THE LEAGUE.

No. 41.] SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1844. [3*d*.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive a copy, weekly, of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and* addresses *to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or* 67, *Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND, *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

REGISTER, REGISTER, REGISTER!

The Free-Traders qualified to vote must everywhere prepare to enrol themselves and their friends on the register for the NEXT *year.*

To entitle a voter to be registered, he must have occupied during the twelve months previous to the 31*st of July, premises of the value of* £10 *a year. He must have been rated for twelve months to the relief of the poor.*

He must have paid, on or before the 20*th of July, all poor-rates and assessed taxes due to the* 6*th of April preceding.*

Further information and directions will be furnished on application, personally or by letter, to the Local Registration Societies; to Mr. Sidney Smith, 68, *Cheapside, London; or to Mr. Hickin, League Offices, Newall's Buildings, Manchester.*

For the convenience of individuals whose avocations render it difficult for them to call at the Registration Office, 68, *Cheapside, during business hours, arrangements have been made by which attendance will be given every evening at that office until eight o'clock, to fill up and serve claims, and to supply every information relative to Parliamentary registration for counties, cities, and boroughs.*

COUNTY REGISTRATION.

COUNTY VOTERS *are such as have been possessed of a* FREEHOLD *worth* 40*s. per annum for six months prior to July* 31 *in the year in which they claim; of a* COPYHOLD *worth* £10 *yearly for the like period of possession; of a* LEASEHOLD, *for twelve months originally created for twenty years, of the yearly value of* £50, *or for sixty years, worth* £10 *yearly; and of a* SUB-LEASE *or assignee of an* UNDER-LEASE *in occupation of the premises. Except in the case of Freeholds not occupied by the Freeholder, no property that will give a borough vote will confer a county franchise.*

Holders for life or good behaviour of the offices of Parish Clerk, Sexton, Dissenting Minister, or other charge, if drawing 40*s. a year of their emoluments directly out of land, are also qualified.*

Occupying tenants for twelve months prior to July 31, *of premises of* £50 *value per annum are qualified, except for buildings situated within a Parliamentary borough.*

Persons so qualified must, before July 20, *send Notice of Claim to the Overseers of the parish where the qualification is situated.*

Registered Electors who have changed their place of abode, as described on the register, must, before July 20, *send notice of the change to the parish overseers.*

These notices may be sent by post, and duplicates kept and stamped by the postmaster will be evidence of service.

The lists of persons entitled to vote will be published on the church and chapel doors of the parishes respectively on the two first weeks of August, and should be examined by electors and claimants, in order that, if they are left out or objected to, they may appear before the revising barristers and support their claim.

ON THE PRESENT CONDITION AND COURSE OF THE ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.

The action of the Anti-Corn-Law League upon the House of Commons during the present session has been only indirect and incidental. That such was intended to be the case was distinctly announced long before the meeting of Parliament. The address from the Council to the people of the United Kingdom, read on the 28th September at the first of that splendid and unparalleled series of meetings which has been held in Covent-garden Theatre, emphatically disclaimed any further petitioning to the present Parliament. This negative recommendation was enthusiastically received, and has been adhered to universally. All hope and expectation from that quarter was thus broadly disclaimed. We have not noticed such an occurrence, throughout the session, as the presentation of a single petition for the repeal of the Corn Laws. The people have never been excited or deluded into a momentary indication of returning confidence. No local interests, parties, or purposes have occasioned even one solitary deviation. The unanimity and consistency are complete. The alienation of public feeling from the present House of Commons, evinced from the commencement until now that we are hastening towards the close of a long session, is an historical fact. It portends a deep-rooted conviction amongst the people that the downfal of monopoly will not be effected by their present representatives, but will be effected by themselves.

Yet, without the application of ordinary means, there has been considerable parliamentary progress. Our analysis of the division ascertains this fact. Taking into account the later season of the year, and the number of friendly absentees, evidence is afforded of a greater advance than that of last year upon the preceding division. The honourable House has evidently pondered on the ominous silence which has left it to itself. Memorialized individual members have also, in sundry instances, been impressed by the still small voice that has whispered its admonitions in their ears. But the public has only looked on quietly. Its indifference seems to say to the Legislature, "Do as you please, gentlemen; the end is coming." And they are obviously uneasy under the ceaseless watching of that observant eye: it alarms and fascinates them; but its glance can neither be evaded nor interrupted.

We note the parliamentary progress of our question simply as a fact, not as in the slightest degree calling for a change of procedure. No hostile majority, diminishing or increasing, large or small, can now tempt to the revival of petitioning. It is done with. The House has disregarded it, and it will not reappear for the House to disregard again. The course marked out, on the occasion to which we refer, is still in progress; and thoroughly to work it out is the business of some months yet to come.

The immediate business of the friends of Free Trade is that on which we have so often dwelt, and which must never be forgotten or neglected—the Registration. Claims, we trust, are already made on behalf of those entitled to the franchise. The non-payment of assessed taxes and poor-rates on or before the 20th inst., is an occasion of disfranchisement that should be carefully avoided. Instances are not rare in which collectors have purposely allowed the day to be forgotten, who would else have been sufficiently urgent in their demands. Then will come the affixing the lists on the church doors, which will be on the first and second Sunday of August. Those lists must be looked to carefully, both for their sins of omission and of commission; claims will have to be made by those omitted, and objections to names wrongfully inserted, within eleven days after the second Sunday. Here is work in hand for every member of the League. This is of much more importance than anything that passes in the present Parliament. These are the preliminary proceedings of the trial of our question by the constituencies. Nothing should be omitted that tends to secure the fairness, completeness, and, if possible, the finality of that trial. We have carried it into that court, and in that court let us energetically work it through. Neglect is treason. We have chosen our ground, knowing the difficulties it presented, and the trouble it imposed. We have abandoned the usual tribunal, the parliamentary, as partial in its nature, and hopeless of just result, and must abide by our selection. Our appeal is lodged with the electors, and by them we fall or triumph.

No ulterior plan of operations can be opened up until the next registration shows its results. If it exhibit an electoral majority of Free-Traders, the League is pledged to bear that fact to the foot of the throne, and ask for the exercise of the royal prerogative that the people may be represented as the constitution supposes them to be represented, and the majority of the House of Commons harmonized with the majority of their constituents. But even in pointing out this contingent measure we are, perhaps, premature. Let us first register. Let the Council of the League *have* the fact, and then will be the time to consider all the various modes in which that fact may best be applied to the purpose of obtaining the justice for industry which we are associated to demand. When the guns are loaded and the ranks marshalled, then will the command be forthcoming to fire or charge so as most utterly to rout the trainbands of monopoly.

All goes right, then, however the landlords' newspapers may patter about parliamentary majorities. The conviction of wrong done by the Corn Laws is deepened and extended. The power of redress by public opinion has only to be confirmed and consolidated for the decisive and triumphant effort. Transitory intervals of relief from some of the worst forms of suffering have produced no abatement of determination. Hostile demonstrations have sunk into quiescence under the scorn they excited. The way is open, and our march is onwards; firmly, steadily, diligently, and, as to the result, most hopefully.

THE LANDOWNERS, THE FARMERS, AND THE FARM-LABOURERS.

Mr. Cobden, at the late meeting of the League in Covent-garden Theatre, has justly directed attention to the importance of keeping in view the broad distinction that exists between the landed interest and the agricultural interest, and has powerfully exposed the fraudulent artifice by which the two are attempted to be blended together. In a perfectly healthy state of society the proprietors and cultivators of the soil might be bound together by community of interest and community of purpose, the law granting to both equal rights, and imposing on both equal duties. But in a system of legislation which gives the whole political power of the state, and the exclusive right of making laws, to the landlords, it must necessarily result that the rights of the proprietary will be extended to the utmost, and the enforcement of their duties utterly disregarded; while on the other hand the duties of the tenants will be continually aggravated to the utmost degree of severity, and the remedies for the establishment of their rights rendered utterly nugatory. The whole course of exclusive landlord legislation is naturally directed to secure the subserviency and dependency of the tenantry, and to maintain that monopoly of legislation by which the proprietary class is enabled to secure benefits for itself at the expense of the rest of the community. For every law on the English statute-book designed to afford redress to an injured tenant there are at least twenty to afford facilities to the landlord for the enforcement of his claims. "Rent" appeared so sacred in the eyes of the Legislature that its recovery has been preferred to the payment of all other debts, however legal or equitable, and a tenant's expenditure on land has appeared of such little consequence, that no law exists for securing him a beneficial interest in his improvements. When the landed proprietors of the present day assert the perfect identity of their interests with those of the farmers, we must turn upon them and inquire, how, then, does it happen that the whole course of your class-legislation, both in spirit and letter, has been always levelled directly *against* your pretended copartners, the cultivators of the soil? Are your game laws designed for the protection of the farmer? Is it for his sake that you refuse the enfranchisement of copyhold? Was it for the purpose of raising the class of cultivators that you have placed such difficulties in the way of creating small freeholds, and that you have rendered the purchase of small estates in fee simple all but impossible? If your confidence in the farmers be so great as you pretend, what means this reluctance to give leases, and thus secure to the tenant a fair return of profits on invested capital and of just remuneration for his honourable skill and industry? We look at your estates: we find that you have added house to house and field to field; that you have been able to allocate jointures to your wives and make settlements upon your children to an extent quadrupling the whole amount of your ancestors' rental a century ago; and that you are able to sustain mortgages, the result of extravagant expenditure, infinitely beyond what the fee simple of your estates would have sold for in a past generation; but we find no proof of the cultivators of the soil having shared in your prosperity: on the contrary, we have abundant evi-

dence that the condition both of farmers and farm-labourers has been deteriorated, and is in a continuous process of deterioration. Cottages have sunk into hovels, hovels into sheds, and sheds have been ruthlessly swept away, so that at this hour the increased population of peasantry has fewer means of lodging and domestic accommodation than the smaller population possessed in the days of our grandfathers.

If, as you of the landed oligarchy impudently assert, your interests and those of the farmers are identical, how does it happen that the prosperity of these farmers has not grown with your growth and strengthened with your strength? We know that the proprietary rentals of England have been immensely increased in value; we should like to see the man who would assert that the profits on farming have increased in anything like the same proportion, or indeed in any proportion at all. On this subject we shall quote an extract from an able article in the forthcoming number of "The British and Foreign Review":—

"There are two kinds of improvements upon landed property which mark the advances of a nation in wealth and civilisation. The first consists of those extensive and permanent ameliorations which can only be undertaken by those who possess an enduring interest in the land as owners; often such improvements can only be effected by the combination of many owners, or even by the aid of the Government. Such, for example, was the first great operation in the fens of Lincolnshire, by Richard de Rules, Lord of Deeping, Chamberlain to William the Conqueror; and these have since gone on with a tolerably steady progress.

"But the second class of improvements, which relate to the actual cultivation of land, have not proceeded with the same regularity or uniformity. They have depended chiefly upon the condition of the occupiers of the soil, whose tenures have been often precarious, and who have been at different times subject to burdens which have rendered their employment one of the least profitable and most dependent of this country. This class of farmers or yeomen has been most affected by social and political circumstances; and though, if we take a long period of time, the productive power of the occupiers has greatly increased, they have not risen in social position in anything like the same proportion as the owners of the soil. The value of land in Great Britain has increased enormously during the last three centuries; the condition of the proprietors of the British soil has improved to an extent almost unparalleled in the history of the world; while perhaps a majority of farmers, especially in England, command the conveniences of life in a degree relatively lower than that of their ancestors of the sixteenth century."

To this general statement we shall subjoin a specification of very significant facts:—

"We shall close our notice of the culture of light land by the statement of a few facts gleaned during a ride over the two farms of one of the best light-land farmers in England, occupying land in Hertfordshire. These farms are situated on the chalk hills, and are sufficiently within reach of London to send fat calves, sheep, and lambs to Smithfield-market; they adjoin each other, and contain together about 600 acres of arable and about 50 acres of pasture land. The two originally differed but slightly in the quality of the soil, both consisting of a thin stratum of gravel, with red clay resting upon chalk; the one, which is held from year to year, having been let at about 10s. an acre in its unimproved state, while the other, which is held upon lease, used to let at 8s. an acre only. Both have been for many years in the occupation of the present tenant and his father, though the relations with the landlord of that farm which is not held upon lease do not seem to have been quite satisfactory, inasmuch as the tenant has been on the point of giving up the farm three times in the course of the last fourteen years. Both farms are in a high state of cultivation, far superior to that of the neighbouring land; but the difference between the crops growing upon the farm in lease—originally the worst land—and that held from year to year is so striking as to excite the attention of the most careless observer. The tenant would gladly cultivate both alike; but as the owner of the best farm has always refused to grant a lease, from some notions about game or politics, that is out of the question; for upon the farm held by lease, the occupier's outlay in permanent improvements and in forcing the land has been such, that he calculates ten year's occupation from the present time will be necessary to enable him fully to reap the fruits of his expenditure."

We could have wished that the intelligent reviewer had attempted an analysis of the "political motives" which prevent the owner of the best land from giving a lease; he would find that they resolve themselves into the determination to have dependent serfs instead of independent tenants. In fact, the landed oligarchy, so far from wishing to see their tenants acquire wealth and independence by the cultivation of the soil, dread nothing so much as the assimilation of agriculture to those other branches of manufacture which hold out reasonable prospects of acquiring a competency to frugality and industry. Under present circumstances the interests of the landed proprietors, so far from being identified with those of the farmers, are directly antagonistic, and the Corn Laws are maintained by the landed monopolists, not so much for the sake of their pecuniary profits as for perpetuating the bondage in which they keep the farmers.

But the pressure of this iniquitous system falls with the greatest severity on the poor farm-labourer. While the Corn Laws limit within the narrowest bounds the demand for labour, the new Poor Law treats the enforced idleness as a crime. The labourer is literally knocked down and beaten for falling. He hears the cry of protection to British industry raised by lords and squires, and when he seeks for this protection against pressing starvation, he finds that it exists only in the shape of the union workhouse or the gaol. *Punch's* "Home of the Rick-burner," which, viewed merely as a specimen of pictorial art, surpasses the entire exhibition in Westminster-hall, gives a fearful and too true a picture of the condition to which the farm-labourer has been reduced by the tender mercies of landlord-made law. Who can look at this wondrous realization of the misery which class-legislation has wrought—the dead wife, the starving children, the empty cupboard, the broken teapot, the ruinous hovel, and the heart-stricken father—without feeling that the torch presented by the fiend of darkness represented in the picture offers a powerful temptation to the wild justice of revenge? But we cannot dwell on this fearful portraiture: we recommend the study of it to those who have been taught the cuckoo cry, that protection to British agriculture means protection to British agriculturists.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE FREE-TRADE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE SESSION 1844.

Twenty-first Week, ending Saturday, July 6.

On Friday week a curious conversation arose on a notable proposition made to the HOUSE OF LORDS by the Earl of Winchilsea. The noble lord has evidently been studying the patriarchal history of *Joseph in Egypt*, and imagines that, if the Sliding Scale be but maintained, England can be kept in a social state, similar to that of the Egyptians before the erection of the Pyramids! We beg to call the particular attention of our readers to this conversation (we cannot call it debate), which we give entire. The speech of Lord Monteagle, in reply, is deserving of considerate perusal, especially his apt citation from Burke's "Thoughts and Details on Scarcity;" while the chuckling gratulation of the Duke of Richmond over the speech delivered by Sir Robert Peel, in the debate on Mr. Villiers's motion, will provoke some amusement, or rather (seeing how great national questions are shirked by those who *ought*, from their position, to be "great men") a melancholy musing that the destinies of a great commercial nation constitute the shuttlecock between the political battledores of a Richmond and a Peel.

Here is the debate, if debate it must be called; and let it be noted that it occurred on Friday, June 28, 1844, while the remarks of Mr. Burke on "scarcity," penned at the request of Mr. Pitt, were published—or, at least, written—in 1795. Light, they say, travels at the rate of 192,000 miles per second: if moral light had a similar velocity, surely not in vain would Adam Smith and Edmund Burke be knocking for entrance into the dense region of the mind agricultural!

The Earl of WINCHILSEA, after presenting several petitions in favour of protection to agriculture, proceeded to call the attention of their lordships to the subject of the establishment of public granaries, of which he had given notice. In doing so, he said he should not make any observations on the question of the Corn Laws, or on the different plans which were proposed by various parties in reference to these laws. The proposition he wished to be carried into effect, as to public granaries, stood entirely on its own grounds. Their lordships were aware that from March in each year up to the present moment, and later, the wheat market in this country was under the sole control of a few individuals, the corn merchants in Mark-lane, who, by combination among themselves, were able to raise the price of that prime necessary of life to a most unnatural height. Now, if any measure could be carried into effect which would prevent these combinations from being operated, and would enable the people of this country to purchase wheat at a fixed and reasonable rate, this would be a great national blessing. (Hear, hear.) It was his fixed opinion, that the establishment of large public granaries would go nigh to effect this so desirable object. It was the worst possible policy on the part of any Government, and more especially on the part of the Government of a country like England, to suffer the supply of food for so considerable a portion of the year to fall into the hands of a few individuals. (Hear, hear.) In the event of a total failure of the harvest, not only in this country, but in the countries whence we derive our extra supplies, the result of such a state of things as that of which he now complained might be perfectly frightful. The plan which he should venture to suggest as a remedy for the evils, would be to establish five or six national granaries in different parts of the country—at Manchester, Hull or Liverpool, London—and each of them to contain from three hundred thousand to five hundred thousand quarters—say three millions altogether; having this supply, the Government could say to the landed interest—if you can supply the people with wheat at from, say 50s. to 55s. per quarter, very well; but if the price rises beyond that amount, we will open the doors of our granaries, and bring into the market a sufficient supply to keep down the price to that reasonable amount at which the public should be enabled to purchase their food. (Hear, hear.) The Government would be enabled to purchase their supplies, under ordinary circumstanses, at prices which would place them in a position at any time to benefit the public, by selling it again at a justly moderate price. In 1835, for instance, the very best brown wheat was selling at 35s., so that had Government purchased at this price, and stowed their purchases away in national granaries, they would have been able afterwards to keep down the price to the public. He would at all times allow the Government to buy their corn as cheap as they could get it—to get it as well from abroad as at home. (Hear, hear.) It might be objected that, in the event of a series of good harvests, the corn stored up would get spoiled, the general notion being that corn spoiled in seven years; but the fact was, that, if well managed, corn might be preserved for fifty, nay, for two hundred years. It was not only the manufacturing population that would derive benefit from this plan; *it would be also highly advantageous to the agriculturists, for there was no class which suffered so much from fluctuations in prices as did the agricultural interest* (loud cries of "Hear, hear," from the Opposition benches); and for this reason, that from the influx of foreign corn the farmers never obtained for themselves the high prices which were realized for the article by the speculators. This would be a great benefit to the agricultural interest, for fixity of price is what they wanted. (Hear, hear.) The adoption of such a plan, too, would greatly tend to put an end to the Corn-Law agitation, which was so injurious to all parties, setting the one interest against the other. He trusted that he should see this suggestion adopted.

Lord MONTEAGLE wished to say a few words with respect to the very important speech which they had just heard from the noble earl. In many of the statements made by the noble earl he agreed, and, above all, as to inconveniencies and evils which resulted to the whole community from the present state of the law; and he entirely agreed that these evils were more especially experienced by the agriculturists. The noble earl said that the present mode of carrying on the corn trade might be productive of great evil to the agriculturist. He (Lord Monteagle) agreed in this, and also that the corn trade was thrown into comparatively few hands. The noble earl said these persons were generally great capitalists; no doubt they sometimes were so, but at other times the operations of the utmost importance in the corn market were carried on by persons who had no capital of their own, but traded on speculation with the capital of other persons. The noble lord, on the part of the public, complained of the fluctuations which took place in the price of corn, and also said that the agricultutists suffered more than any other class from this. He also stated that this great rise of price chiefly took place between the month of March and the ensuing harvest, and a rise of price at that time was of no advantage to the producers of corn in this country. But why was it that the corn trade had fallen into the hands of so few persons? There was no monopoly in connexion with it; there was nothing in the trade to prevent any person embarking in it. The reason, however, of this was, that, by our legislation in connexion with it, the trade in corn had become of such an extremely speculative character, that it drove from it men of sober minds, who did not wish to embark in such uncertain matters, and therefore the trade was left in the hands of persons of a different character. The truth was, that the present state of the law held out an inducement to get a rise of price by withholding corn from the market, when the public most required it. The state of the land also at the periods which he alluded to not only led to this fall in prices, but it also led to such a diminution of the duty that immense quantities of corn were taken out of bond at the lowest duty, and thrown upon the markets, thus producing the greatest fluctuations in prices. If, however, the authority of the noble earl was to be taken—and it was notorious that he was a great practical agriculturist—it appeared that in the average number of years in this country wheat could be produced as cheap as, or cheaper than in other countries. Now, if this was the case, it took away the great argument which was urged by the majority of those who were opposed to a repeal of the Corn Laws. He now came to the remedy which was suggested by the noble earl. He thought that the noble earl had acted logically in making his proposition, for he did not think that any improvement could take place as long as the House supported such an extravagant system as the sliding scale. Under a free state of trade, or with a small fixed duty for revenue in corn, no such evils could be produced as were alluded to by the noble earl. He should therefore say, that although the noble earl was logically right, he would be practically wrong. The noble earl must be aware that, not only in ancient but in modern times, the erection of public granaries, to guard against seasons of scarcity, had been much discussed. This question had been most ably handled by one of the most distinguished political writers that this or any other country ever produced: he alluded to Mr. Burke, who, in his pamphlet "On Scarcity," which it was generally understood had been prepared at the request of Mr. Pitt, distinctly pointed out many of the evils which would result from such establishments, and showed that, so far from tending to obviate or prevent the evils complained of, they would tend to increase and aggravate them. The following was the passage to which he referred:—"A report has gone abroad that intentions are entertained of erecting public granaries. I hear that such a measure has been proposed—that is, for Government to set up a granary in every market town at the expense of the state, in order to extinguish the dealer, and to subject the farmer to the consumer, by securing to the latter corn at a certain and steady price. If such a scheme be adopted I should not like to answer for the safety of the granary, of the agents, or of the town itself. The foul storm of popular phrenzy would fall on that granary. In an economical light I must observe that the construction of such granaries would be an expense beyond all calculation. The keeping them up would be at an immense charge. The management and attendance would require an army of agents, storekeepers, clerks, and servants. The capital required would be enormous. The waste would be a dreadful drawback on the whole dealing. The moment the Government appears in the market, all the principles of the market will be subverted. I do not know whether the farmers will suffer from it as long as there is a tolerable market of competition; but I am sure that in the first place a trading government will speedily become bankrupt, and the consumer in the end will suffer." And subsequently he said:—"There is no way of preventing this evil (fluctuations produced by errors of legislation), which goes to the destruction of all our agriculture, and of that part of our internal commerce which touches our agriculture the most nearly, as well as the safety and very being of our Government, but successfully to resist the very first idea, speculative or practical, that it is within the competence of Government, or even of the rich, as rich, to supply to the poor those necessaries which it has pleased the Divine Providence to withhold from them for a while. We, the people, ought to be made sensible that it is not in breaking the laws of commerce, which are the laws of nature, and consequently the laws of God, that we are to place our hope for softening the Divine displeasure to remove any calamity under which we suffer, or which hangs over us." He conceived that the statement of the noble earl was the strongest possible argument against the sliding scale.

The Duke of RICHMOND said that he did not think that any advantages would arise from the establishment of public granaries. *One speech this week, in the other House, had done more good than would follow from the erection of a hundred granaries*—for, backed as that speech was by such an increasing majority, it would tend, more than anything else, to produce something like certainty with respect to agricultural pursuits, and thus ultimately produce cheapness and certainty of price. He denied that the present law produced great fluctuations in the price, for that was attributable to quite a different cause, namely, the seasons. He denied that there was the prospect of a bad harvest this year. He thought that his noble friend who spoke last was led away merely by feelings of enthusiasm, when he spoke so strongly of the alleged evils of the sliding scale.

The Earl of WINCHILSEA agreed with his noble friend who spoke last as to the importance of producing something like a feeling of certainty in the minds of those engaged in agricultural pursuits. For his own part, he would rather see no duty at all than a fixed duty. He confessed that he was surprised at hearing such observations as he heard quoted from Mr. Burke, respecting public granaries. With the opinions of that eminent man he could not agree, although he entertained the highest respect for him.

The petition was then laid on the table.

Burke, cited with so much effect on the subject of National Granaries, might have been useful on Tuesday on the subject of WAGES, in a debate which was raised by the Earl of Radnor. The idea that wages invariably rose and fell with the price of food was inculcated by people of high as well as low degree, and the idea has been so supported down to the present hour. "Nay," said Burke, "it is not so; it is not true that the rate of wages has not increased with the nominal price of provisions. I allow it has not fluctuated with that price, nor ought it; *and the squires of Norfolk had* DINED when they gave it as their opinion that it might, or ought, to rise and fall with the market of provisions. The rate of wages has no *direct* relation to that price. Labour is a commodity like every other, and rises or falls according to the demand."

The debate to which we refer, as turning on the question of wages, was raised by

The Earl of RADNOR, on the occasion of presenting, on Tuesday last, that remarkable petition from Lyneham Green, of the origin of which an account was given in last week's LEAGUE, p. 653. The noble earl stated that the present petition had been agreed to at a meeting held in Lyneham Green, called in consequence of the circulation in the neighbourhood of some of the tracts published by the society of which his noble friend on the cross bench (the Duke of Richmond) was president, called the Society for the Protection of Agriculture. The meeting was attended by about 1000 labourers and journeymen, and resolutions and a petition in favour of a repeal of the Corn Laws were adopted. This petition he considered to be extremely well worthy of their lordships' attention. It had been adopted without a dissentient voice; there was no acerbity of feeling manifested; and nothing could be more orderly or creditable than the manner in which the proceedings were conducted throughout.

Lord METHUEN bore testimony to the respectable manner in which the meeting had been conducted. There was no feeling of animosity displayed towards the landlords or farmers.

The Duke of RICHMOND said, as his noble friend had alluded to him, he would only say it had been stated that some persons had procured the signatures of labourers in an oppressive manner. He was not aware of the circumstance, and no man could regret more than he should that any person should adopt such proceedings. It appeared to him that the best way to obtain protection for agriculture was to let the labourers read those pamphlets of which his noble friend had complained, and they would then be convinced that the only object of the Anti-Corn-Law League was to lower wages throughout the country. He had a very great respect for the labourers, and he was delighted that they had set so good an example to the Anti-Corn-Law League. By exhibiting no animosity to the landlords or farmers they were showing an excellent example, which he hoped and trusted the Anti-Corn-Law League would follow; but the meetings of that body up to the present period had been the exception to the proposition. He thanked his noble friend for having spoken against Mr. Cayley's pamphlet, for he had obtained for it a sale to an immense extent. Before his noble friend referred to the pamphlet, he was afraid its existence had been but little known; but from the moment when his noble friend gave publicity to it in that House, it was sold and circulated in all parts of the country, and, he had no doubt, had gained a great many converts. (A laugh.) He did think it necessary for him on that occasion to say much to their lordships on the subject of the Corn Laws, but he must observe that his noble friend was always very sensitive about those protection societies. Now, really the protection societies would never have existed if the Anti-Corn-Law League had not forced them into being. The violent declamation of itinerant demagogues, who went about the country propagating the grossest falsehoods, and saying that this was not a tenant's question, but a landlord's question, and that the tenantry were in favour of no protection, induced the tenantry, who were a most respectable body, to come forward and give a denial to that assertion. The consequence was, that protection societies were formed in every part of the country nearly, and he hoped and trusted they would never cease what they were doing until the Anti-Corn-Law League was beat down. He did not think the Anti-Corn-Law League was entirely destroyed yet, but he thought they would find their interference at elections rather expensive. And there was another thing that made them quiet just now; demagogues were always quiet when Parliament met, because they were afraid of having their fallacies exposed; but he had no doubt we should have an autumn campaign, and he hoped the protection societies would continue what they were doing, and, in a fair fight between them, he did not fear the result. His noble friend would be the last man in the world to get persons to sign petitions against their inclination; but the truth was, that his noble friend was kind to the labourers in his neighbourhood, as he was to every one, and they hearing that he had a strong impression on this subject, naturally came forward and petitioned in this way, without deeply examining the subject. He had no doubt, if his noble friend would send them the pamphlet he had referred to, he would next year have to present a petition stating that they had changed their mind, when they were once convinced that what the Anti-Corn-Law League meant by free trade in corn, was only another mode of expressing low wages.

The Earl of RADNOR said that no abuse uttered by members of the Anti-Corn-Law League equalled the gross and scandalous abuse employed by noble lords and others at protection societies. Instead of being sorry, he was exceedingly glad that this subject was discussed; he hailed it as a great advantage, because the canvassing subjects of this nature by fair argument was the fair way of arriving at the truth. If the protection societies had published fair tracts he should not have complained; but he repeated what he had said before, that the pamphlet which his noble friend adopted was the most discreditable production he had ever read, because it falsified facts, quoted falsely, and perverted arguments. He recommended the petition strongly to the attention of their lordships.

After some further remarks from several noble lords the subject dropped.

On the same evening (Tuesday) on which the above debate arose, the Sugar Duties Bill was read a third time, and passed. It had been carried through all its previous stages without discussion; but on this, its final consideration, a debate of some interest was raised. The subject has been so fully discussed, while the bill was struggling through the House of Commons, that we shall only briefly advert to it here. The Government reasons for this bill were stated in a very clear and able way by the Vice-President of the Board of Trade—a young man who is establishing a character for business-like ability—the Earl of Dalhousie. Like his superiors in the Government, Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Gladstone, the noble lord makes excellent Free-Trade speeches, when it answers the purpose of the Government to do so; but the practical result of the principles avowed falls very short. Lord Monteagle exposed this inconsistency very well; and

The Earl of RADNOR said that while noble lords had referred to the distress of the West Indies as if it were of recent origin, and as if it had arisen solely out of the act of emancipation, he, who had been in Parliament twenty years, had never known the time when the West Indian interest did not complain. It might be said that it was not owing to the abolition of slavery, but of the slave trade. Now, he had before him the report of the committee of 1807, appointed to inquire into the condition of the West India interests; and the report, which was presented by the present Lord Seaford, said that, ever since 1799, there had taken place a progressive deterioration in the condition of the planters, resulting from a constant diminution in the prices of sugar, till the depression in the market was such that during the preceding year the estates had not paid their expenses; and the report further added, that from 1800 the profits had diminished from ten per cent. to two-and-a-half per cent., and one-and-a-half per cent., and ultimately to nothing; consequently it was not emancipation or the abolition of the slave trade which had caused the distress—it had existed several years before both. It was, therefore, an unfair argument to say that it arose from either. He believed that the difficulties of the West Indians arose from other circumstances, traced in the same report to the monopolies to which the West Indian proprietors were themselves subjected. One of those monopolies was the prohibition imposed on their refining sugar. (Hear, hear.) Of that the West Indian proprietors had a right to complain, as well as the English consumers and the whole world. The result of this prohibition was, that there was an amazing waste, which was of benefit neither to the people of this country nor to the West Indians themselves. This explained the passage in Mr. Deacon Hume's evidence which had been referred to by the noble earl. He had always looked upon that gentleman as a Free-Trader, and just before the passage which had been quoted, he found this:—"I am strongly of opinion that our colonies will be able to compete with all the world if Free Trade be afforded to them." That was, he proposed to do away with that monopoly which was supposed to be a benefit to them, the abolition of which would react on us by giving them advantages, just as the taking away of the restriction upon all sugars would be beneficial to the West Indians as well as ourselves. It had been said that they ought not to encourage slavery; but if they gave no encouragement to slavery they would get very little sugar. His noble and learned friend (Lord Brougham) drew a distinction between cotton and sugar, and said that we were not now admitting cotton for the first time; but he should recollect that we had got to a new state of things; that instead of a population of ten or eleven millions we had now a population of eighteen or nineteen millions. The West Indies could not supply this increase, and the question was, whether the people were to be deprived of sugar, or were to get any other? By the present bill they were encouraging slavery as certainly as if they took the sugar direct from the slave-growing countries; for the slave-grown sugar would go to supply the place of that brought there. The supply was not sufficient now. In 1801 there were 4,047,000 lbs. of sugar imported, and in 1810 there was rather less. We took all the sugar that the West Indians could give us, and had not enough. We refused to consume slave-grown sugar here, but we brought it here, and, having refined it, carried it back for the consumption of the West Indians themselves. (Hear, hear.) Nay, noble lords themselves must partake of this very slave-grown sugar sent out from this country if they ever eat Guava jelly, or other sweet preserves. In the course of the period since 1801 the population had increased upwards of 8,000,000. In 1800 there were imported 4,047,000lbs. of sugar, which were sufficient for the population then; but in 1840 the same quantity was to be sufficient for the increase of eight millions in the population. There had been in the interval a large increase of consumption in the articles with which sugar was used. The increased consumption of tea had been 11,000,000 lbs., and of coffee 2,000,000 lbs., and as most, when they could afford it, with these articles now used sugar, it would have been supposed that there would have been an increase in the quantity of sugar consumed. In 1801 the whole consumption of sugar per head of the population was more than 30 lbs., and indeed nearly 31 lbs.

Lord BROUGHAM: One half was exported.

The Earl of RADNOR believed that was the home consumption.

The Earl of DALHOUSIE: In 1815, fourteen years afterwards, 4,000,000 lbs. were imported, and only 2,000,000 lbs. consumed. Where two millions were then consumed there were four now.

The LORD CHANCELLOR: Oh, these figures!

[Let the reader imagine the *sigh* with which these words were yawned from the woolsack!]

The Earl of RADNOR: At any rate, in 1840 there was no exportation. The average consumption per head that year was only 15lb., being two-thirds of the quantity consumed by the paupers, and not more than one-half of that consumed by each seaman in her Majesty's ships. (Hear, hear.) The monopoly of sugar, like other monopolies, benefited no one. There was no encouragement to the planters to cultivate in the best manner. On the contrary, there was often more profit from imperfect cultivation. The noble lord read several returns to prove that, when the produce was least the revenue to the planters was greatest. There was no recognition by them of the principle of division of labour; for the planter was at once grower, refiner, and merchant—a most expensive mode of acting. Every year it appeared that the quantity of sugar consumed in the country varied with the price; that was proved for eleven years by Mr. Foster's tables; and it only had one exception to it, the year 1830. He (the Earl of Radnor) had no objection, however, to the bill, because it was a step in the right direction. He doubted that the West India proprietors were entitled to relief on the grounds they had taken; but if they were entitled he had no objection to give it. He would, however, give it in money rather than in differential duties, because they were an unnecessary and improper tax on the people of England.

The bill was at last read a third time, and passed; and whatever may be its demerits, *on principle*, it will at least effect this good, of letting in MORE SUGAR for the benefit of the consumer. The time, too, is coming when we shall have to record that the bill for repealing the Corn Laws was "read a third time—and passed!"

MEETINGS.

GREAT MEETING AT COVENT-GARDEN THEATRE.

The usual aggregate weekly metropolitan meeting of the members and friends of the League was resumed on Wednesday evening at Covent-garden Theatre—Mr. G. Wilson in the chair. The house was crowded to the very ceiling. The meeting was addressed in most eloquent speeches by Messrs. Villiers, Cobden, and Bright; and the enthusiasm of the audience was as great as on any former occasion.

Among the gentlemen present were:—

The Hon. Charles Pelham Villiers, M.P., Richard Cobden, Esq., M.P., John Bright, Esq., M.P., Major-General Robertson, Professor Key, Colonel Tucker, Dr. Tucker; Messrs. W. Bower, S. W. Griffin (Paisley), J. Howarth (Rochdale), J. Angas, Jacob Angas, Summers Harford, H. Stamforth (Hull), B. Metcalf (Liverpool), Chas. H. Lattimore (Wheathampstead), Robert Hobbs, Thomas Hodgkin, Joseph Tierney, W. Geesin, Edwards, H. Moore, Crawford Burkitt, Benjamin Thorne, S. Lucas, W. A. Wilkinson, P. A. Taylor, J. Gadsby, J. P. Burnard, Francis Stokes, Jarvis, Thomas Clark, jun. (Birmingham), Press Granger, W. J. Blake Blow, Samuel Grafftey, A. Bauer (Manchester), Richard Ware Cole, S. A. Smith, Crabbie (Leith), George Blanshard, H. L. Keeling, J. T. Campart, G. F. Minton, Wilson, J. Chalmers, Charles W. Cobby, Patrick M'Gregor, George Beacon, J. Ridge, D. Miles, J. Fitzpatrick, W. Mackenzie, H. Baldwin, J. Troughton, G. Ridge, P. Duncan, J. Miles, W. J. Williams, H. Nicholson, J. Mitchell, J. Phelps, P. Howard, &c. &c.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read by Mr. SAUL, on the motion of Mr. WILKINSON, seconded by Mr. ROBERT R. R. MOORE, they were unanimously confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN then advanced to the table amid loud and long-continued cheering, and said:—Ladies and gentlemen, I apprehend there are few here who are not aware of the fact that the monopolists in the House of Commons, true to themselves and to their own interests, have again succeeded in establishing their peculiar claims to the gratitude and admiration of their fellow-countrymen. (Cheers and laughter.) On Wednesday last they, by a majority of 202, decided upon the maintenance and continuance of the Corn Laws. I know not whether any one here may have expected a different result or not; but I confess that, looking at the parties, and to the composition of the great majority of that House, and knowing that these were the men who, three years ago, stood up silent spectators whilst monopoly was doing its work—I say, I confess I had no expectation that now they would be found giving their support in favour of that just principle which we seek to have established. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) However, I rejoice to say that, strong as they are in that House, they are not so strong as they have hitherto been. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) The tide has turned at all events, and is now setting in in another direction. Last year *they* voted 381. This year they voted 330 (cheers), having lost 51! (Renewed cheers.) Notwithstanding this it has been asked, where is the proof of your progress in the House? This year *we* voted 126. Last year we voted the same number. (Loud cheers.) Well, where is the proof of progress? In 1842 Mr. Villiers first put the total and unconditional repeal principle on issue in the House of Commons. On that occasion 92 voted with him, and 395, being a great majority of the whole House of Commons, voted against him. Now his minority is increased 34—his numbers have increased by 34. Their majority this year has been reduced 65, leaving them shorn by 100 of the majority which they had in 1842. (Cheers.) But although our numbers have been the same this year as they were last, we have had 28 new votes in favour of the motion; 32 of those who supported Mr. Villiers in 1843 were unavoidably absent, but their opinions are the same as they were, thus leaving his strength in the House of Commons, including pairs, at nearly 170. (Cheers.) Well, this, be it understood, is the same House of Commons which was elected specially and specifically to maintain the Corn Laws; and yet without a general election having occurred, with few means to operate upon them by reason and argument, we find in the space of two years Mr. Villiers's minority and votes are nearly doubled, while the majority

of his opponents is reduced by upwards of 65. Now, show me any other question which can exhibit the same progress n the same space of time, and which is not a party question, nor supported by great party leaders—show me, I say, any other which has made the same steady progress as this question has done. (Loud and continued cheers.) Every one knows that, whatever the House of Commons might have been in 1841, now it is much behind public opinion on this subject. How do I prove it? Why, look at your own city of London. One only of your representatives voting for Mr. Villiers, two voting against him, and the other running away and not voting at all. (Hisses, laughter, and cheers.) And yet will any body dare affirm that any one of those votes, except Mr. Pattison's, was a vote which conveyed a proper expression of the public opinion of the electors of London? ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) Well, then, there are other changes, too, which have taken place. There were eleven members who voted in the division against Mr. Villiers, a majority of whose constituents, had requested them to support him in the House of Commons. (Cheers.) Take these eleven, and add them to 170, and you have more than double the number of those who supported him in 1842. (Cheers.) We leave our opponents, then, with their majority—a very large, I admit, but still diminishing one. Twelve months' attention to the register will be sufficient to strip away all hopes of a majority being maintained whenever another election occurs; and I believe that there is energy, spirit, and intelligence enough on the part of the people of this country to undertake and secure such a result. (Loud and continued cheering.) You will be addressed this evening by the Hon. Mr. Villiers (loud cheers), and by Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright. (Renewed cheers.)

The Hon. C. P. Villiers, M P., on advancing to the platform, was greeted with three rounds of applause, and when the cheering had subsided, he addressed the meeting as follows—Ladies and gentlemen, your chairman has named to you that of which you were doubtless apprised, that since our last meeting in this house, for the purpose of considering the Corn Law, I have been to the house where that law was made, for the purpose of making my annual inquiry of its authors upon what grounds it was—either of justice, or wisdom, or humanity—that they defend its existence; and to ask them whether they had any fresh experience, or new circumstance, or policy of any kind, which they could allege as a set-off against that mass of misery and of mischief which did annually, and must ever flow from that law (great cheering); and I have now come, in compliance with a request made by our friend the chairman, and notwithstanding the contemptuous reference made to these meetings by Sir R. Peel (hisses, and "hear, hear")—I have come, I say, out of respect to those who attend here for the purpose of marking their sympathy with the people, and to manifest their interest in this question, in order to convey to them my impression of the result of the recent discussion and division in the House of Commons. (Cheers.) And I may at once say, for the reasons which have just been assigned by my friend in the chair, that I never felt less discouraged in my life about the cause, and that the result of the division has exceeded my most sanguine expectations. (Applause.) The motion was brought forward under every circumstance of disadvantage, and I was not prepared for that influence which public opinion had exercised over the constituencies, and which showed itself by so many fresh votes in favour of the motion I proposed to the House. (Cheers.) It is, I know, asserted by the organs of our opponents, in Parliament and in the press, that the result generally has been most satisfactory to them and disastrous to us. (Cheers and laughter.) But on that subject I have something to say. (Cheers.) The friends of scarcity in the House of Commons (great cheering) derive their satisfaction from the speech made by the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Gladstone. They hailed that speech with joy and surprise, and they accounted for their feeling, as they said, from its honesty. (Great cheering and laughter.) That part of it seems to have taken them by surprise, and what they so designated in his speech was (as far as we could collect it), that he pledged himself as far as it was in his power, and during his life, to stick by the sliding scale (cheers, and contemptuous laughter); and they believed him, which is not always the case when the present Ministers pledge their faith. (Hear, hear, hear.) Whenever Sir R. Peel is more than usually solemn in his assurance of fidelity, and of his adherence to the protective system, some caustic friend is always heard to say, "Then he is going to attack us again;" or, "Now it is certain he has another corn bill in his pocket." (Great laughter.) On what ground this young statesman (Mr. Gladstone) has found such favour in their sight I do not know; for, as far as my experience goes, I think he is not exactly made of the stuff of which martyrs are composed (a laugh); and clinging to the scale through life savours of martyrdom, I think. (Renewed laughter and cheers.) In the House of Peers consolation is taken from the result of this division, and the organ of monopoly there, his Grace of Richmond, announces to the country, and tells his friends, the tenants-at-will, that now they may renew their engagements, and hire their land at the act-of-Parliament price, for the majorities in Parliament in favour of the scale are constantly increasing. (Ironical laughter.) And I dare say some poor farmers have, from the faith they feel in persons of such high degree, been induced to offer higher prices for their land than they would otherwise have done. But what is the fact? My hon. friend has just stated it, that so far from the majority having increased, it has decreased, and no less than twenty-eight members who never before voted for the total repeal did so upon that occasion. (Increased cheering.) Then we see the organ of these luminaries, on the morning after, so satisfied with the contentment of its clients, that it will not occupy itself with the truth or wisdom of what they have said, but enters at once upon a somewhat curious inquiry, to the extent of about two columns of the *Morning Herald*, of what it was that killed the League (a laugh); and why it is the people love protection so. (Derisive cheering.) The League is dead, it seems, and it is only engaged in inquiring how its death has been brought about. (Renewed laughter.) I own I did not understand the process, but it did arrive at a conclusion about the matter; which was this, that it was all owing to Sir Robert's measures; his measures have been of that comprehensive character that they have settled everything. (Laughter and applause.) It says that the agriculturists are now at rest—that they are at peace—that they know this question is settled—and that is the reason why they are content. Well, now that seems to me—venturing to differ from so venerable a personage as the organ to which I have referred (great laughter)—to admit of some question still. (Hear, hear.) Now, what is the reason for supposing this great agricultural question settled? What is the reason for telling the farmers they may now set about their business in peace? Why, it is that Sir Robert Peel has told them that he will stick to the sliding scale! But he has not told them another thing. [At this juncture considerable confusion was caused in the meeting by a person fainting in the pit. The usual remedies having been applied, and the invalid having been removed over the stage, the hon. member proceeded.] Gentlemen, I was just venturing to direct your attention to a rather important point of this question, viz., as to whether the Government either have settled, or have done anything towards settling, this question? We find that the friends of the Government, and those who are opposed to us, infer that the question is settled because the Minister has decided that the present form of protection, which is the sliding scale, shall be adhered to. I say that it is not enough for him to declare that he will stick to that scale. There is another condition necessary to assure the agriculturists, and that is, that the public will stick to Sir Robert Peel (immense applause), because, unless they do, his sticking to the scale won't do the scale much good, nor himself either (renewed applause and much laughter); and it is possible—nay, probable—that some day, and not far distant, that they may both sink as well as stick together. (Immense cheering, and waving of hats and handkerchiefs, which lasted several minutes.) But what is the truth about this sliding scale? Let us for the sake of the farmers examine the matter. Now, we do not find the public in these days very apt to agree about many things; but is it not the case that, if one thing does unite them more than another, it is hostility to this very sliding scale. (Cheers.) The commercial classes are not apt to be very united upon any point, yet upon this matter above all others they agree. The Liberal party in Parliament are not very apt to be united, yet upon this matter they are of one mind. Even Lord John Russell, who is not in love with the League—and who, the other night, was very cross about corn, because he had been crossed himself about sugar the week before (laughter)—says, if he gets into power again, and should be obliged to show favour to the agriculturists, that it will never be in that form; and also that, as long as the sliding scale exists, he considers that all and every agitation against it is not only justifiable but most commendable. (Great cheering.) There is not a single man likely to compose the next Government who is not opposed to the sliding scale; and what is the state of the present Government? Not quite so strong as it was, I think. (Cheers.) If you ask the man in the street what he thinks of it, he says, it is going, Sir. (Renewed cheering.) Everybody says it is tottering, very shaky, it might go any day. (Hear.) Now, it is important to consider why this is the case. The fact is that, owing very much to these and other meetings of the kind, and owing very much to the dissemination of your opinions throughout the country, the public feeling generally is up against monopoly. (Cheers.) They may not be all agreed as to the mode, or as to the time, of abolishing it; but public opinion expresses itself against monopoly. (Great cheers.) Now, the present Ministry depend entirely for support upon monopolists. (Hear, hear.) The consequence is, that, whilst they do not dare to outrage public opinion by openly supporting monopoly, they cannot keep well with their friends without doing so; so that, on the one hand, they cannot get popularity without attacking monopoly, and they cannot keep their troops together while they do so. (Hear, hear.) For this reason I think we may expect a pretty constant recurrence of those "family jars" which very nearly upset them the other day, for that was all about monopoly. (Great cheering.) But so it is, however, that the sliding scale never before was in such jeopardy or the Corn Law so thoroughly unsettled; and any man connected with agriculture would, in my opinion, be a most arrant fool, if, on the faith of the continuance of the present system, he invested a single shilling in any improvement, or laid out a halfpenny on the faith of any expected or promised advantage secured to him by this law. (Hear, hear, hear.) How does this suit the agriculturists? Why, they say truly that they are now in the very worst position they can possibly be in. They say—"Give us total repeal—give us Free Trade—give us anything that will be final—let us have anything but this uncertainty." (Hear, hear.) Well, now, whose fault is it that they are in this plight? Why, it is the natural result of having a bad law, one that cannot be defended by its friends, which is an outrage on all that is just and right, and which must irritate as well as injure the people, and promote agitation till it is abolished. (Hear, hear.) The monopolist peers and their friends in the House of Commons, their organs, may pretend that the law is settled; but the fact is, that greater uncertainty never existed; and they know well that this very uncertainty, this very unsettlement of everything, which has lately taken place, is a strong reason for us to continue our exertions, and a sign to us that we must succeed if we persevere. The poor agriculturists see how they have been duped; and they know that the Government may any day be turned out, and their professed friends be any day turned round. (Laughter.) The Government might have fallen the other day; and at any time when any government choose to make a judicious distribution of "stars," and "ribands," and "places," the farmers' friends may be reconciled to any change. (Hear, hear.) The real reason, however, why those people in the Lords and Commons are so anxious to shake hands with Sir Robert, and say that after all he is their true friend, and that in future he shall be their leader, is, that these recent discussions in the Houses of Parliament have shown them their utter impotence, has proved to them that they can do nothing, and that, compared with former times, they are numerically weak, having no spokesman amongst them within, and no public opinion to support them without. (Great cheers.) On the slightest grounds, therefore, they go back to Sir Robert Peel, eat "humble pie," and offer to do just what he pleases. (Laughter.) That, however, fixes upon Sir R. Peel the responsibility for what he does in future. He has supreme power—he has humbled his party—he can do what he likes; and if he does not do what is right he is wholly to blame. (Hear, hear.) Now, if anybody thinks that the prospects of progress in the cause of Free Trade are only based on the speculations of an individual, I would ask him to attend for one minute to the progress which the cause has been invariably making for years past. (Hear, hear.) He will see, then, something certain in progress, which holds out every reason for hope, and none for despair. (Cheers.) Observe the altered tones of the supporters of monopoly as compared with those held a few years back when Mr. Canning was in office. There were then three parties on the subject of the Corn Laws in the House of Commons as there are now: those who were for the entire prohibition of all food entering this country; those who were for a sliding scale, and those who were against all monopoly. I will just give you a specimen of their opinions and their manners, when Mr. Canning, in 1827, proposed the sliding scale. Mr. Wolryche Whitmore, who represented the Free-Trade party, and who sat for the same district which I now have the honour to represent, wanted to expose the sliding scale; he predicted its mischievous effects, and said that he rose for the purpose of expressing his doubts as to the advantages which were promised to accrue from it. I find in Hansard that this was the way in which he was treated:—"The hon. member was proceeding to state his objections when he was interrupted by loud and general coughing. Having waited till the noise had subsided, he said, had he proposed counter resolutions, he should not have been surprised; but he felt at a loss to account for this interruption. He conceived that the evils of the present system would not be alleviated by the new measure. (Renewed coughing.) He hoped they would not stifle the opinions of members who wished to give a free opinion on the subject. The hon. gentleman in vain attempted to proceed, the interruption continuing, he sat down." (Hear, hear.) That was the way in which the people were treated only a few years ago, when this sliding scale was proposed, and an independent gentleman ventured to express his doubts with reference to its merits. (Cheers.) Well, he was immediately followed by a person with whose name you are now familiar, who is not an unimportant person, as far as his position goes—it was Sir Edward Knatchbull. (Loud laughter.) Sir Edward Knatchbull, I should be disposed to think, would not be one of those who would have suppressed his cough, if he had been so affected at the time, and if he joined others in smothering Mr. Whitmore: the commencement of his speech is amusing. He said that "He entertained a very different opinion from that of the honourable gentleman who had just sat down. (A laugh.) This was an important question. It was, whether the House should legislate on the principle of prohibition, or admit corn on payment of a certain duty. He thought himself bound to state that he was in favour of prohibition in preference to a duty. That was his deliberate and confirmed opinion, and he took the opportunity of stating it distinctly to the House. He had heard with horror and distrust what had fallen from the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Canning): he had said that he inclined to Free Trade. He cautioned the House, then, against this dangerous measure." (A laugh.) This was the sliding scale. (Hear.) Well, it did get through the House of Commons; but it was thrown out in the House of Lords; the prohibiting party there was headed by the Duke of Wellington, and it was thrown out. We know what was their fury against Canning for having in one session attacked both their monopoly in corn and the monopoly in church, for he pressed the Catholic emancipation upon them as he did Free Trade: they fairly worried him to death, and the session hardly passed before he expired. (Hear.) Well, they then came into office, and carried the famous sliding scale, of which we have heard, and from which we have suffered so much. (Hear.) Now, just let me mention to you what happened, in order to show what advantage there is in proposing moderate instead of extreme measures, and see what one gets for compromising great principles in that House. (Loud cheers.) This very Mr. Whitmore, who was coughed down for making observations opposed to the sliding scale, was more tolerated as the bill advanced, and he ventured to propose an amendment. Now, what do you think that amendment was? Why, it was a slight amendment, as he called it, but it was the very change that Sir Robert Peel proposed the other day. He proposed it as a small improvement fourteen years before. They went to a division. I am told that my minority was so small in consequence of the extreme motion that I made. I asked for the total repeal. Now, here is a slight diminution of the sliding scale, and the very safe, reasonable, moderate thing, as it is called, that Sir Robert Peel proposed himself two years ago: 385 voted against it, only 50 for it. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) There is encouragement for moderation (loud laughter); and, mind you, it was repudiated by all the county gentlemen, with all the usual arguments, as highly injurious to agriculture, anarchial in its character, and as likely to cause confusion. (Laughter.) In fact, everything that was said the other night against a total repeal was urged against that and every other change. Well, after the excitement of the Reform Bill was over in 1833 and 1834, Mr. Fryer, Mr. Whitmore, and others proposed various alterations—some great, some small; but they were treated exactly alike—they were all voted as revolutionary and injurious to the best interests of society. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) In 1837, Sir William Clay proposed a fixed duty, and had an enormous majority against him, and his minority was rather less than mine the next year, when I proposed a total repeal. (Hear, hear.) In 1838, seeing there was no use in attempting to reason with these men—that their hearts were really bent on prohibiting all food coming into the country, and cared for nothing but swelling their rents without reference to any other interest—I proposed that which I considered was only justice to the people, that which I was prepared to defend upon principle, and that which was at once intelligible to all: I contended for a total repeal. (Loud and continued cheers.) Now, I will just call your attention to what is the effect of constant agitation upon these questions when pushed earnestly and urgently, however bitter the opposition to them may be. (Hear.) In 1838 there was a majority of 300 against the motion; and I so framed my motion as to admit of any person who, though not agreeing in the total repeal, might agree with me on going into a committee. I argued for a total repeal, but I only proposed a form that the House should resolve itself into a committee. There were 300 majority against me. In 1839 I proposed the same measure, and the majority was reduced to 147. In 1840 I proposed the same measure, and the majority was reduced to 123 (hear); I may mention that our friends here of the Anti-Corn-Law League were then in active operation. They were doing everything to diffuse

information throughout the country on this subject; and it was the result of their efforts and energy in this matter that had the effect of reducing the majority on this question. (Great cheering.) It was 300 at first. In 1840 it was reduced to 123. (Renewed cheering.) In 1841, such had been the evidence disclosed, such was the suffering of the people, so clearly was the connexion of this law to be traced with all that the people were enduring, that the Ministry of that day said they could no longer resist, and that they were bound, to propose an alteration in this law as well as in other monopolies, and they could not retain their supporters or continue in office without proposing a change. ("Hear," and cheers.) In 1841, they proceeded to deal with this monopoly, and then we know it was that the present Government, and the present supporters of that Government, resorted to every means calculated to lower them in the eyes of the country. There was nothing that they did not say; there was no calumny, misstatement, no fallacy, that they did not circulate throughout the country, to make people believe that this monopoly could be maintained, ought to be maintained, and that it was for the interest of the country that it should be continued, and that, if they were brought into power, they would maintain it. (Great cheering.) In vain you may look through English history for such an instance of wholesale imposture as was resorted to for this purpose (cheers), and for the purpose of encouraging the people to believe that it was possible to put down the Free-Trade party, and to uphold the monopolists. (Hear, hear.) At the latter end of 1841 they came into power, and before the spring of 1842 you all know what happened. (Hear, hear.) There was, first of all, Sir Robert Peel proposing his tariff, which more or less attacked every protective duty but that of corn. (Hear.) Then he attacked the Corn Law, the necessities of the people leaving him no choice. (Hear.) Then he admitted every principle which his party had repudiated, allowing that the Free-Trade principle was true, that you should "buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest;" in fact, making a full and complete acknowledgment that they were wrong before, and that we were right all the time. (Cheers.) Well, it was in that year, seeing how the people were suffering; hearing that in our manufacturing districts there was hardly security for property, from the despair of the people who were actually starving; knowing as we all did that disease and mortality were spreading in a dreadful way, owing to privation and the want of necessaries; it was then I said, now that the principle is acknowledged, now that these people avow they have been in error and have surrendered the ground they formerly occupied, it is time to propose to the House at once to repeal these Corn Laws, and to propose it in a way that should admit of no mistake in the vote that was given. (Loud cheers.) The law, I contended, was a murderous law, for it was a law that could be proved to be producing death, and ought at once to be repealed (renewed cheering); and if it was right to alter it, it was right to repeal it. It was in the year 1842, then, that I first proposed that all the duties on food imported from abroad to supply a sufficiency at home should cease and determine, and that trade in food should be free. And I beg to call attention now to the progress which this particular motion is making, and has made, during the last few years. (Hear, hear.) On the first division that took place in 1842, on this particular motion for total and unconditional repeal of the Corn Laws, the majority was 303 against the motion. In 1843 I repeated this motion, and the majority was reduced from 303 to 256. (Cheers.) Last week I repeated the same motion, and the majority was reduced from 256 to 204. (Loud and repeated cheers.) I say, then, what is that but progress?—what is that but the influence of public opinion?—what is that but a conviction on the part of the people reaching the electoral body that this Corn Law is an atrocious law, and that it ought forthwith to be abolished. (Renewed cheers.) I find in that division that there was not one single borough that returns a liberal member, with the exception of the city of Carlisle, that voted against the measure. Every town voted for the motion if the member was returned on liberal principles. (Cheers.) And those who do not return liberal members have returned monopolists, and have to justify their conduct to the people at large, for whom they profess to hold the franchise in trust. (Hear, hear.) Further to justify my opinion of our advance, I would refer to the argument by, and the manner in which my motion was met last week. I was determined that the case should be brought before the House clearly and distinctly, as to what it was we meant when we called for a total and immediate repeal of the Corn Laws, and I framed resolutions for that purpose. I did not want to dogmatize or dictate to them, or to have some test or sign to which people were to conform without knowing what I meant. I did not want to thrust the total and immediate repeal down their throats without showing valid reasons for it. I framed my resolution with the view of showing the necessity of removing a great obstruction to the welfare of the people, and also the urgency of that necessity thus requiring an immediate consideration of the law. (Great cheering.) And these resolutions declared that the people of this country, in large numbers, had been reported to the House as being deprived of the necessaries of life; that those numbers were increasing; that the law existed for the express purpose of cutting off a supply of these necessaries of life; and I extracted from the famous protest of Lord Granville, made in 1815 in the House of Lords, the just sentiments contained in that protest—to the effect that it was unwise and unjust to tamper with the subsistence of the people, and that a law, having for its object to cut off the supply of food, was unjust in principle, injurious in operation, and, as such, ought not to exist. (Marked cheers.) That was the nature of the resolution that I proposed to the House. I wanted to know if that could be controverted. I wanted the majority to say whether the people were well off in this country, and whether a mass of the people were not deprived of the necessaries of life, and I wanted to hear from those who passed and maintained this law, whether this law did not limit the supply of food. (Cheers.) I placed the question distinctly before them in order that the whole world should be satisfied as to whether they are wrong, or we are right. (Cheers.) I want to know if any body who will look through the debate can point to a single word uttered in proof that the contents of those resolutions were not true. (Hear.) Did any body dispute the fact that the people were ill off, as I had described? I confined myself, in my opening statement, strictly to the resolutions that I proposed. I resorted to no declamation—I did not appeal to feelings—I am no orator; but I merely stated facts in support of this resolution—facts resting on official authority, deduced from the reports of their own commissioners; stating the necessities of the people, stating that they were insufficiently provided with the necessaries of life; and I asked for an answer, and I asked for a proof that these laws were not an injury to the people. I asked the agricultural gentlemen whether their labourers were well off, or whether their farmers prospered! I begged of them—I defied them—to adduce a tittle of evidence to show either; and I asked if they did, and could not do so, to resolve with me that any law that presumed or ever purported to have that effect, and had failed, should be repealed. Well, how was I met? Do you think that if they could have proved that the labourers were well off they would not have done so? Do you think that if the farmers could have been shown to have benefited in one single respect, or if advantages resulted to any body but themselves from these laws, that we should not have heard of it? No, they began to talk about the Anti-Corn-Law League. There was a long yarn about what the Anti-Corn-Law League had said or done a year before (laughter and cheers); but they could not deny that large numbers of the people were suffering from physical want—that the people were increasing, and they did not deny the effects, the odious effects, of the law, in adding to disease and injuring health. (Cheers.) I showed to them over and over again, that the sole object and the avowed intention of the law was to limit the supply of food, and to increase its price, and I begged of them that they would take that opportunity, if it was otherwise, of announcing to the world that this was not its purpose. (Hear.) Not a human being rose to say that such was not the object of this law. It was too clear that it was so from the only things that they did say. (Hear.) After listening, and straining our ears to hear what was the excuse for this law, Sir R. Peel at last rose and put some things together, which we are to take as an excuse for its continuance. He said it was part of a protective system. He did not say that the people were not starving; he did not say that the law was just, or that it was not what Lord Howick properly described it —"a robbery." (Immense cheering.) But he said it was part of a system, which we could have told him before. (Cheers.) It is a part of a system, and a very pretty one it is. (Hear.) The system is, that you are not to feed the people—that they are still to suffer, because A B C D have the right to injure them, and that the whole put together is a "system" (a laugh), which it clearly is, certainly. (A laugh.) He then pointed to the peculiar burdens which the landlords bore, and what do you think the particular burden was for which food was to be made scarce and dear? Of all the burdens that have been, or can be, named, would you imagine that the one he should select was the poor-rate. But what is the poor-rate? Why, the fund which is actually raised to relieve the poverty produced by this very Corn Law. (Cheers.) I have stated, and other gentlemen have stated it also, that there has not been one single exception to the rule, in the history of the condition of the poor, that they are worse off when bread is scarce and dear, and that they are better off when it is abundant and cheap. And it has invariably been found, both in agricultural districts and in towns, that when bread was cheap the poor-rates fell, whilst when bread was dear the poor-rates rose. (Cheers.) "Well," he says, "think of the poor-rates the landlords have to pay." Even supposing they had a greater share to pay than other people, yet that would be answered by what one of them said to me privately the other day, and when they speak privately, it is perfectly astonishing what different sentiments they express to those to which they give utterance in public. (Cheers and a laugh.) He said that all this poverty was very shocking, certainly; "but to tell you the truth," said he, "that poverty is not so mischievous to us as it is to other people. If the people could not consume food, it would be very bad for us; but, by means of the poor-rate, a fund is raised from the people in towns, tradesmen and others, to buy food to feed the paupers." So that, literally, you see they are the last people who can suffer from the poor-rates, or from the poverty they produce, because by the purchase of food, even to supply the workhouses, they are benefited. (Cheers.) Now, what other thing did Sir Robert Peel say? He said, "Think of poor Ireland." Think of Ireland! Only think of his thinking of Ireland! (Great cheers and laughter.) One of the consequences of shutting up Mr. O'Connell is, that they can take liberties with that country; for if Mr. O'Connell had been in the House upon that occasion, you know from what you have heard from him here, that he would never have permitted that Ireland should be pleaded as a cause for a Corn Law. (Great cheers.) Mr. O'Connell said here, as he has said before—and I must say there is no man who has voted more constantly for the repeal of this law than Mr. O'Connell (tremendous cheers)—he said, "I stand here as the representative of one of the most agricultural counties of all Ireland—I stand here better acquainted with the wants and the means of the people of Ireland than any other man who can stand before you, and I tell you that they have not only no interest in the continuance of this Corn Law, but that they share in the misery, and privation, and suffering, which it brings upon the people of the country." (Great applause.) They cannot be worse off than they are, and he mentioned also—I don't know whether he did so here, but, if not here, he certainly did at some other public meeting—that the landlords had attempted to get up a meeting in favour of the Corn Laws in two counties in Ireland, and that they were beaten hollow by the peasantry and the farmers themselves. (Cheers.) There is not a single man who really loves that country, there is not a native of that country who has been prominently before the world as its friend, who is not eager and anxious to repeal that law as one of the causes of its misery. Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Sharman Crawford—ay, the words were scarcely out of Sir R. Peel's mouth, when we find the son of Mr. O'Connell, the nephew of Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Sheil, and others, all voting for its repeal (cheers); and that was literally all he had to say by way of reason and argument. (Hear.) Well, there was another thing he uttered—a thing which people generally resort to when they have nothing else to say—and that is personality (cheers); a thing, I believe, constantly made use of against himself by his own friends. He said he really did not believe that any ten sane men could be found, either in the commercial classes or in any part of the community, who would really advocate the total and immediate repeal of the Corn Laws. (Laughter, and ironical cheers.) Now, that is the old stale piece of offensiveness that is used by everybody against anybody that don't at any time agree with them in opinion. (Laughter.) Why, he has been twenty times called mad for some of his measures. There's his currency measure of 1819—some people have said, over and over again, that he must have been mad or he never would have introduced it. (Cheers and laughter.) But I want to know what right he has to call persons, whom you know to be the warm and strong advocates of the repeal of this law, insane. (Cheers.) I will venture to say, that he knows no more of agriculture than he does of the moon; then, what right has he to tell Lord Spencer, or tell Earl Ducie, who took the chair here upon one occasion, that he is a madman? (Cheers.) A man ought to know something of agriculture, to assert that this measure is unwise. He at once says that no man can for a moment think of totally repealing this law with the view to the improvement of agriculture; yet we have heard men, acknowledged on all hands to be the best practical farmers—most intelligent men—some of them landlords, proclaiming here that the total repeal of the Corn Laws is as essential to agriculture as it is important to the interests of the whole community (great cheering); and as to the safety of it, what business has he to tell such men as Mr. Jones Loyd or the Marquis of Westminster that they have not a sufficient stake in the country to judge of the importance of this matter? Why, they have a little property, those two. (Cheers and a laugh.) They have come to years of discretion, too, I suppose, and they may be trusted, I should think. (Loud cheers.) All you may be supposed to be mad (a laugh); and that is what he says of you; but surely those men who are supposed to be about the wealthiest individuals in the empire,—who have considered this subject, partially in reference to their own interests, and who come forward in the most public manner, declaring that the repeal of the Corn Laws is not only a wise, but a just and necessary measure, and giving the proof which men do give in this country, when they are sincere, of their attachment to this cause, by contributing largely to the funds of the League,—surely such men, I say, might be considered as something short of maniacs because they have come to this conclusion. (Loud and prolonged cheering.) Why, it is the strong part of our case, that there never was any question brought before the public which was fortified by the support of so many and so high authorities as is this which we now advocate. (Cheers.) We have some of the most reflecting minds in the country; we have some of the wealthiest men in the empire—men respected by all for their character and their station. And does Sir R. Peel think that a mere flippant reference to the state of their mind, because they differ from him, can be any ground for your stultifying your own proceedings and admitting yourselves hitherto wrong? (Cheers.) Then we see by their organs, and we hear from themselves in the House, that this question being brought before the House is a sad waste of the public time. (A laugh.) Will any one reflect for a moment on the things which do occupy the public time in the House of Commons, and which are not supposed to waste the public time? Are they not generally those that are of least importance to the public? (Hear.) If there are any of real importance you will find that at best they are but branches of this all-important question, and only an attempt to tinker or patch up some of the evils that spring from it. (Cheers.) Look at the Factory Bill—that has occupied considerable time in the House; and what is it but a mode of preventing the people from working hard and long, which by necessity they are compelled to do? (Cheers.) Is it not far more rational, by improving their circumstances, to remove the necessity for working for an unfitting period? (Cheers.) What is the Poor-law Bill? That is thought of great importance, and probably will occupy a month in discussion. It is actually a measure to mitigate the existing law, seeing that the people are so much distressed, and that poverty has so much increased of late, that alteration in the law is required. (Cheers.) The great question of the country is the condition of the working people, and that is what you are here considering—the mode of improving the circumstances and of elevating the social condition of the working classes. (Cheers.) Is it not laughable, then, to look upon such a question as unimportant, when small branches of it, when small remedies for some of its evils are constantly engaging the whole interest and time of the House? (Applause.) There is the Currency Bill; that is an important question, and, by-the-by, that measure is supposed to have been recommended to Sir Robert by the man he considers insane (Mr. Jones Loyd)—by the man whom he considers to be stark staring mad because he advocates the repeal of the Corn Laws. (Great cheers and laughter.) Everybody says that it is Mr. Loyd's measure. But the great benefit of the measure, as Sir R. Peel says, is, that it will prevent those great revulsions in commerce which have occasionally occurred in the history of this country. But every one who knows the consequences of this Corn Law knows that whilst it continues revulsions in commerce will constantly occur—the gold will go out as before, and the people will find themselves precisely, upon the occasion of a deficient supply of food, in the same difficulties under this new Bank Charter Bill as they were previous to its enactment, and perhaps worse. (Hear, hear, hear.) I only mention these things to show that we are not wasting the public time; but that we are calling attention to the great question of the country (cheers), to which if they would attend they might suspend their labours on other matters. (Hear, hear.) This country is generally in a healthy state as far as its wealth, its influence, and its relations with foreign countries are concerned; but attention is needed, and imperatively called for, to the condition of the great masses of the people, who suffer great want, and are daily increasing in numbers, in misery, and knowledge—a condition which we can regard as hardly consistent with the security of our institutions or of society. (Cheers.) We have then, gentlemen, ample excuse and abundant reason for persisting in our course. I have been anxious to show you that we have no reason to despair of the cause, if we persevere in expressing and making known and explaining our opinions. (Hear.) You contribute much by assembling here to form and direct and influence public opinion; and as long as public opinion is allowed to be fairly and freely expressed in this country, it must have great weight and influence. (Cheers.) You have no reason to despair; on the contrary, you have every reason to hope. There is no instance of a

measure, sound in itself, and founded in truth and justice, which has not succeeded in this country; and I say to you, regard not either the cowardice, or the baseness, or the desertion of other people; but for the satisfaction of your own conscience, and the good of your country, do you your duty. (Cheers.) Go on in the course that you have commenced. Persevere in your determined resistance to the Corn Laws by every legitimate means, and to all monopoly, and they will yield farther as they have yielded already. (Hear, hear.) Precedents abound to justify your perseverance, for it is by such earnestness, energy, and independence as yours that every great measure of liberty has been carried in this country. (Immense applause.) I referred the other night to what had been done with respect to the slave trade, and have been informed since that Mr. Pitt, when, in the House of Commons, not forty years ago, he proposed the total and immediate abolition of the slave trade, was defeated by a majority of 80, the majority declaring that the abolition should be moderate, slow, and gradual, and that the planters' peculiar interests should be considered. How would you deal with that question now? (Cheers.) How would the House of Commons itself deal with it? Would not they totally and immediately abolish a system so fraught with misery and degradation to their fellow-beings, whatever the peculiar claim to continuing such cruelty might be? (Cheers.) We have abundant proofs that this Corn Law produces, and must produce, every evil which can afflict humanity, for it deprives millions of what is necessary for life. Can your benevolence, then, be better exercised than in continuing to call for its total and immediate repeal, as you would for the removal of any calamity, or misfortune, or nuisance, of the most enormous kind which could afflict the state? (The honourable member sat down amidst the most enthusiastic cheering from all parts of the theatre.)

The CHAIRMAN then introduced Mr. Cobden.

