than time, therefore, to render full honour to those who are still among us.

It says something for the growing taste for art in this country that the picture which brought the largest price at the recent sale at Messrs. Foster's should have been the best work in the collection; and that, ten years ago, the picture in question would not have sold for a third of the sum it now realised. The picture to which we allude was "The Lock," by Constable. The sum it sold for was 860 guineas. Mr. Leslie, who has done so much to make the merits of Constable known, must rejoice at the tardy justice rendered to his favourite landscape-painter. "The Lock" is, indeed, a very fine picture—every year is mellowing it into harmony and adding to its beauties.

Artists are laughing at a critic in the *Spectator*, who learnedly refers "The Lock," by Turner (sold at the same sale for 600 guineas), to a period in Turner's art dating some twenty years ago—that is, to the year 1832 or 1833. Now, the picture has no one taken about it of Turner's particular characteristics at that period. It is a picture rather of forty than of twenty years ago—in fact, it is a *liber studiorum* picture, ranging between 1808 and 1812.

Mr. S. A. Hart, the newly-elected Professor of Painting in the Royal Academy, has commenced a series of lectures. He succeeds Mr. Leslie, and will give another turn to the mind of the student. He is no wild admirer of the pre-Raphaelites, but is absorbed in well-grounded and well-considered admiration of the great painters of the Italian school. His predecessor, Mr. Leslie, has never had the advantage of being in Italy; and, though his pictures have not suffered by his home-keeping propensities, his lectures would, we think, have gained by a greater intimacy with the best works of the best masters. Mr. Hart has been trained to artistic criticism in the public prints, and his hand is now seriously missed by those who can detect and appreciate.

INLAND BOOK POST.—GENERAL POST-OFFICE, FEB. 1855.—On and from the 1st March next the following alterations will be made in the regulations of the Inland Book Post:—If a book packet be found to contain any enclosure which is sealed, or otherwise closed against inspection, or any letter whether sealed or not, the letter or other enclosure will be taken out and forwarded to the address on the packet, charged with full postage as an unpaid letter, together with an additional rate of 6d.; the remainder of the packet, if duly prepaid, being forwarded as heretofore. If a packet be not sufficiently prepaid according to its weight, but nevertheless bear stamps of the value of 6d., it will not, as heretofore, become liable to the letter rate of postage, but will be forwarded charged with the deficient book postage and an addition of 6d.—HOWLAND HILL, Secretary.

The Government of Holland is preparing to send an extraordinary Embassy to the Emperor of Japan, in order to take advantage of his friendly dispositions towards Europeans. The Dutch Government hopes to obtain a treaty of commerce more advantageous than any it has hitherto had.

The English authorities have engaged at Constantinople 800 labourers—Greeks or Mussulmans, all subjects of the Sublime Porte—to work on the construction of the railroad at Balaklava. Each man is to receive three shillings a day, and a ration of biscuit.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

GENERAL SIR WILLIAM CORNWALLIS EUSTACE, C.B., K.C.H., COLONEL OF 60TH ROYAL INFANTRY.

THE death of this highly-distinguished officer took place at his seat, Sampford Hall, Exeter, on the 9th instant, in the seventy-second year of his age. Sir William was the third son of the late General Eustace, Commander of the Forces in Ireland, and brother of the Rev. Charles Eustace, of Rotherdown, county Kildare, who has been recognised by the law officers of the Crown as heir and representative of the Viscounts of Balinghame, and entitled to that peerage if the attainder were removed. An ancestor of this ancient family accompanied William the Conqueror to this country, and enrolled his name in the celebrated list at Battle Abbey. His descendants crossed over to Ireland temp. Henry II., and were always remarkable for military prowess, and there established several branches under different titles.

Sir William married, first, in 1809, Catherine Frances, daughter of Lord Talbot de Malahide; by whom (who died in 1816) he leaves issue—Alexander Talbot (who assumed the surname and arms of his maternal grandmother on succeeding to the Malpas estates); and a daughter, Catherine Frances, married to the Rev. S. W. Lloyd, of Vine House, near Sevenoaks; secondly, Caroline, daughter of the late John King, Esq., of Grosvenor-place; by whom (who died 1837) he leaves John Thomas, Captain West Essex Militia; and Robert, Rector of Hampstead; and thirdly, Emma, daughter and coheir of the late Admiral Sir Elias Harvey, G.C.B., M.P., who survives him, and by whom he leaves a daughter, Emma, married to Myles Lonsdale Formby, Esq., late 6th Carabiniers, grandson of Richard Formby, Esq., of Formby Hall, county Lancaster.

Sir William Eustace, whose death we record, entered the Army in the year 1789, being gazetted to a Lieutenancy on the day of his birth, as a compliment to his father's valuable services. Sir William was placed on his father's staff at the early age of fourteen, and was present at the battles of Ross and Vinegar-hill, and at Wexford, and all through the Irish Rebellion in 1798; he then accompanied Sir James Craig to Naples, from thence to Sicily and Calabria, and was present at the action on landing in St. Euphemia Bay, the battle of Maida, and siege of Scylla. He was on board the *Levee* frigate when she captured the *Gommesa*; Commanded the Chasseurs Britanniques at the battle of Fuentes d'Onor, the siege of Christoval, battle of Salamanca, capture of Madrid, defence of Olmos in front of Burgos, various engagements on the retreat from thence, actions in the Pyrenees (severely wounded 31st August), and various other engagements, in one of which he was again wounded, and in another he had a horse killed under him. Sir William received the gold medal and one clasp for Fuentes d'Onor and Salamanca, and the silver war medal and two clasps for Maida and the Pyrenees, and was created a Companion of the Bath, and a Knight-Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order.

JOSEPH HUME, ESQ., M.P.

JOSEPH HUME—one, if not of the most brilliant, certainly of the most sterling men of his age and country—is no more. He dies leaving behind him a name for ever memorable in our Parliamentary annals; and there are few, be their party, their principles, or their prejudices what they may, who will not regret the loss of this great genius of public economy.

The career of Joseph Hume has been, from beginning to end, a course of unceasing industry, perseverance, and utility: he was at work from his youth to his death. His long life of labour, all real and unromantic as it was, may be briefly told. Joseph Hume was born at Montrose, in Scotland, in 1777: he was a younger son of a master of a trading vessel, who had a large family, and who died while Hume was yet an infant. Like most men of remarkable intellect, Hume had in his mother a lady of superior education and intelligence. She secured his being well taught from his earliest years, and when still very young he was apprenticed to a Dr. Bate, a provincial physician of considerable celebrity. Having served his time with him, he finished his regular course of physical and anatomical knowledge in the University of Edinburgh. He then made several voyages to India in the Company's service, and was, in 1799, appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the Indian army, and joined the forces commanded by Lord Lake. Amid the arduous duties of his profession, he contrived to find time to master the Persian language, and this led to his fortune and his fame. Colonel Achmuty, at that time the military interpreter, died, and the only one that could be found to fill his place was the obscure assistant-surgeon, Joseph Hume, who was appointed Achmuty's successor; and to the task of interpreting, as, indeed, to every toil he undertook, Hume devoted himself with such wonderful assiduity, that the commanding officer of the district, finding that he could do almost anything, and was never tired, gave him other appointments of importance and profit. A service of eight years made Hume a rich man, and he returned to England in August, 1805, bearing with him the highest recommendations from the Commander-in-Chief, and what was still more valuable, his own faculties rendered ripe, and fit for business beyond those of most men. Shortly after coming back he set out, for the improvement of his impaired health, upon a lengthened tour on the Continent, where he, like Ulysses,

Wandering from clime to clime, observed strange things,
Their manners noted and their states surveyed.

In 1811 he came again to England, and his long Parliamentary career began by his entering the House in 1812, as member for Melcombe Regis. He did not, however, then remain long a senator, and he was out of Parliament till 1818. During this interval he laboured diligently, as a proprietor of East India Stock, to correct the errors and reform the abuses of the Indian system. He was elected member for Montrose in 1818, and continued to represent the Montrose burghs until his election for Middlesex in 1830, from which time (with the exception of one session, when he represented Kilkenny) he sat for Middlesex till 1843. In 1842, and from thence to the time of his demise, he represented his native burgh of Montrose. Of what Joseph Hume has done in Parliament it is needless here to give any detail, for it is known far and wide to all. It may, indeed, without fear of contradiction, be asserted that no member of the Houses of Parliament has done the country more essential service than Mr. Hume, in carefully watching over the national expenditure, and in pointing out the most effectual modes of reducing taxation. He was always in his place, incessantly—night after night, from session to session—grappling with Herculean force the most difficult calculations, and impressing his measures of economy on his hearers in language, though not eloquent, impressive and invincible from its very truth and earnestness. His struggles and his success in his great task form part of the history of this country. Mr. Hume was a public man of that stamp which has proved so beneficial in establishing the fortunes of the United States of America; he was a man of the class and of the utility of Penn, and Franklin, and Washington—men to be respected for ever for their sagacity and sense.

In private life Mr. Hume, to all who knew him, endeared himself from his sound worth, his unwavering integrity, his amiability, and his benevolence. Joseph Hume breathed his last at his seat, Burnley-hall, Norfolk, on the 20th inst. He was married, and leaves a family.

W. F. CAMPBELL, ESQ.

THE death has just occurred in Normandy of Walter Frederick Campbell, Esq., of Ilay, and Woodhall, N.B., who represented for many years Argyllshire in Parliament. He was the elder son of the late Colonel John Campbell, by his wife, Lady Charlotte Campbell, youngest daughter of James, fifth Duke of Argyll, since better known as Lady Charlotte Bury. Mr. Walter Frederick Campbell's sisters were Lady Cumming, the late Countess of Uxbridge, the late Countess of Charleville, Mrs. William Russell, Lady Arthur Lennox, and Mrs. Brooke, of Mere-hall, Cheshire. His mother, who survives him, is the distinguished authoress, Lady Charlotte Bury; having, after the death of Colonel Campbell, married secondly, in 1819, the Rev. Edward S. Bury. Mr. Walter Frederick Campbell, the subject of this notice, was Deputy-Lieutenant of the counties of Argyll and Lanark. He married first, in 1820, Lady Ellinor Charteris, eldest daughter of Francis Earl of Wemyss and March, by whom (who died in 1839) he leaves issue a son and a daughter. By his second wife, whom he married in 1837, and who survives him, Catherine, daughter of Stephen Thomas Cole, by his wife, Lady Elizabeth Stanley, he has had no issue. Mr. Campbell was, in 1816, the successor of his grandfather, Walter Campbell of Shawfield.

LADY COLBORNE, widow of the late Lord Colborne, whom she has survived but a few months, died on the 17th instant, at her house in Hill-street, Berkeley-square. Lady Colborne was the eldest daughter of the late Right Hon. Thomas Steele, and was married, in 1818, to Nicholas, first Lord Colborne, brother of Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart. Her Ladyship leaves issue four married daughters, Mrs. Gordon, of Letton; Lady Nugent; Mrs. Heathcote, of Connington Castle; and Mrs. Farquhar.

CAPTAIN ARTHUR LOWTHER, second son of Colonel the Hon. Henry Cecil Lowther, M.P., by his wife the late Lady Eleanor Lowther, and nephew of the present Earl of Londonderry, died on the 14th inst., at his father's residence in Bruton-street, Berkeley-square, in his thirty-fifth year.

The *Panama Star* states it as tolerably positive that the railroad would be opened through to Panama by the end of last month.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from page 197.)

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

DAY OF PRAYER AND HUMILIATION.

The Earl of Rothes urged upon the Government the propriety of advising her Majesty to order a particular day to be set apart for general humiliation and prayer, to implore the Divine protection for our army in the Crimea.

The Earl of Aberdeen said that when he was in office he was asked by a noble Duke whether he was prepared to recommend the introduction into the Liturgy of a special prayer for ordinary purposes? He stated in reply that he had every objection to such a proceeding; but, so far from having any objection to the appointment of a special day for prayer and humiliation, he was quite in favour of it.

Earl GRANVILLE said that the present Government had already advised her Majesty to order a day to be set apart during the present Lent as one of national humiliation and prayer. He was happy to inform their Lordships that recent accounts from the Crimea led them to suppose that the condition of our army was considerably improved.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

MR. DRUMMOND asked whether it was the intention of the Government to make the army of India a Royal army?

LORD PALMERSTON: No such decision has been come to. In reply to a question from Mr. Warner, Lord PALMERSTON said that the Commission which was to go out to the East would have the power to rectify, as well as to inquire into, any abuses that might be found existing.

ANOTHER MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

LORD PALMERSTON said he had to state to the House that which he believed they were already aware of—that three members of the Government, all of whom were members of that House, had resigned their offices, and now only held them until their successors were appointed. Those were the first Lord of the Admiralty (Sir J. Graham), the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gladstone), and the Secretary for the Colonies (Mr. S. Herbert). He hoped the House would not think he was asking too much in requesting that all public business be postponed for that evening, he proposed; and that the House would adjourn until to-morrow, when the three right honourable gentlemen referred to would be in their places for the purpose of stating their reasons for the course they had pursued (Hear, hear).

MR. DISRAELI said that they were in anticipation of a very strong Government, and although the chief obstacle to the formation of such a one appeared to be removed, he yet found at the end of the ten days that it had fallen to pieces. He must say that upon his side of the House the announcement of the noble Lord must be felt with deep regret and some consternation.

MR. WILSON, on the part of the Government, asked the nomination of Mr. Roebuck's Committee the first order for to-morrow.

The House then adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

MASINI ON THE PIEMONTESE TREATY.—The *Italia e Popolo*, of Genoa, publishes a long letter from Joseph Masini, addressed to Count Camillo Cavour, in which he says that the conclusion of the treaty between Piedmont and the Western Powers has caused the doubts which created a division in the Italian party to disappear, and accordingly congratulates the Minister on his success in effecting it.

A GOOD EXAMPLE TO OUR MEN.—The French and Ottoman soldiers, both of whom are remarkably clean in their personal attire, do not appear to wear woollen under-clothing, but cotton. They may be seen along the side of every stream, especially the Zouaves, at all hours, scrubbing and rubbing away, with their arms up to the elbows in aspidua. They take down their washing utensils, light a fire on the spot, boil water, and set to work in an artistic manner, and really do not only clean, but bleach, the articles on which they devote their soap and exertion. It was at one time proposed to set apart one or two houses in Balaklava for the purpose of washing and drying such things as could not be properly done by the soldiers in camp, and that the soldiers' wives, many of whom have been brought of late from Varona and elsewhere to the Crimea, should be employed in this useful occupation. But the suggestion has never been carried into effect.

WILLS AND PERSONALTY.—John Garden, Esq., of Rodisham-hall, Suffolk, left personality estimated at £140,000. Henry Miller, Esq., formerly merchant, Fenchurch-street, and of Newington-place, Surrey, £120,000. Viceconsul Knox, Esq., Stratford-place, and Writtle Lodge, Chelmsford, £90,000. J. A. Berry, Esq., Record and Writ Office, £80,000. Lieut.-General Thomas Dalmer, £10,000. Frederick Wilmot Horton, Esq., Commander R.N., died intestate, £7000.

CHARITABLE BEQUESTS.—William Thorowgood, Esq., who died worth £35,000, among other bequests, has left £1000 to the Infant Orphan Asylum, Wanstead. Mr. Alexander Baird, of Nassau-street, has left £300 to the Benevolent Institution for the Relief of Aged and Infirm Journeymen Tailors. Mrs. Mary Russell Mitford, of Swallowfield, Berks (the poetess), has left the residue of her personality (sworn under £3000) to her faithful and attached female servant.

A NEW SHELL.—Among the numerous new inventions of engines of destruction to which the war has given birth, one much talked of at present is a shell invented by M. Goussier, a member of the Council General of the Yonne, which he asserts will not only double the force of the powder used, but, being without a snail, will have the inestimable advantage of falling on the spot desired without giving notice to the enemy by that stream of light in the air which accompanies the present shell. Ignition is brought about by a chemical process, which is said to be so completely under control, that a shell may explode, according to the will of the projector, either in two minutes or twenty-four hours after its being projected. Thus it would be possible to throw any number of shells successively upon a given point, and to adjust the period of their explosion, so that all should burst at the same moment. This shell would explode not only under water as on land, and it is asserted that the principle will complete the idea of the *boulets asphyxiants*, which hitherto have not been very effective.

MISS NIGHTINGALE.

ALTHOUGH the public have been presented with several portrait-sketches of the lady who has so generously left this country to attend to the sufferings of the sick and wounded at Constantinople, we have as yet seen none of these pictures as "singularly and painfully unlike." We have, therefore, taken the most direct means of obtaining a sketch of this excellent lady, in the dress she now wears, in one of "the corridors of the sick," in the Hospital at Scutari. A recent letter in the *Times* bears the following testimony to the humane services of Miss Nightingale:—

Wherever there is disease in its most dangerous form, and the hand of the spoiler distressingly nigh, there is that incomparable woman sure to be seen; her benignant presence is an influence for good comfort even amid the struggles of expiring nature. She is a "ministering angel" without any exaggeration in these hospitals, and as her slender form glides quietly along each corridor, every poor fellow's face softens with gratitude at the sight of her. When all the medical officers have retired for the night, and silence and darkness have settled down upon those miles of prostrate sick, she may be observed alone, with a little lamp in her hand, making her solitary rounds. The popular instinct was not mistaken which, when she set out from England on her mission of mercy, hailed her as a heroine; I trust that she may not earn her title to a higher though sadder appellation. No one who has observed her fragile figure and delicate health can avoid misgivings lest these should fail. With the heart of a true woman, and the manners of a lady, accomplished and refined beyond most of her sex, she combines a surprising calmness of judgment and promptitude and decision of character. I have hesitated to speak of her hitherto as she deserves, because I will know that no praise of mine could do justice to her merits, while it might have tended to embarrass the frankness with which she has always accepted the aid furnished her through the Fund. As that source of supply is now nearly exhausted, and my mission approaches its close, I can express myself with more freedom on this subject; and I confidently assert, that but for Miss Nightingale the people of England would scarcely, with all their solicitude, have been spared the additional pang of knowing, which they must have done sooner or later, that their soldiers, even in hospital, had found scanty refuge and relief from the unparalleled miseries with which this war has hitherto been attended.

DESTRUCTION OF THE STEAM-SHIP "MAURITIUS."

ONE of the most fearful conflagrations which has ever been known at Southampton occurred at the Docks on Friday morning week, causing the total destruction of the fine steam-ship *Mauritius*, belonging to the General Screw Steam Shipping Company. She was of 1500 tons burden, and 300-horse power, and cost about £70,000. On the return of the *Mauritius* from the Crimea she arrived at Southampton, and had during the last few days been lying in the new graving-dock undergoing some necessary repairs previous to her return to the duties of the transport service. About five o'clock several persons connected with the docks were aroused by the alarm of "Fire!" and Mr. Hedger, superintendent to the Dock Company, and Mr. Levy, together with other officials, were immediately upon the spot, in conjunction with several officers connected with the Royal Mail and Peninsular and Oriental Companies' service, and also a strong body of men, under the charge of the second officer of the United States mail steam-ship *Hermes*, at Southampton, who had been ordered to render



MISS NIGHTINGALE, IN THE HOSPITAL, AT SCUTARI.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

assistance by Capt. Higgins, commander of that vessel. Shortly after the alarm had been made known a strong detachment of Sappers and Miners from the barracks, with their engines, were on the spot; but the fearful rapidity with which the flames extended defeated the hopes of all in the possibility of saving the vessel. No sooner had the fire become visible, than it burst out into one immense mass, almost instantly extending itself over three parts of the vessel. However, every exertion was made by those in attendance, but unfortunately with no beneficial result, for the *Mauritius* now lies in the new graving-dock totally destroyed, and beyond the iron with which she was built—the whole of which has been twisted into a thousand different shapes—and her bowsprit, jib-boom, and cutwater, not a vestige of this once noble ship remains. It is stated, that a considerable quantity of gunpowder remained on board, and this rendered the danger of assistance imminent to many persons who were otherwise willing to have volunteered their services. But had such not been the case, with such rapidity did the flames travel throughout the vessel, that hardly any time was left after the arrival of a sufficient number of persons to save anything of material

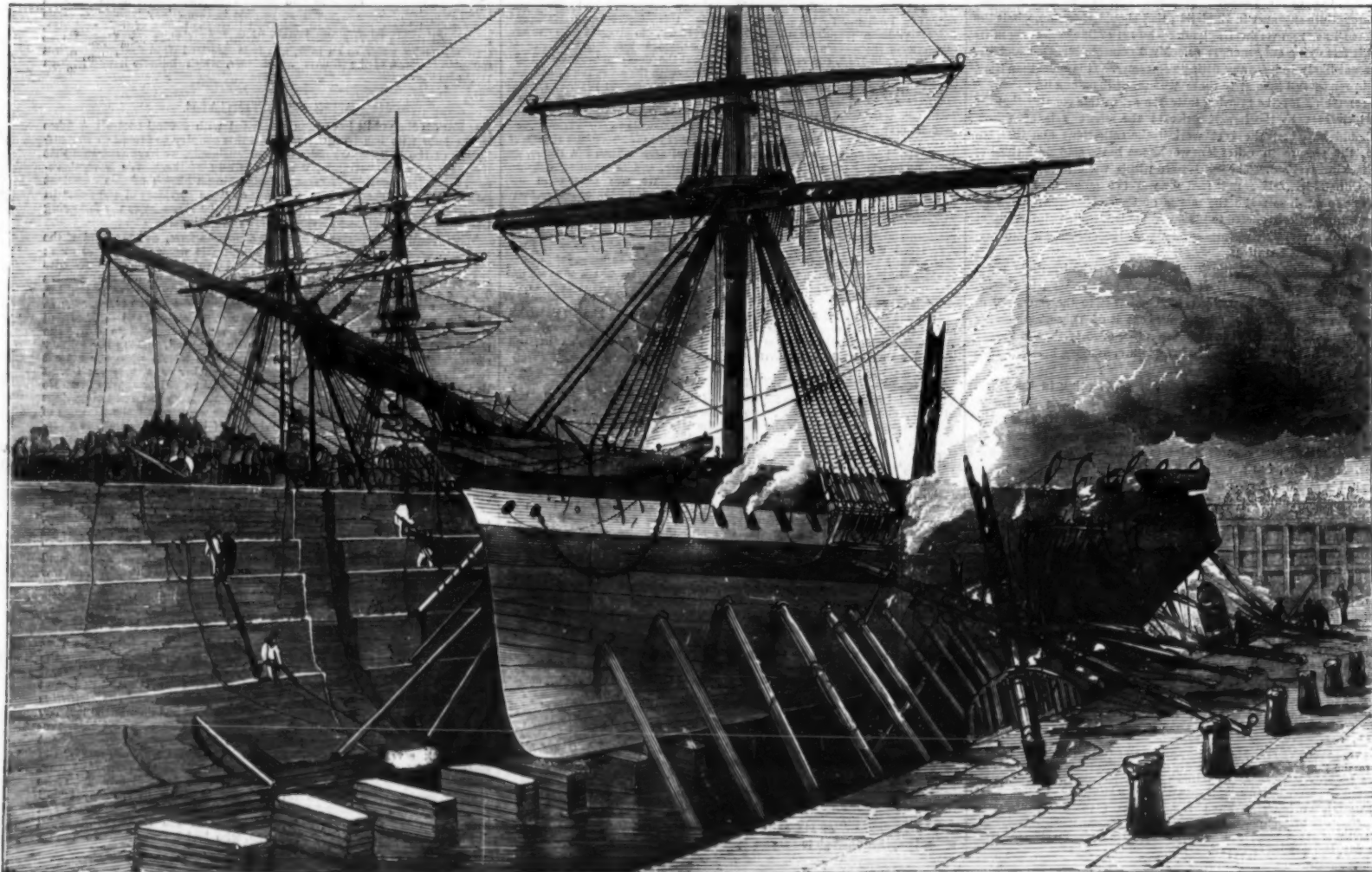
value. It is fortunate that, although a large quantity of the officers' kit, together with the plate, &c., of the ship, has been totally destroyed, the ship's papers were removed on shore the day before, and thereby saved. For about three hours the fire raged furiously, and a strong breeze springing up from the eastward considerably assisted the progress of the flames. About eight o'clock the mizen and main masts fell over the port side with a tremendous crash, and were shortly afterwards followed by the foremast, the whole forming a tangled and burning heap of spars and cordage. Fortunately, no damage either to the docks or the mass of people assembled occurred. For some considerable time great fear was exhibited in reference to the powder-magazine, and many persons left the docks or retired to some distant part.