Mr. COBDEN upon presenting himself at the table was received with reiterated and most enthusiastic applause, which having subsided, the honourable gentleman addressed the meeting as follows:—Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen, after the narrative which our friend Mr. Villiers has given of the past proceedings of himself and others in the House of Commons, in connexion with that great question, the repeal of the Corn Laws, I am sure it would be acceptable to you as it would be pleasant to my own feelings to express my gratitude, as I am sure you will allow me to do yours towards that gentleman especially, who, fortunately for us and the country, took possession six years ago of this question in the Legislature, and who has so nobly and manfully supported it in spite of all sinister influences, in defiance of all those associations which he himself, as a member of the aristocracy, must have had brought to bear upon him. I thank him in your name and in behalf of the country for the consistent course he has followed in advocating this question. (Loud and prolonged cheering, accompanied with waving of hats and handkerchiefs.) He has told us that the progress which he has marked in the House of Commons has been measured by the progress of our agitation out of doors. Really, when I look back and remember what the Anti-Corn-Law League was six years ago, and when I consider the progress which the movement has made since that time, I cannot help thinking it affords a still greater hope and far more encouragement to us to proceed than even those obvious gains which the figures he as given you respecting the divisions in the House of Commons afforded to us in that arena. Why, I remember quite well that six years ago we could have mustered all the members of the Anti-Corn Law League in one of those stage boxes, and even then I am afraid at most of our meetings we should have had a great deal of vacant space. Our funds were small, collections of 5s., and even at that low sum there were not very numerous contributors. Year after year I have seen the progress of this movement, not merely in Manchester but in every provincial town, until I find we are at length landed here in the midst of this mighty Metropolis, and have been during the last six months holding weekly assemblies in this vast theatre, filled on every occasion, and to-night as crowded as on any previous meeting. If this unabated interest of London and the Londoners, in the midst of so many distracting engagements, such numerous and inviting temptations if this attention to our cause is not proof of the hold which Free-Trade principles have on the public mind, I know not where to go to find evidence which can possibly prove the fact. Our friend has told you some of the arguments that are used in the Houses of Parliament, in opposition to our cause. Now, I am not so jealous of any of their assertions or arguments as I am of one which I see was used in the House of Lords last night by his grace of Richmond. I find he is now continually stating in that august assembly, that the tenantry of this country arose as one man to oppose the League. I have myself heard the same assertions from the squirearchy in the House of Commons, and I have heard it asserted so often that I confess the repetition itself, if I had known nothing else upon the subject, would have made me rather suspect its authenticity; for it very much reminds me of the school-boy, whistling his way through the churchyard to keep his courage up. (Laughter.) Why the necessity for these assertions? Wherefore do the landlords and the dukes now state so continually that the farmers are with them? This must, I suspect, have arisen from some doubts which pervaded their minds as to whether the farmers really were to be beguiled and hoodwinked by their professions of protection. But when they tell us that the tenant-farmers rose spontaneously and formed the Anti-League Association, I tell them here in the most public place in the world, that what they say is not true. (Cheers.) I do not wish to be offensive, and and therefore I will use the words "it is not true" in a logical sense. (Laughter.) I say it is untrue, and I will prove my assertion by facts. I will take, for example, the meeting at which his Grace of Richmond attended at Steyning, in Sussex, and I will mention facts which cannot be controverted. I know that that meeting was *got up by the aristocracy and squirearchy* of Sussex, and that if they themselves did not personally go round, and canvass and entreat the farmers to attend, that their land-agents, and land-stewards, and law-stewards did so; that the tenant-farmers were canvassed and pressed to come up to that meeting with just the same earnestness with which they are canvassed for a general election. Nay, more, the carriages, horses, and vehicles of the landlords, down even to the deer-cart, were put at the disposal of the farmers to carry them up to the Steynings meeting. What I say of the Sussex meeting, of my own knowledge, is, I am well assured, a fact as regards almost every assemblage which has been held, purporting to be a spontaneous meeting of the farmers to oppose the League. In some instances dinners were provided for the tenantry at the expense of the landlord. The tenant-farmers were moved by the landlords; they were canvassed by the law-agents and land-agents in every part of the kingdom, often not knowing the business they were going upon, and in much more frequent cases not caring for the object for which they were summoned together. Why, what I am telling you now is patent to the whole community; there is not an individual here from any county in England where those meetings have been got up, who will not immediately respond to the truth of what I have stated. (A voice—"I can bear you out.") The land-agent—mark the tribe—is the finger of the landlord. He has but to point, and the farmer acts according to his direction, knowing that it is the bidding of his landlord at secondhand. And who are the men who have attacked the League at these meetings? Can you show me one specimen of a *bonâ fide* intelligent, substantial farmer, like my friend Mr. Lattimore, who I see sitting behind me (cheers); or like Mr. Josiah Hunt, who addressed us here a short time back; or those two worthy men who came from Somersetshire for the same purpose? Can you show me in all the instances of their meeting, *bonâ fide* respectable, intelligent men, known to be good farmers in their own locality, men of capital in the world, who have taken a lead in the movement? You cannot show me a man of that stamp who has attended a meeting, and taken the leading part in their proceedings. But if you ask who the men are that have been placed in the chair or put forward to speak upon such occasions, you will find that a hundred to one they are either agents, auctioneers, or land-stewards. (Hear, hear.) Who is Mr. Baker, of Writtle, in Essex? He is the man who has been put forward as the great leader of the protectionists in that county; it was he who originated the first meeting, who has written pamphlets and made speeches upon the subject of protection; and yet, who is this Mr. Baker of Writtle? I will undertake to say that he makes more money by agency and auctioneering than by farming. You may have seen his name advertised in newspapers, in one column as the author of a pamphlet or the writer of a letter for the protection societies in favour of the Corn Law, and in another column advertised as the auctioneer who is going to sell up some unfortunate farmer who has been ruined under the Corn Law. (Hear.) Does his Grace of Richmond or the squirearchy in the House of Commons, after the enlightenment and education which our great peripatetic political university—the League—has diffused through the country, think for a moment that the public will be so gulled by these unfounded assertions in either House of Legislature, or that they will really believe that the tenant-farmers spontaneously and voluntarily rose up to form anti-league associations, with the facts which I have mentioned being known in every county in the kingdom? Why, how can they get up and talk so foolishly! It appears to me that they must be about as cunning as the ostrich, which hides its head in the sand and thinks that no one can see its unfortunate body, because it cannot see it itself. (Cheers and laughter.) I am jealous of this practice of taking the tenant-farmers' name in vain. They tell us that we have been abusing the farmers, and therefore they have turned against us; why, if there has been one individual in the country who has more constantly stood up for farmers' interests and rights than another, I am the man. (Cheers.) I have a right to do so. All my early associations—which we do not easily get rid of—lead me irresistibly to sympathize with the farmers. I was bred in a farmhouse myself, and up to the time of my going to school I lived amongst farmers and farm-labourers, and witnessed none other than farming pursuits. I should be utterly unworthy of the class from which I have sprung if I voluntarily entered upon a crusade against one of the most industrious, painstaking, and worst used classes in the community. (Cheers.) I have said scores of times, in all parts of the country, that I believe the tenant-farmers have been more deeply injured by the Corn Laws than any other class of the community. The history of the tenant-farmers—oh, that we could have the history of that class in this country for the last thirty years! Would we could procure a report to be presented to the House of Commons of the number of tenants in this country who have been sold up and ruined during the last thirty years under the blessed protection of the Corn Laws! It would form a dark calendar of suffering, not to be equalled by the history of any other class of men in any other pursuit in this world. An enemy to farmers! If I am an enemy to the farmers, at all events I have not feared to trust myself amongst them. The monopolists did not come to meet me when I went into the farming districts, and they will not come to meet me if I go there again: that is the reason why I have not been lately; and I have often put this question to the protectionists in the lobby of the House of Commons: "Will you meet me in your own locality? Will you let your high-sheriff call a county meeting in any part of the country, I care not where it is; you shall choose your own county? Will you meet me in a public meeting in any county in the kingdom, and there take a vote for or against the Corn Laws?" No; they will not meet me because they know they would be outvoted if they did. (Cheers.) The Corn Laws protect farmers! Why, the farmers pay their rent according to the price of the produce of their land; and after that well-known fact, you need not say another word upon the subject. If Corn Laws keep up the price of food, they maintain the amount of rents also. The Corn Law is a rent law, and it is nothing else. But I am jealous of these noble dukes and squires attempting to make it appear that we are enemies to the farmer. In fact, I feel it is paying no great compliment to our own knowledge and intelligence to suppose that we should have gone on lumping the landlords along with farmers altogether in the way in which they lump them. No, no; I began my career in the House of Commons by a definition of this kind:—You landlords have called yourselves "agriculturists;" mind, I do not denominate you *such*; you are no more "agriculturists" because you own land than a shipowner is a sailor because he owns ships. (Cheers.) When the noble Duke of Richmond gets up in the House of Peers and says, "Oh, the Anti-Corn-Law League by their abuse of the agriculturists have set the farmers against them," he does not know the language of his own country, and requires to study an English grammar, if he is not aware that an agriculturist means a cultivator of the land. That term may be applied to the tenant-farmer and the farm-labourer; but his Grace of Richmond must change his pursuits, and become a more useful member of society before he will be entitled to be called an agriculturist. (Loud cheers.) Now, it is not only in the way you have heard pointed out that the Corn Law injures the farmer—it is not merely that the Corn Law has tempted him to make bad bargains by expecting high act-of-Parliament prices, and then deceived and disappointed him in those prices—that is not the only way in which the Corn Law has worked mischief to the farmers. It has injured them by distracting their attention from other grievances which lie nearer home—which are really of importance—keeping his attention constantly engaged with an *ignis fatuus*, which perpetually escapes his grasp, and which would not benefit him even if he could clutch it. What are the grievances which the farmer feels? He requires a fair adjustment of his rent; he wants a safe tenure for his land; he requires a lease; he must get rid of the game which are nourished in those wide hedge-rows which rob him of the surface of the land, whilst the game devours the produce of his industry and his capital. The farmer wants improvement in his homestead; he requires draining, and a variety of concessions from his landlord: and how is he met when he endeavours to obtain them? He cannot approach the landlord, agent, and steward, and ask for a settlement of any of those grievances; those parties are all in a plot together, and they forthwith tell him, "This is not the matter you should trouble yourself with: go and oppose the Anti-Corn-Law League, or else they will ruin you." Is there any other class of men who are dealt with in a manner like this? They cannot come to a *bonâ fide* settlement upon any existing grievance, because there is an act of Parliament pointed to which they are told they must maintain or else they will all be ruined. I have often illustrated to farmers the folly of this practice; I do not know whether I have ever done so to you; but if you will allow me, at all events, I will hazard the chance of its being a repetition; for I have found the illustration come home forcibly to the apprehensions of the farmers in the country. I have pointed out the folly of this system in the following manner:—You, as a farmer, deal with your landlord in a manner different from the way in which I transact business with my customers, and they with me. I am a manufacturer, having extensive transactions with linendrapers throughout the country. I dispose of a bale of goods to a tradesman; I invoice it to him, stating it to be of a certain quality and price, and representing it as an article which he may fairly expect to sell for a certain sum. At the end of half-a-year, my traveller—who is my "agent," similar to that of the landlord—goes round to the draper and says, "I have called for this account;" presenting the invoice. The linendraper replies, "Mr. Cobden sold me these goods promising they were all sound, and they have turned out to be all tender: he stated they were fast colours, and they have every one proved to be fugitive. From what Mr. Cobden stated, I expected to get such-and-such a price, and I have only obtained so-and-so; and, consequently, have incurred a great loss by the sale of the article." Suppose my traveller—who, as I said before, is my "agent"—replied to the linendraper, "Yes, it is all perfectly true which you have said; it has been a very bad bargain, and you have lost a great deal of money; but Mr. Cobden is a real linendraper's friend, and he will get a committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the matter." (Laughter.) Then, still following up the simile of the land-agent, if the commercial traveller were to present his account and say, "In the meantime, pay Mr. Cobden every farthing of that account, for if not, he has got another act of Parliament, called the law of distress, by which he is enabled to come upon your stock and clear off every farthing in payment of himself, although no other of your creditors should get a farthing; but, notwithstanding, Mr. Cobden is a real linendraper's friend, and he will get a committee of the House to inquire into the subject." That is precisely the mode in which farmers deal with their landlords. Do you think that linendrapers would ever prosper if they dealt with manufacturers in that way? They would very soon find themselves where the farmers are, in fact, too often found—in the hands of an auctioneer, agent, or valuer. Linendrapers are too sagacious to manage their business in such a manner as that. I never will despair but that the farmers—the real *bonâ fide* tenant-farmers—of this country will [illegible] out—I say they shall find it out, for we will repeat the fact so often that they shall know it—how they have been bamboozled and kept from the real grievances, the real bargains, and actual transactions by which they should govern their intercourse with landlords by this *hocus pocus* of an act of Parliament which professes to benefit them. (Loud cheers.) What is it that these political landlords tell the farmers at the present time to do? Is it to petition Parliament to give them anything different from what they now possess? They are in distress. Their labourers, in numbers in every parish, are standing idle in the market-place wanting work and getting none. They find themselves threatened with being devoured with poor-rates, and they cannot meet their half-year's rent. What is it which the political landlords tell the farmers to do in order to remedy all these grievances? *Present petitions to Parliament, praying them to keep things exactly as they are.* ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) That is really what the speeches at the protection meetings amount to. This attempt at deluding the farmers is a masterpiece of audacity compared with any previous pretext of the landlords; for in former times, when farmers were recommended to go to Parliament with a petition for a committee to inquire into their condition, it was invariably with a view of discovering a remedy for their evils; but now all which these political impostors profess to do, is to enable the farmers to keep themselves in the same downward course and hopeless state in which they at present find themselves. No, no; I do not despair that the farmers will yet find out this miserable delusion which has been practised upon them. The landlords tell me that at the meetings I have held in the counties I have not had the voice of the farmers with me. I am perfectly well aware that, in holding a meeting in a county town, even in the most purely rural district—such as Wiltshire and Dorsetshire—you cannot prevent the townspeople from assembling along with the farmers. I am quite ready to admit that many farmers may have attended those meetings without holding up their hands one way or the other. They came, however, and heard *our statements*, and that was all I wanted. (Hear.) But

mark the inconsistency of these landlords: one day they come and tell us that the whole population of the agricultural districts, shopkeepers, mechanics, artisans, every man in a county town like Salisbury, for instance, depends upon the Corn Laws, and benefits by this protection; and then when, I say, I go down to such a place and take the voice of the community, including the tradesmen of the town as well as farmers and farm-labourers, then they immediately separate that class of the community consisting of shopkeepers and residents in towns, and state, "We will not take their voices and votes as decisive in this matter," though they live in their own county; but they say, "It is the farmers and farm-labourers who alone must be judges between us." (Hear.) There is one other argument which has also been employed, and which I did not expect to hear, even from a duke. (Laughter.) I see that a noble duke tells the House of Lords that the Anti-Corn-Law League wish to repeal the Corn Laws in order that they may reduce the wages of their workmen. He asserts that the price of corn governs the rate of wages in this country; that when bread is high wages are raised, and when it is low wages are depressed. I say I did not expect ever to have heard this allegation made again, even in the House of Lords. Such, however, was the statement made in that assembly last night, which was promptly met by our noble and patriotic friend Lord Radnor, who is always at his post. (Loud and prolonged cheering.) It requires a great amount of moral courage in an atmosphere like that in which he was then sitting, in an assembly possessing very little sympathy for men possessing patriotic views and taking an independent course, such as he has always taken; and yet there is that nobleman always to be found, and never does his courage fail him; and I must say that he meets the noble dukes with their fallacies in a most clear and concise way, and puts his extinguisher upon them in a most admirable manner. Lord Radnor gave the noble duke an axiom which should always be borne in mind by you,—that if the labourer is already sunk so low in wages that he cannot subsist upon a less sum, that then the price of labour must rise and fall with the value of corn, because otherwise your labourers would be starved and die off; that, in fact, where labour has reached its minimum, the labourer is treated upon precisely the same principle as a horse or beast of burden: the same quantity of bread is given to him in dear years as in cheap seasons; just in like manner as you would give as much oats to a horse when they were dear as you would when they were cheap, because it is necessary to do so in order to keep him in working condition, otherwise you would not obtain his labour. (Hear, hear.) What does this fact prove, but that the man is reduced to the condition of a slave, where the wages are not the result of a free bargain between the employer and the labourer, but where, like the negro in Cuba and Brazil, he has his rations served out to him—his red herring and rice—no more and no less, whatever its price may be. (Cheers.) But will they venture to tell us that that is the condition of the working classes in manufacturing districts or in the Metropolis? (A person in the pit—"Yes.") I ask that man who answered "Yes," whether he ever knew an instance in London in which the price of labour followed the price of bread? (The person in the pit—"Yes, in the manufacturing districts.") I said in London. I will come to the manufacturing districts presently; but let us begin with the Metropolis; for I see there are some persons here who require instruction upon this point. (Cheers.) In 1839 and 1840 bread was nearly double in price that it was in 1835 and 1836; did the shoemakers, painters, tailors, masons, joiners, or any other operatives in London get an advance of wages in the dear years? (Loud and general cries of "No, no.") Did the porters of London even obtain any increase of remuneration? (Cries of "No, no.") You have in London 100,000 men employed in the capacity of porters in shops and warehouses, in the streets, or upon the river: did any of these 100,000 men ever hear in their lives, or their fathers before them, of wages rising along with the price of bread? (Cries of "No, no.") What is the mode of proceeding in your corporation? They fix the wages of many people, such as ticket-porters and watermen, and the rate of hackney-coach fares is also determined either by their orders or by act of Parliament. Did you ever know of their being altered because there had been a change in the price of corn? Whoever heard of a man stepping into a boat and requesting to be rowed from Westminster to Blackfriars-bridge, and upon arriving at the latter place asking the waterman what his fare was, and being told in reply, "Why, Sir, it is a dear year; the quartern loaf is up 2d, and therefore we charge more than we did when bread was cheaper." (Loud cheers and laughter.) As regards the manufacturing districts, I will tell you what the rule is there. You know that every word of what I am saying is taken down; and I am not speaking here to *you* only, but for publication, and, if untrue, refutation, in the north of England. If they can contradict my statement there are plenty of good friends who would rejoice to do so; we have, perhaps, one of them now here—I do not think there are more—who would be glad if he could to pick a hole in my argument. I repeat here what was recently stated by Mr. Robert Gardner in Lancashire. That gentleman, be it remembered, is a Conservative; the treasurer of a fund for building ten churches in Manchester, and himself a subscriber of £1000 to that object; but who, on the Free-Trade principle, nobly threw aside party, and at the last county election himself proposed Mr. Brown as a candidate for South Lancashire. (Cheers.) What did Mr. Robert Gardner say? Bear in mind he is one of our largest and oldest manufacturers in Lancashire. He stated on the hustings there, in the midst of men of his own order, but of different political views, and who therefore would have denied his statement if they could have done so, "I have been engaged extensively in this district for thirty years past, and I here state as the result of my experience that, so far from the wages in this part of Lancashire rising and falling with the price of bread, that there never has been an instance during my experience when the bread has become dear and scarce, that wages and employment have not gone down; but whenever bread has become plentiful and provisions cheap, wages have as constantly risen, and employment has become more abundant." (Cheers.) I quote that upon Mr. Gardner's authority; but I pledge my reputation as a public man and private citizen of this country to the truth of what that gentleman has stated. That these scandalous misstatements should have ever again been repeated, *even* in the House of Lords—that any one should have dared to venture upon such a worn-out, miserable fallacy, surpasses my comprehension. I say here, deliberately, that instead of the price of corn governing the rate of wages in the way they state, so far as the north of England is concerned, the effect is the very opposite; and, therefore, to say that the Anti-Corn-Law League want a reduction in the price of food in order to reduce wages, and act upon the supposition that wages can be reduced when food is cheap in the manufacturing districts, is contrary to all experience. I do not content myself with arguing upon possibilities. I am not a duke, you know (laughter), and, therefore, I cannot content myself like a duke with arguing always in the future tense, and saying what *will* happen, and then take it for granted that common plebeians must take my assertions for prophecy or argument; but I mention facts and experience, the only ground upon which fallible men can form a judgment of anything; and therefore I say, if the members of the Anti-Corn-Law League who are manufacturers—although now a very small minority of that body are manufacturers, I am happy to say—but if those who are manufacturers want a repeal of the Corn Laws with the idea that to cheapen food would enable them to reduce wages, they are the most blind, and apparently the most besotted class of men that ever existed; for, if one may trust all experience, the effect of a free trade in corn must inevitably be to raise the money rate of wages in the north of England, at the same time that it will give to the working class their enjoyments, comforts, and the necessaries of life at a cheaper rate than they have hitherto had them. (Cheers.) You remember our first appearance in London in 1839 and 1840. You did not take much notice of us then: we were assembled in Brown's Hotel in Palace-yard, in a comparatively small room. The reception you then gave us was a very cold one. If you had then known as much about the Corn Laws as you do now, or rather if you had *felt* as keenly—for I believe that at that time you knew quite as much as your fellow-countrymen—if you had felt as you do now, I believe that by this time we should have had a repeal of the Corn Laws. What was the state of the north of England when we first came up to London? Bread was dear enough to please even his Grace of Richmond. Good wheat, such as Christians ought to consume, was selling at about 80s. a quarter. What was then the condition of our manufacturing districts? Did we come up to London because we wanted labour cheapened, that we might get men out of the agricultural districts, and pull down their wages? Why, a large portion of our own population were in the workhouse or the streets wanting employment, and offering their labour at any rate. One-half the manufactories in Stockport were shut up; and men who were bred to skilful pursuits, worked upon the road at stonebreaking for 7s. or 8s. a week. Such was the state of things in the manufacturing districts when we first came to London. What was our object in coming here, and what remedy did we propose for that distress? By a free trade in corn to cheapen its price, to lower it materially from the price at which it then was—20s. per quarter higher than it now is. Our object then was by this means to enable us to employ our people at good wages. If we had wanted to lower the price of labour, we should have come up to Parliament and asked your noble dukes and squires to keep on the Corn Law; for that was the most effectual way of doing it. No; in London and the manufacturing districts, in all your cities, large towns, and villages, mechanics and operatives, blacksmiths, carpenters, and every class of people, are above that state at which they have rations served out to them like negroes in Brazil or Cuba: they are superior to that low condition when wages rise and fall with the price of food. If the Duke of Richmond tells me that agricultural labourers are in that state, then I say that that class have reached the lowest point of degradation which men, nominally free but really enslaved by circumstances, ever reached in any Christian country. (Hear, hear.) For myself I repudiate the motives falsely attributed to us of seeking by the repeal of the Corn Laws to reduce wages. I do not urge motive as argument, or as a ground for your confidence. We know nothing of men's motives: they may often be the very worst when we suppose them to be the very best. I say, from the facts I have told you, that the effect of the repeal of the Corn Laws, if it cheapen the price of food, must lighten distress, and will give a demand for labour by extending our foreign trade. If it reduce the price of bread, looking to all past experience, the effect in Lancashire, Yorkshire, and all the manufacturing districts must be, to raise the money rate of wages; in London and the large towns of agricultural districts leaving the wages at least where they are now, seeing that wages do not follow the price of food; and it will give all the people the necessaries of life as cheap as by nature they were intended to enjoy them. There was another duke (laughter), his Grace of Cleveland, who applauded a pamphlet written by Mr. Cayley, in which the writer has taken great liberties with Adam Smith, as Lord Kinnaird, I think, recently pointed out to you from this place. (Hear.) Mr. Cayley and his party have taken Adam Smith and tried to make him a protectionist, and they have done it in this manner: they took a passage, and with the scissors snipped and cut away at it, until by paring off the ends of sentences, and leaving out all the rest of the passage, they managed to make Adam Smith appear in some sense as a monopolist. When we referred to the volume itself we found out their tricks and exposed them. I tell you what their argument reminds me of. An anecdote is told of an atheist who once asserted that there was no God, and said he would prove it from Scripture. He selected that passage from the Psalms, which says, "The fool hath said in his heart there is no God." He then cut out the whole of the passage, except the words, "there is no God," and brought it forward as proof of his statement. (Cheers and laughter.) As the Dukes of Richmond and Cleveland have found out that there is such a work as that of Adam Smith, I wish they would just read the 8th chapter of his first book, where he speaks of wages of labour. I will read an extract from it to you. "The wages of labour do not, in Great Britain, fluctuate with the price of provisions. Wages vary everywhere from year to year, frequently from month to month. But in many places the money price of labour remains uniformly the same, sometimes for half a century together. If in these places, therefore, the labouring poor can maintain their families in dear years, they must be at their ease in times of moderate plenty, and in affluence in those of extraordinary cheapness." But I will not confine myself to Adam Smith: I will neither take him nor any other writer, but will be guided by experience and facts within our own knowledge, and then we cannot go wrong. (Hear, hear.) I do not think we need argue this matter here to-night; we have come together upon this occasion almost as a leave-taking. We have had so many delightful meetings in this place (hear, hear) that I cannot help feeling regret that I should have heard our chairman whisper that our weekly meetings are drawing to a close. (Hear, hear.) Depend upon it we have given an impetus to this question, not merely in England; for in Europe, in America, and every part of the civilized globe, our meetings have excited the greatest attention. (Cheers.) I should not like to separate without a distinct enunciation of what our intention is, and, if opponents wish it, what our motives are. In the first place, we want free trade in corn, because we think it just; we ask for the abolition of all restriction upon that article, exclusively, simply because we believe that, if we obtain that, we shall get rid of all other monopolies without any trouble. (Hear.) We do not seek free trade in corn primarily for the purpose of purchasing it at a cheaper money-rate; we require it at the natural price of the world's market, whether it becomes dearer with a Free Trade—as wool seems to be getting up now, after the abolition of the 1d. a pound—or whether it is cheaper, it matters not to us, provided the people of this country have it at its natural price, and every source of supply is freely opened, as nature and nature's God intended it to be—then, and then only shall we be satisfied. If they come to motives, we state that we do not believe that free trade in corn will injure the farmer; we are convinced that it will benefit the *tenant-farmer* as much as any trader or manufacturer in the community. Neither do we believe it will injure the farm-labourer; we think it will enlarge the market for his labour, and give him an opportunity of finding employment not only on the soil by the improvements which agriculturists must adopt, but there will also be a general rise from the increased demand for employment in the neighbouring towns, which will give young peasants an opportunity of choosing between the labour of the field and that of the towns. (Hear.) We do not expect that it will injure the landowner, provided he looks merely to his pecuniary interest in the matter; we have no doubt it will interfere with his political despotism—that political union which now exists in the House of Commons, and to a certain extent also, though terribly shattered, in the counties of this country. We believe it might interfere with that; and that with free trade in corn men must look for political power rather by honest means, to the intelligence and love of their fellow-countrymen, than by the aid of this monopoly which binds men together by depressing and injuring their fellow-citizens. (Cheers.) We are satisfied that those landowners who choose to adopt the improvement of their estates, and surrender mere political power by granting long leases to the farmers—who are content to eschew some of their feudal privileges connected with vert and venison—I mean the feudal privileges of the chase—if they will increase the productiveness of their estates—if they choose to attend to their own business, then I say free trade in corn does not necessarily involve pecuniary injury to the landlords themselves. If there be a class in the community who may be said to have a beneficial interest in the Corn Laws, to whom there would be no compensation from their repeal if the price of the corn were a little reduced, that class is the clergy of this country, and them alone. The Tithe Commutation Act has fixed their incomes at a certain number of quarters of corn per annum. Suppose a clergyman gets 200 quarters of corn for his tithe, if that corn fetch in the market 40s. a quarter, it yields him as his annual stipend £400 as the produce of his tithe; but if the price of wheat be 50s. a quarter, then the clergyman obtains £500 per annum, instead of £400 as formerly. (Hear.) I am willing to admit, that if the result of Free Trade causes a reduction in the price of corn to the amount of 10s. per quarter—though I by no means use it as an argument—that it will be productive to him upon such a supposition of an uncompensated diminution of his income as a tithe-owner. He does not spend so much of his stipend in bread as to obtain from the decrease of its price compensation for the diminution of his income arising from the same source. But, I would ask, is this a right position for the clergy of this country to be placed in? Is it reasonable that they who pray for "cheapness and plenty" should have an interest in maintaining scarcity and dearness? I will put it to the clergy of this country whether, with this one fact apparent to the world, they can consistently with the retention of their character of respectability, be found in future assisting Anti-League meetings in upholding the Corn Laws? Why they would not be fit to sit upon a jury for the trial of the question; you might challenge them as interested parties, and they would, upon the commonest principles of justice, be excluded the box upon that ground. I appeal to them as they love their own reputation, and for the sake of decency, at least, to stand neutral upon the question: that is all I require of them. We believe that Free Trade will increase the demand for labour of every kind, not merely of the mechanical classes and those engaged in laborious bodily occupations, but for clerks, shopmen, and warehousemen, giving employment to all those youths whom you are so desirous of setting out in the world. O, how anxiously do fathers and mothers consult together upon this point! What letters do they write soliciting advice and assistance! I have frequently had such epistles addressed to me: "There is our boy, John, just come from school: he is now fifteen years of age; we do not know where to put him, every trade is so full, we're quite at a loss what to do with him; we can get nothing from Government, for they give every thing they have to bestow to the aristocracy." (Cheers and laughter.) Finally, we believe that Free Trade will not diminish, but, on the contrary, increase the Queen's revenue. This, ladies and gentlemen, is our faith; these our objects; and this the ground upon which we stand. We believe that we are right: our opponents have acknowledged that we are so; they have confessed that our principles are true; and we will, therefore, stand by the justice of our system. (Cheers.) Do not let us be disheartened by the apparent difficulty of our position: I never felt less discouragement in our cause than I do at this moment. (Loud cheers.) Our labours for the next few months may not be quite so noisy as they have been; probably we have had too much talking; but if they are not so loud, be assured they shall be quite as efficient as any labours in which we have hitherto engaged upon this question. The registration throughout the country shall be well and systematically worked. (Prolonged cheering.) In every locality where you may happen to talk, press upon your fellow-citizens the importance of watching the registration, that your own and

your neighbours' names may be placed upon the register, and that you may strike off those irreclaimable monopolists who are not to be brought to the authority of reason upon this question. Let us attend diligently to this duty, and, if they will give us another registration, or even another after that, I have no doubt we can make a very different account of matters in the House of Commons. Ladies and gentlemen, one word more and I have done. In order to keep our question in its true position, do not let us be *used*, however we may be *abused*, by any of the existing political parties. I have no objection at all to an alliance, offensive and defensive, with anybody who adopts our principles; but if men are engaged in the pursuit of one object and we of another, do not let us think of shutting our eyes, and entering into an arrangement which promises to be a partnership in which the very first step we take will find us diverging, the one going one way, and the other another. Political parties are breaking up in this country: I mean the old factions. There never was a period in the history of England when an attempt was made to carry on an opposition with a more intangible line of demarcation than that which separates Whig and Tory at the present moment. I venture to say, looking back upon the history of this country for 200 years—to the time of Charles I., when party spirit ran so high that men drew their broad swords to decide political questions,—from that time down to the present there never has been a period when there was such an attempt to keep up an opposition against a party in power without apparently one atom of principle or any one great public question on which to support an opposition. (Hear.) There are many other subjects which the politicians of this country take an interest in besides Free Trade; but for none of those questions has the Opposition, as led on now by one nominal chief, the support of the people out of doors. If we give up the ground we have taken upon the Free-Trade principles, or surrender one iota of our principles, I know the temper and character of those who have nursed this agitation from its commencement, and by whom it is at this moment carried on, too well to doubt that, if there was the slightest evidence of anything which amounted to a compromise of our principles with any political party, that moment the right arm of every true friend of the League would be paralyzed. I ask you upon this occasion, whatever may happen in party papers, or be spoken in public against us, as Free-Traders—and in no other capacity do I prefer the request,—that you who have watched over this organization, who have helped—as you have so continually done by your numbers—to sustain it with your sympathies,—I ask you, whatever you may see, notwithstanding anything which may be put out by a party press—the pens of whose writers are often guided by the intriguers of political faction—to apply but one test to us, namely, are we true as a League to the principles we advocate? If we are, depend upon it, whatever obstacles there may be, if we cling to that truth, we have only to persevere as men have ever done in all great and good objects, and it will be found, that if we are true to our principles we shall go on to an ultimate and not very distant triumph. (The hon. gentleman resumed his seat amidst most enthusiastic and reiterated applause.)

The Chairman then came forward and said, Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Bright will now address the meeting.

Mr. Bright on presenting himself at the table was greeted with enthusiastic bursts of applause, which were repeated again and again; silence having at length been obtained, the hon. gentleman spoke as follows:—It is a matter of very pleasant reflection, after having been consigned to utter oblivion on several occasions, and after having been killed outright at least half-a-dozen times of late, that we are yet assembled in such overwhelming numbers, and feel ourselves in so very good and cheerful condition. It is satisfactory to feel that we are yet able to struggle for the great principle which has so often been the cause of our meeting together in this theatre; and although in the course of this warfare we meet with storm and sunshine, and those vicissitudes which most men have met with in the pursuance of any great object,—that notwithstanding we have ground for believing that the principle for which we strive—although it may be outvoted in both Houses of Parliament—is making sure and steady progress in the minds of the honest, intelligent, and reflecting portion of the people of this country. (Cheers.) It is satisfactory to think that the opposition we now meet with partakes more of the character of a political than a commercial hostility. We are certain that the principle of Free Trade is so beautiful and natural that it must commend itself to the mind of every unprejudiced person; we know that, if it were a question merely as to the benefits which the country derived from the infringement of that principle, we should easily persuade the whole—as I believe we already have a vast majority—of our countrymen that the principle of monopoly is unsound and vicious. But we have now to contend with a political opposition, and to engage in a conflict which assumes that character entirely. The questions about which we are battling are those around which political parties are turning. Some of the men of the party now in power are afraid that rents might be endangered by Free Trade; but they are fearful that their great party which they have been ten years in building up might be shattered and shivered to pieces at a blow, and then not only rent but every thing else which that great political party possess might be perilled. All the patronage and offices at home and abroad, including those of the army, the navy, and a vast amount in the church, in fact, the feeding and fattening upon not less than £50,000,000 of revenue, together with as much more, at any rate, in other departments,—all this might be sacrificed, and they be thrown into the cold shade of Opposition. But still though the opposition has taken this character, we are by no means daunted at it; we find that all great writers—the men who have put pens to paper to make their thoughts and opinions eternal—all who have touched upon this question have, almost without an exception, adopted the opinion which we have formed of it. We know that great men and eminent statesmen for fifty years past have held the same sentiments as ours; we are conscious that our opponents practise, in all their private affairs, the principle which we openly advocate. In buying and selling in their regular business they hold that Free Trade is the principle of common sense, although it may assume a different character in national affairs. All the past justifies us in the course we are pursuing, whether we regard it as conferring benefits on all those who have had Free Trade applied to their trade, or regard monopoly as inflicting grievous and indescribable evils on large portions of our population. The present exhorts us, also, to be working on this question; for, although there is now a respite from the evils under which this country lately suffered, yet it is but a respite which may be followed by disasters, at least, as great as those from which we have just escaped. The future is also before us, warning us that, if we refuse to be guided by the experience of the past, it has in store for us a lesson which will not only teach us the error we have committed, but which may make us a beacon to nations in future times, teaching them that there are dangers upon which countries may run and make fatal shipwreck. Our sincere opponents have honest fears, and, as far as I can bring their apprehensions to any one point, it appears to me that they suspect that the introduction of foreign produce, especially grain, would supersede the consumption of their own grain, and cheapen it in the market; would throw their land out of cultivation; and, in fact, make their trade as corngrowers unprofitable to the occupying tenantry of the country. Now, I speak of the past as giving us some ground for the course we are now pursuing. I will ask your attention to the past for a few moments, that we may discover how wholly visionary are the fears which the landowners, tenantry, and others entertain with respect to the dangers which they apprehend in consequence of a free importation of grain. If the introduction of wheat from abroad would supersede the consumption of that which is home-grown, it is, I suppose, because people would eat the foreign wheat; and, as they could not consume both that and our own, they would leave uneaten the English wheat. Their argument will apply to any other kind of article just as well as wheat. Take, for instance, the article of rice: suppose it was proposed, for the first time, to bring into this country the quantity of rice which is now imported annually, amounting to something like 500,000 cwts; the wheat-grower might stand up and say, "If you allow this rice to come in, the people of this country will inevitably begin to make rice-puddings, which must necessarily, to some extent, supersede bread puddings, and thus our great interest will be endangered by the importation of rice." Well, but this amount of rice *does come* in; and there was a time when it was not imported, and yet, all the wheat which is grown in this country is consumed, and, instead of having a superfluity, we even want rather more than they can find for us. Take another article—a root which is now of such universal use—I mean the potato. There was a period when there were no potatoes in this country; the quantity which is now consumed I am not able to state, as we have no statistics which give us the information; but every man knows that the consumption is enormous. We have potatoes also imported from abroad, although they were prohibited up to July, 1842. From a return just published by the House of Commons, I find that up to January, 1843, 11,000 cwts. of potatoes had been imported into this country; and in the year ending Januray 1844, the quantity had increased to upwards of 16,000 cwts. Now, those importations of foreign potatoes being allowed, it might have been supposed that they would have superseded the consumption of British wheat and potatoes; yet there is no such plenty; no man finds that his potato ground is not worth the cultivating—that he cannot sell everything eatable which his industry can extract from the soil of his country. (Cheers.) There are some other articles which are imported now, and which our forefathers did not consume. For example, the article of tea, not less than 40,000,000 lbs. weight of which were introduced into this country for home consumption in 1843, and in the same year more than 30,000,000 lbs. of coffee were brought from abroad; of cocoa, upwards of 2,500,000 lbs.; of sugar, not less than 437,000 cwts. Now tea, coffee, cocoa, and sugar, each make very pleasant beverages. Probably, some of the people who drink them now, had they been unable to obtain them, would have drank beer of some kind made from malt, and malt of course manufactured from barley. Is it not clear that the importation of all this quantity of food must materially have interfered with the consumption of barley? And yet whoever finds the growers of barley in any part of the country experiencing a difficulty in selling their crops? Do they not find prices high enough, markets sufficiently open, and customers ready to purchase everything that they can produce? There is another article, namely, eggs. Last year there were introduced into this country upwards of 70,000,000 of eggs. I recollect seeing in a scrap-book an extract from a newspaper, which contained a petition to Parliament, presented many years ago, when the importation of eggs was first alluded to, from the hens of this country. (Laughter.) These hens stated their case in very pathetic language. They said that, for the supply of the population of the country with fresh eggs, they had deprived themselves of the gratification of sitting for a number of weeks upon millions of eggs; that they denied themselves all the joys of maternity, all the pleasures which they would have had in leading their young broods out, finding them their food, and so forth; that, therefore, they thought it was very unjust indeed that there should be a law by which a competition from abroad should be got up. They went into a variety of arguments precisely of that nature, and just as wise and creditable to the intelligence of the hens as are the arguments which the Duke of Richmond uses in the House of Lords in support of the Corn Laws. (Loud cheers.) There are certain other articles, such as live cattle. In 1842 the law was altered, and they were allowed to be introduced at a moderate fixed duty. What is the quantity which has come in since that period? I ask your attention to this fact, because it will teach you to know how much faith to put in the prophecies of men who tell us that, under a system of Free Trade, we should be inundated with foreign corn, and ruined by the very abundance of it. In the year 1843 the whole quantity of cattle imported was as follows:—oxen and bulls, 1114; cows, 368; calves, 40—very little necessity for any importation of that commodity (laughter); sheep, 210; lambs, 7; swine and hogs, 361; sucking pigs, 87—making a total of 2187. Just turn your attention back for one moment to the time when this law was introduced; what did these Dukes of Richmond and Cleveland say upon the subject? Why, that those cattle were actually upon the shores of foreign countries in the utmost agony of expectation that they might come over to this country to be devoured by the people here; that, in fact, we should have such an inundation that cattle here would not be worth having. In consequence of their absurd statements, the farmers of this country were panic-stricken to some extent, and that, coming in aid of their extreme poverty at that time, cattle fell 25 or 30 per cent., to the immense injury of a number of the tenants of this country. I have read in history that there was a great alarm some 250 years ago, or rather more, when the Spaniards equipped an enormous fleet, and threatened to invade our shores; the Spanish armada even now comes up before one's imagination as some giant spectre threatening undefined calamities; but I do not believe there ever was half so much terror among the agricultural classes at the prospect of the Spanish fleet invading this country as the landowners caused amongst the tenantry when these poor, innocent, and half-starved oxen and cows were coming over here to feed the people of this country. It appears to me to have been a great want of ordinary care for the interests of the country that they did not, upon that occasion, call out the militia and the yeomanry. (Laughter.) By-the-by, the valour of the yeomanry has never been very conspicuous; it was once proposed, in an act which was passed to raise troops of yeomanry, that they should never be allowed to go out of the country, *except in the case of an invasion.* (Laughter.) But there are some other articles besides those which I have mentioned; among others the article of hides. In 1843 there were introduced into this country from abroad, hides to the amount of 535,000 cwts. Of hides you are of course aware that leather is made; of leather boots and shoes, carriage harness, and a variety of other things. In this country we have a large quantity of hides which come from the cattle slaughtered here; but nobody has ever found, because 535,000 cwts. were imported from abroad, that the English dealers could not sell the hides which were produced in this country: the one has not superseded the other, but they have been offered freely in the same market; and thousands and millions of people have now boots and shoes, and leather to use for other purposes for which they require it, who, if hides had been kept out of the country, could by no means have had any supply at all. Again, take the article of tallow. There was imported into this country, last year, tallow to the amount of 1,178,000 cwts. Well, that article is produced in this country also. It is very likely that, upon the tables of the Dukes of Richmond or Cleveland, if they condescend to burn anything but wax, they may, at the same time, have one candle the produce of English, and another made of Russian, tallow. They are both sold in the same market, the one not having superseded the other. Tallow is cheaper than it would be if there was none imported from abroad. Many a man can work on a winter's evening, or, after his work is over, can read his newspaper or his book, by the light of a candle, the tallow of which came from Russia, and the cotton which forms the wick from the southern states of North America. But if this principle of isolation—shutting us up to the use of what we may produce ourselves, and compelling us to be wholly independent of foreigners—if all these arguments in favour of restriction are good for anything, why, all laws under which these articles are imported are enactments which are calculated rather to decrease than to increase the comforts of the people who live under that operation. Take the article of silk. From 1820 to 1821 its average annual consumption in this country was rather less than 3,000,000 lbs. weight; in 1843, the importation was 5,743,000 lbs., very near double what it was from 1820 to 1827; and besides this more than 96,000 pieces of silk handkerchiefs were imported, coming from our possessions in the East. But, notwithstanding all this, does anybody find that the importation of these articles has superseded the products of this country out of which cloth is made? Take, again, the article of flax, from which linen is manufactured. In 1835 the importation of flax into England was 740,000 cwts.; in 1843 it had increased to 1,438,000 cwts., or nearly double what it had been in 1835. Now, although so much silk and flax were imported, as we find from these things having come into such common use, has it thrown out of use any other article of cloth or linen? There is no proof whatever of it, but all the evidence is to the contrary. What is the principal article grown in this country of which cloth is made? Why, wool. How stands the case with respect to that article? In the three years, 1826, 1827, and 1828, the average importation of wool into England was 25,000,000 lbs. weight; what was it in 1836, 1837, and 1838—ten years after? The average was then not less than 55,000,000 lbs. weight. What was the price during the former years when the importation was so small? It was under 10d. a lb. for English Southdown wool; but when the importation had more than doubled, the price was 16d. a lb. Now, you had all that silk, flax, and wool coming in from abroad, and yet there was no diminution whatever in the production of wool in this country; there were more sheep in these latter years than formerly by thousands and scores of thousands, and, what is also notorious, those farmers who of all others have succeeded the best in this country for many years past, especially since 1824, are those whose chief business has consisted in keeping sheep, and in producing wool. But go to another article, which is the largest of all in its importation, namely, cotton: in the year 1810 the importation of cotton into this country was about 90,000,000 lbs. weight; in 1843, last year, it was 585,000,000 lbs. weight, not all consumed in this country, but all coming here to be manufactured, a large portion consumed, and the whole of it being here and free to be sold in competition with the woollen goods, the produce of the agriculturist of this country; and yet for all that you find wool not diminishing in price, produced in larger quantities than it was before, and the farmer who produces it making a better profit than any other farmer, however greatly protected he may be. (Loud cheers.) I am prepared to argue that no harm has come to the population of this country in any shape from the increased importations of these most useful articles. The power to purchase these goods from abroad indicates the possession of the ability, and actually creates it, to purchase the produce of our own land at home. There can be no doubt whatever that, if it were possible to put a stop to the importations which I have just alluded to, the effect would be that the price of wool itself, and also of agricultural produce generally, must fall in this country by reason of the cessation of trade and the impoverishment of the people who are employed and paid by the trades connected with these very importations. But, if we look to the protected trades themselves, we shall see how utterly rotten and worthless is the pretence of protection. What have your West Indian merchants been doing lately; and what has been the language of their mouthpieces in Parliament? I have seen them get up from their benches and come to the table to unrol a lot of papers, and with a face of perfect sincerity state to the House that they are producing sugar at an expense of

6½d. per lb., and they cannot sell it in this market for more than 6d. Suppose I were to go with a roll of papers in the same way, and say that my business was in a very bad state; that I was selling cloth furnished to the Manchester market for less than I could make it—as I have done many a time—and that I was selling it in some other part of the world, in a neutral market, in competition with the American and the Swiss, and that they both of them undersold me; that, by some means or other, I had influence sufficient to get a law which should tax you and everybody else, in order to make my trade profitable: if I were to act thus, I suppose you would laugh at me and think I was a very great fool, or something much worse. But these men actually do this. Here are half a dozen of them rising at a time and going into all the details of the management of their business, and saying that they can not carry it on unless they could overcharge you to the tune of about 2½d. a pound on your sugar. If they cannot conduct their trade fairly, then let it drop. (Loud cheers.) You have in this country twice a week a publication called the *London Gazette*, ay, and a fearfully melancholy catalogue is presented in that publication, of men who from one cause or other have sunk, it may be from affluence and independence, into a state of dependence, poverty, and ruin! Why should not these men come week after week to the House of Commons, and ask that out of the public taxes they should receive as much as would pay their debts, set them up in business again, and carry them on comfortably in the circumstances in which they had formerly lived? That would be quite as just as that these men should come and ask to tax you, and me, and every body else in this country for the sugar which they sell. And who are they? Why, men who, if there be any on the face of this earth having no claim to sympathy, I say these are they—the proprietors of our West India colonies. (Loud and prolonged cheering.) There is another protected body—the shipping interest. Why, the voice that comes from them is one continued howl; it is not a mere ordinary complaint and growl, but it is an everlasting besetment of the Legislature that something should be done for their relief. They have been protected into their present wretched condition. There is now a committee of the House of Commons sitting to inquire why they are so miserable, similar to the committee that sat upon the condition of the agricultural interest when the farmers were so badly off. They have been examining a very large shipowner in London, a man who, if he polled at all at the last election, voted that few goods should be carried across the Atlantic; and there is another man also who has been examined, and who is a very great authority on shipping matters; and what do these persons say? That in the colonies they build ships so cheap that somehow or other the foreign shipbuilders are able to undersell those of this country; those gentlemen, therefore, recommend, for the benefit of the shipping interest of this country, that colonial ships shall have a pretty heavy tax levied on them, in order that the British shipbuilder might compete with them. Now, what can be more absurd than such a proposition? These men once had what they call complete protection; but now they have a partial protection. It is this system of protection giving them a monopoly, and inducing them to rely upon it, blinding their eyes to the usefulness and the necessity of exertion and competition—it is this which has reduced the shipping interest of this country to its present deplorable condition. Is it not utterly disgraceful that, in this island, which professes to be the mistress of the seas—which if not in that inglorious pre-eminence which springs from power exercised in war, is, at least, the mistress of the sea as far as its commercial marine exists; and I glory that it should be so (cheers);—but, if England be the mistress of the seas—if our ships are found on every ocean and in every part of the world, and we have a larger trade than almost all the nations of the earth added together—I ask you, is it not positively disgraceful that navigators of ships should come crawling to the squirearchy of your House of Commons, and ask for some assistance out of the difficulty into which they have plunged themselves? (Tremendous cheers.) There is another protected interest which used to be protected almost to prohibition, which means was almost nursed to death—that is, the silk trade. Nothing is more notorious than the fact, that that business has been more prosperous since the abolition of its protection than it was before; that the number of looms weaving silk in this country have enormously increased; that the persons employed on those looms have been multiplied in a corresponding proportion; that there have not been those fluctuations in their trade which were known previously; that, in point of fact, they are now upon a somewhat more natural basis, although their protection is not wholly done away with; and, I believe, there is no intelligent and honest man amongst the silk manufacturers of this country who would not admit that the very best thing ever done for his trade was the abolition of the prohibition with respect to the importation of foreign silk goods. (Hear.) Of English agriculturists I need not speak; they were protected from 1815 to 1828 by a prohibitory duty—protected to such a degree that our House of Commons has for many years been an agricultural club, for the purpose of seeing if it could not keep agriculture alive in this country. (Laughter and cheers.) Amid all this protection, how go on the unprotected trades? I know something of one of them, for my business is entirely with a trade upon which Parliament has never laid its deadening finger in the shape of an act of Parliament to protect it. Look at the cotton trade of Lancashire: sixty years ago it was scarcely known there. It is said that the man is living who hauled the first bale of cotton into Liverpool which arrived there from the United States. I doubt not that the man is now living who erected the first steam-engine to drive the machinery for the purpose of manufacturing cotton in Lancashire. But what has that county become? I stated here a few weeks ago what it was some 250 years back, and what is it now? A return has recently been made by the House of Commons, of the amount of valuation which has been made there to the county rate. Look at the value of land and building in Lancashire at this moment. This assessment to the county rate—that is, the annual value of the land and buildings, *excluding altogether stock in shops, furniture in houses, and the enormous value of machinery in all the manufactories of that county*—the annual value is £6,162,067. Now, how many counties do you think it would take in England and Wales to make a similar amount of valuation? I will just read them over to you. Huntingdon, Westmorland, Rutland, Anglesey, Brecon, Cardigan, Carnarvon, Denbigh, Flint, Merioneth, Montgomery, Pembroke, Radnor, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hereford, Hertford, Monmouth, and Oxfordshire. Here are nineteen counties, the amount of whose united valuation is considerably under the valuation of the one county of Lancaster. The population of that county in 1841 was 1,667,054; while the population of the nineteen counties, whose names I have just read, is 1,654,607, or several thousands less than Lancashire alone. Look again at the valuation of the principality of Wales, which is not equal by a great deal to half that of Lancaster: the latter being £6,192,000, while the former is only £2,443,000. The valuation of all England is only £48,000,000, Lancashire being more than £6,000,000 of that amount, or upwards of one-eighth of the whole. Yet, when you come to speak to squires, these facts are treated as very unimportant circumstances. They have been in Lancashire, they tell you: they passed through it once upon the mail when they were going to Scotland grouse shooting. (Laughter.) They say that it has a great many chimneys and a good deal of smoke, and a vast number of working men, who did not touch their hats to them as they passed. (Loud cheers and laughter.) That I believe is considered by them as a very disgraceful feature in the character of the men of Lancashire. But, notwithstanding, it is well that these squires should reflect that there is such a county; how it came to be a place of such magnitude and importance—how it was that the barrenest and least inviting part of the kingdom, which nature seems to have favoured least—that that spot of country should have become the most important tract in the dominions of the British sceptre. There are, however, some people living in agricultural districts who are more sensible than others. A gentleman of this description—a large miller at Lincoln—lately gave some statements at a railway meeting as to the quantity of Lincolnshire produce which goes into Lancashire. I will just read you one portion, without going through the whole of the extracts which I have made. He says:—"From the 1st of October to the 1st of April last, 59,365 quarters of wheat were sold in Lincoln market, of which five wholesale millers took 43,426 quarters; and he could affirm that the greater proportion of the wheat ground by the Lincoln millers went to Manchester, both flour and bran." Then he says, "With regard to barley and malt, the facts were pretty nearly in the same proportion; from the 1st of October to the 1st of April, there had been sold in these markets 26,685 quarters of barley: of this, 700 went to Leeds, 177 to Wakefield; of malt, 100 quarters were shipped to Leeds, and 400 quarters to Wakefield. In the same time, 5508 quarters of malt were sent to Manchester; and Mr. Thorpe, the largest maltster in that place, had that morning informed him (Mr. Seeley) that before the season closed he should ship 5000 quarters more, and all to Manchester." "Thus, it might be fairly assumed that Manchester and the places around were the districts that consumed the chief part of the wheat and barley grown in the Lincoln district." (Hear, hear.) Thus it would appear that every class would be interested in the abolition of the Corn Laws, and the full adoption of the principle of Free Trade, which we are here to-night—and have been so often before—to expound. I believe that even the landlord class would lose nothing in rental; they might be deprived of political power: but even that may be bought too dearly. A time may come, when, for the power they grasp now through the medium of this law, they may be made to pay, if it be possible, a thousand-fold, in the abolition of many privileges and immunities which they now prize so dearly. They protect native industry! I have been delighted to find this phrase in other countries besides England. The manufacturers of America ask for protection to native industry; that is, in other words, a law to make their goods dearer. The manufacturers in France, especially in the iron works, raise a similar cry, meaning that they are fond of keeping articles of our manufacture out of France, that they may overcharge their countrymen for their own produce. I have here a very amusing extract, one most pleasant for me to read, from a petition lately presented from the wine-growers of Narbonne, in France, to the legislators of that country, praying for the abolition of protection and a greater freedom of trade between France and foreign countries. Just listen if they do not quote our words, or we theirs:—"Under the name of a protective system, a state of things has been brought about which obstructs exchanges, arrests the progress of civilization, and restrains the growth of our commercial power. We doubt whether any nation has ever thus crippled its agricultural produce. The continental blockade itself was less injurious to our exports than the present system, for then, the French territory being increased, we profited by the markets that conquest opened to our commerce. Fifty years ago the city of Bordeaux exported to Great Britain and Ireland 18,000 tuns of wine; now the total export of all France to Britain is 3090 tuns. Russia, Sweden, and Prussia, a large falling off. By excluding the raw materials and manufactures of other powers, France has provoked retaliation. The same combinations which excluded foreign iron from our markets, have caused the exclusion of French wines from the markets of Europe. Nothing can be more natural. When you refuse to buy the produce of a nation, that nation refuses to buy yours; exchange, which is the very soul of civilization, then becomes impossible, and all commerce is destroyed. Favouring the exportation of manufacturing produce, and hindering that of agricultural produce, is called by many manufacturers 'protecting the national industry,' as if the cultivation of the vine, which gives employment to 6,000,000 persons, and is of the value of £20,000,000, was not national beyond every other industry. A nation is weakened by diminishing, is strengthened by increasing, the circle of its trade. Commerce raises up a similarity of interests among men which is advantageous to all. From multiplicity of exchanges spring riches, and consequently, power." (Cheers.) Then, I think, we have pretty nearly finished the discussion as regards the principle upon which we act, and for which we are contending. We have now brought it to such a point that it has become merely a question of might against right. (Loud cheers.) We have so battered down every argument for protection, and have made its advocates so ashamed of themselves and their cause, and so put to the blush every man who was wont to defend it, that now this great question—on which, according to the squirearchy, the preservation of this country depends—hangs entirely on the will of one or two men; that Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Gladstone, by speaking out honestly to them, although insolently to us, have, they say, gained their confidence. What a disgrace to the aristocracy of this country that it should be brought to such a pass! Who are the two men who have gained this power over them? Sir Robert Peel's father was a man who made his fortune by honest and meritorious industry. Mr. Gladstone's father gained his wealth and independence by extended operations in foreign commerce. They have, at all events, nothing to boast of with respect to ancestry. They cannot say that

"Their blood
Has crept through scoundrels ever since the flood."

(Hear.) And yet these men, who have no aristocracy to boast of, of whom it may be said by a figure of speech, that people do not know exactly whether they had grandfathers or not; yet it is to these men that the great and magnanimous aristocracy of this country are indebted for the sustentation of a law, upon which they say the very existence of this great empire depends. (Cheers.) I know not which of the two is more contemptible or discreditable,—that the proud aristocracy of England should owe such degrading dependence to such men, or that these two men, having sprung from the ranks of industry, should lend themselves so infamously to support the usurpations of power. (Cheers.) But it may be found that the will even of these two men, although they may be firm and unchangeable—which nobody expects—may be insufficient to maintain this law. It is a happy thing for England that the sun does not shine and the showers descend at the bidding of a Peel or a Gladstone. (Hear, hear.) We have now the prospect of a favourable harvest; the Chancellor of the Exchequer looks at his barometer with something like satisfaction. We may, therefore, go on for a year or two, and it were well for us if we could ever go on thus; but we know that Providence does not arrange these matters to suit the vices, ignorance, and selfishness of legislators, and that those laws which never err will again bring round upon us deficient harvests—it may be a succession of them—and then I ask you and the country, and I put it even to the squires, how much will they give for the firm and unchangeable will, and for the power, of Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Gladstone? A few weeks' rain, a political accident, a shuffling of the cards, may bring about the downfall of this system which these men now are looking to as one upon which the safety of this country is based. Truth is going on in its career; in the meanwhile we shall not rest in our labours; so long as we have strength, we shall do as we have done hitherto; for, encouraged by the past, so shall the future be; and no man in this country shall with truth say that he has not had an opportunity of knowing what was right on this question. (Cheers.) These opinions spread, and continue to do so; truth, because it is truth, will prevail; and right, because it is right, will triumph, in spite of the miserable sophistry and the vile calumnies, and the execrable conduct of the organs of the monopolist faction, who assail us, and all who act with us, through the political press of this country. (Hisses and groans.) You know that of late it has been the policy of monopoly to create discontent between the operatives and the manufacturers, and discord between them and their employers. Ay, if *we* had gone into the rural districts and called the labourers together, and if we had pointed out the landowners in their baronial halls, and their gorgeous mansions in this city; if we had directed their attention even to the comfortable position which the farmers hold in society, so far as regards those among them who have capital; and then had pointed to the hovels of the labourers, the huts in which they were born, and bred, and starved—and to the gaol or union workhouse to which they were inevitably tending: if we had done all this, and had made these men even more discontented than they now are under their suffering, I ask you where would have been the safety of the agricultural counties at this hour? (Great cheers.) We did not do that: we told the farmers that wages were not at their command; we stated to the labourers that they could not have good wages except their labour was of value, and that it could not be of value unless there were fewer of them as compared to the work to be performed. But what has been the policy of our opponents? Take the writings of the *Standard* for the last week or two (hisses): has not that paper been constantly endeavouring to show the labourers of Lancashire that the employers are now obtaining enormous profits, and that they ought to come in for some share of those profits in the shape of advanced wages? (Cries of "Shame.") The *Morning Herald* has actually had the audacity to say that in the cotton districts wages have fallen 10 per cent. since 1842: there never appeared in the columns of *that* journal anything more infamously untrue. (Cheers.) I had occasion, not long ago, to speak of the *Standard* newspaper and its editor,—a man of whom I am happy to say now, as I stated then, I have no personal knowledge,—but I spoke of him in a manner I thought I had a right to do. I endeavoured to trace his lineage; I pointed him out, if I remember right, as a man who came from an island not far away from here; who gave the lie to the proverb that that island had never produced any thing of the reptile species. (Vehement cheering.) That paper consigned the manufacturing districts, towns, and cities, ay, with the coolest effrontery, to utter, absolute, and irrevocable ruin; that paper has slandered us from that time to this; that journal is now in the pay of that Government (hisses and groans,) which made last Wednesday night another compact with those who are in favour of starving the people. (Renewed cheers) Ay, I might tell you other things connected with that paper if it were necessary. In 1817, there was in some parts of this country, and especially in Scotland, a system pursued by the Government of that day—Lord Sidmouth and Co.,—which then obtained the name which has lately been applied to some other Government practices, of espionage: spies were then employed by the Government. In 1820, two deceived but erring and betrayed men paid the penalty of their lives at Stirling, on account of their having been connected with a seditious movement, which had its origin, there is abundant proof, in the spy system supported by the Government. I saw, the other day, an article in the *Standard*, in reply to one in the *Manchester Guardian*, with respect to this question of profits and wages. The writer in the *Standard* says, "The *Guardian* cannot mystify this question, for *we have a practical knowledge of this matter of the cotton business.*" It will be remembered that one of these spies in Scotland was originally a cotton weaver. (Hear, hear.) It may be that that man

wrote this article in the *Standard*. I say not that it is so; you may make inquiries, if you please. (Cheers.) I have here a book, the title of which is, "Exposure of the Spy System in Scotland in the Years 1818, 1819, and 1820, including the Battle of Bonnymuir; with a Portrait." Now, there is a suspicion that that individual spy handles a pen which supplies the columns of one or both of those *gemini* of the press, the *Herald* and the *Standard*. (Hear.) Oh, it is a filthy trade! There is nothing more glorious to my mind than the possession of an organ of the press like a daily newspaper in this country, if it be managed with honesty and integrity. (Hear.) I do not think any man, however great his ambition, if he were to look narrowly into it, could wish a prouder position than one in which he would be enabled to pour forth every morning to ten thousand or twenty thousand readers the reflections of an honest, honourable, and intelligent mind. (Cheers.) Why, he is actually insinuating his own soul into the souls of the people among whom he lives! and, though he cannot trace precisely how much good he has done, yet he has the satisfaction of knowing that what he is publishing is a great truth; that it is a sublime idea which he has laid before the world; a great truth which he has developed; and the good seed which he has sown is going on vegetating from generation to generation, and until the end of all things the amount of good which he has done to his species shall never be told. (Loud cheers.) But when *men*—I suppose they are such; I have not seen them!—they pass as men, and write "we" in the paper ("hear," and laughter),—I suppose somebody knows them,—when *men*, I say, stoop to do the things which I see these men do in their newspapers, I maintain that they make a similar transformation to that which is made when an angel becomes a demon, and, instead of the proud and satisfying consciousness that they have sown good seed, they may go down in their old days to the grave with the conviction that they have been as a tree—a pestilent tree—from which nothing but evil has gone forth to blight and destroy the best interests of mankind. (Tremendous cheers.) I say of these men now, as I have asserted before, that they are wholly impotent to eradicate those truths which we have sown in the public mind of this country; that they are utterly unable to blacken our character, or to destroy any influence which we may possess; that they are wholly powerless to prevent the swelling on of that great tide which, by-and-by, will throw down every barrier which they are now endeavouring to raise up, and destroy every vestige of that iniquitous system of which they are the contemptible approvers. (Cheers.) We ask that this wide earth, which the Creator of all things has spread as a table for his children, should be free to us to live in, and enjoy its abundance. (Cheers.) Why, to enjoy the good things which God has given is a great portion even of the obedience which we owe to Him! (Cheers.) Have we not proof, abundant proof, that those blessings were given for us, were bestowed richly for our use; that it is impious in any man or any set of men, to withhold the products of the gifts of His bounteous hand, especially from the poorest of His creatures. (Great cheers.) A writer, who was at once a monarch and a poet, in the voice of praise with which and in which he often addressed his Creator, said, in the words and lines which are familiar, doubtless, to you all, when gazing upon the beauty of the earth and the abundance with which God hath filled it:—"Thou visitest the earth and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers: thou blessest the springing thereof. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness." And not in that passage only, but in many other parts of the sacred Scriptures, you have full liberty to believe the earth was given for your enjoyment, and for the comfort of all the creatures whom Heaven has placed upon its surface. I ask you, then, whether the miserable sophistry of the wretch of whom I have spoken (loud cheers)—and no less the sophistries of those who speak in your halls of legislature, and give utterance to all the calumnies and horrid sayings which can be heaped upon us—I ask you whether all these things shall weigh down the balance against the cry of the suffering of this country; for millions now, and millions more, must suffer if this law be permitted to remain unrepealed. (Tremendous applause.) I tell you, you are not citizens of London—you are not inhabitants of a renowned country—if you now, or at any future time, for one moment let go this resolution to work perseveringly, unitedly, and as long as it may be needful, until this impious and blasphemous law shall be for ever wiped from the statute-book. (Mr. Bright retired from the table amidst vehement and reiterated applause.)

The CHAIRMAN then came forward and said, Ladies and gentlemen, I never made an announcement with greater pain in my life than the one which I am now about to make, and that is, that our next meeting will be the last for the present season. This meeting stands adjourned till the first Wednesday in August; and I feel we ought not to separate without taking the earliest opportunity which has been afforded to us of returning our thanks to Mr. Villiers, Mr. Cobden, Mr. Bright, Lord Howick (cheers), Mr. Milner Gibson, Mr. Ward, and other gentlemen who supported by their speeches, and also to those who supported by their votes, the motion of our excellent friend Mr. Villiers, last week. I propose, therefore, that we conclude this meeting by giving three cheers for the members of the House of Commons who are Free-Traders.

The suggestion of the Chairman having been enthusiastically responded to, the meeting separated at a few minutes before eleven.

HASTINGS

On Monday R. Cobden, Esq., M.P., and Robt. R. R. Moore, Esq., visited Hastings, and attended a public meeting which was held in the Priory Meadow at four o'clock. About one thousand persons were present, who listened with the most marked attention to addresses from the above-named gentlemen. The meeting lasted upwards of three hours.

On the proposition of Mr. KELLARD, Mr. Jolly took the chair.

Mr. COBDEN and Mr. MOORE severally addressed the meeting in able and eloquent speeches, which elicited repeated bursts of applause.

Mr. H. THWAITES then proposed a resolution in favour of the principles of Free Trade as being the principles of justice, and best calculated to promote the interests of all classes in this kingdom, which was carried by acclamation, and the meeting separated.

PRESENTATION OF A PIECE OF PLATE.

At eight o'clock a most crowded meeting was held in the Arcade for the purpose of presenting to Robt. R. R. Moore, Esq., a testimonial from the mechanics of this town. The present comprised a massive silver inkstand, elaborately chased in the highest style of art, with the following inscription:—

Presented
by the
Mechanics
of Hastings and St. Leonard's
to
Robert Ross Rowan Moore, Esq.,
in grateful remembrance
of his incessant labours,
when a candidate for that Borough,
in advocating the principles of
Free Trade,
which he so forcibly and eloquently
expounded.
March, 1844.

The chair was taken by Mr. Hislopp; and on Mr. Moore ascending the platform,

Mr. C. DEANE rose and spoke as follows:—"Sir, permit me on the part of this numerous and respectable assembly to welcome you again to this place, where you on former occasions so forcibly and eloquently demonstrated the principles of truth and justice. I am deputed by a portion of my fellow-workmen of this borough to present you with a small testimony of our gratitude and esteem for so nobly and generously stepping forward to emancipate so many of our brethren from their poor, servile, and degraded state, and strike off the heavy fetters placed on their industry. We are all well aware that the intrinsic value of this article hardly makes it worthy the acceptance of one who has done so much for so great and so glorious a cause—of one who has made almost superhuman exertions on behalf of millions of his suffering fellow-countrymen—of one who is devoting the morning of his life to the attainment of an object which will confer so great and universal a benefit on mankind; but we sincerely hope that when the great work you are so indefatigably labouring in is completed, and you rest from your herculean toils, the sight of this, our humble offering, will awaken some pleasure in you to know that in the hour of your greatest trial there were some honest hearts that could fully appreciate the sincerity and disinterestedness of your motives. These, Sir, are the weapons by which all our great moral victories have been won, and by which, through your able exertions, we eventually hope to obtain that which we most desire—a universal Free Trade. Therefore, in the name of this assembly, I present this testimony to you, conscious that in your possession it will ever be exercised for the welfare and benefit and the happiness of mankind." (Applause.)

Mr. MOORE returned thanks in an eloquent speech, for which we regret that we cannot find room.—*Brighton Guardian.*

WHEATHAMSTEAD FREE-TRADE ASSOCIATION.

This association held a meeting on Wednesday, June 19th. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read, Mr. C. H. LATTIMORE, who presided, addressed the meeting. After noticing the principles upon which the society was based, and repelling the charge that the agitation of the Free-Trade question tended to promote disorder and confusion, he congratulated the meeting on the important and steady advance which the great cause of commercial liberty was making in the minds of the reflecting portion of the community, in proof of which he brought forward a variety of details and illustrations. Having pointed out some of the evils under which Ireland was labouring, he entreated the meeting to reflect that the evils of monopoly which were so conspicuous in that, an agricultural country, might furnish a hint of the probable fate of the agriculturists in England, if left to the tender mercies of the monopolists. (Cheers.) The ensuing winter would afford fearful experience how the deficiency of the farmers' means for employing the people would operate on the labourers. He saw no prospect of obtaining the blessings of plenty under a restrictive system.

The Rev. THOMAS GILBERT most cordially assented to the remarks which had been made by the chairman, the truth of which no honest man could pretend to dispute, as they were well calculated to forward the objects of this association, and to awaken men's minds to a consideration of matters deeply affecting all classes of the community. (Cheers.) The reverend gentleman then exposed the insincerity of those persons who insinuated that meetings of this description tended to set the farmer against the labourer, and the labourer against the farmer. One thing was manifest to every man who had eyes to see, and a heart to feel—that a large amount of distress existed in this country, and that that distress was on the increase. Nor was it to be wondered at: the farmer was eaten up with rents, tithes, poor's rates, and other taxes; and it was morally impossible for him to give employment, or pay that amount of wages which he considered the poor man's due, and which, under other circumstances, he would cheerfully pay. He knew that there were many, even in this neighbourhood, who, although they did not, *dared* not come to this battle for repeal, would heartily rejoice in the victory which they hoped speedily to obtain. He was strengthened in this hope of speedy victory by the encouraging progress of the good cause: not a meeting passed without the admission of fresh members, and the infusion of new zeal into their body—may those numbers and that zeal manifest continued progression! (Cheers.)

Mr. BRUTON, sen., followed, and drew a picture of the farmer in the olden time as contrasted with one of the present day: his graphic and life-like description was listened to with intense interest. The state of the old farmers and their servants was one of common enjoyment and mutual confidence, no trace of which was to be discovered now-a-days. The rate of the farms was then about 12s. an acre, tithe 2s. 6d. per acre, the wages of the labourers generally about 7s. per week, with which sum, though nominally small, they were able to do immensely more than with a similar amount under existing circumstances. Mr. Bruton entered into a statement of the great number of years during which farms used to be held by the same tenant or in the same family. Some farms were held eighty years, others one hundred years; labourers were known to work for one master fifty years; one had worked sixty years, in the time of his relation, Gladman. The Corn Law of 1815 brought about a sad change in all these things: tenant followed tenant in rapid and miserable succession; and the ruin in which the farmer was involved necessarily and speedily deteriorated the condition of the labourer. Now all the old farmers are gone, the peasantry are in a state of destitution, their wives and children too generally without decent clothing; often shoeless, or next to it. Mr. Bruton proceeded to show how the shopkeepers were affected by this state of things, and to what annoyances the rate-collector was subjected in the performance of his duties. Reverting once more to the contrast with which he opened his speech, he stated that formerly the tithe-receivers were on harmonious terms with the tithe-payers. Mr. Bruton concluded by stating that the same impulse of duty that occasioned him to join the association had led him to make the statements he had made that evening: he sat down amidst warm applause.

Mr. THOMAS, of Welwyn, advocated Free Trade not only on the ground of abstract justice, but also for the benefits which he, as connected with the wool trade, had derived from the more abundant importation of that article. The speaker entered into details to show the evils he and numbers of his fellow-workmen had sustained from want of employment owing to the restrictions which had existed in the free importation of wool: and concluded by making a warm appeal to his fellow-workmen to rally with him round the standard of "Free Trade with all the world."

Several new members having been enrolled, the cordial thanks of the meeting were given to the chairman and the Rev. Mr. Gilbert, after which the meeting separated.

BOLTON.—On Monday evening se'nnight a lecture on Free Trade was delivered in the Temperance Hall, Bolton, by Mr. J. J. Finnigan. Mr. Joseph Crook presided.

WHITEHAVEN.—The last number of the *Whitehaven Herald* contains a report of an interesting lecture on the effect of the Corn Laws upon the agricultural interest, by Mr. Baker, which we shall notice more in detail in our next number.

THE SUGAR DUTIES DIVISION.

The following letter (omitted last week in consequence of a press of matter,) has been addressed to Mr. Cobden, by Mr. Sharman Crawford, who was unavoidably absent on the division on the sugar duties:—

"Crawfordsburn, June 21, 1844.

"DEAR COBDEN,—I see you and my other Free-Trade friends are violently abused for voting with the Minister on the late division. Now, being firmly convinced that the proposition of Mr. Miles was framed and supported by those who were the originators of it, with the sole view of creating a greater amount of protection in favour of the West Indian monopoly, I take the liberty of expressing to you my entire agreement with your opposition to it, and to assure you that had I been in the House I should have joined you; and although, from unavoidable circumstances, I was absent on that occasion, I shall have no wish, when any opportunity occurs, to shrink from the responsibility of the opinion I now express to you. I cannot understand how those who, a few nights before, voted for the abolition of all protecting duties on the motion of Mr. Ewart, could reconcile it with the profession of the Free-Trade cause to vote for Mr. Miles's motion, the object of which was to increase protection. I acknowledge that I was proud to see that you voted on *principle*, and that you did not sacrifice the integrity of that principle to the paltry objects of party expediency.

"I regret very much that I was absent on the division, as I should not have hesitated to share the odium which an honest vote would impose, whether derived from Whig or Tory abuse and misrepresentation.

"Yours, very truly,
"WILLIAM SHARMAN CRAWFORD.
"R. Cobden, Esq., M.P."

FREE-TRADE CLUB.—The office of the Free-Trade Club is No. 11, Parliament-street, and not at No. 12, as we stated in our last. The secretary will forward the prospectus and terms of admisson, on application, either personally, or by post.

TOWER HAMLETS.—The Central Committee of the Tower Hamlets Anti-Corn-Law Registration Society attend at the Grave Maurice, Whitechapel-road, every Tuesday evening, from seven till nine o'clock, to fill up claims and afford every information and assistance to persons qualified to be registered.

BETHNAL-GREEN.—The Bethnal-green Anti-Corn-Law Association meet every Monday evening, from eight to ten o'clock, at the Hope Tavern, Pollard-row, to assist persons desirous to be registered.

Most of the statutes or acts, edicts, arrêts, and placards of Parliament, princes, and states, for regulating, directing, or restraining of trade, have, we think, been either particular blunders, or jobs obtained by artful men for private advantage, under pretence of public good. When Colbert assembled some wise old merchants of France, and desired their advice and opinions how he could best serve and promote commerce?—their answer, after consultation, was, in three words only, "*Laissez vous faire*," "Let us alone." It is said by a very solid writer of the same nation, that he is well advanced in the science of politics, who knows the full force of that maxim, "*Pas trop gouverner*," "Not to govern too much," which perhaps would be of more use when applied to trade than any other public concern. It were, therefore, to be wished that commerce were as free between all the nations of the world, as it is between the several counties of England; so would all, by mutual communication, obtain more enjoyments. Those counties do not ruin each other by trade, neither would the nations; for no nation was ever ruined by trade, even seemingly the most disadvantageous. Wherever desirable superfluities are imported, industry is excited, and thereby plenty is produced. Were only necessaries permitted to be purchased, men would work no more than was necessary for that purpose.—*Dr. Franklin.*

A farmer in the neighbourhood of Dunfermline was thus accosted by his landlord:—"John, I am going to raise you rent." John replied, "Sir, I am obliged to you, for I canna *raise't* myself."

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, July 3, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

	£	s.	d.
Benjamin Thorne, 1, Stockwell Common	5	0	0
S. A. Smith, George-street, Euston-square	2	0	0
George Cocker, 8, Chenies-street, Bedford-square	1	0	0
Major Wm. White, 2, Rue le Mercier, Batignolles, Baulieres de Paris	1	0	0
William Dixon, 2, Tunbridge-street, New-road	0	4	0
Richard Haynes, 32, Hatfield-street, Blackfriars-road	0	2	6
William Glover, 12, Charles-place, Hoxton	0	2	6
A Friend	0	2	0
Edward Walker, jun., 6, Cardington-street, Hampstead-road	0	2	6
Mrs. Hopkins, Gloucester-place, Kentish-town	0	5	0
George Payne, Bath-street, Newgate-street	0	10	0
S. C. Watkins and Friends, Bristol	0	7	0
Friends at East Grinstead, per Thomas Charlwood	0	14	3
Samuel Bean, Nottingham	100	0	0
James Farrar, bleacher, Chapelfield, Pilkington, near Manchester, per Mr. Grundy	25	0	0
R. L. Gale, West-street, Warminster	0	5	0
John Southall, Leominster, Herefordshire	1	0	0
Elkanah Armitage and Son, Manchester	102	0	0
Benj. Wilson, Mirfield, near Dewsbury, Yorkshire	1	0	0
Henry Lees, Glossop, Derbyshire	20	0	0
John Kershaw, do., do.	10	0	0
James Marler and Brothers, Newton Moor, Hyde, Cheshire	20	0	0
Small subscriptions, per J. N. Rawson, Foundry-street, Red Bank, Manchester	0	9	6
Wm. Brown, grocer, Wigan, Lancashire	0	10	6
Hindley and Sutcliffe, Ashton-under-Lyne	20	0	0
Glasgow, 10th Remittance. Workers of John Gourlay & Co., Port Dundas	2	0	0
J. W.	0	2	6
John White, South Hanover-street	0	2	6
John King and Son, Candleriggs	5	5	0
Andrew Paterson, do.	0	10	0
A Friend	0	2	6
David Elder, Vulcan Foundry	1	0	0
Alex. Elder, do.	1	0	0
A Friend	1	0	0
Robt. Armour, cotton broker, South Hanover-st.	1	0	0
Workers in Dalmarnock Print Works	1	6	6
A Friend	0	5	0
William Gray, jeweller, Argyle-street	5	0	0
Charles Dunlop, of Carliebar	20	0	0
John Alston and James Gilbert	0	3	0
Birmingham, 11th Remittance. Mr. Dunn, sen., New Town-row	0	5	0
Mr. Sherwood, do.	0	5	0
Mr. Lewis, do.	0	5	0
Mr. Talbot, do.	0	2	6
Mr. Dunn, jun., do.	0	2	6
Mr. Jutson, Liverpool-street	1	0	0
Mr. Booth, Ladywood Dock	0	10	0
A Rough Radical	0	5	0
W. H. Waldron	0	2	6
Small subscriptions	0	8	0

THE DEBATE ON MR. VILLIERS'S MOTION.

(From the *Economist*.)

On Tuesday night Mr. Villiers introduced his motion for a committee to consider the present Corn Law with a view to its repeal, in a speech containing a wide and comprehensive consideration of the evil effects of the present law on the moral, physical, financial, and commercial interests of the country. Mr. Villiers established the fact that this country has become more and more dependent on foreign countries for a supply of food, as the population has increased; he established, by the best evidence, an undeniable and intimate connexion between the abundance of food and the extent of crime, sickness, and mortality; between a low and moderate price of food and the financial and commercial prosperity of the country: but notwithstanding this he found a law existing, the direct tendency of which, nay, the very object of which, is to prevent an abundant and uniform supply of food, and, consequently, to induce, particularly at periods when its operation is more distinctly experienced, to an increase of crime, sickness, and mortality; to a derangement of the finances and commerce of the country; and to a general disorganization of the peace, credit, and welfare of the nation. Mr. Villiers supported his views by the evidence of the best authorities, medical, economical, and political. His views on the physical effects of scarcity are sustained by the evidence of many of the highest authorities of European celebrity; he relies on the evidence of such men as Dr. Hawkins, M. Lamenais, Dr. Allison, Dr. Grattan, and Dr. Hunter; from the latter high authority he quotes the following evidence:—

"An extensive practice for more than twenty years, almost in the very focus of typhus localities, has given me an opportunity of seeing that disease in all its various degrees of malignity. There are numerous predisposing causes, such as impure air, crowded neighbourhoods, want of cleanliness, and so on; but all these sink into insignificance and unimportance when compared with the great monster predisposing agent—I mean a scarcity of nutritious food; and it will be said, if other causes have slain their thousands, this alone has slain its tens of thousands. My experience justifies and warrants me in affirming that where the people have insufficient nourishment, there typhus fever manifests itself with all the horrors of a depopulating plague. Witness Ireland. No sooner does a year of scarcity appear, but this fell destroyer of the human race shows itself, carrying off thousands; and this affirmation will, I am sure, be confirmed by any medical practitioner who has had the misfortune to see, as I have, whole families carried to their weary bourne by this scourge of the human family, brought into existence and activity by the physical wants of the people. I happen to know a family of nine persons, seven of whom died in one short month, and all by the fell destroyer, typhus, and this, too, in an agricultural district, where the air was as pure as the morning breath of heaven, and where contagion was impossible, as the farmhouses were at a considerable distance from each other. But in the same district, where the families had sufficient food, and of a good quality, fever was wholly unknown."

But to the whole of the evidence and arguments which Mr. Villiers urged against this law the tone of the Government reply may be well expressed by Mr. Gladstone's words: "He (Mr. Gladstone) believed, that, with the sense of Parliament strongly in their favour, they were able to take their stand upon the law as it was." (Cheers from the Ministerial benches.) But Mr. Gladstone claimed peculiar merits for the modification of the law as introduced by the present Government in 1842. We will not deny that that modification had a tendency towards improvement; we say a tendency, because we believe that in practice it will not be found to differ in any material degree from the old law. It must, however, be admitted that any argument that can be urged in favour of that modification, such as it is, that the arguments that were urged in its favour when passed, if good for so much as this modification affects, must be good for a great deal more. The modification in principle was based on all the arguments and reasons which suppose the greatest plenty the greatest blessing, the most extensive commercial intercourse, and consequent increased demand for labour, a great boon to all classes. But though that modification of the law was urged and supported on these broad principles, yet practically it was very little altered in its stringency, and in no way in its unwise and anti-commercial character. But Mr. Gladstone claims for the operation of this modification of the law the merit of rendering prices steady and preventing fluctuations:—

"It was customary to complain of the great fluctuations of prices under the old law. They had recently passed through two very critical years, in which there had been great changes in the harvest, and yet could any one say that these had been years, upon the whole, of unsteadiness in price? There had been deviations to a certain degree; but upon the whole there had been great steadiness of price, and even in the present year there had been a very remarkable steadiness of price. His right hon. friend (Sir R. Peel) did, when introducing his recent changes, state the prices between which he could wish corn to range; and stated that he should wish it to range between 54s. and 58s. a quarter. Now, the law of his right hon friend came into operation in April, 1842, and at that time the price of corn was 55s. 10d., being within the limits; and in 1843 the average price was 53s. 1d.; but that was a year of abundance, and the farmers did not greatly complain. From the commencement of the present year up to the 15th of the present month, the average price had been 54s. 6d. Thus it singularly happened that two out of these three averages, under the operation of the law, had been within the two limits which his right hon. friend had affixed. Therefore, so far as regarded the steadiness of price, no complaint could be made against the present law. Within the last few weeks, the steadiness of price had been remarkable in a most peculiar degree."

We believe with Lord John Russell, that Mr. Gladstone has entirely mistaken the effects of two good harvests for those of the recent modification of the law; we believe it can be proved, in a most satisfactory way, that the same effects would have occurred had the law remained unchanged. Not only Mr. Gladstone, but Sir Robert Peel also, referred to the comparative steadiness of price during the last year, and to the fact that, though prices are moderate, yet that importation to a small extent still continues, as an evidence of the great advantages derived from their change in the law. We will, for the purpose of testing this, compare the prices and imports in similar circumstances under the late law and the present. From 1828 to 1831 were years of great scarcity and large imports. In 1831 and 1832 the harvests were much better, and prices became moderate. At a more recent period, the years 1839 to 1842 were of a similar character as those from 1828 to 1831; similar results ensued. In 1842 and 1843 we were blessed with abundant harvests, and prices have since been moderate. There is such a striking similarity between these periods, that it will be advantageous narrowly to compare them in order to form a correct judgment of the influence which can be fairly attributed to one law or the other.

The quantity of foreign wheat entered for consumption was, in

	Qrs.		Qrs.
1828	842,950	1839	2,521,527
1829	1,364,220	1840	2,024,848
1830	1,701,885	1841	2,390,898
1831	1,491,631	1842	2,667,944

In 1831 and 1832, and again in 1842 and 1843, the harvests were good and prices at each period became moderate, and the importation of foreign grain almost ceased. We will now compare the average prices of wheat at each period, under nearly the same circumstances, from the harvests of 1843 to the present time, with those from the harvest of 1832 to the corresponding period in 1833. The following were the weekly averages:—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
September 7, 1832	58	0	corresponding week 1843	54	2
October 5 "	54	7	" "	49	5
November 2 "	53	3	" "	50	5
December 7 "	54	7	" "	51	1
January 4, 1833	52	6	" " 1844	49	10
February 1 "	53	3	" "	52	3
March 1 "	52	2	" "	56	2
April 5 "	53	10	" "	56	5
May 3 "	53	5	" "	55	4
June 7 "	52	10	" "	55	6

From this statement it is evident that in similar circumstances the late law, which was admitted by all to produce great fluctuations, might have been referred to in June, 1833, as a pattern of steadiness of prices; as having succeeded most effectually in preventing fluctuations, as much, or even more so, as the present law can be referred to for that purpose now. In 1833, the law of 1828 had yet to be tried with a succession of good harvests, followed by those of 1838, 1839, and 1840, before its destructive character was fully known, or at least admitted. And now the country is doomed to wait for a corresponding experience before the same character of the present law is to be admitted. We ask, was there one principle in the old law which wrought mischief and disaster, that does not equally pervade the present law? True, the scale of duty is now limited to 20s., instead of having no limit before; but for all ordinary practical purposes a duty of 20s., with a price of 50s. per quarter or under, is as prohibitory as if it were ever so high. A duty of 20s., and 10s. charges, would suppose wheat to be purchased at 20s. a quarter abroad, in order to render a transaction possible, when the price here is 50s. Then, in the event of scarcity: does not all the inducement exist now to hold back supplies, to profit by a constantly lowering duty, that actuated our merchants in 1838 and 1839? There is, in fact, no essential difference in the two laws. There is no guarantee in the law of 1842 more than in that of 1828 against a recurrence of all the disasters and misfortunes of 1839 to 1842, when similar circumstances and causes come into operation.

There are many other points in the speeches of Mr. Gladstone and Sir Robert Peel of the deepest importance to the best interests of commerce and the general condition of the country, which it will be our duty to examine separately, in order to show the fallacious and erroneous reasoning on which these laws are now sought to be maintained. We were, however, prepared for every opposition which ingenuity could frame from the Ministerial benches. Not so from those opposite; or, if we anticipated any opposition from that quarter, we certainly hoped to hear intelligibly the grounds for it. We have read with the deepest regret the speech of the noble lord the member for London, not only because he felt it to be his duty to withhold his support from the motion, but, also, because we think, as the professed leader of the Liberal party, he has placed himself, and in some measure his adherents, more and more in a false position in respect to this question, and the great body of their general supporters in the country. The noble lord has hitherto maintained his advocacy of a fixed duty on the grounds of revenue, and of special burdens, *if they could be proved to exist*. With a redundant revenue, that reason is no longer valid; and, from the repeated refusal of the House to inquire into the existence of special burdens, it may fairly be assumed that no faith is felt in their existence. On this occasion, therefore, the noble lord appears to have abandoned both these grounds of his former opposition to a perfect application of the principles of Free Trade to the article of corn, though he still says that "the time will come when the principles held sound as applied to other interests will be held sound as applied to the growers of corn."

Lord John Russell frankly and freely admits all the most serious consequences of the present state of the law. No right hon. member knows them better, or has described them from time in more vigorous terms; nay, his mind has become so familiar with them, that he expresses his surprise that Mr. Gladstone should venture a doubt on the subject; he almost thinks that Mr. Villiers had even taken too much trouble to prove what could not be denied.

"I will first notice the arguments of the right hon. gentleman. He began his speech with throwing some kind of doubt upon that part of the speech of my hon. friend—of which I thought the only fault was, that he was endeavouring to prove what was abundantly clear to every sensible mind—namely, that cheapness and plenty were great blessings, and that dearness and scarcity of food were great evils. My hon. friend pointed out that these evils were the cause of the increase of crime, disease, and death; and that fever and famine were the consequences of the high price of food. I should not have thought that any person would doubt that these results would follow from such causes. It really was saying no more than what common sense inspired, and what was daily read in our prayer-book, that cheapness and plenty were blessings for which we ought to be thankful."

What a serious admission! what an awful responsibility is thus made to rest on a legislative assembly, and especially on every individual member, who is not only a party to the enactment of such laws, but who is not a party to every possible means of abrogating them! Without this distinct admission of the noble lord, we would not have dared to have inferred such to be his opinions. What state policy, what class interest can possibly excuse a system from which flow *increase of crime, disease, death, fever*, and *famine?* And what is the only ground stated by the noble lord for his opposition to Mr. Villiers's motion?—

"What would you reasonably expect from a sudden revolution—from a state of considerable protection to one of entirely Free Trade? The first consequence, I apprehend, would be a great change among all concerned in agriculture: the landlord and the farmer would be doubtful how far their capital would be employed to profit. The effect would be a diminution in the employment of labour; and as long as that lasted there would be severe suffering. There would accompany it, I should think, a much greater importation than would be consistent with the advantage of the merchant. So important a change would give rise to extraordinary expectations; and the result would be, not a state of cheapness and plenty, but a sudden glut, occasioning much distress."

Now, can the noble lord seriously believe, with the information that he possesses on this subject—and, we may add, with the knowledge which the mercantile and agricultural public now possess on this subject—that any such consequences could attend a repeal of the Corn Laws? Can the noble lord seriously think that, with the rapidly-increasing population and prosperity of the continental countries—with the supplies which it is now apparent are required by France, Belgium, and Holland every year from the corn countries of northern Europe—the price of foreign wheat could ever be supplied below the rates at which English wheat sold in 1835 and 1836, or in 1822? than at which periods it is in parliamentary evidence that the labouring population of this country were never in so comfortable or so prosperous a condition. But the noble lord thinks "the landlords and farmers would be doubtful how far their capital would be employed to profit." Now, is not this, in a remarkable degree, one of the greatest evils arising out of the present state of the law, or out of any state short of a final settlement of it? The noble lord very justly says:—

"The honourable gentleman said that we should maintain the law on the ground of stability. I do not think it has any claim on that ground. It appears to me that there is something inherently vicious in the system of protection which requires the interference of the Legislature from time to time. The right honourable baronet (Sir R. Peel) must be aware that the present law is at variance with all those principles which he has so frequently stated ought to regulate the affairs of this country. The right honourable gentleman cannot be ignorant of the defects of this law. The principle he stated in 1842 would be fatal to the present law."

And again:—

"I do not think the existing law suited to stormy times. I do not expect that any vote of this House, however large may be the majority, will put an end to agitation upon this subject. I think the present system so unreasonable and so unwise, that it is impossible to expect that there should not be agitation against it. I do not believe that any settlement of the question will be come to, until those interested in land, the landowners especially, are disposed to consider this law as really unfavourable to the interests of the country, and therefore unfavourable to them as a class."

As far, then, as instability is concerned, as far as uncertainty for the landlord and tenant is concerned, and the impossibility of that uncertainty being removed, nothing could be worse than the existing system. And whence does the noble lord look for the overwhelming *glut* that affrights him from putting an end to a system from which he admits such serious evils arise? For four successive years, from 1838 to 1842, we took every quarter of wheat which the continents of Europe and America could spare, not at the ordinary prices of 45s. to 55s. per quarter, but all that we could induce them to part with at the extraordinary prices of 65s. to 75s. per quarter, creating scarcity and famine in other countries, by outbidding them for their own produce; and all this resulted in a quantity not exceeding 10 per cent. of our annual consumption. Had the noble lord the Secretary for the Colonies expressed so visionary a fear, we would have had less difficulty in tracing the source of his alarm. But why does the noble lord shrink from a confidence in

his own principles and opinions? No member of either House has from time to time shown more clearly and distinctly the necessary connexion between the prosperity of agriculture and that of commerce and manufactures. And even on this occasion, this intelligible principle was strongly expressed by the noble lord:—

"It is not mere words to say that there can be no better measure of the prosperity of the landowners than the prosperity of the whole nation. If manufactures are made to flourish, the landed interest need not fear that it will be long behind in the race of success. If commerce and manufactures are prosperous, the landed interest is sure to flourish also." (Cheers.)

But are all these principles and advantages to be bound up by a fixed duty of 4s. or 5s. or 6s. per quarter? We agree with the noble lord that the smallness of the duty and the fixity which he proposes are great advantages over the present law; but are all the great principles on which these advantages rest to be confined to a limited and arbitrary application of them? Was an 8s. duty necessary three years since, and would a 5s. duty be sufficient now? and will a 3s. duty be enough a year or two hence? These are arbitrary distinctions and exceptions to principles which cannot be maintained. And again, with the present amount of public enlightenment on these subjects, with the strong conviction that is evinced of the impolicy and injustice of any restriction in the supply of food (which will only be strenthened by the admissions frankly made in the noble lord's speech, and which we hold to be altogether inseparable from the subject), can the noble lord flatter himself that his 5s. or 6s. fixed duty, if passed to-day, would be a final settlement of this question? It would, as indeed the present law, however *unreasonable and unwise*, will probably do, last as long as we have good and abundant harvests; but the first period of scarcity, the first recurrence of one or two bad harvests, would make it as impossible to maintain the one as the other. The conviction of this, which has strongly possessed men's minds, would only prolong the present state of uncertainty, which is equally detrimental to agriculture and commerce. And again, can the noble lord really think that with a protection of 5s. or 6s. a quarter agriculture would be safe, while without it it would be so much endangered, that rather than hazard the consequences, he will not aid in abolishing a system which produces the fearful, the awful results which he acknowledges as the necessary attendants on the present system?

Lord Howick long entertained a preference for the plan advocated by the noble member for London; but when it became a matter of necessity to choose between the existing system and a *Free Trade*, he has not hesitated to follow up his avowed principles, and to advocate a practical and immediate application of them, in preference to countenancing either actively or passively the present "*unreasonable and unwise*" state of the law. The noble lord (Howick), in a speech replete with sound principles and confidence in their practical and immediate application, gave the following warning to the House, which we recommend to the careful perusal of all who still have doubts on the subject:—

"He would ask the House to beware how they persevered in the present system. The hon. gentleman who had just sat down seemed to treat with some derision the notion that this was a question of rent in which the farmers and the labourers had no stake. He (Lord Howick) told him that it was a question of rent, and of nothing else. He (Lord Howick) could not do otherwise than wish well to the land, because all his interests were involved in it; but he said that, if those who were connected with the land looked well into the matter, they would see that even upon the narrow ground of self-interest they ought to put an end to restrictions. Let them look at the continued succession of disappointed hopes of agricultural prosperity which had mocked their expectations, and the repeated series of agricultural distress with which they had been afflicted. He was persuaded that their own interests required an alteration of those laws; but, whatever might be their own interests, he was persuaded it was their solemn duty not to maintain them. (Hear, hear.) We knew that by Divine authority there was a malediction on those who withheld from the labourer his hire, and his persuasion was that the guilt was as great in the legislator who should maintain these laws as upon the private and individual extortioner, who deprived the labourer of his wages. In that guilt he, for one, would not take a share, and he called upon the House to beware how they lent themselves to it. All experience proved that, if justice were too long withheld, more than justice would be demanded, and he thought there were significant symptoms that we were now not far from that end. It was true the Government was all-powerful in that House, and in the constituency by which that House was returned; but he was a friend to the political institutions of the country, and should look with alarm at any sudden or violent disturbance of those institutions, and he warned the House, that their foundations were sapped from the moment when the persuasion became general that those in whose hands power was placed perverted that power to their own benefit, to the oppression of the rest of the community."

PROPOSED EXHIBITION.—A correspondent in Wiltshire writes:—"It struck me the other day, that were a pasteboard representation of one of our Wiltshire cottages, showing all its hideousness and want of accommodation, to be made and sent up to the Bazaar at Covent-garden, and were one of the most miserable of our agricultural labourers, with wife, children, and *rags*, to be sent up with it, a great sensation would be produced. It would not occupy much space, 14 feet by 10 being a very common size, and the height not above 7 or 8 feet. It might be used as a stall, the inmates to sell rush-mats or some article of that kind, such as they do manufacture and sell at home. If you think this a feasible scheme, let me have a line from you, and I will look out for a pattern both of cottage and inmates."

REGISTRATION.—"It is an ill wind that blows nobody good" is an old adage, but still a true one, and is now in the course of exemplification in Manchester. Reference is made to the demand that now exists for small properties sufficient to qualify parties for voting at the next election for South Lancashire. Detached cottages, therefore, and which for some years past have been totally unsaleable, are now sought after by both the Free-Traders and Monopolists with a zeal that is quite ludicrous, and, where these can be obtained without any chief rent upon them, extravagant rates are paid. The late defeat of the Free-Traders has given a zest to the coming registration that can hardly be conceived, whilst the narrow escape of the Monopolist candidate has also infused astonishing vigour into their proceedings. If all parts of the county are equally diligent with the Manchester division, some thousands of new voters will be placed on the register for 1844-5.—*Leeds Mercury*.

ANALYSIS OF VOTES ON MR. VILLIERS'S MOTION FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

	1842.	1843.	1844.
Armstrong, Sir A.	—	—	1
Aglionby, Henry A.	1	1	1
Ainsworth, P.	1	Absent	Voted against
Aldam, W.	1	1	1
Bannerman, Alexander	1	1	1
Barclay, David	—	—	1
Barnard, Edward George	—	1	1
Bellew, R. M.	—	—	Paired
Berkeley, Hon. Captain	1	1	1
Berkeley, Hon. H. F.	1	1	1
Berkeley, Hon. C.	—	1	Absent
Bernal, Captain	—	—	1
Blake, Mark	1	Absent	1
Blake, Sir V.	1	Absent	Absent
Blewitt, R. J.	1	1	Absent
Bouverie, Hon. Edw. Pleydell	—	—	1
Bowring, Dr.	1	1	1
Bridgeman, H.	1	Absent	Absent
Bright, John	—	—	1
Browne, Hon. W.	—	1	Absent
Brotherton, Joseph	1	1	1
Browne, R. D.	—	—	1
Bryan, G.	1	Absent	Absent
Buller, C.	—	1	Absent
Buller, E.	—	1	1
Busfield, W.	1	1	1
Byng, Rt. Hon. Geo. Stevens	1	1	1
Chapman, Benjamin	—	1	1
Childers, J. H.	—	—	1
Christie, W. D.	—	1	Paired
Clay, Sir William	—	—	1
Clive, E. B.	—	1	1
Cobden, Richard	1	1	1
Colebrook, Sir Thos. Edw.	—	—	1
Collett, John	—	1	1
Collins, W.	1	1	1
Corbally, M. E.	—	1	Absent
Craig, W. G.	—	1	1
Crawford, W. S.	1	1	Absent
Currie, R.	1	1	Paired
Dalmeny, Lord	—	1	1
Dashwood, George H.	—	1	1
Dennistoun, John	1	1	1
D'Eyncourt, Rt. Hon. C. T.	—	1	1
Duncan, Viscount	1	1	1
Duncan, George	1	1	1
Duncombe, Thos. S.	1	1	1
Dundas, Admiral D.	1	1	Absent
Dundas, Frederick	—	—	1
Dundas, David	—	—	1
Dundas, Hon. J. C.	—	—	1
Easthope, Sir John	1	Absent	1
Ellice, Rt. Hon. Edward	—	1	1
Ellice, E.	—	1	Absent
Ellis, Wynn	1	1	1
Elphinstone, Howard	1	1	1
Ewart, William	1	1	1
Ferguson, Colonel	1	1	1
Fielden, John	1	1	1
Fitzroy, Lord Charles	1	1	1
Fitzwilliam, Hon. G. W.	—	—	1
Fleetwood, Sir P. H.	—	1	Absent
Forster, Matthew	—	1	1
Fox, Colonel	—	1	Absent
Gibson, Thomas Milner	1	1	1
Gisborne, Thomas	—	1	1
Granger, Thomas C.	—	—	1
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir George	—	1	1
Grosvenor, Lord Robert	—	1	1
Guest, Sir John	—	—	1
Hayter, W. G.	—	1	1
Hay, Sir Andrew L.	1	1	Absent
Hall, Sir Benjamin	1	1	1
Harford, S.	1	Out	Out
Harris, J. Q.	1	Out	Out
Hastie, A.	1	1	1
Hawes, B.	1	1	1
Hindley, Charles	1	1	1
Hollond, Robert	—	1	1
Horsman, Edward	1	1	1
Howick, Viscount	—	1	1
Hume, J.	—	1	Paired
Humphrey, Alderman	1	1	1
Hutt, W.	—	—	1
Heron, Sir R.	1	1	Absent
Jarvis, J.	—	1	Paired
Johnson, General	1	1	1
Johnston, Alex.	1	1	Dead
Langton, W. G.	1	1	Paired
Langston, J. H.	—	1	1
Layard, Captain	—	1	1
Larpent, Sir G. de H.	1	Out	Out
Leader, J. T.	1	1	1
Leveson, Lord	—	—	1
Matheson, James	—	—	Paired
Maule, Right Hon. Fox	—	1	Absent
Macaulay, Rt. Hon. T. B.	—	1	1
Marjoribanks, S.	1	1	1
Marshall, William	1	1	1
Marsland, Henry	1	1	1
Martin, J.	1	1	Absent
Mitchell, T. A.	—	—	1
Morison, James	1	Absent	Absent
Morison, Major-Gen.	—	1	1
Muntz, G. F.	1	1	1
Murphy, F. S.	1	Absent	1
Napier, Sir Charles	1	1	1
O'Brien, J.	—	1	Absent
O'Connell, D.	1	Absent	Absent
O'Connell, M. J.	1	1	1
O'Connell, M.	—	—	1
Ord, William	1	1	1
Oswald, J.	1	1	Absent
Paget, Lord Alfred	—	—	1
Parker, John	1	1	1
Pattison, James	—	—	1
Pechell, Captain	—	1	1
Philips, George R.	1	1	1
Philips, Mark	1	1	1
Phillpotts, J.	1	1	Absent
Plumridge, Captain	1	1	1
Ponsonby, Hon. C. F. A. C.	—	1	1
Ponsonby, Hon. J. G.	—	1	Voted as Lord Duncannon
Protheroe, E.	1	1	1
Pulsford, Robert	—	1	1
Ramsbottom, J.	—	1	1
Rawdon, Colonel	—	—	1
Ricardo, J. L.	1	1	1
Rice, E. R.	—	1	Absent
Roche, Sir D.	—	1	Out
Roebuck, John Arthur	—	1	1
Ross, David Robert	—	1	1
Rundle, J.	1	Out	Out
Russell, Lord E.	—	1	1
Rutherfurd, Andrew	—	—	1
Scholefield, J.	1	1	Out
Scott, R.	—	1	Paired
Scrope, G. P.	—	1	1
Shelburne, Earl of	—	—	1
Smith, Benjamin	1	1	1
Smith, Right Hon. R. V.	—	1	Paired
Smith, J. A.	—	—	1
Seale, Sir J. H.	—	1	Absent
Somers, J. P.	1	Absent	Absent
Standish, C.	—	1	1
Stansfield, W. R. C.	1	1	1
Stanton, W. H.	—	1	1
Stewart, P. M.	1	Absent	Paired
Stuart, Lord J.	1	1	1
Stuart, W. V.	1	1	1
Strickland, Sir G.	1	1	1
Strutt, E.	1	1	1
Shell, Right Hon. R. L.	—	—	Paired
Tancred, H. W.	1	1	1
Thornely, Thomas	1	1	1
Towneley, J.	—	1	1
Trelawny, John S.	—	1	1
Troubridge, Sir E. T.	—	—	1
Tufnell, Henry	—	1	1
Turner, E.	—	1	Absent
Villiers, Hon. C. P.	1	1	1
Villiers, F.	1	Out	Out
Vivian, J. H.	—	1	—
Wakley, T.	1	1	1
Walker, R.	1	1	1
Wallace, R.	1	Paired	1
Ward, H. G.	1	1	1
Warburton, Henry	—	—	1
Wawn, J. T.	1	1	1
Williams, William	1	1	1
Wilson, M.	1	Absent	Absent
Wood, Charles	—	—	1
Wilde, Sir Thomas	1	Absent	Absent
Wood, B.	1	1	Absent
Wood, Sir M.	1	Absent	Dead
Wood, G. W.	1	1	Dead
Wrightson, W. B.	—	—	1
Yorke, H. R.	1	1	1
	92	125	126

Members who voted 1844, for the first time:—

Armstrong, Sir Andrew	Hutt, William
Barclay, David	Leveson, Lord
Bellew, R. M.	Matheson, James
Bernal, Captain	Mitchell, T. A.
Bouverie, Hon. E. P.	O'Connell, Maurice
Bright, John	Paget, Lord Alfred
Browne, Robert Dillon	Pattison, James
Childers, J. H.	Rawdon, Colonel
Clay, Sir William	Rutherfurd, Andrew
Colebrooke, Sir Thos. E.	Shelburne, Earl of
Dundas, David	Shell, Right Hon. R. L. (pair)
Dundas, Frederick	Smith, John Abel
Dundas, Hon. J. C.	Troubridge, Sir E. T.
Fitzwilliam, Hon. G. Wentwth.	Warburton, Henry
Granger, Thomas C.	Wood, Charles
Guest, Sir John	Wrightson, W. B.

	1842.	1843.	1844.
Total number of members who voted against Mr. Villiers's motion, including Tellers	395	383	330
Number of members who voted for Mr. Villiers's motion	92	125	126
	303	258	204

The first motion of Mr. Villiers for "*total and immediate*" repeal, was made in 1842, the majority on which division was 303; in the course of two years that majority has been reduced to 204, showing a clear reduction of the majority against the motion of 99 votes.

On the first division in 1842, the number of votes recorded in favour of Mr. Villiers's motion was 92; in 1844, 126, an increase of 34 votes on the division.

In addition to 126 votes recorded on the last division, there were 28 members absent, from various causes, who have voted with Mr. Villiers in 1842 or 1843. The present number of Mr. Villiers's supporters in the House of Commons stands as follows:—

Voted	126	*New votes*	27
Absent	28		
Paired in favour	11		
	165		

In addition to the above, it may be stated that 11 members voted *against* Mr. Villiers, who had been memorialized by actual majorities of their respective constituencies to vote in favour of the motion.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS IN SCOTLAND.

[We are glad to see that our Free-Trade friends in Scotland are zealously working the Registration. The following instructions have been issued by the Central Committee of Edinburgh to the various associations, and advertised in the papers. As the registration law for Scotch boroughs and counties differs in many particulars from that of England, we publish these instructions for the benefit of our numerous subscribers in the north, who may find this information useful or necessary.]

Numerous applications for information regarding details connected with registration matters having been made to the Council of the National Anti-Corn-Law League, from districts in Scotland where no organization exists by which attention is given to the registration of electors holding Free-Trade principles, a committee has been formed in Edinburgh for the purpose of affording advice and information, without expense, to the friends of Free-Trade, on all matters connected with the registration of electors.

As the 20th of July *is the latest day* on which claims for enrolment can be lodged, it is earnestly requested that, in those localities where no committees exist, ready to receive and support the claims of parties holding Free-Trade principles, committees should be immediately formed, and the business of registering Free-Trade electors commenced with the least possible delay.

As a guide to parties requiring information regarding their rights and duties, in reference to claims for enrolment under the Reform Act, the following abbreviate has been prepared, containing the import of the more important provisions of the statute:—

I. PROPRIETORS IN BURGHS.

1. All persons are qualified to be registered as electors who, not being subject to any legal incapacity (as peers, minors, women, aliens, lunatics, &c.), are the "true owners" of "any house, warehouse, counting-house, shop, *or other building*, within the limits of the burgh, of the yearly value of £10.

2. But such persons must have resided for six calendar months previous to the last day of July, either within the burgh, or within seven statute miles thereof.

3. Husbands of female proprietors, qualified as above, are entitled to be registered.

4. Joint proprietors are entitled to be registered, if possessing a share or interest in the joint property to the value of £10 yearly. But in this case, it is necessary that the claimant be in the *occupancy* of the premises.

5. Although the property be held only *in life-rent*, whether by the claimant or by his wife, such qualification is sufficient.

6. A proprietor is entitled to claim *immediately after acquiring his property;* and the evidence to be produced is a charter, or disposition, or infeftment, or stamped minute, or missive of sale, in favour of the claimant or of his wife, or in favour of trustees vested for the claimant's or his wife's benefit.

II. Tenants, or Occupants in Burghs.

7. All persons are entitled to be registered who, not being subject to any legal incapacity (as peers, minors, women, aliens, lunatics, &c.), have occupied premises of any description, as above mentioned, within the Parliamentary boundaries of any burgh for twelve months previous to the 31st of July, at a rent of £10 or upwards.

8. *Residence* for six months is necessary, as in the case of owners, &c.

9. It is not necessary that the occupancy shall have been of the *same* premises during the whole year; but *continuous* possession of *some* premises of the value of £10 a year is requisite; and this continuous possession should be carefully described in the claim, and supported by evidence. The claimant must be in the occupancy of premises of the requisite value at the time of claiming.

10. The requisite value of £10 may be made up by the occupation of premises rented from two or more landlords; and houses, shops, stables, workshops, lodgings, &c., may be joined together to make up the requisite amount of £10; but they must all be carefully described in the claim, and supported by evidence of value and occupancy.

11. Occupancy of land *alone* within the bounds of a burgh is not sufficient. There must be a house or other building held along with it from the same landlord.

12. The assessed taxes payable "in respect of the premises" (*i. e.*, the window-tax on dwelling-houses, which is the only tax coming within the terms of the act), down to the preceding 6th of April, must be paid on or before the 20th of July, *which is the last day on which claims can be lodged.*

13. Joint tenants, having each an interest of £10, are entitled to be registered. A joint lease, however, is not enough; there must be joint *occupancy*. But the occupancy of a company is, under the act, held to be the occupancy of all the individual partners.

14. *Lodgers*, qualified by paying rent to the value of £10 a year, although in weekly, monthly, or quarterly payments, are entitled to be registered; but the portion of the house occupied by the lodger must be proved to be worth £10, irrespective of furniture, attendance, &c.

15. Tenants become disqualified by removal, and it is necessary for them to claim again to be enrolled on their new premises.

16. No person is entitled to be registered *in any capacity*, who has been in the receipt of parochial relief within a year previous to the last day of July.

17. Claimants should, along with their claims, lodge their receipts for the window-tax, if exigible on the premises for which the enrolment is sought, to show that it has been paid. They should likewise produce evidence that *the value* of the premises is £10, by lodging the receipts for the rent, or the receipts for local taxes assessed according to the rent, or such other sufficient evidence of value as they may be able to produce.

18. Claimants for enrolment, whose claims are to be objected to by any opposing party, at the ensuing registration courts, must receive notice by letter that their claims are to be opposed. These notices must be given not later than the 10th of August. When such notices are received, claimants should be careful to attend the registration court, either personally or by an agent, with proper evidence of value, occupancy, &c., in support of their claims.

Parties wishing farther information are requested to apply, by letters containing specific queries and the necessary explanations, and they will be promptly answered by the committee. Letters to be addressed to Andrew Fyfe, Esq., S.S.C., 15, Leopold-place.

Edinburgh, June 29, 1844.

AGRICULTURE.

"THE HOME OF THE RICK-BURNER."

Such is the title which "Punch" has appended to the most graphic and heart-rending picture of human misery it is possible to conceive—the interior of the cottage of an unemployed agricultural labourer. The dwellers in towns may deem it overdrawn, but we know its literal, its fearful accuracy. By the wretched pallet—placed on the brick floor—of his dead or dying wife, sits the stern and stalwart peasant, to whom the rent-raising law of monopoly has denied employment. The only furniture of the hovel consists of a three-legged stool by the side of the dying mother, on which stands a broken teapot; the remnant of a wooden chair; the open—and, oh, bare and foodless—cupboard; and the poacher's gun! With his chin resting upon his right hand, his elbow on his knee, his left hand clutching with convulsive energy his biggest, half-naked, and barefoot child, while a younger one clings to him, and the two youngest, clasped in each other's arms, are crying by his side, sits the hardy peasant, looking intently on the wasted frame of the mother of his children. His sinewy form, his lean, hard features, the pallid, emaciated countenance of his wife, and, above all, the starving aspect of his four shivering infants bespeak the extremity of his and their destitution. Such is the home of the rick-burner. In one glance the history of incendiarism is told, and the tale goes home to every human heart. Would that each monopolist legislator could see that fearful sketch constantly before him, and seared as his mind is by the lust of power, warped as it is by prejudice, and wrapped as it may be in aristocratic selfishness, we do not believe that he could long resist that mute pleading against the atrocious monopoly of food. And this is no ideal picture; no horrid sketch, the offspring of some distempered fancy. Oh no, in fertile and wealthy England, in the chief kingdom of the most powerful and most civilized empire of the world, there is, at this moment, scarcely a rural hamlet where some—ay many—peasants' huts are not to be found which might have been the originals of that sketch. There are now hundreds and thousands of agricultural labourers without employment—one called at our farm the other day, who during the last sixteen weeks had not obtained ten days' employment—there are thousands and tens of thousands of men working for 7s., 6s., and 5s. a week, and from whose miserable pittances deductions are made whenever the weather or the farmer's arrangements may render their services for a day or a half day of little use. This fact is clearly established. Such a state of things is proved to exist in the east of England by the evidence of the *Times* reporter, and the reports of other newspapers, by the admissions of the landowners, the magistrates, and the residents of that side of our island; in the west of England the labourers themselves have assembled in public meetings, and in simple and pathetic language have proclaimed the existence of the same evils there. This is enough to account for incendiarism, or any other of the dreadful crimes ignorant men commit when they are rendered criminal by the extremity of suffering and despair. We stop not now to inquire whether the particular way in which legal charity is afforded under the actual poor-law be an immediate cause of some, or all, or any of the incendiary fires in Suffolk and Norfolk, as the *Times* asserts and the *Chronicle* denies; but we know that the condition of the great mass of the farm-labourers is so destitute, and apparently so utterly hopeless, that we seek for no secondary or subsidiary cause. And what aggravates this evil is the fact, that all this misery, this, for the present hopeless misery, is the gratuitous infliction of our dominant landed aristocracy.

Lord Ashburton—that Alexander Baring who has made a fortune of millions by commerce, and now uses his wealth and his influence to subject commercial industry to the yoke of a class of the meanest monopolists that ever crawled upon the earth—tells us, or rather he tells the House of Lords, "that labour is so redundant in this country that the labourer is reduced to that amount of sustenance which will only keep him alive. *This was a misfortune which none of them could avoid.* This was unfortunately the condition of this country, and of the greater part of Europe." In this speech there is a mixture of truth and falsehood, of fallacy and error, which proves that, if our aristocratic legislators are not very dishonest, they must be entirely ignorant of the real circumstances of the people who occupy and dwell on the very land they own.

It is true that the agricultural labourer is "reduced to that amount of sustenance which will only keep him alive," and it is unhappily too true that such is the condition of the majority of our peasantry; but it is the very reverse of truth to say that "this is a misfortune which none of them [the Peers] could avoid;" and it is utterly false to attribute the low wages and want of employment, and irregular employment of labourers in husbandry, to redundancy of labour.

Why are our labourers standing idle in the market-place, or brooding over their undeserved miseries in their wretched homes? Why do our farmers screw and pinch their workmen, and employ as few of them, and for as short periods as possible, while their farms are half-cultivated, undrained, unimproved, and, in many instances, rapidly deteriorating? Is it true that our lords and legislators cannot prevent these "misfortunes?" The answers to these queries are short and decisive. Lords and legislators alone interfere to render these "misfortunes" permanent. The labourers are unemployed because the capitalists—the tenant-farmers—who should set them to work, are in a state of uncertainty and insecurity; because the business of farmer has been rendered, by erroneous legislation, one of "hazardous speculation." The farmer cannot reckon that anything relating to his business will turn out as he calculated it should turn out, except his *rent and taxes*. These, his burdens, and these only, are fixed; all else is fluctuating: a dry spring or a wet harvest, or *especially a year of abundance*, may displace all his expectations and leave him with incomings wofully diminished, to struggle with obligations contracted upon calculations very different from actual results. The farmer is not different from other men: he regrets that he cannot properly cultivate his farm, or fully employ the labourers; but necessity has no law, and he *must* pay his landlord or retreat himself to the workhouse or the gaol. It is the mere instinct of self-preservation on the part of farmers, which in some years compels them to discharge their labourers. And, even in the most favourable years, he can undertake nothing but the most moderate plan of culture, for though he may lay out his money, he has not the slightest security that he will be permitted to win it back again. He may sow, but his landlord alone can be sure of reaping the fruits of the tenant's capital and labour.

There is employment, and profitable employment in the rural districts for every agricultral labourer in the kingdom, if the business of husbandry could be only placed in a natural condition; could be it relieved from its boasted "protection." But our lords and legislators stand between the peasantry and employment. The lawmakers want high rents and subservient tenants; they want barbarian sports and feudal services; and these things are incompatible with such a high state of husbandry as would give full employment to the farm-labourers. On the landowners then, the monopolist landowners, lies the burden of the present suffering of the peasantry. They could remedy the evil, they could displace misery and want from the peasant's cottage, and give him instead, joy and food—food in return for honest, invaluable services. They could put an end to crimes which arise from destitution and despair, by a simple act of ordinary justice; by repealing the Corn Laws they could untrammel the farmer, and make the labourers independent; but though they have not a word to say in defence of their monopoly, they refuse to abandon it. On their heads be the consequences of their own iniquity.

And so obvious are these truths to any one who goes amongst the rural population with ordinary power of observation, that every inquiry into these things, by whomsoever instituted, and with whatever objects undertaken, leads to the same conclusion. Thus we find in the very last letter of the *Times* correspondent from Suffolk and Norfolk, that such views force themselves irresistibly upon him. He says that in Norfolk, upon the best lands, the farmers are men of limited intelligence and narrow prejudices, jealous of employing more than their share of labour, like Lord Ashburton, and looking upon the working men as "redundancies" they are compelled to keep "rather than as men upon whose toil they live." And we know that such occupiers are not confined to Norfolk. But, says the reporter, "the farmer is not without some excuse for his thriftiness, *and some ground of complaint.* His produce brings a lower and lower price, *whilst his rent and expenses continue the same.*" And this writer cannot resist the conclusion that the Corn Law is the main cause of this wrong endured by the farmer; for he says—"Without entering into a *Corn-Law* argument, *the facts of his complaint* are deserving of attention." Now, what are the facts? The reporter says—"I heard an old farmer the other day say, at Ixworth, *that he had work for eight or ten labourers more on his farm*, but he could not afford to employ them with his wheat selling at 26s. a coomb." This man had of course taken his land in a full reliance upon the monopoly price of 32s. a coomb (a sack) promised by the Corn Laws, or some 12s. a quarter more than he has actually obtained. In such circumstances a farmer must of necessity be distressed; and such distress is the direct consequence of the Corn Laws. It is said that, on the average land of Suffolk, twenty-eight bushels, or three quarters and a half of wheat to the acre are grown, and that the rent of such land is from 20s. to 25s. an acre; and that this would reduce the farmers's receipts upon every acre of wheat some 42s. below the amount he had calculated on receiving, and which his landlord and his landlord's law told him he should receive.

The reporter says the farmers attribute this fall in the price of wheat to Sir Robert Peel's Corn Bill, but declines himself to enter into that question, saying, however, "The fact is still the same,—there has been a diminution of the farmers' profits equal to double their rent. Their rent remains the same; the tithe rent-charge has increased from 1s. to 2s. an acre, and they have the income-tax to pay. A farmer at Ixworth told me it was not now worth his while to fatten pigs to sell at 4d. a pound. This has compelled them to be niggard; and I am assured on the best authority that very many small farmers in Suffolk and Norfolk, *who have not the capital to meet this pressure by enterprise and improvements, and better cultivation*, are insolvent, and cannot, 'if they would, employ more labour." Here we have the root of the evil, which is, that farmers have taken farms, relying upon the Corn Law to give them a high price for scanty crops. By the systems they adopt they are assured of permanently scanty crops, but the high price no law can at all times secure to them. Hence, they are occasionally, as now, in a state of grievous suffering, which is fearfully reflected upon their labourers. The Corn Laws are entirely answerable for this state of things; and that fact is every day being brought so home to the farmers, and especially to the labourers, that the monopolist landowners will find when they assemble next year in Parliament that free trade in corn will have become an inevitable necessity.

FREE-TRADE AGITATION BY MONOPOLISTS.

The following extract from the letter of an intelligent correspondent gives an account of the origin of the Lyne-

HAM LABOURERS' FREE-TRADE MEETING, which signally confirms the opinion we expressed from the first, that the only effect of the Pro-Corn-Law agitation would be to diffuse more rapidly Free-Trade opinions. See how naturally this has happened in North Wiltshire. Our correspondent says:—

"As the meeting at Lyneham has attracted some notice, I drop you a line stating the circumstances in which it originated, as they have not been mentioned in the published report.

In some of the neighbouring parishes petitions were got up in favour of the Corn Law; and, I may state, in several instances labourers were threatened if they refused to sign; while in some others their names were attached without their knowledge. * * * * To enlighten the farmers, labourers, and others, *papers were distributed*, ASSIGNING REASONS FOR MAINTAINING THE PRESENT LAW. *These occasioned much interchange of opinion among the villagers.* The result was that a person *signified his intention of publicly replying to the statements contained in these papers*, which becoming generally known—all in a quiet way, without the use of any handbills, &c.—*more persons came together than the place of assembly in Hilmarton parish could accommodate.* The speaker did his work well—forcibly and clearly showing the erroneousness of the statements that had been circulated among them, and *leaving one settled impression on his audience, that the Corn Laws are an unmitigated evil.* This meeting broke up, after passing a resolution to the effect that another should be called in the neighbouring parish of Lyneham.

"*Such is the history of the meeting that has attracted no little attention.* This evening [July 2] another is to be held at Spurthill, and speedily another at Brinkworth—*all originating from the circulation of a tract in favour of the present Corn Law!!*

"There is one other point I wish the reporter had taken notice of, viz., that after the chairman put the questions to the labourers at the Lyneham meeting as to the amount of their wages, &c., he also asked them, 'Do you think the farmers can give you higher wages in the present state of things?' To which they instantaneously responded from all parts of the meeting, 'NO, THEY CAN'T, THEY CAN'T; 'TISN'T THEIR FAULT.' The omission of this is to be regretted, because this *distinct and manly avowal as to the inability of the farmer to give them more money would have pacified the feelings of some farmers who were not present, but who saw the published report.*

"And as Mr. Heneage, M.P. for Devizes, has said that though he would not countenance such meetings, yet he was glad this one had been held, for, till he saw the account, *he did not know wages were so low, and that he would make his tenants give more*; farmers, from this circumstance, may come to regard such meetings as tending only to raise the labourers' pay, which impression would be unfavourable to their conversion to Free-Trade meetings."

We will next week endeavour to give this monopolist member for Devizes an elementary lesson in political economy, from which it will be obvious that he cannot "make his tenants give more wages" in any other way than by supporting the immediate abolition of all monopolies, especially the Corn Laws.

A LESSON TO ACRED MONOPOLISTS.

THE LYNEHAM LABOURERS' MEETING.

The meeting of the agricultural labourers on Lyneham Green, in North Wiltshire, is so remarkable an incident in the history of the decline and fall of the corn monopoly that we give more copious extracts from the report of its proceedings than our limits usually permit. The *Wiltshire Independent* says:—

"In pursuance of a resolution passed at Goatacre, in the parish of Hilmarton, on Thursday week, a public meeting took place on Lyneham Green on Tuesday evening, at half-past six o'clock, to consider the effect of taxation, and more particularly of the bread-tax, on the industrious classes. A few days previous to the meeting notice of it was given by handbills, and such was the interest excited that, had it not been for the storm which was threatening for nearly an hour before the time of meeting, and which burst forth in all its fury just at its commencement, an immense assembly would have been present. As it was, nearly 1000 persons, *chiefly agricultural labourers*, with a good many farmers among them, gathered at the spot, and, spite of the pitiless pelting of the storm, stood their ground during the whole proceedings. A platform was erected on the green under a wide-spreading tree, which afforded shelter to a good many. *A better conducted or more orderly meeting has rarely been witnessed.*"

With a courage and consistency worthy of imitation by the clergy, a Dissenting minister, the Rev. Mr. PILGREM, presided over the assembly, and, while ably expounding the iniquities of the Corn Laws, made these judicious remarks:—

"There might have been an impression that this meeting was convened to set the labourer against the farmer, and the farmer against the labourer. *But they had no such design in view, and he believed the meeting would have no such tendency.* (Hear.) One thing was manifest to every man who had eyes to see or a heart to feel, *that a large amount of distress existed in the country. The farmers said they were unable to give higher wages,—and he believed them; the labourers said they could not even obtain a sufficiency or have food on the wages they now received, and this no one could doubt.*"

Mr. ARKELL, a tenant-farmer, well known for his outspoken advocacy of Free Trade as essential to the best interests of agriculture, and whom we have before mentioned as the author of the Royal Agricultural Society's Prize Essay on Draining, then moved the first resolution, and, in so doing, said:—

"With regard to the labouring class, he understood that the labourers in the neighbourhood only received 7s. a week. (*A voice at a distance, from the other side of the hedge, 'It's a lie.'*) Mr. Arkell: '*Then come forward and prove it;*' the objector not answering this challenge, Mr. Arkell proceeded: To my knowledge, on many farms within six or seven miles of Stratton, only 7s. a week is paid. (Several voices, '*Tis true, and no one can deny it.*') He knew it to be the case in many parishes. He knew a parish where able-bodied men were receiving 4s. a week for working on the roads, and married men with families, 6s., to keep them from the workhouse. ('Hear, hear,' and cries of 'Shame, shame.') What produced this state of things? *Why, the truth was, the farmers had no money in their pockets, or they would not acknowledge it, at least the proud part of them.* ('True, true,' and laughter.) The farmers were sinking. (A voice, 'God grant they may.' Several others, 'Amen.') *These are not times, said Mr. Arkell, to set man against man, brother against brother; for it is plain that if the farmer sinks, you—the labourers—who are a weaker class, must sink still lower.* Now, mark what I say: Supposing the crops suffer from the want of rain, what will be the consequence? The price will rise, and there will be an influx of foreign corn at 1s. duty, and this just at a time when the farmer has on his hands the bulk of his crop for sale. The farmer thus being deprived of his sale, or obliged to sell at a low price, has no money, consequently he is unable to give employment to his labourers, and they must either starve or go to the workhouse.'

Mr. Arkell then alluded to the tyranny which was practised to keep the farmers away from such meetings, and to the subserviency which evidently prevailed among them and caused them to submit:—

"*He once attended an Anti Corn-Law meeting where the clergy and the squires watched to see who came.* He should not wonder if some of their agents were present now. He would advise them to be quiet; and he hoped they would see no such doings here. Only let there be more unanimity and good feeling between the farmers and the labourers (hear, hear), and all efforts against them might be subdued."

He then read the first resolution; but before the resolution was seconded several labouring men came forward to give a statement of their condition. The first was—

"WALTER MATHEWS said, he was thankful to be allowed to speak for himself, and he was not ashamed to state his condition. *He resided in a little parish called Catcombe.* He had a wife and five children, three of whom he had to maintain entirely, the others only in part. He was by trade a cordwainer, and occasionally worked at agricultural employment. On account of the present low wages and scarcity of work *he was really often worse off than the farm-labourers themselves.*"

Catcombe is one of the worst cultivated parishes in the district, and is a good deal overrun with game. Mathews then said:—

"During this year he had worked till he trembled, with nothing but a few potatoes and salt and a bit of bread in the day. *The farm-labourers, perhaps, received 7s. a week, out of which they had five or six to maintain, and frequently one or two wet days were deducted from their wages; from this 7s. a week 2s. or 2s. 6d. went for rent and a bit of fire stuff.* Therefore they might see the state of the labourers was hard and dreadful. (*Cries of 'It is; it is.'*) A man often labours from four in the morning to eight at night with nothing to eat but a bit of potato and salt. (*'True, true.'*) When he took out his bills he might go to one place and take a few shillings, and at another none at all. *Some of them would say they had a little money saved up for it, but they had been obliged to spend it in victuals.* So he thought little tradesmen such as himself were, in fact, little, if any better off than the farm-labourers."

Again, we find

"WILLIAM PEGLER (an agricultural labourer) said, he stood up to speak the truth. He said he was out of work, but could get no relief from the parish; he might go into the poor-house, but he would as soon be sent to Botany Bay as be separated from his wife and family there. He had travelled hundreds of miles for work. He would not speak against the farmers. He thought they had no money, and there was nothing for them to do, for there was little or nothing on the ground. He thought the sins of the nation had brought this state of things on them, and he believed if the people all over the country humbled themselves, and prayed and fasted as the men of Nineveh did, it would be much better for them all; *instead of which the poor men were cursing the farmers, and the farmers cursing the labourers.*"

Nor was this untutored son of labour far from the truth when he said "the sins of the nation had brought this state of things upon them;" for the existing distress is, in a great measure, caused by the Corn Laws, and the low state of agriculture they have occasioned; and can there be a greater sin on the part of the legislators of a nation *than to make laws to produce artificial scarcity*, to intercept the bounty of Providence, AND TO MAKE FOOD DEAR?

Two other labouring men spoke, one of whom said he had often spent days with only a bit of bread to eat once in the day; and we know that this is no overcharged account of the privations the agricultural labourers often have to endure in nearly all the purely agricultural districts.

"The CHAIRMAN said, you have now listened to the statements of three or four labouring men—members of a class one of the most honourable in the country. Have they spoken the truth about your wages? ('Yes, yes.') How much do you get a week? (Numbers of voices replied, '*Seven shillings.*') *How many of you get 12s.? (Loud laughter, and cries of, 'Ne'er a one of us.')* Well, then, how many receive 8s.? (A voice, '*I got 8s., but I've a wife and six children to keep out of it.*') Well, we won't be particular to a shilling; it is manifest, *and it is the general impression among the labourers, that the farmers, many of them, cannot now pay higher wages, and therefore nothing should be said which would breed bad feeling between the labourers and the farmers;* for, as Mr. Arkell has said, their interests are one. They were not met to cry out one against another, but to say that there is great distress felt by the farmers as well as by the labourers. *Many farmers were living on their capital because their farms yielded no profit, and many were in arrears for rent. Every class, in fact, was affected.*"

The resolution was then seconded by

"WM. EDWARDS, a journeyman tailor, working in the neighbourhood. *He said it had been stated that the Corn Laws were enacted to maintain good wages for the labourer. Had that object been realized? ('No, no.')* No, it had not; *neither had the tenant farmers received any benefit from the Corn Laws.* Who, then, had been benefited? Those who had eaten out the representative part of the Government—the House of Peers. The people were not now represented in the House of Commons. He had lived in the richest corn district in the country—the Pewsey Vale,—where, if anywhere, the agricultural population ought to be prosperous; *but there their condition was truly shocking. Something, then, must be wrong.* If Providence has provided bountifully for all the human race, why are you not provided for?"

Let the rich and titled monopolists, who met at Devizes not long since to support "protection," learn common sense and common honesty in dealing with the question of wages from this humble rural mechanic, who remarked,

"*They had been told a repeal of the Corn Laws would cause wages to sink. How could that be, when commerce and manufactures would revive? When most labourers were in the market the lowest wages were given;* how, then, could full employment, and a consequent demand for labourers, lower wages? The wages of female servants in Manchester were higher than in almost any other neighbourhood. *Why? Because there was a demand for their labour.* In one factory in Manchester 327 females were employed. If 327 females were employed in a factory at Calne, *would not the wages of females be much higher in the neighbourhood?*"

Can monopoly's fall be long delayed when the people themselves arise up and instruct one another in this way?

"Mr. READ, Independent minister of Goatacre, proposed the second resolution:—'That, to prevent such a state of things as is contemplated in the foregoing resolution, this meeting are desirous of an immediate and total repeal of the malt-tax and Corn Laws, and of all other laws which affect the necessities of the labouring people.' *They did not come here to destroy the confidence of the labourers in their masters, or of the masters in their labourers.* But he would ask one question: Are the farmers in a prosperous condition or not? If they are, they are acting wrong in not giving higher wages (hear); *if they are not, something must be the cause;* and that cause was taxation, *especially the accursed bread-tax. It was evident that the labourer was in a deplorable condition.* Who could say that 7s. a week was sufficient for a man to support a wife and family? Was not the labourer worthy of his hire? Who was it that ploughed the ground, that sowed the seed, that reaped and thrashed the corn, but the labourer? The labouring population was the staff of the country; and it was the bounden duty of every man to take means that the labourer might receive his fair proportion of the produce of the land."

The meeting closed in a manner highly creditable to those who took part in it.

"The second resolution was carried unanimously.

"The third resolution, 'That a petition, founded on the foregoing resolutions, be drawn out and signed on behalf of this meeting by the chairman, for a removal of all restrictions on trade and commerce, and that the same be forwarded by him for presentation to Parliament,' was then briefly moved, seconded, and carried.

"The CHAIRMAN concluded the proceedings with a few remarks of kind caution and friendly advice to the labourers; and the meeting separated after giving a vote of thanks to the chairman, *three hearty cheers for the repeal of the Corn Laws, and three for Lord Radnor.*"

We trust such meetings as these will become general in the rural districts. These will be the true "*Agricultural Protection Meetings.*"

A correspondent of the *Wiltshire Independent* says:—

"The depressed condition of agricultural industry was unfolded by statements made by several of the labourers themselves. It was a melancholy spectacle to witness, on the one hand, the touching simplicity and rude eloquence with which these hard-faring men laid open their case, and, on the other hand, to hear the coarse mockery with which their complaints were greeted from a neighbouring position by a parcel of unthinking individuals surrounded by half-a-dozen hireling bullies."

And the same writer adds:—

"A considerable number of farmers were present, half ashamed that such a meeting should have called them together, some inventing excuses for having come, one and another asserting that 'he could always make a little business at Lyneham.' 'What's the use,' says a third, 'of telling the labourers anything about all this; what effect will these speakers produce by talking to men who know nothing about it?' Why, it may be asked in reply, were the farmers so solicitous to prevent their men from attending? We trust that ere long both farmers and labourers will reap the good effects."

We again repeat, this is the most remarkable Anti-Corn-Law meeting which has yet occurred.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We are in receipt of our correspondent "Peter Playfair's" fourth and fifth letters, but press of matter obliges us to defer their insertion till next week.

Mr. Morse's valuable letter on the wages of agricultural labourers in our next.

"T. M., Plymouth," is informed that a tenant-at-will of premises of the annual *value* of £50 is qualified whether he pay any rent or not. The *value* is the sole criterion, not the rent. If the premises are situated within the borough of Plymouth, they will only confer the county franchise, if they are such (land without houses, for example) as would not confer a borough vote.

"J. B.," and the other "embryo voters" will put up their claims to be admitted as freemen of York in the usual form recognised in that city. Of this claim they will, of course, preserve evidence, taking care to tender all the usual entrance and other fees, if any are due. If their names are, notwithstanding, omitted by the Town Clerk from the list of freemen entitled to be registered, they will serve him with claims to be registered in the usual form; and on proof of claims to be enrolled as freemen, and to be registered, the revising barrister is bound to register them. But it may be observed that the Town Clerk may swear in the claimants in presence of the magistrates (aldermen or other city officers) in the absence of the Mayor, and that will be a good enrolment as freemen. The Town Clerk would be entitled to insert them in the list of persons entitled to vote by their simply having claimed to be admitted as freemen.—Oakhampton, 1 Fraser, 166; Derby, 3 Douglas, 287; Drogheda, E. and D., 99; do., 105, Philip Hendleton.

"C. R. A.," Edinburgh.—The Scotch Reform Act qualifies every person (not subject to any legal incapacity) to vote who, for twelve months prior to the 31st of July, shall have been "in the occupancy, either as proprietor, tenant, or life-renter, of any house, warehouse, counting-house, shop, or other building, which, either separately or jointly with any other house, &c. &c., or with any land, &c. &c., shall be of the yearly value of £10." Now, a lodger *occupies*, a lodger pays rent, a lodger is a tenant or holder, not indeed of a *house*, but of an "other building," under which term *room* is included; and, if he use the additional precaution to have a key to his room, and "free isle and entry," as the Scotch law terms it, from the street, without let or hindrance from the landlord, we know no principles of the interpretation of statutes in the Scotch law to prevent lodgers, and even the occupants of *furnished* lodgings, from being registered for Scotch boroughs. While we are on this subject, we beg to call the especial attention of our Edinburgh friends to the fact that, while the English Reform Act confines the franchise to every "MALE person," &c. &c., the Scotch Reform Act extends it to "every PERSON not subject to legal incapacity." We think that women should try the point of their right to be registered; and we may state for general information that, where females have votes, as in many parishes in England, for parish officers, they always elect the best representatives.

Several other notices to correspondents deferred.

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

Any person forwarding 3s. 3d. by Post-office order, to the Publisher, 67, Fleet-street, London, will have one quarter's copies of the LEAGUE forwarded by post on the days of publication. Subscriptions for the paper may also be left with J. Gadsby, Newall's-buildings, Manchester; and the LEAGUE may be had by order of any news-agent in town or country. Subscribers who receive coloured envelopes on their papers must bear in mind that their subscriptions are due.

POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, July* 6, 1844.

Incendiarism continues to rage in the eastern counties, and discussion of its cause in the Metropolitan newspapers. The *Morning Chronicle* has followed the example of the *Times* in issuing its commission of inquiry, and sending down an agent to investigate upon the spot. Unluckily, this doubling of the machinery seems by no means likely to double the useful results; or to have any other consequence than diminishing them. The *Chronicle* is just as sure that the New Poor-law is not the cause, as the *Times* is sure that it is the cause. The rival reporters in Suffolk fight out their controversial duel in the columns of their respective journals in London. An awkward and circuitous mode; like two parties shooting at each other round corners. This part of the business might have been done better at home. Meanwhile the really desirable object is not promoted. The great good which was anticipated from the commencement of the investigation in the *Times*, is put in abeyance. Little

progress is made in illustrating and putting on authentic record, the physical circumstances and the mental condition of the peasantry throughout the districts where fires have been so frequent. A special purpose will henceforth be suspected in both sets of statements. Each will be regarded as one-sided, and the two one-sidednesses cannot, in this instance, make up an entire view of the subject. There is much that requires elucidation, and is most desirable to be known, which yet may not help the argument of either debater upon the share of the Poor-law in producing the conflagrations.

The curse of party spirit is upon our whole political system. The newspaper press faithfully reflects the perversion which that party spirit induces in legislation. Even such a question as this, of the state of the Suffolk peasantry in its relation to incendiary crime, cannot be worked out without taking a side. It is not, indeed, a question of Whig and Tory; but Pro-poor-law and Anti-poor-law have become as much a party division as Whig and Tory. The real public service, and a noble one, would have been to continue, as the *Times* commenced, and let the light in upon the hovels of the agricultural poor, displaying there to the world's gaze, the crowded wretchedness, and miserable fare, and sullen desperation, which are the nursery of dire purposes and guilty deeds. This would have been a work of public beneficence; we should be devoutly glad to see it resumed, and also to see the *Morning Chronicle* modify its controversy into co-operation.

As a case of humanity and justice, the condition of these poor creatures demands inquiry. Enough has been unfolded of their misery to stimulate every good feeling on their behalf. Not less is information requisite for the sake of their employers. No other portion of the industrious middle classes of England live in such a state of horrible insecurity. No other slumbers are liable, any night, to be broken by the glare of devastating flames; and the how and why of these fearful occurrences so connect themselves with the policy and tendency of legislation, as to give the subject an interest really national.

Enough has been already, and distinctly, ascertained to scatter to the winds the outrageous calumny of which certain reverend and "noble" personages had the hardihood to make themselves the heralds. The League is exonerated, but Monopoly is not exonerated. In the late debate, it was conceded by Mr. Gladstone that "the high price of bread is a public misfortune;" and public misfortune is the parent of individual crime. Bread is always high, in the cheapest years, to the family of the labourer whose wages range between 6s. and 12s. per week. These are the agriculturists who need protection; not that of prices which they cannot pay, or of workhouses which not even absolute destitution will drive them to enter; but the protection of Justice, interfering neither with the cost of their food nor with the multiplication and extension of other means of employment. Is it not a fact, which speaks volumes, that a silk mill, as at Hadleigh, is a practical insurance against rick-burning in the neighbourhood? He that runs may read such a fact as that. Those who will not yet read will, ere long, be compelled to run—at least from their present logical position.

STATE OF ENGLAND.—What alarms us in the state of England is the uncertain basis on which its prosperity is placed—and the prodigious mass of hatred which the English Government continues, by its obstinate bigotry, to accumulate—eight hundred and forty millions sterling of debt—the revenue depending upon the demand for the shoes, stockings, and breeches of Europe, and seven millions of Catholics in a state of the greatest fury and exasperation. We persecute as if we did not owe a shilling—we spend as if we had no disaffection. This, by possibility, may go on; but it is dangerous walking—the chance is there will be a fall. No wise man should take such a course. All probabilities are against it. We are astonished that Lord Hertford and Lord Lowther, shrewd and calculating lords, do not see that it is nine to one against such a game. It is not only the event of war we fear in the military struggle with Ireland; but the expense of war, and the expenses of the English Government, are paving the way for future revolutions. The world never yet saw so extravagant a government as the Government of England. Not only is economy not practised, but it is despised; and the idea of it connected with disaffection, Jacobinism, and Joseph Hume. Every rock in the ocean, where a cormorant can perch is occupied by our troops, has a governor, deputy-governor, storekeeper and deputy-storekeeper, and will soon have an archdeacon and a bishop. Military colleges, with thirty-four professors, educating seventeen ensigns per annum, being half an ensign for each professor, with every species of nonsense, athletic, sartorial, and plumigerous. A just and necessary war costs this country about £100 a minute; whipcord £15,000; red tape £7000; lace for drummers and fifers £19,000; a pension to one man who has broken his head at the pole; to another who has shattered his leg at the equator; subsidies to Persia; secret service money to Thibet; an annuity to Lady Henry Somebody, and her seven daughters, the husband being shot at some place where we never ought to have had any soldiers at all; and the elder brother returning four members to Parliament. Such a scene of extravagance, corruption, and expense as must paralyse the industry and mar the fortunes of the most industrious, spirited people that ever existed.—*Sidney Smith.*

REVIEW.

A Letter to the Duke of Richmond anent his Losses in the Sale of his Salmon. By a brother Fish-dealer. London: Unwin.

It is no wonder that the clever author of this pamphlet should exclaim in the old phraseology of Elizabeth's reign, "Odds fish! my Lord Duke," and describe "Buy my fine salmon" as one of the many cries which his Grace of Richmond has brought from Billingsgate to the House of Lords. The world will not easily forget the appearance of an English nobleman in the character of an angry huckster, complaining that the price of his fish was reduced by competition. His brother fish-dealer introduces a case of a very different kind. It will be in the recollection of our readers that the inhabitants of the Orkney and Shetland Islands were some years ago reduced to such a state of destitution that an appeal was made to public benevolence in their behalf, and they were only rescued from famine by an extensive public subscription. To prevent the recurrence of such a calamity, a company was formed to teach the islanders a more efficient mode of fishing and preparing their fish for the Spanish markets, with such success, that £50,000 worth of fish has been exported from the Orkneys and Shetlands to Spain since the company was established.

"Soon after the establishment of the company, the Spaniards so much approved of the fish that a proposal was made to me by an eminent Spanish merchant to the following effect: He proposed to purchase fish of the Shetlanders at a considerably higher price than they had previously been able to realize, and to the extent of 20,000 quintals—being equal to the whole produce of the fishery,—on condition that they would receive in payment Spanish wheat, flour, or bread, and which he offered to deliver at the islands at a price that would have enabled the Shetlanders to supply themselves with the best of flour at about one-third less cost than what they were at the time paying for common Scotch oatmeal.

"Now, here was a proposal based upon the pure natural principles of international commerce, the exchanging of the surplus produce of one country for the surplus produce of another. The Spaniards had bread to spare, but wanted fish. The Shetlanders had fish to spare, and, above all things, wanted bread.

"The Corn Law with its sliding scale, however, stepped in between the Spaniards and the Shetlanders, and said in effect this: 'You Spaniards may buy the Shetlanders' fish if you will, but they shall not take your bread in exchange. You must pay the Shetlanders with your hard dollars, which hard dollars they must convert into pounds sterling, and bring them to the Scotch or English landowners in payment for what bread they may require. It is true the Shetlanders will not, in consequence, be able to sell so much of their fish, nor at so good a price for hard cash, as if they had been able to take some of the Spaniards' spare corn or flour, nor will the Shetlanders be able to get nearly so much bread from the Scotch or English landowners as they would have got from the Spaniards. But never mind; what are the interests of a few thousand half-starved fishermen and their families in comparison with the maintenance of the rents and profits of the British landed aristocracy and gentry?'

"In fact, my Lord Duke, the Spanish merchant, in making this proposal, never dreamt for a moment that the Corn Law applied to these remote and barren islands. That ingenious instrument of monopoly, the sliding scale, was, however, in as full operation there, and with even more sinister results, as in other parts of the kingdom. The duty on foreign corn and flour had reached a high point, and was still graduating upwards. The slippery movements of the scale did not accord with the steady and prudential tenor of my commercial operations. The proposal of the Spanish merchant was therefore declined; and the Shetland fishermen and myself consequently lost, as your Grace announces that you have lately done, 'a large sum in the sale of our fish.'"

On this plain statement we need not offer one word of comment. The Shetland fishermen and their families have been deprived of the very means of subsistence, and there is no pity for them in the Legislature, while all our sympathies are evoked for a slight diminution of the unjust gains which support the luxuries of the house of Goodwood. But, whatever may be the conduct of men, there is an Eternal Justice which will finally decide between the proud Duke and the humble Shetlanders.

*** We find ourselves unavoidably compelled, owing to the great length of the Covent-garden meeting, to omit reviews of "Macgregor's Statistics" and "Knight's Weekly Volume," which we intended to have given in our present number. They shall appear next week.

NOTES TAKEN BY A TRAVELLER IN THE SUMMER OF 1844.

The following paper is from the pen of a gentleman of the highest literary attainments and commercial experience. He is now travelling through Holland and Germany, and will forward for publication in the LEAGUE, a series of articles illustrative of the present position and commercial policy and prospects of those countries. From the well-known ability of the writer, and his established reputation as an authority in economical and political science, together with his extensive knowledge of the resources and policy of the different nations of Europe, both from personal intercourse and observation, as well as from his means of access to the highest official authorities, our readers may place the most implicit reliance upon the accuracy of his statements, and the soundness of his views.

Brussels, June 22, 1844.

It was a lovely evening on the 9th of this month when I entered the port of Ostend, in the Sir Edward Banks. Our passage occupied fifteen hours from London Bridge, and I had meditated during no small portion of it upon the advantages derived by travellers from competition. This passage is, virtually, for the moment, deprived of such stimulus to activity, Government remaining as well satisfied with the old tubs of steamers that ply at inconvenient times in seven hours from Dover, as that meritorious body, the General Steam Navigation Company, is with its old servants the Liverpool and the Banks. The Princess Alice, now plying, I believe, betweed Folkestone and Boulogne, once ran in four hours from Dover to Ostend, and the Magician has reached the same port in little more than nine hours from London. But the report of such doings only tantalizes the sea-sick traveller, as the prices in foreign markets, quoted occasionally in the LEAGUE, torment our hungry artisans at home. For us, as for them, there is no help but in free competition, the sole effectual spur to activity, economy, and enterprise. Two years back the Belgian Government started a fine steam-boat, the Bruges, between Ostend and London; but she was not faster, although cleaner and better ventilated than the English boats. The establishment of a daily communication is now, I hear, determined upon, and the Chambers have voted sums for the purchase of three new vessels, which will probably lead to the usual result of making the company in Lombard-street economise about half its fuel, save some wear and tear in its vessels, diminish its fares, and increase proportionately the number of its passengers. The only impediment to the Belgian experiment that I can foresee, is about to be raised by the Belgians themselves.

I was not aware, while these thoughts were crossing my mind, that the subject was at the moment under warm discussion at Brussels in the Second Chamber; not the project of the new steam-boats, but the general one, of the advantages and inconveniences of competition, which has given rise to remarkable debates, and to a still more remarkable decision, which will cause as much regret to all the friends of enlightened progress in the rest of Europe as it has done here. On the day of my arrival at Brussels, the hitherto liberal navigation system that has been adhered to since the revolution of 1830 was voted a way, and the principle of a navigation law and differential duties was formally adopted. We, of course, have had our share in preparing this change, the history of which is deserving of attention, and will be best comprehended if connected with some general details concerning the trade and navigation of the country.

Ostend ranks as second amongst the Belgian ports, its disadvantage being that its harbour is dry at low tide. The inconveniences arising from this circumstance might be removed by the construction of wet docks, with sluices, and, to a certain extent, such are now formed by the canals communicating with the interior. But the central position of Antwerp, and the secure anchorage it offers, compensate for the tortuous navigation of the Scheldt, and are likely for a long time to give that port the preference that it has hitherto enjoyed. The official returns of the trade of Belgium show that the traffic in the Scheldt is on the increase, while that of Ostend is stationary. The following is the number of vessels from foreign ports that entered the four harbours in four recent years:—

	1839.		1840.	
PORTS.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Antwerp.....	1177	175,931	1158	177,315
Ostend	523	56,124	387	41,947
Nieuport	109	2,722	105	2,695
Selzaete (Ghent) ..	27	2,217	147	15,312
	1836	237,294	1797	237,269

	1841.		1842.	
PORTS.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Antwerp.....	1217	180,659	1381	211,455
Ostend	445	49,046	532	56,259
Nieuport	153	4,347	188	5,921
Selzaete (Ghent) ..	141	17,845	202	21,789
	1956	251,897	2303	295,524

But the general increase here indicated in the shipping that entered these ports between 1839 and 1842, and which is equal to one-fourth, did not take place in Belgian bottoms. The flags were as follows:—

	1839.		1842.	
FLAGS.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Belgian.....	597	74,825	542	74,469
English.....	455	38,631	733	73,206
Danish	56	6,362	160	18,788
Hanoverian and Oldenburg ..	196	17,342	239	20,126
Mecklenburg	85	16,151	117	25,246
Prussian	71	15,985	80	15,882
Swedish	190	33,913	151	25,854

At the sight of this list the capitalists of Ghent, Bruges, and Antwerp seem to have taken alarm. The cry was raised that money was going out of the country. The general fact that trade had improved, that the imports which, in 1839, were equivalent to 217,000,000 francs, reached in 1842, 288,000,000 francs, and that this increase might be connected with the facilities for foreign vessels was overlooked. That the weight of merchandise forwarded by the railroads had increased from 102,154 tons in 1840, to 333,454 tons in 1843, was disregarded. That the dues received at the custom-house had increased between the same years from 9,370,000 francs to 10,634,172 francs, seems to have satisfied the Minister of the Finances, although this increase was obtained in spite of dangerous experiments, which occasioned a great diminution of the quantities imported of some important articles. Everybody seemed but to have fixed their attention on the freights paid to foreign vessels, for the loss of which nothing could compensate. The Ministry took the responsibility of the measure on themselves, and proposed a formal navigation law, establishing high differential duties between Belgian and foreign vessels, with the view, as they declared, of creating a national commercial navy.

For some years past the Belgian Government has made a deduction of 10 per cent. from the customs' dues levied on goods imported in native vessels; a distinction that it refused to abandon when a treaty of reciprocity was proposed by England. One would imagine that this was premium sufficient to Belgian capitalists who had funds to invest in shipping; and that the Minister might have made better terms for the other interests than he has done with those who desired to become shipowners. Another advantage that the Minister might have used to influence the speculative portion of his countrymen on this occasion was, the circumstance of his intending himself to take the lead in the shipping speculation, by the

establishment of the daily communication, to which I have alluded, with England, and by the opening of a direct packet communication with several American ports. Although, as far as the Government is concerned, differential duties only take out of one pocket to put into the other—and the previous American experience showed what may be expected to result from the present measure, —still, inconceivably enough, it is to be persevered in.

I must remark that the reduction of 10 per cent. on the duties in favour of Belgian vessels was from the first resisted by the United States. No attention having been paid to the remonstrance made by its agents, the Washington Government imposed a differential duty upon Belgian vessels with as little notice as the Brussels Cabinet had thought proper to give of its intention. The large steamer, the British Queen, which the Government had purchased, to open a communication between Antwerp and New York, was the first to incur these duties, which were only declared after she had sailed. She has consequently not repeated her trip, and is now lying idle at Antwerp, as a set off against the 10 per cent. additional duty charged upon strange vessels. The Minister did not attempt to conceal his fear, that other countries might, on this occasion, adopt measures of reprisal.

It is, however, creditable to the state of public opinion in general, that this measure was not carried in the Second Chamber without serious and well-directed opposition. In the speeches of many of the members, a perfect knowledge of the advantages of freedom of trade was eloquently displayed, and the sophistry of what is called a protecting policy in commerce was unsparingly exposed. They have been warmly seconded by the public press at Brussels and in all the large towns, the mode of arguing the subject having, on the part of the advocates of a liberal commercial policy, been very superior to the attempts of their adversaries to defend the new project. An excellent article in the *Independence* of Brussels exposes the unjustifiable assertion of the Minister before the House, that England refused to form treaties with other countries on the footing of reciprocity in navigation, and quotes the text of the recent treaty with Holland in proof of its incorrectness.