The water had reached a sufficient height to lead many to presume that the portion of the ship containing the ammunition was entirely inundated, and that any danger from the explosion of gunpowder was rendered thereby utterly futile; but about half-past ten o'clock a terrific explosion took place, and large fragments of the burning wreck were scattered in all directions—fortunately, without doing any injury. Some fear existed

in consequence of there being several pieces of loose timber and a large quantity of shavings lying on the dock quay, some of which took fire.

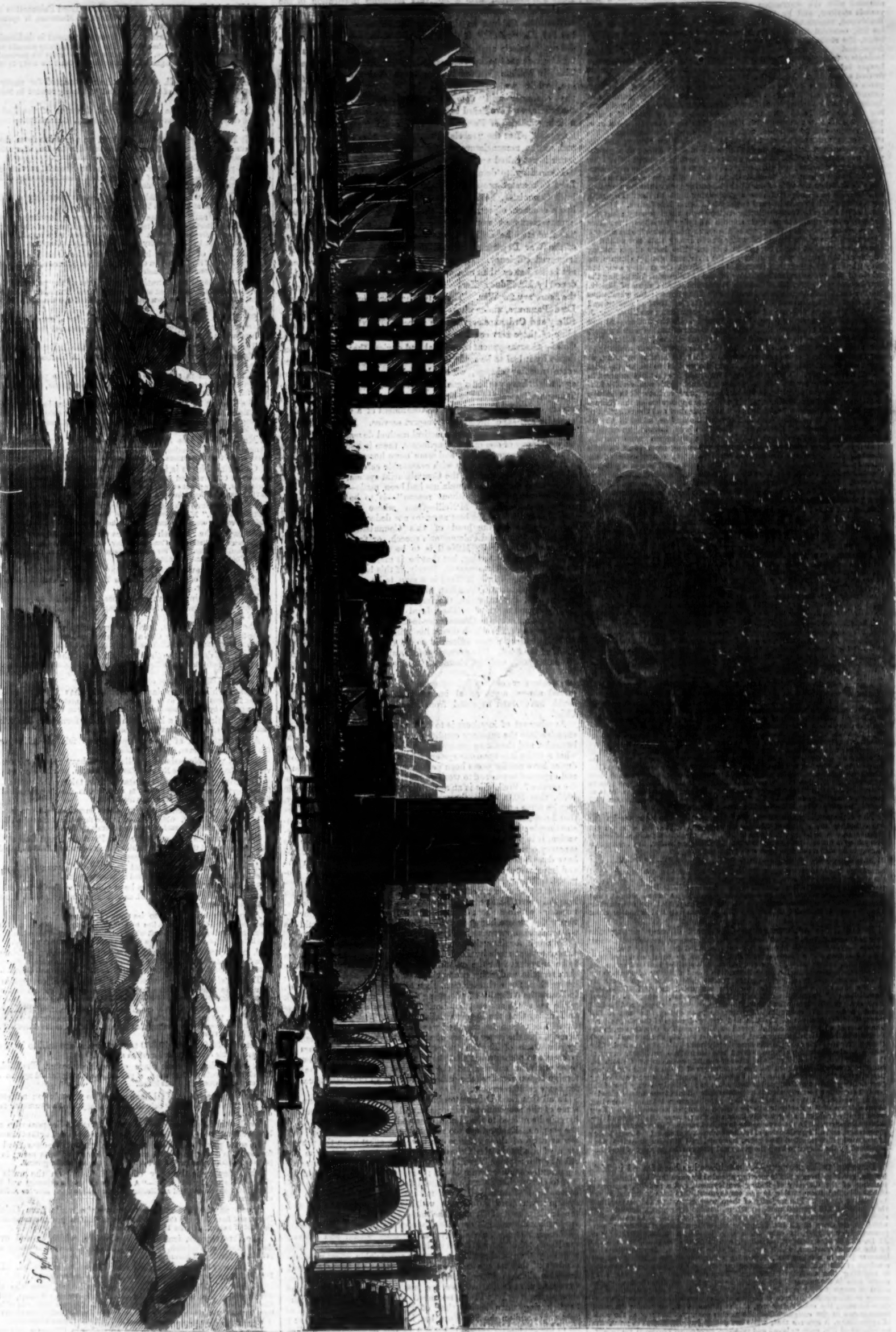
A very strong opinion exists among many persons that the fire was more the result of design than accident. This opinion has justly been excited from many circumstances. At the commencement of the week a charge was preferred by the company against several seamen connected with this ship for having broken faith with the company, by the non-fulfilment of the articles they had signed previously to her departure for the Black Sea, by deserting on her arrival at Portsmouth. This, it is presumed, has greatly incensed the men against the company, and we have been told that one of the crew was heard to express his intention of putting the "— ship in flames."

Independently of the severe loss occasioned to the General Screw Company by the destruction of this splendid ship, the inconvenience to the Government will be considerable, as the *Mauritius* was to have been ready in eight or ten days to embark 1200 men for the seat of war in the East. In the present posture of affairs the services of such a ship can ill be spared by the country.



BURNING OF THE "MAURITIUS," AT SOUTHAMPTON.

THE GREAT FIRE AT BANKSIDE, ON FRIDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 16, 1855. SKETCHED FROM THE NORTH BANK OF THE THAMES. (SEE PAGE 176.)



DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN SOUTHWARK.

On Friday night (last week), between ten and eleven o'clock, a fire, attended with the destruction of property valued at several thousand pounds sterling, and by which Mr. Thomas Jackson, stevedore of Mr. Bradwood, superintendent of the London fire-engine establishment, lost his life, occurred in the extensive premises belonging to Messrs. Routledge, the steam saw-mill proprietors, situated in Holland-street, Blackfriars-road. Adjoining these premises were others considerably larger, belonging to Sir John Rennie, the engineer, and also the bottle-ware-houses belonging to Messrs. Rickman. The whole of these premises formed a portion of the Albion-wharf, and they extended to within 100 yards of the edge of the river. The timber-yard of Messrs. Routledge extended from Holland-street almost to the water side, the granaries of Messrs. Water and Steel, four-factors, almost abutting on them, and forming the wharf. In addition to the many hundreds of loads of timber piled in stacks to a considerable height, there were spacious steam saw-mills, engine and boiler houses, with workshops and other buildings. The steam-mills are understood to have been at work on Friday, and the workpeople assert that when they left off work at eight o'clock at night the place was apparently safe. No one appears to have had charge of it after the doors were locked, and the keys given over to a party in the neighbourhood. Nothing happened to excite alarm until about twenty minutes after ten o'clock, when the wife of one of the labouring men in the employment of Messrs. Water and Steel saw a glimmering light in the timber-yard, soon after which the whole yard appeared to burst into flames. The arrival of the brigade force and other engines was most prompt; but the engineers were unable to get their engines into play for a long time after they were on the spot. The plugs of the water mains were frozen up, and even when thawed the supply of water was so scanty that not a third of the engines present could be put in motion. The large steam floating engine of the brigade was brought up the river, and got into immediate play; but in the meantime the flames had gained the mastery over the whole of the property in the vicinity of the Albion-wharf, including the warehouses and granaries of Messrs. Water and Steel; those of Messrs. Rother and Co., lime-merchants, and their dwelling-houses; the warehouses of Messrs. Rickman and Co., bottle-merchants; of Messrs. Radley and Co., and the main building of the extensive engineering works of Sir J. Rennie. For hours after it raged tremendously. In the timber-yard and steam saw-mills of Messrs. Routledge huge stacks of timber were burning, and pile after pile of timber, in a thorough state of ignition, kept falling. The first stack which fell buried Mr. Thomas Jackson, who was assisting in extinguishing the flames; and up to two o'clock on Sunday morning, so great was the intensity of the heat, it was impossible to make the least search for the body. It was the largest waterside fire that has occurred in the metropolis for several years. The whole metropolis was vividly illuminated: for some hours St. Paul's and every tower and steeple in London were brought out in brilliant relief; while the appearance of the Thames from far below London-bridge to above Westminster, and the reflection of the flames on the floating ice which covered the surface, added to the remarkable character of the scene. The frost was intense, upwards of 16 deg. below the freezing-point. Many of the firemen were actually coated in ice from head to foot, with icicles hanging from their uniform and helmets. At times the engines were "set" in consequence of the severity of the frost, and had to be thawed ere they could be again put into requisition. It was nearly four o'clock in the morning before the fire was arrested. It continued, however, to rage the whole of Saturday, and was still burning on Sunday night—more than forty-eight hours after it broke out, but no further mischief was apprehended. The total loss of property is computed at not less than £150,000.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

PREFRMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.—*Rectories:* The Rev. F. Salter to Hethe, Oxfordshire; Rev. P. Lucas to Rhosilly, Glamorgan; Rev. H. Jarrett to Bourton-on-the-Hill; Rev. A. Williams to Prior's Portion, Tiverton; Rev. C. S. F. Fanshawe to Upham, near Bishop's Waltham; Rev. H. Carey to All Saints, Southampton; Rev. J. Yolland to Timbarland, near Sleaford, Lincolnshire. *Vicarage:* The Rev. T. Beard to Burley, Wiltshire. *The Rev. G. H. Newman* to Tintonhall, near Yeovil, Somerset.

TESTIMONIAL.—The Rev. Robert Morewood, M.A., Vicar of Burton, Westmoreland, has been recently presented by his congregation with an elegant silver tea-kettle, as a testimonial of their respect and affection, and the high sense they entertain of the exemplary performance of his duties during a period of twelve years.

DEATH FROM THE COLD AT BEACHY-HEAD.—On Friday week two gentlemen proceeded from Southbourne to Beachy-head for the purpose of shooting wild fowl—Mr. Bethell, from Cornfield-terrace, and Mr. Cobb, from the Grand Parade. As night advanced they became much benumbed with cold—Mr. Bethell more particularly so. His friend, finding that he was becoming quite overpowered by the severity of the weather, and the tide fast advancing, used the most strenuous exertions to get him away from the vicinity of the water, and succeeded in dragging him a considerable distance, but, from cold and exhaustion, was obliged to discontinue his exertions. Mr. Cobb succeeded in obtaining a position in the cliff removed from the water, where he was discovered by a coast-guardman early on Saturday morning entirely insensible. Assistance being procured he was removed to his residence, where means were immediately applied to restore animation, and on Sunday he became able to articulate, and strong hopes are entertained of his recovery, although he is at present, it is said, quite blind. The body of Mr. Bethell was not recovered till Sunday morning, when it was found at Beachy-head.

Notwithstanding the severity of the winter, the new works for strengthening the citadel of Warsaw are carried on with spirit, although the thermometer is at 20 deg. Réaumur below the freezing-point; and as of course everything is frozen, the mortar is made with boiling water, the inhabitants having to furnish a cauldron from each house every day.

MONUMENT TO PROFESSOR WILSON.—A meeting of the general committee was held last week, at which it was resolved that the monument to the late Professor Wilson, should be a colossal statue of bronze, to be placed on a pedestal in the open air in some public situation in Edinburgh; and a sub-committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements. It was stated by Mr. Robert Chambers, the honorary secretary, that the subscriptions already received exceeded £1100, and that the sum required would be about £1600.

BREAD RIOTS IN LIVERPOOL.—The great distress among the poor in Liverpool has induced some public disturbances, but as yet nothing serious has occurred. On Monday morning the usual doles of bread were distributed at the various places appointed, to at least an equal number of recipients; but, unfortunately, in several instances, a spirit of insubordination and impatience was exhibited among those who found difficulty of access to the bread stores, and in a few instances parties left abruptly. Further on in the morning, considerable numbers assembled in Old Hall-street, Vauxhall-road, Scotland-road, and Tibbels-street, who, in several instances, darted into the bakers' and provision shops, and seized bread and small quantities of provisions, extending, in not a few cases, their depredations to the tills and money-drawers of the shopkeepers. The alarm of an apprehended riot spread rapidly; and the shopkeepers, in the streets which had been first menaced, began to put up their shutters and secure their premises. This example was immediately and extensively followed. The whole of the police force were ordered to immediate readiness, many of them mounted. A considerable number of special constables were sworn in, and every precaution adopted for the preservation of the peace and the protection of property. Several bakers' and provision-dealers' shops were entered by gangs of depredators and stripped of their contents; but only a very few of the really necessitous poor appeared to have been seduced into these acts of plunder and aggression. In the course of the day the police succeeded in apprehending about a dozen of the ringleaders in the various attempted shop-sackings. They were mostly Irish, and are generally known to the police as disorderly and dissolute characters. In the evening the town had resumed its ordinary evening appearance, and all apprehensions of further outbreak had ceased. Strong bodies of mounted police patrolled the streets, however, and effective measures were organised by the Mayor to keep the peace and preserve the property of the inhabitants.

DIFFICULTY IN MELBOURNE.—A manifesto has been issued in Melbourne, resulting from a public meeting attended by more than 1500 men, complaining of the difficulty of finding employment, and a petition, signed by 600 able-bodied men unable to get employment, has been presented to the Legislative Council. The majority of them were carpenters and masons, and they included 316 married men, on whom, besides their wives, depended 743 children. Estimates are given of the cost of living for a man and two children, which is set down at £3 14s. 3d. per week, while a labourer's earnings, with precarious employment, is only 8s. a day, leaving a weekly deficiency of £1 5s. 6d., besides clothing, schooling, and medical attendance, to be made by the wives' exertions, which appear not to be in request. In many cases the labourer lives in a calico tent, dispensing with many of the conveniences and comforts of life which, in the mother country, are looked upon as essential to anything like a civilised existence. They further show that, though the single man in the prime of life may, if he have a strong organisation, be enabled to rough it out, and by going through greater hardships, to try his chance at the diggings, where strength and resolution still do occasionally produce fortunes, the colony does not, at the present time, offer many flattering inducements to the emigrant from the mother country. Looking at the scale of expenditure, it appears that, while house-rent has diminished in price, the necessities of life, such as bread and potatoes, have either remained stationary, or have increased in cost.

CHANGES IN THE WAR EXECUTIVE.

LORD PALMERSTON, with a not very felicitous illustration of the position of Government in regard to the House of Commons, described the Cabinet as the King Richard who would take the head of the "rebels," if the Wat Tyler were stricken down. He did not precisely apportion the part of Tyler, but the insurgent may be supposed to be represented by Mr. Roebuck's committee. The Sir William Walworth, who is to deal the coup de grâce, has, while we write, yet to be discovered, but assuredly the character will not be claimed by Mr. Layard. On the whole, we have heard better historical parallels, and have been a little reminded of Perrault's hint to avoid "comparisons with a long tail." But the "rebels" themselves took no special umbrage; and, as the nomenclature was for them and not for the public, the latter is not called upon for protest.

Proceeding to detail the arrangements by the proffer of which Lord Palmerston proposed to induce the House to forego the Roebuck Committee, he stated that the Government and Parliament had a common object, namely, the effecting such administrative improvements as would restore vigour to our military system. The first step he designed was the reunion of the two divisions of the War Department, recently severed upon the same plea of improved efficiency. The experiment having failed, and two heads not being better than one, the office of Secretary at War, abandoned by Mr. Sidney Herbert, is to be amalgamated with that of the Secretary for War. There is, therefore, one War Minister, Lord Panmure, under whose control the civil branches of the Artillery and Ordnance services are placed. But the military discipline of those services is to be transferred to the Commander-in-Chief—an arrangement so rational and obvious that every one wonders why it had to be made in the middle of a great war. Then came another change, which, had it been made a few years ago, might have worked signal improvement. The scandals of our Transport System are to be borne no longer, and Sir James Graham's successor is charged with the establishment of a special board to organise and superintend the transport service. If this board does but work with the ordinary practical method demanded by a railway company of one of its departments, there is hope that when we obtain some more soldiers, and some more horses, they will be forwarded to their destination with reasonable care and precaution.

The next great scandal, the Commissariat system, of which Lord Palmerston stated that complaints had been made—"not," he was good enough to fear, "without reason"—is to be dealt with by commission. Sir J. McNeill—from whose long and strong anti-Russian efforts the best auguries are deduced for his zealous action—is to be the head of this Commission. But we do not gather from Lord Palmerston's speech, or from that of Lord Panmure, that Sir J. McNeill is to be invested with powers of reforming and controlling, but that he is merely to investigate, and to suggest to the Government. Surely, if this be so, the proposal is mere trifling. Sir J. McNeill is a man to be trusted. Why are not powers conferred upon him which shall enable him not only to recommend, but to make, the improvements for which there is really no time to wait? Then, Lord Palmerston stated that, in order to relieve the Commander-in-Chief from the necessity of attending to details which divert his mind from the larger duties of his situation, a new officer is to be created, to be called the Chief of the Staff. The necessity of this appointment has long been too notorious, and its character is perfectly well understood. Perhaps, in itself, the arrangement has its advantages; and, upon the whole, this mode of dealing with a difficulty which has acquired almost a proverbial importance is as straightforward as could have been expected from friends of the Commander-in-Chief.

Another set of inquirers is to be sent to the Crimea, in order to examine into the sanitary condition of the ships, the hospitals, the barracks, and the Camp generally. This is sensible enough; but what a satire it is upon our system that officials charged with those duties have not for years been permanently attached to the Army, and expected to proceed to work as regularly as any other portion of the service? Well, this is an age of discoveries; and we discover, in 1855, that 50,000 men, thrown into a camp in a strange country, require some sanitary attention. It is almost as gratifying to see that Lord Raglan has ordered up an army of scavengers from Constantinople; and, if the officials at Balaklava will permit the innovation, it is probable that the efforts of these allies will enable the sanitary commissioners to report more favourably than they could have done before the discovery in question. A hospital at Smyrna and improvements in the military hospitals at home are also promised. The "Crown of Ionia" is a delicious place for a convalescent, and even an official could hardly select a bad site for an hospital there. Moreover, there is one of the largest of leech-nurseries within a short distance of the place; a piece of information which we are happy to tender to the authorities—it would be too much to suppose it already in their possession.

So much for investigation and reform; there was one other announcement made by Lord Palmerston, namely, that a bill was to be introduced for the enlistment of men more advanced in age than recruits under the present system may be, and also for enlisting them for a shorter term than at present. This, of course, indicates the difficulty of procuring soldiers; and we may remark while upon the subject that Lord Palmerston apprised the House on Monday that the Foreign Enlistment Act had proved inoperative. The reason he assigned was manifestly an insufficient one, namely, that the lower classes on the Continent had felt so insulted by the tone of English newspapers and English senators in reference to mercenaries, that they had refused to sell their swords to so unenviable a nation; but the fact that we are not to have a foreign legion remains the same, and hence an increased necessity for home reinforcements.

In all that Lord Palmerston has proposed there is good, and in some of the propositions immediate and large advantage, and the bargain he offered to the House deserved full consideration. But the people of England are too reasonable not to bear in mind that few or none of these reforms can have any effect upon the present state of affairs in the Crimea. Lord Palmerston has come into office as the popular War Minister, and his name and character are a guarantee against retrogression; but it would be absurd and unjust to expect that Sebastopol should fall one hour the sooner because he is Premier. If it fall it will be despite the old system; and Lord Palmerston will have had nothing to do with the exploit, and if it stand he must not be charged with disappointing the nation's desire. He appears to be going to work in thorough earnest, and deserves all support within and without the House; but these reforms of his may tell upon our next war, assuredly they will produce a scarcely appreciable effect upon the conduct of that we are now waging. Nothing is fairer or more desirable than to know exactly what we have a right to expect from a man, as in that case we are just judges of his merits and shortcomings. It will be no merit of Lord Palmerston if the English flag wave beside that of France on the Cathedral of Sebastopol and on the Star Fort, but he will not deserve to lose a jot of his popularity should the state of our army have compelled us—*abest omen*—to relinquish the task to our gallant allies.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

Three Irish Peasages being now extinct, Lord Palmerston has the power of conferring one. Mr. Henry Herbert, of Muckross, is spoken of as likely to be the person selected for the honour.

The Emperor of Austria at the present moment is dedicating his time almost exclusively to the army. The greatest activity prevails in all the departments of the War-office, to which the Emperor gives his personal attention. Francis Joseph has signified his intention to head his army in case of a general European war.

Mr. W. F. Campbell, of Islay, who represented for many years Argyllshire in the House of Commons, and who lately resided in Normandy, died last week.

The King of Prussia has conferred the star of the Red Eagle, second class, with oak leaves, on M. de Hincskaly, General Police Director of Berlin.

His Excellency Baron Von Usedom, on a mission from the Court of Berlin, and Madame Von Usedom, have arrived in London, after a detention at Brescia arising from the indisposition of his Excellency.

The pay of General Ochsenbein in the French service is to be 20,000 f. a year; and in case of his being killed in battle a pension of 10,000 f. a year is to be ensured to his widow.

Riza Pacha, who is to take part in the approaching conferences at Vienna, landed at Trieste on Thursday week.

The Earl and Countess Delaware gave a luncheon upon the frozen lake in Buckhurst-park, last week, to a large party of the neighbouring gentry; and afterwards about 150 school children were regaled with a hot dinner on the ice by the liberality of the noble Earl and Countess.

The King of Bavaria has conferred the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of St. Michael on General Count de Schramm, Senator and President of the Committee of Industry.

Colonel Chevalier Lanati, the president of the permanent court-martial at Parma, was stabbed on the night of the 11th inst., while returning home, a few steps from his own door. He received five wounds, none of which are mortal.

Sir Moses Montefiore has left Paris for Jerusalem, with the object of founding a hospital in that city. He has obtained funds from the Jews of London and the Jews of Australia.

There is a report in Vienna that the body of the Duke of Reichstadt is to be removed from thence to Paris. A functionary is to be sent from Paris to this end.

A monument is about to be erected in the parish church of Mount Shannon to the memory of the late Lord Fitzgibbon, of the 8th Hussars, who fell at the battle of Alma.

The Prefect of the Seine gave a magnificent ball at the Hôtel de Ville on Saturday evening. There were upwards of 6000 guests present, including Queen Christina of Spain and her family, the Ministers, and great public functionaries, &c.

Mr. Hadfield, late Secretary to the South American Liverpool Company, has left London, via Marseilles, for Constantinople, to take charge there of the fleet of steamers of his company chartered by the Government.

Catherine Hayes is in Calcutta, having sailed thither after great success in California and Australia. She will give a few concerts in our Indian metropolis, where great expectation is raised to hear her, and then return home—having encircled the globe on a singing mission.

In consequence of the great success obtained at Dresden by the "Etoile du Nord," M. Meyerbeer was, on the 9th inst., called to the Royal box, and received the cross of Commander of the Order of Albert.

Amongst the English Catholics who bore tapers before his Holiness at St. Peter's on Candlemas-day were Lord Lovat, Sir James Fitzgerald, and Mr. Stourton. Sir James's sister took the veil at the Convent of the Sagro Cuore the same morning.

On Monday evening Mrs. Fanny Kemble gave a reading of Shakspere's play of "Henry V." in the Town-hall at Oxford, to a large and brilliant assemblage.

Hallé, the eminent pianist, has been compelled to renounce engagements in Manchester and London, owing to an accident, which has injured one of his fingers.

The Earl of Cardigan, having been elected an honorary member of the Senior United Service Club a few days since, was entertained at dinner on Tuesday evening at the Club-house, by a select circle of the leading members.

For three days in the first week in June there will be a grand meeting of chess-players at Leamington, at which Lord Lyttelton is to act as president. Many matches between players of celebrity and between London and provincial clubs will come off.

Prince Ghika, Hospodar of Moldavia, has been compelled to borrow 2,400,000 piastres, at 10 per cent interest, to make head against the difficulties caused by the Russian occupation. A banker at Vienna lends the money.

Early in the spring a large camp will be formed in the Phoenix-park, Dublin, under the command of Lord Seston.

A strong shock of an earthquake was felt at Callao on the 6th ult., which, however, did very little damage.

Several valuable beds of excellent coal have recently been discovered on the estates of the Earl of Wilton, at Denton, near Manchester.

The New York Churchman states that, taking the whole United States together, much more money is expended in the single article of cigars than upon all the common schools in the Union.

A schism has occurred among the members of the far-famed Cologne Choral Society, which has on two or three occasions visited England. The unpleasantness, it is said, threatens to break up the society.

The Committee who conducted the Patriotic Fund Ball at Guildhall have published their accounts, which show a balance of £509 9s. in aid of the Fund, after the payment of all expenses.

A letter from Berné says that the English Government has given an order in that town for ten thousand military uniforms.

Since April, 1853, there has been paid to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners the sum of £20,103 1s. 6d. on account of suspended stalls in cathedral and collegiate churches.

An open iron bridge is to be constructed on the Rhine. The site appropriated for the bridge lies between the square known as the Frankenplatz, in Cologne, and the present wharf close to the railroad terminus at Deutz. The height of the arches will more than admit of the steamers passing.

A large quantity of wires for the telegraph with the Crimea has been landed at Varna, so that we may now soon expect to have a direct communication established between the seat of war and France and England.

The Pope's bull inaugurating the immaculate conception as a dogma of the Roman Catholic faith was read on Sunday, with all the appliances of ecclesiastical pomp, at St. Nicholas's Church, Liverpool.

A fine swan was found on Tuesday week in the Plain of St. Denis, alive, but much exhausted. It had round its neck a silver collar, with an inscription engraved on it, stating that the bird belonged to the domain of Prince Hohenlohe, in Germany.

Between 30,000 and 40,000 tons of guano are said to be now on the way to this country from American shippers.

A fatal collision took place on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway, last week, a pilot-engine having dashed against a passenger train. One person was killed.

The Corporation of Hull have agreed to a resolution authorising the formation of Reformatory Schools, and have appointed a committee to carry out the same.

Twelve thousand cuirasses, intended for the Sappers who are to lead the French assault on Sebastopol, have been forwarded to the Crimea.

In some parts of Ireland the people cannot procure food even for money, in consequence of the roads being blocked up with snow; in some parts as much as from twelve to twenty feet of it lies on the ground.

The following is the copy of a bill posted on the walls of a village in the vicinity of Cuper—"A lecture on total abstinence will be delivered in the open air, and a collection will be made at the door to defray the expenses."

A company has undertaken to convey the mails from Calais to Dover, and from Dover to Calais, every day for fifteen years, commencing on the first of next month, for 100,000 f. a year.

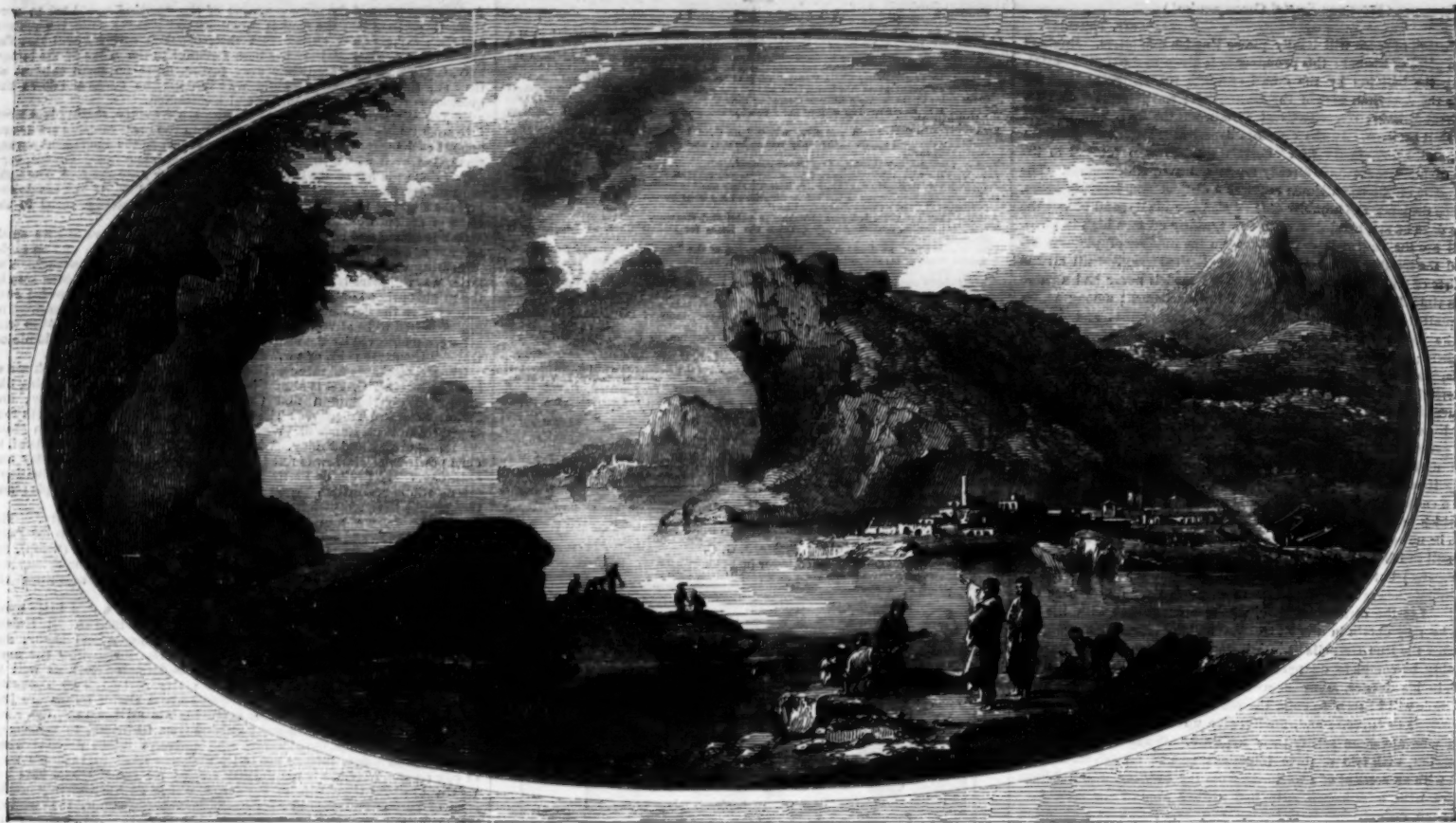
The *Persuader*, iron screw troop-ship, which turned over in the East Dock, at Woolwich, on Saturday, Jan. 20, was raised to nearly a perpendicular position on Saturday last.

In Tuscany seventy Mazzinists have been apprehended. In the Pontifical States several political arrests have likewise been made.

Khosrew Pacha, who died on the 2nd inst., was the oldest servant of the Turkish empire. He had served under five Sultans, and had filled in succession all the first posts in the State. He was very vain of having been born in the same year as Napoleon the Great, Chateaubriand, the Duke of Wellington, Marshal Soult, Mehmet Ali, and other remarkable men.

Upwards of 200 joiners are out on strike in Glasgow this week; the difference arising from an alteration in the number of daily hours of work.

The picture which we engrave is one of two very admirable specimens in the Bridgewater Gallery. It is of small dimensions, 5 ft. 6 in. wide, by 2 ft. high, and remarkable as being one of the most highly-finished and brilliantly-painted works of the artist. It was purchased by the late Duke of Bridgewater from the Prædici Collection,



"A LANDSCAPE"—BY SALVATOR ROSA.—IN THE BRIDGEWATER GALLERY.

where it was known under the name of "Les Augures," or the "Sooth-sayers." The scene is on the bold rocky coast in Calabria, a small arm of the sea stretching across the picture; in the middle distance is a small fishing town, where a group of men are seen busily employed tarring a boat. Another group of spirited figures, two of whom have the bearing of men in authority, enriches the foreground.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

(THIRD NOTICE.)

AMONG the contributors to the Institution whose pictures are hung not altogether according to the real merits of the works they have sent, we would mention Mr. F. Underhill, the painter of two pictures called "Free Fittings," and "The Wheatheaf." The former is of that class of composition which has grown somewhat into fashion of late among painters; the latter (engraved in our present Number) has long been a favourite subject with them, and will continue to be so long as Nature is looked to with

a reverential eye by students anxious to transfer her beauties to their canvas.

If we turn over the Catalogues of our Exhibitions of Pictures from the first London Exhibition to the present time—a period now nearly approaching to a century—we shall see how fruitful a subject the wheatheaf has been to English artists. We could reckon up some sixty pictures on the subject of Boaz and Ruth; and a still greater number on the subject of Palemon and Lavinia; but none that we can call to mind that have taken a place among the best engravings, or among pictures of known reputation. Nor is Mr. Underhill's "Wheatheaf," with its many merits, likely to take rank among pictures destined to live. He has not been ambitious. He has sought to render a frequent incident in English autumnal life, and has given us a wheat-field peopled with children, gracefully playing among its newly-cut corn. We are not altogether pleased with the colouring which Mr. Underhill has adopted, but he has, at any rate, given us a picture which few will look on without pleasure.

Mr. G. Smith—who contributes two small pictures of merit, and, better still, of promise—is a young artist of whom we wish to speak well. Mr.

Sheepshanks, the great collector, was, it is said, the first person attracted by his merits, and the first, we believe, who gave him a commission. Mr. Sheepshanks has evidently advised him to give his nights and days to the study of Mulready; and Mr. Smith has followed his patron's advice with so much fidelity that we can trace Mulready's care and finish, and some of his peculiarities, in the two pictures he has sent to the British Institution. Having caught many of the characteristic excellences of one great painter, Mr. Smith will now, we hope, desert his first love and take on with a new. We would recommend the early works of Wilkie to his attention, as a change for the better—above all, we would suggest the careful study of Teniers as a part of an artist's education which Mr. Smith would do wrong to neglect. Wilkie painted whenever he could with a Teniers by his side, and caught inspiration from the crisp touches and pearly tints of the illustrious Dutchman. Mr. Smith, in imitation of Webster, Goodall, and others, is too apt to smooth over his flesh, and to be content with an appearance of enamel; Teniers, in his best pictures, leaves the sharp but harmonious touches of a master's brush.



"THE WHEATHEAF."—PAINTED BY F. UNDERHILL.—FROM THE EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.



SIR SAMUEL BIGNOLD, M.P. FOR NORWICH.—FROM A BUST BY G. G. ADAMS.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

EVERY interval between Session and Session sees changes in the representation of the kind to furnish fresh occupation to the indefatigable Mr. Dod. Out of nearly 700 members of the House of Commons, death and the ordinary chances of human life take annual tribute. At the present epoch, when so many of the flower of our aristocracy are in active service, and when the benches of either House of Parliament are shadowed with the sorrow of those who have lost relatives in battle, it was to be expected that the vacancies would be more numerous, and that there would be a more than ordinary substitution of new for old members. Nor is the list of new elections complete even while we write; so that we profess only to give a notice (and that a very brief one) of some of the gentlemen who have been returned to Parliament since the close of the last Session of Parliament.

The most important of these, whether as regards the constituency presented, or the personal merit of the representative, is Lord ERINGTON; of whom we gave so recently given a memoir that it is unnecessary to repeat here the incidents of his life.

An honourable gentleman, who will figure on the list of "useful" members, is Sir SAMUEL BIGNOLD, the newly-elected member for Norwich. A native of that city, where the greater part of his life has been spent, he has acquired the respect, the confidence, and even the affection of his fellow-citizens, in spite of the strong political feelings by which they are agitated. Sir Samuel Bignold was born in 1791, third and youngest son of Thomas Bignold, Esq., founder of two of the largest and most prosperous insurance-offices in the country. Sir Samuel succeeded his father in his appointments, and has presided over the Fire-office since the year 1814, and over the Life-office since 1818. The former society now insures upwards of 63 millions of property, and the latter between 5 and 6 millions on lives. Sir Samuel is likewise an active supporter of most of the public institutions in the eastern district of the kingdom. He is also an active member of the Corporation; having served the office of Sheriff in 1830, and of Mayor in 1833, 1845, and 1853. Sir Samuel received the honour of knighthood on the occasion of presenting an address to her Majesty on the 3rd of May, 1853, on the subject of the Russian War. When the exigencies of the British army in the Crimea led the Government to effect the railway contract with Mr. Peto, which obliged that gentleman to resign his seat, Sir Samuel Bignold was put forward as a candidate likely to unite the suffrages of the moderate Liberals with those of the Conservatives. He is himself a Conservative, but of a very moderate and Liberal cast; and he is a general favourite with his fellow-citizens, from the probity of his conduct and the amenity of his manners. His competitor had not a chance. His long experience as a man of affairs, and the clear good sense by which he is characterised, will give him much weight in the House as a practical man on practical questions. The accompanying Portrait is from a bust by Mr. G. G. Adams, of Sloane-street.

Mr. JOHN HENRY GURNEY, the new member for King's Lynn, is also a Norwich man, where he is banker. He married the daughter of Richard Hanbury Gurney, of Thirkethorn, who was for so many years member for



MR. J. H. GURNEY, M.P. FOR KING'S LYNN.

Norwich. He is a magistrate for the city and county; and exactly one of those men who, under a healthy operation of the representative system, would be elected for the locality in which they are known, to the exclusion of mere strangers, speculating upon political excitement and the lower order of electorating arts. It is creditable to these two Norfolk towns—Norwich and King's Lynn—that they should have selected such men as Mr. Gurney and Sir Samuel Bignold. Mr. Gurney is the son of the late Joseph John Gurney, of Earham-hall, Norwich, by a daughter of John Burbeck, Esq., of King's Lynn. He is a Liberal, of the moderate school; favourable to Parliamentary Reform, but not to the Ballot; opposed to Maynooth, but ready to admit the Jews to Parliament; he also objects to unnecessary Government interference with the education of the people. Mr. Gurney was born in 1819.



CURIOSITIES FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE LATE MR. T. WINDUS, F.R.S.

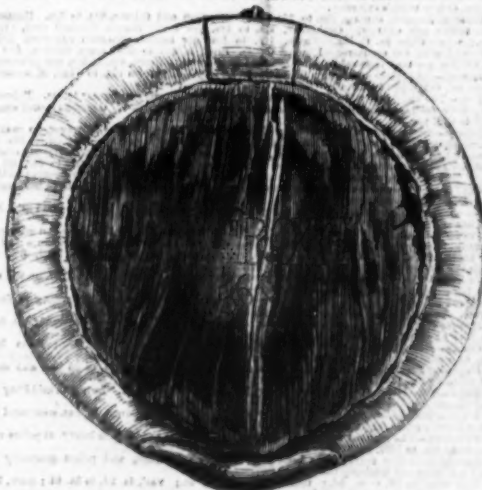
THE WINDUS COLLECTION.

SUCH of our readers as are familiar with the pleasant suburban locality of Stamford-hill may recollect that on the east side is a building in the Tudor style. Mr. Paterson, "the Murray" of other days, records the edifice as "Gothic Hall"—a designation sufficiently exact for popular identification among the villas of Stamford-hill. This building was the Museum of the late Mr. Thomas Windus, one of the oldest Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries; and here he assembled a large collection of "Curiosities," principally of Mediaeval art; which, in consequence of the recent death of the proprietor, are to be dispersed by auction next week, by Messrs. Christie and Manson, the sale commencing on the 27th inst.

As the Collection comprised several articles of historic interest, and may hereafter be lost sight of, we have illustrated a few specimens. It is very rich in rare gems, intaglios, fine ivory and other carvings, bronzes, chasings, extremely rare illuminated missals (among which is the celebrated Blandford Missal), coins and medals, Etruscan pottery, and other miscellaneous antiquities. There are also some fine drawings by old masters.

Foremost in the Collection, as well as in the group of objects we have engraved, stands the renowned Shakespearean relic of the Boar's Head. It is carved in boxwood, and set in a frame formed of two tanks, mounted in silver. An inscription is engraved at the back, which reads thus:—"Wm. Brooke: Landlord of the Boar's Head, Etc. A.D. 1566." This interesting work was found in removing a mound in Whitechapel formed from the rubbish of the Great Fire.

Next in point of rarity and value must be ranked the very celebrated bust of Augustus, sculptured by Dioscorides, the head and neck of which are formed of one magnificent opal; the drapery of silver, beautifully chased; the Imperial toga, fastened with a head of Jupiter, of emerald sculptured in cameo. This has been generally considered one of the finest and most unique gems in Europe, and originally came from the Jennings Collection. A representation of it will be found in our Engraving. The small Ring in our Illustration is set with an extremely fine Greek cameo



REVERSE OF THE SHAKESPEAREAN "BOAR'S HEAD" RELIC.

of a head of Aspasia, as Minerva, in a helmet ornamented with masks of Pericles, Socrates, and Alcibiades, onyx of four carats. The other ring represented is a massive Papal one of brass gilt, chased with the arms of Pope Pius II., of the Piccolomini family, with Papal tiara, set with a large white topaz, and the emblems of the Evangelists.

In the centre of the Group is a very beautiful oval Ivory Casket, carved in high relief, with a frieze of Tritons and Sea Nymphs, and surmounted with a Cupid on a Dolphin, the whole mounted and lined with silver gilt. It was presented to Lord Hawke, on his victory in 1759, and purchased at the sale of his effects. There is also an extremely fine carved Ivory Tankard, of extraordinary size, by Flemings, which our space would not allow us to engrave.

In the background of our Engraving will be seen a fine Ivory Tankard, carved with a combat of marine deities, &c., and on the bottom of which is engraved the arms of Matthias Corvinus, King of Hungary, anno 1460. There is also represented a highly interesting relic, consisting of an oval box made from the wood of the Boscebel oak, with a chasings of Charles in the Oak on the lid, and an inscription round the sides. It is mounted and lined with silver.