The measure proposed experienced many modifications during its discussion, but it preserves its obnoxious peculiarity of pledging Belgium to a system of commercial policy that is decried by all competent judges in every country, and that experience has proved to be unsound.

The following are the details of the bill as it goes to the Upper House for confirmation:—

"Par. 1. The deduction of 10 per cent. allowed by the law of 26th of August, 1822, on manufactured goods imported in native vessels, shall be discontinued, with exceptions to be fixed by an order in council. These goods, when imported in foreign bottoms, to pay 10 per cent. above the rates of the present tariff. All other goods imported by sea to continue to enjoy the deduction of 10 per cent. in favour of Belgian vessels. A reduction of 20 per cent. to be allowed on importations in such vessels from parts situated beyond the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn.

"Par. 2. Belgian vessels coming from transatlantic ports, or ports situated beyond the Straits of Gibraltar, can touch at intermediate harbours for orders, without losing the benefits allowed to direct importations. Such vessels must neither load, unload, nor in any way trade at the intermediate places. (Amendment as rider.) Foreign vessels chartered by Belgian houses, whose papers are made out on Belgian account and duly certified by Belgian consuls, coming direct to Belgian harbours, shall enjoy the same privilege as Belgian vessels.

"Par. 3. The productions of Asia, Africa, and America, coming direct into Belgian harbours under the flags of the respective powers to which or the countries from which, they are imported, are to be admitted upon the same footing as Belgian vessels, if no differential duties against Belgian vessels exist in the harbours of those countries. The Crown is authorized to give effect to this paragraph by royal proclamation.

"Par. 4. Vessels arriving by canals or rivers under the flag of a country that levies differential duties on Belgian vessels, are to be subjected to equivalent surcharges of duties or of navigation dues. The Government is charged with the execution of this rule.

"Par. 5. The Government is authorized, for the space of one year, to admit foreign vessels to be registered as Belgian, on payment of a fee of 30 francs per ton. Vessels, originally Belgian, but now navigating under foreign flags, may reclaim their former rights, without fee, within the space of three months.

"Par. 6. The Government can exact proof of origin for all importations, and is authorized to prescribe the form and nature of such proof.

"Par. 7. The Government shall determine the period when this law is to come into operation according to the distances of the places of shipment.

"Par. 8. Goods enumerated in the present law that shall be in bond at the time of its publication are to be subjected to its operation."

In addition to the important amendment (in par. 2), carried by the influence of the merchants of Antwerp, the manufacturers of Liege, Namur, and Charleroi managed to obtain a concession specially adopted in their favour. Fearing that Holland, which, from the commencement, had protested through the ambassador at Brussels against this law, might put its threat of reprisals in execution, and interrupt the commerce now organized upon the Meuse, it is agreed in a special clause that 7,000,000 kilogrammes of coffee can be imported by the rivers and canals communicating with the Meuse without being subject to the differential duties charged upon foreign bottoms.

These two amendments change so essentially the character of the bill that it appears strange that a nation which was hitherto nominally exempted from the trammels of protection in matters of navigation, should volunteer to incur the evil, and to recognise as good in theory what it could not even shape out consistently as a practical measure. The law as adopted by the Second Chamber is certainly better than that proposed by the Minister, and clearly militates against the reasoning he put forward. According to the speeches of M. Mercier, this law was to create both a commercial navy for Belgium and (singularly enough,) to improve the revenue! The protest on the side of Antwerp and Liege modestly suggests that it would be paying dear for ships if they were to cost the sacrifice of the trade and the manufactures of the country.

As this change in Belgium may interest many friends of Free Trade in England, and unnecessarily alarm others, I have preferred confining myself to the history of the measure on this occasion. In my next I propose to examine the position and resources of Belgium for trade, agriculture, and manufactures, and then to show in what manner the practical working of the new constitution aids or impedes the progress of the country in a sound line of policy. Many incorrect views have been put forward on all these points by English tourists, and the cause of good fellowship and of humanity can only gain by a clear understanding of the true interests of every country. I shall, therefore, gladly avail myself of any space the LEAGUE can afford me to throw light upon the position of these laws, which, although so near us, are but imperfectly known, and consequently not appreciated at their full importance.

Another advantage will result from your discussing the interests of our continental neighbours. A large portion of the educated classes is free from the selfish prejudices that sway the ruling interests in England. This class is from its position, the employments of the Government being in a great measure in its hands, at once respected and influential. The education which abroad it is necessary to have enjoyed in order to be qualified for a public office renders this large class of readers accessible to sound reasoning, and desirous of adding to their knowledge. It cannot, therefore, but act most favourably upon public opinion in Europe generally to see the interests of every country discussed in London as those of brothers and fellow-labourers in the cause of humanity and civilization. It will strengthen the courage and stimulate the exertions of the friends of Free Trade in England to have the points in which other countries look to their endeavours for aid placed before their eyes, and to know that the battle in which they are engaged is not for a small gain, but one for the noblest prize and in the widest field that have as yet been held out to the champions of truth.

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. June 29	Mon. July 1	Tues. July 2	Wed. July 3	Thurs. July 4	Fri. July 5
Bank Stock......	—	198¼	198¼	198½	199	—
3 per Ct. Red.Ann	99¼	99¼	99¼	99⅜	99⅜	—
3 per.Ct. Con.Ann	Shut.	—	—	—	—	—
3½ per Ct.Red.Ann	10.¼	102¼	102¼	102⅜	102⅜	—
3½ per Ct.Ann.new	Shut.	—	—	—	—	—
Long An. Ex. 1860	12⅝	—	12½	12½	—	—
Cons. for Opg. ..	98½	98⅜	98⅜	98¾	98½	98⅜
Exc. Bills, pm. ..	73 5	73 5	73 5	73 5	73 6	—
Ind.Bds.und.1000l	91	91	—	—	91	—
Ind. Stck for Opg.	—	281½	283½	—	—	—
Belgian	—	103½	—	—	103½	—
Brazilian	82 3	82 3	—	—	82¾	—
Chilian..........	103 5	103 5	105	—	104 5	—
Columb.ex.Venez.	13½	13⅝	13⅝	13½	—	13¾
Danish	88 9	88 9	—	—	89	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	100⅜	100½	100⅜	100⅜	100½	100¼
Dutch2½prCt.ex.d	—	60⅜	60¾	60⅜	60¾	61½
Mexican, 1837 ..	35	35½	35¾	35½	35⅜	35¾
Portug. con ex.d.	45½	46½	45½	45¾	—	46¼
Buenos Ayres....	35 7	36 7	—	35 7	—	—
Spanish 5 per Ct.	22¼	22⅜	23	23¼	23¾	23⅜
New do.3p Ct.ex d.	32½	32⅜	32¼	33¼	33¼	33⅜
Peruvian	27	—	—	27	—	—

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

MARK-LANE, Monday, July 1.—During last week the supplies of Wheat from Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire were good, and 12,000 qrs. arrived from abroad; this morning there was a rather better supply of Wheat from the near counties than last week, and a decline of 1s. to 2s. per qr. had to be submitted to. There was a very slow demand for Foreign, and it was with difficulty that last week's prices were obtained. Though the supplies of Barley were not large all descriptions were 1s. cheaper. The supply of English Beans was larger than last week, and a few parcels arrived from the Baltic ports; both Beans and Peas were 1s. lower. Only two vessels were reported from Ireland with Oats, but several cargoes of Foreign arrived since Friday; altogether the supply was large, amounting to 40,000 qrs., and a decline of 1s. per qr. must be reported upon all descriptions. S. H. LUCAS and SON.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk....	Red 55 to 60	White 58 to 64		
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire	— 54 — 58	— 57 — 60		
—— Scotch	— 52 — 56	— 54 — 60		
—— Irish	— 50 — 52	— 52 — 55		
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire		Feed 21 — 23		
—— Ditto...... Ditto ..	Short 22 — 24	Polands 23 — 26		
—— Scotch	Feed 24 — 26	Potato 27 — 29		
—— Limerick	— 21 — 22	Short 22 — 24		
—— Cork	— 20 — 21	— 21 — 22		
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork Black		20 — 21		
—— Sligo		21 — 22		
—— Galway		20 — 21		
Barley, Grinding.... 28 to 30	Distilling	30 — 32		
—— Malting ...... 32 — 34	Irish	26 — 30		
Beans, Mazagan .... — — 32	Tick	33 — 35		
—— Harrow ...... 37 — 39	Small........	— — 40		
—— Old Tick		— — 40		
Peas, White.........31 to 34	Boilers	35 — 36		
—— Maple and Grey		30 — 34		
Flour, Best Town-made...... per sack of 280 lbs....		46 — 48		
—— Norfolk and Suffolk ...... — —		40 — 42		

FOREIGN.

	Free. Per Imperial Quarter	In Bond
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed	56 to 63	42 to 46
—— Rostock	51 — 63	42 — 45
—— Stettin	48 — 56	40 — 43
—— Hamburgh	48 — 56	38 — 42
—— Odessa Polish	48 — 53	36 — 38
—— Barletta	48 — 54	32 — 38
—— Russian .... soft	48 — 52	— —
—— Ditto.......... hard	45 — 50	— —
—— Spanish .... Red	49 — 55	— —
—— Ditto .... White........	52 — 56	— —
Barley, Grinding	26 — 29	— —
—— Distilling	30 — 32	— —
Oats, Archangel	21 — 22	15 — 16
—— Swedish	22 — 23	16 — 17
—— Dutch Polands	— — —	19 — 20
Beans, Egyptian	32 — 33	22 — 23
Peas, White	30 — 34	— —
—— Ditto Boilers	32 — 35	— —
Flour, Canada .... per barrel of 196 lbs	29 — 31	— —
—— United States.. — —	30 — 32	22 — 24
—— Dantzig....... — —	28 — 30	— —

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from June 24 to June 29, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	7187	795	3338	1585	222
Scotch	—	—	4929	17	—
Irish........	—	137	17910	—	—
Foreign	12497	4919	14031	5045	1627

Flour, 6372 sacks, 75 bars.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending June 25, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	6596	56s. 7d.	Rye	21	32s. 10d.
Barley.. ..	1389	33s. 11d.	Beans	1709	35s. 8d.
Oats	21053	23s. 2d.	Peas	634	36s. 9d.

FRIDAY, July 5.—The supplies of English Wheat since Monday are scanty, and the business doing is very limited. The arrivals of Foreign are limited, but the unsettled state of the weather has caused rather more inquiry, and Monday's prices are readily obtained. In Barley there is no alteration to notice. There is nothing passing in Beans and Peas. Considerable quantities of Oats continue to arrive from Scotland, as well as from abroad; sales of the latter are much pressed, from an unwillingness to put them in granary, and a reduction of 6d. per quarter is generally submitted to. The arrivals from Ireland are insignificant, and prices not lower. The duty on Rye, Beans, and Peas fell 1s. each yesterday.

S. H. LUCAS and SON.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 1st of July to the 5th of July, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat............	4160	—	11120
Barley.	350	—	4880
Oats..............	4620	2530	10090

Flour, 4210 sacks.

A WEEKLY REPORT of the NUMBER of QUARTERS, and the AVERAGE PRICE of CORN and GRAIN, sold in the several Counties of England and Wales (comprising the Two Hundred and Ninety Towns named in the Act of the 5th Vic., cap. 14), which governs Duty.

WEEK ENDED JULY 2, 1844.

	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Wheat. Aver price	Barley. Qrs. sold.	Barley. Aver price	Oats. Qrs. sold.	Oats. Aver price	Beans. Qrs. sold.	Beans. Aver price
		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.
Weekly Averages..	3585	56 4	1233	35 1	16304	23 3	1907	37 3
Aggregate Averages..	..	55 8		31 10		22 1		36 3
Duty......	..	17 0		7 0		6 0		6 6

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28.

BANKRUPTS.

R. HOWLAND, Thame, Oxfordshire, auctioneer. [Sturmy, Wellington-street, London-bridge.

J. WETENHALL, Throgmorton-street, stockbroker. [King, St. Mary-axe.

C. HADFIELD, Sheffield, anvil manufacturer. [Unwin, Sheffield; Blackburn, Leeds; Duncan, Featherstone-buildings.

E. PRITCHARD, Liverpool, wine merchant. [Messrs. Humphreys, Gray's-inn; Stockley and Co., Liverpool.

J. FLETCHER, Liverpool, paint manufacturer. [Oliver, Old Jewry; Evans, Liverpool.

R. HETHERINGTON, Cross Canonby, Cumberland, tanner. [Tyson, Maryport; Cram, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

DIVIDENDS.

July 19. C. Staples, Southampton, milliner—July 18. G. Salter, Davies-street, builder—July 18. R. Stockdale, Crosby-square, merchant—July 19. G. Barnes, Portsea, Hampshire, innkeeper—July 18. Stein, Smith, and Co., London, merchants—July 18. W. Greenslade, Swinton-street, Gray's-inn-lane, builder—July 18. W. B. Cockerill, Reedham, Norfolk, butcher—July 23. H. Pitt, Selby, Yorkshire, wine merchant—July 27. J. Grimshaw, Rawcliffe, Yorkshire, grocer—July 19. M. and W. Johnson, Cheadle, Staffordshire, grocers.

CERTIFICATES.

July 19. J. T. Boor, Lower Thames-street, eating housekeeper—July 20. A. Sillitoe, Sudbury, Suffolk, innkeeper—July 20. J. Bird, St. John's-square, Clerkenwell, watch manufacturer—July 20. S. Symonds, sen., and S. Symonds, jun., Basinghall-street, woollen factors—July 19. H. Goertz, New Windsor, Berkshire, upholsterer—July 19. S. Woodruffe, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, wine merchant.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

W. M'EWEN and A. CHRISTIE, Crieff, ironmongers—J. ANDERSON, Portobello, manufacturer of earthenware—W. WALKER, G. DUNCAN, and H. WILLIAMSON, Edinburgh, engineers.

TUESDAY, JULY 2.

BANKRUPTS.

H. W. COLLINSON, Stamford-street, Surrey, hat maker. [Hodgson and Burton, Salisbury-street, Strand.

T. SCOTT, Colchester, Essex, baker. [Marriott, Colchester.

W. HARDING, Camberwell, Surrey, grocer. [Jordeson, St. Mary-at hill, City.

F. ROBERTS, Handley, Cheshire, butcher. [Nicholls and Co., Bedford-row; Cunnah, Chester.

DIVIDENDS.

July 5. D. Fowler and R. Green, Lime-street, merchants—July 26. R. Watson, York, silk mercer—July 24. J. Elliot, Sheffield, merchant—July 24. T. Mennell, Leeds, cloth merchant—July 24. T. Bentley, Rawdon, Yorkshire, cloth manufacturer—July 24. E. White and E. Leith, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, machine makers—July 26. R. Phillott, Blagdon, Somersetshire, scrivener—July 25. H. Phillips, Chelford, Cheshire, innkeeper—July 31. H. S. Hewitt, Manchester, licensed victualler—July 26. J. Howarth, Lee Mill, near Bacup, Lancashire, cotton spinner—Aug. 1. J. C. Johnson and W. Chapman, Manchester, manufacturing chemists—July 31. W. Warren, Wilmslow, Cheshire, blacksmith—Aug. 1. D. Parker, Manchester, hop merchant—July 23. T. J. Shaw, Bishop Wearmouth, Durham, mercer—July 23. G Wood, Ingram, Northumberland, banker—July 22. J. Bird, Maryport, Cumberland, druggist—July 22. G. Graves, Holme Cultram, Cumberland, innkeeper—July 25. F. Dickerson, Plymouth, merchant—July 30. J. Newsome, Dewsbury, Yorkshire, blanket manufacturer—July 30. J. Wright, Guiseley, Yorkshire, corn miller—July 30. T. and J. Parker and Co., Leeds, dyers—July 30. E. K. Bullman, Leeds, cabinet maker—July 24. T. Fletcher, Loscoe, Derbyshire, grocer—July 25. J. Chapman, Liverpool, hosier—July 23. J. W. Harris, Wolverhampton, wine merchant—July 23. T. C. Hodson, Leominster, linendraper—July 27. W. Wood and H. Port, Burton-upon-Trent, screw manufacturers.

CERTIFICATES.

July 25. W. M. Robertson, Fleet-street, auctioneer—July 23. J. Peaton, Paddington-street, ironmonger—July 23. F. J. H. Muller, Addle-street, Wood-street, furrier—July 26. C. B. Roe and T. J. Blachford, Newport, Isle of Wight, bankers—July 26. J. Clark, Mincing-lane, colonial broker—July 25. C. Newton and C. Worssom, Kingsland-basin, engineers—July 26. J. Maclean, Somerset-street, Whitechapel, carpenter—T. Cox, Porchester-street, Connaught-terrace, fruiterer—July 23. J. Taylor, Carlisle, miller—July 24. W. Rogers, Newport, Monmouthshire, draper—July 24. G. Sadler, Cheltenham, linendraper—July 26. T. Marrian, Sheffield, common brewer—July 24. R. Marsden, Halifax, Yorkshire, woollen cloth manufacturer—July 23. R. Harris, Liverpool, hotel keeper—July 23. J. W. Harris, Wolverhampton, wine merchant—July 24. S. Meredith, Liverpool, linendraper—July 25. D. Parker, Manchester, hop merchant—July 24. J. C. Johnson and W. Chapman, Manchester, manufacturing chemists.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

S. BROWN, Ayr, saddler—J. M'KELVIE, Edinburgh, coal dealer.

London: Printed by ROBERT PALMER (of Providence-place, Upper Ken[illegible]nington-lane, Lambeth, in the County of Surrey) and JOSEPH C[illegible] (of Number 320, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at their [illegible] office, Number 10, Crane-court, in the Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-[illegible] in the City of London, and published by ABRAHAM WALTER P[illegible] (of Number 22, Norfolk-street, Strand, in the County of Midd[illegible] the Office of THE LEAGUE, Number 67, Fleet-street, in the said [illegible] St. Dunstan-in-the-West,—Saturday, July 6, 1844.

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THE LEAGUE.

No. 42.] SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1844. [3*d.*

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive a copy, weekly, of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and* addresses *to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND, *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

REGISTER, REGISTER, REGISTER!

The Free-Traders qualified to vote must everywhere prepare to enrol themselves and their friends on the register for the NEXT *year.*

To entitle a voter to be registered, he must have occupied during the twelve months previous to the 31st of July, premises of the value of £10 a year. He must have been rated for twelve months to the relief of the poor.

He must have paid, on or before the 20th of July, all poor-rates and assessed taxes due to the 6th of April preceding.

Further information and directions will be furnished on application, personally or by letter, to the Local Registration Societies; to Mr. Sidney Smith, 68, Cheapside, London; or to Mr. Hickin, League Offices, Newall's Buildings, Manchester.

For the convenience of individuals whose avocations render it difficult for them to call at the Registration Office, 68, Cheapside, during business hours, arrangements have been made by which attendance will be given every evening at that office until eight o'clock, to fill up and serve claims, and to supply every information relative to Parliamentary registration for counties, cities, and boroughs.

COUNTY REGISTRATION.

The 20th instant is the last day a valid claim can be made, which should be in the following form:—

To the overseers of the parish of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I claim to be inserted in the list of voters for the county [riding or division] of ——, and that the particulars of my place of abode and qualification are stated in the columns below, Dated the day of , in the year

(Signed)

Christian name and surname of the claimant at full length.	Place of abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Street, lane, or other like place in this parish [or township], and number of house [if any] where the property is situate, or name of the property, or name of the occupying tenant, or if the qualification consist of a rent-charge, then the names of the owners of the property out of which such rent is issuing, or some of them, and the situation of the property.

Taking care to sign their christian names (if more than one) and surname in full, *their true place of abode, nature of qualification, and locality, conformable with the heading of the notice, so that it may be identified. In the* third *column state, if the qualification is freehold, say "Freehold house," or "land," or "rent-charge" (if for life, only £10 value is required), giving the name of the owner and the situation of the property.*

If copyhold, say "Copyhold house," or "land," as the case may be.

If leasehold, say "Original lease of twenty years," or "sixty years of house," or "land," as the case may be.

If a sub-lease, then "Sub-lease of sixty" or "twenty years," as the case may be.

If tenancy qualification, say "House" or "land occupied at a rental of £50 per annum."

QUALIFIED FREEHOLDERS

Are those possessed of an estate of inheritance of the yearly value of 40s., or an estate for life or lives of the yearly value of £10, or an estate possessed prior to June 7, 1832, or since. If by marriage, or will, or promotion to office, or if the freeholder is himself the actual occupier, 40s. value will be sufficient.

Parish clerks, sextons, schoolmasters, Dissenting ministers, and holders of office, if entitled to emoluments of 40s. out of land, but the appointment must be for life or during good behaviour. Six months' possession prior to the 31st of July will entitle the freeholder to be registered.

QUALIFIED COPYHOLDERS

Are those possessed of copyhold "houses or land of £10 value." The period of possession the same as for freehold.

QUALIFIED LEASEHOLDERS

Are those who possess an original lease or a sub-lease (if in occupation), originally created for sixty years, of the clear yearly value of £10, over and above all rents and charges, *or for twenty years of the clear yearly value of £50,* over and above all rents and charges, *and in possession thereof twelve months previous to the 31st of July.*

QUALIFIED OCCUPYING TENANTS

Are those who occupy as tenant any lands or tenements for which they are bonâ fide *liable to a yearly rental of £50, and the period of occupation must be the same as the leaseholder.*

Many electors during last year's revision lost their right of voting for twelve months, owing to their mistaking the tenancy qualification and leasehold qualification; but the reader will see they are totally different, and those who were struck off should reclaim.

The holding of a lease at a rental of £50 will not confer a leasehold qualification. *The lease must be worth* annually £50, *over and above the rent, &c., and persons holding as described, when in occupation, should claim as* occupying tenants at £50 rental. *The claim, then, can be maintained, and costs demanded, if frivolously and vexatiously objected to. The notice, when filled up in duplicate, may be served on the overseer of the parish* where the qualifying property is situate, *by taking it to the post-office,* where money orders are paid and received, *and, on the payment of 3d., the postmaster will stamp the duplicate and forward it by post, or the notice may be left at the residence of the overseer or office for the transaction of the parochial business. It is to be observed that a redeemed land-tax of 40s., if purchased and entered under Schedule D, will confer a county vote; but neither freehold in occupation of owner, or a copyhold of £10 value, or a leasehold on which a tenement is built, will confer a county vote, if the property is situate in a city or borough. It has to be observed, however, that two or more copyhold or leasehold houses of less clear annual value than £10 each, but more together, will confer a county vote, even although situated in a parliamentary borough.*

CONDITION-OF-ENGLAND QUESTION.

What has been called "The Condition-of-England" question is beginning to engage a great and increasing share of public attention and public anxiety. It is of some importance to keep in view the precise terms of the question, in order to understand the real nature of the difficulties proposed for solution, particularly as many grave errors have been committed by taking it piecemeal, and viewing some of its parts irrespective of its connexion with others. The population of this kingdom increases at nearly the rate of a thousand every day; in order that this population should retain its present physical condition, it is necessary that the means of subsistence should increase in the same proportion; and as subsistence is derived from the wages of employment, it is obvious that the condition of the people must be progressively deteriorated unless the increase of employment keeps pace with the increase of the population. Two things are required to ensure the prosperity of an industrious population: labour, which such a population has to sell, must be *dear;* and bread, which such a population has to buy, must be cheap. As Sir Robert Peel has tersely expressed it, the true policy is to sell in the dearest and buy in the cheapest market.

Let us now examine how far our course of legislation has tended to secure these two requisites of industrial prosperity: and first let us cast a glance at the circumstances which regulate the price of labour, or, as it is sometimes called, the rate of wages. The whole truth of this matter was stated in a single sentence by a Lancashire operative when he said, "If two masters are looking for one man, labour will be dear; but if two men are looking for one master, labour will be cheap." The price of labour, like the price of everything else, is fixed by the amount of competition in the market; when there is a greater amount of work to be done than hands can easily be found to execute, there will be a strong competition between employers to obtain hands, and this competition will enable the employed to fix the rate of wages; such was the state of things when the English Parliament passed the celebrated "Statute of Labourers," which was designed to prevent the labourers of the country from taking advantage of the excess of demand over supply, and thus exacting a higher rate of wages than the employing classes, which had the monopoly of legislation, found it convenient to pay. On the other hand, when there is a greater number of labourers in the market than employment can be found for, the competition must inevitably lower the rate of wages, and must do so more certainly, more rapidly, and more mischievously than the competition on the other side, because the poor man having nothing but his industry to support him, he must sell his labour or starve, and hence his competition is an actual struggle between life and death. In the contest he first resigns luxuries, he then abandons comforts, he next resigns the decent necessaries of life, until at length he is reduced to feed upon the husks which the swine eat, and to dwell in hovels scarcely fit for even these unclean animals. This death-struggle, this ruinous competition for means of subsistence continually growing smaller in quantity, and less in quality, is the real evil in the condition of England; all the rest are its immediate and necessary consequences. It is this competition which has driven the squalid crowds of demoralized and almost dehumanized beings into the cellars of Liverpool, the wynds of Glasgow, and the indescribable haunts of the miserable in this wealthy metropolis. It is this excess of competition which has reduced the peasantry of Dorset and Devon to a state of wretchedness and almost of barbarism that has broken down not merely the restraints of delicacy, but the sacred ties of the most domestic relations. It is this competition which has forced parents to send children of tender age to work in the mines, the forges, and the most unwholesome occupations; which has rendered the exclusion of the children from the mills a curse instead of a blessing, compelling them to seek more laborious and more injurious employments, or to choose between juvenile depravity and juvenile destitution. It is this competition which has produced that traffic in female virtue, the increasing curse of our day and stain on our nation, which has recently occupied the serious attention of the Upper House of the Legislature. Finally, it is this competition which has so hampered the remedial operation of poor-laws as to perplex the legislators, confound the commissioners, and render the situation of guardians equally difficult and pitiable: it has at once increased pauperism, and diminished the funds for its relief; it is exhausting the sources of private charity, and multiplying the number of claimants for its assistance.

We rejoice to find that some of these consequences have engaged the attention of zealous philanthropists, and that some efforts have been made, and a greater number of plans projected, to get rid of some of the evils which this competition has produced. We should, however, have been more glad if we saw those philanthropists boldly ascending to the cause, or if such of them as well know the cause showed any signs of a determination to grapple with the question boldly, and look its difficulties fully in the face. The social disease has taken too strong a hold on the constitution to be cured by mere palliatives. We may, perhaps, succeed in healing the external ulcer, but it will certainly break out elsewhere, or perhaps be driven in upon the vitals. In the nervous language of the prophet, "The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint; from the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it, but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores; they have not been closed, nor bound up, neither mollified with ointment." We cannot, if we would, shut our eyes to the fact that the "condition-of-England question" is assuming a magnitude, a threatening aspect, and a foreboding of impending dangers, which show that it cannot much longer be neglected with impunity. Let it be examined in its totality; let not one of its bearings occupy attention to the exclusion of all the rest; let not some state quacks be permitted to tamper with a limb, while the insidious progress of the disease is silently but surely making its way towards the heart.

A society has been formed for bettering the condition of the dwellings of the poor; it is a noble object, and from our souls we wish all success to the benevolent exertions of its members. We doubt not that the cottages and dwellings which they propose to erect will afford means for ensuring some of the comforts and most of the decencies of life to many wretched denizens of cellars and garrets; but we fear that they will only find room for one wave of the immense mass of floating misery to

make room for another on the same savage and rugged shore. Behind those masses whose condition has engaged the attention of the benevolent projectors there are other masses beyond the sphere of their view, certain to be pushed forward by the inevitable law of competition, which is not less fixed in its operations on social life than the law of gravitation in determining the movements of the material universe. Hence it is that all schemes of beneficence have been baffled, and nearly all benevolent feelings paralyzed, by the consciousness of the utter inefficiency of mere philanthropic exertions to stem the increasing force of the tide. The misery relieved yesterday has allowed a larger mass of more aggravated misery to come to the surface to-day; and this day's relief will only open worse scenes for to-morrow. Ebenezer Elliott has forcibly portrayed this fearful and incessant struggle in one of his Corn-Law hymns:—

"Scest thou, O God, our deadly strife—
Our war for bread, for life, for life?
How like the war of seas and skies,
When struggling thousands fall and rise.

"On howling foam and tossing wave,
The rich and poor, the lord and slave,
Float like frail shells amid the shocks
Of senseless logs and solid rocks.

"What, though at times the sun looks down
Through shatter'd clouds on ocean's frown?
Though rocks may scorn the sea and sky,
While logs are safe and navies die!

"Can sunlit surge or sunlit shore
Cheer them who shriek in ocean's roar?
Lord, what avails the transient blue
That smiles on storms and shipwrecks too?

"Ah, what avails the dying might
That struggles still, through gloom and night,
If in them both we feel and see
The might of fatal prophecy?

"The sun that shines from deadly skies
No comforts bring to him who dies:
A torch may glare in gaol or tomb,
But chains are chains and doom is doom."

Competition is that "might of fatal prophecy" which, while it continues, must entail misery in its consequences with the inevitable force of destiny. If we allow it to go on as it does now with accumulating velocity, the fate of this nation is as inevitably sealed as if an Almighty hand had issued from the clouds and written the fatal MENE TEKEL in characters of flame upon the heavens. We must increase the means of subsistence for our increasing population, and this can only be done by increasing the demand for labour and its produce. This great truth has been recognised by one who still lingers in the camp of monopoly, though he has abandoned its Shibboleth, and trampled upon its antiquated cant—we mean the Hon. G. S. Smythe, to whose recent work, "Historic Fancies," it will be soon our pleasing duty to direct the attention of our readers. In an ode which powerfully depicts the results of commerce, he gives the following graphic sketch of our gracious Queen announcing to her Parliament the abolition of monopolies, and the final triumph of the principles of Free Trade:—

"But not of this our Sovereign thought when from her solemn throne
She spoke of the Poor and what they endure, in her low and thrilling tone;
And offered a prayer that Trade might bear relief through the starving land,
To the strong man's weaken'd arm, and his wan and workless hand;
And by the power that was her dower, might Commerce once more be
The Helper of the Helpless, and the Saviour of the Free."

Heaven hasten the happy time! We have now indicated the great source of the dangers and difficulties involved in the solution of the "condition-of-England" question, and we wish our readers to meditate upon it calmly and deliberately. The real evil cannot be too simply stated; it is contained in the single sentence, "Labour is cheap, and bread dear." We have examined the first branch of the national grievance, and in our next publication we shall direct our attention to the second.

PHILANTHROPY AND THE BREAD-TAX.

The sincerity of Lord Ashley and his supporters on the ten hours bill has been tested by their votes on Mr. Villiers's motion. They declared that the operatives of the country were overworked; that women and children were compelled to toil beyond the natural powers of endurance of their sex and age: they described their grievances to be of such magnitude that the whole manufacturing prosperity of England could not compensate for their continuance, and they end by voting for the maintenance of those monopolies which render such toil necessary for procuring the means of subsistence. They vote that bread shall continue scarce, and yet whine over the amount of labour necessary to procure the money for its purchase; they declare that the Corn Laws shall continue and affect sympathy for the miseries these laws produce; they close the markets against manufacturers, and then vituperate the manufacturers for yielding to the pressure of such disadvantages; they limit the operations of the capitalists, and pretend to be indignant that capital does not exhibit the healthy results of freedom; they restrict the field of employment within the narrowest possible bounds, and then give vent to their commiseration for the unemployed. Nothing like such conduct has been exhibited in Europe since that imperial hypocrite Charles V., after having taken the Pope prisoner, ordered public prayers to be offered in all the churches for the deliverance of his Holiness, while at the same time he gave strict orders to the gaolers to keep sharp watch over their pontifical captive. All Christendom cried "Shame!" on the barefaced hypocrisy of Charles; we shall not anticipate the world's comment on the conduct of Lord Ashley and his adherents; we shall only set the facts before the public, and leave our readers to deduce their own conclusions.

There were some who from the beginning doubted whether the philanthropy of such men as Lord Ashley or the Marquis of Blandford could be genuine; they pointed to the descriptions of the misery of the agricultural peasantry in Dorsetshire even within sight of the proud halls of St. Giles's, where Lord Ashley is accustomed to meditate on his plans for improving the condition of humanity; they referred to the terrible exposure of aristocratic oppression made by Mr. Humfrey at the late election for Woodstock, and expressed something like contempt for that charity which wandered to a distance in search of objects for its exercise, and took no heed of the more crying grievances, the more oppressive wrongs, and the more intense sufferings that surrounded the homes of the philanthropists. We, however, had hopes; we thought that mental like bodily vision might in some cases be subject to the disease of long-sightedness, and that the sufferings of the Dorset peasantry, far surpassing anything which the operatives of Lancashire have endured in the worst of times, might have escaped the notice of Lord Ashley, simply because they were too near him. We were unwilling to suspect him of that economic philanthropy which is lavish in its generosity at the expense of other people, but niggardly to the extreme of meanness if any portion of relief is to come out of its own pockets. We could not believe that his sympathies were like those of the French executioner who used to blubber like a whipped child over the "Sorrows of Werter," while he was proverbial for his brutality to the unhappy criminals who became his victims. We knew that "distance lends enchantment to the view," and hoped that Lord Ashley might be sincere in his declarations of pity for the overtaxed and overworked population of the mills and factories. We knew that he could not be ignorant of the fact that overworking was the result of overtaxation; that it was caused by the necessity of the operative earning not only sufficient for the support of himself and his family, but a farther sum to defray the charges of that monopoly imposed for the maintenance of Lord Ashley and his followers; and we therefore expected that the benevolent lord would abandon his share of the profits extorted by fiscal artifice from the earnings of those objects of his pity. We have been disappointed. Eloquent as his lordship was in denouncing the long hours of labour, he stirred not a finger to remove the iniquitous cause which renders such an amount of labour necessary; on the contrary, he gave his aid to perpetuate the cause, while he continued to lament the consequence. It is, however, creditable to his modesty that he did not attempt to defend his vote; indeed the strongest condemnation of his conduct was his own significant silence.

Whatever other classes may suffer from the iniquitous Corn Laws, there can be no doubt that their pressure falls most severely on the operative and labouring classes, for they purchase food out of their wages, and consequently whatever raises the price of food is a virtual reduction of wages. But this is not all. These laws superadd a positive reduction of wages to the virtual reduction; they limit the market for our manufactured goods, and, consequently, they limit in the same proportion the demand for labour, and they thus lower the price which labour would naturally bring. There is thus a double wrong inflicted on the workman—his bread is rendered dear, and his labour cheap; he is forced to buy in the dearest market and to sell in the cheapest; and it is because he has to bear up against this compound pressure that he is forced to have recourse to the labour of his wife and children.

We are now enabled to appreciate the humanity of the bread-taxers; they pocket, without compunction, the profits of the monopoly which crushes the operatives to the earth, and then they tell the victims to seek compensation for their wrongs, not from the authors of their calamities, but from some other classes of the community. They attempt to combine pity with rapacity, and commiseration with oppression. With words of charity upon their lips, "their treading is upon the poor, and they take from him burdens of wheat;" and, like those whom the prophet Amos denounced, "They lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat lambs out of the flock, and calves out of the midst of the stall;" and in the midst of these luxuries they prepare their appeals to humanity in polished phrase, while by their acts they declare

"That bread must still be dear,
And flesh and blood be cheap."

We have prepared a list of those pretenders to humanity; their names ought to be remembered, and their deeds duly chronicled as illustrations of bread-tax morality, philanthropy, and consistency.

List of the self-styled Philanthropists who voted in favour of a ten hours bill, and against Mr. Villiers's motion.

Acland, Sir T. D.
Acland, T. D.
Ainsworth, Peter!!!
Antrobus, Edmund
Arundel and Surrey, Earl of
Astell, William
Bankes, George
Blackstone, William
Beckett, W. (paired)
Borthwick, Peter
Bramston, Thos. William
Bradshaw, James
Broadley, Henry
Brownrigg, J. S. (paired)
Beresford, Major
Chapman, A.
Chetwode, Sir John
Cochrane, A.
Colquhoun, J. C.
Copeland, Mr. Alderman
Cresswell, B.
Curteis, H. B.
Davies, D. A. S.
Dawnay, Hon. W. H.
Dashwood, E. B.
Dickinson, F. H.
Douglas, Sir Howard
Duff, James
Du Pre, C. G.
Duncombe, O.
Eaton, R. J.
Emyln, Lord
Farnham, E. B.
French, Fitz Stephen
Fuller, A. E.
Gladstone, Captain
Gore, M.
Gore, W. R. Ormsby
Gregory, W. H.
Grimsditch, T.
Grimston, Lord
Grogan, Edward
Hanmer, Sir John
Harcourt, G. Granville
Hardy, John
Heathcote, G. J.
Henley, J. W.
Hope, A.
Hornby, John
Howard, Lord
Inglis, Sir Robert H.
James, Sir Walter Charles
Jocelyn, Viscount
Johnstone, Sir John
Kemble, Henry
Knight, H. G.
Law, Hon. C. E.
Lawson, Andrew
Lefroy, A.
Lindsay, H. H.
Lowther, J. H.
M'Geachy, F. A.
Mainwarring, Townshend
Manners, Lord John
Marton, George
Mahon, Lord
Maxwell, Hon. J. P.
Miles, W.
Milnes, R. M.
Neville, Ralph
Newport, Viscount
O'Brien, A. S.
Ossulston, Lord
Packe, C. W.
Palmer, R.
Pennant, Hon. Colonel
Plumptre, John P.
Polhill, F.
Pollington, Viscount
Praed, W. T.
Pusey, P.
Rashleigh, W.
Rendlesham, Lord
Repton, G. W. J.
Richards, R.
Round, Charles
Russell, J. D. W.
Ryder, Hon. G. D.
Sandon, Viscount
Shaw, Rt. Hon. F.
Sibthorp, Colonel
Smith, Abel
Smollett, A.
Stewart, John
Sturt, H. C.
Taylor, T. E.
Taylor, J. A.
Tollemache, J.
Trotter, John
Vane, Lord H.
Wortley, Hon. J.

NATIONAL GRANARIES, AND THE EARL OF WINCHILSEA.

The Earl of Winchilsea took occasion, in the House of Lords, on presenting some petitions in favour of protection to agriculture, to call the attention of their lordships to

"the expediency and sound policy of *establishing national granaries in this country under the authority and control of the Government.* In doing so, he should studiously refrain from offering any observations on the Corn Laws; because, however widely the three parties—those who advocated the present system of a sliding scale, those who were for a fixed duty, and those who were opposed to all protection to agriculture—differed upon the question of the Corn Laws, he believed they must all agree that the establishment of national granaries would be a great public benefit. (Hear.) Their lordships were doubtless aware that the corn trade of this country was in the hands of a very small body of wealthy individuals; he believed he might fairly state that they had a larger amount of floating capital than any other body of men engaged in any other branch of trade. It was certain that from about the middle of March, when the corn was out of the hands of the grower, up to the harvest, the wheat market was under the sole control of this same body, who, by a combination, and by arrangements made amongst themselves, could effect a great rise in the price of wheat between those two periods, gaining thereby not only considerable profit individually, but also obtaining still further advantages by immediately employing their capital in refreshing their granaries with foreign corn at a low rate of duty. (Hear, hear.) If their lordships could secure a fixed price of corn, *a fixed low price*, they would secure an immense benefit to the country; and he thought the establishment of national granaries would go far to secure that benefit. It was not good policy, but the worst policy of all, for the Government of any country, more particularly of this country, where such an artificial state of things existed, *to have an enormous population engaged in great and extensive manufactures throughout the land, depending for their supply of food, in any degree, or for however short a period, upon a few individuals.* (Hear, hear.) He had often reflected with horror upon the consequences of a total failure of the harvest. What man was there either in that House or out of it who would deny that such an event was possible? who could say whether an approaching harvest would be productive, or whether we might not be wholly deprived of it? For the produce of the land was from the Lord, and the seasons were entirely in His hands, and might not the same event happen with respect to other countries to which we looked for supplies? The results of such a state of things in this country were too frightful to contemplate." (Hear, hear.)

The noble earl "assured their lordships that, in making this suggestion, he was not influenced by any interested feelings." But this is not the first time he has paraded his humanity and disinterestedness; we have not forgotten the noble earl's exclamation when the Whig fixed-duty measure was brought forward:—"Good God! tax the poor man's bread! he would never be a party to such a measure." Those who were *then* disposed to think this

was the declaration of an honest but mistaken man, may *now*, perhaps, adopt the views we have long entertained, that no man of common intelligence can be ignorant that the *real* object of the Corn Laws is to produce scarcity and high prices, for the purpose of keeping up high rents. It now appears that regard for the poor caused but a small share of Lord Winchilsea's indignation at the fixed-duty scheme. In the course of the debate on national granaries, the Duke of Richmond said:—

"His noble friend (Lord Monteagle) supposed that the noble earl had spoken against the sliding scale; but he (the Duke of Richmond) was sure the noble earl would not *vote* against the sliding scale or for a fixed duty."

The Earl of Winchilsea in reply said, "He would not vote for a fixed duty, *because it would be no protection to the agricultural interest.*" Here, then, is the key to the noble earl's indignation at the fixed-duty scheme. It was *not*, it appears, because the fixed duty was a tax upon the poor man's bread, *but because it was not tax enough*: "It would," says he, "be NO protection to the agricultural interest."

That the noble earl is sincere in his apprehensions of the "consequences of a total failure of the harvest," we can readily believe. He may have read in history the consequences of famine in all ages upon an injured and oppressed people. He may occasionally call to mind that it was the failure of the harvest which was the immediate cause of the French Revolution; he may not have forgotten the outrages in Kent (in 1830, we think it was), which he was officially called upon to put down, when the poor ignorant labourers assembled in tumultuous crowds to wreak their vengeance on threshing machines and tithe collectors, which they supposed to be the causes of their distress. The time may come when they may find out the *real* cause of their misery; and if famine overtake us in such circumstances, we agree with the noble earl that "the results of such a state of things in this country is too frightful to contemplate;" and we further agree that the sooner steps are taken to provide against such a calamity the better. But, now, as to the means: Lord Winchilsea's plan of providing against famine, he stated to be

"To establish national granaries, five or six in different parts of the country, say Manchester, Hull, Liverpool, Bristol, and London, containing from 300,000 to 500,000 quarters of wheat, which would amount to about 3,000,000. The Legislature should then say to the agricultural interest of England—'If you can supply the market with wheat at such a price, say from 50s. to 55s. per quarter, you may do so.' He would propose, then, that the Government should have the power to open granaries, and pour into the market that quantity of wheat which would be sufficient to keep it at that price at which it was always desirous the country should have it. He could assure their lordships, that in making this suggestion he was not influenced by any interested feeling, but by two reasons,—first, that it was the sound policy of every state to give encourgement to home industry; and secondly, that upon an average of years the country would produce wheat cheaper than if it was dependent upon foreign countries for supplies. In 1835 the very best brown wheat was sold in England at 35s. He did not say that those granaries should be solely supplied with home-grown corn, but that the Government should have the opportunity of obtaining wheat at as cheap a rate as they could get it. But it might be said that if we had seven successive good harvests, where would be the use of hoarding it up?—it would not keep so long. The fact was, that wheat when kept long would ferment and form a crust on the outer surface of the heap which preserved it, and in that way it could be kept for fifty years, and be sound and good at the end. A friend of his had told him that he had seen heaps of corn in that condition. *The object he contemplated was, to give to the labouring classes of this country wheat at the lowest possible price at which it could be grown in this country.* Our manufacturing population was increasing every year, and he was anxious to see them so supplied with wheat."

The professed object of the noble earl is "to secure *a fixed low price of corn*," but his *real* object is transparent enough—it is *to give the "labouring classes" corn at such prices as he thinks will keep them quiet*, or, in his own words, "to put an end to the present agitation upon the Corn Laws which was so ruinous to all interests; that agitation which arrayed one great interest against another to their mutual detriment; that agitation which represented the gentry and aristocracy of the country as wishing to live for themselves alone, without caring anything for the mass of the people, and which, therefore, must produce bad effects upon the minds of the population." Now, this agitation may be put down any moment by a simple act of justice. What do the people claim? Why, simply that to which they have just as much right as the Earl of Winchilsea has to his estates, viz., *the right to buy their corn where they can get it cheapest*. But the national granaries scheme has no such object: it is only to give us, he says, "*wheat at the lowest possible price* AT WHICH IT CAN BE GROWN IN THIS COUNTRY—say from 50s. to 55s. per quarter"!! The noble earl's first care is to get such a price for corn as will secure good rents, and then, kind man, if the poor can get cheap bread he will be easy and happy!

Let it not be supposed, however, from our observations, that we do not appreciate the importance of being provided with stores of corn: none can entertain more decided views of the policy and imperative necessity of having our granaries at all times filled with precious grain, to provide against, or to mitigate, the effects of bad or deficient harvests; and *that* Government incurs a fearful responsibility which leaves for a single day the feeding of the people to the chances of an uncertain climate like ours. But the question recurs, how shall we best provide against famine?

In those countries which have not the means of extensive foreign commerce, or where there is no mercantile body to furnish sufficient capital for the purpose, governments are often found which lay up stores of food in seasons of plenty against seasons of scarcity. This was formerly the common practice in Egypt; and we read of Joseph, directed by a dream, laying up stores out of the abundance of seven years of plenty, to provide against the seven years of famine which were to follow. Happily, in our times no such care on the part of the Government is needed: the progress of arts, science, and civilization has enabled us to traverse every sea and to open communications with every nation under heaven; and, as almost every country produces corn, we have the means of obtaining illimitable supplies from their abundance. Our plan, then, for providing against famine, is to repeal those laws which confine us to our own uncertain climate for our supplies of food, and to place the trade in corn on the same footing as the trade in all other commodities. Compare the stocks of those articles in which we are allowed *freely to trade*—wool, timber, tea, cotton, &c.,—with the stocks of corn in which the law restricts us to an *occasional trade*. Take the article of cotton, the supply of which next to corn is the most necessary to our population, since two millions of our people are directly dependent on supplies of cotton for the means of obtaining bread. Last week (July 5) we find the stock of cotton in Liverpool amounted to 910,140 bags, and at the same period last year the stock was 961,190 bags. The average quantity taken for consumption from Liverpool weekly, is 23,000 bags; the stock on hand, therefore, is equal to forty weeks' consumption! *This is the result of Free Trade.* It happens that the cotton and the corn harvest are both gathered about the same period of the year, so that we are just as near to the one as the other. What, we ask, is our present stock of wheat on hand? Have we forty weeks' consumption? We question whether it be equal to thirteen weeks' consumption. *Such is the result of monopoly.*

Lord Winchilsea proposes that we should have national granaries to contain a stock of three million quarters of wheat, a supply equal to about seven weeks' consumption; and this supply he supposes would attain the great object he has in view, of keeping prices at 50s. to 55s. per quarter. We have seen that with a free trade in cotton we have a stock on hand equal to forty weeks' consumption. We believe the stock of tea is nearly as large. Is it less important that we should have as large a stock of the prime necessaries of life as of cotton or tea? And if, as the noble earl says, "no interest suffered so much from fluctuations in the price of wheat as the agricultural," is a stock equal to forty weeks' consumption, or one equal to thirteen weeks, best calculated to secure steadiness of price?

Nothing but the law which prevents the like freedom of trade in corn which we have in cotton or tea, prevents our having similar stocks of corn as of those articles. Providence seems to have placed us in a situation peculiar to no other country—of being the great storehouse of the world. An island, surrounded with good ports, of easy access, and therefore with the means of cheap carriage and storage—the most extensive manufactures, and the largest commercial navy in the world, and therefore possessing the means of abundant exchangeable articles, and the facility of conveying them from every quarter of the globe—a superabundance of capital lacking employment, and therefore the means of holding great stores, and awaiting suitable markets. These are the peculiar advantages we possess of being the collectors and distributors of the abundance of every land, and of thus securing not only for ourselves but for the whole world the blessings which Joseph secured for the Egyptians, in laying up stores of corn in seasons of plenty to provide against seasons of famine. We should thus be the messengers of peace and good will to all the earth, for the Almighty gives abundance *every year* for *all* His creatures, but not always to *every country*—we should be one of the instruments of conveying the abundance of one country to supply the deficiency of another; and whilst we should be giving profitable employment to our own capital, skill, and industry, we should at the same time be conferring equal benefits on other countries, and binding all more closely together in peace and brotherhood.

We cannot take leave of the noble earl and his scheme without reminding him that the Legislature of this country have higher and nobler duties than to uphold their own interests by contrivances to keep wheat at 50s. to 55s. per quarter. IT IS THEIR DUTY TO SEE THAT THE PEOPLE ARE PLENTIFULLY FED. The noble earl appears to have a glimpse of the fearful responsibility of neglecting this duty; but the law has made him a heriditary legislator—he cannot escape the responsibility; on his head, then, and on the heads of those who by wicked laws withhold corn will rest the curses of the people. "HE THAT WITHHOLDETH CORN (saith Holy Writ), THE PEOPLE SHALL CURSE HIM."

SIR ROBERT PEEL AND THE "SPECIAL BURDENS."

A correspondent has addressed us from the county of Norfolk, calling our attention to a passage in the speech of the Prime Minister during the recent debate on the Corn Law, relative to the "special burdens," which are asserted to form a ground for special protection to the owners of the soil. The passage is as follows:—"I do consider that there are special and peculiar burdens on land. I do believe that the policy of that act which, in imposing burdens for the relief of the poor, subjected the profits of trade to that relief—a policy, as regards trade, that has not been acted upon,—I do believe, I say, that on that account agriculture is entitled to protection." It is difficult to say what was the precise meaning intended to be conveyed by the speaker; but, after the best consideration we have been able to give to the passage, we suppose it is intended to say, not that agriculture is entitled to protection because the land is subjected to poor's rates, but because the original intention of the poor law as to rating stock and profits of trade has not been adhered to, and because stock in trade, and the profits or income derived from trade, are not now chargeable with rates for the relief of the poor. But this deviation from the original intent of the poor law is not made with respect to the manufacturers or inhabitants of towns alone, but is practised equally with respect to the capital and stock employed in the trade of farming. The manufacturer pays poor's rate on the value or estimated rental of his mill and premises, on his warehouses, workshops, reservoirs, dwelling-house, &c., but not upon his machinery, stock in trade of raw or manufactured articles, or the money or floating capital by which he buys and sells. The farmer pays poor's rate on the value or estimated rental of his farm, in which is included the rental of his barns, stables, sheds, &c., and on his dwelling-house; but he does not pay anything upon his machinery, his ploughs and harrows, his growing crops, his stock of produce in his granaries, or upon his money in the bank or elsewhere, by which he buys and sells and pays wages. So far, then, the manufacturer and the farmer are upon equal terms; and whether the practice of not charging the whole with the poor's rate be good or bad, it is clear that, as between the two classes, it is equal, and can give the farmer no just ground of claim for higher prices by law as a compensation. As regards the pressure of poor's rates upon the land itself, or rather upon the landowners, it is equally certain they have no right to complain. In 1801, the whole amount required for the relief of the poor was £4,077,891, of which the land paid about £3,000,000; whilst in 1841 the amount required was £5,500,000, of which the land only paid about the same sum as in 1801, the difference being obtained from property in houses, manufactories, &c. In 1801 the landowners had no *practical* protection to enable them to pay their poor's rates, and why they should have it now is beyond our ability to discover. The most evident and unavoidable effect of the restriction upon the importation of corn and upon trade generally, is to create a fiercer competition amongst labourers for the restricted employment permitted them, and thus to bring a larger number of labourers upon the poor's rate; whilst, at the same time, it attempts to shelter the landowners from the fair competition with foreign corn-growers to which they ought to be subjected. For those who support a law which makes paupers, to complain of their fair share of the burden of maintaining them, is natural enough; but we are sure such wretched excuses for perpetuating the hateful monopoly in the food of the people will not impose upon any honest and intelligent man who devotes a moment of his time to the investigation of the subject.

IMPORTATION OF COFFEE FROM THE BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN THE EAST INDIES.—By the 7th Vic., cap. 16, just passed, certificates of produce which were hitherto necessary for the admission of coffee imported from the British possessions in the East Indies, at the low duty, have been dispensed with, and the Act 5 and 6 W. IV., cap. 66, sec. 2, enacting that no coffee shall be entered as being the produce of any British possession within the limits of the East India Company's charter, unless the master of the ship importing the same shall produce a certificate under the hand and seal of the proper officer at the place of shipment, testifying that a declaration had been made and signed by the shipper of the coffee that it was really the produce of a British possession; nor unless the master shall also make a declaration that such certificate was received by him at the place where the coffee was shipped, and that the coffee so imported is the same mentioned therein, has been repealed. By this act, the duty on foreign coffee is reduced to 6d. per lb.

PRIDE OF BIRTH.—Those who depend on the merits of their ancestors, may be said to search in the *root* of the tree for those fruits which the *branches* ought to produce.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE FREE-TRADE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE SESSION 1844.

Twenty-second Week, ending Saturday, July 13.

Nothing directly bearing on FREE TRADE has occurred in Parliament during the past week, unless we except the Railways Regulation Bill—an important measure, not only in relation to personal and private interests, but on account of the principle assumed, and the precedent which it creates.

In the early part of the session, the Government procured the appointment of a Select Committee on Railways, which sat for a considerable time, and issued various reports relating to particular and general matters. On these reports—or rather on one of them—the Board of Trade professes to have based the bill, now hurrying through the House of Commons, and which sets an example of interference with private enterprise not at all accordant with the true spirit of commercial legislation. Part of the opposition to the measure has been disarmed, by the assurances of the Prime Minister and the President of the Board of Trade that they do not seek for the Government an absolute power of interference, but only wish to reserve to the Executive and the Legislature a right to interfere and control, should future circumstances make it expedient. The less power, however, that a Government has of interfering with trade, the better for the people.

The second reading of the bill came on last Monday, when Mr. Gladstone spoke nearly three hours in explanation and defence of the measure. The debate was adjourned to Thursday, when Mr. Bright, Mr. Colquhoun, Mr. Gisborne, and various other members, spoke against the measure, while Sir Robert Peel defended it, being the only Minister, with the exception of Mr. Gladstone, who has done so. On a division, 188 members voted for the second reading, while 98 opposed it, giving a majority in favour of the bill of 88.

MEETINGS.

BIRMINGHAM.

On Tuesday evening se'nnight a meeting of the Committee of the Anti-Corn-Law Association of this town was held at the Public Office, for the purpose of receiving the report of the Finance Committee.

H. SMITH, Esq., took the chair at half-past seven, and briefly stated the objects of the meeting. He said they had been called together for the purpose of having submitted to them an account of the money which had been raised in aid of the League Fund; and, as it was probable that that was the last meeting they would have during the present season, he might be permitted to advert to what they had done, and the present position of the great question which they had been endeavouring to support. The objects they had in view in the formation of that committee were twofold: first, they designed to get up an expression of public opinion in Birmingham in favour of Free Trade; and, secondly, to obtain subscriptions in aid of the general fund. On looking over what they had done, he thought they had not only reason to be satisfied locally, but he thought the League had very great reason to be satisfied with the result of their exertions. He was sure the town's meeting was most decidedly favourable to Free Trade. They would bear in mind the very great efforts which had been made by some misguided persons to break up that meeting; yet, notwithstanding all those efforts, their subsequent vote clearly proved that the people of Birmingham were in favour of Free-Trade principles. Their subscription had been also highly favourable, amounting, as it did, to £1471 18s. 3d., and collected from nearly the same persons who had only contributed about £300 the year before. He confessed he was sorry, on looking at the subdivision of the list, to find that they had not been supported by many men of station and acknowledged intelligence, whom he certainly expected would have come forward. When he looked at their merchants, and reflected that the object of the League was to relieve their commerce from those shackles which were at present so great a hindrance to its prosperity—when he looked at their manufactures, and saw what difficulties they had to contend with, arising from the restrictions upon trade, he certainly must say he felt a little surprised that they should not have come forward with more energy in support of those measures which were essential to the speedy restoration of that healthy state of commerce, so necessary to the happiness of this great country. When he looked to the legal profession in Birmingham, and knew that they must be aware that many of the evils they had to correct proceeded from want of commerce, and when he reflected that the gentlemen of the medical profession could not be ignorant of the fact that much of the misery they daily witnessed was caused by those injurious restrictions on trade, he must say it was to him a matter of surprise that those humane and talented gentlemen could refrain from giving their aid to the cause in which they were engaged. They had only, however, to persevere, and those who now held back would be sure to join them. As had been often stated, it was not a mere party paltry squabble—it was a question purely of a commercial nature, in the discussion of which all parties could fairly join, and in which all were alike deeply interested. The result of the late debate in the House of Commons was highly satisfactory. The most powerful arguments had been advanced in favour of Free Trade, and he must say, that the reasons assigned for the rejection of Mr. Villiers's motion were not such as would stand examination. Sophistry had been opposed to facts and common sense, and partial interests were opposed to the general good. On the whole, the friends of Free Trade had every reason to be we'l satisfied with the result of their labours, and he had not the least doubt of ultimate success.

C. GEACH, Esq., then read the statement of accounts, after which, on the motion of Mr. Councillor Atkinson, seconded by Mr. F. Osler, the accounts were passed; and after a desultory conversation the meeting separated. —*Birmingham Journal.*

YARMOUTH.

A meeting of the memorialists to the members for the borough was held in the Corn Exchange, on Thursday evening, the 27th ult., to take into consideration the answer to the memorial of the electors, calling upon Messrs. Rumbold and Wilshere to vote for Mr. Villiers's motion for the repeal of the Corn Laws.

Mr. D. A. Gourlay, the Chairman of the Yarmouth Anti-Corn-Law League, was called upon to preside.

The CHAIRMAN having read the notice calling the meeting, said that the electors who had signed the memorial to the members were met to decide whether the answer to that memorial was satisfactory or not. For himself he would beg to observe, that to him it was not so; opposed as he had been to the Corn Laws from the time they were enacted, he was naturally anxious to do everything in his power to promote their repeal. He believed that by signing the memorial he had done what all the other memorialists had, pledged themselves to the principle of the total abolition of the Corn Laws; and he intended to act upon that principle. The Chairman then called upon the Secretary of the League to read the answer of the members to the memorial, which would at once bring the question before the meeting, whether it was or was not satisfied with that answer.

Mr. BAYLY (Hon. Secretary,) read the answer, and as the answer to the memorial of last year was referred to, it was also read. Mr. Bayly then showed that the one received this year did not all correspond with some parts of that dated 1843, inasmuch as in this year's answer it was stated that our members did not permanently oppose themselves to the total abolition of the Corn Laws; and in last year's that their repeal would entail misery upon the country. Mr. Bayly then referred to that part of the answer implying that the League would be willing to accept of something less than total repeal, and quoted the prompt and explicit denial of the organ of that body that anything short of total repeal would be accepted. After defending the conduct of those Free-Traders who voted against Mr. Miles's proposition on the sugar question, Mr. Bayly moved the following resolution:—

"That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the answer of the members for the borough to the memorial of the electors, requesting them to vote for Mr. Villiers's motion, is unsatisfactory, inasmuch as it informs the memorialists that their sentiments have undergone no change since last year, and refers to the answer, dated May 5th, 1843, to the memorial of the electors of that year. In which answer it is stated, 'that the repeal of the Corn Laws would entail misery upon the country without affording any immediate relief to the distress' which that memorial affirmed existed in this borough. Because it affirms that, although the improvement in trade has not extended to the shipping interest, it is nevertheless sufficient to create doubts whether the depreciation of the property embarked in that important branch of trade, and the general want of employment, stand in close connexion with the Corn Laws. Because it conveys an impression, that the National Anti-Corn-Law League would be satisfied with less than a total repeal of the Corn Laws; an assumption at variance with the expressed and oft-repeated avowal of the Council of the League, and denied by its organ, the LEAGUE newspaper. Because by stating that the members for the borough would not be understood permanently to oppose themselves to the total abolition of the Corn Laws, the constituency is left in doubt as to the time when that opposition will cease. And because both letters evidently show that Messrs. Rumbold and Wilshere are decidedly opposed to the total abolition of those laws, and prove that they think more of expediency than of the question, whether the tax on food is good or bad for the community—a line of policy which this meeting cannot sanction, but condemns as unsound in principle, and contrary to the true doctrines of legislation."

Mr. BURROUGHS, in seconding the resolution, said he was so thoroughly satisfied that nothing but entire repeal of the Corn Laws, and carrying out fully the principles of Free Trade, could save this country from dreadful suffering, as to make it impossible for him to vote for our members with their present feeling on the corn question; he could not sacrifice principle to party. It was well known that the distress now existing in Yarmouth was greater than any one could remember; and it was not sufficient for those who advocated the Corn Laws to say that they had done no harm; they were bound to prove that they had done some good. Then, as regards the shipping. He was at a loss to conceive how any man could shut his eyes to the fact, that three parts of the corn imported into this country was brought by foreign vessels; for the sliding scale acted in this way: as soon as the duty was low, the merchant, in order to have the corn as soon as possible, caused it to be shipped in any vessel lying at the port from which it was shipped. Our ships were not there: foreign ones were. The corn must be had quickly, or the duty might rise; and accordingly it was shipped in foreign bottoms. Whichever way you looked at these laws, you found them acting as an impediment to trade and commerce, causing the labourer to be destitute of employment, and enhancing the price of his food, when he could get any.

The CHAIRMAN having read the resolution, called for a show of hands, when every hand appeared held up in favour of it, he declared the resolution passed without one dissentient.

Mr. JAMES LAWS said that a resolution had been put into his hands, the purport of which he cordially approved. It was:—

"That this meeting pledges itself to support such candidates only, at any future election, as are in favour of the total and immediate repeal of the Corn Laws and the principles of Free Trade generally."

He begged to remind the meeting that, during the last two or three years, the people had gone through great distress; that nearly all thinking men agreed that the Corn Laws had much to do with that distress; and that it was therefore desirable to abolish those laws. To accomplish this, men must give up party politics; and he thought that the resolution he had read to the meeting was one which could be acted upon by all parties in the borough.

Mr. ROBERT BAKER, in seconding the resolution, dwelt upon the injustice sustained by the shipping interest, from which protection was removed, while that of the landowners was continued. The state of Yarmouth, he said, was most deplorable; wherever you went, you saw scores of working people walking about with their hands in their pockets, and the tradesmen standing behind their counters without customers. He thought this state of things was sufficient to make people determine that an alteration was requisite. Believing that the resolution moved by Mr. Laws was a right and proper one, he begged leave to second it.

The CHAIRMAN put the resolution to the meeting, which was carried by acclamation; and a vote of thanks to Mr. Gourlay being moved, seconded, and carried, the meeting separated amidst three hearty cheers for the repeal of the Corn Laws.—*Norwich Mercury.*

MIDDLETON, NEAR MANCHESTER.—On Monday last a Free-Trade dinner took place in this town. In this township, notwithstanding the adverse clerical and aristocratical influence, the Free-Traders succeeded in polling a large majority in favour of Mr. Brown at the late South Lancashire election—the numbers being, 80 Free-Traders to 36 Monopolists. It was determined that the electors should dine together, and advantage be taken of the occasion to forward the Free-Trade cause. Accordingly, the services of those talented lecturers, Messrs. Acland and Falvey, were secured, and, by the kind permission of the owners, the large room in Messrs. Stone and Kemp's new building was tastefully fitted up for the occasion. About 140 gentlemen sat down to dinner, R. J. Halsall, Esq., presiding, and Richard Gill, Esq., occupying the vice-chair. After the usual loyal toasts, the chairman, in an appropriate address, proposed, "The eighty honest, independent, and upright electors of Middleton who voted for Mr. Brown, giving a majority of more than two to one in favour of Free Trade."—Mr. William Jones replied, directing especial attention to the duty and importance of every elector's exercising his own judgment in the rightful disposal of his vote, unswayed by personal or impure motives.—The next toast was "Free Trade with all the world," to which Mr. Blane, of Rhodes, responded.—Mr. Falvey then addressed the meeting in an eloquent and impressive speech, in which he introduced many humorous illustrations, and excited great interest by his glowing advocacy of Free Trade.—"Earl Radnor and the advocates of Free Trade in the House of Peers," drew a warm eulogium from the chairman on the character, the consistency, and the patriotic conduct of that distinguished nobleman. "The eminent services and indomitable zeal of our great advocates in Parliament," was adverted to in happy terms by the chairman, and acknowledged, with great enthusiasm, by the assembly.—Mr. Dracup, of Salford, a venerable and earnest Reformer, responded, and bore testimony to the invaluable assistance of those distinguished individuals.—With suitable prefatory observations, the president next proposed "The total and immediate repeal of the Corn Law. —Mr. Acland responded in an able and argumentative address.—The company were favoured with a song, composed for the occasion, entitled "The National League," written by Mr. George Richardson, of Manchester, and set to music by Mr. W. C. Ridings, of Middleton, who gave the solo, and was accompanied in the chorus by the glee singers and some of the company. Several other toasts followed.—On Wednesday evening a tea party of the wives and daughters of the electors was held, which was very numerously attended.

NOTES TAKEN BY A TRAVELLER IN THE SUMMER OF 1844.

No. II.

The southern and eastern coasts of the German Ocean have an uniform character and appearance for the traveller who approaches them from seaward. From Calais along the coast of Flanders to the mouth of the Scheldt, ridges of low sandy downs, extending occasionally for miles inland, contrast with the steep, bold shore of Britain, and seem to announce that the water recedes from the Continent as it encroaches upon our chalky cliffs. Every year sees new embankments formed, and land taken into cultivation, on the Dutch and Flemish coast; while falling cliffs and submerged districts are the tales that our Goodwin Sands and Sussex coast relate. These sandy ramparts, with their outlying banks and shallows in Flanders, are, however, constantly intersected by channels deep enough, with the assistance of the tide, to allow vessels with considerable burden to penetrate far into the lowland country. This stretches from the coast into the interior in a semicircular shape, and includes between the heights near St. Omer, and that run, by Lille and Tournay, to Brussels and Louvain, a basin of varying fertility, but turned to better account, agriculturally and industrially, than any portion of the Continent to the north of the Alps. These inlets, under the name of "deeps," "flats," or "syls," preserve their depth, even when they are left to nature, in consequence of the extreme mobility of the alluvial soil through which they run; and in the early times the whole of Flanders must have been inaccessible from the land side for carriages or horses, while these very impediments to the land traveller formed channels of the easiest communication for the inhabitants that were accustomed to them, and bred up to use them.

The most formidable enemies that these countries encountered, after they were deserted by the Romans, were people of similar habits, who came from a country of precisely the same nature. The Northmen, or Danes, who committed the ravages in England that are noted in our history, and who came from the Baltic and the mouth of the Elbe, entered into these inlets, to which they were familiarised, and crossing (with their boats) over into the Meuse, or even into the Rhine, carried devastation into the heart of Germany. In the ninth and tenth centuries the wars of the Normans were everywhere the main objects of attention. Their fearful incursions drove the peasant cultivator of the soil to build his hut under the walls of some castle, the number of which was multiplied by the need of defence. Perhaps nothing tended so much to give the nobility and the church the martial character which has since entailed so much inconvenience on society than these fearful irruptions of the Northmen.

The line of castles and strongholds built to check their irruptions is still traceable along the highlands that I have pointed out as enclosing Flanders in a semicircle. The Bishops of St. Omer, the Counts of Artois, the Dukes of Brabant, the Lords of Hainault, and the Bishops of Liege consolidated in this manner a military aristocracy, at constant feud amongst themselves, and the rude oppressors of a peasantry to whom they were still indispensable as protectors. The change in manners, in views of statesmanship, and of religion, which history points out between the age of Charlemagne and the commencement of the eleventh century, is one from sincere and enlarged projects of improvement on the part of rulers, who were beyond their subjects in civilization, to a narrow, egotistic policy of ig-

norant soldiers, using their efforts only to repress the energies of a rising race of industrious and too subservient citizens and peasants.

Between these eagles' nests, that finally served to introduce a methodised system of plunder along the high roads which they commanded and the coast, the deeps and flats of Flanders nourished a race of hardy fishermen, with whose occupation the nobles were less unwilling than unable to interfere. Here therefore, under precisely similar circumstances to those which attended the rise of Venice and Amalfi, the nucleus of a town could be formed unrepressed by the rapacity of a baron or a priest, unenfeebled by the stifling protection or useless cost of a court or an army.

The kind of shelter which industry, with its humanizing tendency, was driven at that early age to seek is sufficiently indicated by the ground on which the city of Ghent now stands, and which, after all the changes that ages have produced, still counts *twenty-six islands*, united by eighty bridges, and divided by an innumerable number of navigable cuts, with sluices regulating the flow of the waters of the Lys and the Scheldt. The secure position of Ghent at the junction of these rivers seems very early to have made it a place of maritime importance, for we find Charlemagne mustering a naval expedition at Ghent in 811, which he destined against the Saxons and Northmen. Like Alfred, he knew that maritime powers must be encountered on their own element; but under his feeble successors these attacks were returned with interest, and all possibility of establishing any fixed settlements in the plains was precluded, notwithstanding the martial ardour of the landsmen of the highlands. Bruges counts many bridges connecting its quarters that are intersected by numerous canals. It is not my intention, however, to give the history of these countries. I only wish to point out the circumstances that attended the rise of the great Belgian cities. These circumstances are in all nearly the same. Bruges and Antwerp arose in similar situations, accessible from the sea by means of rivers or fleets, and protected by the same watercourses from the attacks of land robbers. Termonde or Dendermonde, and Malines or Mechlin, are at this day seaports for barques of a peculiar construction, and a three-master is lying at the moment I am writing in the basin of Ghent. The comparative repose which the Flemish coast enjoyed after the Normans had found in England, Sicily, and Italy a richer field of plunder, sufficed to allow towns to spring up on the sides of those cities which I have named; and the navigators of the Hanseatic League and of the Mediterranean, when the naval art had made sufficient progress, found both industry and security within their walls. The republican form of government is incompatible with violence and rapacity. The origin of every trading city of importance on the Continent was republican, and with their political freedom, on which freedom of trade depended, the commercial prosperity of all has flourished or departed.

The reason of this dependence of trading prosperity on political liberty is lucidly displayed in the history of the Belgian cities. Trade is, naturally, the growth of a people's necessities. Wherever they are allowed fair play, the bulk of the people are the best customers; and those who furnish supplies for the satisfaction of the first wants ever enjoyed the greatest profit. Amongst a people that are allowed to take their own course in trade instinct points to the objects that are thus most remunerating; and, while the Flemings were exempted from the action of the political whirlpools into whose sphere they were afterwards drawn, an intimate connexion with England took place. The Flemish bowmen formed an important part of the English army. An interchange of wool and cloth for dyeing took place, which must have been equally advantageous to farmers and manufacturers. But the latter class unhappily learned from the former the principle of excluding rival products from their markets; or rather the alliance of the rich territorial nobles with the most successful and influential citizens formed a combination against the consuming classes, and which militated against the true interests of all. It would be easy to fill pages with the description of the splendour of these cities before the yoke of Spain and of Austria dried up the resources that had so long been prolific. But all I wish to insist upon here is that the causes of their prosperity as of their decline are no mystery; but, as they are easy to point out, so they deserve to be studied, as containing a deeper lesson than the antiquarian lore of dynasties and pageants. The inquiry into the origin and decay of the principal cities will enable us better to understand their present condition and prospects than a mere statistical survey would allow.

I have already described cursorily the port of Ostend, but it is worth considering in detail, being the only harbour of any importance which the narrow-minded policy of our Cabinet has left to Belgium. The Scheldt is shut up by Dutch fortresses. Even Terneuse, the entrance from the sea to the splendid canal leading to Ghent, and Ecluse, the old port of Bruges, lie in the narrow slips of territory along the coast which political jealousy has retained in the hands of the Dutch; and, strange to say, while a diplomatic reserve was made on the subject of the partition of the mountainous districts of Limburg and Luxemburg, the rich land on the left bank of the Scheldt, on the acquisition of which the national independence really depended, was thought to be of no importance, or was arbitrarily decided by cabinets who would not allow it to become matter of discussion.

There can be little doubt that this mutilation of their seacoast, which cuts off a portion of the coast from the inland territory, that in many respects much resembles our mouth of the Thames from Chatham to Gravesend, has seriously operated to check commercial speculation in Belgium. As the repression of trade is felt by every other class, the country has in consequence generally suffered. But the natural tendency is reviving, and the result of renewed commercial activity will only be to make this dependence on Holland be felt as more burdensome. Will not such a feeling eventually strengthen the very influence—that of France—which it is evident that this shortsighted policy was intended to counteract? The government that will give the command of the sea to the citizens of Ghent and Antwerp will, ere long, be the most welcome; and we who had the power to do so, and refused, will look back with astonishment on a policy which refused to confide in the civilizing effects of trade. The Belgians, rich and active as in the middle ages, would be as sturdy and as independent as they then were. Crippled and fettered as we see them now, we can expect no national pride, no sensitive jealousy of independence, no confidence in their right or in their might. We could not better have played the game of a future Napoleon.

This error (scarcely inferior to the sacrifice of Poland), which has deprived our merchants and manufacturers of those who by this time would have been valuable customers and coadjutors, invests Ostend with an importance that would otherwise scarcely attach to it. The harbour is not only dry at low water, but is at all times, when the wind is high, of difficult access. A bar crosses the entrance, which is equally dangerous from the swell that northerly and westerly winds occasion; and the coast between the port and the mouth of the Scheldt is formidable from the number of banks that line it. From these disadvantages an increase (and a small one it is) can be traced in the trade of Antwerp, while that of Ostend remains stationary. Five hundred and thirty-six vessels entered Ostend in the course of the whole year 1842, while the chronicles of the middle ages recount that two hundred vessels often entered the port of Ecluse to proceed to Bruges at *a single tide*. But Ecluse is now Dutch; and Bruges, like Antwerp, long excluded from the habit and benefits of foreign trade, measures its present decay and prosperity by the price of fresh butter in the London market, where it is (hospitably) received with a duty of 20s. per cwt., and five per cent. additional charge. Ostend thinks more of the list of sea-bathers than of the entry and departure of ships.

Ostend never was, nor can well be, the port of Bruges until a change comes over the spirit of the Flemings; to understand which we must recur to the origin of those towns to which I have alluded. Their position, amidst swamps and sand-banks, attests the necessity the first inhabitants were under of cutting off all communication with the land behind them. The old fishermen, who became burghers when they grew rich, knew nothing of the admirable qualities of chivalry and church hierarchies. They looked upon the noble as a pirate, whose ship was his horse; they knew that he understood as little about their interests as he did about managing a vessel. In this faith the Flemings, like the Amalfitans and the Venetians, grew rich and powerful. When the banks of their "fleets" were well dammed up, and the waters regulated in their flow by sluices; when the traders of Italy and the Baltic found security and freedom in these towns, and merchants from the interior established a communication with them, the nobles of the highlands, finding them more accessible, sought to approach and to form alliances with them. Bruges was first drawn under what may be called the continental hood. Baldwin, the forester of the wild in which the town grew up, carried off the daughter of Charles the Bold, who, finding so bold a son-in-law a desirable addition to his family, gave him the lordship of Artois, and created him, by his sovereign authority, Count of Flanders. That the counts of this race were able to exercise little authority in the town may be presumed from the simple fact that this nomination did not impede the rapid rise of Bruges as a mart of trade. Arras was the capital of the new dynasty. In fact, the whole secret of the original prosperity of the Belgian, as of the Italian cities, lay in their distrust of these noble patrons. All the civilization of which they were the promoters came from their connexion with the sea, and independence of the land; but on this, their proper element, the cities were each other's rivals. Hence a spirit of exclusiveness and mistrust was fostered by all the circumstances that surrounded them, which the religious instruction then in fashion was not adapted to modify or dispel.