TURKISH PATRIOTISM.—The example of our ladies at home has borne fruit in the harems of Pera and Stamboul. The prison horrors of these sacred recesses are plying every nerve and needle in making up *sharbas* (warm jackets) for the Turkish troops in the Crimea. Patriotism has all at once become fashionable, and rose-water divinities, who never before knew severer toil than the thrumming of a guitar, or the patting of a pacha's cheek, are now working "over-time" at all the draggeries of slip-work. A public subscription, also on the model of our English one, though of course comparatively trifling in the amount of its proceeds, has procured the funds for the purchase of the materials, which are being thus rapidly made up by the peris of the capital, and in a short time the soldiers of the Sultan will be fortified against the Crimean climate as well as the best of their infidel fellow-warriors. After this, who will say that there is not hope of the Turks—when the influence of Western example penetrates within even the jealously-guarded and conservative recesses of the harems, and bears fruit in such praiseworthy and womanly results!—Letter from Constantinople, Feb. 1.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. LITWALL, THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE EARLY CLOSING ASSOCIATION. The service which Mr. Litwall has rendered by the Early Closing movement is too well known to require comment. To his zealous and indefatigable exertions, aided by the advocacy of the press, the pulpit, and public sympathy, is to be ascribed the success of this philanthropic cause. A deserved tribute was paid to this gentleman last week by the presentation of a testimonial, which was signed by the following gentlemen:—Presented to J. LITWALL, Esq., Hon. Secretary, to the Early Closing Association, by the Warehousemen of the city of London, as a mark of

(From our City Correspondent.)

PREFERENCE SHARES—Aberdeen, 100; Caledonian, £10, 98; Eastern Counties (No. 2), 3 prem.; Ditto, New Six per Cent Stock, 134; Great Western Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 97; Ditto, Birmingham, 10; Ditto, Chester, Eight per Cent, 164; Ditto, Birmingham Stock, 70; London and North-Western, Five per Cent, 116; Midland, Bristol, and Birmingham, Six per Cent, 1334; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, Six per Cent, 112; South Devon, 18; Stockton and Darlington, Five per Cent, 18.

FOREIGN—Antwerp and Rotterdam, 63; East Indian Guaranteed Five per Cent, 214; Great London, 21; Ditto, Obligations, 24; Great Western, 96; Canada, 96; Hamilton and Toronto, 19; Ditto, Six per Cent, 99.

Mining Shares have been tolerably steady.—St. John del Rey have been done at 20; Cobro Copper, 47½; Copiapo, 12; English and Australian Copper, 1½; Linres, 74.

Yargate and Lendenbait.—Each kind of trout has moved off heavily, as follows:—
 Reef, from 2s. 3d. to 4s. 4d.; mutton, 2s. 3d. to 4s. 3d.; veal, 3s. 10d. to 4s. 10d.; pork,
 4s. to 4s. 4d. per 5 lbs. by the carriage. ROBERT HANBURY.

On the 15th inst., at his residence, Lyphall-terrace, Cheltenham, J. Anderson, Esq., M.D., Deputy Inspector of Hospitals and Fleets, aged 67.

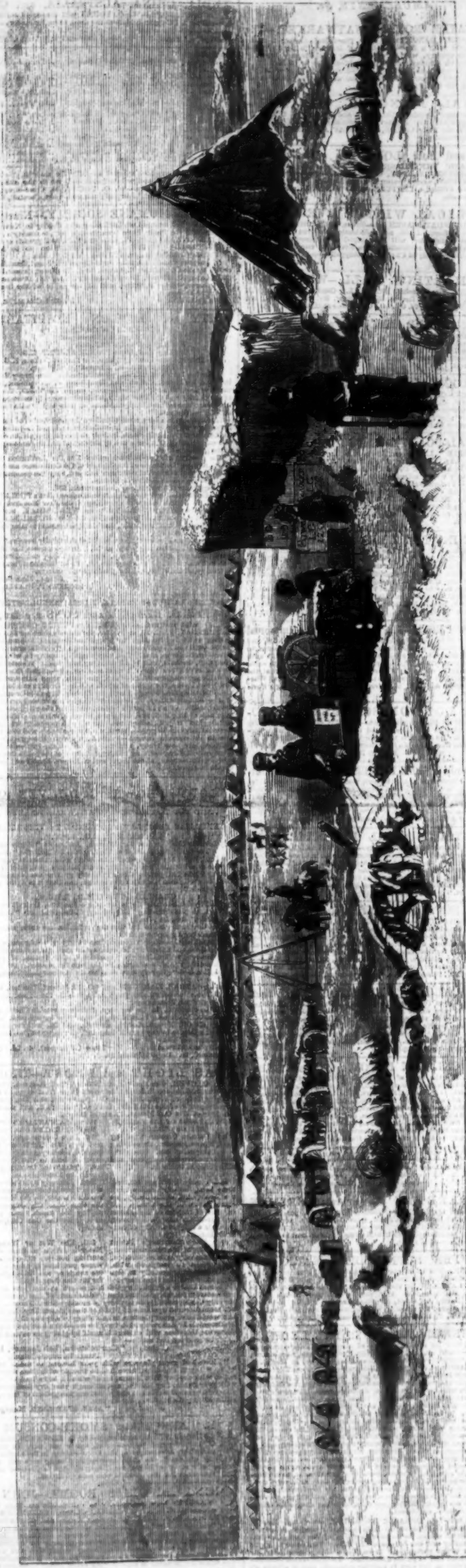
REVES' WATER-COLOURS.

quest." And I beg to express sincere and deep regret for so doing.

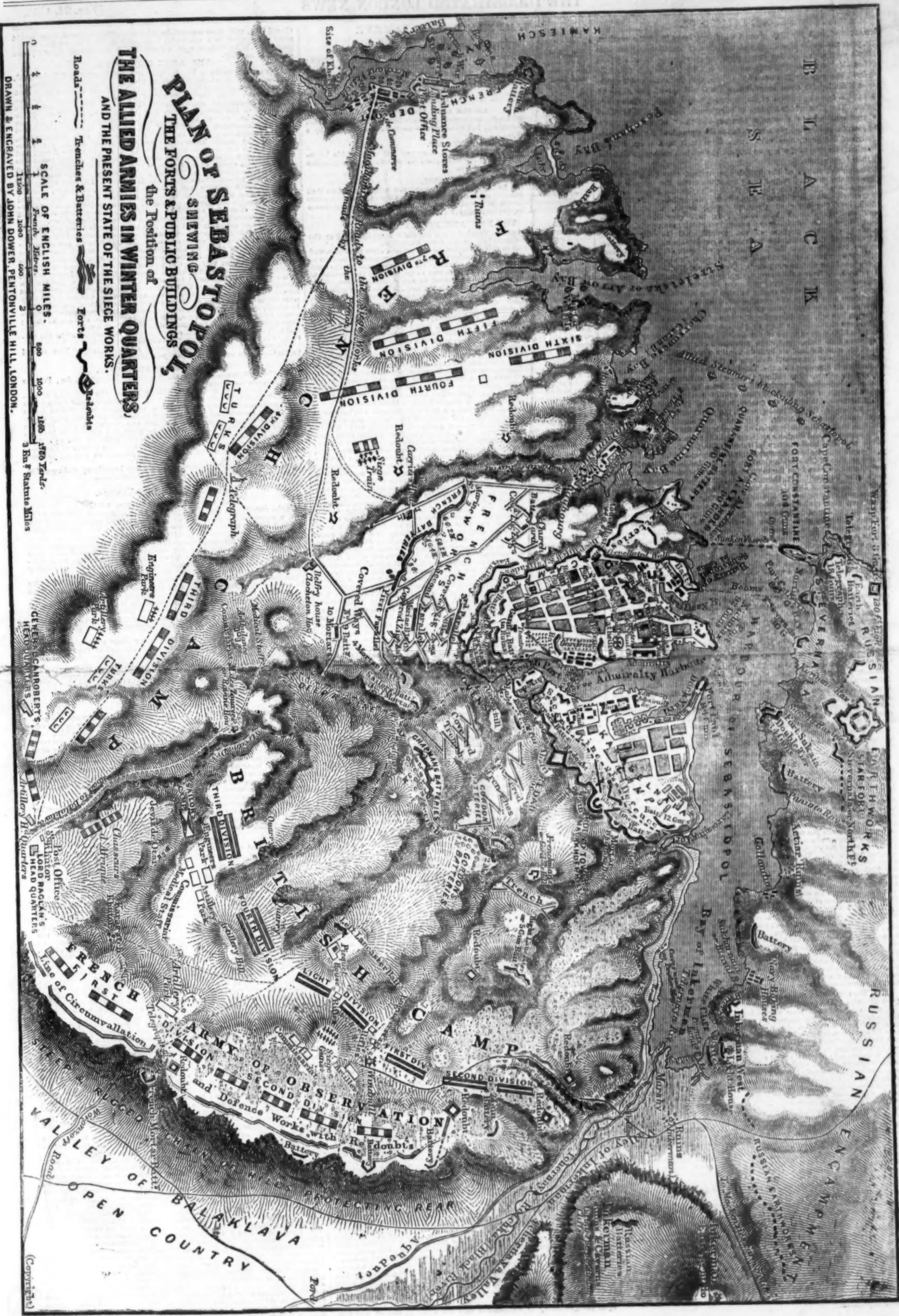
S K E T C H E S S E B A S T O P O L — (SEE PAGE 170.)



MAJOR CHARLES MORRIS'S BATTERY, BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.



DEPOT OF THE RIGHT ATTACK SIEGE-TRAIN, BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.



BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

SEBASTOPOL, and the high ground which overlooks it on the southern side, present a series of such abrupt and sinuous undulations, that it is difficult even with a perfect glass and a commanding position to gain a perfect idea of them. Hitherto we have had no plan which faithfully rendered the peculiar features of the place, and there was much consequent difficulty for those interested in the operations of the Allies in finding the correct positions of divisions, regiments, roads, batteries, and works. The Plan which appears in our present Number will be found to represent with the utmost accuracy the "lie" of the ground on the plateau, or elevated plain which forms the strength of the Allied positions, and the precipitous vales which intersect it in a south-westerly direction, carrying to the bay or harbour the various streamlets that rise in their higher parts.

The perfect nature of the British encampment may be judged by a glance at the steep and rugged precipices which arrest the progress of an enemy advancing from the plain of the Tchernaya; the French army of observation alone, without the numerous redoubts and works which line the brow of these precipices, might, it would seem, have sufficed to check any attempt in that quarter. The Russians knew this and have never ventured even within long gunshot of that portion of the ground, but in the northern extremity of the chain, the precipices were intersected by convenient ravines, through which the Russians, at the battle of Inkerman, were enabled to penetrate without being seen, and with the aid of that thick fog which proved so fatal to our pickets. Notwithstanding the remonstrances of Sir De Lacy Evans, the two spurs which jut out into the vale of the Tchernaya on each side of the Ravine des Zouaves had been left unprotected, which permitted the enemy to train his guns against us on the very spot where now stands the great redoubt on the right of the Second Division; and the carelessness of the picket in the Right Lancaster or Five-gun Battery, in not reporting the noise of carts which they heard in the night, gave the Russians time to place a powerful battery which, firing from the high ground north of the Second Division, placed our troops as they came into action under the murderous effects of a cross fire, which ceased but once for half an hour during the whole day.

The position of the several divisions to the southward of Inkerman explains how it happened that the Third and Fourth took less part in the action than others. The Sailors' Camp, which during many months was pitched at the top of the ravine leading down to Gordon's Battery, was moved lately, and will be found close to the Artillery Park behind the Third Division. It was at the quarry, in front of the same division, that Lord Raglan had his field headquarters, his permanent residence being a comfortable house at Khutor. There were not wanting invidious comparisons, even at this early period of the attack, between the warmth and pleasantness of Lord Raglan's residence and the tents at no great distance, which were the headquarters of General Canrobert. But Canrobert is young and can bear hard weather better than our old leaders.

The position of Chapman's, Gordon's, and the Lancaster Batteries shows how distant we were from the town at the commencement of the fire on the 17th of October. Yet, though distant, they were effective works, by their strength, their height, and breadth. Had the works of the French been as well constructed at the first moment, we might possibly have a different aspect of affairs from that which meets the eye at this time. The failure of our attacks, however, rendered fresh works necessary, and the plan before us gives an idea of the zig-zag lines made with so much labour by our men to approach the enemy's position. The French, it will be seen by the forwardness of their third parallel, are within 300 yards of the walls, and within 150 of the salient angle of one of the works. Formidable as the outer system of the Russian defence appears, it is evident that they anticipate being forced in it. It has been impossible to ascertain the form of the works which make up the ensemble of the second line of defence, but it has not been difficult to trace the general "lie" of those works, which are likely to be remarkably stout and defensible on the side of the French attack. It is, believed, however, that the co-operation of our fleet, whose blockading positions we have marked, will counter-balance these difficulties.

The southern side of Sebastopol being once taken from the enemy, it will be observed that the Allies will have some considerable labour still on hand to reduce the northern, of which the batteries are heavily armed, whilst the approach to them is rendered additionally hazardous by the earthen lines which the Russians have made to the north of the road leading to Mackenzie's Farm. The difficulty of getting up to these positions, as well as to those which are occupied by the batteries of Inkerman ruins, is almost as great for us as would be the attack by the Russians of the steep chain opposite to it, which the French corps, under General Bosquet, defends.

The superiority of the French in organisation and numbers has enabled them to make a macadamised road from Kamiesch to the siege works. On the English side no such road is visible, and our carts and draught beasts follow a track, and nothing else. The navies, however, are at work, and we may have to add shortly a line of railway to our plan of Sebastopol.

A PICKET ADVENTURE.—As I was riding out towards the Camp this afternoon, with an officer of the Scots Fusilier Guards, I witnessed a refreshing instance of the vigilance of our men. We rode out along the valley towards the Woronzoff road, and kept a little too much to our right, so that, happening to look towards the top of a mound about 300 yards distant, the first thing that struck us was the head of a Cosack as he crouched down to escape observation, in the hope that with the aid of his picket he could make us prisoners. It was just as well a bullet had not struck either of us, but, as a rule, sentries never fire on stragglers passing within range. A little in advance of, and keeping towards the mound on our right, was an English soldier; behind him, at the distance of some 400 yards, another soldier was seen running, shouting at the top of his voice, with his firelock at the present. The first man kept walking rapidly on. The other halted and fired, and the ball knocked the ear off close to him. Still the fellow kept on, and we were riding up to see what he was, when a Heavy Dragoon started at a gallop from the cavalry picket-house, and rode between the man and the hill. The foot soldier turned back at once with the Dragoon, who marched him to the picket-house, and then went up to the other man. We found this poor fellow was a sentry from the hill in front of the Highland Battery, and that he had run all the distance after the other man, whom he had seen edging up towards the Russian lines along the plain. He returned at once to his post, and in a quarter of an hour more he was on his back beat, pacing up and down, with his eye fixed on the enemy. It was amusing to watch the Cosack all this time. Nothing could be seen of him for the time but his little bullet head over the bank. He evidently imagined that by lying close he might get one of us; but he was disappointed, for the Dragoon requested us to go more to the left, and thus debarricaded the use of a path which many of the men of the regiments of the right of the Camp had been in the habit of taking for a long time past. It is now tabooed, however, as the Cosacks seem to have pushed their ventures somewhat closer than they have been for some weeks past.—*Letter from the Camp, Feb. 5.*

RED TAPE IN THE CRIMEA.—A friend who came down yesterday from Balaklava gives me accounts of the continued hardships of our troops. The fine weather had to some degree lessened the intensity of the cold, and had lessened the need for the most; but the temperature was still at a painfully low point, and frosty days were almost none. Many of the wooden huts, which are, and have been for some time, lying on the beach at Balaklava for want of means to transport them to the Camp, are being broken up by the soldiers and used as firewood—a better use than that they should continue to lie there doing good to nobody. This, however, only reminds me of another instance of commissariat neglect, which is even more to be wondered at and less excused than many others with which the public are already familiar. From the mouth of the Bosphorus, round along the southern shores of the Black Sea, to Trebizond and Batoum—a distance of some 600 miles—forest succeeds forest down to the very shore, offering facilities for the procurement of any amount of firewood which the Allied armies could require. The sailing distance is not much above a week or ten days thence to the Crimea; and why, with hundreds of transports at our disposal, we have not drawn supplies of fuel from these vast woods so conveniently at hand, I profess myself unable to understand. This source of supply was suggested to the Commissary-General many weeks ago, but without any result following from the hint; and when he was at the same time informed that the same coast could furnish him with any amount of grain he might require, his reply was, "There is no regular market." No regular market? Why all the world knows that a demand would create a market; and were it not so, our Commissary and Commissary Agents at Sinope, Samson, and Trebizond, could secure the delivery at these ports of 20,000 quarters of barley within a fortnight. Official wisdom, however, cannot see this, and our horses must continue to die in consequence.—*Letter from Constantinople, Feb. 5.*

THE FRENCH GREAT EXHIBITION.—As flowers and horticultural products are not, from their perishable nature, to be admitted to the Universal Exhibition of 1855, the French Government has given permission to the Imperial Horticultural Society of Paris to establish a special permanent exhibition of such products from the 1st of May to the 31st of October. In consequence, the society has published a notice, calling on horticulturists, French and foreign, to lend their aid in rendering the Horticultural Exhibition as striking as possible. A vast garden, with conservatories and hot-houses, is to be prepared in the Champs Elysees, and all articles connected with horticulture will be received there, and prizes awarded for such objects as are deemed most remarkable. Horticulturists are called on to send in as promptly as possible a statement of the objects which they intend exhibiting; the period at which they will probably send them; and, finally, any indications which may appear to the society to be of importance.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH moved for the production of the papers relating to the constitution of the Land Transport Corps. After a short discussion, the motion was agreed to. Some other business was then dispatched, and their Lordships adjourned at an early hour.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

LONDON DOCK BILLS.

A debate of some length arose upon the three London Dock Bills which stood for a second reading, but which were thrown out on a division by a very large majority.

DEER ACT.

In answer to Mr. H. Berkeley, Sir G. GREY said, it was not his intention to propose the repeal of the Act passed last session for the regulation of the sale of deer on the Sabbath.

LORD LUCAN.

In reply to Mr. C. Berkeley, Lord PALMERSTON said, it was true that Lord Lucan was recalled some time ago from the Crimea, in consequence of differences between him and the Commander-in-Chief—differences which rendered it quite impossible for them to act together.

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

On the motion that the Speaker leave the chair upon the order of the day for going into Committee on the Army Estimates,

Mr. LAYARD rose to call attention to the present state of affairs, and to the actual condition of the country, which was supposed, he said, to be standing almost upon the brink of ruin. He adverted first to the position of the Government, to which was to be confided the conduct of one of the greatest wars ever entrusted to any Administration. That Government was almost identical with the last; it behaved Parliament therefore to consider what the late Government had done, and how far those members who remained were worthy of its confidence. After glancing at the alleged deficiencies of the late Administration in regard to their diplomacy, the blockade of the Russian ports, and the Foreign Enlistment Act, he observed that what was proposed by the present Ministry was not to recall incompetent agents, but to send out a series of commissions; what the country wanted, however, was not commissions, but men; not a man, it was for the emergency. Among the prospective measures enumerated by Lord Palmerston nothing was said about the Horse Guards; yet, unless the Government were determined to remodel that branch of the military administration, and to do away with the system of favoritism, the country would not be satisfied. After referring to the great victories which our Indian army had achieved, Mr. Layard proceeded to condemn the system which neglected to employ the Generals who had gained those victories.

Through a mean and petty jealousy you do not employ men who have saved your Colonies, who have maintained the dignity of the country, and who have safely extricated armies from situations of great peril. And why not? Because they are not in the service of the Crown, but take pay from the East India Company. And for that reason you pass by men who have led their troops to glory, who have seen great campaigns, and you send out men of seventy years of age, who have never seen war, and who scarcely know how to put a regiment through its evolutions, but who happen to possess Parliamentary influence or family connection (Hear, hear). Such a state of things in the present age is monstrous—it is intolerable. I am told that by taking this course I am pulling down the aristocracy. That is not the case. I want to save the aristocracy. What did one of the ablest men in this country write three months ago? He wrote, "If this army perishes, depend upon it it will be the greatest blow ever struck at the aristocracy of this country." This country is coming to the opinion that you have sacrificed yourselves because you will not allow men of talent to come between you and your nobility, and you have raised a voice that will take more trouble to allay than you may think. It is said by some that the Times is raising this cry, as if there was magic in Printing-house-square. Perhaps Charles J. said that the revolution which he thought was coming to the country was the Puritan revolution, not seeing that it was the revolution which made the Puritan preachers. It was not Rousseau or Voltaire who made the general feeling of the French people, but it was the general feeling of the French people that made them; and so now, it is not the Times which is causing the public indignation of the people of this country, but it is the public indignation of the people of this country which has forced the Times to adopt the course it has adopted. No, Sir, it is not the Times which has caused this indignation, it is the misgovernment and mismanagement which have taken place (Cheers). Do you think that the Times would be what it is if it were not that it deceived the country as you deceive the country? If you want to have the position the Times has—if you want to be backed by the people of this country—do as the Times has done. Come forward boldly, and tell us what you yourselves think of the present state of affairs, not what you want others to think (Cheers). There are many other points upon which I should like to hear the opinion of the Government. We are told—and I believe the statement to be well founded—that a noble Lord the leader of the late Government in this House is going on a mission to Vienna; that he is to take a place on the staff of Lord Castlereagh, but is he going upon the same principles as Lord Castlereagh? Are the "four points" to be the basis of negotiations? Do the Government now take the same views they took a few weeks ago, when we were told that the Cabinet was under the influence of the supporters of the head of the late Government? The noble Lord might have told us whether he was willing to accept peace on any terms—whether the country was going to engage in prolonged hostilities—whether it was proposed to engage on our behalf oppressed nationalities—whether the Government would be assisted by us or not—the might, in short, have conveyed some notion to the House of his foreign policy. The question is, of such immense importance that we have a right to ask for plain and distinct information upon these points.

After a few remarks on the French Alliance, and the importance of acting in such a way as to secure the cordial co-operation of the French people, he referred to Lord Palmerston's highly responsible position as Premier:—

I hope the noble Lord will not consider me impudent if I refer to his present position. No man had more general sympathy throughout England, or throughout Europe, than the noble Lord. As I have previously told him, I have heard his name repeated in every variety of form throughout Europe; that name was a magic name, as the representative of the great principles of liberty. That reputation was so bright that even the betrayed Sicilians of 1848 could not tarnish it; it had passed through every storm in this House unblemished, and the whole of this House was ready to support the noble Lord when he took office, because it felt that in a moment of national difficulty he had undertaken a national task. Will the people of England now be satisfied with what has been done? It is the nature of the English people to be patient and long-suffering; but the time comes when public feeling, with the force of a torrent, causes itself to be heard. It was so in the case of Roman Catholic Emancipation, of the Reform Bill, and of Free Trade. You may say now that the people are quiet, and the lake is still, but you have no security that it will continue so. A storm will arise, and, unless you do something to prevent it, not only you, but others besides you, will be shipwrecked. Sir, the state of public feeling at this moment I believe to be one which should be viewed with the greatest anxiety and pain by those who sit in this House (Hear). The country is not satisfied (Hear). The country, irrespective of men's qualifications at this moment, I believe, want to see whether they cannot be governed by something new ("Hear," and a laugh). They don't wish to see the same parties in power over and over again (Hear, hear). I have no doubt that a Cavendish in the Cabinet is a very important thing, but the public think more of 30,000 lives than they do of a Cavendish (Cheers). It will not do. The people of England want thorough and complete reform, and, if the noble Lord had thought of the wishes of the English people, he would have had a Committee of that House to be the House of Commons with some confidence for its support. I entreat the noble Lord to reflect once more, for his own sake and for the sake of the people of this country. By continuing in his present course he will lose all confidence and all support. By turning from it he will save his own reputation and save this great nation (Loud cheers).

Lord Palmerston and General Peel rose together to address the House; but his Lordship, in compliance with some calls for the gallant officer, gave way.

General PEEL said, he had voted against Mr. Roebuck's motion, not because he denied the evils in question, or because he treated the motion as a vote of non-confidence in the Government, but because he had no confidence in the tribunal, believing a Committee of that House to be the worst tribunal for trying such a question, and that the engines of the evils which had befallen our army were so evident that no committee was required to discover them. The war had been entered upon with inadequate means; with such means more had been attempted than any army could accomplish.

Lord PALMERSTON was, he said, the last to find fault with any man who blamed any part of our administrative system, but he protested against the language he had heard from Mr. Layard, who had talked of the degradation of this country and its becoming the laughing-stock of Europe. He lamented the sufferings of the army, and he admitted that those sufferings had been aggravated by want of management on the part of those who had the administration of the details. But these mistakes had not been confined to the British troops. He had pretty good ground for asserting that the sick and wounded in the camp of the Russians amounted to 35,000 men. These sufferings arose from physical causes in the power of no man to control. After a brief reply in some parts to Mr. Layard's speech, Lord Palmerston added that he was satisfied that the people of this country looked more deeply into these things than that gentleman supposed, and that when they saw a Government established in consequence of the failure of two attempts, they would feel that men who undertook the conduct of affairs in such circumstances from a sense of public duty, and from honourable motives, were entitled to the credit of being actuated by a desire to perform a public duty, and that they would give their support to such men, not forcing themselves upon the country, but coming forward as an emergency. The Government threw themselves upon the generosity of Parliament and the country; and he was con-

vinced that, with their support, in spite of trifling reverses, they would carry the contest to a successful issue, and whether by an honourable peace now, or by force of arms hereafter, place the country upon a proud footing of security.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

After some remarks by Mr. J. Phillimore, Mr. Warner, and Major Reid, the House went into Committee of Supply upon the Army Estimates. Mr. F. PEEL prefaced the details of the Estimates by remarking that they differed from the Estimates of the current year—first, in the increased number of men—namely, 178,645 (exclusive of the troops in India, of the foreign corps, and the embodied militia) which exceeded the vote of last year by 35,900 men; secondly, in the large augmentation of many of the services heretofore included in the Estimates, and in the creation of new departments, such as the Land Transport Corps. He then stated the manner in which the increase was distributed over the entire Army, and explained the various items. The charge for the effective land forces was £7,353,000—an excess over the charge of last year of £2,650,000. The charge for the embodied militia was £3,813,000. The total amount for effective and non-effective services was £11,721,000. The total strength of the Army for the coming year, exclusive of artillery, engineers, and the troops in India, was 193,565 of all ranks, of which number 14,950 would consist of foreigners; and this formed the first vote submitted to the Committee; the discussion of which, embracing various matters connected with the prosecution of the war, occupied the rest of the evening.

Lord PALMERSTON, in the course of a general reply to objections, vindicated the policy of the Government in the conduct of hostilities; their main object being, he observed, to cripple the Russian power in the Black Sea, where alone an effectual blow could be struck, leaving the land frontier of Turkey to the protection of Austria. He stated, likewise, as the reason why the Government had not hitherto succeeded in putting the Foreign Enlistment Act in operation, that the language used in the debates in Parliament had created such a feeling of indignation throughout the Continent, that persons who had been prepared to take letters of service in Germany had thrown them up, declaring that they were unable to raise a man. With regard to the deficiencies of the army, he added, they arose not from want of supplies, but from want of arrangements for conveying to the men and horses the things sent out for them; these deficiencies would be remedied by the Government.

Mr. WILSON gave explanations respecting the coffee sent to the Crimea, in reply to some severe remarks by Colonel North. The coffee, in reply to the next, for the sum of £7,353,000, having been agreed to, the Chairman was ordered to report progress.

NEWSPAPER-STAMP RESOLUTIONS.

The House then went into Committee on the Newspaper, &c., Postage and Stamp-duties, when

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved the following resolutions:—"That it is expedient to repeal the exemption of newspapers from postage-duty, and to charge on newspapers and printed books and papers transmitted by post rates of postage not exceeding 1d. for every four ounces in weight, and for any fractional part of four ounces;" and "That it is expedient to alter and amend the laws relating to the stamp-duties on newspapers, the printing and publishing of newspapers, and registration, and giving securities in connection therewith, and the regulation of the duties of postage on printed papers," which were agreed to.

The report of the Committee of Supply was brought up and agreed to. The Consolidated Fund Bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

ARMY SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

On the motion that the Army Service Act Amendment Bill should be read a second time, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH entered into an elaborate criticism on the required amount of recruits, which he estimated at 60,000 men. He argued that an efficient army could only be maintained upon the basis of a complete and full militia, and he recommended the exercise of coercion to secure the desired object. The noble Earl then referred to the war in Asia, and gave it as his opinion that, as the interests and safety of India were at stake, the Government of that country should send an army to act on the frontier of Tiflis and Georgia.

The Earl of HAMPSHIRE, while concurring in the views laid down by the noble Earl, wished to inquire whether the Government were or were not prepared to appeal to the national feeling of the Poles?

Lord PALMERSTON reviewed the criticism of the noble Earl, and expressed his belief that the Government would be able to obtain the requisite number of recruits. As to the suggestion of an Indian army, he could not give a pledge upon that subject until he had communicated with the Governor-General of India.

The Earl of MALMESBURY and Earl GREY drew attention to the ill effects of having enrolled the militia under one act of Parliament and embodying them under another. A prejudice had thereby been done to the service, as the men thought they had been unfairly dealt with.

After some conversation the bill was read a second and then a third time, and was passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

TENANT RIGHT.

Mr. Serjeant SHEE brought forward his annual measure on the subject of tenant right in Ireland, which, he said, was similar to the one introduced by Lord Aberdeen's Government last year, but which they had not persisted in passing through the House. The bill provides compensation for improving tenants, and to consolidate and amend the laws relating to leasing powers in Ireland.

Sir J. YOUNG commended the forbearance and moderation of the hon. and learned member in bringing forward a measure differing in few particulars from the bills he had himself introduced last session. Under these circumstances, he should certainly offer no opposition to the introduction of the measure.

Leave was given accordingly to introduce the bill.

Mr. DUNLOP obtained leave to bring in a Bill to Facilitate the Erection of Dwelling-houses for the Working Classes in Scotland.

Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE obtained leave to bring a Bill for the Appointment of Public Prosecutors.

PROMOTIONS IN THE ARMY.

At the request of Lord Palmerston, Lord Goderich postponed his motion on this subject till the 1st of March.

TRADE WITH RUSSIA.

Mr. COLLIER called attention to the conditions of the trade formerly and still carried on between this country and Russia. The staple commerce of that empire consisted chiefly of raw produce, and when the war commenced, it was believed that we could inflict a heavier injury upon our enemy by stopping his trade even than by our efforts in the field. The result had disappointed our hopes in both directions. As far as the commerce with Russia was concerned, we had failed altogether. Ten millions of British money had been paid in gold within the last twelve months for Russian produce; and the ruble, that pulse of Russian commerce, which had fallen in value on the first outbreak of war, had since risen to par. The fact was that no effectual blockade had ever been established, nor could now be said to exist over the Russian ports in the Black Sea. Documents, which the hon. member cited at some length, proved that the exports from Russia had increased rather than diminished since the beginning of the war. For the omission to establish a blockade in the Black Sea he considered the Admiralty accountable, and challenged an explanation of their neglect. In the Baltic, a blockade had indeed been maintained by sea; but its effect was evaded by a system of land-carriage, carried on through Prussia. This state of things, he contended, was disgraceful. We should either render our blockade effectual or abandon it altogether. Recommending the former alternative, he urged the necessity of stopping the transit trade through the Prussian territory, and argued on the question of international law, that this trade was of a character which belligerents were entitled to require, or if necessary, to compel, neutral powers to abandon, declaring that a practical stoppage of his trade would seriously cripple the resources of the Czar, and was worth the efforts and sacrifices which might be required to accomplish it. Mr. Collier pointed out some of the means whereby that result would be brought about. The damage to our own trade and manufactures by the loss of Russian commodities would, he believed, be insignificant. He concluded by moving for a return of the Russian exports from Archangel to this country during 1854.

Mr. MURRAY adduced a multitude of facts and details corroborating the conclusions submitted by Mr. Collier.

Mr. CARDWELL said, the Government had no objection to give the papers moved for. With regard to the general question, the Government had refused to adopt a policy which would have inflicted injury upon British commerce without appreciably injuring the trade of Russia. That would have been the case if the blockade had been vigorously enforced at the outbreak of the war, for the produce then in the Russian ports was the property of British merchants. As respects the blockade in the Black Sea, he admitted that it had been ineffectual, for the fleet had been unavoidably employed in covering the expedition to the Crimea. But, in spite of these defects in the blockade, the Russian mercantile navy had been annihilated. Her manufactures had materially suffered from inability to obtain supplies of the raw material. Of her exportations the decrease on tallow in 1854 as compared with 1853 was 82 per cent.; on hemp the decrease was 53 per cent. Last year, as compared with 1855, other circumstances as well as these indicated that the blockade had produced a considerable pressure upon the trade of Russia. The next question was, could the Government have taken other steps to injure Russia? His hon. friend recommended the prohibition of Russian produce into England. The Government preferred the mode of throwing obstacles in the way of getting the produce out of Russia. In that way the maximum of pressure fell upon Russia, and the minimum of pressure upon us. An opposite course would reverse this process. At present the advantage of the British over the German linen manufacturers was small; the course recommended would destroy it altogether; and it was to be remembered that the linen trade

of this country was equal to the whole external commerce of Russia. He intimated that France would not have concurred with us in this attempt to prohibit Russian produce, and he ridiculed the mode suggested by the honourable gentleman to ascertain the Russian origin of the produce. He hoped he had satisfied the House that the Government did wish vigorously to prosecute the war; and that if they had declined to adopt the course recommended by his honourable friends, it was because they believed that such a course would inflict a blow upon British commerce out of all proportion heavier than that inflicted upon the trade of Russia.

Mr. RICARDO agreed in the view so ably stated by the Right Honourable President of the Board of Trade, but which he said ought to have led the right honourable gentleman to the only tenable position on this subject—that of abandoning the blockade altogether. The profit upon the whole Russian trade would not amount to a million sterling, and it was absurd in the extreme to suppose that the loss of that sum would induce Russia to sue for peace. The Emperor of Russia, in fact, had inflicted far more injury upon the trade of England by his prohibition of the exportation of corn from his dominions at a time when the dearth of bread had already led to riots in this country.

Lord DUNCAN read letters to show the distress endured in Russia by the system of blockade. At the same time the country of Forfar endured no small amount of suffering from the impediments thrown in the way of the Russian trade; but he was glad to find that the Government refused to prohibit the importation of Russian produce altogether.

Mr. WATSON, in the name of his constituents at Hull, complained of the non-enforcement of the blockade; and Mr. Headlam made a similar complaint on behalf of his constituents at Newcastle.

Sir J. GRAHAM explained the proceedings with regard to the blockade of the Black Sea. The orders for that blockade were given in May. The French and English Admirals consulted as to the best mode of giving effect to that blockade, and they decided on blockading the mouth of the Bosphorus. That mode of blockade was found to be illegal, but three months were lost in these discussions. Then came the invasion of the Crimea, when every vessel of the fleet was employed to cover the transports. Since then circumstances which it was not convenient to mention had interfered with the blockade, but orders had now been sent out to blockade every port in the Black Sea except the mouths of the Danube, the blockade of which had been raised because the military reasons which led to its institution had now ceased to exist. Every port in the Baltic and the White Sea would also be blockaded at the earliest possible period.

Mr. DUNCAN, in the name of his constituents of Dundee, thanked the First Lord of the Admiralty for the protection he had afforded to British trade with Russia.

Mr. COLLIER replied, and the returns were ordered.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

Sir S. DIGNOLD presented a petition from Norwich, praying that no further grants be made to the College of Maynooth.

NUISANCES REMOVAL AND DISEASES PREVENTION ACTS CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT BILL.

Sir B. HALL moved the second reading of this bill.

Lord SEYMOUR thought that two other bills which Sir B. Hall intended to introduce should all be taken together.

After observations from several members, the bill was read a second time and ordered to be committed.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

Sir B. HALL, in moving the second reading of this bill, said he would afford the fullest opportunity to all persons interested in it, as well as in the bill which preceded it, to offer opinions and suggestions to the Select Committee to whom the measures would be referred.

The bill was read a second time, and ordered to be referred to a Select Committee.

The Common Law Procedure Act Amendment (Ireland) Bill went into Committee. The clauses having been agreed to, the House resumed.

SUPPLY.

Mr. WILSON moved that a sum not exceeding £17,153,000 be granted to her Majesty to meet off and discharge Exchequer-bills charged on the aids of 1855, unprovided for in Committee of Supply.—Agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS.

On the motion of Mr. WILSON, the following resolutions were agreed to, and were ordered to be reported to the House:—

That, towards making good the supply granted to her Majesty, the sum of £20,000,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

That, towards making good the supply granted to her Majesty, for the deficiency in the grants for the service of the year ending the 31st day of March, 1855, the sum of £1,500,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

The House then resumed.

ARMY SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. PELL moved the second reading of this bill, the object of which was to enable the Government to accept the services of soldiers for a less period, and at an age when they were better able to withstand the changes of climate.

The bill was read a second time, and committed.

The Marine Mutiny Bill and the Mutiny Bill were read a second time, and ordered to be committed.

COURT OF CHANCERY (IRELAND).

Mr. WHITEHEAD moved for leave to bring in bills to abolish the Master's office in the Court of Chancery, to amend the proceedings of the Court, to regulate the practice in relation to the appointment of receivers, to facilitate the sale of estates, to remove the causes of delay, expense, and other obstacles incidental to appeals, and to render the public charges payable by suitors conformable to the proposed modifications.

Leave was given to bring in the bills, which were read a first time.

THE FOREIGN LEVIES.—A notification has been issued from the War Department, that military officers who have offered themselves, and have been noted for service with the Turkish army, or with irregular levies attached to the British army during the present war, are requested to communicate their present addresses to that department without delay. The Government of Great Britain have entered into a Convention with the Sultan, empowering them to raise a military force not exceeding 20,000 men from amongst the subjects of the Ottoman Porte, to be employed in conjunction with the Allied armies in the East. Steps have already been taken, and officers dispatched to the Turkish provinces to raise 15,000 men. This force is to be levied, armed, clothed, fed, and paid by England, and to be entirely under her command. It will consist of two divisions of Infantry and a corresponding force of Cavalry and Artillery, and will probably be employed in Asia in the opening of the campaign. It is not intended to interfere with the peculiar discipline of so many of this contingent as shall happen to be Mussulmans, who will probably be under the command of regimental officers of their own faith and country. The chief direction will be entrusted to British or foreign officers of experience. Government are desirous to obtain for this service experienced officers, who are not otherwise employed. It is understood that arrangements are in progress by which officers who have served in the East India Company's service will be enabled to join this corps on better conditions than they have hitherto been enabled to obtain. The Sardian contingent of 15,000 men will be under the immediate command of the British Commander-in-Chief. They are nearly ready for embarkation in British ships, and will prove a most useful addition to our force in the Crimea. It is said that a Spanish and a Portuguese Legion will be embodied under our command. The Northern Legion will be mustered and drilled in our own island of Heligoland, where every preparation is now making for their reception.

THE FRENCH CIVIL SERVICE.—When I was Minister, I used constantly to find my orders forgotten, or neglected, or misinterpreted. As I have often said to you, men are naturally idle, false, timid (*menteurs, lâches, peureux*). Whenever I found an *employé* supposed that, because an order had been given, it had been executed; or that, because he had been told a thing, it was true—I gave him up as an imbecile. Bonaparte nearly lost the battle of Marengo by supposing that the Austrians had been beaten over the Bormida. Three Generals assured him that they had carefully examined the river, and that there was none. It turned out that there were two, and our army was surprised. When I was preparing for war in 1840, I sat every day for eight hours with the Ministers of War, of Marine, and of the Interior. I always began by ascertaining the state of the execution of our previous determinations. I never trusted to any assurances, if better evidence could be procured. If I was told that letters had been dispatched, I required a certificate from the clerk who had posted them or delivered them to the courier. If answers had been received, I required their production. I punished inexorably every negligence, and even every delay. I kept my colleagues and my bureau at work all day, and almost all night. We were all of us half-killed. Such a tension of mind wears more than the hardest bodily work. At night my servants undressed me, took me by the feet and shoulders, and placed me in bed, and I lay there like a corpse till the morning. Even my dreams, when I dreamt, were administrative. To do all this a man must have an iron will and iron body, and what is rarer than either, indifference to the likes and dislikes of those about him, for he is sure to be hated. There is only one exception, and that is in the case of a general. A good military administrator is the idol of his troops, because they feel that their comfort, and even their safety, is the result of his care and of his energy—he is their providence. But the hours of the civilian are unknown to those who profit by them. The sailors at Toulon did not know that it was owing to me that their ships were well stored and victualled. My subordinates respected me, perhaps admired me; but they looked on me as a severe taskmaster, whose exigencies no exertions could satisfy.

PUTTING IN A GOOD WORD FOR AN OLD FRIEND.—The *Journal de St. Petersburg* of the 8th inst. publishes a number of opinions collected from notorious reactionary newspapers respecting Lord John Russell's secession from the Aberdeen Ministry. The noble Lord is found to have covered himself with disgrace; while the conduct of Lord Aberdeen is dignified, loyal, and firm.

FOOT-MARKS ON THE SNOW, IN DEVON.

(From a Correspondent.)

As many of your readers have perused, I have no doubt, with much interest, the paragraph which appeared in several of the papers of last week, relative to the mysterious foot-marks left upon the snow during the night of Thursday, the 21st, in the parishes of Exmouth, Lympstone, and Woodbury, as also in Dawlish, Torquay, Totnes, and other places on the other side of the estuary of the Exe, in the county of Devon, extending over a tract of country of thirty or forty miles, or probably more; and so the paragraph I allude to does not fully detail the mysterious affair, it may probably be interesting to many to have a more particular account—which I think this unusual occurrence well deserves.

The marks which appeared on the snow (which lay very thinly on the ground at the time), and which were seen on the Friday morning, to all appearance were the perfect impression of a donkey's hoof—the length 4 inches by 2½ inches; but, instead of progressing as that animal would have done (or indeed as any other would have done), first right and left, it appeared that foot had followed foot, in a single line; the distance from each tread being eight inches, or rather more—the foot-marks in every parish being exactly the same size, and the steps the same length. This mysterious visitor generally only passed once down or across each garden or courtyard, and did so in nearly all the houses in many parts of the several towns above mentioned, as also in the farms scattered about; this regular track passing in some instances over the roofs of houses, and hayricks, and very high walls (one fourteen feet), without displacing the snow on either side or altering the distance between the feet, and passing on as if the wall had not been any impediment. The gardens with high fences or walls, and gates locked, were equally visited as those open and unprotected. Now, when we consider the distance that must have been gone over to have left these marks—I may say in almost every garden, on door-steps, through the extensive woods of Luancombe, upon commons, in enclosures and farms—the actual progress must have exceeded a hundred miles. It is very easy for people to laugh at this appearance, and account for them in an idle way. At present no satisfactory solution has been given. No known animal could have traversed this extent of country in one night, besides having to cross an estuary of the sea two miles broad. Neither does any known animal walk in a line of single footsteps, not even man.

Birds could not have left these marks, as no bird's foot leaves the impression of a hoof, or, even were there a bird capable of doing so, could it proceed in the direct manner above stated—nor would birds, even had they donkeys' feet, confine themselves to one direct line, but hop here and there; but the nature of the mark at once sets aside its being the track of a bird. The effect of the atmosphere upon these marks is given by many as a solution; but how could it be possible for the atmosphere to affect one impression and not another? On the morning that the above was observed the snow bore the fresh marks of cats, dogs, rabbits, birds, and men clearly defined. Why, then, should a continuous track, far more clearly defined—so clearly, even, that the raising in the centre of the frog of the foot could be plainly seen—why then should this particular mark be the only one which was affected by the atmosphere, and all the others left as they were? Besides, the most singular circumstance connected with it was, that this particular mark removed the snow, wherever it appeared, clear, as if cut with a diamond or branded with a hot iron;—of course I am not alluding to its appearance after having been trodden on, or meddled with by the curious in and about the thoroughfares of the towns. In one instance this track entered a covered shed, and passed through it out of a broken part of the wall at the other end, where the atmosphere could not affect it.