According as their prosperity increased, this spirit of rivalry was strengthened, and frequently broke out in open hostility. Ghent and Bruges carried on deadly feuds like Venice, Genoa, and Pisa; and eventually these feuds threw them into the power of the sovereigns they had long distrusted with so much wisdom.

Ostend was early an independent town like the rest, and consequently could not harmonize with Bruges. Each little republic shut itself up within its walls and ditches, and, prepared to resist oppression on all sides, looked upon all who approached as aggressors. There is a great deal of this feeling still alive both in Belgium and in Italy, and in both countries it explains many problems that puzzle the stranger. The French military rule destroyed the civic feelings of Ostend more than the famous siege or the oppression of Spanish governors. But without this civic feeling no Belgian town is of any consequence. The laborious diligence, which in Flanders is rewarded with wealth, cannot be organised or directed by any centralizing authority, or even encouragement. Take away from the Belgian the feeling of his personal or civic independence, and you make him, what a large proportion of the population now are, a listless, awkward, dispirited, and, consequently, useless creature. Ostend, under Napoleon, was a French port and arsenal. It is now a fortress without a garrison, a harbour without ships; has a custom-house that adds little to the revenue, and sees its inhabitants periodically disappear before a crowd of fashionable sea-bathers, who occupy their houses and throng the streets. Had the new Government studied in the old Flemish instead of the new French school, and understood how to infuse a little of the civic feeling into the population of the great cities which it undertook to reconduct to prosperity, the result would have long since been perceptible. But the burghers of the towns and the skippers of the ports cannot possibly at the present day put more confidence in the knights of the pen and of the "tribune" than their ancestors did in the golden-spurred and iron-cased ancestors of the legislating classes. Thus railroads are planned and executed; canals abandoned or completed; and, to the astonishment of the good people of Brussels, no ship is built in Ostend, no manufacturing chimney smokes at Bruges. Merchants in countries that have no superabundance of capital cannot afford to embark what they possess on a footing so insecure as the vote of a chamber, even where venality is not openly professed and systematised. The profits of East and West India trade, of weaving and printing at Glasgow or at Manchester, may be great enough to allow speculators to run the risk of ministerial whims on tariffs, currency, and hours of labour. The Belgian mercantile speculator cannot afford to play such a game. Tariffs are, therefore, as I have said, made and unmade at Brussels. Chambers of commerce correspond with Ministers, who then do what they please. But ships and factories are not to be had on those terms. Bruges testifies by its venerable and even splendid appearance, to what unrestricted trade did in former times for a city whose inhabitants were able to assert the merchants' inalienable right before God and man. Until that right is restored, the capital, the talents, the labour of the citizens is dormantly invested in the production of dairy produce, of which a portion is weekly shipped to London. Let every Englishman who reads "Ostend Butter" written up in a shop window, take to heart the lesson which the inscription records!

CORRESPONDENCE.

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS' WAGES.

To the EDITOR *of the* LEAGUE.

SIR,—It may be useful to some of your non-agricultural members to know something of the progress of wages in Norfolk, both as to their actual amount, and considered, also, with reference to the amount of comforts they have enabled the working man at various periods to command. With this view, I send you below an account of the price of labour, both by the piece and by the day, at the present and at former periods; and, as affecting the argument of land going out of cultivation by the repeal of the Corn Laws, I also give you an account of the principal necessary outgoings on arable land farms, with the view to show that the actual expenses of farming are less at this than at any former period. The increase of rates, taxes, and other expenses are being daily cited as evidence for the necessity of protection; but a little examination will show that these are evils mainly created by the Corn Laws themselves. The first column below, the scale of wages, in 1790 is an average of 29 farms collected by the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, and given in his report on Norfolk in 1803. The second column gives the price of the same in 1843, and was partly communicated to me by an agricultural friend, and is partly the results of my own inquiry.

	1790.	1803.
Reaping wheat, per acre ..	5s. 8½d...	5s. 0d. to 8s. & 9s.
Mowing barley, do.	1 6½ ..	2 0 „ 2s. 6d.
Threshing wheat, per coomb of four bushels	1 11½ ..	1 4 „ 1 6
Threshing barley, do.	0 11¾ ..	0 10 „ 1 0
Filling earth, per load	0 2 ..	0 1½
Filling dung, do.	0 2 ..	0 1
Tire, per lb.	0 3½ ..	0 2¾
Ploughirons, do...	0 3½ ..	Cast iron used.
Chains, do.	0 4¾ ..	0 5
Shoeing, per shoe	0 4½ ..	0 6 to 0 7
Carpenter, per day	1 9¾ ..	2 4 „ 2 6
Mason	1 11 ..	2 6 man and boy.
Thatcher	2 0 ..	2 6 do.
Collar-maker	1 11¼ ..	3 0
Thatching both sides of long stacks, per yard (another communication)	1 0 ..	0 9 to 0 10
Day labour, per week, in winter	7 2¼	.. 9 0 „ 10 0
Do. (of 29 communications), in summer	8 8¼	

Of the above items it should be observed that more wheat is mown now than formerly, which is a cheaper mode than reaping on light land. 8s. to 9s., and even 12s. an acre would still be given for reaping wheat on strong land, and where it is much laid. Mowing barley is higher, which may partly be accounted for by better crops. Threshing wheat and barley is lower; but this, which was formerly done with the flail entirely, is now chiefly done by threshing machines at a much less cost than that here stated. Filling earth and manure is less, which shows that simply laborious work is now less than ever. Plough irons and chains are much the same, though iron is cheaper. Shoeing is dearer. The wages of carpenters, masons, thatchers, and collar-makers, appear to have risen; but from the price of thatching by the piece, which I have given above, it may very probably be that as much work of these kinds is done for the money as ever. The expense of carpenters and masons, too, falls on the landlord and not on the tenant.

In an account of the progress of labour in various parishes, communicated to the Board of Agriculture in 1793, by the late Sir Thomas Beevor, Bart., there is a curious complaint as to the high price of provisions at that time. The account from the village of Hapton says:—

	(In Norfolk, 1844, these are
"In 1792, Wheat, 5s. 6d. per bushel	7s. per bushel
Malt, 5s. 6d. „	8s. 6d. „
Meat, 4d. to 4½d. per lb.	5d. to 7d. per lb.
Cheese, 4d. to 5d. „	7d. to 8d. „
Butter, 10d. to 1s. per pint	8d. to 1s.)

"In 1752, the labourer could bake, brew, and hang on the pot with a piece of meat in it, and ask his master or neighbour to drink. In 1792, the very reverse. The high price of provisions, wool, and leather, altogether affects the labourer so much, that it is impossible for a poor man with a young family to keep them either full or warm without assistance. Some farmers let them have wheat at 5s. per bushel, and put out a deal of their work, so that the labourer may earn from 18d. to 20d. a day." "Daily wages in the same parish in 1792 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. per day." From this extract it appears that people in 1792 thought provisions dear compared with the previous periods of 1752 and 1772; they certainly were dearer, and the command of the labouring man over the necessaries of life somewhat less.

We are sometimes asked what necessary connexion there is between the price of corn and wages. There is none that we know of, except that when corn is plentiful it is cheap, and is consumed in greater quantities by those who want it. That wages should not fall with corn, appears even a wise provision of nature: were they to do so, the surplus of a good harvest would never be consumed; and were they to rise with the price of corn, a deficient crop would be entirely consumed before three-fourths of the year were passed. A bad harvest diminishes the supply of corn from our own soil, and a Corn Law diminishes the supply of corn from other soils. The effects of both are precisely similar. Nothing can compensate a people for a deficient supply.

If we wish to show how good harvests and low prices operate upon wages, we may quote a passage from Tooke's "History of Prices," vol. i., p. 55, where he says:—"According to Arthur Young, the average price of wheat was, for the whole of the seventeenth century, 38s. 2d. per Winchester quarter; and for the sixty-six years from 1701 to 1766, 32s. 1d., being a fall of 16 per cent.; while the price of agricultural labour which, on the average of the seventeenth century, had been 10¼ per day, was for sixty-six years, ending in 1766, 12d., or a rise of 16 per cent.

"The fact, indeed, of a rise of money wages in this country coincidently with a fall in the price of corn, during the long interval in question, rests on unquestionable authorities."

If we compare the period above quoted with the last fifty years, or the forty years before that, we find abundant evidence to show that a high price of corn does not produce high wages, and that a low price of corn may be accompanied by a rise of wages. It is incumbent on our opponents, in order to prove their own case, that they should either deny the facts or explain the reason of them.

If we are asked, why do wages rise and fall at all in agricultural districts, we answer, the labour market is in an unnatural state; there are more labourers than work can be found for; their condition is already so low that a rise in the price of food is absolute ruin to them, unless accompanied by a rise in wages: and this the farmer is compelled to give to keep men out of the workhouse. To the operation of the poor-law, then, we may attribute the rise in wages; nor ought we to find fault with the law on that account, for it is a just and a merciful law which says, that no one shall perish in England for want of food.

Of the expenses of farming, before going into an analysis of them, it would be as well to state first what they are, and then to examine the nature and extent of their reduction or increase. For this purpose I give the statement of the Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, of the average result of six communications of the expenses of farming 100 acres of arable land in 1790—these are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Rent	80	0	0
Tithe	15	19	6
Rates	17	13	5½
Wear and tear	18	0	0
Labour	91	18	10
Seed	30	6	0
Manure	10	16	0
Team	46	10	0
Interest of capital	34	0	0
	£348	3	9½

All the expenses of a farm, with the exception of the farmer's profit, are, I believe, included in the above items; and, from my own observation, the proportion they all bear to the expenses on a farm at the present day are pretty much the same, with the exception of rent and tithe. These two items have advanced considerably. Rates are somewhat higher, but this is caused principally by the high price of food, as more than two-thirds of the maintenance of paupers consist of flour; the clothing of paupers having greatly diminished in price. Surveyors' rates, being principally carriage of materials, consist mainly of the agricultural produce horses consume; and labour of the commonest kind, which I have before observed is as cheap as ever. Wear and tear, I presume, means tradesmen's bills for keeping implements in repair, shoeing, farrying, &c., though I cannot ascertain the particulars at that day. On Lord Ducie's Example Farm at Whitfield, I find the estimated expense of keeping implements in repair to be 10 per cent. upon their value; and the value of the implements on his farm of 250 acres being £407, the annual cost is £40 14s., or about 3s. 3d. an acre. On the same farm, the carpenter's bill is estimated at 30s. per horse for nine horses, the smith's at 30s. per horse, and the saddler's at 10s., which, with £8 for hurdles for sheep, makes altogether £39 10s., or about 3s. 3d. an acre more. These items are high—shoeing, for instance, being done by some farmers for a little, as from 8s. to 16s. per horse. Farriers' bills, too, are much less now than formerly, and the quantity of stock saved by superior knowledge and treatment much greater. If the cost of implements is greater now than formerly, they, at any rate repay, by their utility, the greater expense, and any additional cost on this head can hardly be charged against a farm as an increased expense. Labour which, in 1790, amounted to nearly £1 an acre, is now done for about the same. Some farmers it may cost 25s. an acre, and on Lord Ducie's Example Farm it costs 30s. 5d. per acre; but, when the extra quantity of stock that is now kept is taken into account, the labour on a farm amounts to but little, if anything, more than it did in 1790. The comparative price of piecework and day labour now and in 1790, given above, will also corroborate this statement. Seed corn varies, of course, with the price of agricultural produce, and need not enter into the expenses of farming. Manure, supposing it to be oilcake, is a foreign agricultural product, and rises, or would rise, with the price of foreign corn. Horse corn is another produce of the farm, and need not enter into the calculation. Interest of money is as low now as it ever was, and, besides the farmer's profit, which is not given, is the only remaining item.

Of the above expenses, there are none except rates, labour, tradesmen's bills, and interest of capital, that can fairly be called an expense attendant on farming. Of these, an examination anywhere, in any county in England, will show that they are as low as at any former period, or that, where they are higher, the agriculturist gets really more for his money. Rent and tithe have materially and steadily increased in the last fifty years, while labour has remained pretty much the same; so that if our Corn Laws have been, as they are said to be, beneficial to the agricultural interest, there is at least matter for our serious consideration as to whom they have filled with good things, and whom they have sent empty away.

Apologising for the length of this letter, I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Swaffham, June 22, 1844. ARTHUR MORSE.

Glasgow, July 8, 1844.

SIR,—I perceive by your last paper that you have omitted Colonel Fox, M.P. for the Tower Hamlets, in your list of pairs. He paired off with Mr. Beckett Denison.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A FRIEND TO FAIR PLAY.

[As we have received a great number of letters both from the Tower Hamlets and the provinces on the subject of Colonel Fox's absence on Mr. Villiers's motion, we beg leave to tender the following general answer to all inquiries:—Colonel Fox did *not* pair off *for the whole night*. His name stands on the original list of pairs, as having paired with Mr. Beckett Denison *only up to a quarter past eleven o'clock*. Consequently at that hour Mr. Beckett Denison was released from the engagement, and at liberty to vote as he did—*against the motion*. The explanation given by Colonel Fox of his absence on the division is neither very candid towards Mr. Beckett Denison, nor satisfactory to his constituents. Colonel Fox, in a letter to the *Morning Chronicle*, states that he paired off not expecting a division, but fully intending to vote for the motion. As we have received a great many communications calling in question the honour of Mr. Beckett Denison, under the impression that *the pair was for the whole night*, we feel bound to relieve him from this imputation by the above plain statement of fact.]

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

PETER PLAYFAIR'S LETTERS.—No. IV.

Maestricht, June 18, 1844.

The voyage down the Meuse or Maes, from Liege to Maestricht, is beautiful in the extreme. Between the sea and Brussels, and between the Scheldt and Brussels, the country is generally flat, though in a high state of cultivation. Towards the frontiers of Germany it becomes very mountainous, and nothing can exceed the picturesque beauties of the district. The Meuse, in its descent from Namur to Liege and Maestricht, passes through a bold and rocky channel, with high mountains and woodland scenery on every side. No landscape could be more lovely. You remember the valley of the River Wye, in Wales. The valley of the Meuse bears a strong resemblance to it, except that the mountains are bolder and more precipitous, and are occasionally covered to the summit with vineyards. It is true the wine produced is by no means valuable for its quality; and the banks of the Meuse will certainly never be famous for wine like those of the Rhine, the Rhone, and the Moselle. Neither is much attention paid to its cultivation, for beer is the national beverage in the south, as in all other parts of Belgium. The Belgium beer is a light pleasant drink, varying in price from three farthings to five farthings per pint. It is not so strong as our porter and ale, and has a bitter and sub-acid flavour, with the exception of the white beer of Louvain, which is merely an infusion of malt and hops, sweetened with honey, and has a sweet and somewhat sickly taste. Lombock is the strongest beer; Faro the one most in request, and for a pint bottle of this latter I paid upon one occasion only ten centimes, a fraction less than a penny. I know that the habit of drunkenness prevails in my own country to an extent fearful to contemplate, when contrasted with the habits of the people through whose country I am now passing. I am conscious that no vice degrades and dishonours a man like drunkenness. "Oh! that a man should put an enemy into his mouth to steal away his senses!" but I deny that the legislation which would enforce sobriety as a national virtue by high duties and prohibitions is calculated to attain this end. I view it rather in the light of a premium and inducement to drunkenness. Let our legislators begin at the right end, by opening our ports and cheapening food and drink. Let proper and innocent amusement and recreation be made as accessible in England as they are on the Continent; above all, let us educate and encourage the better tastes of the people; and the stain of drunkenness, which has hitherto blackened the fair fame of our army, our navy, and our nation, will no longer tarnish the character of the people in the eyes of more sober nations. I am far from saying that drunkenness is unknown in the Low Countries, but I can truly affirm that I have witnessed very few instances of it since I have travelled through them.

Maestricht is a strongly fortified town of Holland, and one of the keys of the country. It contains a garrison of 3000 men, and presents all the characteristics of a cleanly, well-ordered Dutch town, with a quiet, sober, and orderly population, but with little or no commerce. The River Maes and the Great Canal both pass through the duchy of Limburg; part of the country being Dutch, the other part Belgian. I shall take the Canal route to Bois-le-Duc, because it will enable me to form a more correct opinion of the agriculture of the district than the common route. The Dutch and Belgian territories intersect each other, and the annoyance from the attacks of custom-house functionaries is almost unbearable. At Esdem, on the Meuse, a Dutch frontier post, the insolence and exaction of the customs people are absolutely intolerable. The steam-boat was stopped for half an hour in order that a charge with proper bill and receipt might be made upon a gentleman of sixteen centimes, or three halfpence, for an article in his own daily consumption. Such acts of petty annoyance, I am sorry to say, are practised by the custom-house authorities of both nations, very much to their mutual discredit. Belgium alone has an army of 5000 custom-house officers, in undress military costume, and the Dutch are nearly as numerous in proportion to their population. When will the nations of Europe learn to dispense with such odious and expensive burdens, and to trust more to the principle of barter and the mutual interests of the people? A new and powerful party is rising in both countries to contend for the principle of Free Trade, irrespective of political opinions; and the time is perhaps not far distant when a bloodless contest will decide between feudal monopoly on one side and the rights of commerce and of man upon the other.

Bois-le-Duc, June 19, 1844.

The journey from Maestricht, by canal boat to Bois-le-Duc, occupies 24 hours. It is partly through Belgian, partly through Dutch territory, and the petty nuisance of custom-house stations is repeated, with variations, throughout the performance. A considerable portion of the country is under grain cultivation, and the crops look extremely well: somewhat light for the want of rain, but during the last few days a good deal has fallen, and, if the weather continues favourable, doubtless the ears will fill. A considerable quantity of this land also, both in Holland and in Belgium, is unreclaimed waste land, called *bruyère*. These *bruyères* are vast level plains, dotted here and there with clumps of fir-trees. Near the roads and the canals, the ground is frequently cut into small fields, which present patches of cultivation like the oasis in the Desert. I examined the *bruyère* carefully in different directions, where cuttings had been made in the land for the purpose of drainage, and found that it consisted of a sandy loam, covered to a greater or less extent by alluvial deposits. The vegetable growths consisted chiefly of coarse grass, lichens, heaths, and marsh-mallows. Of late considerable attention has been devoted to reclaiming the *bruyère*, and it is a remarkable fact, that those who first attempted this work were an association of the monks of La Trappe, bound by vows to a life of labour, and of silence towards every one but the Superior, to whom, upon pressing emergencies, they may address themselves. The permission, however, is seldom used, and the self-inflicted torture is commonly practised till death closes the scene. It is not true, however, that each monk is made to dig a part of his own grave daily; and the only thing like it is, that a grave is always kept yawning for the first Trappist who may die, and that, as a punishment, a brother who has transgressed any of the rules is sent to dig at it. There are about sixty brothers, of whom only the choristers, the porter, and the Superior are allowed to speak, with the exception I have mentioned of making known any pressing want to the Superior. They labour five hours a day, perform public worship for seven hours, and devote considerable time to private prayer. The estate consists of about 450 acres, is in a high state of cultivation, and the cattle and horses remarkably fat. The Belgium Government have also established colonies in different districts for the purpose of bringing the waste lands into cultivation; giving premiums and bounties for all improvements. They have also established, about ten miles from the estate of La Trappe, a convict colony, or *colonie forcée*, in which the advantages of regular work are shown. Rewards are given to the industrious and well-conducted. The most remarkable colony among the *bruyères* is that of Gheel. It is a colony of insane people, who are farmed out upon the inhabitants, who from generation to generation have followed the strange profession of taking care of the insane. They are quartered upon the different houses, and are to be seen walking about the fields, or working in the grounds. Scarcely any restraint is practised upon them, and they are certainly happier in the green fields and gardens than they could be in confined rooms or cells. The hospital of Gheel is a remarkably clean and well-conducted establishment. It is kept by fourteen Sisters of Charity, most of whom have moved in a respectable rank of life, and all have entered their present calling before they were twenty-five years of age. They have an excellent farm close to the hospital, in which the convalescents are employed. The sisters seem perfectly happy. The good deeds they hourly enact may inspire them with a cheerful confidence in a future bright reward. It is an extraordinary thing to remark the difference of feeling which the same religion seems to impart to its different disciples. Night and day are not more opposite than the gloomy frown of the silent Trappist and the benign smile of the good-hearted Sister of Charity.

Bois-le-Duc, or St. Bosch, is a fine old city, containing from 20,000 to 30,000 inhabitants. It is situated in a level country, upon a branch of the Maes or Meuse, which affords steam communication with Dordrécht and with Rotterdam. As the river approaches Dordrécht the land becomes low and marshy, and is chiefly used for pasturage, and vast herds of cattle are to be seen grazing on the banks. Fat beasts for the butcher were selling from £6 to £9; full-grown calves from 40s. to 50s.; sheep 15s. to 20s. At a public sale, *bruyère*, or waste land, was knocked down upon an average at 11 gilders, or about 19s. per hectare. But this land was far richer than many of the light sandy soils upon which the Flemings expend their labour in the upper districts. Potatoes sown in March promise an abundant crop. I feel satisfied, if proper drainage, and more especially the tile drainage recommended to our own agriculturists by a commercial man, was generally introduced, that the result would be most satisfactory. The surface soil in this district is so rich that no manure is needed; indeed, the "one thing needful" appears to be drainage; and wherever this has been practised in patches along the side of the canal, the crops are found in a most luxuriant state.

The commerce of Bois-le-Duc is chiefly confined to the supply of goods to the agricultural districts in the neighbourhood. It serves as an *entrepôt* for Rotterdam, receiving manufactures for the interior, and sending down agricultural produce in return. It is a Catholic town. The next town, Dordrécht, is a Protestant town; it was one of the birthplaces of the Reformation. As a general principle, full toleration is practised in the Netherlands. At Amsterdam, for example, there are 60,000 Jews, and a quarter of the city is called the Jewish Quarter. At Rotterdam they are also numerous, and one of the magistrates of the city is a Jew. I mention this as an evidence of full religious toleration.

Rotterdam, June 23, 1844.

The shores of the river above Rotterdam are covered with ship-building yards; and, as you approach the town, you discover the docks and wharfs, which have earned it the title of the little Liverpool. It is obvious, however, at a glance, that more immorality and drunkenness prevail here than in towns belonging to agricultural districts; still Rotterdam is remarkable for its general order, cleanliness, and propriety. Through the centre of its principal streets run wide canals, at whose wharfs the vessels are constantly loading and unloading. You awake in the morning, and see from your window the tall masts of a ship passing through the middle of the street to her moorings at the merchant's door. You go forth from the house, and find that to get into the next street you have to pass over a drawbridge or a ferry. You see wide canals, equal to docks, passing through every street, with rows of trees on each side, the green foliage contrasting pleasantly with the cool waters beneath. In some of these canals ships and barques of deep burden unload the rich cargoes brought from the Dutch possessions in the East; others are crowded with the brigs and schooners which navigate the northern seas; and others, again, of smaller dimensions and shallower depth, contain the craft which bring down from the interior agricultural produce, which is all conveyed by water carriage. Nor must the *trekschuyt* and the pleasure-yacht be passed over in silence. The former is a narrow passage-boat, fitted with saloons and drawn by horses, to convey passengers by canal through the country; and the latter a gaily-painted, highly-varnished, and brass-ornamented boat, of fifty or sixty tons, with great breadth of beam, round stem and stern, and half poop, with a comfortable saloon instead of a cell for a cabin, and the huge and unsightly, but inseparable, cutwater at its side. Strange and grotesque forms are carved on the figure-head, the anchor-bits, the tiller-handle, and prominent parts of the vessel; and the highly-varnished hull shines upon the water in the distance like a transparent lump of yellow resin. Such a craft as this now lies before me in the herring fleet of Rotterdam; and if it was to make its appearance off Cowes among the crack yachts of the club, it would astonish some of the natives. The Dutch yacht carries an immense volume of canvas, and is said to be very fast before the wind, but a dull sailer when she has to beat against it. The same remark is made in

reference to the Dutch East India ships and ships of war.

The commerce of Rotterdam is not so considerable as formerly, but still its waters present a busy and thronged appearance. The river Maes, at Rotterdam, is about the same width as the Scheldt at Antwerp, and something wider than the Thames at London-bridge; but a dozen such rivers would not equal the Thames for shipping.

The houses in Rotterdam are built of brick, and tiled or slated in the same manner as in England. The *Deutches grows* are especially notable for their love of cleanliness. The pail and the brush are constantly at work: windows, doors, area, and street in front of the house, receive morning ablutions as regularly as the face of the house-maid. Cleanliness is indeed a passion and a pride with the sex in Holland; and the marble lobby of the merchant's hall, and the white floor of the retailer's shop, are equally commendable for cleanliness. The Dutch, also, have a passion for flowers, and for trees, which tend much to ornament their towns. In the time of the tulip mania in Holland, as much attention was paid to the cultivation of this flower as is now paid in England to perfecting the breed of horses or other animals; and vast sums of money were given for rare roots. The tulip mania is over, but the passion has expanded into a love of flowers in general; and the garden connoisseur watches the bursting of a bud, and the development of the petals of a flower, with as much anxiety as the modern Nimrod would feel for the points of a Bay Middleton or Cotherstone colt.

In habits and appearance, the Dutch more strongly resemble the English than the Flemings, as the clear, healthy complexion, and open, honest face abundantly testify. In Flanders, towards the frontiers of France, the language and customs and feelings of the people are essentially French. In Holland more English is spoken than French, and the predilections of the people are decidedly English. Their favourable disposition to our country is shown in various ways. If you go into a shop, or accost a stranger in the street, to ask a direction, the chances are that he will himself guide you, or send somebody with you. The periodical literature of the country is full of English opinions, and extracts from English works. I have a copy of the "Lees-Kabinet" for 1844 before me. It contains articles on Ireland and O'Connell, Borrow's "Bible in Spain," Inglis's "Don Quixote," Miss Mitford's "Tales," and Blanchard's "London Portraits." The last, I presume, is the brilliant epigrammatic writer who writes with so much effect in the *Examiner;* nor do his characters appear to lose anything by the broad Dutch costume in which they are cast. The pen-and-ink sketches are accompanied by engravings of various officials—the city-marshal, with jolly nose; the sword-bearer, in specs; the alderman, with his never-failing turtle; and the sheriff, with his wand and chain. The foreign authors, who are preferred, and who are most generally perused, are also English. Scott, Marryat, Bulwer, Hazlitt, Dickens, and a host of others, are done into Dutch, and to be found in every house. So also in politics the tendencies are nearly all English.

The conquest of England upon Prince de Joinville's plan has been the grand subject of newspaper comment since the publication of the note in the journals of France, Germany, and the Netherlands. The Dutch papers in general ridicule its absurdity, and advise the Prince to be quiet, or he may find that he has "caught a Tartar." They also remind the French of the observation of the *Times*, that France is a great military country and a great naval country—the second naval power in Europe—and that to remain the second in Europe, requires only that she should keep on good terms with the first.

In the Free-Trade and Corn question, as it is agitated in England by the League, the Dutch take great interest. Their sympathies, as a commercial people, are strongly excited on this point. Time was that the Dutch were the greatest monopolists in the world. In the valuable article of nutmegs, the produce of their spice islands, they were known to cast cargoes into the sea to enhance the value of those that remained. They tried the system of monopoly and restriction to its very uttermost, and the trial cost them the greatest part of their commerce. They are now wiser in their generation, and ardently pant for the time when trade will be thrown open, and their fine qualities and resources as a commercial people have an opportunity of developing themselves. Perhaps in no country in Europe have the Free-Traders such numerous and such intelligent partisans as in Holland; and probably in no country in Europe would the advantages of Free Trade be more strongly felt than in Holland. The Dutch, likewise, have none of the unwholesome pride of aristocracy to fetter and peril their existence. Genoa and Venice, and some of the earlier commercial states, were sacrificed to this pride. "Empire," says the Roman historian, "would be eternal if the arts by which it is gained continued to be used for its conservation." An advocate of the "order," who has recently given expression to his aristocratic yearnings in England, exclaims:—

> "Let wealth and commerce, laws and learning die,
> But leave us still our old nobility."

Does the writer forget how much his vaunted "order" owes its existence to commerce and to learning, when that existence cannot be traced to less creditable causes? And does "England's trust" rest upon the shoulders of her feudal chiefs? If so, she would lean upon a broken reed, and the decline and fall for which her enemies pant would not be far distant. But he who reads the signs of the times aright, knows that it is far different. The nation is in an attitude of repose, from which she will spring up to rend asunder the bonds in which the lords of the soil have bound her, and to pursue, like the lion refreshed, her bold and successful career. P. P.

SUGAR DUTIES.—The Sugar Bill on which the recent division took place, which has been amended in committee and on report, has been printed. The duties imposed by 6 and 7 Will. IV., c. 26, and 3 and 4 Vic., c. 17, are to be continued till the 5th of July, 1845, with the custom duties, and an additional duty of 5 per cent. Her Majesty by order in council to declare the sugars of other countries to be admissible as not being the produce of slave labour. By the seventh provision, power is given to her Majesty by order in council to declare, that the sugars of countries with which her Majesty has treaties of reciprocity as to duties, be admissible at 34s. per cwt., and 5 per cent. additional. Her Majesty may allow the importation of sugar, the growth of certain British possessions, at the lower rate of duty. There are twenty-five sections in the bill.

DEATH OF JOHN TRAVERS, ESQ.

It is with unfeigned sorrow that we have to announce the sudden death of Mr. John Travers, which took place yesterday (Friday) afternoon, at his house, Clapham Park. Of Mr. Travers we may say with truth, that he was a man possessing great ability, high principle, and a disinterested zeal for the advancement of the public welfare. He was probably the most useful and influential friend of the Free-Trade cause in the city of London, and his loss will be long felt and deeply deplored. Mr. Travers was chairman of Mr. Pattison's committee at the last election for the City; and the sacrifices he has made of time and labour and money for the promotion of the great principles with which his whole life was identified are such as to prove the earnestness of his purpose, and the disinterestedness of his character. Mr. Travers has left a large family to mourn his removal from amongst them.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MONTHLY CORN CIRCULAR.—The following is an extract from the Corn Circular of the Messrs. Sturge for the present month:—"Birmingham, 7th Month, 3rd, 1844. Though many of our accounts from different parts of the country state that copious and refreshing rains have occasionally fallen, yet, during the whole of the last month, with the exception of a very few slight showers, the weather in this vicinity has been uninterruptedly dry, and at times the atmosphere has been very hot and sultry. The drought has now continued with us more than three months; and, though the wheat plant is remarkable for sustaining dry weather without injury, yet in many soils it is evident that this season the quantity, if not the quality, will be seriously affected, while on others the crop looks well. Some individuals of considerable experience are of the judgment that the produce will, on the average, prove considerably deficient; but, as we have not had a similar season for half a century, we will not at present venture an opinion of its general effect upon the wheat crop. The prospect of an early and parallel harvest has caused a prevalent disposition on the part of our farmers to sell their remaining stock of old wheat, and an extreme reluctance on the part of our millers to purchase, except for their immediate consumption; and our prices have given away about 2s. per quarter, at which reduction we have a steady and rather extensive sale for good Dantzig and soft Odessa wheat, say for the former 7s. 6d. and for the latter 7s. per 60lbs. at Gloucester. For barley of all descriptions we have had an extensive demand; and there is now a general conviction, that though on some favourable soils the early-sown crops may prove an average, yet that the bulk of this grain is greatly and irreparably injured from want of rain. Our imports of oats have been again considerable; but we have such an increased demand in consequence of the very great deficiency in our hay crops, that they are taken ex-ship for consumption as they arrive; and, though the sale has rather slackened since the depression in Mark Lane, our former prices are nearly sustained. The bean crop is rather more favourably spoken of than it was a month since; and we think there are many fields which, though they are short in the straw, will not be much below an average produce. The crop of peas has also sustained much injury from the drought; and there has been a brisk demand for foreign, at 28s. to 32s. per imperial quarter, in bond, at Gloucester. Potatoes, in some districts, have suffered a good deal; in others they are more promising than could be expected."

GAME.—The alteration in the game laws which made wild animals property works famously for the landowners. Before game was made property, its preservation was attended with some expense, and there was no return, as it could not legally be sold. As soon, however, as it was made property, and its sale as much legalised as that of poultry, the landlords found that a very profitable stake had been thrown into their hands, or rather that, in altering the law, they had played for themselves an excellent card. Many of them have since considerably increased their revenue by the sale of game; the more game there is, the more profit for them; and this is the more admirable because the increase of game is attended with no increase of expense, and all the game is, in many instances—and we could give names and cases—kept by the farmers. The hares and the rabbits, the pheasants and the partridges feed on the farmer's corn; but he dares not touch one of them; though fed by him, the game, whether bird or beast, is claimed by the landlord as *his* property. The English landlord, in verity, is a man who gathers what another has sown; he takes what another has fed, claims it as his property, sends it to market, and places the money got from the sale in his own pocket. This is the landlord's notion of equity, justice, and fair dealing—a proof of their attention to the precept to do unto others as they would that others should do unto them. There is not a farmer in the whole length and breadth of this "highly favoured land" but knows and feels the truth of these observations, and who in his heart does not *think* words to which he has not courage to give utterance. The havoc made among crops by hares is greater than ever, because it is profitable to the landlord to have his hares and rabbits fed at the farmer's expense. The latter, generally a tenant-at-will, durst not grumble, which has been said to be the Englishman's privilege, as it certainly is that of the galley-slave, nor does he dare kill or disturb the hares that gobble up his wheat; but if an unfortunate wretch in human shape should happen to take a turnip to allay his hunger, or some perishing children some rape for a meal—such wretches being unprotected by a landlord, who has far less love for one of his own species than for a pheasant or a hare- the law is put in full force immediately, and the hunger of the man is visited with condign punishment. This contrast is going on every day in "merrie England," and people wonder why the peasantry are sullen! Another most amiable trait in the conduct and character of the landholders is furnished by the course they pursue in regard to foxes. The foxes of this country had become nearly extinct, and the fox-hunters were in despair, till it was resolved to import some from abroad—France, we believe. These French foxes, brought in without sliding scale or import duty, were let loose upon the land, and we have it from a large practical farmer, not a hundred miles from Brighton, that his loss of poultry from the ravages of foxes is enormous. This is the sort of protection the landholders give their unfortunate tenants—they bring foxes from France and let them loose to devour the English farmers' poultry; they rear game of every description on the farmers' crops, and sell it for their own profit, and then meet at agricultural feeds, and talk about the interest of the landlord and farmer being identical? Out upon such hypocrisy!—*Brighton Herald.*

THE LEAGUE MEETINGS.—The interest taken in the proceedings of the League by the London public is wonderful and unprecedented. The Free-Trade question appears to have laid irresistible hold of the mind of the people here. Since the commencement of the session, a series of meetings have been held unparalleled in the history of metropolitan agitation. Week after week the largest theatre of London has been filled to suffocation by eager crowds, thronging to hear arguments against monopoly, and evincing the liveliest interest in the progress of Free-Trade principles. Even during the strongest heats of an unusually sultry summer, when the most sanguine friends of the League declared it folly to expect meetings, the theatre was still crowded to excess. All the temptations of fine weather, of cheap steam-boat trips, and all the attractions of the banks of the Thames and the green suburbs, failed to reduce the attendance on Wednesday evening, at Covent-garden. The invariable order and decorum which reigned at all the meetings was unlike anything I ever witnessed in the course of my experience, and was surprising to men who have grown grey in their attendance at public assemblies. London has emphatically declared for Free Trade, and if there be any truth in the opinion that the Metropolis gives the tone to the general feeling of the kingdom, the next general election will seal the doom of monopoly.—*Correspondent of the Cheltenham Free Press.*

THE LEAGUE AND THE SUGAR DUTIES.—We are glad to perceive that the merits of this question are now better understood; and that a portion of the press, at least, have been candid enough to acknowledge their error. The *Stirling Observer* says:—"Upon further information, we find we must qualify our remarks very greatly, if not discard them altogether, and at once frankly admit that the leaders of the League voted upon a better knowledge of facts and circumstances than we possessed, till only a few days ago."—*Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle.*

REGISTER!—In an ordinance of arms passed in 1319, King Robert the Bruce commanded every man in Scotland possessed of the value of a cow to arm himself either with a bow and arrows, or with a spear, to meet the enemies of his country. The value-of-a-cow qualification has long since passed away, and now we have the ten pound qualification. The need of providing arms to resist foreign enemies has given place to the use of votes to resist domestic oppression. At the present time he who is qualified and neglects to register is as undutiful to his country as in ancient times his forefathers would have been had they refused to hold themselves prepared to repel invaders. The vote is now the weapon with which the battles of patriotism must be fought, and whoever neglects to secure it or to use it conscientiously, betrays his country, and is a political poltroon. There is no time to be lost.—*Ibid.*

FREE TRADE THE BEST STIMULANT TO AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENTS.—Have our readers never noticed among tradesmen that whenever one of them happens to introduce an improvement in his establishment, either by outward decoration or by internal arrangements, the remainder generally emulate the enterprise of their competitor; and that whenever any stranger appears, offering an article decidedly cheaper than has hitherto been known, the whole trade begin to favour the public with reduced prices? In the latter case it is easy to see the principle which is brought into operation. The stranger diminishes the amount of "protection" enjoyed by the rest of the tradesmen, in the shape of a limitation of the numbers engaged in the trade. The numbers being increased, protection becomes diminished. This is exactly what we shall see in reference to agricultural operations and improvements when the Corn Laws are repealed. There will then be no land going out of cultivation, as the idle alarmists would have us believe. No; every hand will then be put to work, to make up by skill and exertion for that which the owners now receive through a Corn-Law protection. My Lord Lazybody will have to quit the south of Italy, and come and find out his estates. Squire Foxhunter will have something else to do than break down the hedges of his neighbours. The lords of the soil will be forced to breathe the bracing air of our northern climate. There will be fewer buildings wanted in London, but more in the country. Absenteeism will be changed for home occupancy, and the dilapidated huts of the peasantry will be replaced by modern cottages. Subsoiling, draining, manuring, field-squaring, and hedge-ridding will find employment for vast numbers, and ships of all sizes will be despatched for manure, to join in the effort to give supremacy to British agriculture. Instead of the steward being first and all, the tenantry will get to see the owner of the estates; and he from his books and breakfast table will be seen proceeding to direct and superintend the labourers on his estates. The language of despondency, which now hangs upon the lips of the protectionists, will be changed into that of defiance; and instead of going to Parliament, and beseeching the honourable House to rob others for their benefit, the high tone of self-sustaining agriculture will be sounded in every quarter. The everlasting complaint of bad farming will soon cease; and masters of land, like those of mills, will talk less and work more, instead of taxing others for their support. We believe the repeal of the Corn Laws absolutely necessary to real agricultural improvements; and when this is brought about, instead of the League being regarded as a pest, the character which is deservedly its due, as the best friend to agriculture, will then be acknowledged.—*Preston Guardian.*

The members of the Plymouth Free-Trade Association are duly alive to the importance of the registration of voters, in the prospect of a new election. "Register, register!" were the emphatic words of Sir Robert Peel when giving his advice to his adherents at a certain London festival; and we firmly believe that this advice deserves the vigilant attention of all political parties.—*Plymouth Journal.*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, July 10, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

Thomas Prout, Rast-hill, Wandsworth	£20	0	0
John Procter, 16, Cheapside	25	0	0
Suse and Sibeth, 35, Lime-street	15	15	0
Dr. Epps, 89, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury (4th subscription)	1	0	0
William Garstang, 22, Castelnaw, Barnes, Surrey ..	1	0	0
Joseph Robinson, Middleton Cottage, Stoke Newington-road	1	0	0
John Skeggs, Albemarle Villa, Devonport	1	1	0
James Austin, coal merchant, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead	1	0	0
Robert Romanis, 133, High-street, Borough	1	1	0
R. A. B.	0	5	0
Joseph Smith, 13, Little Tower-street	0	2	6
William Baxter, Marquis of Granby, Union-street, Borough	0	2	6
Workmen of Joseph Twigg and Brothers, Kilnhurst, near Rotherham (7th subscription, since July, 1843)	1	0	0
Rev. W. F. Buck, Burton-on-Trent	0	5	0
Joseph Jesper, Birmingham	0	5	0
An Association of Operatives in Clerkenwell (4th subscription	0	6	0
B. Hudson, Birmingham	1	0	0
Messrs. Oswald, Allen, and Savage, City-road Anti-Corn-Law Association, 4th monthly subscription, per Mr. Const	0	3	0
Mr. Donald, City-road Anti-Corn-Law Association, 3rd and 4th monthly subscriptions, per do. ..	0	2	0
Wm Smith, Tyldesley, near Manchester	1	0	0
Thomas Jobling, draper, Morpeth, Northumberland	1	0	0
Ephraim Nicholson, do., do. ..	5	0	0
J. N. Hanson, Burton-on-Trent ..	1	0	0
John Woodcroft, High-st, Tutbury, near do. ..	0	2	6
Edmund Radford, do., do. ..	0	2	6
A Well Wisher, do., do. ..	0	2	6
Joseph Corkran, do, do. ..	0	2	6
Charles Jackson, do, do. ..	0	2	6
William Lister, Back-street, do., do. ..	0	2	6
John Everton, do., do., do. ..	0	2	6
John Peach, High-street, do., do. ..	0	2	6
John Ferguson, at J. and G. Cooper's, 87, Church-street, Manchester	0	5	0

AGRICULTURE.

DISTRESS OF THE FARM-LABOURERS—WHAT IS THE REMEDY?

The depressed condition of the agricultural labourers in most of the counties of England is now an admitted fact. In the western counties 7s. and 8s. a week seem to be the average wages of the farming man, while in the eastern counties 8s. and 9s. a week are given; in both districts, indeed universally throughout England, deductions are made from these miserable pittances on account of wet days or other occasional interruptions of out-door labour. The following passage, extracted from the letter of a correspondent of one of the daily papers, shows the state of the labourers in Berkshire, which is by no means one of the worst agricultural counties:—

"A large proportion of the agricultural labourers in this district of the county of Berks are, and have been for several weeks, out of employment. In the parish of Farringdon, from 70 to 100; in that of Buckland, from 50 to 60 persons; and in Stamford, from 30 to 40: say 150 in these three parishes alone. The men who are employed receive in some instances 7s. per week, in others 6s., and even 5s., and boys (in one case) as low as 1s. 6d. per week. The appearance of the labourers who are out of work is such as I never before witnessed pale, enfeebled, and ghastly. During 50 years I do not recollect witnessing so much real distress."

Conceive, too, what must be the state of the peasantry in Suffolk when the chairman of quarter sessions, Sir A. Henniker, finds it necessary thus to guard the rural population from the seductive temptations of transportation. In his charge to the sessions grand jury, he said:—

"There was one subject upon which he would make a few observations, namely, the punishment of transportation; *because a great error seemed to prevail with respect to the subject*, and it was the more necessary that the truth should be told at the present period, from the too frequent commission of a certain crime in particular districts of the county, for which transportation was the punishment awarded to those found guilty of its committal. *He believed there were many persons who imagined the punishment of transportation to be light, and that, after the preliminary imprisonment in this country, and the confinement consequent upon the sea voyage had ceased, upon arrival at the penal settlements convicts were better fed and better clothed than they could hope to be in this country;* and that, with the exception of being under the obligation of leaving their families, there were but few pains and penalties in their new condition, *and that their position was better than honesty and industry could secure for them here.* Those who held such opinions were, however, sadly mistaken. Such was not the case now, *however it might have been.*"

Besides, the cottage accommodation of the peasantry is so insufficient, that, though they often live in hovels scarcely fit for human habitation, they are obliged to pay enormous rents for even such scanty shelter. Lords and squires, and protectionist associations made the most audacious denials of these things, until actual inquiry in the west and the incendiary fires in the east proclaimed these facts with a force which even the brazen mendacity of the monopolists could no longer resist or deny.

This is the condition of the farm-labourers after twenty-nine years of monopoly; and yet a few purblind landowners in the Lords pretend that *their* monopoly of corn is necessary for the welfare of the peasantry. Yet the very Lords disbelieve it, and only act upon the lie for party-political purposes.

The evil, then, being proved, admitted, deplored, the practical common sense of the British public immediately asks what is the remedy? Two have been put forward and advocated with somewhat of zeal. The one is a relaxation of the poor law, by which more legal charity may be afforded to the labourer and his family, and upon easier terms than under the present poor law; the other is the giving to each rural family a plot of ground on which they may grow wheat and potatoes for their own consumption. But both remedies are totally inadequate to the necessities of the case, and both are put forward with a view to distract public attention from the real and only remedy. As to the false and fraudulent pretence that poor laws can meet the evil, it is sufficient to observe that the peasantry want not charity but justice; not parish pay and outdoor relief, but steady, certain, and regular employment, at fair wages. The only legitimate purpose of a poor law is to provide against the casualties and temporary or permanent infirmities of those who, living on daily wages, can scarcely lay by a provision to protect themselves from such ills. Then, as to allotments being a remedy for low wages, this is so absurd, that nothing but the gravity with which some well-meaning persons have advocated it could entitle it to notice. That a garden, a plot of forty perches of land, is a minor benefit to an agricultural labourer, we fully admit. It is an amusement, an object of interest, and becomes a sort of saving's bank in which he lays by a few spare pence and a little spare time, which would otherwise be wasted; and thus an allotment improves the condition of the employed labourer. But even this is not an unmixed good, especially to those labourers who are partially employed or whose wages are very low, inasmuch as it induces them to live very much on potatoes, and thus lowers their standard of living.

Now, what is the only effective remedy for the distressed condition of the peasantry? Can any one doubt that it is more employment, more constant employment, and at better wages? And how is this improved employment to be found? There is but one source, though that would be a most effective one, namely, improved agriculture. If any one doubts this, let him ascertain where agricultural wages are highest; and he will find that in Lincolnshire, and other districts where capital has been applied to husbandry upon the largest scale and in the most business-like way, wages are full one-third higher than they are in Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, and Buckinghamshire, where the farmers are poor and dependent, steward-ridden, and game-ridden. Now, there is no magic in a chalk hill in Lincolnshire. There are chalk hills in Dorsetshire and Wiltshire; there are undrained vales in the west, ay, in every English county, on which three times the capital now employed might be used profitably to all parties concerned. The labourers would be the first to benefit by such outlays. There would be no longer any cry of redundant labourers: there is, in fact, no redundancy of agricultural labourers in any part of England; and if only one-half of the land were well cultivated, such would be the increased demand for workmen in husbandry that we should hear nothing of turning off men on wet days, and so forth, for farmers would be too glad to secure and keep their constant hands. Again, if any doubt the effect of good farming on the condition of the labourer, let them observe the way in which the best farmers treat, and pay, and retain constantly their labourers. Let them see how a Lattimore or a Hutley finds twice the employment for workmen that inferior farmers do on the same number of acres. It is thus plain that nothing but a general improvement in husbandry can improve the condition of the peasantry; all who pretend to have any other specific are intentionally or otherwise diverting public attention from the actual and effective remedy. And what is it but the CORN LAW that prevents the general extension of agricultural improvements? Good farming requires capital, and capital will not be laid out without secure tenures, and complete dominion over the land on the part of the tenant-farmer. Now, the corn monopoly alone enables the landowner to extract from a poor and dependent tenant, who half cultivates his land, a rent which a wealthier tenant rendered independent by a long and *rational lease* could pay with ease. But then with a dependent tenantry the landlords get rent, with game and votes into the bargain. This, and mortgages, form the great objects for which the landowners cling to the Corn Laws. How long will the people of this country submit to be robbed, and to see the whole rural population rendered destitute and demoralized for the sole purpose of upholding this system?

THE *TIMES* REPORTER AND THE CORN LAWS.

The following passage occurs in one of the letters from the able correspondent of the *Times* upon the state of Suffolk:—

"The farmer, however, is not without some excuse for his thriftiness, and some ground of complaint. His produce brings a lower and lower price, whilst his rent and expenses continue the same. Without entering into a Corn-Law argument, on which subject your readers must have heard and read *usque ad nauseam*, the facts of his complaint are deserving of attention. I heard an old farmer the other day say at Ixworth, that he had work for eight or ten labourers more on his farm, but he could not afford to employ them with his wheat selling at 26s. a coomb. *The difference between this price of wheat and its price two years ago (32s. a coomb) was more than double his rent.* I have made some inquiry into this, and I give you the facts. Average land in Suffolk will grow seven coombs of wheat per acre, that is, three quarters and a half. Land of this description lets at from 20s. to 24s. per acre. There is very little land not accommodation land let for more. The difference, therefore, in the price of the produce of an acre of wheat, at 52s. a quarter (the present price), and 64s. (the price two years ago), is three and a half times twelve, or 42s. per acre, just double the rent."

It is quite apparent from the above paragraph that the *usque-ad-nauseam* arguments of the Leaguers have not been very carefully studied by this intelligent writer, who has been mystified at secondhand by the monopolists, through their dupe, the Ixworth farmer. The Duke of Richmond's party assert, and the poor old Ixworth tenant believes them, that the rent of land amounts to only 6s. a quarter on wheat. Their object is to persuade the farmer, on the one hand, that, if the Corn Laws were abolished, no reduction of rent would enable him to grow wheat in competition with the foreigner; and, on the other hand, to convince the consumer that less than one halfpenny in each quartern loaf goes to the landlord for rent. Again and again have we exposed the shallowness of this fallacy, yet still do the monopolists insult the understandings of the farmers by its repetition. Their argument is founded on the false assumption that *every acre which pays a yearly rent, also grows wheat every year.* But the truth is, not one acre in four on an ordinary tillage farm is devoted to the growth of wheat in the same year. Yet every acre pays rent—whether it be lying fallow, or growing turnips, beans, or oats, or remaining in permanent pasture. The leases and agreements imposed upon the tenants by these very landlords, generally restrain them from growing more than a certain quantity of wheat, and interdict them from breaking up meadows and pastures. Now, if the Anti-Leaguers mean to argue that wheat is the only saleable produce out of which rent is paid, they must put the rent of four acres at least, and more probably five, upon each acre of wheat.

But wheat, although the chief remunerating crop, is not the only article taken to market by farmers. Barley is an important item. They also make a profit of turnips through their cattle and wool, and they frequently turn a portion of their oats, beans, clover, &c., into money. The only way in which a farmer can calculate what proportion the rent he pays bears to his other outgoings is, by keeping a strict account of all he receives for his sales of every kind, and then ascertain how much of the money goes to the landlord. He must exclude altogether from this *money* calculation the produce consumed upon the farm for horse-keep, seeds, &c. These items should be taken into account if his object be to ascertain the particulars of the distribution of the gross produce; but, as they are never converted into money, they can have no bearing upon the question of *money price.* If a farmer wishes to ascertain how much rent he pays upon a quarter of wheat, the mode is obvious. He must turn the whole of his sales of all kinds of produce into quarters of wheat, and then ascertain how much per quarter the rent amounts to. We have seen this tried frequently, and the result has shown that the rent is scarcely ever less than 20s. on each quarter, and in the best farming districts it frequently amounts to 26s., *or one-half!*

LORD DUCIE AND THE MONOPOLISTS.

A number of statements, or assertions—*ipse dixitims*, as Bentham would have said—have been put forth by the monopolists in various parts of the country, with a view to weaken the effect of Lord Ducie's clear and practical demonstration of the fact that, *with a sufficient capital*, wheat may be profitably grown in this country at a cost so low as to make competition, in ordinary years, quite innocuous to a good farmer. But all his lordship's assailants are singularly inconclusive, and entirely fail to meet the question. For instance, a Mr. Samuel Jonas, who dates from Ickleton, in Suffolk, estimates the cost of fallows for turnips and other green crops thus:—

"Bayldon says the cost will amount, without rent, tithe, and taxes, to £9 14s. 2d.; add to this your lordship's own charge of 50s. per acre for rent, tithe, and taxes, the total will be £12 4s. 2d. From this sum we must deduct half the amount of the manure charged by Bayldon, as well as by your lordship, at £5 per acre. From the sum of £12 4s. 2d., therefore, I deduct 50s., as your lordship has charged that in the cost of the wheat crop.

This brings the expenses down to	£9	14	2	for fallow for turnips.
Your lordship's statement of expenses for producing the wheat crop	5	14	6	
Total expenses of the two years' crop	£15	8	8	

Now, this statement is, upon the face of it, absurd. It may cost £10 an acre to bring land from a state of neglect into that of good cultivation, but to rate the expense of a root crop, on well-cultivated land, at that sum, is a simple falsehood. It can only be got up by charging an arbitrary and ideal price for the labour of the horses, and by making, or pretending to make, nothing of the fallow or green crop. Let us try this by a practical case or two. If,

after the wheat crop is off, the land be sown with winter tares; here there will be simply one ploughing, harrowing the land, and drilling the seed, together with the cost of the seed. Now, an acre of good tares will keep fifty sheep a month, and, with a pint of corn to each sheep daily, they will speedily get fat. And does this Mr. Jonas pretend that there would be no profit from such a use of the land, or that the whole cost of the green crop must be laid upon the wheat? And the root crops and clover crops may be tried in the same way.

With such an infirm foundation for his positions, Mr. Jonas's statements won't go for much; but let us see what is the experience upon which he impugns Lord Ducie's statements. He says he is no land-agent, and adds:—

"I have been brought up at the plough's tail, and am a tenant-farmer, *now occupying* 1700 *acres of arable land, and growing annually about* 400 *acres of wheat*, which I do sincerely wish cost me only 28s. per quarter to produce."

It would have been more satisfactory if Mr. Jonas had stated his average produce of wheat per acre, and the amount of capital to the acre he employs upon the farm; and then we should, probably, have seen plainly enough why—besides the ridiculous exaggeration of expenses—he cannot produce wheat at 28s. per quarter. How many bushels of wheat above 20 does he grow to the acre, taking one year with the other? Does he employ £15 per acre of capital to the acre—which would amount, on his 1700 acres, to £25,500—or has he even £10 an acre? The latter would require £17,000. We would venture a wager Mr. Jonas has not half that sum—£8500—on his farm. If this be so, and from what we know of farmers, especially protectionist farmers, we have no doubt that it is, this defender of the Corn Laws has a farm three or four times too large for his means, and thus—though possibly a man of some considerable capital—he is, in fact, a poor farmer, half cultivating his land, and, with scanty returns, relying chiefly upon high prices for profit. Let Mr. Jonas give up 1000 of his 1700 acres, and employ all his capital upon the remaining 700 acres, and we will answer for it he will be able to grow wheat at a much lower cost per bushel, and to farm with more profit to himself than heretofore. Above all, he will cease to look to artificial scarcities and national calamities as the grand elements of his individual success.

Another objector, with infinite, we had almost said infantine, simplicity, gives in the *Mark-lane Express* the following

"ANSWER TO WHITFIELD EXAMPLE FARM STATEMENT.—In 1842, ten acres of land of mine were fallowed, heavily manured and limed, sown with wheat; *the wireworm destroyed the whole.* In the spring of 1843, I drilled oats on the same ground, and seeded it down with clovers; *the oats failed in consequence of the wetness of the season.* I ploughed the ground over about midsummer, broke it down and put in turnips, boning it heavily, *but the season was too far advanced to make a full crop.* These were eaten on the ground, and the land this spring sown with oats and seeded again, *and from the dryness of the season will just find me seed again, or perhaps a quarter to the acre.* This field has in two years been seeded six times, manured, limed, boned, and brought forward nothing. *Query, how much profit is there?* Lord Ducie will perhaps tell me."

Lord Ducie, or any other good farmer, would tell this simpleton that all these errors must have arisen from the bad condition of his farm, or his own negligence, or, probably, a combination of both. The "wireworm" is an unfailing indication of the poverty and exhausted condition of the land, and, moreover, its ravages may be stopped by the prompt adoption of means well known to farmers, which give solidity to the ground. The failure of oats from wetness could only have happened because the land wanted draining, and the subsequent failure of the turnip crop was almost the necessary sequence of former errors. Even in the present season, the oats ought to have been in the ground before the commencement of the drought, and then there would probably have been plenty of grain, though the straw might have been short. This person belongs to a very numerous class of farmers, who are always "a day after the fair"—men commonly known as "afternoon farmers"—and, in all probability, in his case as in that of most others, this arises from want of capital and the unimproved state of his farm. One of the first effects of improvement is to render the farmer much less dependent upon seasons than before; if the season be wet, his well-drained fields allow him to take advantage of any short cessation of rain to put in his crops, and when once in they are in no danger, for no quantity of wet weather can very seriously injure the crops on drained land; so, if the season be dry, his land being well pulverised, and the staple deepened, his seed having been sown early, the crops make such an advance before the drought becomes confirmed that, instead of no crop like his unimproved neighbours, the good farmer has an abundant return. Besides, after a farm has been once got into high condition, it is cultivated with a positively lower cost than a low-conditioned farm. The last statement worth noticing is the following by three monopolist farmers and *land-agents*, who, after referring to Lord Ducie's statement of a farm near Stow and Northleach producing twenty bushels to the acre, say:—

"In the above statement his lordship has estimated the produce at from *one-fourth to one-fifth too much on the average of seasons*; and the straw to be consumed on the premises at two-thirds above its value, and full double the value *even to be sold off*. If his lordship will take the trouble to amend his calculations upon those two items, he will find the cost of growing a bushel of wheat so great as to throw the poor land on the Cotswold-hills out of cultivation, should a Free Trade in corn take place.

"JAMES KEARSEY,
"PETER MATHEWS,
"DANIEL TRINDER.

"Cirencester, June 20."

Do these land-agents mean to assert that fifteen or sixteen bushels of wheat are all that can be grown on the Cotswold-hills *with good farming?*—and it was from farms tolerably well farmed that his lordship's statements were taken—or that the straw of an acre of wheat is not worth 5s., *even to be sold off?* These assertions are so preposterous as to carry their own refutation. Why, if only fifteen hundred weight of straw should be produced on the acre at 6d. a hundred weight, which is not a spending price, it amounts to more than Lord Ducie has charged. But this system of low produce and high expenses is one created by the Corn Laws, and which can exist no longer than the Corn Laws last. But then the occupation of Mr. D. Trinder and company in valuing in and selling up the farmers might be somewhat diminished.

A COUNTRY GENTLEMAN ON THE GAME LAWS.

In the very sanctum of monopolist and squirearchal prejudice—in the quarter sessions meeting of the justices of the peace for Buckinghamshire—an incident occurred a few days ago, which plainly shows that much of the seed of sound agricultural knowledge sown by the LEAGUE has fallen upon good ground, and is springing up abundantly. At the meeting of the Buckinghamshire justices to vote away the money of other people, which they call transacting "county business," the adoption of the report of the "NEW GAOL COMMITTEE" having been moved, Sir Harry Verney proposed as an amendment—

"That it is the opinion of this court, that in the construction of the proposed county gaol, it is desirable that the east and west wings only should be proceeded with, and that store-rooms and other offices be provided, *so that the institution may be complete without the addition of the south wing;*"

and in so doing he made a speech which deserves to be both applauded and recorded. Applauded, because, though in accordance with the opinions of the most intelligent persons of the day, it must have required a high effort of moral courage on the part of the speaker to address to the landed blockheadism of Bucks; and recorded, because it affords decisive evidence of the fact that amongst our intelligent country gentlemen the real wants and burdens of agriculture and the agricultural classes are becoming understood and acknowledged. *Sir Harry Verney* said:—

"The new gaol was calculated to accommodate 300 prisoners, and the largest number ever known in this county was 270."

And there was reason that an improved classification and discipline about to be adopted would tend materially to lessen crime, by preventing the younger offenders coming in contact with the more hardened culprits. He thought also the magistrates ought to provide a better system of police:—

"They were about providing accommodation for 300 prisoners, when they ought to be turning their attention to the prevention of crime, which was of more consequence than the punishment of it when committed. With a competent and efficient police establishment, 200 would be ample to provide accommodation for; but this efficient police the county could not have in the present body of parish constables. Crime is increasing rapidly in the rural districts. The inhabitants of towns were hardly aware of the demoralization now going on in the agricultural districts. An intelligent person had told him (Sir H. Verney) the other day *that the increase of crime was entirely in the rural districts;* in the towns nothing was heard of this."

On that ground alone he might urge his amendment. But there is a more deeply-seated moral disease in the county. Sir Harry said:—

"There was another subject to which he would call the attention of magistrates. *He had been led to a consideration of this subject by the scrutiny of the financial accounts of the county,* which he had gone into in company with his brother members of the finance committee. If he were wrong in his opinions, he hoped some magistrate would set him right—but, if right, he hoped they would adopt his motion. *He was of opinion that the game laws were a fertile source of crime, and of consequent expense and demoralization to the community.* Of 539 prisoners, 169 *went to gaol for infractions of the game laws.* They were taken to gaol at the public expense, kept there at the public expense of the county, and their families kept in the union-house at the expense of their parishes. This ought not to be. *As game was preserved for the mere amusement of the country gentry, those who kept preserves ought to be at the whole expense of the game prosecutions, and of the maintenance of the poachers in prison.*"

True; but even the maintenance of their own poachers by the squires would afford no redress for the demoralization and crime their game laws and game preserves occasion. Sir Harry, however, knew his audience, for he continued the same argument to the breeches pocket, which alone the squires, as a body, can comprehend, when he said:—

"He was come to the conclusion *that the whole expense of prosecuting and keeping poachers and their families ought to fall on the gentry preserving game.* The parish ought not to be made to bear the expense, nor ought the county, nor ought we to be building a gaol for the reception of poachers."

Then, the actual mischief caused by game is enormous:—

"Property in game ought not to be protected as other property, inasmuch as it had not the responsibilities of other property. *Game preserves were the source of great mischief; farmers lost a great deal by the depredations of the game; labourers by the want of employment, for it was impossible to have good farming where there was much game;* and the whole community lost by the destruction of food which game occasioned. Game affords great temptations to crime and to the infractions of the law. A labourer could earn but 9s. or 10s. per week, while in one fortunate night a poacher could make from 20s. to 30s. *And when once a labourer is tempted to leave his daily employment for poaching, he soon becomes depraved, and is led to the commission of real crimes.* If, while he is out prowling in the night-time, he cannot capture any game, he will be led to take a sheep; *and thus are criminals made by the game laws. Our great game-preservers are thus the cause of all this crime, and this for the mere amusement of the country gentry.*"

Not a justice dared to gainsay this. We shall see presently how they attempted to meet it. It is especially incumbent on the Buckinghamshire justices to look to these things.

"We (said Sir H. Verney) country gentlemen ought to meet and take this matter into our serious consideration, examining the question in all its bearings. *There are districts in this county where the game-preserves are so large, and the game so plentiful, that the preservation of it costs the community as much as another income-tax.*"

Dr. Lee seconded the amendment, saying:—

"*The game-laws were the source of crime in this country, and ought at once and entirely to be done away. He quite agreed that the expense of prosecuting poachers ought not to fall on the county at large.*"

The monopolists and game-preservers made this sorry defence:—

"*Mr. Carrington* expressed *warmly his disapprobation* of a debate on the police question *and the game-laws* being thus raised on a mere question of detail, quoting a saying of Sir William Jones, that the administrators of the laws ought not to consider themselves wiser than the laws themselves. *The object of the game laws was to make game the property of those to whom they belonged, and to protect that property.* Should the Legislature think proper to withdraw that protection, and refuse *also to protect the property in turkeys and guinea fowls*, they (the magistrates) must submit; but why introduce the subject here? Sir H. Verney seemed to forget that he was not in Parliament. Such remarks might be appropriate there, *but quite out of place in a court of quarter session.*"

No doubt the squires thought these remarks quite out of place at quarter sessions; but what say the public?

Let us, however, take the squire upon his own terms, and see whether the "protection" which the Legislature has thought fit to accord to "turkeys and guinea fowls" would not be sufficient for game; and this rampant game-preserver tacitly admitted that he could not demand more. If a man keeps turkeys and guinea fowls upon the speculation that they can be fed on *other people's* crops, it is clear that his poultry may be destroyed, and himself subjected to actions of trespass for the depredations they have committed. Why should not the same law be applicable to game? Again, suppose a landowner should offer to let a farm *at the full market rent*, and impose, as a stipulation, that from 500 to 1000 "turkeys and guinea fowls" should yearly breed and be fed on the farmer's crops, besides from fifty to sixty wild sheep, would not the very silliest dupe of the protection societies who calls himself a farmer laugh in such a landowner's face? Yet that is exactly what the landlords do daily, substituting pheasants, hares, and rabbits, for turkeys, guinea fowls, and sheep.

Sir Harry stuck to his text, and in reply said:—

"If we had a good and efficient police force, the large gaol would not be wanted; *and as to the game laws, it would be an honour to the county if it could be brought to make a stand against those fruitful sources of crime and expense.* WE ARE NOW BUILDING A GAOL FOR THE RECEPTION OF POACHERS. (*'No,' from Mr. G. Pigott.*) Yes, we are building a gaol for the reception of poachers, *criminals made by the laws enacted merely for the amusement of the country gentry.*

"*Mr. Pigott* interrupting: Don't say we are building *a gaol* for the reception *of poachers merely;* there are other criminals besides those committed for infractions of the game laws.

"*Sir H. Verney:* Well, then, WE ARE BUILDING ONE WING EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RECEPTION OF POACHERS: OF 539 PRISONERS COMMITTED, 169, THAT IS, ONE-THIRD, ARE POACHERS."

And the justices were dumb. But will not this speech find an echo in the hearts of the English yeomanry? We sincerely hope that Sir Harry Verney will occupy a seat in the next House of Commons; and we should be delighted to see him sent there by a rural constituency. Such are the men farmers should, and if they had real votes doubtless would, choose as *their* representatives.

The justices then tried to get rid of the amendment upon a point of order, and a tiresome discussion ensued thereupon; but they were finally obliged to meet it by a direct negative. Let it therefore be understood throughout the British empire, that, in the county of Buckingham, ONE WING OF THE GAOL HAS BEEN BUILT EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RECEPTION OF POACHERS, CRIMINALS MADE BY THE LAWS ENACTED MERELY FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF THE COUNTRY GENTLEMEN!!

GAME-PRESERVING AND INCENDIARISM.

We have long since, and often, referred to the game laws as a constant cause of the demoralization of the peasantry in the agricultural districts, yet none but residents in those districts are fully aware of the potency of that cause. Our remarks upon the subject have led to much discussion of the "game-law nuisance," and every day brings forward fresh testimony to the effect, that, not only is game-preserving one of the main causes of that defective husbandry which renders so many farmers afraid of foreign competition, but that it is most detrimental to the national morals. The following letter by "A FARMER," dated from Bury St. Edmund's, in Suffolk, and addressed to the editor of the *Times newspaper*, presents rather a new phase of the evils of the game laws, while it fully corroborates much we have said upon the subject. The writer, after stating the *Times* "must not leave unnoticed our code of game laws" as one of the causes of "that fearful state of recklessness" amongst the agricultural population indicated by the "nightly fires," says:—

"It will perhaps excite surprise when I state that those *who are the chief encouragers and instigators of poaching, and that in its worst form*—when it is followed as an occupation, instead of honest industry—*are the country gentlemen themselves.*"

And in this way the "Farmer" tells us:—

"You will also be surprised to learn that it is quite a common thing for the gamekeepers of gentlemen to buy pheasant and partridge eggs from notorious poachers. In this town they have a regular market price of 1s. an egg. A noted poacher near here boasted to a magistrate that he had made 15s. before breakfast that morning by selling pheasants' eggs. But if he could sell there must have been those that would buy. A gentleman wishing to preserve his game appoints a gamekeeper; the man is engaged, because *he knows his business* and his master wishes for game. *The more game on the estate, the better he will please his master, and he is allowed every necessary expense.* We will inquire presently what class of men the gamekeepers are taken from. The gamekeeper does his best both to *get* and to preserve game; and to stock his master's ('Squire A's) estate, the game eggs on Sir B's (his neighbour's) estate have been duly stolen by the poacher, and sold to 'Squire A's keeper, of course without the knowledge of 'Squire A. *But what if the poacher should be detected, and taken before 'Squire A as a magistrate?* Why, 'Squire A shakes his head at him, says, 'Oh! you lazy, hardened ragamuffin, will you never cease poaching? *I must send you for six months to gaol and hard labour, as incorrigible.*' But breeding is a slow process, and 'Squire A may wish to afford his friends a *battu*. He tells his keeper he has three gentlemen coming down from London to shoot next day, and he hopes there is game enough. The keeper *knows his business*, and he knows too, well enough, that there is hardly a head of game on Squire A's estate, but there is a little on both Sir B's and Squire C's, on each side of it, which have been preserved. Well, the gamekeeper sends to Dick the poacher in this village, and Jack in another village, and wants to see them, and by a sort of half-pantomime, half-mysterious set of ejaculations, Dick and Jack are given to understand that '*of course* they know where the game lies;' and 'he should not wonder,' if Sir B's and Mr. C's covers were well brushed and beaten that night, it might be as good as a sovereign a piece in their way. Of course, the poachers don't know that Mr. A's gamekeeper tells them this, and of course they do not drive

Sir B's and Mr. C's game on to Mr. A's estate, and of course they do not expect a sovereign for the job. If they should be caught by Sir B's keepers or Mr. C's, and be taken before Squire A, justice of the peace, why Squire *A must ex officio assert the majesty of the law, and send them to gaol.* Sometimes, however, it happens that there is no game-preserved estate near Squire A's, and then the gamekeeper is rather in a fix. But he pantomimes to Dick the poacher, who undertakes the job. Dick sends word to an associate in a preserved district to net as many pheasants as he can; if he cannot get them in this way, he writes to some London dealer in game, with whom he deals, and the pheasants are procured one way or another, and sent down in baskets to Squire A's preserves. Squire A has Lord D coming to join his *battu*; Lord D fires away, and knocks down Squire A's newly-arrived pheasants, and praises Squire A on his capital preserve and his quantity of game, and wants to know if he will part with his keeper, little thinking that they came from his own preserves, ten miles off, two or three days before. Squire A is pleased, because his friends are; the keeper is praised and rewarded, and the poacher—picks up a living. But should the poacher 'get into trouble,' that is, get caught whilst poaching for Squire A, through the instigation of Squire A's keeper, and be taken before Squire A; well *then, of course Squire A has a horror of poachers, and, like a good game-preserving English gentleman, he sends him to gaol, and perhaps gets him transported.* BY DEGREES THIS SORT OF THING GETS QUITE SYSTEMATIZED. There are here and there about the villages notorious poachers who take out licenses to shoot, having which they are entitled, under the New Game Act, to possess and sell game to dealers. These men do not often poach themselves, but have in their pay some dozen who do, and receive all their game. If their assistants are taken while poaching, they pay the fines inflicted on them, and get them defended. One of these men not long ago was taken before a magistrate near here, notoriously severe on poachers. The case against him was fully proved, and just before the magistrate was about to fine him, the poacher addressed him on the bench—'You must be as lenient as you can, Mr. M., for the fine will all have to come out of your preserves in the next three days.' It is not very long ago *that nearly 500 head of pheasants were stopped near Tunstall, on their road to London; and at Colchester, not many weeks ago, several large crates crammed with game, and weighing many cwts., were stopped at the railway train at Colchester on their road to London.*

"A fishmonger in this town (Bury) just before the hatching season had a guinea a brace offered for live pheasants for breeding, if he would procure them. *The offer, of course, came from a game-preserver, and the demand, had it been acceded to, must have been supplied by poachers.*

Thus is it that the very makers of one of the most iniquitous laws which ever disgraced a civilized nation are amongst those who offer the most constant temptations to its breach. Then contrast the large gains a labourer may *occasionally* make by these means, which render it no matter for wonder that,

"*Notwithstanding, therefore, the severe laws to prevent it, poaching is quite common, and with such encouragement it is likely to be.*"

Again, sheer distress—always the consequence of the fluctuations and bad farming resulting from the Corn Laws—is another source of poaching. The "Farmer" says:—

"Others again are tempted by want to steal eggs in order to live. *And many an honest labourer, not knowing where to get work or bread, and refused relief,* unless he will abandon his cottage and go with his family into the union house, there to be separated from them and from every earthly consolation, which he will not submit to, is driven to poach in order to live, because he thinks it better than to beg or steal. If, no matter what led to the offence, the poacher is detected, he gets into gaol, and then, in the emphatic words of one man to me, '*he is done; many of the farmers dare not employ him if they would, others will not;* he cannot go any where but he is watched; *he can get no employment, and he must poach again in order to live, or do something worse.*'"

And in nine cases out of ten he does eventually become a hardened and a desperate criminal.

The writer also fully recognises the direct pecuniary loss occasioned by game, when he says:—

"But this is not all the evil. Does the game itself do no mischief? In the *Suffolk Chronicle* of last week I observe a well-written letter, written by a gentleman of character of the neighbourhood of Ipswich. He says:—'Many a respectable proprietor and occupier of land has to deplore his contiguity to the estates of our game-preserving landlords, and many an industrious tenant of theirs to rue the day that he entered upon his tenancy. *A farmer,* and neighbour of mine, assures me *that last year, off twenty-four acres of barley which he sowed, he did not reap ten coombs; and that £200 per annum would not cover the loss which the game occasioned to his crops.* Another remarked that the game might frequently be seen of an evening, by hundreds, feeding upon his land, and were he to shoot one, he could not tell the consequence; it was distressing, he said, to be obliged quietly to witness the destruction of his property. *I have no hesitation in saying that I believe there is not a tenant-farmer on these game preserved estates that does not curse the system bitterly in his heart;* and it is generally admitted that you cannot calculate the amount of mischief that is done . . . All lovers of good order must deeply regret the disaffected state of our rural population; it springs doubtless, in a great measure from ignorance, coupled with misery and want. But these have their causes; *and I venture to suggest, more particularly in reference to the latter, the game laws as one of them; they are barbarous in their origin, wasteful and destructive in their operation, demoralizing in their effects upon the lower classes;* they generate ill-will between landlord and tenant, are injurious to agriculture, and, in short, are an evil crying loudly for redress.'"

And it is to maintain this state of things that Corn Laws and artificial scarcities are to be visited upon this industrious nation!!

THE GAME LAWS! THE FARMER'S BANE, THE PEASANT'S CURSE.

It is scarcely possible to take up a provincial paper published in a rural district without being struck with some wrong or oppression, some injury or crime, arising out of the game laws. From the landlord-ridden and ill-cultivated county of Buckingham we have often cited instances of the oppressiveness of the game laws, and the widely-extended demoralization they cause amongst the rural population. And our readers will doubtless remember the name of a "Captain Dayrell," as that of a magistrate often reported as assisting in those legal immolations of country labourers which pass by the name of "game-law convictions." It is not a small aggravation of this cruel law that it must of necessity be carried into execution by partial judges, for every country magistrate is either a game-preserver himself, or he is a game-preserver's ally, or a game-preserver's toady. This is especially the case in Buckinghamshire, where the magistrates lately gave, as the act of the body, a considerable gratuity *out of the county rates*—in other words, out of the farmers and tradesmen's pockets—to the rural police, for their diligence in apprehending poachers! Nor have such rewards been fruitless, as the following report of a trial in the Court of Exchequer, which we have extracted from the *Times* newspaper of last week, will bear witness:—

"COURT OF EXCHEQUER, Thursday, June 27.—(Sittings at Nisi Prius, before Sir F. Pollock, Chief Baron, and a special jury.) Burnell *v.* Dayrell and Seaton.—Mr. M. Chambers and Marsh were counsel for the plaintiff; and Mr. Jervis, and Mr. Humfrey appeared for the defendant Dayrell, *Seaton having suffered judgment to go by default against him.*

"This was an action of trespass for *falsely arresting the plaintiff on a charge of stealing some pheasants.* The plaintiff is a respectable man, and coachman to a lady, by whom he is allowed *to rear pheasants and to deal in dogs.* The principal defendant, Captain Dayrell, *is a magistrate in the county of Bucks, where he has a large estate,* near the town of Buckingham. From the evidence adduced by the plaintiff it appeared that certain pheasants having been '*lost or stolen*' from the seat of Captain Dayrell, the lady of that gentleman, he being then in town, sent over about it to Buckingham, *whence the defendant Seaton, who was a policeman of the borough, was despatched by the superintendent to town, on certain reasons which were not disclosed, for the purpose of searching the premises of the plaintiff.* Seaton accordingly went there, and by the permission of the plaintiff took possession of nine pheasants, which, *together with the plaintiff, he carried off in a cab to Captain Dayrell's house,* in New Cavendish street. That gentleman being out, the plaintiff went over to the offices of a friend, Cooper by name, an attorney, where the matter was gone into. *Soon afterwards Captain Dayrell came in and claimed the birds as his property, while the plaintiff most indignantly repudiated the charge,* and asserted that he could fully account for his possession of them. In the course of the conversation which ensued, *Seaton admitted that he had no warrant for arresting the prisoner, but said, 'it did not signify, as, if he had exceeded his authority, the justices would help him out;'* to which the captain said, 'No, that was not the case, for the justices would do no such thing.' *After this, however, he gave a sovereign to Seaton, who went off with the plaintiff and the birds to Buckingham by the last train.* Arrived there, the plaintiff was *locked up that night,* and on the following morning was admitted to bail till the same evening, when, *no one appearing to prefer any charge against him, he was finally discharged from custody, and the birds restored to him.* Besides these facts, certain witnesses were called, to show that the birds in question were fairly reared at Headcorn, in Kent, and forwarded thence by the breeder to the plaintiff. At the close of the case for the plaintiff,

Mr. Jervis addressed the jury, contending that there was no evidence on which they could safely come to the conclusion that Captain Dayrell had given the plaintiff in charge. The fact was, that *Seaton had exceeded the law no doubt, but his own client was not concerned in the matter* [what about the sovereign?], and ought not, therefore, to be included by the jury in their verdict. If, however, they should think otherwise, it was clear that it was not a case for more than nominal damages. *Captain Dayrell did not intend to make any charge now, at all events;* and the plaintiff having had an ample opportunity of vindicating his character, which was the ostensible cause of his bringing the action, had not therefore any valid ground to ask for substantial damages.

The learned Chief Baron then summed up the case to the jury most impartially [Alderson is dead, and Pollock presides in his stead], and left it to them to say what damages the plaintiff was entitled to as against Seaton in the first instance, and in the next whether they thought Captain Dayrell was guilty of the trespass laid to his charge by interfering and uniting with Seaton in his illegal conduct towards the plaintiff.

"The jury, after a short deliberation, *returned a verdict for the plaintiff, with £20 damages against both the defendants.*"

Upon such a case it is impossible to comment; every one who has a heart to feel and a head to reflect, must grieve at the terrible store of retribution the landed aristocrats are laying up for themselves.

The next case we shall refer to occurred in Essex, where a farmer was convicted in a penalty under the game laws for destroying pheasants' eggs *on his own farm,* at the instance of some person who would appear to rent the manor of the landowner!!!

"BRENTWOOD PETTY SESSIONS, June 13. Before C. T. Tower, Esq., P. Button, Esq., and the Rev. T. Ludby.—DESTROYING PHEASANTS' EGGS.—Mr. Henry Robinson, of Dunton, farmer, appeared to answer an information for destroying pheasants' eggs, *he not having the right of killing game, nor permission from the person having such right.*—Mr. C. C. Lewis attended to support the information, and Mr. Hilleary for Mr. Robinson.—Mr. Lewis called Benjamin Kent, who stated, *I am underkeeper to Mr. James, and assist to look after the game on White Hall Botney Farm, in the parish of Dunton, and in the occupation of Mr. Henry Robinson.* For the last six weeks I knew we had lost eggs off that farm, *having missed them from the nests,* and in consequence they had been strictly watching. I knew of a pheasant's nest in the Twelve Acre Field, which is in the parish of Dunton, *and in Robinson's occupation, and about half-past six on the evening of Sunday, the 2nd of June, Dickerson and myself looked into this nest.* Saw several eggs in it, but did not know how many. I saw they were then all right. I kept about the spot watching this nest, and about an hour afterwards saw Robinson coming towards it. I then laid in the ditch, and, seeing him on the bank of the Twelve Acre Field, crawled along the water-furrow in the wheat towards the nest. He was at this time standing on the bank. I saw him look round three or four times, as I supposed to see if any one were there. He then came off the bank into the field, and walked directly up to the nest, which lay in the hedge about twenty yards from where he had been standing on the bank. *I saw him then strike into the nest with his right hand three or four times. I was at this time lying in the furrow, and immediately got up and ran to the nest.* He saw me coming before he left the nest, and he then went out of the Twelve Acre Field the same way he came in, and walked as fast as he could. *I went to the nest and found nine eggs in it, and eight just broken.* I produce the nest and eggs just as I then found them. After I saw the eggs were broken, I followed Robinson and overtook him in the next field. I said, 'Well, Mr. Robinson, then you won't leave off destroying the game. He said, 'I have not destroyed any.' 'Why,' I said, 'you've broken all the eggs in that nest,' and he answered, 'If that is a pheasant's nest, I never saw one before.' He then said he would give me a spank on the head if I told him he broke the eggs any more. *Then he said, 'I have destroyed them, and I will, in spite of you or your master. I'll be d—d if I keep the d—d vermin any longer.'* I then went and informed my master and afterwards went with Dickerson and fetched the nest; it has since been at Mr. James's house, and it is now exactly in the same state as it was when I went to it after Robinson left it. I have measured the distance from where I was lying from the nest, and found it to be as nearly as possible 150 yards. Mr. Hilleary then addressed the bench on the part of the defendant, but called no witness, nor said anything to shake Kent's testimony. *The defendant was convicted in the full penalty of 40s., being 5s. an egg, with the cost of the conviction.*"—*Chelmsford Chronicle.*

Yet, will it be credited, our landlord legislators, finding this law *not sufficiently stringent,* have just passed a law making it felony for two labourers to be seen walking near a game preserve, and, probably, for we have not yet read the act, making it a misdemeanour for the farmer to destroy the game-vermin which are eating him up alive?

THE LOST MONOPOLISTS.

The following very natural inquiry appears in the columns of a monopolist newspaper:—

"THE AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION SOCIETY.

"*To the Editor of the Farmer's Journal.*

"Sir,—Pray can you inform me whether the Agricultural Protection Society in London have yet distributed a single tract. What are they about? Mr. Alison's pamphlet, published under their sanction, *is of that class that not one farmer in a hundred would be at the trouble of reading as lengthy and argumentative a production.* Why do not the Committee circulate some articles addressed to the labouring classes, and let them be sent to every parish in the kingdom? H. H."

The "Central Protection Society" is singularly unhappy in its publications: if it writes, or employs others to write briefly, its alleged facts are discovered to be fictions, and its pretended authorities to be misquotations, as witness Mr. Cayley's notorious tract. On the other hand, when monopoly is sought to be defended by such cloudy argumentation about things in general—the real points of the Corn-Law question only excepted—as is the case with Mr. Alison's pamphlet, the farmers, on whom alone these make-believes are intended to act, reasonably enough treat such tracts as unintelligible.

But, for the information of the farmers who still delude themselves by reliance on protection and protectionist legislators, we may inform them that the Duke of Richmond, having effected his own little family arrangements at the Treasury, is doing nothing; that the Duke of Buckingham is helping the Duke of Richmond, and that all the rest of the "Central Committee," at the room in Bond-street, when they go there, are energetically engaged in supporting the Dukes of Richmond and Buckingham. The secretary reads the *Morning Post* diligently, and receives his salary punctually; while the mortgaged owners of unimproved farms are resting on the comfortable assurance that they will receive for another year all the rent they can get from their impoverished yearly tenants, under terror of the law of distress.

Will any monopolist venture to deny the literal truth of this statement—of the no-doings of the "Central Society?" And what do their dupes think about it? The next general election may show.

THE TRUE FARMER'S FRIEND.

We generally find those who have taken upon themselves this title leaving their deluded clients in the lurch whenever a personal or politico-party object is to be gained; but in the following paragraph we find mention made of a "farmer's friend," whose instincts are sure to lead him constantly to befriend the game-ridden tenant-farmer.

"POACHING EXTRAORDINARY.—We have often heard of the ravages committed by the hooded crow on the eggs of game during the breeding season, but we were scarcely prepared for such a proof of wholesale destruction as the following fact discloses. A few days ago Mr. Purves, tenant of Linton Burnfoot, *ascertaining that there was a hooded crow's nest in a certain tree on his farm proceeded to the spot with his gun with the intention of destroying the brood of young, before they took their departure from the parent nest.* On arriving at the place, however, Mr. Purves was much disappointed in discovering that the whole brood had flown. Knowing the destructive propensities of this vermin, he had the curiosity to examine the ground around the foot of the tree, *and was so astounded at the number of partridge egg-shells which he found strewed about, that, lest he should be accused of exaggeration, he took the precaution of requesting two gentlemen, his neighbours, to assist him in counting the shells, when, to their astonishment, they picked up the enormous number of one hundred and ninety six shells of partridge eggs, within a few yards of the tree!* The whole of these eggs were evidently consumed in feeding the young birds; but how many the old lady and gentleman had themselves gobbled up without ever bringing them near the family domicile, it would be difficult to estimate.—*Kelso Mail. It would be a happy thing for this county if the breed of hooded crows could be encouraged about Wotton.—Aylesbury News.*

We know a farmer whose farm is surrounded by game-preserves, who tells his men never to omit to destroy a hare or a rabbit, but to be especially careful to preserve all the weasels and polecats. If this plan was more generally acted upon by the tenant farmers, they might abate some of the game-nuisances by which they are so often injured.

FREE LABOUR IN BRAZIL.—The provincial authorities of Rio de Janeiro have engaged with a Mr. Bergasse, a French gentleman, to grant him two leagues square of land in that province, for the *express purpose of cultivating sugar by* 600 *European emigrants* (part of 2000 offered). We shall then be importing *free-grown* and *slave-grown* sugar from Brazil. Shall we receive the one and reject the other, or how establish such certificates as shall distinguish the one from the other?—*Globe.*

"PROTECTION" MANUFACTURERS OF PRESTON.—We find it reported in the *Sun* of last Wednesday that Lord Stanley presented a protection petition from Lancashire, which he stated was signed by 23 out of 47 of the principal manufacturers of Preston. Now, we are anxious that some gentleman should do suitable honours to these friends of dear food and little trade, by favouring the public with their *names,* and the amount they have *subscribed* in attestation of their zeal in the cause. We want this, first to remove our scepticism as to the truth of this report; and, secondly, that the reputation for sanity of those who have *not* signed it, may be fairly secured to them. The spinning lords and weaving lords in Preston signing petitions for the perpetuation of a system of robbery upon the people! Our faith refuses, upon a newspaper report, to believe that 23 of this class can be found in Preston to answer to such a charge. At present trade is good, but we fear the causes for it are not of a permanent character, and when the next cycle of little trade and no profit comes round, we want to be able to remind these champions of protection, be they few or many, of their supporting a system which has long aimed to ruin our trade and strangle our commerce.—*Preston Guardian.*

LEEDS PETITION IN FAVOUR OF THE CORN LAWS.—On the evening of Tuesday week, Mr. Wm. Beckett, one of the members for this borough, presented a petition to the House of Commons, just before Mr. Villiers's motion came on, "from the bankers and merchants of Leeds," in favour of the existing Corn Laws, or, as it is more plausibly called, "in favour of protection to agriculture." Of this petition we can safely say that nine-tenths at least of the honourable gentleman's constituents never heard of its existence till they read of its presentation, and that, though it might be signed by *certain* bankers and merchants in Leeds, it was not the petition of *the* bankers and merchants in Leeds, as the affair was so carefully *smuggled* that a majority of those classes, so far from signing the petition, were never consulted upon the subject. In short, the whole affair was a disreputable sham, and forms a very fair standard whereby to estimate Pro-Corn-Law petitions from other places.—*Leeds Merc.*

To open letters is esteemed the greatest breach of honour. Even to look into them already opened, or accidentally dropped, is held an ungenerous, if not an immoral act.—*Pope.*

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"John Dent, a Free-Trader, Greenwich," having only entered into possession of his cottage on the 5th of July, is not qualified to vote for it this year, unless he has happened to move from premises within the same borough which would have given him a vote. Let him, however, not lose a moment in being rated, because he must be rated for twelve months to enable him to be registered next year. Does he pay his own taxes? Or if not, will £3 pay all the poor-rates and assessed taxes due for the cottage for a year? Remember the premises must be of the *clear* yearly value of £10. By applying at 65, Cheapside, all further information will be furnished.

"J. Egalston, West-end, Tring."—A copyhold worth £10 and upwards, clear annual value, possessed for six months prior to the 31st of July, entitles the holder to a vote for the county in which it is situated, provided he send in a claim to the overseer of the parish prior to the 20th of July.

"R. C., Todmorden."—A lease, the original term of which is only *twenty* years, will not confer a county qualification unless it be of the yearly value of at least £50. An annual value of £10 would do only if the original term of the lease were for *sixty* years.

"An Enemy to Monopoly (G. P.)," is informed that even at 5 per cent., purchase money to the amount of only £37 would not yield 40s. interest; and as the return for land is calculated at only about 3 per cent., the qualification is not sufficient. He may bring up his freehold to the value by building or other improvements. Probably £10 or £12 more expended would raise the freehold to the required value.

"A Non-elector" from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, renting a ten pound case, can claim to be put on the register and have a vote. His lodger cannot.

We have received a copy of a hand bill, issued by Mr. Goodliffe, a grocer, of Nottingham, which, in addition to the usual form of advertisement, contains the following table, showing the comparative amount of a week's consumption of the principal grocery articles in a working man's family, at the present duties and duty free.

PAYING PRESENT DUTY.	s.	d.	IF DUTY FREE.	s.	d.
3 oz. tea	1	0	3 oz. tea	0	7
¼ lb. coffee	0	6	¼ lb. coffee	0	4
3 lb. sugar	1	9	3 lb. sugar	0	9
1 lb. lump ditto	0	9	1 lb. lump ditto	0	5
2 oz. tobacco	0	6	2 oz. tobacco	0	1
	4	6		2	2

Being a tax of 2s. 4d. per week, besides that upon bread and many other articles of daily consumption.

"C. P."—The hint is under consideration.

The author of "National Regeneration" must excuse us for declining to enter into any discussion of the probable events of future war; we believe that the extension of commerce consequent on Free Trade will knit nations together in bonds of fellowship too strong to be broken for the gratification of the selfish ambition of warriors, or the sordid avarice of contractors.

"S. P."—The conversation was interesting, but it would not do for publication.

"An Elector."—The League will not be found wanting, should the crisis which he anticipates arrive.

"Salisbury Craig."—Not quite up to the mark.

"T. T."—When two members on opposite sides agree to withhold their votes they are said "to pair off."

"A Free-Trader."—We shall not lose sight of his hints.

"A Poor Man."—We regret that his verses do not suit.

"A Country Subscriber."—Mr. Spencer's admirable address has been printed in a cheap form.

"A Correspondent" wishes to know whether his Grace of Richmond is a whisky-dealer as well as a fishmonger, and calls our attention to the following extracts from an advertisement of Glenlivat whisky:—"This whisky, produced in the district of Glenlivat, upon the estate of his Grace the Duke of Richmond, in the Northern Highlands, and pronounced by all connoisseurs to be by far the finest and purest spirit made in any part of these dominions, is now for the first time publicly introduced into London, under the patronage of his grace. By his grace's permission, the ducal arms upon the seal or label will distinguish the real Glenlivat from all others."

We regret the error committed by the trustees of the Anne-street Schools. The League has no connexion with any political party: it exists by the people and for the people only. "Free Trade" is no cry of party warfare: it is as purely a principle of science as the law of gravitation. We believe that the trustees acted under mistaken views, and, instead of censuring them, we only request our friends to enlighten their ignorance.

"A Leaguer" sends the following lines: they have some obvious imperfections, but their merits in substance may atone for their defects in form:—

BEES AND DRONES.

When I reflect upon my country's woes,
And see her noble sons her greatest foes—
Whene'er I hear the wailings of the poor,
And view the deep privations they endure—
When I perceive such vast extremes of state
Betwixt the many and the few elate—
My conscience boldly asks, "Can this be just?"
But reason turns away in sad disgust!
Who frame the ships that waft our produce far,
And build the great leviathans of war?
Who weave the cloth that sails to ev'ry shore
In ocean's calm and in its wildest roar?
Who reap and sow and cultivate the land,
And its unknown productive pow'r expand?
Who the proud palace and the hall construct,
And excavate the mighty aqueduct?
Who cut the quarry and explore the mine,
And make all things—ingenious, rare, or fine?
If Reason the unsullied truth may tell,
She answers thus the simple questions well:—
The bees who daily gather wealth for others,
While left to starve their children, wives, and mothers!

Who dwell within the splendid princely domes,
And desolate the people's cheerless homes?
Who feed on luscious and abundant meat,
While millions ask the privilege to eat
Untax'd the *common food* of other lands,
And yet refuse to grant their just demands?
Who in the richest manufactures shine
That art and skill or fancy can design,
While toiling thousands, robb'd and starv'd by law,
Are cloth'd in rags and sleep on beds of straw?
Oh, who deny the labourers their right,
And industry with poverty requite?
The silly drones, who, in their careless sloth,
Now hover round the candle like a moth.
The bees may rise in intellectual might,
For justice soon a moral battle fight,
And clip their golden law-created wings,
And leave them pow'rless as dethroned kings!
Then, then shall plenty sail with ev'ry breeze
In each direction on the boundless seas,
And base Monopoly's gigantic form
For ever sink beneath the peaceful storm.
Then shall mankind in bonds of love be bound,
And reciprocity with olive-branches crown'd.

June 24, 1844. J——s C——R.

"Dr. Æ. J. B."—We take some extracts from his printed letter on "Class Legislation," which are well worthy of attention:—"Oppression has its limit, and a knowledge of the evils which have so long oppressed the industrious classes, is developing, and, consequently, a *severe* struggle by the aristocracy to maintain their undue and *unjust* power. The *artificial* high price of corn, as a boon to the landed interest and the clergy, and other monopoly laws, have pressed on the *mental* and *physical* exertions of the people, so as to *shorten* life, and render that *abridged* life miserable. The *artificial* high price of food also induces deleterious adulterations, a serious evil, which can only be removed by a free trade in *all* articles *necessary* for man's subsistence. * * * * It is imprudent, under the present state of our monopoly laws, for any man to embark his property on an improved or scientific system of agriculture, without a sufficient term of lease to ensure him a fair return for the capital he employs. Monopoly laws, and no leases, have kept the English farmer in ignorance. How many farmers of the present age can say what are the saline or metallic properties of the land on which they are severally employed? Until this knowledge is acquired, how can they apply the necessary manures to reduce the redundancy in one field, or benefit the sterility of another? The increase of population requires the elements of mineralogy, botany, and chemistry, to be taught, as being as necessary for those engaged in scientific agriculture as a knowledge of numbers, and as easily acquired. Free Trade is the great stimulus to all improvement, but, under prohibitory laws, no nation can continue prosperous or happy. * * * * The artificial state in which this country has been kept since the close of the last ruinous war is expatriating the most valuable portion of our labouring classes, when *Free Trade*, scientific agriculture, and manufactures would employ *more* than twice our population. When the various and infinite properties of the earth come to be studied by men of education, in behalf of agriculture, the extent of employment in the preparation of manures will be as great an astonishment as the improvements in steam and manufacturing machinery."

"T. W."—The controversy is happily at rest, and it would be unwise to revive it.

There are some valuable suggestions in the pamphlet on "Free Votes," to which we shall perhaps take an opportunity of directing attention.

"A Radnorshire Farmer."—The matter is under consideration.

"A Friend to the League."—His proposal will be laid before the Council.

"Sigma" has been anticipated.

"Rusticus."—The reports on the state of the agricultural poor, published in the *Times* newspaper, furnish an edifying commentary on the honesty of that philanthropy which overlooks the misery of the farm-labourers at its own door, and seeks objects of sympathy in "the region of tall chimneys." Rusticus, in the main fact, agrees with the correspondent of the *Times*. He says:—"It is, unquestionably, a fact that the labouring population in this part of the country have, for several years past, been the subjects of deep distress; and it is also true that this long-continued and increasing suffering has engendered in the minds of many of them a sullen spirit of dissatisfaction, if not of absolute revenge; but it is the opinion of many enlightened men, who are thoroughly acquainted with their wrongs and their woes, that to charge the labourers with the perpetration of the odious crime of incendiarism is a *gross calumny*. Perhaps a few of the fires may have been lighted up by some 'lewd fellows of the baser sort;' but it is our opinion, that, as a class, they are cruelly maligned when it is even insinuated that they are the authors of the infernal deed." Now, we are not of those who ascribe rick-burning to any class of men, but we have the experience of all ages, from the days of the Jacquerie down to those of Rock, Irving, Rebecca, and Terry Alt, to prove that the invariable causes of agricultural outrage are, to use the words of Lord Charlemont, "misery, oppression, famine." The sources of the rick-burner's crime are sufficiently legible in "The Home of the Rick-burner."

There is much energy in the following stanzas sent by "A Leaguer," which redeems their occasional offences against good taste:—

STANZAS.

"The farmers believe they have put down the League."—
Mr. Bankes—late debate.—*Times.*

At the squire's command, throughout the land,
And into their mud below;
By the horse's neigh, and donkey's bray,
And the mighty Bull we know,
That dwelleth alone in Tamworth Park,
The League is crushed low!
And a chorus of squires 'gan out to shout,
"We have killed the monster now!"

"Hurrah," shout the squires, who claim the shires,
And the *votes* that in them dwell,
And gather the bread from the famine-fed,
To fat their lapdogs well;
And make, while the labourer leaner grows,
Their bellies sleekly swell!

"Hurrah!" shout the squires, whose *feeling* sires
This jolly Corn Law gave;
They could not bear that the belly's share
Should fall to the toiling slave!
So they builded this den of want and pain
Over the hideous grave.

"Hurrah!" shout the squires, while Suffolk fires
Redden the midnight sky;
"Hurrah for our law!" while Famine's claw
Is ground in the labourer's stye.*
"Hurrah for the squires!" and speed them well,
When the hour of doom is nigh!

But while in the mind of humankind
A love of right shall be,
The hero will make his life the stake,
That nations may be free!
And we will stand with a dauntless front,
Though *your* wrath were a burning sea!

Several correspondents of the Jewish persuasion have requested the writer of the review of "Coningsby" to direct his attention to the social condition of Judaism in England, with especial reference to the dispute between the Sphardim congregation and the seceders from that body. It appears to us that the controversy turns on points with which Christians, who directly reject the whole body of Jewish tradition, in or out of the Talmud, have no business to interfere. Chiarini's virulent attack on Judaism is based on the anti-social character of the oral law; and while we unhesitatingly reject his libel, we feel that there is some difficulty in reconciling the requirements of the Mishna, and still more of the Gemara, with the ordinances of European states. The present division in the Sphardim congregation appears to arise from a difference of opinion as to the best mode of solving these difficulties. We can only recommend moderation to the disputants; the penalty of *Cherem* is one not to be wielded lightly; those in past ages who launched bolts of excommunication too lightly have found them return upon their own heads.

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

Any person forwarding 3s. 3d. by Post-office order, to the Publisher, 67, Fleet-street, London, will have one quarter's copies of the LEAGUE forwarded by post on the days of publication. Subscriptions for the paper may also be left with J. Gadsby, Newall's-buildings, Manchester; and the LEAGUE may be had by order of any news-agent in town or country. Subscribers who receive coloured envelopes on their papers must bear in mind that their subscriptions are due.

* See Cobden's speech on the committee for inquiry.

POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, July* 13, 1844.

The Birmingham, like the Kilmarnock election, offers the strange spectacle of rival candidates standing on the common ground of Free Trade, and risking by their disunion the return of a monopolist. However gratifying it may be, as a proof of the progress of sound opinion, that the Free-Traders of Birmingham feel themselves so strong as to be able to afford a division of their forces, it is far from pleasing to find that other considerations, beside the great question which now almost exclusively occupies the attention of the country, have been set forth to influence the decision of the electors. Not the least of the reasons that induce us to call for the total and immediate abolition of the Corn Laws is, that, so long as they exist, the struggle for their removal will prevent the attention of the public from being directed to the ameliorations necessary in other parts of our social system. Even those who deem such reforms more important than the abolition of the Corn Laws, should, under present circumstances, make the latter their primary object, because these laws are the greatest obstacle to the consideration of all other reforms. Skilful engineers clear the ground before they begin to erect their batteries; so long as the Corn Laws stand between monopolists and the advocates of free representation, all the shot directed against restricted franchise must fall short of the mark.

However the members of the League may feel grieved at a contest between two Free-Traders, they cannot interfere in the strife. Those who adhere to Sturge and those who support Scholefield equally give their votes in favour of the principles of the League, and the strength of our cause must be measured by the aggregate of the votes given for both candidates. Should this unhappy division give an opportunity to the monopolists for obtaining a temporary triumph by the return of Spooner, such an event will be far from proving that the cause of monopoly has made any progress in Birmingham: it will only show that the supporters of truth and justice have not known how to use their strength aright. In such a case the Free-Traders will have learned a lesson which a child may read; they will have had an opportunity of discovering which of the rival sections has been most in favour with the monopolists, and, consequently, of knowing which has displayed such imbecility of intellect, or infirmity of purpose, as to play the enemy's game. The borough of Marylebone, under similar circumstances, set an example which deserves to be imitated by every enlightened constituency. Means were taken to ascertain by a fair ballot the relative strength of Sir Charles Napier and Mr. Young in the electoral body, and when the latter found himself decidedly in a minority, he not only gave way, but zealously supported the Commodore at the election. This is a precedent which immediately suggests the moral, "Go and do thou likewise."

EPITOME OF NEWS.

The Thames steamer, which arrived on Saturday last at Southampton with the West India and Mexican mails, had on board one of the richest freights ever known from that quarter of the world. In addition to 81 passengers, she brings 1,419,203 dollars, £317 10s. British coin, 883 ounces of gold dust, 2228 ounces of silver, 2404 ounces of plata benta, pearls valued at 20,000 dollars, 203 serons of cochineal, 9 boxes of vanilla, and 91 serons of indigo.

The whole of the West India papers are filled with articles against the Government measure for the reduction of the duty on foreign coffee and free-labour sugar; and in all the islands meetings were being held to memorialize the Queen on the subject. Upon the calculation that the alteration in the duty of sugar will cause a reduction of 5s. per cwt. on the produce of the West Indies, the planters of Demerara alone, it is said, will annually lose £140,000.

Of the sugar crop the *Jamaica Times* says:—"The rains, which we had hoped would have been general, have unfortunately not proved so; for the entire of Vere and St. Dorothy, and the greater part of Manchester and Clarendon, are suffering from drought, and great fears are entertained that if we be not favoured very shortly with a change of weather, the sugar crop for the next year will still be ruinously short."

The Great Liverpool steamer has brought the Indian correspondence and passengers coming by way of Southampton. The serious fall here in the value of Ceylon coffee necessarily invests the accounts as to the future supplies from the island with some interest. The crop was expected to be an average one, and early, although there had been an unusual absence of rain; labour was abundant and cheap, and estates were still changing hands in this rising colony at an enormous profit, while new ones were opening. The shipping season for coffee was over, and prices were nominal, but cinnamon had further advanced.—*Globe.*

Rio de Janeiro papers to the 12th of May have arrived. The Emperor of Brazils opened the Legislature on the 3rd, but no allusion is made to a treaty with England. He expresses himself well satisfied with the situation he stands in with all foreign powers. Papers received from Dominica state that a revolt had occurred in that island, in order to quell which it had proved necessary to exercise martial law. The affray seems to have originated from the taking of the census, some of the black population declaring that sooner than submit they would rise and fight for it. The parties employed had been obliged to

fly for their lives, as the negroes had turned out with cutlasses and bludgeons, evidently determined to put their threat into execution. It was not before the militia were called out, and one of the blacks shot, that anything like order and peace could be secured. Upwards of 200 prisoners were lodged in confinement, and the Privy Council had been sitting daily as a court of inquiry.

Treaty of the United States with the Zoll-Verein.—To our infinite surprise we learn from Washington that there is danger of the rejection of the reciprocal treaty lately formed with the German Customs Union, for the extension of our markets for cotton, rice, and tobacco among the thriving population of Germany. The treaty, as now signed, offers to take rice and tobacco at low duties, and cotton duty free, provided we will receive in exchange the articles of German industry most useful to us, or, in fact, to annex Europe, in a commercial point of view, to the United States. Yet this treaty is to be laid over until the next session before being ratified, if not altogether rejected.—*From the New York Republican of June 7.*

By advices from her Majesty's Consul at New Orleans, it appears that the yellow fever has been singularly destructive of life amongst emigrants arriving from Europe during the sickly season of the autumn of the year. The commissioners of emigration have issued a notice warning persons of the danger, and apprizing them that in order to avoid it they ought not to be induced to start from this country during the months of June, July, August, and September.

The *Swabian Mercury*, June 28, contains a letter from Vienna, which says:—"It is stated that the change of tariff, determined on in favour of a free trade with foreign countries, is to be put in force on November 1 of the present year. Eighteen articles will, it is said, undergo a reduction in the entrance dues. Coffee, amongst the rest, which at present pays 21 florins the quintal, will be admitted at 12 fl.; but the duty on refined sugar will be augmented. Raw cotton is to enter freely. Foreign linens will pay 12 fl. in place of 15. Watches to be admitted on payment of a florin each."

Several modifications of the Austrian customs tariff came into operation on the 1st instant. The chief reductions are on cotton, thread, and coffee.

The Spanish Government is seriously preparing to make war on Morocco. An army of 6000 men is under orders for Ceuta. The plan of operations is stated to be the taking possession of Tangiers, which, with Ceuta, is called the key of the Mediterranean. In the debate in the Chamber of Peers in Paris on Tuesday, M. Guizot stated that of the three things demanded of the Emperor of Morocco, the second demand, that of the punishment of those Moorish officers who had first ordered the violation of French territory, had been already granted.

The Irish State Trials.—The arguments before the House of Lords on the writ of error, in the case of O'Connell and his fellow-prisoners, were begun on Thursday, the 6th instant, and concluded on Wednesday last. A number of legal questions growing out of the case, drawn up by the Lord Chancellor, were agreed to by their lordships, and have been submitted to the judges for their opinions.

It was generally expected that judgment would have been given on Thursday in the House of Lords, in the writ of error case of the Queen and O'Connell and others. It appears, however, that the reply of the judges to the *eleven* queries have not yet been received. The Chief Justice of the Common Pleas (Tindal) remained in town on Thursday to prepare draft answers to the queries, to be forwarded to the other judges on circuit who attended the argument in the Lords. As some days must elapse before the replies of the judges, expressing either their acquiescence in or their dissent from the draft answers, can be received, the judgment is of course deferred.—*Chronicle*

On Saturday last a public meeting was held in Freemasons' Hall, for the purpose of forming a society for promoting social and intellectual intercourse amongst Irishmen resident in London, irrespective of religious and political differences. The Marquis of Clanricarde presided. Resolutions in support of the objects of the meeting were moved and seconded by Mr. E. Tennent, M.P., General Caufield, Lord Castlereagh, Sir D. Norreys, M.P., Lord Trimlestown, Captain Taylor, M.P., &c. In the course of his speech Mr. Tennent stated that one important feature of the society would be, in addition to social meetings, the holding of at least one or two *conversaziones* during the season, and at which an opportunity would be afforded of exhibiting the works of Irish artists of every branch—of Irish painters and Irish sculptors—and which, enlivened as they would be by Irish music, would present no ordinary attraction to their own countrymen, and from which it would by no means be their object or their wish to exclude their English friends.——The Irish Municipal Repeal Declaration has received the signatures of 334 civic officers of towns in Ireland.——At the Lewes quarter sessions, on Wednesday, James Simmonds, of Maresfield, shoemaker, aged 75, was indicted for unlawfully attempting to hang himself by the neck to a tree. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.——On Saturday a young man, of respectable appearance, 22 years of age, who gave the name of the Hon. Wm. R. Touchett, brother to Lord Audley, was charged at Bow-street with shooting Thos. Smith, a gunsmith, at 288, High Holborn, with intent to murder him. It appeared that the prisoner went on the same day to a shooting gallery in Holborn, kept by Smith, when he requested to have pistols to shoot at a target; and that, while the latter was loading a pistol, the prisoner discharged the contents of one he held in his hand into Smith's back. Smith was taken in a dangerous state to Bartholomew's Hospital. The prisoner assigned as his sole reason for the act that he was unhappy, and wished to be hanged.——An inquest was held on Friday last before the coroner for Herts, on the body of a child of tender age named James Dyce, son of a chimney-sweeper, who was suffocated in one of the kitchen flues at Goldings, the seat of Lord Reay. Verdict, "Accidental death."——Very numerous applications have been made to the Home-office for a remission of the sentence on Barber, who is now on board a convict-ship about to sail for New South Wales; but we can state that they have all been unsuccessful, and we believe there is no intention whatever to remit any part of the sentence of transportation for life.——A stable and shed, containing various implements, the property of Mr. Suff, a brickmaker, at Shrubs-hill, near Virginia Water, were fired in the day time, a few days since, and wholly consumed. This destruction of property, to the amount of upwards of £100, was no doubt the act of an incendiary.——The ship Leo has arrived at the port of Berwick with a complete cargo of guano from Chinca, or the Bug Islands. The captain states that he loaded his vessel (about 426 tons) in 48 hours, the guano lying as thick as 300 feet; and that, had it not been for the trouble of stowing, it might have been done in four or five hours.——About half-past twelve o'clock on Saturday night last, a stack of oats, supposed to contain about fifty quarters, the property of Lord Wharncliffe, was fired in five places in the stackyard at Wortley-hall. The fire-engines from Sheffield, with a body of the Sheffield police, arrived about two o'clock, and prevented the flames from communicating with the stacks adjoining. A strong suspicion exists in the neighbourhood that it was the act of some misguided collier, while others attribute it to political animosity against the noble owner. Lord Wharncliffe was insured.——It is stated in a French newspaper that ninety-five parricides have been committed in France within the last ten years.——The *Limerick Reporter* announces that the proprietor and printer of that journal were held to bail upon an indictment for a portion of an article which appeared in the *Reporter* about a month since, calling upon the people to arm. The article was written under the excitement produced by the imprisonment of Mr. O'Connell and the other traversers.——The ball which killed Lord Nelson has been presented by Captain Vincent Beatty, in whose possession it had long been, to her Majesty.——The *Observer* states that the reprieve in the case of Dalmas, the murderer, has been granted *solely* on the ground of insanity. The report of Doctors Monro and Sutherland, who were appointed to examine the state of the convict's mind, was so positive on this point as to leave no alternative to the Home Secretary.——A few days ago two men descending to their work in Thornley colliery were killed by the fracture of the rope.——Several men employed in the Beaufort mines have lost their lives from having inhaled a quantity of carbonic acid gas, produced in the mines by subterranean combustion. The whole of the men employed in these mines have abandoned their work in consequence.——Monday afternoon a special train on the South-Western Railway arrived at the terminus, Nine Elms, containing nine tons and a half of Sycee silver, which had been brought from Portsmouth, under convoy of a detachment of the 47th Regiment of Foot. The above specie is part of the money agreed upon by the Chinese Government to be paid to this country for the ransom of Canton.——The Royal Naval School at Deptford is nearly built, and will cost the country £10,000.——Prince Albert has accepted the office of President of the Society for the Improvement of the Condition of the Labouring Classes.——The Queen has presented £50 to the Association for the Aid and Benefit of Dressmakers and Milliners.——The Duke de Bordeaux has notified to the Courts of Europe his determination to retain the title of Count de Chambourd. This is said to be for the purpose of avoiding the alternative of accepting or refusing the title of the King of France, which his party has given to him since the death of the Duke d'Angouleme.——The London committee announce that they have received £3500, in sums of from one penny to ten guineas, in aid of the national testimonial to Mr. Rowland Hill.——The sum of one hundred guineas, offered by a liberal churchman of Manchester, through the Rev. Dr. Vaughan, for the best Essay on Popular Education, has been awarded by the adjudicators to an essay from the pen of the Rev. Dr. Hamilton, of Leeds.——The number of petitions for repeal of the Legislative Union, presented up to the 21st of June, was, according to the 33rd report of the public petitions' committee, 415, and the number of signatures attached 875,489!——According to *La Gazette de France* there are at present twenty-seven editors and conductors of newspapers suffering imprisonment in France. Since 1830 journalism has paid in fines alone the enormous sum of 7,500,000 francs (£300,000.) The united amount of imprisonment suffered by journalists during the same period is equal to 184 years and 10 months.——A company has just been formed in Devon, the object of which is "to afford to the landowners and agriculturists of the western counties increased facilities for the thorough draining of their land, by advancing the necessary capital, repayable by instalments, and by furnishing the requisite materials at less cost than they can at present be procured.——At the present time passengers are actually being conveyed from Newcastle to London, by steam-boat, at the rate of *two shillings* per head.——The pitmen of Cramlington, Bedlington, and Radcliffe collieries, have passed resolutions at public meetings to continue the present strike.——The progress of building steam-vessels of iron, instead of timber, is making way in the most influential quarters. Among these may be mentioned the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Company. This company have finally resolved on laying down a series of iron steamers of the first class for their Mediterranean service.——Almost every succeeding day adds to the resources of practical science, and multiplies the developments of human skill. Paper is now, it seems, to be made from *wheat straw;* and it is affirmed that both the finest and coarsest qualities can be produced by the new method. The experiment, we hear, is about to be tried on a large scale, mills having been lately taken at Chalford, near Stroud, for that purpose.——It appears from a parliamentary return, just printed, that the amount of duty on patent medicines for the ten years ending the 5th of January, 1844, was, on an average, nearly £50,000 a year.——The amount of rent received during the first five weeks of the imprisonment of Mr. O'Connell is £14,523.——By Lloyd's returns it appears that the annual loss to this country by shipwreck is 610 ships, £2,500,000 of property and 1500 lives.——The value of the copper raised annually in Cornwall is £897,558; of tin and lead, £501,709; in addition to which are 800 tons of arsenic.——The salmon fisheries in Scotland and in the north of England, this season, are unusually full of fish, large quantities of which have, during the last fortnight, been taken, as may be inferred from the fact that in the markets fine large salmon are selling at the reasonable price of 7d. and 8d. per lb., and salmon trout as low as 4d. and 4½d. per lb., of 14 ounces.—*Newcastle paper.*——A field of rye was cut at Marsons Laffitte, in the neighbourhood of Paris, on Tuesday week. The Paris papers say that there is no instance of so early a harvest for upwards of 25 years.——The Repeal Association held its usual weekly meeting at Dublin on Monday last; Mr. Edward B. Roche, M.P., presided. Mr. J. B. O'Neill moved the adoption of a resolution recommending that the 30th of May in every succeeding year be set apart for meetings of all classes of Irishmen to commemorate the imprisonment of Mr. O'Connell and the other traversers. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Grattan, M.P., and agreed to. The amount of the week's rent was announced to amount to £2100.——A meeting of the Catholics of London was held on Tuesday last at the Music Hall, Store-street, for the purpose of adopting an address of sympathy to Mr. O'Connell and his fellow-sufferers. Resolutions to that effect were passed, and a deputation was appointed to wait on Mr. O'Connell with the address.——A young girl, 12 years old, named Elizabeth Warrington, drowned herself in the Ouse, at York, in the sight of several persons who were unable to rescue her. Her only motive appeared to be a fear of being scolded or beaten for staying out. Verdict, "Temporary insanity."——Several agricultural meetings have been held against Sir Robert Peel's Currency Bill.——The Agincourt convict ship, with Barber and Fletcher on board, and upwards of 300 other convicts, left Woolwich for Norfolk Island on Monday.——The Waverley ball, devised for the purpose of raising a fund in aid of the general subscription for the completion of the monument in course of erection at Edinburgh to the memory of Scott, took place at Willis's Rooms on Tuesday night last. Between 1200 and 1300 of the nobility and gentry were present. It is expected that £1000, the proceeds of the ball, after deducting expenses, will pass into the exchequer of the committee.——The will of the poet, Mr. Thomas Campbell, was proved on Tuesday by the executors, Dr. Beattie and Mr. Moxon. The personal property is sworn under £2000. The will and a codicil are dated 1842.——Tuesday the half-yearly general court of the members of the Royal Humane Society was held at the office, Trafalgar-square; Sir Edward Codrington presided. The secretary, Mr. J. Charlier, read the reports of the several committee meetings held since the last general meeting, and at which the several cases had been considered. The total numbers had been 42 on the general list; 39 had been successfully treated; seven men attempted suicide; five had been referred to the general court. In addition to those there were 22 Hyde-park cases, which came under the society's officers; 18 were successfully treated; six were attempted suicides.——On Monday night the fine barque Madras, 931 tons register, lying off Deptford Dockyard, caught fire, and it became necessary to scuttle her in order to save the hull and a portion of the cargo; the rest of the vessel was destroyed.——On Wednesday se'nnight an extensive fire broke out in a large three-story tenement at the foot of East Quay-lane, belonging to the Greenock Railway Company, which was reduced to ruins.——Of twenty-one prisoners in the gaols for trial at the Essex summer assize, *seven* are charged with arson.——A dreadful murder was committed on Sunday night at Salford, by a man named Stew, an excavator, on a poor girl named Alice Nolan, who was employed in a factory. They had kept company for the last few months, and Stew had repeatedly pressed her to marry him, but without gaining her consent. On the Sunday evening he persuaded her to take a walk with him, and on reaching an unfrequented spot cut her throat from ear to ear. He instantly fled, and afterwards cut his own throat. He has been removed to the Manchester Infirmary, where he remains in a dangerous state.——In the new burlesque of "Aladdin," produced at the Princess's Theatre last week, advantage is taken of the popular feeling on the subject of the State Paul Pryism. When the Princess is in the custody of the Magician, after he possesses himself of the lamp, she threatens to communicate her situation to *Aladdin*:—

> "*Princess.* I'll write a private letter in my need—
> *Magician.* You'll find that difficult, just now, indeed."

This was received with repeated plaudits, mingled with hisses for Sir James Graham.

> "*Princess.* I'll write in black and white—
> *Magician.* In black and white—instead
> Your letter in the post will sure be red (read)."

(Renewed applause.)

> "Besides, I have a warrant to delay 'em—
> *Princess.* That would be black, indeed—
> *Magician.* ——not *black* bu *grey*—hem! (Graham.)"

(Renewed and prolonged applause.)—*Atlas.*——The "O'Connell tribute" for 1844 amounts to a figure (£30,000 has been named) that this national impost never before reached.——Mr. Warner, an ingenious watch-maker and jeweller in the Polytechnic Institution, has just completed the model of a high-pressure steam-engine—so small that it stands upon a fourpenny piece, with ground to spare! It is the most curious specimen of minute workmanship ever seen, each part being made according to scale. It is not simply a model outwardly, it *works* with the greatest activity by means of atmospheric pressure (in lieu of steam), and the motion of the little thing as its parts are seen labouring and heaving under the first influence is indescribably curious and beautiful.——A foreign paper says that in Germany the seeds of the grape are fast coming into use as a substitute for coffee.——A discovery was made at Buckingham Palace on Thursday morning that a man employed in the upholstery department of the Lord Chamberlain's office had committed suicide in one of the store rooms. The deceased was of regular and sober habits, and the cause which has led to the sad catastrophe was unknown.——By an arrangement with the Post-office, the down day-mail train between London and Birmingham will accomplish the journey in four hours, and the up in four and a half.

Population of Lanarkshire.—The following statistics are some of the results of the last government census of this county. They have not hitherto been made public: and we are indebted for the information to a friend in England who has had exclusive access to the source from which it has been derived:—

OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY OF LANARK.

Farmers	2,537
Agricultural labourers	9,933
Agricultural occupations	12,460
Not in agricultural occupations	173,262
Total in occupations	185,722
Persons of independent means	6,879
Almspeople, beggars, and pensioners	2,0[illegible]
Other persons not described	1,4[illegible]6
Residue of population, women and children	230,845
Total population of Lanarkshire	[illegible]

—*Glasgow Guardian.*

REVIEW.

Commercial Statistics; a Digest of the Resources, Legislation, and Tariffs of all Nations. By John Macgregor, Esq. London: C. Knight.

We have received a copy of the two first volumes of this inestimable work, which is unrivalled both for the extent and accuracy of its commercial information. It is our purpose to devote a series of articles to the vast variety of subjects which it contains, acting the part of compilers rather than commentators, and to reserve, until the appearance of the third volume, the collection of the important lessons in political economy and commercial legislation which are deducible by easy induction from this assemblage of authenticated facts. We cannot more worthily commence the series than by quoting entire Mr. Macgregor's admirable chapter on the Interchange of Commodities.

"When the interchange of commodities, either raw or manufactured, between the inhabitants of a town or district, is subjected to no other restriction than its just proportion of the tax purely necessary to maintain its *security*, and its *municipal order*, and to defray the expense of erecting and supporting *indispensable public buildings* and *institutions*, we find, in that case, practical *Free Trade* existing, within such town or district, based upon a common interest, which each individual will, from personal interest, struggle to maintain in its peaceful course.

"A great nation is a great community, and all the nations of the earth, if the intercourse and trade between them were as free as between the individuals of a municipality, would then actually enjoy a peaceful and profitable system of common intercourse, based upon common interests, which it would be ruinous to any one of the nations concerned to disturb. The greater the commercial relations between the nations, the more disastrous would be the consequences of a war which would interrupt their reciprocity of interests. In proportion as this commercial and reciprocal interest has been of long standing and of great extent, the greater would be the securities for the maintenance of peace, and the more disastrous would be the calamity of continuing a war between two or more countries so circumstanced.

"All wars are more or less detrimental to the production of wealth, but a suspension of intercourse with a nation in which England finds but a trifling demand for her manufactures, would be of minor consequence, provided such war did not interrupt our intercourse with countries whose trade was of important value. A suspension of intercourse, for example, between England and America, could only with great loss to both, from the long duration and enormous extent of the intercourse, be possibly maintained.

"The sound principle of unrestricted international trade, although laid down long since by Adam Smith, in opposition to the more specious theory of Colbert, has in British legislation only been practically attempted by the Government during the first four years of Mr. Pitt's administration, and during the time Mr. Huskisson was in power, and, afterwards, to a limited extent, by Lord Sydenham. The most extensive and liberal reform in the British Customs duties since Mr. Pitt's Tariff in 1787, is the Tariff of 1842.

"In France neither the Government nor the Legislature have admitted even the principle of Free Trade. Hence the limited commerce of that country with others nations, which, in regard to imports, is restricted, except by smuggling, nearly altogether to raw materials of the first necessity to her manufactures, as cotton, wool, raw silk, dyestuffs, &c. There was one remarkable, but brief, exception to the generally unsound commercial legislation of France. That exception consisted of the moderate duties on imports into France from England, as embodied in Mr. Pitt's celebrated treaty signed at Versailles on the the 26th of September, 1786.*

"A WAR OF MATERIAL INTERESTS, or, more properly speaking, of MATERIAL INJURIES—that is, *a war of custom-houses* or *fiscal forts*, with their *garrisons of revenue officers* and *servants*, has long been declared and carried on between most European nations. This warfare of interests, or injuries, has not ceased with the wars of bloodshed; and if we may ever expect security against a recurrence of the calamities attendant on, and consequent to the latter, it will be in destroying the elements of the former—in short, by the *extension of Free Trade between all nations*.

"Prohibitions and high duties on imports were, as is well known, from an early period common to most countries. England and France, so often and so long at *armed* warfare, were, however, the first, always excepting Spain, who, on a great scale, held up to Europe the example of a perniciously maintained war of *material injuries* against the reciprocal prosperity of both countries. England had her navigation laws, prohibitions, and restrictions on importations and bounties, before France had extensively established those pernicious regulations. In 1664, France, 'in order to engage builders and merchants to construct French vessels, imposed a duty of fifty sous (two shillings) per ton on all foreign vessels.' In 1687, the war of *material injuries*—that directed against the importation of foreign commodities, including all manufactures—was, as a *principle*, fully established by France. Austria, but not until one hundred years afterwards, followed the example, and on the same specious grounds, viz., to force the creation and prosperity of home manufactures, by excluding those of foreign states.

"In the history of Europe we cannot discover a sovereignty, great or insignificant, that has not maintained its war of material injuries against its neighbours, during the usually considered state of peace, as well as when engaged in armed hostilities.

"Germany, in her history, exhibits amply, from its most early period, until within the last few years, the ruinous modes of levying taxes. There is scarcely an old castle in the empire that can be viewed, in the choice of its position, otherwise than as a toll-house and prison, as well as a place of defence.

"The capital of Bavaria owes the origin of its detestable situation, and worse climate, to a quarrel between a duke of Suabia and a neighbouring prince-bishop, respecting the toll on, and monopoly of, salt claimed by the former. The duke, to put an end to the chief business of the bishop, that of smuggling salt, built a strong castle on the banks of the Isaar. This protection occasioned a town to grow up around the castle; and the consequence has been, that one of the most classically built cities of Europe is cursed with a climate and situation worse than that of St. Petersburg.

"Afterwards each petty German sovereign established a line of customs-officers around his frontiers, to levy taxes upon commodities. Intercourse between one state and another was consequently subjected to great expense and inconvenience—industry was crippled—competition smothered—and the revenue itself gained but little, owing to the expense and the corruption of collection.

"The war of material injuries between one German state and another has now, however, nearly ceased. 'The great Germanic Union of Customs,' says Mr. Loehr, 'which for ten years appeared impracticable, was at last accomplished by means of that constant persevering German spirit which pervades and rules over our country—found as well in her enlightened ministers as in the known gratitude of her faithful people. Thus, within themselves, free-trading interest now unites twenty-eight millions from the Baltic Sea to the Alps.' So much for the tariff and regulations of this extraordinary union of material interests, which has destroyed all the barriers to commercial intercourse from the frontiers of France and Belgium to those of Russia and Austria.

"There is no theory probably more flattering to princes and statesmen, or to a whole nation, than to institute measures which hold out independence of all other nations, by producing and manufacturing at home all that is considered necessary and luxurious. It was easy to win a prince and people to adopt the application of so very plausible a theory. Louis XIV. authorized M. Colbert to establish those fabrics which that monarch afterwards, by his *dragonades* and by revoking the edict of Nantes, nearly ruined; while he, at the same time, by his persecutions, drove the most skilful artisans from France into England, Holland, and Germany. M. Colbert was one of the most honest and patriotic ministers of whom France can boast; but, unfortunately for his country, he became dazzled with the fallacious principle of forcing home manufactures by *premiums*, and by imposing duties on those of other countries. He encouraged, by large bounties, manufacturers to settle in France; he protected them by the most despotic laws, without ever considering that he was taxing the many for the benefit of the few,—that he was destroying that competition which creates cheapness and perfection in manufactures,—and that his bounties and duties* were taxes on the whole community, and especially on the agriculturists. To encourage the French West Indian trade he paid a premium out of the national treasury of 30 francs per ton upon goods exported to, and 50 per cent. upon every ton imported from, those colonies. He also established large bounties, which were imitated by England, on the fisheries. His system became exceedingly popular; its promised grandeur flattered national vanity; and neither the prince, nor the people, nor M. Colbert himself, understood its fallacy. We shall hereafter show how fully it has been persevered in down to this day, notwithstanding the changes towards liberal principles of commercial legislation, which have been boasted of both by the French and English press.

"England, under William III., who brought over and bequeathed to us the funding system, declared the French trade a nuisance, and laid a discriminating duty of thirty-three and a half per cent. higher duty on French silks and cambrics than the duty imposed on those of Holland. This was naturally pleaded by the French economists as a full justification of the war of prohibition declared against English fabrics. The latter, it is true, continued to thrive, and it soon became a favourite argument, urged until this day, among the continental advocates of high duties on, or the prohibition of, foreign manufactures, that England, in manufactures, commerce, and wealth, owed her prosperity to her legislation restricting or prohibiting the importation of foreign manufactures.

"They either did not understand, or would not admit, that England attained her prosperity, not by the aid, but in defiance, of her illiberal commercial system, that England owed her wealth and power, and even her liberty, to her geographical position,—to her many commanding harbours,—to the vast power of production yielded by her mines of coal and iron *interstratified*, and conveniently disposed for cheap use and transport, and to the enterprising and industrious character of her people. England also escaped, on her own soil, the perpetual wars which devastated and prevented the manufacturing industry of the continental states of Europe; and although her taxation and her public debt have been carried to an incredible height, and her people compelled to pay far higher for maintaining existence than those of any other country, yet her earlier invention of more perfect machinery, especially of the steam-engine and spinning-jenny, and other circumstances which existed during war, enabled her, in defiance of Napoleon's wars and decrees—in spite of high taxation and dear food—to enrich herself so far as to bear all her war burdens. Her people were enabled to do all this, and to pay those high prices for bread and butcher's-meat, which served to yield high rents to the landlords of the United Kingdom; not by restrictive legislation, but by a most profitable carrying-trade, and by throwing her manufactures with great gain into all the markets of the world, while the industry of other countries was paralysed by the insecurity occasioned by desolating invasions.

"In time of war, the harbours of England gave her military and commercial fleets an incalculable advantage over those of continental Europe. Lying west of the Continent, the prevailing winds, which prevented foreign ships from putting to sea, enabled those of the east coasts of Britain and Ireland to leave their ports; those of the west coasts being at the same time safe, from their position, as well as from the protection of our ships of war cruising in and off the entrance of the English and Irish Channels. Thus, while the nations of the Continent were disturbed in all their industrious pursuits, Great Britain enjoyed, from her geographical situation and commanding harbours, peace at home, and the opportunity of supplying the rest of the world with her domestic fabrics and the produce of her colonies. In defiance of the Berlin and Milan decrees, our manufactures found their way into the heart of Germany and Italy; while, even in France, we clothed the soldiers of Napoleon! Thus, although taxed beyond all possible calculation of endurance, the natural advantages of England, and the enterprise of her people, enabled her to withstand, in magnificent splendour, the convulsions that shook the Continent to its foundation.

"PEACE for *nearly thirty years* has, however, transformed the destructive pursuits of most of the continental nations into occupations of productive industry. The great bulk of their population have, since the year 1814, been engaged generally in agriculture and grazing. Those employed in manufactures have therefore been enabled to maintain life at a lower cost than in a country circumstanced like England. The commercial laws of England, France, and, somewhat later, of Austria, have been the most unsound that the spirit and principle of restriction could well devise. Those of Germany, formerly liberal, are now highly restrictive. Those of Spain were tyrannical, and at the same time unsound and absurd. Those of Portugal inconsistent and capricious. Russia much later adopted the restrictive system; Sweden and Denmark followed the example. The Italian States, with the exception of Rome and Naples, have generally imposed moderate duties. Holland has, since the peace of 1814, and while connected with Belgium, departed from a more free system than that of any other European country, with the exception of Turkey, in regard to the import trade. The present tariff of import duties in Holland, notwithstanding the high taxation in other respects of that kingdom, is the most liberal in all Europe. The United States of America have lately agreed to a most restrictive tariff, which cannot, if persevered in, but be ruinous to their fiscal, agricultural, and commercial interests. The South American States appear to be governed by the same spirit as that which dictated the commercial policy of Spain."

Knight's Weekly Volume for all Readers.—William Caxton, a Biography. By Charles Knight. London: Knight and Co.

Few persons have effected more for the general instruction of the country than Mr. Charles Knight; his "Pictorial Bible," his "Penny Cyclopædia," and the four first volumes of his "Pictorial History of England," are unexampled specimens of the combination of cheapness with real excellence; his edition of the "Arabian Nights" will long remain unparalleled for the exquisite beauty of its illustrations and the extensive learning with which the manners and customs of the Mohammedan nations are elucidated in the notes; and his pictorial edition of Shakspere not only explains every difficulty in the text, but, in addition, affords some of the finest specimens of intellectual criticism to be found in our language. He comes before us now in the double character of a publisher and an author; we but echo the general wish of all true lovers of humanity and national progress when we express a sincere anxiety for the success of the great enterprise which he has commenced; its conception is worthy of the mind that originated the "Penny Magazine" and the "Penny Cyclopædia;" and, so far as the first number may be taken as a test of execution, it promises to surpass the most ardent expectations which its friends could have formed.

A new enterprise for the diffusion of sound literature at a cheap rate is appropriately commenced with the life of William Caxton, our first English printer. As in his beautiful biography of Shakspere, so here, Mr. Knight, instead of confining himself to a collection of the few meagre facts discovered by the grubbing industry of antiquarians, takes a wide range over all the circumstances of the age which were likely to have a formative effect on the character of his hero; he not only brings Caxton before us in his proper person, but he groups round him all the adjuncts among which he lived and moved; he at once revives the man and restores the time in all its form and pressure.

No portion of English history is more fraught with instruction, though none is more disgraceful to the nation and its rulers than that which records the course pursued in our commercial legislation. The chapters devoted to this subject in the "Pictorial History of England" are among the most valuable parts of that valuable work. Caxton's employment in Brabant and Holland, as an agent of the Mercers' Company, has brought the subject of the commercial policy of his age under Mr. Knight's review, and he discusses it with equal learning, acuteness, and high moral purpose:—

"William Caxton was, in truth, an accredited smuggler for lawmakers who attempted to limit the wants, and the

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* The revolution annulled, at the same time, this treaty and its liberal principles of commerce and navigation. It is by far the most remarkable commercial treaty on record. According to its stipulations, "the subjects and inhabitants of the respective dominions of the two sovereigns shall have liberty freely and securely, without licence or passport, general or special, by land or by sea, or in any other way, to enter into the kingdoms, dominions, provinces, counties, islands, cities, villages, towns, walled or unwalled, fortified or unfortified, ports or territories whatsoever, situated in Europe, of the two sovereigns, and to return from thence, remain there, or pass through the same, and therein to buy and purchase all things necessary for their subsistence or use, and they shall mutually be treated with all kindness and favour: provided, however, that in all these matters they conform themselves to the laws and statutes." The same freedom was extended to ships and merchandise. The duties to be paid on French commodities in England were rated as follows:—Wines, no higher duties than on those of Portugal. (In Ireland no more than the nominal duties then paid on foreign wines.) Vinegar less than half the previous duty. Olive oil, the lowest duty paid by the most favoured nation. Brandy, 7s. per gallon. The following duties were to be levied reciprocally in both kingdoms:—viz., Hardwares and cutlery of all kinds, and of whatever metals, cabinet wares, furniture, turnery, &c., not higher than 10 per cent., *ad valorem*. Cotton and woollen manufactures of all kinds (except mixed with silk), 12 per cent. Gauzes of all sorts, 10 per cent. Linens, same duties as linens from Holland. Saddlery, 15 per cent. Millinery, 12 per cent. Plate and glassware, porcelain and earthenware, 12 per cent.

* M. Colbert, however, did not establish the system of prohibition, and the duties he imposed on imports never reached the maximum of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. He gave way to national prejudice, says Voltaire, in agreeing to discontinue the free trade in foreign corn.

means of satisfying the wants, of the people they governed, in deference to the prejudices of those who thought that trade could only exist under a system of the most stringent prohibition. It may unfold to us a few notions, and not unprofitable ones, of what the commerce of England was four hundred years ago, if we open the statute-book, and see how a merchant was then hemmed round by a triple wall of obstructions—raised, no doubt, in many instances, by his own cupidity—against carrying out the great commercial principle of buying in the cheapest market and selling in the dearest.

"The whole course of early commercial legislation, and the course, indeed, of much modern legislation, is to make laws for the attainment of some good which, if there be any principle of good in the thing itself, will be attained without the laws. The statute of the 8th of Henry VI., 1429, says that the price of wool and tin sold at Calais shall 'not be abated, but augmented and put to greater increase and advantage;' and further, for these commodities, 'the whole payment be made in hand.' What could any noble English merchant desire better from a law? High prices—ready money! One little year is quite enough to test the power of the lawmakers; for in the 9th of the same king it is found out that by this law of high prices and ready money 'the English merchants have not sold, or cannot sell, nor utter their cloths to merchants aliens, whereby the king has lost his customs which he ought to have had if the said cloths had been sold as they were, and were wont heretofore.' And so, says the considerate law, the merchants may sell, if they can, for six months' credit. Year after year the law goes on enacting that no goods shall leave England but for the staple at Calais. 'All the wools,' say the trade regulators, 'woolfells, hides, lead, and tin, and divers other merchandises passing out of the realm of England, the lands of Ireland, Wales, and Berwick-upon-Tweed, ought to repair to the staple at Calais, and to none other place beyond the sea.' But, good lack, according to the same statute, 'a great substance of the merchandises which ought to repair to the said staple do repair into Flanders, Holland, Zealand, and Brabant, without custom or other charge; and, moreover, the same wools and merchandises be sold in the same parts at so low price that the merchants aliens be so greatly enstored of the same, that they come not to Calais to buy their merchandises.' What is the remedy? That the goods shall be forfeit whenever the exporters are detected. But they are not detected. Penalties are useless; the contraband trade goes on and flourishes; and then, eight years afterwards, the king, 'considering how divers persons, by divers imaginations of deceit, carry and bear away wool and wool-fells out of this realm, to other places than to the staple of Calais,' declares that every person so offending shall be adjudged to be a felon. Will this do? The fear of the halter stops no more the course of trade than the fear of the fine. The laws begin to relax. Those who sent their merchandise to the staple of Calais were not to get the money for it themselves, but there was to be a sort of partition according to the laws of the staple, in which no doubt the governors of the staple got a lion's share. And so two years afterwards the merchants were to be allowed to receive the price of what they sold, by themselves or by their attorneys. But Calais itself, of course, flourishes amongst all these privileges and prohibitions? The statute of the 27th of Henry VI. most piteously recites its complete decay. It says that King Edward III., by great deliberation, ordered his whole staple of merchandise to be at Calais; that great revenues came to him therefrom, even to the extent of £68,000 a year; that now the annual revenue from Calais was only £12,000; and so, continues the statute with most ludicrous solemnity, because the wool has been sold in Brabant and other places to such men as were wont to be accustomed to buy their wool at the staple at Calais (the said men preferring to buy their wool at their own doors to going a hundred miles to fetch it overland), the commons of England are not enriched by their wools and other merchandises as they were wont to be, and the merchants greatly minished in number as well as in goods. On the other hand, the Duke of Burgundy, seeing this pouring of English goods by a shorter road than the staple of Calais into his dominions of Brabant, Holland, and Zealand, makes an ordinance, in 1448, that no woollen cloths at all shall come in. The King of England is naturally very indignant at this, although he has done all in his power to prevent the subjects of the Duke of Burgundy receiving the English goods by the shortest road and at the cheapest rate. And so, he says, that this ordinance is 'to the intolerable damage of all the commons of this realm;' damages the weavers, fullers, and dyers, the websters, carders, and spinners; causeth them to live idly, and provoketh them to sin and evil life. And what doth the King of England do for remedy or mitigation of the evil? He does what we have been accustomed to do up to this hour; he will not let our people buy, because another potentate will not let our people sell: no manner of merchandise or goods of the growing or workmanship of the lands and parts which the said duke holdeth or occupieth shall come in the said realm of England, upon pain of the forfeiture of the merchandises so brought in.'

Change wool for corn, and we have the faithful picture of the follies of the fifteenth century, revived after a lapse of about 400 years, embodied in our statute-book, and advocated not only by our Ferrands and Sibthorps, but by our Peels and Gladstones. Having shown that the effect of this perverse and restrictive legislation was to produce bad weaving in the fifteenth as it does bad farming in the nineteenth century, Mr. Knight continues:—

"The whole tendency of legislation was, under some pretence or other of the people's good, to prevent them from trading at all. We open these old statutes, and see how little the course of the world has altered during four hundred years. We there are told in the fifteenth century, as we are told in the nineteenth, that 'the labourers and occupiers of husbandry within this realm be daily grievously endamaged by bringing of corn out of other lands and parts into this realm, when corn of the growing of this realm is at a low price.' We are told that 'it was showed in the Parliament by the spinsters of silk, within the city of London, that divers Lombards and other alien strangers, imagining to destroy their crafts and all such virtuous occupations for women within this land, to the intent to enrich themselves and to put such occupations into other lands, bring now daily into this realm wrought silk, thrown ribbons, and laces, falsely and deceitfully wrought.' And lastly, we are told, 'Whereas to the said Parliament, by the artificers of manual occupations, men and women, inhabiting and resident in the city of London, and other cities, towns, boroughs, and villages within this realm of England and Wales, it hath been piteously showed and complained, how that they all in general, and every of them, be greatly impoverished, and much hindered and prejudiced of their worldly increase and daily living, by the great multitude of divers commodities and wares pertaining to their mysteries and occupations being fully wrought, and ready made to sale, as well by the hands of strangers being the king's enemies as other, in this realm, and Wales, fetched and brought from beyond the sea, as well by merchants strangers as denizens and other persons, whereof the greatest part in substance is deceitful, and nothing worth in regard of any man's occupation or profit; by which occasion the said artificers cannot live by their mysteries and occupations, as they have done in times past, but divers of them, as well householders as hirelings, and other servants and apprentices in great number, be at this day unoccupied, and do hardly live, in great idleness, poverty, and ruin.' The penalty against bringing these divers commodities and wares into the realm, was an absolute forfeiture of one-half to the king, and one-half to him who first seized the same; and we may well believe that, when the hand of every man was thus armed against his neighbour, a pretty scuffling must have been daily going forward to vindicate the laws of commercial restriction. The catalogue of prohibited wares in this statute is exceedingly curious, as showing the progress which had been made in the social demand for articles of secondary necessity and of positive luxury. In addition to woollen cloth and caps, laces, ribbons, and fringes, there are saddles, stirrups, spurs, bridles, andirons, gridirons, locks, hammers, fire-tongs, dripping-pans, dice, tennis-balls, purses, gloves, girdles, leather, buskins, shoes, goloshes, corks, knives, daggers, bodkins, shears, scissors, razors, sheaths, playing-cards, pins, pattens, pack-needles, painted ware, caskets, chaffing-dishes, sacring-bells, candlesticks, curtain-rings, ladles, skimmers, basins, ewers, hats, brushes, cards for wool, and blanch iron thread, commonly called white wire. This is a considerable list of things with which England now supplies the world; and the question would naturally arise whether the absolute prohibition of foreign goods did give such an impulse to the native manufacture, as prohibitors in all ages have contended, and still contend, is the good of prohibition. One thing is quite certain, that the prohibition at home engendered prohibition abroad, and that we were consequently obliged, laboriously and painfully, to produce many things for native consumption which we could more readily have obtained by exchange, and that there was a reciprocal barring out of those things which we did produce easily and abundantly from the use of the people of other countries who could not produce them. The inconsistency of such regulations was never more clearly exhibited than in the preambles of these ancient statutes, which have not the cunning to conceal the false principle under a veil of expediency. The Duke of Burgundy, as we have said, had gone on prohibiting the cloths of England to come into the Low Countries; and England had gone on in the same way prohibiting the wares of the Low Countries coming into England. Within a year of this prodigious enactment of Eward IV., beginning with wool, and ending with white wire, the Duke of Burgundy puts out a declaration, 'evermore to endure, and never to be repealed,' that all English cloth and wool that came into his lands should be banished and burnt, banished (or banned), meaning that the yarn and the cloth were accursed things. Our tender-hearted King Edward, who had been in the same way legislating against the foreign makers of every article, from a hat to a shoe, from a hammer to a pin, is amazingly surprised at the cruelty of the Duke of Burgundy, 'whereby, by all likelihood, the makers of woollen cloths within this realm of England, as weavers, fullers, dyers, spinners, carders, and winders of yarn, and other persons exercising the cloth-making, and also the buyers and sellers of the same, should be destitute of occupations and become so idle, that it should provoke them to sin and evil life, which God defend.' And so the merciful King Edward spreads the same destitution through the lands of the Duke of Burgundy, by ordaining that any manner of merchandises of the duke brought into England shall be seized and forfeited, 'one-half thereof to him that first shall seize the same goods and merchandise, in whose hands soever they shall be found.'"

It is gratifying to find that William Caxton had some share in putting an end to this war of impolitic restrictions and iniquitous reprisals between the states of Burgundy and England.

"While Edward IV. and Charles the Good, Duke of Burgundy, were launching against each other ordinance and enactment to prevent their subjects becoming exchangers for the better supply of their respective wants, some politic understanding between these princes led them eventually to adopt a wiser system. It is pretty clear that William Caxton was one of the agents, and a principal one, in putting an end to a policy which the Duke of Burgundy said was 'evermore to endure.' In 1464 Edward IV. issued a commission to his trusty and well-beloved Richard Whitehill and William Caxton, to be his especial ambassadors, procurators, nuncios, and deputies to his most dear cousin the Duke of Burgundy, for the purpose of confirming an existing treaty of commerce, or, if necessary, for making a new one. In 1466, this commission being dated in October, 1464, a treaty was concluded with the Duke of Burgundy, by which the commerce between his dominions and England, which had been interrupted for twenty years, was restored; and a port of Flanders was subsequently appointed to be a port of the English staple, as well as Calais. It is pleasant to us to believe that this extension of a principle which must eventually bind all nations in a common brotherhood was effected by the good sense of a mercer of London, who was afterwards to bestow upon his country the blessings of an art which has been the great instrument of that country's progress in real greatness and prosperity, and before which all impediments to the continued course of that prosperity—all prejudices amongst her own children, or amongst other people's, that make the great family of mankind aliens and enemies, and keep them from the enjoyment of the advantages which each might bestow upon the other—will utterly perish."

The progress of the art of printing in England is lightly but ably sketched by Caxton's biographer, and its details are varied by snatches of verse from our older poets, not less creditable to the taste than to the research of Mr. Charles Knight. We have never in the same number of pages found more valuable information combined with so much pleasant anecdote and eloquent discussion as in this little volume; and when we reflect that it is sold for the low price of a shilling, we cannot but feel that, both as publisher and author, Mr. Knight has established a strong claim to the gratitude of this and of many succeeding generations.

Hyperion: a Romance. By H. W. Longfellow. London, Clarke and Co.

This romance is an idealized version of the author's thoughts and impressions during his tour in Germany; it reads like a new edition of "Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship," with new adaptations from Jean Paul Richter, and some dashes of the fantastic imaginings of Hoffman. Like the odes of Pindar, this romance, however intelligible to the initiated, will need an interpreter to the multitude; for it is in design and execution removed as far as possible from the realities of practical life, and fixed in the region of clouds, and dreams, and shadows. The character which Mr. Longfellow gives of Jean Paul is a pretty accurate description of his own Hyperion:—

"Most undoubtedly his wild imagination and his playfulness. He throws over all things a strange and magic colouring. You are startled at the boldness and beauty of his figures and illustrations, which are scattered everywhere with a reckless prodigality; multitudinous, like the blossoms of early summer, and as fragrant and beautiful. With a thousand extravagancies are mingled ten thousand beauties of thought and expression, which kindle the reader's imagination, and lead it onward in a bold flight, through the glow of sunrise and sunset, and the dewy coldness and starlight of summer nights. He is difficult to understand,—intricate,—strange,—drawing his illustrations from every by-corner of science, art, and nature,—a comet among the bright stars of German literature. When you read his works, it is as if you were climbing a high mountain, in merry company, to see the sun rise. At times you are enveloped in mist—the morning wind sweeps by you with a shout—you hear the far-off muttering thunders. Wide beneath you spreads the landscape—field, meadow, town, and winding river. The ringing of distant church bells, or the sound of solemn village clock, reaches you; then arises the sweet and manifold fragrance of flowers—the birds begin to sing—the vapours roll away—up comes the glorious sun—you revel like the lark in the sunshine and bright blue heaven, and all is a delirious dream of soul and sense—when suddenly a friend at your elbow laughs aloud, and offers you a piece of Bologna sausage. As in real life, so in his writings—the serious and the comic, the sublime and the grotesque, the pathetic and the ludicrous, are mingled together. At times he is sententious, energetic, simple; then, again, obscure and diffuse. His thoughts are like mummies embalmed in spices, and wrapped about with curious envelopments; but within these the thoughts themselves are kings. At times glad, beautiful images, airy forms, move by you, graceful, harmonious;—at times, the glaring, wild-looking fancies, chained together by hyphens, brackets, and dashes, brave and base, high and low, all in their motley dresses, go sweeping down the dusty page, like the galley-slaves that sweep the streets of Rome, where you may chance to see the nobleman and the peasant manacled together."

To grave statisticians and political economists like ourselves, it may be supposed that this romance would offer few attractions; but the ideal is not so far removed from the real as the world is prone to imagine. The "cloud landscapes" are, in themselves, realities, like the Mirage of Arabia or the Fata Morgana of Naples. Dreams belong to our existence not less than the objects which are palpable as well as visible, and fancy is as much a positive faculty as reason. There are, however, too many urgent demands on our limited space for us to dwell at such length as we could desire on this sublime prose-poem; but the beautiful edition before us is so cheap and so excellent that we hope most of our readers will get the book for themselves. In the meantime we shall quote some of the snatches of song scattered through the volume, which, like the gems on a regal diadem, or the stars that gird the galaxy of the sky, seem neither to increase the pomp or beauty of the main object, but merely to flash their light over its loveliness. The following Alpine ode may challenge comparison with Coleridge's "Hymn in the Vale of Chamouni":—

"Come golden Evening! In the west
Enthrone the storm-dispelling sun,
And let the triple rainbow rest
O'er all the mountain tops:—'tis done;
The tempest ceases. Bold and bright
The rainbow shoots from hill to hill;
Down sinks the sun—on presses night—
Mont Blanc is lovely still!

"There take thy stand, my spirit;—spread
The world of shadows at thy feet;
And mark how calmly overhead
The star[illegible], like saints in glory, meet.
While hid [illegible] solitude sublime,
Methink[illegible] I muse on Nature's tomb,
And hear the passing foot of Time
Step through the silent gloom.