The writer of the above has passed a five months' winter in the backwoods of Canada, and has had much experience in tracking wild animals and birds upon the snow, and can safely say, he has never seen a more clearly-defined track, or one that appeared to be less altered by the atmosphere than the one in question. Marks left upon this snow especially may after a time blur a little, but never lose their distinctive character, as every one will know who has been accustomed to follow the track of the American partridge.

Should you think the above likely to interest your readers, or draw from any of them a better solution of this most singular occurrence than has at present been given, perhaps you will fill a place in your most interesting journal. I send you a copy of the foot, taken from the snow, and also a succession of the steps, to show you the manner of progressing.

SOUTH DEVON.

OUR ENERGETIC ALLIES.—If the Turks are active, what shall be said of the French! Activity is no word for the ceaseless and all-pervading energy with which they are providing for all present and possible demands for munitions and innumerable supplies. To enumerate the countless agencies they have here at work, to meet every contingency that the necessities of the war may give rise to, would in itself fill a column of your space; while not one letter—not ten—would be sufficient to describe in detail the admirable completeness and efficiency of every one of their departments. Public exposure has lashed our own hospital management at Scutari into comparative excellence; but even yet it lacks the clock-work beauty and regularity which pervade even the smallest of the French establishments. Our energetic Allies have laid hands on a very large proportion of the public buildings on this side of the Golden Horn, and have agencies at work which are in themselves nearly sufficient to supply every current want of the Crimean army. The laden weights of routine clog their official movements; what they want they take, and what they take they make the most of. Their latest appropriation has been the splendid palace of the Russian Embassy, which they are about to devote to the reception of their wounded Russian prisoners; a medical staff has been already organised for it, and before another week has elapsed, the once magnificent saloons of Prince Menschikoff will be peopled with his captured countrymen now scattered throughout the other eight or nine French hospitals in Pera. Our own Commissariat has at length also concluded a contract for 1500 mules, to be ready for delivery at any of the three Black Sea ports of Sinop, Samsoff, or Trebizond, on or before the 15th March. By that time the worst of the winter will have gone by, and the warm clothing and wooden huts now lying in lumbering confusion along the shore at Balaklava will at length find means of transit to the Camp, when the grave shall have closed over yet other thousands of our suffering and neglected troops.

ALPINE AVALANCHES.—Avalanches are rather frequent at present in the Alpine districts. The mail which left Belluno for Longarone, about ten days back, was buried under one, but the driver succeeded in forcing his way through the snow, and obtaining assistance. Another avalanche is mentioned about the same time near Vicenza; it covered some huts, a man and a woman being the only persons on the spot. The man extricated himself, and succeeded also in rescuing four oxen, but the woman was found dead a short time afterwards under the snow. At six o'clock in the evening of the 20th ult., the summit of the mountain between the village of Maglad and La Perrière gave way, and fell with a frightful crash. The commotion caused all the houses of the village to shake for more than two minutes; the inhabitants thought that they were about to be swallowed up by an earthquake. When things became somewhat calm, a mass of stone, sand, and earth, surmounted by a cloud of dust was seen, filling all the valley; and stone, earth, and sand continued to fall for seven minutes. From time to time the fall recommenced, but with less noise. The first fall shook all the houses on the other side of the Arve, but no one was injured. The road and the marsh between the river and the mountain were covered for a length of upwards of 100 yards, and a width of about 35, with stones of all sizes and with earth to a depth of more than 10 feet.

FROST FAIR ON THE THAMES, IN THE REIGN OF CHARLES THE SECOND.

In years gone by, when there was no *ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS*, or other journals which, by the use of wood-engraving, have added so much to the diffusion of useful knowledge, it was customary for publishers to speculate in the publication of large and expensive plates of those events which were so striking as to meet with general attention from the public. Most of these prints will be found in the King's Collection and in the Illustrated "Penny" (both in the British Museum). Amongst the most curious of these engravings is that of which we this week give a copy. There are, in addition to the "lively picture," several other delineations of the Great Frost of Charles II.'s reign; one showing Old London-bridge completely blocked up with huge masses of ice; another looking along "Temple-street," as the row of tents facing the Temple was called. In this view an ox is being roasted whole, and many other sports going forward; the frost of 1789, when the Thames was frozen over at London; and that of 1814, when the same remarkable circumstance took place.

Besides the three great Frosts, there are, in the collections to which we refer, engravings of displays of fireworks on the river and in the parks; Royal processions of different dates; coronations, fires, &c.; most of which have been faithfully rendered, and are not only curious as pictures of his-

torical events, but also as examples of the state of art at various times. It is not without feelings of pleasure that we refer to these attempts at the illustration of matters happening three or four times in course of a century, and compare them with the numerous "lively pictures" which we give week after week; half a year of our illustrations, &c., not costing so much as one of these old prints.

Many and memorable have been these pictures upon the River, as will be seen by the following seasonable column—the article entitled "Frosts and Frost Fairs upon the Thames," in Timba's "Curiosities of London," just published:—

1281-2. "From this Christmas till the Purification of Our Lady, there was such a frost and snow as no man living could remember the like; where through, five arches of London-bridge, and all Rochester-bridge, were borne down and carried away by the stream; and the like happened to many bridges in England. And, not long after, men passed over the Thames, between Westminster and Lambeth, dry-shod."—*Stow*, edited by Howes, 1631.

1410. "Thys yere was the grete frost and ice and the most sharpest wenter that ever man sawe, and it duryd fourteen wykes, as that men myght in dyvers places both goe and ryde over the Temse."—*Chronicle of the Grey Friars of London*.

1454-5. The Thames frozen from below London-bridge to Gravesend, from Dec. 25 to Feb. 10, when "the merchandise which came to the Thames mouth was carried to London by land."—*Stow*.

1600. "Such a sore snowe and a frost that men myght goe with carthes over the Temse and horses, and it lastyd tylle Candlemas."—*Chronicle of the Grey Friars of London*.

1815. The Thames frozen, when carriages passed over the ice from Lambeth to Westminster.

1864, Dec. 21. Snow and Hailstorm that on New-Year's Eve—"People were over and along the Thames on the ice from London-bridge to Westminster. Some played at the foot-ball as holdie there, as if it had been on the dry land; diverse of the Court being then at Westminster, shot dill at prizes set upon the Thames; and the people, both men and women, went on the Thames in greater numbers than in anye street of the City of London. On the third day of January at night, it began to thaw, and on the fifth there was no ice to be seen between London-bridge and Lambeth, which sudden thaw caused great floods and high waters, that bare downe bridges and houses, and drowned manye people in England."

1808. Great frost described in Howes's continuation of *Stow*:—"The 8th of December began a hard frost, and continued until the 12th of the same, and then thawed; and the 22nd of December it began againe to freeze violently, so as diverse persons went halfe way over the Thames upon the ice; and the 30th of December, at every ebbe, many people went quite over the Thames in diverse places, and so continued from that day until the 2nd of January." From Jan. 10th to 18th, the ice became firm, and men, women, and children went boldly upon it; some shot at prizes, others bowed and danced, and many "set up benches and standing upon the ice, as fruit-sellers, victuallers, that sold beere and wine, shoemakers, and a barber's tent," the ice lasting until Feb. 3. There is a very rare tract, describing this frost, mentioned by Gough, in his "British Topography," vol. i., p. 791, which has a woodcut representation of it, with London-bridge in the distance; it is entitled "Cold Dailings in London, except it be at the Lottery," &c., 4to, 1608.

1809. Great frost commenced in October, and lasted four months. The Thames frozen, and heavy carriages driven over it.

(The next Great Frost is the subject of the illustration upon the next page.)

1683-4. From the beginning of December until the 26th of February, frost "congealed the river Thames to that degree, that another city, as it were, was erected thereon; where, by the great number of streets and shops, with their rich furniture, it represented a great fair, with a variety of carriages, and diversions of all sorts; and near Whitehall a whole ox was roasted on the ice." (Maitland). Evelyn, who was an eye-witness of the scene, thus describes it, Jan. 24, 1684:—"The frost continuing more and more severe, the Thames before London was still planted with booths in formal streets, all sorts of trades and shops furnished, and all full of commodities, even to a printing-press, where the people and ladies took a fancy to have their names printed on the Thames; this humour took so universally, that 'twas estimated the printer gain'd £5 a day for printing a line only, at sixpence a name, besides what he got by ballads, &c. Coaches plied from Westminster to the Temple, and from several other stairs, to and fro, as in the streets; sheds, sliding with skates, and bull-baiting, horse and coach races, puppet-plays and interludes, cocking, tipping, and other lewd places; so that it seemed to be a mechanical triumph, or carnival on the water." King Charles II. visited these diversions, and even had his name printed on the ice, with those of several other personages of the Royal family. Mr. Upcott possessed a specimen—a quarter of a sheet of coarse Dutch paper; within a type border were the names of

CHARLES, KING.
JAMES, DUKE.
GEORGE, PRINCE.
HARVEY, LORD.

KATHERINE, QUEEN.
MARY, DUCHESS.
ANNE, PRINCESS.

London: Printed by G. Croom, on the ice, on the River of Thames, January 31, 1684.

February 6, the day after the break-up of this great frost, Charles II. died. In some curious verses, entitled *Thamada's Advice to the Painter, from her frigid zone*, &c., "printed by G. Croom, on the river of Thames," occurs:—

To the Print-house go,
Where Men the Art of Printing use do know;
Where, for a Feather, you may have your Name
Printed, whether for to show the same to
And sure, in former Ages, we've been found
A Press to print, where men so oft were drown'd!

The principal scene of this "Blanket-Fair" was opposite the Temple-stairs, as we see in a pencil and Indian-ink sketch, supposed by Thomas Wyothe, dated "Monday, February the 4th, 1683-4": in front are various groups of figures, and a line of tents; "Temple-street" stretches across the Thames. This drawing, with some prints, &c., illustrative of this frost, is in the Crowle Pennant, in the British Museum.—(See Thompson's "Chronicles of London-bridge.") 1688-9. Great frost, Dec. 20 to Feb. 6: pools frozen eighteen inches thick, and the Thames' ice covered with streets of shops, bull-baiting, shows, and tricks; hackney-coaches plied in the ice-roads, and a coach and six horses was driven from Whitehall almost to London-bridge; yet in two days all the ice disappeared.

1709. The Thames again frozen over, and some persons crossed it on the ice: in the Crowle Pennant (Brit. Mus.) is a coarse ball, within a woodcut border of rural subjects, containing, "Mr. John Heaton, Printed on the Thames at Westminster, Jan. the 7th, 1709."

1715. Severe frost, from the end of November until Feb. 9 following, when the sports of 1683 were all renewed: in the Crowle Pennant is a copperplate view, with a line of tents from Temple-stairs, and another marked "Thames-street;" "Printed on the Thames 1715-16;" and above it, "Frost Fair on the River Thames."

1739-40. Dec. 25, another severe frost: the Thames floated with rocks and shoals of ice; and when they fixed represented a snowy field, everywhere in masses and hills of ice and snow. Several boats and skates, tents and printing-presses were set up, and a complete Frost Fair was again held upon the river, over which multitudes walked, though some fell victims to their rashness. It was in this fair that Doll, the pippin-woman lost her life:

Doll every day had walk'd these treacherous roads;
Her neck grew warty'd beneath animal loads
Of various fruit: she wore a basket bore;
Tast' best, alas! shall haake her so more.
Each booth she frequent past, in quest of gain,
And boys with pleasure heard her thrilling strain.
Ah, Doll! all mortals must resign their breath,
And industry itself submit to death!
The crackling crystal yielded; she stalks, she dies,
Her head, chapt off from her last shoulders flies!
Pippins she cri'd, but death her voice confounds;
And pips, pips, pips, along the ice sounds.—*Guy's Trivia*, b. ii.

Another remarkable character, "Tidly Doll," died in the same place and manner. (J. T. Smith). In the Crowle Pennant are several prints of this Frost and Ice Fair. Some vintners in the Strand bought a large ox in Smithfield, to be roasted whole on the ice; and one Hodgson, a butcher in St. James's Market, claimed the privilege of killing or knocking down the beast as a right inherent in his family, his father having knocked down the ox roasted on the river in the Great Frost, 1684; as himself did that roasted in 1716, near Hungerford-stairs: Hodgson wore a leard cumbric apron, a silver-handled steel, and a hat and feathers. The breaking up of this frost was so odd some; the booths, shops, and huts being carried away with the swell of the waters and the ice separating.

1768. A violent frost, Jan. 1-31, when the piles of London-bridge stringers were much damaged by the ice; on Jan. 8, a French vessel was wrecked upon a sterling, and two others were driven through the centre arch, losing their main-mast, and carrying away the lamps from the parapet.

1799. Jan. 8. The Thames frozen over, several puppet-booths erected, and many thousands of persons crossed upon the ice from Tower-ward to the opposite shore. The frost had then lasted six weeks. No sooner had the Thames acquired a sufficient consistency, than booths, turn-shouts, &c., were erected; the puppet-shows, wild-beasts, &c., were transported from every adjacent village; and the watermen broke in the ice close to the shore, and erected bridges, with toll-bars, to make every passenger pay a halfpenny for getting to the ice. A large pig was roasted on one of the roads, and a young bear hauled on the ice near Rotherhithe; and the printing-press was erected, as usual, to commemorate the strange scene. Great quantities of boiling water were every morning poured upon the bridge water-works, to set the wheels in motion, and twenty-five horses were used daily to remove the ice from around them; while at Blackfriars the masses of ice were eighteen feet thick. The sudden breaking up of the ice, with the rush of the people to the shores, at night, was a fearful scene. A vessel lying off Rotherhithe, fastened by a cable and anchor to a beam of a public-house, in the night, veered about and pulled the house to the ground, killing five sleeping inmates.

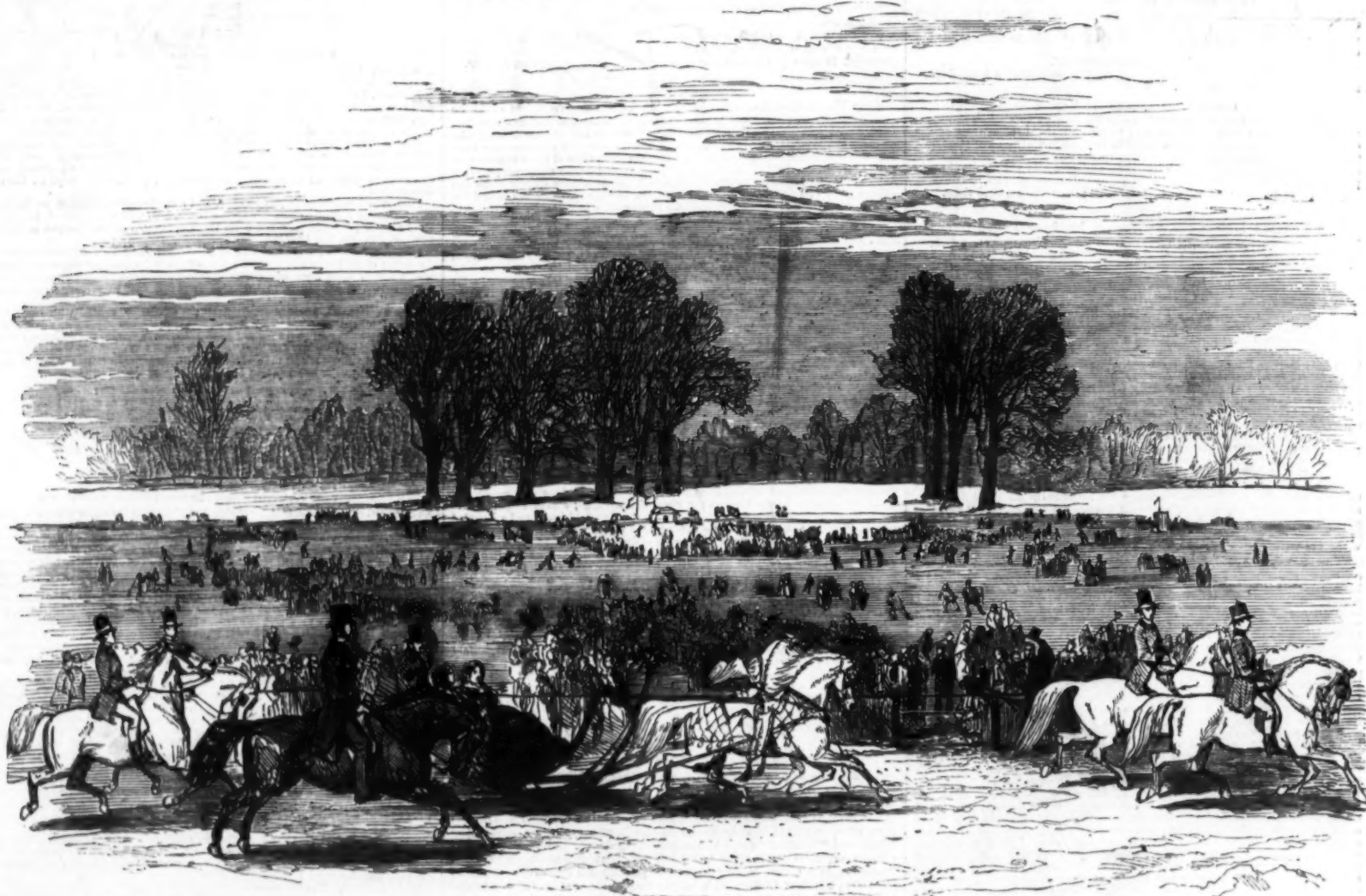
1811. January. The Thames frozen over.
1812-13. Great frost, commenced Dec. 27, with a thick fog, followed by two days' heavy fall of snow. During nearly four weeks' frost, the wind blew almost uninterruptedly from the north and north-east, and the cold was intense. The river was covered with vast heaps of floating ice, bearing piles of snow, which, Jan. 26-29, were floated down, filling the space between London and Blackfriars Bridges; next day, the frost recommenced, and lasted to Feb. 5, melting the whole into a sheet of ice. Jan. 30, persons walked over it; and Feb. 1, the unemployed watermen commenced their ice-sall, by which many of them received £5 per day. The Frost Fair now commenced: the street of tents, called the City-road, put forth its gay flags, waving signs, and music and dancing: a



FROST FAIR UPON THE THAMES, IN THE REIGN OF CHARLES II.—FROM A PRINT OF THE TIME.

An exact and lively Map or Representation of Booths and all the varieties of Shows and Humours upon the ICE on the River of Thames, by London, during that Memorable Frost in the 35th year of the reign of his Sacred Majesty King Charles the 2d, anno Domini MDCLXXXIII. With an Alphabetical Explanation of the most remarkable Figures. Printed for and sold by William Warten, Stationer, at the signe o the Tulbott, under the Mitre Tavern, in Fleet-street, London.

- | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|------------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| A. Temple stairs, with people going upon the ice to Temple-street. | D. Booth with a Phoenix on it, and insured as long as the foundation stands. | H. Music Booth. | I. Printing Booth. | N. Boat drawn with a Horse. | O. Drawn Boat. | T. Ninepin Playing. | X. Boys Climbing up the Tree in the Temple Garden to see the Bull-baiting. |
| B. Duke of York's Coffeehouse. | E. Roast Beef Booth. F. Half-way House. | K. Lottery Booth. L. Home Tavern Booth. | M. Temple Gardens, with crowds of people looking over the walls. | P. Boat drawn on Wheels. | Q. Bull Baiting. | V. Sliding upon Skates. | Y. Toy Shops. |
| C. Bear Booth. | G. Bear Garden—Booth. | | | R. Chair-riding in the Ring. | S. Boys Sliding. | W. Sledge Drawing Coals from the other side of the Thames. | Z. London Bridge. |



THE ROYAL SLEDGE-DRIVE IN HYDE-PARK.

sheep was roasted whole before sixpenny spectators, and the "Lapland mutton" sold at a shilling a slice! Printing-presses were set up, and among other records was printed the following:—

FROST FAIR.

Amidst the Arts which on the THAMES appear,
To tell the wonders of this icy year,
PRINTERS claim prior place, which at one view
Crests a monument of THAT and YET.

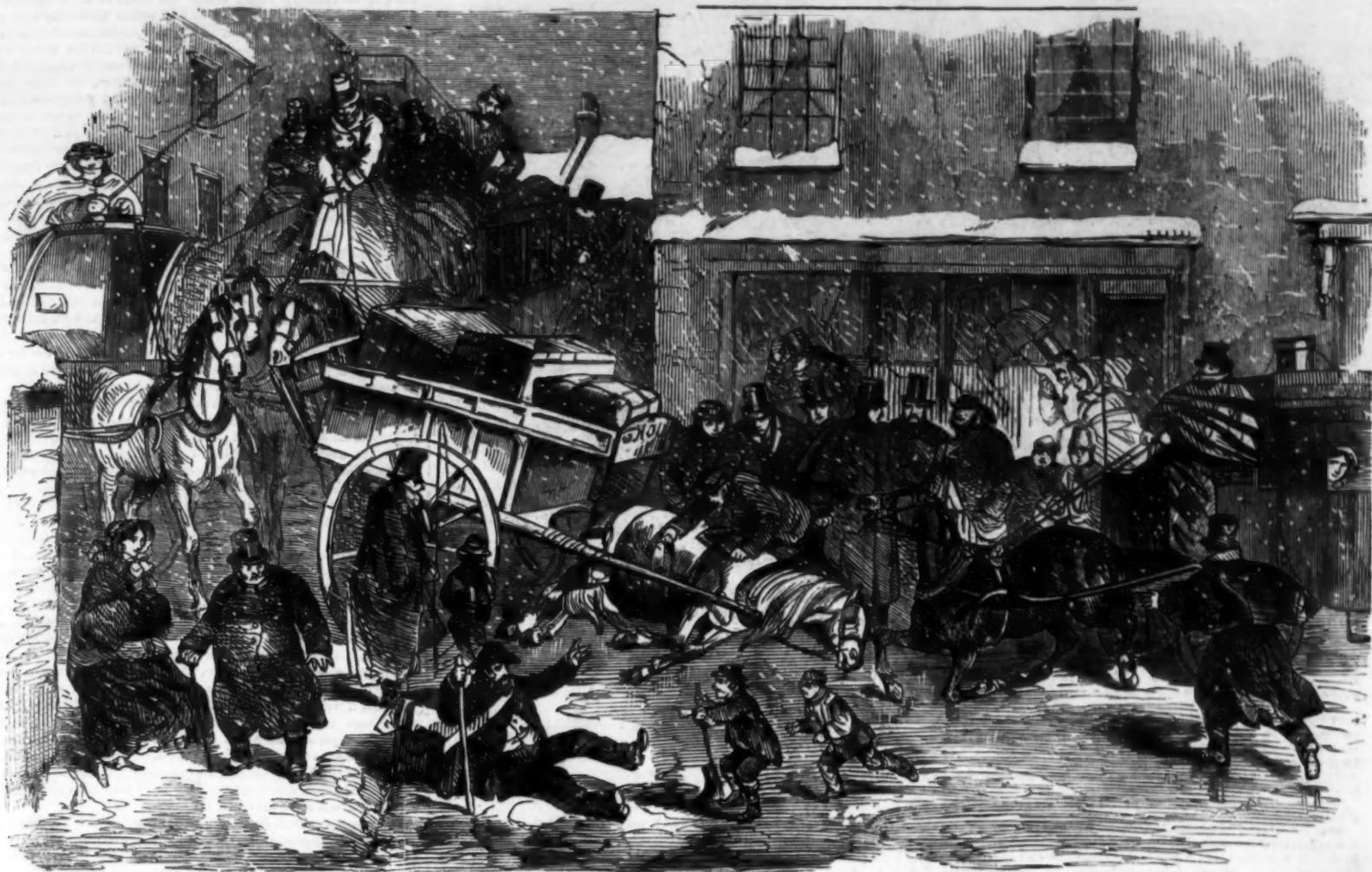
Printed on the River Thames, February 6, in the 34th year of the reign of King George III. Anno Domini 1814.

One of the invitations ran thus:—

You that walk here, and do deign to tell
Your children's children what this year befall,
Come buy this print, and then it will be seen
That such a year as this hath seldom been.

In the Fair were swings, book-stalls, dancing in a large, settling-booths, playing at skittles, frying mussels, &c. The ice and snow, in upheaved masses, as a foreground to St. Paul's and the City, had a striking effect; and the scene, by moonlight, was singularly picturesque. On Feb. 5 the ice cracked, and floated

away with booths, printing-presses, &c.; the last document printed being a *jeu-de-mot* "to Madame Tabitha Thaw." Among the memorials is a duodecimo volume, pp. 124, now before us. It is entitled "*Frostiana*," or, a *History of the River Thames in a frozen state, with an Account of the late Severe Frost, &c.* to which is added the *Art of Skating*. London: Printed and published on the Ice on the River Thames, February 5, 1814, by G. Davis;" the title-page was worked upon a large ice-island between Blackfriars and Westminster Bridges. In the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, No. 136, is an engraving of the Frost Fair of 1814, sketched near London Bridge, by Luke Clennell.



"THE STREETS AND THE WEATHER."

THE FROST, THE WEATHER AND THE PARKS.

On Saturday a number of sleighs were driven on the ice; but, on account of the vast number of persons there, and the fear of the masses congregating to one spot, it was considered dangerous, and was prohibited. In St. James's-park the number of sliders and skaters was very great; during the day, upwards of forty persons met with accidents from falls—principally cut eyes and contusions. On the Long Water and Round Pond thousands of persons amused themselves on the ice, many of the gentlemen belonging to the Royal Skating Club being present, but no accident of a serious nature occurred. In the Regent's-park an enormous number of sliders and skaters availed themselves of the solidity of the ice. The Regent's-canal and Surrey-canal, and other open waters, now ice-bound, round the metropolis, all had their quota.

On Sunday, owing to the extraordinary fineness of the weather, an enormous number of persons congregated on the Serpentine, in St. James's-park, and in Kensington-gardens. Numerous accidents took place during the day: no less than six persons fractured their limbs, and upwards of thirty received severe contusions and bruises on the face and head. They received prompt attendance at the Receiving-house of the Royal Humane Society.

On Monday morning much excitement was produced in Hyde-park by the appearance of the Queen and Prince Albert, with the Princess Alice, in a sledge. Her Majesty and her Royal Highness were followed by the Hon. Mary Seymour, the Hon. Matilda Paget, and Lord Alfred Paget, in a second sledge. Captain the Hon. de Ros attended on horseback.

Since the year 1814, when the Thames was frozen over for many miles below the bridges, so severe a winter as the present has not been known. The frost in London, including the suburbs, has been as much as from 15 deg. to 27 deg., the thermometer having ranged from 17 deg. to 5 deg.; whilst in some parts of the country it has been as low as 6 deg. below zero, or 38 deg. below freezing-point. The Parks have presented all the appearance of a fair, the crowd consisting generally of a large proportion of the nobility and gentry.

The Thames may be said to be nearly frozen over; from the immense quantity of ice above bridge, and in many places below bridge, all steam traffic, and, in fact, all navigation is suspended from Greenwich to London-bridge, and thence to Richmond. So large a quantity of thick ice has not been seen on the river for many years. During the whole of Saturday crowds of persons assembled on London-bridge and the various wharfs opposite Billingsgate-market to view the extraordinary spectacle of persons skating on the Thames near Pickle-berry-stairs. For some days previously the crews of the various vessels in the Pool had been enabled to walk across the ice to the shore; but on Saturday the men

belonging to a Dutch brig, after carefully sweeping a large area of ice, commenced skating, much to the astonishment of the spectators.

The destruction of floating property on the river has been very great. On Tuesday morning, at half-past three o'clock, two coal brigs, laden with coals, and moored off Mr. Wohlgenuth's coal-wharf,

in Wapping, broke adrift from their moorings in consequence of the pressure of the ice, and carried away piles, boats, mooring chains, and everything with which they came in contact. Proceeding upwards with a strong flood-tide, the two ships came in contact with Messrs. Thompson's, the coal-merchants, Barge-road, sweeping the craft laden with coals before them, sink-

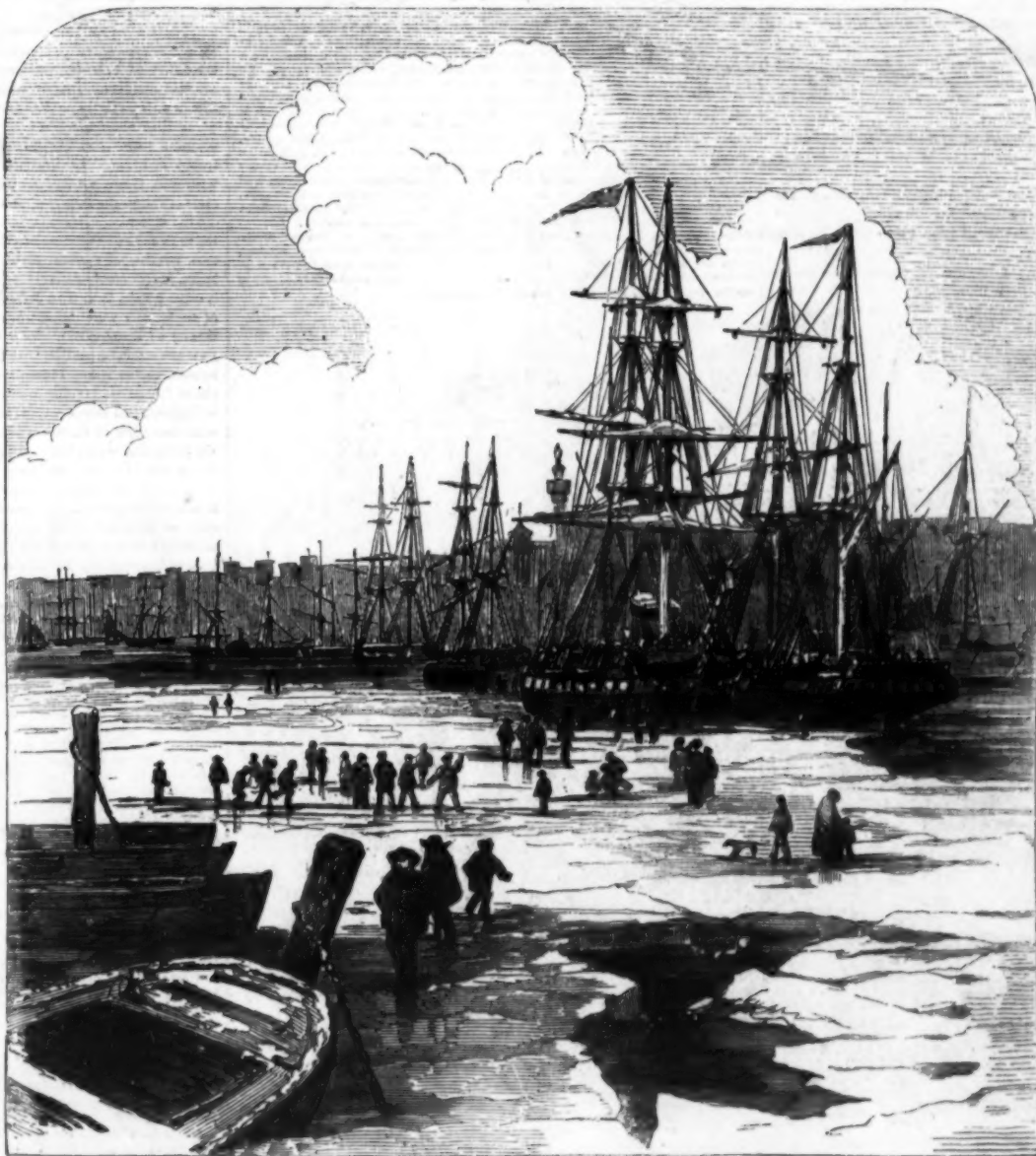
ing some and crushing others, and tearing away part of Messrs. Thompson's premises. The sides of many coal-lighters were torn out by the ice and the pressure of the ships upon them. The brigs next came in collision with the Aberdeen steam-ship *Royal Victoria*, of 800 tons burden, and moored off the Thames police-station. The steamer was soon carried away from her moorings—chains, anchor, and gear snapping to pieces. The piles which sustain the floating pier, and the huge floating pier and its massive timbers at the Aberdeen Wharf, were carried away. The whole was sunk below the ice, and in a few hours not a vestige of the pier was to be seen. The steamer and brigs, after overcoming the impediment, drifted towards the Newcastle Wharf, and the floating pier and piles were in an instant destroyed. The steamer and ships were carried by the jacks as far as the Union-stairs pier, about half a mile from Wohlgenuth's Wharf, where they were stopped about five o'clock, when it was nearly high water. On the ebbing of the tide the three vessels floated down the river, and, having cleared all obstacles in their way up, were driven on shore at Execution Dock.

Quantities of ice are reported to be drifting in the Channel, more particularly in the Downs—a circumstance which the pilots seldom remember to have witnessed. It is computed that the frost has thrown as many as 10,000 dock labourers out of employment. For the last fortnight or more, a large fleet of homeward-bound ships have been locked out in the chops of the Channel by the easterly wind, while the frozen state of the river prevents the coasters coming up to discharge at the wharfs. There is the same dearth in the arrival of colliers from the north. The wind has prevented them leaving the Tyne, Wear, Tees, &c., and in the meanwhile they have been frozen in. During the week scarcely half-a-dozen ships have entered the docks to discharge, and the trade alongside the river is almost at a standstill.

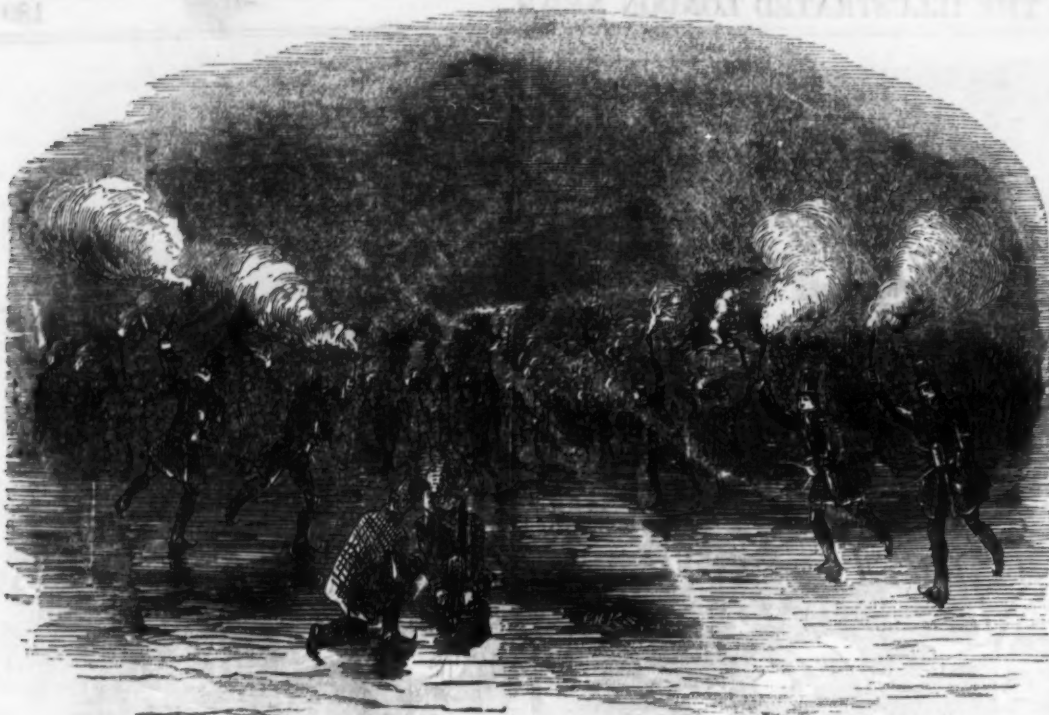
The accounts from the country announce the complete stoppage of the canal traffic by reason of twelve to fifteen inches of firm, unbroken ice; and the rivers are in much the same state.

The Downs are partially covered with large fields of floating hummocky ice, about a foot thick, upon which several parties have been walking, presenting such an appearance as has not been seen for the last sixty years or more.

In Liverpool the number of coopers out of work is about 2000, and there are about double that number of cotton-porters and dock labourers partially unemployed; while it is estimated that the number of labourers of all kinds, in the town, who are unwillingly eating the bread



THE RIVER THAMES, FROZEN.—SKETCHED NEAR SHAD THAMES.



TORCHLIGHT SKATING IN HYDE-PARK.

of illness, is not less than 15,000 or 20,000. When the frost disappears, however, every branch of trade will be resumed with unwonted activity. As an illustration of the extent to which the weather has interfered with the ordinary trade of the port, it is said that in place of the usual Customs receipt of from £500 to £2500, for duties on goods from the ship, the amount received from this source in one day recently did not reach £50.

In the docks at Southampton, where ships have been lying for some time without being disturbed, they have become completely frozen in. In the inner dock there has been a great accumulation of fish, consisting principally of the grey mullet. Owing to the severity of the weather, these fish have become completely benumbed by the cold, rendered entirely powerless, and by the strength of the tide have been washed into the dock, where they have become an easy prey.

The scene represented in the cut entitled "Skating by Torchlight," took place at a late hour on Thursday night week. A great number of gentlemen, not wishing to mingle with the crowd, proceeded in a body to the Serpentine after the regular skating hours had finished, and, each with a lighted torch in hand and a policeman's lamp backed in front, amused themselves on the ice until nearly midnight. Mr. Superintendent Williams, on being informed of what was going on on the river, proceeded to the spot, and fortunately no accident took place.

THE STREETS AND THE WEATHER.

WHAT MR. JOHN RATTLE (BADGE NO. 5---9) THINKS OF THE MATTER.

THESE here lines come hopping that you're not as cold as I am, which is werry sewere, Hoats is at nobody knows what price, and coals and other wedgetables is equally dear.

The streets is downright hawful, that they is, all snowy and icy. Without no signs of a change, but, on the con-trary, quite seersa vice. As to keeping a banimal up to his work, I'm whipped if you can this sliddery weather.

He's up and down like a rocking-hose, and never on four legs together! Driving's bad enough, but my whiskers! aint it the North Pole on the rank!

Yet a hungrateful public pulled up Tom Smith to-day for only axing three-and-six from Charing X to the Bank!

Why, there's Conky Joe—him with the Wellington nose—went to sleep on his box, and nobody saw him!

When we lifted him off he was like a harm-chair, and it took eighteen glasses of hot rum-and-water to thaw him.

Wot's to come of us all I don't know! Our best riders all walking! It's killing!

I should starve if my han's war'n't so cold that I can't never give nobody change for a shilling.

"What's my charge, Ma'am, for you and them five lertle dears to Park-lane? Why, the roads is so bad,

And the weather's so aggrawtatingly cold, a sober driver, Ma'am, 's scarce to be had;

So we'll just say five shillin'. Not more than two mile! Werry true, in ordinary weather;

But now, with slipping up, and slipping down, and sliding back, it's a matter of five mile altogether;

But as you seem to have got a lot of 'em, Ma'am, and they're all on 'em so remarkable pretty.

I'll take the old billing for four-and-six; and if that isn't cheap, it's a pity.

I'll be careful, on course! Mind, Ma'am, you don't slip: the straw's dry, though it has been a-snowing.

Sam Wiggins, just lift up my horse's forelegs and give him a shove, and set us a-going!"

ESCAPE OF THREE CONVICTS FROM NEWGATE.—On Saturday an event, which occasioned considerable excitement in the neighbourhood of Newgate, and is likely to give rise to a searching inquiry into the nature of the practice and discipline of that prison, took place. The day-yard appropriated to male felons was being whitewashed, and on Saturday morning, immediately upon leaving the sleeping cell, three prisoners—John Bury, under sentence of fourteen years' transportation for passing forged £5 notes; Spiers, the bank-clerk, who was sentenced to fifteen years' transportation, for committing a forgery on Spooner and Attwood's bank; and Brown, under sentence of four years' penal servitude, for committing a burglary in Skinner-street, Bishopsgate, were sent into the yard to complete the whitewashing, accompanied by a turnkey, whose duty it was to remain on the spot. After the men had been at work about half an hour, the turnkey left the yard, and when he returned shortly afterwards looked in vain for the prisoners, not one of them being visible. It appears that the prisoners had become possessed of some rope, and, when they found themselves left alone in the yard, threw it over the parapet of the prison wall, and, having climbed to the top by its assistance, drew it up, and then descended to the roof of an unoccupied building formerly a coffee-house, Warwick-square, into which they obtained an entrance by the attic-window, and, thus making their way into the street, were soon lost to view. Several persons saw them descend, but did not give any alarm, as having white Guernsey frocks over the prison dress, and being much splashed by whitening, they resembled bricklayer's labourers. It is supposed that the prisoners kept back a part of the oakum given them to pick, and had manufactured it into a sort of rough rope, sufficiently strong for their purpose.



"FROZEN-OUT BARBEMEN."

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

MUCH canvassing of the Ministry and its prospects this week at the clubs, in the streets, at dinner tables—the result of which appears to be the opinion that unless some piece of luck befalls them they will not be able to go on as they are. Most of the new appointments seem to have been made on the old system—that of believing that no man is fit for a post, where activity of body and mind are imperatively demanded, till he has passed the climacteric. There is, for instance, Sir John Macdonell, allowed to be a man of great talent, but elderly and sickly to such an extent that he has on several occasions been compelled to refuse appointments at home, where little besides desk work was required. Sent to the Crimea, charged with the duty of reorganizing the Commissariat, it is not likely that he will have the physical strength to visit personally, as his duty requires him, all the pestiferous holes and corners of Balaklava and the Camp. Of course he must see entirely through the eyes of younger and stronger men, and there will begin again the old system of reports and references, which never ends in anything but a Blue-book. In place of Admiral Dundas, appointed to command the Baltic fleet (an appointment which seems popular among naval men), Henry Eden, late Commodore at Woolwich, has been named as Second Naval Lord of the Admiralty. The best friends of this most amiable gentleman are the most astonished at his nomination. The Secretaryship for Ireland is still vacant. Mr. Lowe was spoken of for this post; but the Irish members rose en masse, and threatened mutiny if the honourable member for Kidderminster (whose tone and manner of speaking do not make him very popular in the House) was appointed. One thing is certain; the public are not satisfied with the restricted orbit within which offices are distributed and appointments made; and above all, they do not like the system existent of shifting about responsibility till no man can tell on what shoulders it should repose. Moreover—speaking more particularly on the unfortunate Crimean question—people think that what is wanted to set matters straight is not Commissions to find out faults and then write home for instructions, but honest, clear-headed men, invested with full powers to set right at once that which their own sense tells them is wrong. There seems to be little doubt that the advantages of a special education have been in many cases banefully exaggerated. Mr. Macdonald, sent to the East for the purpose of managing the *Times* subscription fund, has, *conscientia omnium*, done his very complicated work most admirably. What training had he to fit him for his post?—a reporter and writer for newspapers; a man of the pen and the study? What preliminary knowledge of tea and arrowroot, blankets and hospital management, had he? The *Times* sent him on no better recommendation than the knowledge that he was an active, sensible man, who was sure to do the best possible with the funds entrusted to him; and he has done it. Does any one suppose that if Mr. Macdonald had held Mr. Filder's place, our Commissariat would have been worse managed? Verily there are many supposed Eliensian mysteries which, when the light of day is allowed to fall upon them, turn out to be simple matters enough. Lord Lucan and Sir John Burgoyne are recalled, having disagreed with the Commander-in-Chief; and it is understood that Lord Cardigan is to take the command of the cavalry—as soon as we have one.