"All in a moment crash on crash,
From precipice to precipice,
An avalanche's ruins dash
Down to the nethermost abyss,

Invisible; the ear alone
Pursues the uproar till it dies;
Echo to echo, groan for groan,
From deep to deep replies.

"Silence again the darkness seals,
Darkness that may be felt. But soon
The silver-clouded east reveals
The midnight spectre of the moon:
In half-eclipse she lifts her horn,
Yet o'er the host of Heaven supreme,
Brings the faint semblance of a morn,
With her awakening beam.

"Ah! at her touch these Alpine heights
Unreal mockeries appear;
With blacker shadows, ghastlier lights,
Emerging as she climbs the sphere;
A crowd of apparitions pale!
I hold my breath in chill suspense,
They seem so exquisitely frail,
Lest they should vanish hence.

"I breathe again, I freely breathe;
Thee, Leman's Lake, once more I trace,
Like Dian's crescent far beneath,
As beautiful as Dian's face.
Pride of the land that gave me birth;
All that thy waves reflect I love,
Where Heaven itself, brought down to earth,
Looks fairer than above.

"Safe on thy banks again I stray;
The trance of poesy is o'er,
And I am here at dawn of day,
Gazing on mountains as before,
Where all the strange mutations wrought,
Were magic feats of my own mind;
For, in that fairy-land of thought,
Whate'er I seek I find."

As a fit companion, though in a very different style of excellence, we quote an exquisite translation of one of Uhland's undefinable lyrics:—

"Many a year is in its grave,
Since I crossed this restless wave;
And the evening, fair as ever,
Shines on ruin, rock, and river.

"Then, in this same boat, beside,
Sat two comrades old and tried:
One with all a father's truth,
One with all the fire of youth.

"One on earth in silence wrought,
And his grave in silence sought;
But the younger, brighter form,
Passed in battle and in storm!

"So, whene'er I turn my eye
Back upon the days gone by,
Saddening thoughts of friends come o'er me,
Friends who closed their course before me.

"Yet what binds us, friend to friend,
But that soul with soul can blend?
Soul-like were those hours of yore;
Let us walk in soul once more!

"Take, O boatman, thrice thy fee;
Take, I give it willingly;
For, invisibly to thee,
Spirits twain have crossed with me!"

Of the prose-poetry, if we may be allowed such an expression, it is not easy to find a passage which can safely be detached from its connexion without having its beauty materially injured. We quote, however, part of the episode of the Fountain of Oblivion, an exquisite allegory, in which the poet-lover first reveals his feelings to the mistress of his affections. The student has just found the fountain:—

"Upon its brink the student paused, and gazed into the dark waters with a steadfast look. They were limpid waters, dark with shadows only. And as he gazed, he beheld, far down in their silent depths, dim, and ill-defined outlines, wavering to and fro, like the folds of a white garment in the twilight. Then more distinct and permanent shapes arose;—shapes familiar to his mind, yet forgotten and remembered again, as the fragments of a dream; till at length, far, far below him he beheld the great city of the Past, with silent marble streets, and moss-grown walls, and spires uprising with a wave-like, flickering motion. And amid the crowd that thronged those streets he beheld faces once familiar and dear to him; and heard sorrowful, sweet voices singing—'O, forget us not! O, forget us not!' and then the distant mournful sound of funeral bells, that were tolling below, in the city of the Past. But in the gardens of that city there were children playing, and among them one who wore his features as they had been in childhood. He was leading a little girl by the hand, and caressed her often, and adorned her with flowers. Then, like a dream, the scene changed, and the boy had grown older, and stood alone, gazing into the sky; and, as he gazed, his countenance changed again, and Hieronymus beheld him, as if it had been his own image in the clear water; and before him stood a beauteous maiden, whose face was like the face of Hermione, and he feared lest the scroll had fallen into the water as he bent over it. Starting as from a dream, he put his hand into his bosom and breathed freely again, when he found the scroll still there. He drew it forth and read the blessed name of Hermione, and the city beneath him vanished away, and the air grew fragrant as with the breath of May-flowers, and a light streamed through the shadowy forest, and gleamed upon the lake; and the student Hieronymus pressed the dear name to his lips and exclaimed with streaming eyes—'O, scorn me as thou wilt, still, still will I love thee; and thy name shall irradiate the gloom of my life, and make the waters of Oblivion smile!' And the name was no longer Hermione, but was changed to Mary; and the student Hieronymus—is lying at your feet! O, gentle lady!

'I did hear you talk
Far above singing; after you were gone
I grew acquainted with my heart, and searched
What stirred it so! Alas! I found it love.'"

Criticism on such a work as is before us would be as idle as an attempt to give a scientific analysis of the colourings of the sky when a summer's day draws to its close, and the sun seems to linger in its setting as if anxious to give a farewell glance at the landscape ere it is shrouded in darkness. At such a moment—

"When we can almost think we gaze
Through golden vistas into heaven,"

the thoughts that crowd upon the soul have a mysterious holiness, a solemn beauty, and an indefinable sublimity which it taxes the utmost power of mind to grasp, and which language dares not even try to express. At such a time the soul feels its immortality, and seems eager to burst the cerements by which it is restrained and confined. Feelings precisely similar are suggested by this little volume; we read it as something belonging to a state beyond and above our actual existence; a revelation from the world of shadows which forms the misty boundary of our limited horizon; a glimpse of what lies behind the mystic veil which hides from our limited faculties the wondrous secrets of spiritual life. "We are of the earth, earthy;" but there is within us a power which can break the walls of this clay prison, and enable us to conceive affections purified, emotions ennobled, and the free spirit investing itself with creative attributes, and moulding the world into an image of its own purity. Let those who would see some of the workings of this wondrous power read and read again Longfellow's "Hyperion."

The Magnetic Telegraph.—The magnetic telegraph is now in full operation between the cities of Washington and Baltimore. The following examples will show the manner in which this instrument annihilates both time and space:—"On Saturday morning the batteries were charged, and the regular transmission of intelligence between Washington and Baltimore commenced, as we learn from the *Baltimore Patriot*. A large number of gentlemen were present to see the operations of this truly astonishing contrivance Many admitted to the room had their names sent down, and, in less than a second, the apparatus in Baltimore was put in operation by the attendant in Washington, and before the lapse of a half-minute the same names were returned plainly written. At half past 11 o'clock a.m., the question being asked, 'What the news was at Washington?' the answer was almost instantaneously returned, 'Van Buren stock is rising'—meaning, of course, that his chances were strengthening to receive the nomination on Monday next. The time of day was also inquired for, when the response was given from the capitol, '49 minutes past 11.' At this period it was also asked how many persons were spectators to the telegraphic experiments in Washington! The answer was '16;' after which a variety of names were sent up from Washington, some with their compliments to their friends in Baltimore, whose names had just been transmitted to them. Several items of private intelligence were also transmitted backwards and forwards; one of them was an order to an agent in Baltimore not to pay a certain bill. The electric fluid proved too slow, for it had been paid a few minutes before. At half-past 12 o'clock the following was sent to Washington:—'Ask a reporter in Congress to send a despatch to the *Baltimore Patriot* at 2 o'clock p.m.' In about a minute the answer came back thus—'It will be attended to.' Two o'clock p.m.—The despatch has arrived, and is as follows:—'One o'clock—There has just been a motion in the house to go into committee of the whole on the Oregon territory. Rejected. Ayes, 79; noes, 86.' 'Half-past one o'clock—The house is now engaged on private bills.' 'Quarter to 2 o'clock—Mr. Atherton is now speaking in the Senate. Mr. S. will not be in Baltimore to-night.' So that Baltimore papers are thus enabled to give their readers information from Washington up to the very hour of going to press. This is indeed the annihilation of space."—*New York Daily Sun.* [The distance between Baltimore and Washington is 34 miles.]

The Real Method of Seal-breaking.—Public attention has been of late very properly directed to the odious system of espionage which has been long practised at the Post-office, under the authority of the British Secretary of State; and many of the journals have pretended to describe the agency by which the operation of taking *facsimiles* of seals has been accomplished, but evidently with little knowledge of the subject. Some of them have stated that the imitation seal was produced by placing a plate of lead on the wax impression, which, when smartly struck, presented a perfect *facsimile* of the original; but this is a palpable absurdity. The operation is much simpler; and by the process adopted at the Post-office a score of spurious seals can be produced in a few minutes, and with the utmost precision and certainty. The spurious seal by which it is intended to reseal the opened letters is taken in plaster of Paris, and with so much accuracy as to defy detection. It is, in fact, the process by which our beautiful casts of medals and coins are taken, as well as that by which the lower gangs of coiners are enabled to cast exact *facsimiles* of our silver coinage in base metal. It appears that in the secret or inner bureau of the Post-office the appropriate apparatus for casting is always in readiness. It simply consists of a small cylindrical, annular brass mould, about an inch in height, which opens and shuts like a bullet-mould. After the seal has been oiled, to prevent the plaster adhering, this mould is placed upon it, and the plaster of Paris, mixed in the usual way, is poured upon it. In about five minutes it hardens, or sets, as it is technically called; and in about as many minutes more is fit for resealing the letter, which has been opened by the application of a hot iron to the seal, and a copy of its contents duly taken. If a wafer should have been used, a little hot water or steam will soon remove the obstruction.—*Atlas.*

Opening of Letters.—On Thursday last, at Cupar, before Mr. Sheriff Jamieson, a young woman was charged, at the instance of the Joint Procurators-Fiscal, with contravening the statute of 1 Victoria, cap. 36, sec. 25, in having, while in charge of the post-office in a village in the country, on the 6th day of May last, opened a post letter which had been put in there. She pleaded guilty, and her agent, Mr. M'Glashan, stated several circumstances in mitigation of punishment, and produced certificates of her good character. The sheriff in pronouncing sentence stated, that he believed she had opened the letter out of thoughtless curiosity; but that there was nothing more sacred than letters put into the Post-office; that the arrangements of our Post-office were guarded by act of Parliament, which made severe punishment applicable to offenders against its laws, and hence its present efficiency. He therefore sentenced her to pay a fine of £5 or to be imprisoned for 60 days. The fine was immediately paid.—*Scottish Record.*

Why Farmers do not Thrive.—So far as I have seen in my travels over southern, western, and midland England, with very rare exceptions I may say eastern and northern England as well, the farmers have nothing to say but that they are not thriving. Of the means which would make them thrive they are either wholly ignorant, or have but a shapeless and dreamy conception. Agricultural societies, scientific publications, and after-dinner speeches of noble dukes and earls, who, while the wine circulates, condescend to speak familiarly to men who pay rent, may shadow forth what agriculture will at some period become, and for the time being is well pleased with what he reads or hears. But he lays down the book, or rises from the table where wine, drunk to toasts given by noble lords, who smile and declare themselves never so happy as when sitting at dinner with honest yeomen—he, the farmer, rises from the table where for the time he was so happy, and where he applauded so loudly, and goes home to his farm and his family, where, I'll warrant, he has time enough to cool before he can see how it is possible for him to carry any one of the improvements into operation so liberally suggested and earnestly recommended. In short, it is utterly impossible for him to improve his farm without capital; utterly impossible to borrow capital without security of tenure; and madness to lay it out without that security if he had the capital. Crippled in means by reason of inaction, fettered in action by reason of political bondage, as the tenant-farmers in England generally are, these agricultural societies, shows, dinners, healths, thanks, sentiments of kindness, farmers' newspapers, magazines, and quarterly journals, however honest in purpose, are in reality no better than a cruel mockery of men who cannot help themselves: the most that can be said in favour of those who mock being this, that they retain grave countenances, and do not laugh at the sufferer's misery.—*One who has Whistled at the Plough.*

An Agricultural Protectionist.—John Cobley, an idle vagabond, and at all times a noisy agitator against the poor-law, has been committed for trial at Leicester assizes on a charge of stealing a letter from the post-office, and forging a receipt to a money-order. Cobley had concocted a "Leicester Agricultural Society for the Protection of British Industry;" which appears to have been a "corporation sole," for he alone was the soul and body of the society, and he contrived to victimize the Duke of Rutland, Lord Charles Manners, and other monopolists, by plausible applications, expressing the indomitable determination of the institution to give no quarter to the Leaguers. Cobley sent the letters, signed "R. Ward, secretary," and "W. Preston, chairman;" and he obtained the answer from the letter-carrier, and got all money-orders cashed at the post-office. His roguery, of course, was at length detected; and he is now laid by the heels in Leicester gaol.—*Manchester Guardian.*

Great Towns not necessarily Wicked.—I have none of that instinctive abhorrence of great towns or cities which many of our poetical sentimentalists affect, as if the country were necessarily an Arcadia, and the country people all Arcadian swains living in artless innocence, and every town were a many-tongued Babel of confusion and a mystery of iniquity. I believe that man in town and country is by nature the same; and, being left to himself, would put forth every form of selfish, and solitary, and savage disposition, as we find him in all places where religion, and law, and civil society are little known. History also teacheth me that towns were generally associations of the wisest and best ordered part of men, in order to enjoy the blessings of religion, and law, and civil society; and to protect themselves, their wives, and their little ones from the inroads and invasions, the violences and plunderings, of insolent and savage men. And I cannot forget that in the towns the Christian religion first planted its churches of faithful believers, and from the towns the truth radiated as a centre into the country round; and that the apostles went from town to town and from city to city, and have addressed the greater number of their epistles to the churches there planted. Nor am I ignorant that the Reformation made its way upon the Continent chiefly through the free towns of Augsburgh, Magdeburgh, Smalculd, Geneva, and others, who formed their first league for the protection of commerce.—*Rev. E. Irving.*

The Force of Ridicule.—It is stated that the late riot at Breslau, when most threatening, was brought to a close by an unexpected circumstance, which excited the mirth of the crowd. The following proclamation suddenly appeared in various parts of the town:—"The revolution cannot be continued, in consequence of the sudden hoarseness of the journeymen bootmakers!" This pleasantry immediately put a stop to the proceedings.—*German paper.*

The man is not the discoverer of any art who first says the thing; but he who says it so long, and so loud, and so clearly, that he compels mankind to hear him—the man who is so deeply impressed with the importance of the discovery that he will take no denial, but, at the risk of fortune and fame, pushes through all opposition, and is determined that what he thinks he has discovered shall not perish for want of a fair trial.—*Sidney Smith.*

Extract of a letter from a farmer in the West Highlands, "Farmer's Magazine," 1809, page 346:—"In this part of the island we are improving fast in our accommodations, but chiefly in forming and constructing new roads and bridges, which are the groundwork of all improvement. In the executive part of operations we have mended considerably, for in place of turning our land with an instrument not to be compared to a plough but by the name, drawn by six oxen, or four horses and a driver, with another man keeping pace to the ploughman, whose sole work was to watch the furrow with his foot, lest it returned to its place again, and one or two men to adjust with a crooked spade any baulks or errors committed by those who preceded him or them, all is now performed by one man and two horses, with Small's plough. We have also exchanged our creels and sledges for single-horse carts, and even got our wooden harrow teeth exchanged for iron ones, *which barter, I conceive, enables us to afford 20 per cent. more for our farms.*"

THE REVENUE.

An Abstract of the Net Produce of the Revenue of Great Britain in the Years and Quarters ended the 5th of July, 1843 and 1844, showing the Increase or Decrease thereof.

YEARS ENDED JULY 5,

	1843.	1844.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	18,934,809	19,770,158	835,349	—
Excise	11,545,529	11,965,602	420,073	—
Stamps	6,445,370	6,518,063	72,693	—
Taxes	4,191,129	4,197,516	6,387	—
Property Tax	3,317,997	5,247,663	1,929,666	—
Post Office	598,000	632,000	34,000	—
Crown Lands	120,000	145,000	25,000	—
Miscellaneous	1,647,541	492,140	—	1,154,401
Total Ord. Revenue	46,800,375	48,969,142	3,523,168	1,154,401
Imprest and other Moneys	302,254	187,703	—	114,551
Repayments of Advances	677,713	1,063,833	386,120	—
Total Income	47,780,342	50,220,678	3,709 288	1,268,952
Deduct Decrease			1,268,952	
Increase on the Year			2,440,336	

QUARTERS ENDED JULY 5,

	1843.	1844.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	4,557,206	4,869,235	312,029	—
Excise	3,030,113	3,115,592	85,479	—
Stamps	1,659,010	1,705,033	46,023	—
Taxes	1,984,831	1,989,874	5,043	—
Property Tax	861,709	752,485	—	109,224
Post Office	145,000	155,000	10,000	—
Crown Lands	32,500	30,000	—	2,500
Miscellaneous	1,003,524	422,187	—	641,337
Total Ord. Revenue	13,333,893	13,039,406	459,574	753,061
Imprest and other Moneys	67,180	49,018	—	18,162
Repayments of Advances	138,207	274,557	136,350	—
Total Income	13,539,280	13,362,981	594,924	771,223
Deduct Increase				594,924
Decrease on the Quarter				176,299

COFFEE.

There are, perhaps, no two articles in which the fallacies of the protectionists have been more strikingly exhibited than in those of sugar and coffee.

Previous to the year 1824 they were equally the objects of the greatest protection and care. Since that period, however, coffee may be considered the pet article on which Free Trade has tried its experiments; whilst sugar, on the other hand, has been the peculiar pet of protection. We propose to offer a few brief remarks upon each of these articles, but shall this week confine ourselves to the article of COFFEE. In 1825, Mr. Huskisson experimented on coffee. He reduced the duties on—

West India to	6d.
East India	9d.
Foreign	1s. 3d.

In 1835, the duty on East India was reduced to 6d., and a law was afterwards enacted that any coffee, of whatever growth, if imported from a British possession eastward of the Cape of Good Hope, or from that place, should be admitted at a duty of 9d. So that practically the alteration made the duties stand as follows:—

West India	6d.
East India	6d.
Foreign	9d.

And 1d. for extra freight.

Therefore, instead of 50 per cent. protection, as enjoyed by West India coffee against East India, and 150 per cent. against that of foreign growth, since 1835 the protection against East India has been entirely removed, and the protection against foreign reduced to 50 per cent. Here, then, is a great experiment of Free Trade, which, when it was begun in 1824, was denounced by the West India interest as the greatest chimera that had ever entered the head of a minister. Now, just let us see the result:—

In 1824, our total imports of Coffee were	50,674,249 lbs.
In 1840, ...	70,250,766 lbs.

In 1824, of the total quantity imported, we consumed:—

Of West India, at the duty of 1s. 0d. per lb.		7,947,890 lbs.
Of East India, ...	1s. 6d. ..	313,513 ,,
Of Foreign, ...	2s. 6d. ..	1,540 ,,
		8,262,943

In 1840, of the total quantity imported, we consumed:—

		lbs.
Of West and East India, at the duty of 6d. per lb.		14,443,399
Of Foreign 9d., and with the additional charge of 1d. for freight, say 10d.		14,143,433
Foreign—direct	duty 1s. 3d.	77,504
		28,664,336
In 1824, the amount of revenue at the high rates of duty, was		£420,988
In 1840, ...	at the low rates	921,551

In 1824, the price of good Jamaica coffee in bond, with the high prohibitory duty, was—

In January	113s. to 118s. per cwt.
In July	99s. to 101s. ,,
In November	97s. to 100s. ,,

In 1840, with the low duty and reduced protection, the price was—

In January	125s. to 132s. per cwt.
In July	124s. to 128s. ,,
In November	120s. to 125s. ,,

The result, therefore, may be said to be an increased import of 20,423,000 lbs., and increased consumption of 20,402,000 lbs.; with the former lowest duty reduced to one-half, and the differential duties comparatively abandoned, the *revenue more than doubled;* and notwithstanding the enormous increased supply of East India and foreign coffee, which, at the old rate of duty of 2s. 6d. per lb., would have been practically prohibited, the price of Jamaica coffee in bond to the merchant and planter is higher than in 1824.

On this extraordinary result we must for a moment dwell and reflect. The consumption of 1824 was 8,262,943 lbs., or 73,776 cwts., at an average price of 100s. per cwt. in bond, which represented £368,880 of value. In 1840 the quantity consumed was 28,664,336 lbs., or 255,931 cwts.; and, considering the large portion of East India and foreign coffee (if calculated at only 80s. per cwt.), represented £1,023,724 of value.

The first reflection which occurs to us in reviewing all the interests involved in this is the additional number of ships which are required to carry 255,931 cwts. instead of 73,766 cwts.—the employment of landing and warehousing it—the increase of business to the importing merchant and the Mincing-lane brokers, in passing £1,023,724 through their hands instead of £368,880. The increase of business, again, which is caused by the distribution throughout the country, both by the wholesale dealer and the retail shopkeeper, of 28,664,336 lbs. instead of 8,262,943 lbs.; moreover, the blessing of this increased supply to the community, the revenue receiving £921,551 instead of £420,888; and in the midst of all these advantages, the producer receiving actually a higher price than he did for the smaller quantity in 1824. In fact, all are benefited, and no one is injured.

But this is only half the benefit. We want goods—manufactures or minerals—to export in payment of this coffee to the amount of £1,023,724 in place of £368,880. New labour is therefore set to work throughout the country to produce them; this labour communicates ABILITY TO CONSUME MORE FARM PRODUCE, more of other kinds of manufactures of other colonial or foreign produce. Then, again, we have larger business for the export merchant, for inland carriers, for labourers in docks; and, once more, all this additional demand for ships to carry the increased outward cargoes, and throughout great additional legitimate demand for capital to conduct the transactions.

And all this, we think, is very consistent with the condition of a population increasing at the rate of 1000 per day; and were this article of coffee the rule, instead of the exception, in our commercial policy, we should have no complaint of the lack of trade, of deficient revenue, or of surplus population.—*Derby Reporter.*

THE FUNDS.

	SAT. July 6	MON. July 8	TUES. July 9	WED. July 10	THURS July 11	FRI. July 12
Bank Stock for Ac.	199½	199½	199½	200	200	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	99¾	99¾	99¾	99¾	100	—
3p. Ct. Con. A ex. d.	99	99	99	99	99½	—
3½ per Ct. Red. Ann	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½	—
3½p. Ct. A. new, ex. d	101¾	101¾	101¾	101¾	102	—
Long An. Ex. 1860	12⅞	12½	12⅞	12½	12½	—
Cons. for Opg. ..	99	99	99	99	99½	99½
Exc. Bills, pm. ..	74 6	74 6	74 6	74 6	75 7	—
Ind. Bds. und. 1000l	—	91	—	94	91 6	—
Ind. Sk. for Ac. ex. d	284½	285	285	284½	281½	—
Belgian	—	103½	103½	—	104	—
Brazilian, ex. div.	83	82 3	82	83	83	—
Chilian	103 5	103 5	—	103 5	103 5	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	14	13⅞	13⅞	13⅞	—	13⅞
Danish	88 9	88 9	—	—	88 9	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	100½	100¼	100⅛	100¾	100¾	101
Dutch 2½ pr Ct. Acc.	61	60¾	61	61½	61½	61⅜
Mexican, 1837 ..	36½	36⅜	36	36¾	36	35
Portuguese, conv.	45½	45½	—	45½	46	46
Buenos Ayres	—	—	35½	35½	34½	—
Spanish 5 per Ct.	23½	23½	23	22¾	22½	22¾
New do. 3 per Ct.	33½	33⅜	33½	33½	33	32¾
Peruvian	27	26½	—	—	27	—

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

MARK-LANE, Monday, July 8.—There was a good supply of English Wheat this morning; the trade was slow at 1s. to 2s. less than this day week. There was very little demand for free Foreign, and where sales were pressed a decline of 1s. was submitted to. The supply of Barley exceeded the demand, and it must be reported 1s. lower. The duty on Beans having fallen to 6s. 6d., a few Foreign have been liberated, and English Beans were in consequence 1s. cheaper. White Maple and Grey Peas 1s. to 2s. cheaper. We had rather a large arrival of Irish Oats fresh up to this morning's market, but there was not much addition to the Foreign previously reported. The trade was very inanimate, and prices 1s. lower than last week.

S. H. LUCAS and SON.

BRITISH.

		Per Imperial Quarter.
Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk	Red 55 to 60	White 58 to 64
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire	— 54 — 58	— 57 — 60
—— Scotch	— 52 — 56	— 54 — 60
—— Irish	— 50 — 52	— 52 — 55
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire		Feed 21 — 23
—— Ditto ..... Ditto ..	Short 22 — 24	Polands 23 — 26
—— Scotch	Feed 24 — 26	Potato 27 — 29
—— Limerick	— 21 — 22	Short 22 — 24
—— Cork	— 20 — 21	— 21 — 22
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork	Black	20 — 21
—— Sligo		21 — 22
—— Galway		20 — 21
Barley, Grinding	28 to 30	Distilling .... 30 — 32
—— Malting	32 — 34	Irish ..... 26 — 30
Beans, Mazagan	— — 32	Tick ..... 33 — 35
—— Harrow	37 — 39	Small ..... — — 40
—— Old Tick		— — 40
Peas, White	31 to 34	Boilers ..... 35 — 36
—— Maple and Grey		30 — 34
Flour, Best Town-made	per sack of 280 lbs	46 — 48
—— Norfolk and Suffolk	— —	40 — 42

FOREIGN.

		FREE.	IN BOND
		Per Imperial Quarter.	
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed		56 to 63	42 to 46
—— Rostock		51 — 63	42 — 45
—— Stettin		48 — 56	40 — 43
—— Hamburgh		48 — 56	38 — 42
—— Odessa Polish		48 — 53	36 — 38
—— Barletta		48 — 54	32 — 38
—— Russian	soft	48 — 52	— — —
—— Ditto	hard	45 — 50	— — —
—— Spanish	Red	49 — 55	— — —
—— Ditto	White	52 — 56	— — —
Barley, Grinding		26 — 29	— — —
—— Distilling		30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel		21 — 22	15 — 16
—— Swedish		22 — 23	16 — 17
—— Dutch Polands		— — —	19 — 20
Beans, Egyptian		32 — 33	22 — 23
Peas, White		30 — 34	— — —
—— Ditto Boilers		32 — 35	— — —
Flour, Canada	per barrel of 196 lbs	29 — 31	— — —
—— United States	— —	30 — 32	22 — 24
—— Dantzig	— —	28 — 30	— — —

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from July 1 to July 6, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	5533	410	1533	958	455
Scotch	—	—	3090	—	—
Irish	—	—	15642	—	—
Foreign	11789	5318	10915	1270	952

Flour, 6052 sacks, — bars.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending July 2, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	3585	56s. 4d.	Rye	—	—s. —d.
Barley.. ..	1223	35s. 1d.	Beans.. ..	1907	37s. 3d.
Oats	16304	23s. 3d.	Peas	266	36s. 9d.

FRIDAY, July 12.—The supply of English Wheat this week is moderate; last Monday's prices are maintained for both English and Foreign, but the trade is very inanimate. There is scarcely anything doing in Barley, but prices remain nominally as on Monday. We have again large supplies of Irish Oats, together with a fair quantity of Foreign; altogether the supply far exceeds the demand, and where sales are forced lower prices must be accepted, but the business doing is not extensive. There is very little inquiry for Beans. The duty on Barley fell 1s. yesterday.

S. H. LUCAS and SON.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 8th of July to the 12th of July, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat	4430	—	6150
Barley	220	—	6560
Oats	3260	22010	6970

Flour, 3540 sacks.

A WEEKLY REPORT of the NUMBER of QUARTERS, and the AVERAGE PRICE of CORN and GRAIN, sold in the several Counties of England and Wales (comprising the Two Hundred and Ninety Towns named in the Act of the 5th Vic., cap. 14), which governs Duty.

WEEK ENDED JULY 9, 1844.

	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Wheat. Aver price	Barley. Qrs. sold.	Barley. Aver price	Oats. Qrs. sold.	Oats. Aver price	Beans. Qrs. sold.	Beans. Aver price
		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.
Weekly Averages..	4447	55 9	1138	34 2	15538	21 11	2715	36 5
Aggregate Averages..	..	55 8		32 6		22 4		36 11
Duty.....	..	17 0		6 0		6 0		6 6

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, July 5.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

S. H. SPENCE, Leeds, maltster.

BANKRUPTS.

T. H. SKELTON, Southampton, stationer. [Cox, Pinners'-hall, Old Broad-street.

F. STOKES, London-wall, importer and French warehouseman. [Lawrance and Plews, Bucklersbury.

P. TANSLEY, St. John-street, West Smithfield, straw plait dealer. [Hurst, Milk-street, Cheapside.

M. CASANAS, Fenchurch-street, wine merchant. [Messrs. Sole, Aldermanbury.

J. RAMSAY, Chapel-street, Somers-town, cheesemonger. [Dods and Linklaters, Leadenhall-street.

T. J. SWAINE, Hatfield Woodside, Hertfordshire, innholder. [Wade and Pennington, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry; Wade, Baldock, Hertfordshire.

T. HINDMARSH, Hartlepool, Durham, grocer. [Wilson and Turnbull, Hartlepool.

F. PLANK, Plymouth, perfumer. [Lockyer and Bulteel, Plymouth; Surr, Lombard-street; Moore, Exeter.

J. VERNON, Monks Coppenhall, Cheshire, licensed victualler. [Frogatt, Clifford's-inn; Latham, Sandbach.

R. LODGE, Thornhill, Yorkshire, innkeeper. [Wigleswortb, Ridsdale, and Craddock, Gray's-inn-square; Cronhelm, Leeds.

DIVIDENDS.

July 26. R. Champion, Friday-street, City, furrier—July 26. F. Whitmore, J. Wells, J. Wells, jun., and F. Whitmore, Lombard-street, City, bankers—July 26. H. W. Brand, Little Stanhope-street, Mayfair, cook—July 26. H. Goertz, New Windsor, Berkshire, upholsterer—July 31. W. Smithson, Thirsk, Yorkshire, linendraper—August 7. J. Dixon, Sheffield, linendraper—July 31. J. Broadhead, Almondbury, Yorkshire, woollen cloth manufacturer—July 31. J. Johnson, Anston, Yorkshire, miller—July 26. E. Brittan, Bath, victualler—July 31. H. Lonsdale, Sheffield, grocer—July 27. G. Harker, Sunderlandwick, Yorkshire, farmer—July 27. W. Dawson, Wakefield, Yorkshire, money scrivener—July 29. P. T. B. Hembrough, Wakefield, worsted manufacturer.

CERTIFICATES.

July 26. G. F. Squires, Emmett-street, Poplar, plumber and glazier - July 29. P. and J. Cattaneo, Reigate, Surrey, jewellers—July 29. M. Agston, Davies-street, Berkeley-square, watch maker—July 26. H. Thorpe, Kensington, linendraper—July 26. J. Foakes, Mitcham, market gardener—July 27. J. and J. B. Montefiore, George-street, Mansion-house, merchants—July 26. W. Brown, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, auctioneer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

J. DUNLOP, Outmains, Ayrshire, farmer.

TUESDAY, July 9.

BANKRUPTS.

C. BEAVIS, Shirley, Hants, carpenter. [Hillier and Co., Raymond-buildings, Gray's-inn; Usher, Southampton.

A. PORTWAY, Braintree, Essex, tea dealer. [Hardwick and Davidson, Basinghall-street.

J. PAGE, Devonshire-terrace, Fulham-road, builder. [Richardson and Co., Golden-square.

H. M. SHAW, Newport, Hants, jeweller. [Taylor and Collinson, Great James-street, Bedford-row.

A. POTTER, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, carpet manufacturer. [Brycott and Co., Kidderminster; Reece, Birmingham.

J. CROWDER and J. GREEN, jun., Macclesfield, Cheshire, trimming manufacturers. [Hacker, Leek; Oliver, Manchester; Falcon, Elm-court, Temple.

W. COWARD, Hartlepool, Durham, bread baker. [Harle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Chisholme and Co., Lincoln's-inn-fields.

J. WOOD and W. NORTON, Fenay-bridge, Yorkshire, fancy cloth manufacturers. [Lever, King's-road, Bedford-row; Robinson, Huddersfield; Sanderson, Leeds.

C. B. REYNOLDS, Devizes, Wiltshire, tailor. [Turner, Basinghall-street.

DIVIDENDS.

July 30. W. Burton, King-street, Soho, upholsterer—July 30. J. Butterworth, Bermondsey, leather factor—July 30. T. Harris, John-street, America-square, City, merchant—July 30. F. J. H. Muller, Addle-street, Wood-street, City, furrier—July 30. H. Thorpe, Kensington, linendraper—Aug. 14. D. Hague, Horsford, Yorkshire, paper manufacturer—Aug. 1. C. S. Jackson, Leeds, cloth merchant—July 30. A. R. Hickman, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, victualler—Aug. 2. J. and G. Ewart, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, auctioneers—July 31. T. Bell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, tea dealer—Aug. 2. G. E. Phillips, Plymouth, saddler—Aug. 1. W. and J. Sharrocks, Manchester, machine makers—Aug. 1. L. and J. Rostron, Manchester, merchants—Aug 1. C. S. and W. Heywood, Manchester, warehousemen.

CERTIFICATES.

July 30. F. Banner, Upper Thames-street, provision merchant—Aug. 1. R. Wills and R. Davy, Oxford-street, drapers—Aug. 2. C. Williams, Sutton-street, York-road, Lambeth, farrier—July 31. C. Robinson, Great Trinity-lane, oil merchant—July 31. T. Winstanley, Laurence-lane, City, commission agent—Aug. 1. C. Nichols, Wakefield, Yorkshire, bookseller—July 31. W. Thompson and J. Mellis, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchants.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

T. WHITSON, Blairgowrie, writer—W. LYON, Dundee, tavern keeper—J. LINDSAY, Glasgow, slater—R. M. KENNEDY and J. KENNEDY, Glasgow, chemists.

London: Printed by ROBERT PALMER (of Providence-place, Upper Kennington-lane, Lambeth, in the County of Surrey) and JOSEPH CLAYTON (of Number 320, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at their Printing-office, Number 10, Crane-court, in the Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West, in the City of London, and published by ABRAHAM WALKER PARSONS (of Number 22, Norfolk-street, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at the Office of THE LEAGUE, Number 67, Fleet-street, in the said Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West.—Saturday, July 13, 1844.

[redacted]

THE LEAGUE.

No. 43.] SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1844. [3*d*.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive a copy, weekly, of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and* addresses *to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND, *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

REGISTER, REGISTER, REGISTER!

The Free-Traders qualified to vote must everywhere prepare to enrol themselves and their friends on the register for the NEXT *year.*

To entitle a voter to be registered, he must have occupied during the twelve months previous to the 31st of July, premises of the value of £10 a year. He must have been rated for twelve months to the relief of the poor.

He must have paid, on or before the 20th of July, all poor-rates and assessed taxes due to the 6th of April preceding.

Further information and directions will be furnished on application, personally or by letter, to the Local Registration Societies; to Mr. Sidney Smith, 68, Cheapside, London; or to Mr. Hickin, League Offices, Newall's Buildings, Manchester.

For the convenience of individuals whose avocations render it difficult for them to call at the Registration Office, 68, Cheapside, during business hours, arrangements have been made by which attendance will be given every evening at that office until eight o'clock, to fill up and serve claims, and to supply every information relative to Parliamentary registration for counties, cities, and boroughs.

FREE-TRADERS, REMEMBER THAT THIS DAY, JULY 20, IS THE LAST DAY FOR THE PAYMENT OF RATES FOR BOROUGH VOTES—AND ALSO THE LAST DAY FOR MAKING CLAIMS TO BE REGISTERED AS COUNTY VOTERS. ALL CLAIMS FOR COUNTY VOTES MUST BE SERVED UPON THE OVERSEERS BEFORE SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING.

COUNTY REGISTRATION.

The 20th instant is the last day a valid claim can be made, which should be in the following form:—

To the overseers of the parish of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I claim to be inserted in the list of voters for the county [riding or division] of ——, and that the particulars of my place of abode and qualification are stated in the columns below, Dated the day of , in the year

(Signed)

Christian name and surname of the claimant at full length.	Place of abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Street, lane, or other like place in this parish [or township], and number of house [if any] where the property is situate, or name of the property, or name of the occupying tenant, or if the qualification consist of a rent-charge, then the names of the owners of the property out of which such rent is issuing, or some of them, and the situation of the property.

Taking care to sign their christian names (if more than one) and surname in full, their true place of abode, nature of qualification, and locality, conformable with the heading of the notice, so that it may be identified. In the third column state, if the qualification is freehold, say "Freehold house," or "land," or "rent-charge" (if for life, only £10 value is required), giving the name of the owner and the situation of the property.

If copyhold, say "Copyhold house," or "land," as the case may be.

If leasehold, say "Original lease of twenty years," or "sixty years of house," or "land," as the case may be.

If a sub-lease, then "Sub-lease of sixty" or "twenty years," as the case may be.

If tenancy qualification, say "House" or "land occupied at a rental of £50 per annum."

QUALIFIED FREEHOLDERS

Are those possessed of an estate of inheritance of the yearly value of 40s., or an estate for life or lives of the yearly value of £10, or an estate possessed prior to June 7, 1832, or since. If by marriage, or will, or promotion to office, or if the freeholder is himself the actual occupier, 40s. value will be sufficient.

Parish clerks, sextons, schoolmasters, Dissenting ministers, and holders of office, if entitled to emoluments of 40s. out of land, but the appointment must be for life or during good behaviour. Six months' possession prior to the 31st of July will entitle the freeholder to be registered.

QUALIFIED COPYHOLDERS

Are those possessed of copyhold "houses or land of £10 value." The period of possession the same as for freehold.

QUALIFIED LEASEHOLDERS

Are those who possess an original lease or a sub-lease (if in occupation), originally created for sixty years, of the clear yearly value of £10, over and above all rents and charges, *or for twenty years of the clear yearly value of £50,* over and above all rents and charges, *and in possession thereof twelve months previous to the 31st of July.*

QUALIFIED OCCUPYING TENANTS

Are those who occupy as tenant any lands or tenements for which they are bonâ fide *liable to a yearly rental of £50, and the period of occupation must be the same as the leaseholder.*

Many electors during last year's revision lost their right of voting for twelve months, owing to their mistaking the tenancy qualification and leasehold qualification; but the reader will see they are totally different, and those who were struck off should reclaim.

The holding of a lease at a rental of £50 will not confer a leasehold qualification. *The lease must be worth* annually *£50, over and above the rent, &c., and persons holding as described, when in occupation, should claim as* occupying tenants at £50 rental. *The claim, then, can be maintained, and costs demanded, if frivolously and vexatiously objected to. The notice, when filled up in duplicate, may be served on the overseer of the parish* where the qualifying property is situate, *by taking it to the post-office,* where money orders are paid and received, *and, on the payment of 3d., the postmaster will stamp the duplicate and forward it by post, or the notice may be left at the residence of the overseer or office for the transaction of the parochial business. It is to be observed that a redeemed land-tax of 40s., if purchased and entered under Schedule D, will confer a county vote; but neither freehold in occupation of owner, or a copyhold of £10 value, or a leasehold on which a tenement is built, will confer a county vote, if the property is situate in a city or borough. It has to be observed, however, that two or more copyhold or leasehold houses of less clear annual value than £10 each, but more together, will confer a county vote, even although situated in a parliamentary borough.*

THE LOGIC AND RHETORIC OF MONOPOLY.

The even tenour of parliamentary debating has been recently interrupted by two strange episodes. In the Upper House Lord Wodehouse hazarded a fierce attack on the reporter of the *Times* for the graphic and accurate description of the state of the agricultural peasantry which he published in that journal, and within a few hours had to retract all his charges, and to make the humiliating confession that they were totally unfounded. In the Lower House the cousin of the noble lord, Mr. Edmund Wodehouse, member for East Norfolk, *regis ad exemplar*, made a still more gross attack on the personal character of Mr. Wakley, and afterwards with a very ill grace retracted his calumnious imputations and mumbled a curiosity of an apology. As neither the lord nor the squire had been previously known to the public save when their names appeared in divisional lists, the phenomenon of the double oratorical exhibition produced somewhat of the same astonishment as would the portent which Livy more than once records in the earlier portions of his history, "This year an ox spoke;" and we doubt not that public curiosity is on the stretch to discover the cause which has suddenly loosed the tongues of the Lord Lieutenant and the Deputy Lieutenant of the county of Norfolk, inducing them to break their prudent silence, and peril an experiment with the dangerous powers of eloquence. We owe both these scenes of imputations recklessly hazarded, and then compulsorily retracted, to the determination of the monopolists to prevent any inquiry into the condition of the agricultural labourers, feeling as they do well assured that, if the nation once understood how grievously the peasantry are oppressed and ground to the earth by the policy of the oligarchy, an indignant cry would be raised from Caithness to Cornwall which no parliamentary majorities could resist.

There have been from five to six hundred incendiary fires in the agricultural districts within the last twelve months. Property has been destroyed, life endangered, and the bonds of society loosened, but neither the Government nor the Parliament have ventured to inquire into the subject; and the monopolist majority in Parliament evinces a rabid determination not only to refuse information, but to put down by absolute violence any attempt to investigate the cause of this fearful evidence of social disorganization. Most of our readers may probably have seen an effort made to catch donkeys in a field. The animals rush into a corner, hide their heads in the bushes, set up their loudest bray, and kick behind like furies. This is a lively emblem of the course pursued by monopolist lords and squires whenever an attempt is made to catch them in a discussion on the condition of the agricultural population. They feel that their policy towards the peasantry will not bear examination, and they attempt to drown discussion by clamour, and to daunt those who seek for information by browbeating and haughty repulse.

Now, let us contrast this offensive refusal of investigation, this resolute determination to keep the condition of the labouring poor a profound secret from the rest of the community, with the course of policy pursued by the manufacturers when distress assailed the operative population. So far from hiding that distress, they proclaimed it openly to the world; so far from courting concealment, they demanded inquiry; year after year they forced themselves into the presence of successive Ministers, and continued to make public in every possible way the distresses under which the manufacturing classes suffered. On the other hand, the monopolists of land use every means short of brute force to prevent the state of their peasants from being made known. Truly these were the words of Eternal Wisdom, "Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil."

The conduct of the Government in these different cases deserves a word of remark. There was an outbreak produced by intensity of distress in the manufacturing districts; the suffering operatives adopted a course which, however unwise, was honourably distinguished by a total absence of violence, and by an inviolable respect for the security of person and property. An agent of the Government was immediately commissioned to make an inquiry; arts, with which recent discussions have made the country too well acquainted, were employed to procure information, until it was discovered that all their revelations, obtained by secret inquisition, differed in no material point from the evidence which the manufacturers had voluntarily and openly tendered long before. But what agent of Government has been commissioned to examine into the causes of the incendiary fires? The band of monopolists has openly declared that the Government must not meddle with *their* people, meaning thereby their serfs and vassals; they declare, without any disguise or circumlocution, that, should such an attempt be made, they would unmake the Cabinet which they have made.

There is no doubt that the oligarchy possesses this power—that it has the majority in the Parliament, and the mastery over the Government. But with this power the oligarchy must take the responsibilities of power; when the monopolist lords and squires demand, and enforce the demand, that they should control and direct all the movements of the Government, they render themselves answerable for all the consequences which the course of policy pursued by the Government has produced. Silence will not do; bullying will not do; a suspension of the ninth commandment in their favour will not do: the facts are too notorious to be denied, and too glaring to be hidden. The labouring poor have taken a course of policy as diabolical as it is insane; but they would not have done so had they been supplied with legitimate means of making known their sufferings. If the agricultural population had heard a voice promulgating their distress, and making known their misery, they would not in the blindness of despair have announced that their condition was intolerable, by destroying that property which it is their interest as well as their duty to protect. These incendiary fires were sought as the last desperate means of making known their grievances, when they found that the fact of their having any sufferings at all was denied by those

who mocked them with the delusive cry of protection. The peasants are answering the squires; and because that answer is sharp, stern, and conclusive—because it at once overthrows the hypocritical pretence that the Corn Laws afford advantage to the British labourer—the monopolists are eager to hide from the world this decisive refutation of the hollow excuses which they have made for fixing an onerous burden on every branch of industry in the country. Neither Lord Wodehouse nor Mr. Wodehouse could for a moment claim the notice of a public journalist if their conduct did not illustrate the course of policy adopted by their party. That policy is to meet argument by brute force, or by means still more unworthy, and to resist inquiry by raising a "mad-dog" cry against every one who attempts to perform his duties as a legislator by demanding an inquiry into the causes of the discontent making itself manifest by such fearful and ominous symptoms.

We make no comments on the nature of the attack which the Deputy-Lieutenant and representative of Norfolk made on the hon. member for Finsbury. Mr. Wakley has reason to be thankful to his assailant for having given him an opportunity of triumphantly vindicating his character from one of those odious imputations which are insidiously and studiously circulated to weaken the influence and damage the character of those who try to put an end to public jobbing, and reform public abuse. Mr. Wakley has gained by the issue; and the nation may profitably read the moral, that nothing but a desperate cause could have led to such a desperate resource as violence and calumny, in reply to a plain statement of notorious facts.

THE BIRMINGHAM ELECTION.

The result of the Birmingham election, and the causes of that result, are already known to our readers. Two candidates, equally advocating the total and immediate repeal of the Corn Laws, and thus rendering it impossible for the League to interfere, divided the anti-monopolist constituency, and opened the way for the return of a supporter of monopoly. However we may deplore the result, it is still valuable as a convincing proof of the wisdom of the policy which the League has pursued in all its appeals to the constituency of Great Britain. It shows that all attempts to combine other projects with the main question which at present occupies the attention of the country serve only to divide the ranks of the Free-Traders, and to waste their strength. It is one of the few elections which has recently taken place in which the League was represented by no candidate, and where there was, consequently, no League contest. Mr. Sturge withdrew from the League because he believed that Free Trade could not be attained except through the medium of complete suffrage. The public at large can now have little difficulty in estimating the comparative prudence of the course to which the League has adhered, and of that which Mr. Sturge had seceded from the body in order to adopt. In Birmingham, the very centre and stronghold of the complete-suffrage movement, its author and advocate could obtain the support of little more than five per cent. of the entire constituency. It may fairly be presumed that this is above the average of support which that movement would at present command in the entire electoral body of Great Britain; and we put it to any rational man whether, for the sake of parading such strength, or rather such weakness, it can serve any useful end to divide the Free-Trade constituencies. Those *gemini* of the press, the *Herald* and *Standard*, with their usual regard to truth and consistency, proclaimed after the election was over that Mr. Sturge was the League candidate, though previously to the election they had put forth urgent exhortations that Mr. Sturge should not give way to the League, and allow the question of Free Trade to be put fairly in issue before the electors of Birmingham. Mr. Sturge adopted the insidious recommendation of these twin-monopolists, and they now turn round upon him to describe him as the creature of that very confederacy against which they invited him to stand. None know better than the editors of these papers that the question of Free Trade was unfortunately cushioned in the election; on that principle we should have no doubt of the result of a contest in Birmingham or in any other large manufacturing constituency. The failure of the Free-Traders was caused by their great principle being kept out of view,—pushed aside, we fear, to make room for petty squabbles and personal differences, and for the discussion of other measures with which it is very remotely, if at all connected.

A similar mismanagement opened the borough of Marylebone to Lord Teignmouth, but the constituency at once profited by the lesson and laid aside their local animosities. They decided that for the future the choice of a candidate should be left to the electoral body, and that popular candidates should abide by the uninfluenced decision of those to whom the Legislature has given the privilege of voting. The very week after their defeat they organized a registration society, and took care to secure a majority on the electoral roll. The consequence was that at the next election the Free-Trade candidates came in by the largest majority that had ever been obtained in that borough.

Birmingham has unfortunately imitated the error of Marylebone: we trust that it will adopt the same prudent means to retrieve its lost position. Throughout the country there is a feeling of sorrowful disappointment at the return of an enemy to reform by the people who took the most prominent part in supporting the Reform Bill. We share this grief, but at the same time we confidently believe that the error will soon be redeemed, and that this great capital of industry will be restored to its proper place as a guardian of industry from the withering effects of monopoly.

Since the above was written, our attention has been directed to a paragragh in Mr. Sturge's speech to the electors, professing to explain the reasons of his separation from the League. In this paragraph there are some remarkable misstatements, which, if they have arisen from the inaccuracy of the reporter, Mr. Sturge ought to have immediately corrected. It is insinuated that the declaration for "total and immediate repeal of the Corn Laws" was adopted at the suggestion of Mr. Sturge, and in consequence, to some extent, of his proffered co-operation. The fact is, that this declaration was adopted by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce several months before Mr. Sturge took any part in the League movement, and that his co-operation was tendered as a consequence instead of as a cause of the adoption of this principle. It is true that Mr. Sturge then proffered his support so long as the League would adhere steadily to the demand for "total and immediate repeal:" now, on this point the League has never wavered. It is, indeed, insinuated that some of the Council were disposed to accept the compromise of a fixed duty. We distinctly deny the assertion, and we call upon Mr. Sturge to name those waverers whom he has thought fit to describe as "bad company." We regret that Mr. Sturge should abandon the League, but we still more regret his attempting to excuse his secession by groundless imputations, and by indirect insinuations which have not the slightest foundation in truth.

CONDITION-OF-ENGLAND QUESTION.

"Labour is cheap and Bread is dear." The double curse falls heavily on our land; but its crushing weight is most severely felt by the agricultural labourers, whose condition is one of frightful and rapid deterioration. All classes of the community are equally interested in the preservation of the peasantry; even Lord Ashley would confess their national importance, though he has not yet found leisure to devote any share of his consideration to their wrongs. The farm-labourers are unfortunately too poor to pay agitators to proclaim their grievances; they have too little political importance to remunerate parliamentary advocates by valuable assistance at an election, and there are too many interested in concealing or denying their sufferings, to render it worth the while of pretenders to philanthropy to propose measures of relief with any chance of obtaining a cheap character for humanity. Still the reports presented to a reluctant Government, which issued a Commission of Inquiry with strict rules to prevent the acquisition of information, and still more the descriptions of the state of the agricultural labourers which have appeared in the *Times* and *Chronicle*, exhibit an increasing and appalling amount of misery, which menaces indescribable dangers not merely to our political institutions, but to the entire system of society. It is worse than idle to shut our eyes to this growing evil; we must look our dangers full in the face, in order to devise the means by which their consequences may be averted. We are menaced with the revolutionary spirit of sheer desperation; insurrection is preached by no demagogue, recommended by no journal, planned by no conspirator, and yet it is taught by what is more powerful than eloquence, more insidious than sophistry, and more systematic than the most crafty plot which the ingenuity of man ever devised; the whole argument is stated in the old proverb,

> "Hungry belly, empty purse;
> May be better, cant't be worse."

The low price of labour arises from insufficiency of employment; the supply of labourers in the market far exceeds the demand, and their competition for means of support has lowered the rate of agricultural wages to very nearly the starving point, and menaces still further reductions. It is utterly absurd to speak of redundant population so long as the industrial resources of the country are sufficient to occupy more than three times the amount of persons to whom they already afford employment; and it is mischievous to assert that the Divine law which commanded man "to increase and multiply and replenish the earth," should be the source of the misery which we see around us. It has, however, been the common artifice of those who profit by abuses to take only one side of the difficulty which is presented to us; they proffer as a remedy what they know to be impracticable—a check on the increase of population; and so long as they can keep the world amused by this discussion, they divert attention from the real and practicable remedy—the enlargement of the sphere of employment.

Employment in agriculture is restricted, because property in land is a monopoly, and because in addition to that there is a further monopoly in what the land produces. Improved systems of agriculture, like improved systems of manufacture, would find employment for a far larger number of labourers than farmers have at present engaged. But, so long as there is no security of tenure, men will not invest capital in permanently improving their lands; and the withholding of such investment is in fact a withholding of the employment which the capital would give to the labourers. Even where there are leases, they are encumbered with a multitude of clauses and conditions which seem perversely designed to put a stop to all improvements. The great body of the landlords act as if they had entered into a confederacy to prevent the farmers from rising to a condition of wealth and independence which might confer political freedom; and though they thus in no slight degree injure themselves, they are willing to sacrifice positive good in order to maintain relative superiority. The farmer is prevented from adopting those modes of culture which would give employment to most labourers, and at the same time be most profitable to himself; he is cramped and fettered in all his operations, and menaced with ejectment if he ventures on any course of independent action. His landlord's game is deemed of more importance than his own crops; and while thus deliberately and of set design continually impoverished, he is driven to the necessity of employing as little labour as possible, and selecting the form of tillage which gives least occupation to human hands.

There would be no surplus of labour in the market had not the field of employment been artificially contracted; but those who have thus diminished the amount of employment have logically followed out their principle, and attempted to limit the amount of population by prohibiting the erection of cottages on their estates, and, in many instances, by destroying the hamlets of the poor. This barbarous system does not prevent the growth of the population; it only demoralizes and brutalizes the peasantry, rendering all the moral laws of restraint utterly inoperative, and preparing for our agricultural population a degraded and a dangerous future. On this subject we can quote the testimony of a clergyman who is an honour to his sacred profession—the Rev. Sidney Godolphin Osborne: in a letter to the Editor of the *Times*, published in that journal of July 12, he says:—

> "All legislation will be in vain so long, as at present is the case, the majority of the lower orders cannot rear their children, except under circumstances which defy the giving to them that sense of decency on which, in after life, so much of their moral safety depends. So long as the married and single persons of both sexes, and all ages, are forced to lie down to rest night after night in the same room, and many of them in the same bed, it is folly to expect that mere legal or educational restraints will avail in this matter. I know at this moment, within a few miles of where I am writing, one case in which a family is lodged in a parish house of a nature not fit to put a human being into, and there are five bastards to two daughters: am I surprised? Only, that men could be found to go near such people into such a place. Bring every power of religion and of law to bear against the crimes which result from man being ill-fed and vilely lodged, when he is willing to give the sweat of his every hour for the opportunity of rearing his family as the poor man's family in a Christian country should be reared, and you will do next to nothing. Neither law nor gospel can avail, when hopeless indigence has made a man hate the power that checks him in getting the food he needs, but cannot earn; when he sees, in a land of churches, the poor left to struggle how they may against circumstances that keep them down in the very lowest stage of civilized existence, a stage in which they find much in the condition of the brutes about them to envy."

The misery which the reverend gentleman has thus described is obviously the result of the monopoly which first restricts the amount of employment, and attempts to compensate for this monstrous injustice by an act of injustice still more atrocious—an attempt to limit the population, by keeping down the peasantry "in the very lowest stage of physical existence," and driving them to crowd in hovels where "they find much in the condition of the brutes about them to envy." And yet there are men making glowing pretensions to humanity who see this frightful misery every day before them and around them, who take an active part in maintaining the system from which all this corruption flows, and who reserve their philanthropy for some distant objects, the relief of whom will not compel them to sacrifice a particle of their darling privileges of oppression.

We ask for relief, for large remedial measures, to prevent the further degradation of the agricultural labourers; we do not merely request it in the name of common humanity, we demand it in the name of

eternal justice. Such philanthropists as Lord Ashley, indeed, tell us that this is a case where the feelings of humanity must be restrained by the rights of property. We deny it. The first and the most sacred of all properties is that which a man has in the sweat of his brow and the toil of his hands; labour is the only property to which God and nature have assigned perfect rights; and those who prevent man from exchanging the products of his labour for the means of subsistence are guilty of a more glaring and iniquitous violation of the rights of property than ever crossed the imagination of the most frenzied leveller that ever advocated a disruption of the social system.

Labour is cheap, because monopoly cuts off a multitude of sources for its employment; and the consequence of this cheapness is, the degradation of the labouring class socially, physically, and morally. Those who profit by this degradation, while they enjoy the pomp and luxury of their lordly halls, forget that the peasants are conscious of their condition; and though like the cook in the story, who excused herself for skinning eels alive by declaring "they were used to it," they may believe that the wretchedness which has been endured hitherto will be borne for ever, they ought to remember that, while the suffering is increasing in its intensity, the number of the sufferers is also increasing in amount. Much of the evil that has been wrought is irreparable; we may lament it, but we cannot raise the dead; but it is yet in our power to raise the living, and we had better set about it speedily; for what will be the condition of England in a few years, when exposed to the double action of diminishing employment and increasing population?

"Bread is dear." We are told that it should be so for the sake of the agricultural labourer, for that the farmer could not give him employment unless the price of corn was sustained. We have more than once exposed the absurdity of the assertion that there is any connexion between the price of food and the price of corn: its falsehood, however, is most palpable in the case of the agricultural labourer. According to Barton's tables, the rate of wages for farm labourers in 1772, when wheat averaged thirty shillings a quarter, was from seven to eight shillings per week in the southern counties of England: wheat is now more than fifty shillings per quarter, and wages are lower than they were in 1772. We have said enough to show that dear bread is a serious aggravation of the evil of cheap labour; and we have traced both to their source, the iniquitous monopoly of food. To affect sympathy for the condition of the English labourers, and to maintain the system which has produced that condition, and which is continually rendering it worse, may be regarded, and will be regarded, as one of the most flagrant examples of cruelty aggravated by hypocrisy. To raise the labourer we must begin with raising labour; we must remove the burdens by which it is crushed, and the restrictions by which the exchange of its products is forbidden. There is no other solution to the great question, and the longer it is delayed the more decisive will be its final result.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE FREE-TRADE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE SESSION 1844.

Twenty-third Week, ending Saturday, July 20.

Parliament begins to exhibit unequivocal symptoms of sessional exhaustion. Members come down tardily; debates drag languidly, even Irish ones, for two relative to Ireland, raised within the past eight days, all but expired of inanition; and what work is yet positively to be done is getting on, not, indeed, with rapidity, but at least with signs of movement. The Poor-law Amendment Bill has been got through Committee in the House of Commons, and its future stages will probably be rapidly accelerated; the only other important measure which has to undergo the ordeal of a Committee is the Railways Regulation Bill; there are but one or two votes of supply to be granted; and though debates are still impending on different questions, and a mass of business details is still to be got through, there is nothing to prevent an early closing of the doors of Parliament. The prorogation will probably take place, if not in the first, at least (in all likelihood) in the second week of August.

Our peculiar function as a reflector of whatever in Parliament bears for or against FREE TRADE, may now be considered as virtually at an end for the present session. Not but something may yet arise which will call for notice; but at present we do not anticipate it. If our anticipation prove correct, and next week be as barren of Free-Trade matter as the past, it will be our business, as impartially as we can, to review the entire session, and, without exaggeration or extenuation, to look at parties and politics, as exhibited *in* Parliament, and as bearing on the real interests of the public out of doors. To use a familiar illustration, and one not unsuited to the question of FREE TRADE, the time has now arrived when there must be a taking of POLITICAL STOCK, in order that we may fairly, calmly, quietly, ascertain precisely what has been our past progress—what our present position—and what our future prospects. Of this, however, more hereafter.

MEETINGS.

WELLINGBOROUGH.—An Anti-Corn-Law meeting was held on Tuesday at Wellingborough, in the White Hart Assembly-room, which had for its object the formation of a Free-Trade Association. J. Marriott, Esq., was called to the chair, who, after some very excellent and appropriate remarks, put the following resolutions, which were carried unanimously:—

1st, "That a Free-Trade Association be formed in Wellingborough, and a permanent committee appointed to govern the same.

2nd, "That the first object of the association be to get up a requisition to invite Mr. Cobden, Mr. Bright, and others, to hold a county meeting; and at the same time to send a similar requisition to Stafford O'Brien, Esq., to attend the said meeting."

ST. ALBAN'S.—A meeting was held on Friday, the 12th inst., at St. Alban's, which was numerously attended. Mr. C. H. Lattimore presided. Mr. Robert R. Moore attended as a deputation from the Anti-Corn-Law League, and delivered an eloquent address.

GRAVESEND.—A Free-Trade meeting was held in the Town Hall of Gravesend on Wednesday night, which was filled to suffocation by a highly respectable assemblage of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. The chair was taken shortly after seven o'clock by Henry Oaks, Esq., who briefly introduced Mr. Bright, M.P., to the meeting. Mr. Bright spoke for upwards of an hour and three quarters in a strain of earnest eloquence which riveted the attention of the audience, and was only interrupted by frequent bursts of acclamation. The meeting separated shortly before ten o'clock, after the most enthusiastic demonstrations of their determination to promote by subscriptions and personal exertion the cause of Free Trade.

SALISBURY.—On Wednesday last, the Free-Traders of Salisbury held a demonstration in support of the principles they so nobly upheld at the last election for that city. An open-air meeting was to have taken place at three o'clock in the afternoon, and a tea-party in the evening. Mr. Robert R. Moore and Mr. George Thompson attended both meetings, but, as we have not yet received any report of either, we must postpone any more lengthened notice of the proceedings until next week.

TYLDESLEY.—On Tuesday evening, the 9th inst., Mr. J. J Finnigan delivered a lecture on the principles of Free Trade, in the school room in connexion with Lady Huntingdon's chapel, Tyldesley; the Rev. J. Stewart in the chair. The school room was crowded to suffocation, and a great number were content to remain outside, the doors being kept open to give them an opportunity of hearing the lecture. The lecturer, in a clear and argumentative style, forcibly depicted the evil of the corn, sugar, and coffee monopolies: and by his calculations, which were alike plain and forcible, he succeeded in convincing all present of the enormous amount of evil inflicted on the people of these countries by those monopolies, and he concluded a most instructive address of an hour and and three quarters, in a soul-stirring appeal to the moral and religious feelings of the people; calling upon them to exercise their influence to create an enlightened public opinion that would at once and for ever erase from the statute-book of the land those blasphemous protests against the bounties of Heaven, the corn and provision monopolies. The lecturer sat down amidst the enthusiastic applause of the assembly. A vote of thanks was passed to the lecturer, and the meeting separated. Many have expressed a desire that Mr. Finnigan would visit Tyldesley again.—*Bolton Free Press.*

BOLTON.—Mr. Falvey delivered his second lecture on Free Trade, in the Temperance Hall, Little Bolton, on Tuesday evening, the 9th inst. The audience listened attentively to the arguments of the lecturer, and at the close manifested their approbation of Free-Trade doctrines by the most enthusiastic applause. An attempt was made by a few of the usual disturbers to introduce extraneous subjects into a discussion, but the lecturer would not submit to it, and the meeting separated without being compelled to listen to the thousand times refuted fallacies of the anti-machinery mongers.—*Ibid.*

Mr. Falvey lectured at Harwood on Wednesday, Astley-bridge on Thursday, and Farnworth on Friday evenings, the 10th, 11th, and 12th inst.

PORTSMOUTH.—On Monday night an important meeting of the inhabitants of Portsmouth took place in the Town-hall, for the purpose of receiving a deputation from the League. — Bachelor, Esq., in the chair. The admission was by tickets, and the Town-hall was crowded by a numerous and respectable assemblage of the inhabitants. The meeting was addressed at great length by Mr. Bright, M.P., who was followed by Mr. Moore in an eloquent and earnest speech. The enthusiasm was intense. The speeches throughout were received with great acclamation, and the most cordial spirit of co-operation manifested on behalf of the objects of the League.

BIRMINGHAM ELECTION.

The nomination took place on Friday, at the Town Hall, which was densely crowded. After the mayor had briefly opened the proceedings, Alderman Matthews, seconded by Alderman Phillips, proposed Mr. Scholefield; Mr. W. C. Alston, seconded by Mr. Winfield, high bailiff of Birmingham, proposed Mr. Spooner; Mr. Barlow, seconded by Mr. Baldwin (both members of the town-council), proposed Mr. Joseph Sturge.—Mr. Grach addressed the meeting on behalf of Mr. Scholefield; after which, Mr. Spooner and Mr. Sturge respectively harangued the meeting. Upon a show of hands, the numbers were declared to be in favour of Mr. Sturge. A poll was demanded. The election took place on Saturday; and resulted in the return of Mr. Spooner. The following was the final return:—

Spooner	2095
Scholefield	1735
Sturge	346

VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY.—In 1801, the annual value of the real property of England and Wales was considerably short of £40,000,000. From a return which has been recently laid before the House of Commons, we learn that the annual value of real property is now £83,901,957. In the face of these facts, it is rather too bad to speak of the landed interest as having been injured by the progress of manufactures.

NOTES TAKEN BY A TRAVELLER IN THE SUMMER OF 1844.

No. III.

Belgium, June 27, 1844.

After the deserted harbour and empty storehouses of Ostend, the railway is the object that most attracts the attention of the inquiring traveller. There could be nothing happier suggested than covering this small country with a net of railways; the interests of all parties clearly coincided with the project. For the manufacturer, who lost the Java market that he had long monopolised, the only hope of maintaining his position amidst competing rivals lay in the possibility of his obtaining the raw material, and all that was necessary to fabrication, cheaper than others. To the merchant, who had also lost the open field of the Dutch colonies, the prospect of supplying the countries at the back with the exotic products of both hemispheres was alluring. The landowner's co-operation was not only secured, but the sharpest spur was applied to his cupidity by the prices that he was likely to obtain for his land when it lay upon the lines traced out, or by the expectation of raising the price of produce in parts at some distance from the stations.

This last description of influence, which was paramount in the Chambers, decided the lot of the project; and nothing was wanted but a consistent adherence to the system, of which the railroads made a part, to ensure complete success. We have seen that the system was not adhered to, and we cannot wonder that success was not obtained, at least to an extent that fulfilled the hopes of the sanguine.

Building railroads, and keeping out by prohibitive duties the goods that should travel along them, is not unlike the present project of establishing a navy by the aid of navigation laws. It was easy to foresee that, if France and England were so simple as to continue their restrictions on trade in the face of a liberal policy on the part of Belgium, they would not be rendered disposed to abolish them by seeing them adopted in the last-named country. But the turn of the landowner having been served, that of the manufacturer came next. These discovered, like their neighbours, that it was easier to spin and weave in small quantities, and badly, under the protection of high import duties, than to compete with foreign manufacturers. Accordingly, three revisions of the tariff of import duties have taken place since the Revolution, at each of which articles of manufacture that were not highly taxed by the tariff of 1822 were subjected to additional duties. Thus the duty on woollen goods has been raised:—

	Rate of duty.	Value per cwt.	Duty amounts per cent to
TARIFF OF 1838.			
Cloths of wool and mixtures	250f. 0c. per 100 kil.	£16	30
Woollen yarn	60 0 „ 100	0	0
TARIFF OF 1828.			
Calicoes (plain)	180 20 „ 100	8	95
Prints	212 0 „ 100	16	55
Velvets	212 0 „ 100	18	45
TARIFF OF 1838.			
Silks and ribbons	5 0 „ 1	0	0
TARIFF OF 1834.			
Linen cloths (twelve threads)	97 0 „ 100	0 at 6d. per yd.	10
Increasing progressively to the breadth of twenty threads	360 0 „ 100	0 at 1s. per yd.	33
TARIFF OF 1838.			
Cambrics	5 0 „ 1	0	0
TARIFF OF 1841.			
Linen yarn (brown)	16 0 „ 100	0	0
According to fineness	70 0 „ 100	0	0
Bleached, to	95 0 „ 100	0	0
Twist, 84f. to	140 0 „ 100	0	0
TARIFF OF 1822.			
Iron castings	13.35 „ 100	0 at £8 per ton	80
Iron bar	12 72 „ 100	5	100

The only step of importance taken towards an extension of trade was the convention with France of 1840, by which the duty on French wines was reduced in Belgium, and the duty on Belgian coals in France.

But these augmentations did not yet satisfy the manufacturers, who, finding the demand for flax from England increase with the progress of machine-spinning, insisted upon the imposition of an export duty, *to keep the flax at home.* It was granted, and the result is a most useful lesson to all friends to restrictions. The value of flax exported to England, which in 1839 amounted to 11,900,000 francs, fell in 1842 to 3,339,656 francs, while the export of linens fell from 23,687,620 francs in 1839 to 20,865,094 francs in 1842. The total export of linen wares and flax, therefore, declined considerably, although the value of the yarn sent to France increased by about 500,000 francs. And there was an increase on the total of Belgian yarn exported to the value of 1,170,000 francs.

The railway station at Ostend thus suggests considerations not differing much from those which the condition of the harbour awakened. Trade fettered by restrictions paralyzes every other branch of industrial exertion, and this truth is sure to be felt first by the carrier, whether by land or by water. But the carrier is here the Government, with whom nobody sympathises, and who does not even complain as long as taxpayers are ready to cover deficiencies. Of course the statement here given does not exhaust the subject of the trade of the country. It, however, explains why the cheapest railroads in Europe, on which rich and populous cities are thickly planted, while the rural population of the districts which they traverse is also unusually dense, have hitherto yielded no return for the outlay they demanded.

But the state of the country between Ostend and Bruges, even traversed at the rapid rate of a railroad pace, bears evidence to the fact that no great prosperity has attended the speculation of the farmer and landowner, when the landed interest joined the manufacturers in their outcry for protecting duties. Vast tracts of sandy wold forming very poor pasturage present themselves in the first portion of the way. The soil is indeed wretched, and the sea blasts sweep uninterrupted over the boundless flat. But no chain of hills of any importance marks the transition into the richly-cultivated portion of the province of West Flanders, which commences before the train reaches Bruges. Rich and well-kept pastures and meadow lands, heavy crops of grain alternating with flax, confess the diligence of the cultivators, and the effects of

enclosures thickly studded with trees that screen the young seed from the cutting blasts of the early spring. The improvement in the soil of the northern portion of West Flanders is the result of a steady adherence to a sound method of treating the land, which simply consists in manuring it as richly as it will bear, and drawing the heaviest crops from it that, with the present state of agricultural knowledge, it will produce. Amongst the articles on which it was proposed to lower the duty on the late revision of the English tariff, butter was to have been included. But, as our supplies are drawn from three countries that have most steadily persevered in an illiberal commercial policy towards us, the boon was denied them. The reduction to any figure approaching to a reasonable tax on an article of such general demand would have been sensibly felt in Flanders, and would speedily have converted the *landes* and *bruyères* near the sea into regulated pasturages and meadows. If we may credit the reports of statisticians, the consumption of fresh butter in England is more limited than in the countries of central Europe. Notwithstanding our wealth, there are evidently luxuries that our population at large cannot so well command as the denizens of what are esteemed poorer countries, and fresh butter is one of those luxuries. West Flanders, of which Bruges is the capital, produces the butter that is sent to us by way of Ostend; but with our present duty it does not answer to take waste land into cultivation to produce it, any more than it offers inducements to turn arable into meadow land. The export of butter to England in 1842 did not amount to one-third of the value exported to France, nor did it much exceed the importations into Belgium from Holland. The value of the butter drawn from that country was 781,622 francs: it was consumed in the eastern and southern provinces. The export to England was valued at but 264,303 francs, and to France, Belgium sent the value of 617,033 francs.

We have now attained the interesting point whence it is possible to follow the operation of restrictions on trade to the landowner's door; and, as I have said, Belgium is the country that offers the greatest facilities for the calculation. Here, in Bruges, begins the remarkable cultivation of the soil, which has obtained much celebrity, and which has been often described and admired, but has never been strictly criticised by a political economist. Bruges is the centre of the meadow and pasture land of West Flanders. To the south, towards Tournay and Ypres, is the seat of the flax cultivation. From Ghent onwards to the Scheldt mouth lies the corn land, with the district of Waes, renowned for its spade husbandry. The valley of the Meuse, besides feeding its industrious population of miners and forgers, has little superfluous produce for exportation; but the districts of Limburg that belong to Belgium are renowned for a kind of cheese that rivals the produce of the Italian meadows on the tables of the rich in Paris as at Petersburg. So great a variety is now here presented in agriculture within so circumscribed a compass. The picture, although a miniature, is worth studying in detail.

An indistinct idea seems to prevail amongst landowners in many parts that the value of land increases with the number of hands employed in agriculture. This opinion arises from the want of a due distinction between the value which a dense population (however employed) imparts to land, and that which is given to it by multiplying the actual cultivators of the soil. Impediments offered to trade and manufactures have the effect of multiplying the agricultural labourers. This has taken place in Flanders, where land is so divided that it would appear impossible to parcel it out more minutely. West Flanders contains, in a superficies of 799,422 acres, no less than 656,604 registered properties, which consequently average but 1¼ acre each. The division of the cultivated lands differs, however. In the neighbourhood of the coast farms and possessions are larger than in the interior. The commune of Furnes counts 2¼ acres to an inhabitant; the commune of Ostend has one inhabitant on 1¾ acre. In the commune of Bruges there is one inhabitant to 1½ acre, and in that of Courtray one to 7-10ths of an acre. By so dense a population every check that the other branches of industry experience naturally throws the inhabitants upon the land; and if the landlord's interest really lay in having the land thus morselled out, matters must stand better with the Belgian landlords than with any others.

The renting system, which is general in Flanders, as in the whole of Belgium, allows of an elasticity in agricultural industry that is unknown both in France and Germany. The size of the properties does not, in Belgium, anywhere show the size of farms; but in Flanders, where property is most subdivided, farms are also smallest. As the other branches of industry are at this moment at the lowest ebb, the chances are apparently now better for landlords than they have ever been.

But what is the result, in fact? I visited several small farms, varying from one to five hectares—that is to say, from 2½ to 12 acres in extent—and found on the smallest the spade in constant use. In the leases of large parcels it is usual to prescribe in a clause that the ground shall be dug round once in six years. Still, with all these precautions, I could neither see nor hear of such crops as are common on good farms in England. The average produce of wheat is, in Flanders, about 25 bushels per acre (20 to 22 hectolitres per hectare). Rye seldom yields so much. In the best tilled part of Flanders some fields in 1840 produced 32 to 35 bushels of red wheat; but the round, full, clean grain of an English market is not found there. Barley averages about 35 bushels per acre on carefully-tilled lands of West Flanders. And yet rents equalling £2 and £3 per acre are general in Flanders, notwithstanding the price of wheat has in the last three years not exceeded 50s. per quarter.

The secret of these high rents for corn and meadow land lies evidently in the good practical system of treatment which the land undergoes. The farmer studies his soil, and cultivates what suits it best. He keeps the ground, too, in constant activity. Fallows are unknown in Flanders.

But this good system of managing the land is a legacy from former times, when the population could not have been as dense as it now is, which alone (if the experience of England did not confirm the fact,) might have led to the supposition that skilful farming did not stand in any indispensable connexion with the subdivision of the soil amongst small cultivators. The source whence the profit must be derived out of which rent can be paid, lies first in the return that the land yields in produce; and secondly, in the difference of the cost of cultivation between one farm and another. In the return of grain, the Scotch farms are undoubtedly beyond the rest of Europe, and are not equalled by the Flemings, as indeed the latter confess. With regard to economy of cultivation, when it is considered that to break up a farm of 250 acres into 10 farms of 25 acres each, supposes a tenfold investment of capital in buildings, wells, dung-pits, and other appurtenances of the homestead, there is evidently no small abstraction of capital from the means of enriching or draining the land.

According to a calculation that was shown me of the cost of spade cultivation, a farmer required the aid of three men and two women, with a cow-boy, and a horse to draw manure and go to market, to cultivate 17 acres of light soil. Now, as on a well-proportioned and carefully-managed farm in England, the same number of hands, with the addition of one horse, would certainly suffice for four times the surface, the economy of the spade cultivation, where a greater produce is not extracted than can be done by scientific farming, is not apparent.

The important thing to bear in mind is, that, at all events, it cannot be to the interest of the landlord to force occupants upon his land. If the population is there to consume the farmer's produce, the land will have its value for both owner and cultivator, whatever may be the proportion in which it is subdivided.