The long frost, which makes the Serpentine and the Regent's-park so gay, saddens Islington and Seven-dials. In the country, the agricultural labourer—in the town, all connected with the water trade, the canals the barges, the river—are out of work. There is starvation in our streets and it is melancholy to reflect that, just when plentiful food and fuel are most wanted by the poor man, to enable him to resist the effects of the temperature, is the time when the means to procure them fail him most completely. It is to be regretted that in the great parish of St. Pancras the directors of the poor seem not to have thought it necessary to make the smallest preparation against a calamity which in the winter ought never to be an unexpected one. One is horrified to read in the report of the Inspector that on the 24th of January (that is before the very severe weather had set in) there were found in one moderate-sized room—21 by 22 feet, and 10 feet high—forty-six men and boys. Here, on straw beds, sheetless, swarming with vermin, averaging three to each miserable couch, the sick and the whole, the sound and the infected, slept and lived. We are told further that in the so-called "day-room for casuals" as many as fifteen men slept without bedding of any kind. In addition to this it appears that there was not the slightest attempt at classification; in one common room the virtuous and the vicious, the clean and the dirty, the tramp and the streetwalker, with the respectable but reduced ratepayer, were indiscriminately herded together. It was no wonder that with such a state of things the Poor-law Board thought it necessary to interfere; but how did the directors receive the interference, conveyed courteously enough, in a letter from Lord Courtenay to the board? Why, by pouring out the vials of their wrath upon the heads of the Poor-law Board who dared to interfere with them. Little enough was said of the suffering, the misery, the contamination, resulting from their own defective and negligent management, but much of those who were impudent enough to offend, even by advice, the dignity of Dumbledom. Two sensible men, indeed, were found to propose and second a motion that Lord Courtenay's communication should be referred to the House Committee; but up gets the model vestryman, the pet of the parish, raging like the Telamonian Ajax, and declares "that he looked upon the document just read as nothing less than a peremptory order and piece of dictation on the part of the Poor-law Board, which, if the resolution were carried, they, as a board, would be at once yielding to. He moved, therefore, that they should merely acknowledge the receipt of the letter." Of course Ajax carried his point by a large majority. All this is rather too bad, and proves that State interference with the autocracy of local governing bodies must go farther than Sir Benjamin Hall's onslaught on the paving and lighting boards.

Lent has arrived, the season at which, in ordinary times, we look for the opening of the Opera-house as surely as for pantomimes at Christmas, or partridge-shooting in September. But these are not ordinary times: war, disease, and taxation, press hardly upon speculators in public amusements. The before-Easter season, too, has always been unprofitable, so this year Mr. Gye has wisely determined not to open Covent-garden till the end of April. There will be a strong company—on the whole, quite as strong as last year. Mario and Gisi have returned from America, after a trip which cannot be said to have been altogether successful, in consequence of their lessee having failed to complete the money part of his agreement. The former has accepted a positive engagement at Covent-garden; and it is probable that the latter, notwithstanding the leave-taking of last year, may be induced to favour us with six or twelve nights more, "positively the last time." Then there is Bosio, indubitably now the first of prima donnas; and Mdlle. Nye, or some such name, from Dresden, of whom report speaks highly. Formis, too, sick of his Drury-lane, and other fidelities, has come back, partly moved thereto by M. Meyerbeer's refusal to entrust the basso part in "L'Etrole du Nord" to any one else; and Certo is to take the lead in the incidental ballet.

The trial of King, the detective, who had organised a regular body of thieves, that he might profit by their peculations, is to come on at the next session of the Central Criminal Court. In the preliminary examination before Mr. Hall, one or two facts with regard to the conduct of the police have come out which deserve comment. It can hardly be denied that the London "Blues" are not now so efficient or respectable a body as they were ten years ago. It appears that the same spirit of favouritism which has been the bane of our army is doing mischief in Scotland-yard. There is no difference in the choice of the A division from that of the rest; but that division having the superintendence of the Houses of Parliament, the Ministers, &c.—what may be called the home circuit of the force—are, of course, more constantly under the eyes of their superiors; and it is asserted that, upon the average four out of five of the superior appointments are given to this favoured division. Here is a new case, where "something must be done;" but, if it be true, as is reported, that there exist at the head office grave dissensions between the Commissioners, it is not from them, but from the superior authority of the House Office that we must expect any improvement.

SNOW CRYSTALS.

To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

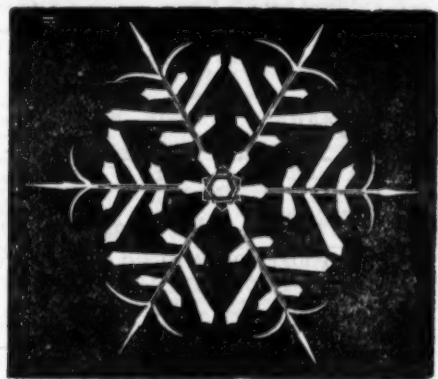
I now forward to you a few highly-magnified drawings of Snow Crystals which I observed on February 8, with, it will be remembered, a temperature of from 29 deg. to 31 deg. By those of your readers who have perused my former communication on the subject, it will be perceived that the comparatively simple figures which are there exhibited have in the present instance become the nucleus of a far more complicated arrangement.



The engraved figure, consisting of a group of eight prisms on each ray, surmounted with a crown of leaves, was seen by Mrs. King, of Greenwich, under a microscope. This lady, whose accuracy of observation is to be relied on, described it as exhibiting the utmost grace and beauty of structure to which the drawing by no means does justice. The crown of leaves I imagine to be the gradual dissolving of the upper prisms, which, breaking up whilst under observation, presented a leaflike appearance of great intricacy, purely crystalline, and which Mrs. King assures me the drawing but imperfectly represents. The insufficiency of the draughtsman to represent with his pencil the overwhelming mass of intricate detail, unfolded by the aid of a good lens, is no little matter of regret to the observer, who would record for the general benefit an appropriate idea of the real structure of these beautiful formations.



My own observations have been made for the most part with the aid of a good Coddington lens, which discloses as much of the crystalline formation of these bodies as is commensurate with my power of representing accurately. I have been much struck with the complicated arrangement of the nuclei, composed as they are of an almost endless combination of simple lines and prisms. These last, I should mention, are raised—some varieties exhibiting an arrangement of numerous facets, which give great solidity to the prism. It may easily be imagined that when these prisms are thickly grouped around the centres of these six-rayed stars (the primitive form of each figure, it will be remembered), and thickly clustered around and surmounting the apex of each ray, and that from prisms diverge prisms again, each exhibiting facets and implying solidity; and when it is considered that the transparency of the crystal reveals each line and angle, whether or not placed beneath another superimposed upon it, it will readily be admitted that the observer has a difficult task to depict accurately what he sees.



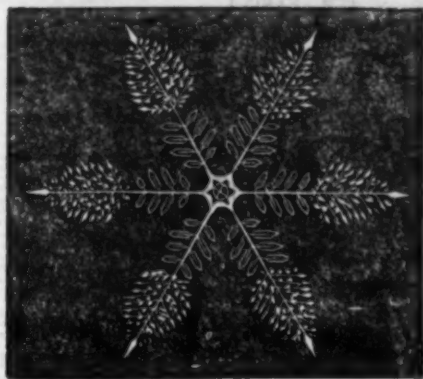
This morning, Feb. 21, with a temperature of 21 deg., they are falling sparingly, but are intensely beautiful: they are also minute, and highly crystalline. Up to the present time, 9h. 30m., all that I have observed are made up of prisms of six facets; and many are double, that is, two crystals alike in form are falling, united to an axis at right angles to the plane of each. These are generally fine specimens, and less minute; the rays of the under crystal in most cases filling the intermediate spaces between those of the upper, and, as crystals of a complex order, exhibiting a richness of effect hardly to be exaggerated.

It is a pleasant feature in the study of these figures that they give pleasure to the observer, whether as seen by the naked eye, with a lens of moderate power, or as expanded in all their beauty beneath the microscope. I received, a few days ago, from a gentleman at Huntingdon, drawings of twenty-four varieties, which he had observed in the year 1841. They were drawn after their natural size, with a fine pen; and, if less wonderful in detail, were scarcely less beautiful than any I had seen with my highest-power lens.



My own observations on some the more simple forms have been very satisfactorily confirmed by a lady, residing at Richmond, who has obligingly forwarded to me several of her sketches, made at the same time with many of my own. I have, likewise, to acknowledge my obligations for many communications of a similar character. Among them are drawings which I received at an earlier date than those I have just referred to, from T. G. Rylands, Esq., of Warrington, an experienced and careful observer. A collection of snow crystals as observed, and accurately recorded, would be an interesting feature in meteorological investigation. At the same time, it is probable that the conditions of their formation are more complex than might be imagined, familiar as we are with the conditions relating to the crystallisation of water on the earth's surface. Dr. Smallwood, of Isle Jesus, Canada East, has traced an apparent connection between the form of the compound varieties of snow crystals and the electrical condition of the atmosphere, whether negative or positive; and is, he informs me, instituting experiments for his better information on the subject.

In conclusion, I may be forgiven if I remark, for the benefit of the inexperienced, that the crystal, subjected to the warm influence of the proximity of the observer, not unfrequently alters in form before it ceases to melt. I have myself more than once drawn a specimen on its first descent, verified it to my satisfaction, and passed on to others; after the lapse of perhaps a



quarter of an hour or more, I have been surprised by witnessing, as I imagined, a new specimen occupying the precise spot of the former. In each case, however, careful observation proved to me that it was no other than the crystal I had already drawn, and that the dissimilarity arose from a general simplification of the figure caused by the subsidence of the groups of prisms surrounding the apex of the rays, the rounding of the edges of those prisms which remained, the subsiding of two or more prisms into one, and the elongation of spicules which formerly served as the axes of prisms. Drawings of crystals in this state are only partially satisfactory. Sir Edward Heilcher, in a letter I received from him lately on the subject of snow crystals, remarks that many of those seen by him in the Arctic Seas had radii of one inch and more in length, but it was difficult to obtain one perfect. I am inclined to think that



we have as great complexity of arrangement in our crystals as those belonging to colder latitudes, the difference mainly consisting in the comparative minuteness of our own. JAMES GLAISIER.

THE NEW POST-OFFICE REGULATIONS.—The arrangements with respect to the new scales of salary for the whole of the employees in the general and London district Post-offices are now nearly completed; the inferior officers—those in the letter-carrying department—having been informed, on Monday, that the new scale affecting them would be forthwith put into practical operation. The sub-sorters, letter-carriers, stampers, porters, and messengers, and all classes of officers of this distinctive kind in the lower departments of the inland and district post-offices, are henceforth to be amalgamated, and formed into a body, to be denominated "Sorters and Letter-carriers." This body is to be divided into four classes—the lowest to begin at 19s. per week, and to rise by an annual increment of 1s. a week to 23s.; the next class to begin at 25s. and to rise to 30s.; the class above them to begin at 32s. and to rise to 38s.; and the highest class to begin at 40s., and to rise to 50s. In future, also, it is provided, in accordance with the Report of the Royal Commissioners, that the promotion from class to class shall be "according to qualification and merit in all cases." The inspectors of letter-carriers have been divided into two classes, the salaries of the lower class commencing at £11s., and rising by 45s. a year to £200; and the salaries of the higher to begin at £210 and to rise by £10 a year to £300. These appointments are, in all cases, to be filled in future by the most deserving of those who have served as sorters and letter-carriers. Prior to the new arrangements there were ten mail inspectors, but the commissioners being of opinion that such staff should be replaced by a smaller body of more highly-paid officers, capable of maintaining the authority of the Post-office in dealing with the railway companies, and of requiring them to adopt such measures as may from time to time appear to be necessary for the fulfilment of their several contracts—four such mail inspectors have been appointed, their salaries commencing at £300 a year, and rising by an annual increase of £20 to £500, in addition to which they are to be allowed the sum of 15s. per day for travelling expenses.

COFFEE FOR THE CRIMEA.—On Saturday a Parliamentary paper was published, containing the correspondence upon the subject of the roasting and grinding of coffee, as also the letters between the Public Department, Lord Raglan, and the War Department. The document is of some importance with respect to the supply of coffee to the troops in the East. It appears that from the 15th March, 1854, to the 13th February instant, the quantity of unroasted coffee shipped by the naval department for the army in the East, according to the requisitions made by the Commissariat department, was 300,914 lbs. Of roasted coffee, 211,280 lbs., whole, was shipped; and of ground coffee, 30,050 lbs. The ground coffee was sent until the 18th ult. Complaints have been made that the troops were supplied with unground coffee; and there is a notice on the order book of the House of Commons on the subject. The first communication in the paper is dated the 24th February, 1854, and the last on the 5th of the present month. The last letter is to the Secretary of the Admiralty from the War Department, requesting that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty were to be moved to give directions for the shipment during the present month (February), consigned to the Senior Commissariat Office in the Crimea, of 40,000 lbs. of ground coffee, carefully packed in the canvas casks, and a similar quantity in the course of next month. "These quantities to be considered as an addition to all other requisitions for supplies of this article."

THE PRICE OF RUSSIAN FIVE PER CENTS.—A Royal Proclamation, dated the 8th instant, and which appeared in our columns of the day after, was directed against "adhering to, assisting, aiding, or abetting the Queen's enemies" by certain acts specified, "or otherwise." We submit the question whether the comprehensive clause "or otherwise" might not be considered to include a method of "abetting the Queen's enemies" which we are now about to mention. It has for some time puzzled the uninitiated to account for the daily quotations of the Russian Five per Cents in our Stock-market so nearly at par. There are surely no buyers for these securities! Yes, there is one, and that solves the mystery. A certain firm in London is commissioned by the Russian Government to buy a few thousands of Russian Five per Cents from time to time in our market. A fancy price for the commodity no objection! And these Imperial purchases "coldly furnish forth" the quotations, which figure so respectably, from day to day, amongst the prices of foreign stocks.—*Globe.*

RUSSIA AND HER TRADE.—The probability of the overland traffic being at length prohibited suggests to us the propriety of submitting to you a few statistics in connection with the trade of Russia. We think you will see that the consideration is calculated to inspire the hope that the Czar will not be able to continue an active struggle for any considerable period. The revenue of Russia is twenty-five millions per annum. Small as is this amount when compared with her population of sixty millions, still it is large when compared with the condition of the people. Reduced to the condition of the people a little lower than it is, and her revenue must decline almost to zero. Now, the people are dependent on the trade and produce of the country. Her exports may be stated at eighteen millions sterling per annum, and her imports at seventeen millions. Prohibit her trade, and you cut off five millions of Customs revenue, and render the people incapable of paying the remaining twenty millions. But this twenty-five millions is required in times of peace, and to carry on a great European war it would not be unreasonable to double that amount. How is she to obtain it? Not by a loan, for there are no capitalists in Europe who will furnish Russia with money at this moment. Her only resort must be the issue of paper money inconvertible till the close of the war. To this she has already had recourse; and while her trade is untouched, and her exchange at or about par, she may be able to do this. But, destroy her trade, and the exchange sinks from 36d. to 38d., to 26d. to 28d., and she cannot continue the issue. Moreover, at 35d., so lucrative is the business, and so easily carried on, it is impossible to prevent gold being smuggled out of the dominions. At 26d. there would be scarcely a million left in Russia. We hail, therefore, with unfeigned satisfaction, the announcement that the transit "commerce of Russia" is to be stopped—placing her, as it speedily will do, in the position of a certain nation of old, that of having "to make bricks without straw;" and seeing, as we do, that it must soon lead, as it did then, to a cry for mercy.—*Smith and Charles' Circular.*

OPINIONS OF THE SILENT MEMBER.—(No. V.)

I NEVER look at a long list of Notices of Motion without regarding them as so many notices of obstruction to all rapid motion in the business of Parliament. Every member who has a hobby of his own is naturally anxious to ride it; but how much better it would be if there were a sort of riding-school attached to the Houses of Parliament, in which these hobbies might be exercised. A great deal of time is lost by the enquiring and plunging about of the "gentlemen riders," in a species of Parliamentary equestrianism, the chief talent of which seems to consist in so managing the hobby as to bestow a kick on the Ministry. A list of Parliamentary notices generally includes a variety of questions, some of which are only asked because it is known that they cannot be answered, or because, if answered at all, the replies would be calculated to throw the public business into confusion by embarrassing the Government. Sometimes a notice of motion is given, which lays down a proposition so obviously true, that we are perfectly aware nobody will dispute it, though we are equally convinced that a whole night will be consumed in talking about it. The subject, however, is selected with a view to causing some embarrassment; and if this object be effected, the proposer is satisfied, though he takes nothing by his motion. Sometimes the notice of motion includes a proposal for the supply of certain returns, which, if granted, will never be looked at, and which, though often supplied at a very considerable expense to the country, are turned into a still further source of extravagance by their being employed as pegs on which to hang a long string of words that have no other effect than to waste the time of Parliament and so impede the business of the nation. The Legislature would do well to check the "fatal facility" with which some of these motions for returns are allowed to prevail; for it often happens that the very largest returns produce the very smallest profits.

I often admire Colonel Sibthorp's anxiety to reduce Public Expenditure; but I wish he were as great an economist of the public time as he is of the public money. It is true that his speeches are not very long, but they are very frequent; and I would therefore suggest that, if the idea of the riding-school for the exercise of legislative hobbies should be carried out, Colonel Sibthorp ought to be requested to join the company as Clown to the ring, or in any other suitable capacity. One of the gallant Colonel's latest "little bits" of the facetia with which he intersperses the duller portions of a night in the House of Commons, was an inquiry as to how much salary Lord John Russell would receive for his services on a special mission to Vienna? The answer of Lord Palmerston was that his noble friend is "to receive no salary, and that his expenses only will be paid." On this Colonel Sibthorp expressed a "hope that they will not be heavy"—a remark that induces one to ask the gallant Colonel whether he would wish our special Envoy to travel second-class, or proceed in any other way to cut down the expenses of his journey. In the present day Lord John, with all his faults, has the right to be regarded as a first-class man; and it must be hoped that, whatever may be the style in which he travels, he will outstrip the old Parliamentary or Government train that has hitherto met with so many delays and experienced so many accidents. I am no advocate for the gratuitous system, and always feel that "the labourer is worthy of his hire;" but there can be no objection to Lord John's going to Vienna without pay, unless the event should prove that he, in every sense, goes for nothing. If the performance should be crowned with success, a very minute portion of the profits would be represented by the salary of the chief actor; and if the affair should be a failure, there would be very small satisfaction in the reflection that if a good part has been spoiled, the unskilful performer got no more than he merited.

When some people fall out, some other people are said to get their due; but the troops in the Crimea do not seem, as yet, to have got that proper treatment which is fairly their due, notwithstanding the fact that Lord Raglan and Lord Lucan have quarrelled. Lord Palmerston explained that the latter had been recalled because there were differences between himself and the Commander-in-Chief; but it may be premised that, instead of differences, there is, perhaps, a strong resemblance—for their Lordships will probably be a good deal alike if Lord Lucan is recalled on the ground of unfitness for his position.

Whenever a man of high position happens to be suffering the penalty of imprisonment for some offence he has been found guilty of, the chances are that the public will soon be informed of his falling health, in consideration of which we are soon afterwards told "Mr. So-and-so has been set at liberty." It is natural that the coarse fare and the absence of luxuries incidental to prison life may be repugnant to aristocratic or even gentlemanly taste; but we ought not to lose sight of the convict in the so-called gentleman. If a man is too particular to eat prison food, he should be sufficiently fastidious to avoid criminal habits. I have been led into these reflections by having seen the announcement in the papers that Mr. John Carden, who is a prisoner in an Irish gaol for a serious offence, has been visited by the Surgeon-General (Sir Philip Crampton), who finds that confinement in gaol is deleterious to the health of the prisoner. It is probable that if John Stokes, who assaulted Policeman X, could afford to receive such distinguished visitors as a Surgeon-General, it would be ascertained that Stokes's health is by no means so rude or satisfactory when his exercise is limited within four walls, as when he is in the full enjoyment of his liberty. If a gentleman, by birth and position, violates the law and gets into prison, his incarceration is not intended to "do him good" in a medical but in a moral sense; and he has no more right than John Stokes would have to complain at finding himself "not quite so well" when deprived of his customary supply of air and exercise.

Nobody looks for a very high standard of morality in the practice of the law, or if he does look for it, he seldom finds it; but everybody expects that there will be an approach at least to sound views on the question of right and wrong among those invested with high judicial authority. Sharing this expectation, I have been rather startled by the following passage in the judgment delivered by the Lords Justices of Appeal on a case in dispute between the provisional committee and allottees of a defunct railway company. The judgment contains the following passage, which I quote verbatim that I may be accurate. Their Lordships decided—

That representations had been made by the managing committee, or some of them, that one gentleman of station and influence was one of their body, while, in point of fact, the truth was otherwise; that as to two other gentlemen there was a similar misrepresentation; that, at the time these misrepresentations were made they were known to be untrue, although their Lordships did not attribute any intention of dishonesty.

The code of Equity has, no doubt, been correctly followed in this judgment; but I do not quite understand the code of morality according to which the Lords Justices find that though there has been falsehood, and misrepresentations which were known to be untrue, "their Lordships did not attribute any intention of dishonesty." How falsehood can exist without dishonesty would puzzle the mere man of common sense; and it is, perhaps, one of those mysteries requiring all the acuteness of a Chancery Judge to penetrate.

Lord Panmure is inaugurating his career as War Minister with a show, at least, of energy, which proves that the gout has not yet shut him up in his room for a period of three weeks, as it is said sometimes to do, when nobody is allowed to speak to his Lordship; though the "Silent Member" might probably take the liberty even then of having a few words with him. The circular issued to the hospitals, inviting the assistance of professional men, proposes to employ physicians at two guineas a day, so that the candidates will probably be among the class who have a daily average of one or two patients. The circular to which I allude is so very conciliatory in its tone, that the infection at Sentari is alluded to in a tone of politeness, and is appealed to with the utmost courtesy to withdraw, for Lord Panmure "trusts that the infection in question will not remain to augment the difficulty of the duty." I can only hope that the infection will take his Lordship's polite hint, and retire from a scene where its absence is so earnestly desired.

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