I think it is impossible to spend any time amongst these Flemish farmers without attaining the conviction that the value which they draw from the land is in no way dependent on the size of their farms, but is the result of a diligence, a knowledge of their business, a sobriety and economical mode of living that, if exerted on a large scale, would prove more profitable than on a small one.

On all sides I hear, too, the confession that the high rents demanded here are very uncertain. In bad years, allowances are not only necessary, but the landowner has even to aid the farmer, who is unable to save any thing to meet reverses. The farm-buildings are, for the same reason, commonly dilapidated and untidy. The cowhouse is usually so contrived that the window opens upon the dungpit, into which its drains run, and which emits effluvia in summer that cannot but be prejudicial to the health of the beasts within. To this cause, in a great measure, the epidemy of the present year may be ascribed, which, without apparent cause, attacks the lungs of the cows, and carries them off rapidly. Owing to this epidemic disorder, of which the farmers are very much afraid, I was refused admittance into the stables of several farms that I was anxious to inspect.

But if the value of the corn land is not only enhanced by an economical mode of cultivation, but depends in an equal measure upon the general prosperity of the consuming classes, the flax lands, for which the highest rent is paid, owes its value entirely to the skill of the dresser and the spinner. In dressing flax, the routine of the Belgians is excellent. Their system has often been described, but has been found so difficult to rival that many have supposed there were some favourable chemical properties in the water of the river Lys, along whose valley the finest flax is produced. The traveller who has been accustomed to hear magical properties ascribed to many streams and soils where skill and industry have proved successful, listens with some incredulity to such a reason, and fancies that when the flax unpulled sells in the valley of the Lys for 600 francs per hectare (£9 per acre), while in the "Campina" it only brings 240 francs per hectare, the skill of the dresser has the greatest share in the difference of value. To pursue the calculation, it would follow that, if a cheaper and a better mode of dressing could be invented, the landlord would be benefited by it. Consequently the improvements in spinning must have the same effect, and the little mystification by which the Belgian landlords were brought to fear that the spinning machines in England would lower the price of flax in Flanders, was, at the least, amusing. Their opinion has changed recently, at least as far as regards machine-spinning at home, which has rapidly increased of late. But this portion of Flemish industry belongs more particularly to Ghent, which has long formed the central flax and linen market of Flanders, and which deserves to be specially described.

I will merely add that persons well acquainted with the state of the country assured me that the increased demand for flax arising from the growing use of machinery was preparing a great change in the flax country, as it would eventually throw the production into the hands of farmers on a large scale. At present a family relies upon its earnings by handspinning and weaving, and finds employment through the winter in working up the flax that grows upon a single acre. Hence not only the great subdivision of the farms in the valley of the Lys (which may be traced on the map from Menin and Courtray to Ghent), but also the great rents paid for these diminutive holdings, and which occasionally amount to £4 or £5 per acre. If such a change were allowed to take place unconsciously, and without due precautions, the loss to the country might be severe. But, if the landlords carefully distinguish between the advantages they derive from the dressers and spinners and those which may properly be ascribed to soil and climate, they will, by adopting judicious means of instruction and encouragement, preserve the aid of the dressers and spinners when their occupation shall, by the force of circumstances, be separated from the tillage of the soil.

The case is here an inverse one to that which occurred with the Dacca muslins in the East Indies, where the introduction of machine-made wares caused the extinction of that branch of industry, and with it the cultivation of that particular description of cotton of which the finest thread was spun was also abandoned, and is now said to be lost. This was the result of the apathy and want of caution in the Government of Bengal, which neither remarked the change nor sought to adopt the measures it demanded. The local taxation, which is the crying grievance of India, prevented the inhabitants from suiting their cultivation to the changed nature of the demand, as it made it impossible for them to compete with the untaxed Americans. With due precautions the demand for cotton would have indemnified the people of Dacca for the loss of their weaving. Without such there has been a loss for all parties; and the effects of negligence in observing the inevitable laws that the course of industry obeys has made unthinking people attribute evil effects to Free Trade that can only result from restrictions or erroneous fiscal regulations.

Our accounts of the fires are diminishing. We have but one incendiary fire to record in this county since the date of our last publication.—*Bury Herald.*

COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING.

(*From the Economist.*)

There are few branches of British industry, or of British enterprise, more important to the general well-being and prosperity of the country than that connected with our shipping and navigation; whether viewed in relation to the amount of labour and capital for which it affords employment, or to the facilities which it gives for the exercise of all other branches of industry, or to the political importance and influence with which it invests this country. Unfortunately, however, notwithstanding the fact that this interest has engaged in an especial manner the fostering care of the Legislature, there are few that have so frequently complained of extreme depression, or urged more often their claims on the aid of the Government from time to time. We believe, however, that the parties immediately interested, as well as the Legislature, have been influenced in the course and policy which have been pursued by a mistaken notion of the actual facts connected with the shipping of this country. We are the more anxious to correct many of the common fallacies and misconceptions on this subject at the present moment, as a committee of the House of Commons has recently been appointed, and is now sitting, to inquire into the state and condition of our foreign shipping trade.

Among the oldest and firmest prejudices connected with our commerce is to be ranked the favour with which a general restrictive policy has been regarded by our shipowners—a favour which but little consideration will show it difficult to reconcile with any just estimate of their own interests. It is true, that from a very early period great efforts were made by the State to secure a monopoly of the carrying trade of this country to our own ships, and the law known under the name of the Navigation Act, as completed by the 12th Charles II., remained in operation till 1815, when, as sooner or later must be the case with every restrictive law in an increasing community, the force of circumstances compelled a partial relinquishment of its principles.

By that law it was enacted that no produce should be imported from Asia, Africa, or America, except in British ships; and that any goods imported from other parts of Europe in foreign ships should pay a higher rate of duty than the same would be chargeable with if imported in British ships. As long as our chief foreign trade was with our own colonies and dependencies, or as long as foreign countries did not possess an important mercantile navy to compete with us, that restrictive system might be maintained; but it should have been plain to the commonest mind, that, as soon as we sought to trade with great and powerful states, having themselves a large commercial marine, it would be utterly impossible, and equally impolitic, to maintain such restrictions.

Accordingly, soon after the United States had established their independence, that Government, feeling the loss to which its mercantile interests were subjected, by being permitted only to carry cargoes from this country, but not to bring cargoes, thereby being obliged to perform the voyage one way in ballast, and giving the British shipowner a great advantage in competing with the American, passed a law similar to that in force here; which, though it did not remove the necessity of performing the voyage one way empty, yet imposed the same necessity on their rival English shipowners. Thus, then, for some years English vessels went in ballast to the United States, and returned with cargoes of cotton, or other produce; while American ships came to England empty, and returned with cargoes of our manufactures, minerals, &c.: on the one hand our goods being loaded with a charge for freight to the American consumer sufficiently high to pay the expense of navigation outward and homeward, and enhancing the cost of such goods as much as if the American Government had placed an additional import duty on our goods; and on the other hand American cotton being loaded with a charge for freight to the manufacturer here sufficiently high to pay the expenses of both voyages, and enhancing the cost as much as if the American Government had placed an export duty, or our Government an additional import duty on such produce, equal to the difference. And this additional cost was a gain to no one, being on the one hand a mere waste of an empty voyage one way to the American, and the other way to the English shipowner. This reciprocal folly lasted till 1815, when we entered into a treaty with the United States, by which each country ceded to the other all the privileges enjoyed by its own ships. This cannot be said to have been any concession to the principles of Free Trade, or made with any understanding of its doctrines, but one forced by the practical inconvenience and mischief arising from a protective policy. The best interests of either country rightly understood would have induced it to have abandoned such folly without any regard to the acts of the other.

The next great inroad on the Navigation Act arose in 1823, from retaliatory duties imposed in that year by Prussia, on our ships trading to the ports of that country, which excited much clamour on the part of our shipowners. It then became obvious that we could no longer maintain the Navigation Act; that to have negotiated with Prussia alone, as we had done with America, would have left us the same work to do at a very early period with every other country affected by that act. The clamours raised against the Prussian acts of retaliation led the Government, in 1823, to propose the Reciprocity Acts of 4th and 5th George IV., authorising his Majesty by order in council to repeal all discriminating duties chargeable in English ports on the vessels of such foreign countries as were willing to admit our ships to enter their ports on like equal terms. In pursuance of that power, since that time reciprocity treaties have been concluded with

Prussia	Hamburg	Sweden and Norway
Hanover	Lubeck	Mexico
Denmark	States of La Plata	Brazil
Oldenburg	Columbia	Austria
Mecklenburg	Holland	Russia
Greece	France	Portugal
Bremen		

It cannot be denied that, since the passing of these acts (as well as before), the shipping interest of this country has suffered severely at intervals from depression and want of employment, and that a great reduction has taken place in its value since that period. But that on the whole shipbuilding and shipowning have not been profitable trades, or that the depressions which have been experienced have arisen from those acts, as recently resolved by the shipowners' meeting at Sunderland, we utterly deny. It is, on the contrary, capable of proof, in every way by which such proof can be indicated, that shipowning has been a

profitable trade, and that the result of the reciprocity acts have been more beneficial to this country than to any other; and that when depression has been experienced by the shipping interest, it has arisen entirely from the evil effects of the restrictions on our general commerce, to the prosperity of which alone our shipowners can with any reasonableness look for support.

One of the worst consequences which peculiar privileges inflict on any trade is, that such trade is necessarily called upon to support the protective system enjoyed by other occupations, however detrimental to itself. Hence we have found that that leaning for protection on the Government to which the shipping interest has been so long habituated, has led them to support other monopolies and restrictions of all kinds, however prejudicial to themselves;—hence we have found shipowners among the greatest advocates of the exclusion of foreign corn, sugar, coffee, and other produce, the increased introduction of which could only tend to increase the demand for, and the use of, their ships. And another evil consequence has been, that, relying on legislative protection against foreign competitors, attention has not been sufficiently directed to the real disadvantages under which our shipbuilders labour, by being obliged to work with dearer materials and dearer labour. If shipowners would exercise ordinary sagacity, they would see that, circumstanced as they now are, no act of restriction which it is in the power of the law to impose could benefit them, but, on the contrary, would only be productive of mischief; and that the only possibility of permanent improvement must be looked for by pursuing a liberal Free-Trade policy, so as to increase the extent of our intercourse. At the present moment, not only do the British shipowners compete with foreign ships in the home trade, over which our law could exercise some influence to protect them; but, startling as it will appear to most, they follow these foreign ships into the neutral markets of the world, and successfully compete with them there. To hear the advocates of protection dilating on the advantages of restricting foreign shipping, one would fancy that the great bulk of our ships were employed in the home and colonial trade, whereas nearly two-thirds of the British ships which leave our ports are engaged in a foreign neutral trade, beyond any power of our law to protect, while little more than one-third are engaged in the trade of our colonies and dependencies. It would, therefore, be as idle for the cotton manufacturers of Manchester, who have to compete with all the world in neutral markets, to besiege St. Stephen's with a call for protection, as it is for the shipowners of this country to do so. Competition with the whole shipowning world must decide the freights obtainable by the two-thirds of our shipping employed in the neutral trade of the world; competition between that portion of our ships so employed, and the smaller portion employed in our colonial trade, must ever reduce the freight obtainable by the latter to the same rate. And yet it is for this delusive and impracticable advantage that shipowners are found advocating interests and principles of commercial restriction which lessen the trade of the country—a policy on their part as consistent with reason as it would be for the London and Birmingham Railway Company to advocate a restriction on the intercourse between those two places.

In 1820, before the Reciprocity Acts were passed, to which shipowners refer all their misfortunes, the tonnage of shipping belonging to the British empire amounted to 2,648,593 tons; and in 1842, to 3,311,538 tons. In 1820 the total quantity of British shipping, which cleared outwards on foreign voyages, was 1,549,508 tons; while in 1842 it amounted to 3,375,270 tons, having more than doubled during the 22 years. These facts afford no evidence of a declining trade, or, on the whole, an unprofitable one. But what we think of the greatest consequence to call the attention of shipowners to is, the distribution of our shipping in the trade of the world, apparently so little understood.

In 1820, the 1,549,508 tons of British shipping which left our ports were thus distributed:—

BRITISH POSSESSIONS:—

	Tons.	Men.
Gibraltar	14,375	820
Malta	5,171	300
Ionian Islands	7,898	436
Cape of Good Hope and Coast of Africa	27,559	1,240
St. Helena	1,835	94
Mauritius	753	44
East Indies	51,133	4,028
New South Wales	2,823	181
British North America	341,650	17,616
British West Indies..	233,486	12,900
Guernsey and Jersey	66,139	5,161
	746,822	42,820
Foreign Trade to Neutral Countries ..	802,686	53,029
Total	1,549,508	95,849

thus showing, that even in those days, so little were men aware of the actual facts connected with our shipping, nearly 52 per cent. of all our foreign trade was carried on with countries over which we could exercise no control, and only 48 per cent. with our whole possessions throughout the whole world.

Let us now examine how this comparison stands in 1842, after twenty-two years' experience of the Reciprocity Acts, which shipowners say, sacrificed them to foreign competition.

In 1842 the 3,375,270 tons of British shipping which left our ports were thus distributed:—

BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

	Tons.	Men.
Gibraltar	43,508	3,609
Malta	40,141	2,043
Ionian Islands	7,055	398
Cape of Good Hope and Coast of Africa	34,022	1,991
St. Helena	3,977	218
Mauritius	16,397	808
East Indies	202,101	10,070
New South Wales	51,234	2,878
British North America	446,842	19,428
British West Indies	261,344	14,839
Guernsey and Jersey	144,366	12,625
	1,250,937	68,809
Foreign trade to neutral countries ..	2,124,333	118,007
Total	3,375,270	186,816

which shows that now we are dependent on a trade carried on with foreign neutral countries for the employment of about 63 per cent. of all our shipping and sailors, while our own possessions, much as they have increased, afford employment for only 37 per cent. of our shipping and sailors.

The increase since 1820 in the shipping to our own possessions throughout the world, which alone we have attempted to control and regulate, has been 504,115 tons, or 67 per cent., while the increase to foreign countries, over which we can exercise no control, under the greater freedom of the acts of 1823 so much complained of, has been 1,321,647 tons, or 164 per cent.

With these facts before us, it is not difficult to estimate how great is the advantage which has been reaped by the shipowners of this country by the Free-Trade policy of Mr. Huskisson. We ask them to consider what would now have been their position had the Navigation Act been continued in force, and their trade, by a series of retaliatory measures, had been chiefly confined to British possessions; and we ask them again to reflect that no Government regulation can in any way avail them when so large a portion of their dependence is on the trade of foreign countries. It is with the whole and entire expansion of our trade with the world that their interests are inseparably bound. It is to the removal of all restrictions to which they as shipbuilders, and by which our commerce, are at present fettered, that they must look for permanent and lasting relief, and not to the delusive and miserable policy of restriction and legislative interference. Re-enact your fondly-remembered navigation laws to-morrow, and in less than a month two-thirds of your present trade is placed in hazard, if not immediate suspension; on the contrary, press forward for a full application of free and unrestricted trade, and you will eminently share in the general advantages which could not fail to arise from such policy.

Every approach to that principle has proved already specially advantageous to the shipping interest. In 1820, with a high protective duty on wool, the quantity consumed from which freight was derived, was 7,691,000 lbs.; Mr. Huskisson removed that duty, and in the year ending January, 1842, it was 53,350,000 lbs.; an increase of more than six times. In 1820 a high protective, almost prohibitory, duty existed on foreign coffee. The quantity then consumed in this country was 7,100,000 lbs. Mr. Huskisson, and after him other governments, have from time to time reduced that protection, and the quantity of coffee consumed in 1842 increased to 28,580,000 lbs., or four times. On the contrary, the high prohibitory duty on foreign sugar has been strictly maintained till now; in 1820, the quantity of all kinds imported, contributing to freight, was 4,209,000 cwts.; in 1842 (the same restrictions being continued), it was 4,699,261 cwts., showing an increase of only 10 per cent.; while in the two cases to which Free-Trade principles had been applied, the increase on the one was 400 per cent., and on the other upwards of 600 per cent. To which of these lines of policy—whether to restriction or freedom—have our shipowners been indebted for the employment of 3,375,270 tons in 1842, in place of 1,549,508 tons in 1820? To what line of policy—whether to restriction or freedom—have they been indebted for an increase of 164 per cent. in our shipping to foreign neutral countries during that period, while that to our own possessions, where alone they have been protected, has increased only 67 per cent? If there is one man more than another in this country who, from the experience of the past or the promise of the future, ought to eschew every approach to a Government office, or the precincts of St. Stephen's, except to beg and petition these intermeddlers with what they do not, and never can understand, to withdraw all their care and protection—to withdraw all the interferences which bind and limit the commerce on which alone he can thrive—to let him go free on the ocean as the waters which he sweeps—that man is the BRITISH SHIPOWNER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Henllan, near Denbigh, North Wales,
July 15, 1844.

SIR,—I find by the LEAGUE paper that you are so kind as to answer questions respecting registration of votes, and as the following cases have come under my observation, I shall be very much obliged for your advice.

Has a person who pays £10 rent a borough vote when he is not rated to the full annual value? A neighbour of mine pays £10 rent, but is rated only at £8; are the overseers bound to insert his name in the list on being informed that he pays £10 rent?

Another case is where a person occupies his own freehold house, when he is rated in the assessment only at £5, when the house might be let to a tenant for £10 or more, but the said house has always been occupied by the owner and never let to a tenant. Is the rating the criterion by which to judge the qualification, or the rent that might be had for the house? And are the overseers bound to insert his name in the borough list? The owner is more anxious to have a borough vote for the said house, as he has a county vote for other houses?

I remain, Sir, yours respectfully,
JOHN ROBERTS.

[The questions put by Mr. Roberts it may be useful to answer in the LEAGUE for general information:—

The amount at which premises are *rated* is no criterion of the *value*, and it is the *value* alone which determines the *qualification*. A tenant may be rated at only 20s., and yet be entitled to be registered if his premises are *bonâ fide* of the annual value of £10.

If a tenant exhibits to the overseers evidence, such as the landlord's receipt, that he pays £10 a year rent, they are bound to put him on the list of voters. So in the case of the freeholder, if he exhibit a valuation by a competent builder or architect, of the annual value of the freehold being above £10, they will be bound to insert *his* name on the list. In the absence of good evidence, the overseers would be entitled to look to the gross estimated rental entered in the rate-book, as their guide in making out the list; and then the tenant and freeholder will have to give in a claim (after the list of persons entitled to vote is published on the church doors) to the overseers to be registered in the usual form. If good evidence of value is furnished to the overseers, and they still omit the claimants from the list, they may, on complaint to the revising barrister, be fined.]

3, Prince's-row, Victoria-road, Pimlico,
July 16, 1844.

SIR,—On consulting the catalogue of the Royal Academy, I found No. 1358 (in the Sculpture Room) marked as the number for a "Bust of R. Cobden, Esq." I, as a loyal and true Free-Trader and member of the League, was very desirous of ascertaining how far the artist had succeeded. What was my surprise, then, in beholding a bust in plaster, about as unlike "our own Cobden" as you can well imagine. Instead of the bland, open, and candid expression which so distinguishes the countenance of the hon. member for Stockport, a stern, gloomy sort of face presented itself, which must have anything but prepossessed strangers who might happen to have been physiognomists.

Now, will you, in your next number, correct the error, and state that No. 1351, and *not* 1358, is *the* bust of our leader, as no doubt the mistake has deceived many who would be glad to be undeceived. By the way, whoever has the management of placing busts and pictures in the Royal Academy must be about as ignorant of their business as the most unlettered Ojibbeway. In the catalogue, No. 1358, "Bust of the late Wilson," although marked Cobden, is placed close to a Roman subject on one side ("Caractacus before Claudius"), and "Patent Lock Bramah," on the other. Surely this is vandalism with a vengeance, of which no schoolboy would be guilty.

May I also request the favour of knowing, in your next number of the LEAGUE, whether a lodger of 4s. per week, or £10 per annum, who has occupied twelve months, can demand of his landlord to *deduct* from his rent his amount of poor's rates and taxes (if the lodger pays his quota) for the said tenement, and thus become an eligible voter?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
HENRY FEILDE.

[Mr. Henry Feilde, Pimlico, is informed that 4s. per week will not entitle a tenant to vote if that rent include rates and taxes. The qualifying premises must be, not of the clear yearly *rent*, but of the clear yearly *value* of £10. As a general rule, where the landlord pays the rates and taxes, it will take 5s. a week rent to give a vote. A tenant is quite entitled to be rated, and ultimately to be registered, although the landlord compounds for and pays the rates. In the event of the landlord neglecting to pay the rates due up to the 6th of April before the 20th of July, the tenant will be entitled to pay them, and deduct the amount from the rent, by 59 Geo. III., cap. 12, s. 20. A tenant's *name* must be on all rates made for twelve months prior to the 31st of July. Nothing can dispense with that.]

Robert Allen, of Bristol, is informed that the freehold property mentioned in his letter does give a vote to the owner of that property for the county, or division of the county, in which it is situate.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

PETER PLAYFAIR'S LETTERS.—No. V.

Amsterdam, June 20, 1844.

Amsterdam, the capital of Holland, is situated at the confluence of the river Amstel, with an arm of the Zuyder Zee, called the Y, and which forms the port. It contains 200,000 inhabitants, and is surrounded by a semi-circular canal or wide foss, with four other great canals running in curves parallel with the outer one. One of these canals, the Kaisergracht, is 140 feet wide. They are lined with handsome houses, planted with full-grown trees, and average in length two miles each. Various small canals intersect the town in all directions, and are said to divide it into ninety-five islands. The canals are traversed by no less than 290 bridges, and but for the numerous sluices and dykes and their skilful management, Amsterdam being 25 or 30 feet below the level of the sea, might at any moment be submerged. Taken as a whole, it is one of the most remarkable capitals of Europe. The houses, bridges, and dykes are all built upon piles, which gave occasion to Erasmus to remark, that he had reached a city whose inhabitants, like crows, lived upon the tops of trees. The upper stratum upon which the town is built is literally nothing more than marsh or bog, and loose sand; and until the piles are driven through this into the firm deposits below, no structure can be erected with a chance of stability. A stranger who has never seen a Dutch town before, will be struck by the novel and picturesque combination which it presents of water, bridges, trees, and shipping in the very heart of a city. He will remark the quaint buildings with gables facing the street, often overhanging the footpath, or lying back from the subsidence of the foundation—the canals traversed by massive drawbridges, opening and shutting to allow the passage of ships—the carts running upon sledges instead of wheels, with barrels of water placed in front, which is jerked out under the sledges to diminish the friction—the shoes of the horses, which are not unlike pattens—the wooden sabots of the peasants—the brass milkpail glistening like polished armour, or the wooden pail painted a sky-blue colour—the little mirror fastened before the window of every house, to show the inmates the passers-by—the marble halls of the merchants' dwellings—and the footways paved with clinker bricks instead of stone—all combine to show the English traveller that he is in another land. The prosperity of Amsterdam always depended upon her shipping. At one period she engrossed the carrying trade of the world, and thus reared a bold race of sailors, ever ready to fight the battles of their country, and to brave storms and tempests in every sea. The trade of Holland has now greatly decreased, and it is thought by many that the kingdom is in a rapid state of decadence. The manufactures of Amsterdam include a few cotton and woollen stuffs, and some things peculiar to itself. The refineries of borax, a salt which is produced from the mud of large lakes in Persia, Thibet, and South America; of camphor, the coagulated sap of a tree found principally in China, and, when refined, extensively used in medicine; of smalt, a blue glossy substance, produced from cobalt, and which the artificers of Amsterdam alone know how to refine in the best manner by grinding it minutely, and by other methods which are kept secret. Smalt is chiefly used in painting china, and is made to present a variety of shades by the mode of preparation. Other articles are manufactured here by methods said to be known only to the Dutch: such as cinnabar, vermilion, rouge, a great variety of scents, perfumed oils, and cosmetics. The art of cutting diamonds was also first practised by the Jews of Amsterdam, and was not discovered till the fifteenth century. The diamond mills at Amsterdam are still numerous, and are exclusively the property of the Jews, who number 50,000 souls, or one-fourth of the population of Amsterdam. Four horses turn a wheel in this mill, setting in motion a number of smaller wheels in a room above, whose cogs, acting on regular metal

plates, keep them constantly in motion. Pulverized diamond is placed upon these, and the diamond to be polished fastened at the end of a piece of wood by means of an amalgam of zinc and quicksilver, and submitted to the friction of the adamantine particles. This is the only mode of acting upon diamonds, which may be ground and even cut by particles of the same substance. These transactions, however, are comparatively small and unimportant; and it is a melancholy fact to reflect upon, and a melancholy sight to see the harbours of this enterprising and commercial people filled with unemployed shipping, and to know that the decay of their trade has been occasioned chiefly by the oppressions and restrictions of other nations. The greatest blow struck at the prosperity of Holland was under the Continental system of Napoleon, who deprived the Dutch of their trade as carriers for other nations, and closed their ports which had heretofore served as entrepôts for the commerce of continental Europe, and more especially of Northern Germany. But the Dutch are a persevering, patient, sober, and enduring people, and may recover some of their trade. The greater part of Holland is a delta formed of mud, deposited by the Rhine and other rivers, in the same manner as the Delta of Egypt has been formed by the river Nile. Old Andrew Marvel says:—

"What by the water's slow alluvion fell,
With shipwrecked cockle and with mussle shell,
This indigested vomit of the sea
Fell to the Dutch by just propriety.

"Glad, then, as miners who have found the ore,
They with much labour fished the land to shore,
And dived in desperately for each piece
Of earth, as if 't been of ambergris.
Collecting anxiously small loads of clay,
Less than what building swallows bear away.

"Next did they rivet with gigantic piles,
Right through the centre their new-catched miles,
And to the stake a struggling country bound,
Where barking waves still bait the forced ground;
Building their watery Babel far more high
To reach the sea, than those that scale the sky."

The land thus perseveringly rescued from the water, to whose dominion it may be said to have belonged, would again be covered by the waves if human agency was removed for a short space of time, or would be reduced to the state of those vast wastes composed of sand and mud-banks, quite unfit for human habitations, which now lie at the mouths of the Nile and Mississippi. And yet these fields, gained with so much labour from the sea, and preserved with such constant watchfulness, have been in more instances than one inundated by their owners during their contests with foreign foes, and Dutch patriotism has not hesitated to expose the land to temporary ruin for the preservation of liberty. The cutting of the dykes, and opening of the sluice-gates, which was resorted to in order to free Holland from Spanish tyranny, and, at a subsequent period, from French domination, was a desperate resource, and in itself a national calamity, entailing immediate beggary upon a large portion of the population, with great expense in the subsequent recovery of the land. The glorious sacrifice, however, serves to show that bravery is not peculiar to the natives of mountain lands, and that it needs neither hills nor fastnesses to enable a free people to defend their native land.

The Dutchman may also be said to have made the wind as well as the water his slave. Scarcely a breath of wind is allowed to pass without, as it were, paying toll, by turning a windmill. These erections are so numerous that they are never out of sight in a Dutch landscape. They are constructed of much larger dimensions than with us, and are generally neatly thatched over both the top and the sides. It is not uncommon even to see a painting in the centre representing the sign of the proprietor, such as the figure of the Lamb, Ceres, the Adoration of the Shepherds, &c., and these paintings are generally elaborately and well executed. In the suburbs of great cities, windmills are still more numerous; there they congregate like armies of giants, spreading out their broad arms as if to protect the streets and houses which they overlook. With us windmills are rarely used except to grind corn. In Holland they are employed almost as variously as steam-engines: they saw timber, crush rape-seed for oil, grind snuff, beat hemp, and perform many other acts of labour. But the principal service they perform is in draining the lands; and here the Dutch have most ingeniously set the wind to counteract the water. At least one-half of the windmills have water-wheels attached to them, which act as pumps, and, by constantly raising the water into the canals, alone keep the low land dry and fit for cultivation, and for the habitation of man. I measured the sail of one of these mills, which was 120 feet long. The usual length is 80 feet. Don Quixote would have found himself quite in his element in such a country.

Leyden, June 21, 1844.

The railroad from Amsterdam to Leyden, the Athens of the West, passes through level sandy plains, with occasional *dunes* or sandhills, similar to those which are seen at a distance lining the coast, but covered with vegetation, or with clumps of firs, or she-oaks. The railroad is exceedingly well constructed; the engines generally bear the name of George Stephenson, one of those strong spirits of the age, who is called the "Hengist of Railways." The canal and the carriage-road run parallel with the railroad, fringed with a monotonous row of uniform willow-trees. The causeway, elevated above the surrounding country, is carried along the summit of a dyke, or water-wall, whose prodigious strength alone restrains the waters of the Haarlem Sea, which press upon it, and which, unrestrained, would unite with the waters of the Zuyder Sea. To the right and left of the road in approaching Haarlem is a lake 11 feet deep, six of which are water, and the other eight slime or mud, which is used to make the valuable and durable Dutch bricks called clinkers. The lake is 30 miles in circumference, and the effect of the wind acting upon so large a surface, quite unsheltered from its fury, is appalling; for though the depth is slight, its waters are heaped up against the land by a storm to such a height that nothing but the strength and perfection of the dykes prevent the bordering districts, with the towns and villages they contain, from being swallowed up in ruin. The States-General of Holland have adopted the plan of an enterprising Englishman for pumping out the water with steam-engines, and converting the bed of the lake into arable and pasture land. The undertaking was commenced in 1840. It is expected that the drainage will be completed in two or three years, and then 20,000 acres of land, at present beneath the surface of the water, will be rendered serviceable to man. A steam-engine of 500 horse power, and another of 300 horse power, are employed in this labour.

The winter is the season when accidents most frequently happen to the dykes. Long-prevailing S.W. winds, acting on the surface of the Atlantic, drive an accumulation of water round the north of Scotland into the German Ocean. If these are succeeded by violent tempests blowing from the N.W., the effect is to propel the sea with great violence southward through the British Channel; but the Straits of Dover are too narrow to admit the augmented body readily to pass, and in consequence it falls back upon the low lands of Holland. At such moments the tall ocean may be truly said "to lean against the land," and the strength of the dykes alone preserves the country from submersion. To guard against such assaults, the utmost skill, energy, and activity are required. A special corps of engineers, called *waterstaat*, including men well skilled in the science of hydrostatics, are employed entirely in watching the state of the waters, and guarding against an irruption. If the water surmounts the dyke, its ruin is inevitable; and when such a calamity is apprehended the alarm-bell is rung, and every man in the neighbourhood hastens to his post. An upper rampart is erected on the top of the dyke in an incredibly short space of time, with stakes driven into the ground, willow faggots, or baskets and earth. If the strength or solidity of the dyke be doubtful, and a breach is apprehended or begins to appear, mats of woven straw and rushes, or large sheets of sailcloth, are laid on the outside in the same manner as a leak is sometimes stopped in a ship. This prevents the earth being washed away by the action of the waves; and when the danger is past, the temporary works are removed, and permanent repairs effected. The Zuyder Zee in the thirteenth century was all dry land; when the ground which it covers was inundated, 80,000 people lost their lives. About the same period 44 villages were swallowed up in the province of Groningen. In 1717 no less than 1560 habitations disappeared beneath the waters of the ocean, which had broken their bounds. It is clear, therefore, that the existence of Holland depends upon the preservation of her dykes to restrain the sea, and the management of her sluices to permit the egress of her rivers and internal waters. The term "der dronken land" (drowned land) is applied to more than one district which has been submerged, and subsequently recovered.

Leyden is situated on a small branch of the mighty Rhine, which passes through the town in the form of a canal, and ultimately through a set of flood-gates at Katwyk into the sea. It is the only part of the river which retains its name from the place of its rising, under the glaciers of Mount Adula, till its flood forms a barrier between many nations in its descent through the craggy rocks and vine-clad slopes of the Rhineghau, and is ultimately checked by the sands of Holland, and passes with a feeble current into the ocean. The University of Leyden is remarkable for having been one of the most distinguished schools of learning in Europe, for the interesting museums attached to it, and for the mode of its origin and foundation. After the celebrated defence of Leyden against the Spaniards, the Prince of Orange, desirous of rewarding the citizens for the bravery they had displayed, gave them the choice of two privileges—either an exemption from taxes, or the foundation of a university. Much to their credit they chose the latter. Leyden at one time attained so high a reputation, that most of the distinguished scholars of Europe flocked to its schools. Our countrymen Goldsmith, Evelyn, and other celebrated Englishmen studied there. Grotius, Arminius, Descartes, Scaliger, Boerhaave, and a host of brilliant names adorned the schools. The house of Boerhaave is a noble mansion outside the town. The history of its presentation to Boerhaave is remarkable. An English nobleman, suffering from a disease hitherto found incurable, visited Leyden, and placed himself under the care of this distinguished professor of medicine. To be near his physician, he purchased a large mansion in the neighbourhood, and when, to his gratification and surprise, he was eventually cured, he, on quitting the country, presented his house and grounds to the professor, whose skill had restored him to health. Leyden still affords excellent opportunities of study to the student of medicine or natural history. The senate-hall contains more than 100 portraits of distinguished professors, from Scaliger downwards. The Museum of Natural History is the richest, if not the most extensive, in Europe. It contains all the productions of the Dutch colonies in the East—Java, Japan, the Cape, Surinam, and the West Indies, as well as those of other lands. The department of birds, by M. Temminck, is said to be the finest in Europe. The Egyptian Museum is also full of objects of interest, including mummies and sarcophagi from the land of the Pharaohs, jewellery and trinkets from Ancient Thebes; papyri, musical instruments, and stone tablets of a very early period. The museum also contains many objects of Roman and Carthaginian art, highly honourable to the collectors, and which serve to show that the Dutch, in their early commercial explorations, did not forget the finer objects of art and of history, and that they do not deserve the sweeping satire of Voltaire, on his quitting the country—"Adieu! canaux, canards, canaille." P. P.

Burden of Poor-rates.—We are told by Mr. Cochrane that the chief burden of the increase of poor-rates falls on the land; but he is quite wrong in that assertion, as he is in most of his other statements. In 1801, of the £1,077,891 required for the relief of the poor, the land contributed about £3,000,000; in 1841, of the £5,500,000 expended for the same purpose, the land still contributed only about £3,000,000, the additional amount being assessed on dwelling houses, factories, and other kinds of property.

The Law.—It is a melancholy fact, that there are, at the present moment, no less than 1540 statutes in force. Of 376 which are repealed, or supposed to be repealed by implication, or said to be obsolete—that is, never acted upon—there are 112 which it is doubtful whether they are repealed or in force! This comprises the statute law only, but the unwritten or common law regulates at least three-fourths of our jurisprudence. And it is out of this huge chaos, which has been growing year by year for centuries, that, at the present moment, each citizen of the state is bound to find out what is the law! About as difficult a matter as finding out the philosopher's stone.

PROVINCIAL PRESS.

The League.—We sincerely hope that the conduct of the League members on the West India question will have a tendency to establish better and more honest rules of action for members of Parliament than those of party or personal aggrandizement:—to make men vote according to their consciences, and when they have done so, to treat with scorn any attempt by a political *leader* to make them rescind their votes. By-and-by we trust that the crack of the Premier's whip will be deemed an insult to the House; and that the whippers-in will be turned off from their disgraceful situations. It is the honest, independent, conscientious conduct of the League members which has turned many professing Liberals against them, and which has given strength to the cry that their influence has declined. The cry is a false one. We believe they never were more powerful than at this period. When we say so, we take no account of the number of boroughs which they may be able to command—no note of how they may stand in "a division." We estimate neither their patronage nor their rank in the House of Commons; but we look to the spread and the increasing popularity of their doctrines as the tests of their ultimate success, and as the chief success which they ever wished or anticipated. They never attempted to obtain what is commonly called political power—place, patronage, and title. They never expected to be called on to form a Cabinet, or to take a lead in her Majesty's councils. All they pretended to do was to instruct the people—the people and the electors—to show them how they were cheated, pillaged, and abused by an unscrupulous and insatiable class; and to show them at the same time the way to redress themselves, and to get fair play. Are the League, indeed, relaxing their activity in instructing the people in these things? And are the people, indeed, averse to the instruction? Have men renounced their belief in the evils of monopoly, and have they repented of having made their just demands? Are constituencies anxious to maintain class burdens, and to foster protection to overgrown interests? If so, the League have indeed declined, and their "occupation's gone." But we are not convinced that such things have happened; and it will take a great deal more to convince us than the assertion of any arrogant party oracle. The League have had a great triumph already; they have roused the whole country to a sense of its shameful oppressions; and made the doctrines of Free Trade the principal considerations both of the Government and the people. The Prime Minister is gradually yielding to their irresistible pressure. He sees that no legislative power can withstand them. He has acknowledged their justness, and gone a small way in their direction. He asks for time to put things in order; and then he must let the fabrics of the monopolists be swept from the ground which they have so long disgraced. Then will be the ultimate triumph of the League—a triumph which, we believe, no interested combination, however wealthy or powerful, can prevent. —*Dundee Advertiser.*

Excessive Competition and Low Profits.—To us it appears self-evident that an enlargement of the field of commerce would remove the chief cause of over-competition; and that then the maxim of "Live and let live" would be more generally acted on than it is, or can be at present. The system of dealing extensively at microscopic profits becomes a necessity when the supply exceeds the demand—a necessity, at least to all who, in such circumstances, are determined to keep their ground. They persevere with their eyes open to the chances before them; they play a hazardous game with much danger of ruin and possibilities of enormous gain. But few would enter into such a game if they had a choice of following a more safe and easy course. In a struggling crowd the strong drive the weak aside or trample them under foot; but the confining walls once broken down, both weak and strong find room and cease to squeeze their neighbours. The trade of this country, foreign and domestic, though absolutely great, is small compared with the productive powers of the people. It is, in fact,

"A dwarf shrub pining where a tree should grow."

Our manufactures are already cheap enough, and too cheap. They are not wanted at lower prices. They are not wanted in such quantities as we produce them *at any price*, in the present state of our commercial relations. They are out of proportion to the produce against which they must be exchanged—the produce of our own country and the niggardly supplies which are admitted from abroad. To reduce the case to a simple view, we may consider it thus. Suppose that every bale of goods ought to exchange against a quarter of corn, but that for every four quarters of corn in the market there are five bales of goods. The goods being in such excess, the holders of them naturally strive against each other to effect sales. A quarter of corn for a bale of goods would afford the manufacturer an easy living profit, but to give at the rate of five bales for four quarters would allow him scarcely a shade of profit. No man can live by doing a small trade at such a rate, and a cautious or timid man will not go into it extensively if he can get anything else to do. A poor man cannot, whether he may get anything else to do or not. It is then left to those who cannot escape from the contest, and to the venturous and speculative, to drive away and try to raise themselves by beating others down. Those who can command the greatest capital can deal most extensively at a low rate of profit, and this again secures to them the greatest stroke of business; and thus the process goes on, every extension furnishing to the great trader the means for extending still further, and still more effectually excluding the small dealer from the trade. In this desperate struggle, the workman's wages are reduced to the barest minimum on which existence can be supported, and machinery is perfected with almost supernatural rapidity, to increase the powers of production. But wages can only be so depressed because the products of labour are in excess and the workmen compete against each other for employment: and the application of mechanical contrivances to every process of manufacturing labour goes on with more than natural rapidity because human invention is kept on the rack by the pressure of unnatural competition. But all this would be changed by Free Trade. The supply of raw produce—including provisions of all sorts—would mount at once to an equality, and more than an equality, with the manufactured goods brought to market, for the industry of the world as yet is much more directed to agriculture than to manufactures. There would be enough of elbow-room for every trader to move at ease; and, in the absence of harassing competition, few or none would, as a matter of choice, be undersellers. Wages would rise; for the

mechanic would find his labour required. The competition among labourers for work, being succeeded by a competition among employers to obtain their services, a rise of wages would inevitably take place. Did we not anticipate these results from the liberation of trade as confidently as we expect the sun to rise to-morrow, we should not so earnestly contend, as we do, against the Corn Laws and all other monopolies.—*Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle.*

How Agriculturists are benefited by the Manufacturing Community. — Chapel-en-le-Frith contains about 268 farmers, or persons who occupy more or less of land. The first class are those who make their rents out of the produce of the land they occupy, that is, by the sale of butter, cheese, pork, &c., which they carry to Stockport, or other manufacturing towns, as may best suit their convenience. The second and most numerous are those who occupy small farms, which are principally managed by the wives and children of the occupants, the husbands being either engaged in carting lime to the manufacturing towns, or employed at some sort of labour or handicraft, by which the rent of the land he holds is principally raised, while the produce (exceeding the scanty supply of the family) in the shape of butter and cheese, is carried to the before-mentioned markets. The third, and still more numerous class, are the labourers, about 200 of whom are employed by the Peak Forest Canal Company, in getting limestone, paving stones, and in various occupations, in and about, conveying the same into the populous districts. Then there are about 20 limekilns in the neighbourhood, at which about 150 hands are employed; besides two cotton mills, one paper mill, two forges, and one iron foundry, all of which send their productions to Manchester and other manufacturing towns. Now the gross population of the parish of Chapel-en-le-Frith is, in round numbers, about 5000; one-fourth of whom have to labour for their bread, and more than three-fourths of the latter number are directly or indirectly employed in furnishing food, or other material, for the commercial towns before mentioned. If this hasty glance at the situation of our rural district be faithfully drawn (and there can be no doubt upon that point), how wilfully blind, or desperately wicked, must those persons be who are incessantly labouring to depreciate the value of trade and manufactures to an over-populated country; the annual value of ten articles of its manufactured productions being estimated by Mr. M'Culloch at £116,650,000, while that of the agricultural produce he estimates at £112,000,000! Now, the cost of the labour employed in the first-named sum will probably exceed two-thirds of the whole amount, while that of the latter will not exceed one-fourth. Then, again, the distribution of the increased population strongly corroborates the argument already advanced in affirmation of the question propounded. According to the last census return, the gross population of the country had increased, in the ten years from 1831 to 1841, between 14 and 15 per cent.; but the increased population, found in the purely agricultural counties, ranges from about 4 to 7 per cent. only, while in the manufacturing counties the increase is found to be 18, 27, and 36 per cent. This clearly shows that the people have fled from the rural districts, and gone into the manufacturing towns to get employment, where they are better fed and better paid than those employed in agriculture, notwithstanding the farmers (or rather, the landowners) are protected by an infamous Corn Law.—*Macclesfield Chronicle.*

The Corn Laws.—That the present Corn Law must be repealed—and that very soon—hardly anybody attempts to deny. The only difference existing among Corn-Law reformers is as to the process of abolition; or, in other words, whether the law shall die a sudden or a lingering death. For our parts, we should be glad to see it, and its mistaken adherents along with it, put out of pain at once, If so, the latter, we are quite sure, before a single season had passed over their heads, would be thankful to those who had ridded them of their profitless "protection." Corn-growers and cattle-growers are fast finding out, that when they help themselves they thrive, and that their poverty and ill luck have always been in exact ratio to their deceptive dependence upon the falsely-called protective system. They begin to learn, from the best of all teachers—Experience—that agricultural chemists are far better friends to them than agricultural committees of either Lords or Commons—and that customers are decidedly preferable to Corn Laws. Like the shopkeepers in towns, they see that stocks of goods, however large and costly, are really only valuable so long as purchasers are to be found—and that their own prosperity is not only inseparable from, but identical with that of their customers. Landlords, too (at least many of them), require not now to be told, that unless their tenants can sell their produce they cannot pay their rent—and that the demand for food must always depend on the employment of the millions, and their consequent means of obtaining it. Yes! these simple truths are beginning to penetrate even the hazy atmosphere of the House of Commons. The debate on Mr. Villiers's motion was evidence of this. The argument was all on one side; and although the majority was on the opposite one, there was nothing disheartening in the circumstance, inasmuch as the wisest and most beneficial reforms have generally "cast their shadows before" in as nearly as possible the very same way—argument sliding up on the one hand, and opposition sliding down on the other.—*Gateshead Observer.*

Manufacturers' Pro-Corn-Law Petition.—In London, as elsewhere, a considerable curiosity has been excited to see the names of the spinners and manufacturers of Preston who are said to have signed the petition in favour of the Corn Laws. We have done all we could to bring out these, but hitherto without effect. Why so much reserve? Is there no secretary, writer, or editor that will honour the parties' names with publication. No public notice was given in Preston of the existence of such a petition, and when and were these names were obtained it is impossible for us to say. The Londoners probably think that Lord Stanley has been *Tamboffing* a little in this statement. However that may be, we give the following letter as a proof that an anxiety exists to get at the whole truth.

"London, July 4, 1844.

"Sir,—I have looked into your columns—the only Preston paper to which I have access—in hopes of seeing the names of those spinners and manufacturers in your borough who signed the petition in favour of the Corn Laws, which was presented by Lord Stanley to the House of Commons, with so much pomp, on the evening of Mr. Villiers's motion. I heard him declare, amidst the mingled cheers of the monopolist squires, and the amazed and incredulous looks of the more intelligent men of all parties, that the petition was signed by the owners of nearly one half of the horse-power of Preston. Sir, is this true?—can it be true? If so, pray solve the doubts of the London Free-Traders by publishing the names of the petitioners. Doubtless they will be proud to see their names recorded for the wonder and admiration of future generations alongside of his Grace of Buckingham; and why should *he* monopolise all the glory of upholding a system which dooms the people of England to the evils of scarcity for the benefit of the landowners of England?

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"M. P."

If it be possible to suppose that so many *have* written their names *against* Free Trade as is stated, the only charitable construction we can put upon it is, that they did so as a compliment to the party with whom they generally act. We are the more inclined to this solution, because we are not told that their signatures were backed by the only test of earnestness and sincerity, we mean *subscriptions.* Although a great puff was made in the London papers and in a Preston pamphlet about the paucity of subscriptions to the League among the spinners and manufacturers of Preston, amounting to about £550, yet we have never been able to trace out more than £25 from the proprietors of the 1306 horse-power, said to be attached to the Anti-League! And this trifle we have no doubt was given just as a man gives a sixpence to an importuning begging case, merely to get rid of it. We have no doubt but some of our cotton spinners would sign anything to support Toryism; yet even these have their seasons of misgiving. Like profligates on their deathbeds, some two or three years ago, when business was without profit, they showed strong symptoms of conversion to Free Trade; but like the same characters, now that more health and vigour are temporarily restored to the manufacturing system, they are ready to relapse into their old sins. To us, however, it is a matter of small moment whether the majority of the manufacturers are for or against Free Trade. We never view the Corn-Law controversy as a mere manufacturers' question; and if it were not for the well-being of the masses, whose interests are vitally affected by it, we should have spared ourselves many exertions to bring about a repeal. And though confident of its being ultimately carried, we believe it must be by the pressure from without, chiefly effected by the working classes. While the Corn Laws lessen the production of the country, they still more seriously interfere with that equitable distribution of wealth from which the operatives constantly suffer; but such is now the national enlightenment upon this subject, that let another embarrassing season of bad trade come round, and we shall see the masses firmly arrayed for the overthrow of monopoly, whether their employers unite with them or not.—*Preston Guardian.*

Corn-Law Protection Petitions.—One of these notable documents was handed about at Hailsham market on Wednesday last, for the purpose of obtaining signatures. It contained the usual statements and the regular amount of worn-out fallacies that have been refuted, till both assertion and refutation have alike become stale. We never see or read these petitions without being forcibly reminded of the fable of "Hercules and the Carter." Upon the present occasion this idea was amusingly recalled, by the offer of a gentleman present to sign the document, on condition that he might affix his name *and a motto* to the head of the petition. The offer was, however, rejected; and it appeared that the motto so volunteered was as follows:—"God helps those who help themselves." This biting satire upon "protection" caused some little amusement. In the afternoon a meeting of the Protection Society was held at the George Inn. Whether to conceal the paucity of the attendance or the wisdom of the proceedings it is not for us to conjecture, but reporters were excluded; we are, therefore, unable to enlighten the public as to the doings on the occasion; but we have no doubt, in the language recently applied to one of these meetings, that "the greatest enthusiasm prevailed." We believe the meeting barely mustered half-a-score attendants.—*Sussex Advertiser.*

Wigan.—The following reply to a memorial from the majority of the electors of Wigan, dispatched on the 21st ult. to Mr. Greenall, one of the borough members, was received on Friday evening last by Mr. Cook, one of the borough magistrates.

"45, Pall-mall, July 11, 1844.

"Dear Sir,—On my return to town this day, I find the request of a large body of the electors of Wigan for me to vote with the Hon. Mr. Villiers, for a total repeal of the Corn Laws. In the first place, I must beg to apologise for not replying to the request sooner: this was alone owing to my absence from town. In the next place, to say, that I shall at all times be glad to have the opinions of any portion of the electors, though I may not think it consistent with my own views, or for the public good, to support those particular opinions. Be assured, Sir, that I have no other object in view but the general welfare of all classes, though you and I may differ as to the way of its attainment. Your name being attached first to this document, I take the liberty of troubling you with this communication.

"I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

"Thomas Cook, Esq. "Peter Greenall."

We beg the electors to contrast this letter with the open, candid reply of Mr. Standish. Mr. Greenall's answer to the request of his constituents is worthy of his master, Sir Robert Peel; whether he has an opinion at all on the question, the memorialists are at a loss to discover; but there is little doubt, had his vote been wanted, it would have been recorded in favour of Ministers.—*Manchester Guardian.*

The Working Man and Free Trade.—There is often a jealousy betwixt masters and men in almost every trade, but it is a pity that this should divide the efforts for accomplishing a good in which both are to participate. What hope have you for the continuance of good trade but in the principles of commercial freedom? Let the effects of a series of bad harvests come over us again, and no party can point to any other source of relief. I will be neither the defender nor the apologist of masters when they do wrong; and I am aware that a few might do well to remember their humble origin, and put themselves in the place of the workmen, in order to learn their duty towards them. But still, when I look at our rapidly-increasing population—when I see that the owners of land do not find employment even for those born in the country, but send them to seek work in the towns—I think that, if you will compare the merits of the two, you will easily perceive where the least amount of censure is deserved. But the Corn-Law question is independent of the merit of any man or order of men whatsoever. Some of the masters are opposed to repeal, a good many are indifferent, and none of those who join, I am sure, do so to injure you. They have no hostility to you; and the same changes that would benefit them could not fail to confer a benefit upon yourselves. The monopolists' clap-trap cry of cheap bread reducing wages has almost spent itself, or else for a time was a stumbling-block to some. But so many facts have contradicted the assertion, that few of you now regard it as anything but a pure invention. What an anomaly would be presented by the operatives of England crying out for dear bread to keep up wages! If this notion had ever been seriously entertained, we should now have had the table of the House of Commons covered with petitions, praying that the sugar duties might not be reduced. The monopolists' argument is this, that the price paid by the manufacturers will be the minimum amount upon which a person can live; so that every saving, not only in bread, but in sugar, coffee, soap, rent, fire, clothing, &c., will be marked by the master, and followed by a reduction in wages. What you *feel* has a greater effect upon you than what you *hear*; and hence your receiving more wages and more employment, along with cheaper food, has settled your minds as to the fallacy of this assertion. Now, look at the matter seriously. It is not so much your own welfare as that of your children for which you should be concerned. How often in your day have you been almost at your wit's end as to how you should get a living! How many political struggles have you been mixed up with which have only ended in disappointment! I am sure you must feel anxious that your children may have an easier path to tread. You have had all along to carry not only the dead weight of taxation, but the still heavier weight of monopoly. You have had all your food taxed for the benefit of an idle aristocracy; and you have had one labour market closed after another against you by a restrictive policy. And though many tradesmen have been embarrassed, and not a few gone to the wall, yet *you* have been the greatest sufferers. And, most assuredly, if a just and rational system had been introduced, you would have been the greatest gainers. What an advantage to have plenty of food, and to have it cheap! To those who live by wages, it is a great gain to find money compassing more and more food on a Saturday night; and to the greater number, who have no wages, to find the first article of life plentiful must be a great blessing. If you could live as they do in other countries, you might work as they do in other countries; and leisure and holidays would not be such strange things as they are at present. Whatever other measure it may be advisable to carry, sure I am that this question involves the greatest *practical* good.—*The Struggle.*

The Sugar Bill.—If Ministers could have contemplated a tithe of the difficulties which their new principle of legislation, of picking and choosing from moral considerations, from whence they should apply the common everyday wants of wholesome nutriment to the population of this country, they certainly would not have ventured on the Sugar Bill of this session. It has unsettled the trade for months back; it has diminished the sales by upwards of 10,000 tons this year as compared with last; it has exposed all the sugar importers to more serious injury from the uncertainty of its operation than had the change proposed been instantaneous, without excepting any country from its operation; it has already provoked retaliation from Brazil, and, after doing all this mischief, it appears at the eleventh hour doubtful whether any sugar whatever will or can come from the chief quarter contemplated by the bill—Java; not that the Dutch have not sugar in abundance to spare; not that they are unwilling to sell it to us; but that the regulations of a political kind which we think needful to secure a safe carrying out of the new commercial principle conceived by our Ministers are such as they demur to. We are told in all the papers of the last week, that a consul has been appointed for Manilla, to certify sugar as the produce of that country; but we have no such intelligence as to Java. Now, on this subject, and it is a very important one, considering the effects which this bill has already had, we possess important intelligence from the Hague—the Dutch Government absolutely refuses to sanction or permit our appointment of any consul or government agent in Java—they are deaf to all entreaties on the subject; it is a subject on which they have always shown the greatest determination—not to permit any government agent, or official of any kind, from any country, to be established in their colonies. It is needless for us now to discuss the reasons, or show how very anti-social these Dutch people are, in insisting on such a policy; it is all-important practically that we know the fact: trade with our colonies, say they, if you please—sell as much as you can, and buy as much as you will—all your transactions shall be protected by the common law and officers of the island—but we will not permit the establishment of your government agents or consuls, or recognise any regulations for shipping produce to England different from those already established. There may be in all this narrowminded, foolish jealousy; but so it is, and the Dutch are people not easily cajoled into new views; and we do not think that our pretence of protecting the consumers of sugar in this country from the contamination of slave produce would appear to them a very sound reason for our wishing to make an official appointment in their colonies. Unless some more pressing or softening influences can be applied at the Hague than have yet been tried, Mr. Gladstone will, before the termination of the session, have the humiliating duty to perform of coming down to Parliament and admitting that all his plans have failed from this cause; that all the mischief has been done to existing interests, but that the main part of the anticipated good must be foregone, because we cannot secure certificates of origin!!—*Economist.*

Our Surplus Produce.—Our friends at a distance may form some idea of the extent of our surplus produce, when we tell them that one farmer, discouraged by the present low prices of wheat and the want of a market for the coming harvest, has removed part of the fence from a large enclosure for growing wheat, in order that his bullocks may eat off his standing corn; another (yclept *Swing*) seriously proposes to burn one half of the unthrashed corn of last year's harvest, that a better price may be made of the remainder; a third is propounding a plan for turning the surplus wheat into fat bacon; and a fourth, M. J. W. Bull, whose letter we have inserted, proposes to convert corn into mutton tallow that will rival the best Russian Y. C., by fattening sheep on the ears of wheat, for the melting pot. Mr. Bull has amply stated his views, and backed his statement by figures. The practicability of his scheme, however, remains to be proved; and probably his letter may call forth some expression of opinion from others.—*Adelaide Observer.*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, July 17, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the League of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

		£	s.	d.
	A Wellwisher to the Farmer	£2	0	0
	W. H. D.	1	1	0
	William Spavin, 6, Old Jewry	1	1	0
	Augustus Frederick Effland, 1, Prince's-place, Westminster-road	0	2	6
	Sundry small sums, per do.	0	2	0
	W. Hiett, 8, St. George's-place, St. George's-in-the-East	0	2	6
	Philip Willing, 9, Mason-street, Lambeth	0	5	0
	James Willing, 51, Vauxhall-street, Lambeth	0	5	0
	Wm. Walker, 9, Leathersellers'-buildings, London-wall	0	5	0
	Robert Schofield, Rochdale	50	0	0
	T. Morgan, Sacheverell-street, Derby	0	5	0
	Thomas Edwards, High-street, Hastings	0	7	6
	C. J. Womersley, York House, do.	0	2	6
	John Jolly, Longfields, do.	0	2	6
	Wm. Ginner, High-street, do.	0	12	6
	R. E. Smith, Lutterworth, Leicestershire	1	0	0
	E. Cooper, High-street, do., do.	1	0	0
	Thomas Dones, Woodmarket, do., do.	0	1	0
	Wm. Wormleighton, Bakehouse-lane, do., do.	0	1	0
	R. Abell, do., do., do.	0	2	6
	Richard Hall, Factory-lane, do., do.	0	1	0
	C. League, do.	0	1	0
	Robert Shaw, Woodmarket, do., do.	0	1	0
	T. Billing, do., do., do.	0	0	6
	Alexander Forsyth, West Orchard, Coventry	0	1	0
	John Ferguson, King-street, do.	0	1	0
	Samuel Craig, tea dealer, Hinckley, near do.	0	2	6
	Timothy Porter, maltster, Swinford, near Lutterworth	1	0	0
	Wm. Beardmore, sen., Pump-street, Stoke-on-Trent	2	7	6
	W. Eastwood and other Workmen, at Messrs. Shaw and Phillips's, Colne (2nd subscription)	0	5	0
	Thomas Barton, Higher Ardwick, Manchester	25	0	0
Galashiels, N.B.	Thomas Davidson, manufacturer	3	3	0
	Henry Menteith, do.	2	2	0
	Robert Haldane, writer	2	2	0
	Heugh Lees, do.	1	0	0
	G. Tait, manufacturer	2	0	0
	H. Ballantyne, do.	1	0	0
	Wm. Paterson, do.	1	0	0
	John Cochrane, do.	1	0	0
	Walter Cochrane, do.	1	0	0
	James Graham, do.	1	1	0
	John Hutton, surgeon	1	1	0
	Alexander Cumming, merchant	1	1	0
	Robert Dixon, do.	1	0	0
	John Govans, do.	1	0	0
	John Murray, agent	1	0	0
	Thomas Ferguesson, weaver	1	0	0
	A Friend	1	1	0
Accrington, 9th Remit.	William Bury	10	10	0
	Thos. Bury, Foxhill-bank, near	2	2	0
	Christopher Haworth	1	0	0
	John Haworth, Warner-street	0	5	0
	John Earnshaw	0	5	0
	John Entwisle, Church, near	0	5	0
	Abraham Rothwell, do.	0	2	6
Liverpool, 23rd Remit.	Thomas M'Tear, 15, Water-street	5	0	0
	Edward Burder, 74, Bold-street	1	1	0
	Willmer and Smith, 32, Church-street	2	2	0

AGRICULTURE.

HIGH RENTS AND NO LEASES.

If there be one class of men who, above all others, have reason to be grateful to the League, the tenant-farmers constitute that class. In their names landlords professed to speak when they passed laws to keep up rents, and whilst they were in fact providing for their own mortgages and marriage settlements, they invested themselves, and that with something more than the tacit assent of the farmers, with the style and title of "Farmers' Friends." The investigations and inquiries which the League, and those who think with the League, have instituted into the true history and actual state of English agriculture, and of the condition of English tenant-farmers during the operation of the Corn Laws, have produced disclosures which have induced all intelligent farmers to exclaim, "Oh! save us from our friends." The borrowed plumes have been stripped from these self-styled protectors, and they now stalk naked before the world in their true characters of monopolist harpies. Every intelligent person acquainted with agriculture now bears testimony that it is to the landlords alone tenant-farmers must look for that relief from evils admitted to press them sorely, which no positive legislation can give. Ask a well-informed land-agent, or a good practical farmer, come from whatever district he may, what are the remedies for the present agricultural distress, and but one universal answer will be given, that rents must be lowered and farmers be enabled to increase their produce by having secure tenures. These are the remedies, and the only remedies, for pauperism and incendiarism, for the distress and despair of the peasantry are only occasioned by the previous distress and despondency of the tenantry; yet these remedies are the very last the landowners think of considering. They clamour, and lie, and talk foolishness about "protection;" they bring bills into Parliament, to give tenants a right to be paid for improvements which they may have effected *after notice to their landlords!* or to compel the letting field gardens to the labouring poor, and similar measures, which show that our landed legislators are about as well prepared to meet the actual wants of agriculture as the young French Princess, who, when the people were starved for want of bread, asked "Why they did not buy buns," was to stay a revolution. All such measures are mere delusions; nothing short of an entire change of the whole system upon which English landlords have managed their properties for the last thirty years can place English agriculture upon a safe footing, and that change cannot take place until the Corn-Law question is settled.

And let us ask the most rabid protectionist whether there can be any settlement of that question except TOTAL AND UNCONDITIONAL REPEAL?

We have said that permanent tenures are indispensable to good farming, and every man whose opinion on agricultural affairs is worth a farthing, says the same thing; but what farmer dares to take a lease now?

The *Morning Post* of last Thursday tells us that "three-fourths of the wheat grown in England last year have been sold by our farmers for less than 48s. *The price of 56s. was the price which Sir Robert Peel indicated as that which his Corn Bill of 1842 was designed, as far as possible, to establish.* Except during the two months which preceded the introduction of new wheat into our markets—*a period at which farmers hold no wheat*—the price has scarcely ever exceeded 50s."

Here we have the delusive effect of monopoly described by a monopolist. Does any one doubt the strict accuracy of the description? If so, let him go to any market-table in England and ask the farmers! But how are the rents? Do rents slide down in the same proportion as prices? Let him who asserts or imagines they do, go again to the market-tables and seek for information!!

We distinctly tell the landlords of England that, whether they succeed in maintaining the Corn Laws a year or two longer or not, *rents must come down*, and that considerably, unless they consent to grant, and can get tenants to accept long and rational leases. And we verily believe that the longer the repeal of the Corn Law be postponed the greater will be the fall of rents. What leases have been, and what they ought to be, we intend shortly to discuss in some detail, availing ourselves of the opinions of other agriculturists on the subject; but a letter by "*An Essex Freeholder*," which has recently appeared in the *Essex Standard*, a fierce monopolist newspaper, contains some passages so strongly corroborative of the preceding observations that we must conclude with extracting a few of them. The object of the writer is to vindicate the tenant-farmers of Suffolk and Essex from the imputation of harshness towards their labourers, which he believes to have been thrown upon them by the *Times* correspondent. And after making some sensible remarks upon the causes which have deteriorated the condition of the rural working classes,—to which, on another occasion, we may again refer,—he says, "there is one cause operating to produce distress amongst the poor to which too much importance cannot be given—that is, want of fixity of tenure." And he adds:—

"I know, and it is admitted by all practical men, that *no single cause is operating so much to create distress amongst the poor, and deterring the improvement and produce of our soil, as a want of fixity of tenure.*"

And he says that at a recent farmers' club meeting in Essex, on the subject of leases being discussed, an opinion was expressed that "there was at least a difference of a bushel of wheat an acre, and other produce in proportion, between land held on leases and without or on short ones." Now, our own observations, as well as the information of some of the shrewdest farmers in different districts, have led us to believe that the difference of produce between land held on lease and that held from year to year is often nearer a quarter of wheat than a bushel to the acre; and the writer we have been quoting gives an example of what takes place under the present system, even where leases are granted. He says:—

"We will take for example a lease of twelve years—the usual time corn leases are granted: the farm has been occupied the preceding four years on an uncertainty, and in consequence all improvements and good farming have been at a stand-still; a new lease is granted; *the first six years good farming is adopted, and five men at least to the hundred acres will be employed; the next three years, four;* and the *last three, three men will be made to do, except during harvest and at short intervals of the year.* This I know is the ordinary operation of the present system, and one operating more severely on the produce and the poor of the country can hardly be conceived."

Such are some of the modes in which uncertainty of tenures cause distress to the agricultural labourers. The writer then refers to the existing competition for farms, which "enables an owner of land to make a larger rent than the land is worth," and he *and to my certain knowledge, "the vast majority of farms are so let.*" Now, this "undue" competition he attributes to several causes. First, prudent farmers, who, during the high prices of the war with the long leases then in their possession, acquired considerable property, usually divided it amongst two or three sons whom they had made farmers, each of whom was thus enabled to occupy as much land as their father had done. In a more natural state of things one son would have been bred to farming and the others would have gone into other businesses; and here we find two or three farmers created, who, of course, become competitors for existing farms, for there was no increase of farms. Secondly, men of all classes and callings, possessed of capital, have a general desire to undertake the cultivation of the soil. To these two causes he traces the present competition, which enables landlords to let their land according to Corn-Law prices, while their tenants often, for years together, get nothing like such prices: and the very natural question occurs, why does this continue? And that question is so well answered in this letter that we give the reply at length:—

"Simply for the reason I have before stated: that there is a large class of men calculated for no other pursuit, that there is still a large amount of capital accumulated during more prosperous times, and the parties holding this capital are induced from various causes to compete with each other, and give more for farms than their judgment tells them they ought. Young men, anxious to settle in life, are buoyed up by the hope that things will go better, that seasons will be favourable, or that they shall be enabled to manage with greater judgment or more economy than others, and are led to contend with each other against the better judgment of their advisers."

And there is another, and, we fear, more numerous class peculiarly deluded by the mirage of "protection," which the writer thus describes:—

"And there is another class, more to be pitied than these: a man, often beyond the middle age of life, with a family dependent on him, has to leave his farm; one offers itself; he knows, by past experience, the rent is too much, but there are others who will take it if he declines, in the same situation as himself, and why?—because, with habits unsuitable for anything else but farming, their capital all invested in it, they must consent, or submit to have their stock sold off at all risks, themselves thrown out of business, perhaps never to enter it again. *Can we wonder, then, at the competition that exists?* If the evil ended here it would be well; but mark the consequences. The farmer, with fixed payments over which he has no control, to save himself from sinking, what does he do?—not by choice, for he knows the path he is treading leads to ruin—but to delay it, he by compulsion saves all he can out of the only expense on the farm over which he has control—*the labour of the farm; and the poor dependent labourer is thus thrown out of employ.* This may be considered by many a harsh and exaggerated picture. I wish all could say so; but too many, I am sure, feel the sad truth of it."

Farms are now letting at double and treble rents as compared with those of 1792, while prices of produce are often no higher than at that time, and all the farmers' burdens are enormously increased. It is true that the improvements of the last fifty years have caused increased production; but every shilling of that increase, *and more*, has gone into the landlords' pockets. Tenant-farmers cannot now make nearly as good a living, in proportion to their capitals, as they could in 1792. The truth is that, by one contrivance or another, the landlords have managed to get their own shares and three-fourths of the tenants' as well; and until all the illusions and frauds caused by the attempt to protect agriculture by restrictions on the import of grain have been got rid of, the same state of things will continue. There are, therefore, no men so deeply interested in obtaining an immediate free trade in corn as the tenant-farmers, *and the landlords know it.* Hence the late protection society nonsense.

THE LABOURERS SPEAKING FOR THEMSELVES.

It has long been a favourite device of the monopolist landowners to shelter their own sinister objects behind the pretended interests of some other and more esteemed class. First the farmers' interests were made the plea for the monopoly of corn, until an examination of the history and condition of English agriculture had shown to demonstration that the farmers have been the greatest sufferers from the Corn Laws. When prices are high they become the mere conduit-pipes by which all the extra cost of food paid by the consumers is conveyed into the landlords' pockets; and when prices are low the farmers are themselves robbed of their capital to "*make up the rent.*" The ingenious device that the monopolists are the "farmers' friends" is beginning to look in the eyes of farmers, notwithstanding the "protection societies'" humbug, like a very stale trick.

Next the monopolists were all anxiety for the welfare of the agricultural labourers, and though 7s. a week and a hovel, which no man who desired to keep his pigs decently would use for swine, did not seem to be very grand results from all this aristocratic care, yet for a time those who had no personal knowledge of rural districts, and the doings of monopolist landlords there, did not believe that the Duke of This, my Lord That, and Sir John T'other—all, all honourable men—would get up and in the face of day assert that to be fact which was directly the reverse of fact; and so for a time the farm-labourers were supposed by some people to have an interest in monopoly. Now, however, the farm-labourers have begun to speak for themselves, and with one voice they declare that they are oppressed and borne down by monopoly. These meetings commenced in one of the most landlord-ridden counties of England, Wiltshire, with that at Lyneham we have before adverted to, which has been followed by others; and one at Stratton St. Margaret's, near Swindon, in North Wilts, is so well worthy of remark that we shall give some passages from the report of it as recorded in the *Wiltshire Independent*:—

"A meeting was lately held in the village of Stratton St. Margaret's, near Swindon, to 'take into consideration the condition of the working people, and to adopt a petition to Parliament for their immediate relief by a total repeal of the taxes on corn and all other necessaries.' At the hour of meeting (seven o'clock) a large assemblage was gathered in a field, consisting of men of every class—the farmer, the tradesman, the industrious artisan, the toiling labourer, the hopeless pauper—all ready to bear testimony to the severity of the distress which presses on them, and all anxious to hear of or to devise some means for their relief. *We should suppose 700 or 800 persons were present.* The

meeting was conducted in the *most orderly and quiet manner*, and the speakers were listened to with the greatest earnestness and attention; and every statement they made was fully confirmed by men who knew them from experience to be too true. We have only to add that we have in our possession a list of the names of those individuals alluded to by Mr. Arkell as having been working during the winter *for the miserable pittances of 3s., 4s., and 5s. per week!* together with those of others—*lads of the ages of fifteen and sixteen—who have been working for 3s.!!*

To those who know this thinly-peopled and ill-cultivated district, the assembling together of so many persons must be a matter almost of wonder. A chairman having been appointed, Mr. Arkell proposed the first resolution, and in so doing having said "he believed that nine-tenths of the farmers and tradesmen were daily sinking their property, and *that nine-tenths of the labourers were in circumstances of great distress*," he was interrupted by a person who made this fearful statement:—

"A person here stated that nearly *forty persons had on this and the preceding day been apprehended at Wanborough on charges of felony, brought to light by the confession of accomplices.* Most of them were young men, *who had been without work during the winter, and who had, probably, been led by the pressure of want to the committal of crime.*"

What an awful illustration of the "*benefits*" "protection for agriculture" has bestowed upon agricultural labourers!

Mr. Arkell having resumed, said:—

"In a neighbouring parish there had been twenty-three men employed on the roads, receiving from 4s. to 6s. per week. He had that day seen two men working on the roads, one of them, with a wife and six children, received 6s. a week; the other had a wife, and received only 4s. When the hay-making season approached they had been taken off the roads; but so little employment could be obtained that they had been obliged to employ many of them again on the roads, even in the summer season. At Bishopstoke the labourers only received 7s. a week, and at *Ashbury many men were employed on the roads at 1s. a day.* At Woolstone many men were out of employ. *He had the names of seven or eight men above twenty years of age who had been working on the roads in that parish at the rate of 3s. per week;* others with wives and families had been receiving 5s. per week; *so they would see it was not their labour but their families they were paid for.* At Shrivenham, a parish *where the land was as good as any in England, there were twenty-six men out of employ last week. This was close to the mansion of Lord Barrington; and yet that nobleman upheld the present Corn Laws on the ground that they made the farmers and labourers well off!* He was far from wishing by these statements to set the labourers against their masters; *they* could not help it. The fact was the farmers were sinking fast; *want of money prevented their undertaking this and that improvement, and so the labourers could not be employed,* for money was required to pay them every Saturday night."

Mr. Arkell then called on the labourers present to speak for themselves, when

"Wm. Spackman, a labourer, living at Highworth, stood up and said, he had a hard family, and should wish to labour for their support as far as lay in his power. *But the price the farmers could afford to give was not sufficient to keep his family, and he had, therefore, been obliged to go into the union-house.* He had neither desired nor wished to do so. He would remind them that when a man goes into the union he costs three times as much as when he and his family were out. He and his family had been nine months in the house; perhaps their maintenance had cost £50; *while if he had been engaged in labour, out of the house, probably £20 would have kept them.* There, too, the man and his wife and family were separated; that was an unlawful practice, and it was against flesh and blood to bear it. Should you like it, gentlemen? Again, he could not leave the house in search of work without taking his wife and family with him; and if he failed in getting work, *what was there before them but starvation, or thieving, and at last the gallows? Could any of them, he asked, endure this? He repeated that he liked work as well as any man; but he could not support his family on 8s. a week,* and if no other remedy were provided, stay in the workhouse he must, cost what it might."

And let it be remembered that they are the fortunate only amongst the farming men, *who can get 8s. a week* in this district. The next passage which we extract from some observations of Mr. Arkell on Spackman's statement show that it will not be the Corn Law only which the labourers, thus forced by distress to meet, will call in question, for he said:—

"Is there, then, any distress among the labouring men? (Cries of 'Yes, yes.') What do you get a day? (A voice, '*A pretty many of us nothing at all*') I believe that many of you get nothing, and except something be done by Parliament you will still get nothing. They sent men as their representatives to Parliament; *but their representation seemed to consist in getting the money out of their pockets. The labouring classes were indeed borne down, and he believed they would be so long as the farmers were so grievously oppressed with taxation.*"

Next:—

"Mr. Pierce, a glazier, living at Stratton, moved the second resolution, 'That in consequence of the loss of capital amongst the farmers and tradesmen, and the poverty of the working people, it is expedient and necessary that a great reduction in the national burdens shall quickly take place, and to the advancement of our wishes we recommend *the total repeal of the duties on corn, and all other necessary things used by the working people.*' In speaking of the distressed condition of the labourers, he called on all those in full employ to hold up their hands. (*Not more than twenty were held up.*) He then by questions elicited from one man, and the statement is applicable to numbers more, that he received when in full employ 8s. a week. He had seven children; his wife sometimes earned 3s. 6d. a week; they now consumed nine gallons of bread in a week at 14d. a gallon—10s. 6d. a week for bread! Then, said Mr. Pierce, I need not ask you how much meat you get? (Laughter, and cries of '*None at all.*') How much tea and sugar, fuel and clothing—how many blankets you buy for the winter? How then were those to live who had only partial employ, and those with none at all? *This was not a right state of things.*"

Yet the monopolist members for North Wilts strenuously maintain "this state of things."

Mr. Pierce concluded by saying:—

"He did not look for such large results from a repeal of the Corn Laws as some people expected. The bringing into cultivation of the millions of acres of waste land would, he thought, *effect much both in the way of employing labourers, and increasing the supply of food.*"

But it is a condition precedent to this extended cultivation and increased employment that the Corn Laws should be totally abolished. Nothing but the obstinacy of the landlords, and the fallacious hopes of farmers who cling to the Corn Laws, prevent such an improvement in farming as would give constant employment at better rates of wages than now prevail to every agricultural labourer in the kingdom.

In connexion with this part of the subject, it is curious to observe how every incidental reference to the state of the labourers shows that where the best farming is, most labourers are employed; and that where wages are highest, there employment is most constant. Thus, in one of the recent letters of the *Times* correspondent from Norfolk and Suffolk, he enumerates several parishes, stating the rate of wages paid, and the number of men out of employment in each; and wherever wages are said to be 8s. a week, more men are reported as unemployed than in parishes where 9s. a week are given; and in the only parish in which 10s. a week is the rate of wages, the remark made is, "not many are out of work."

Again, in the same letter, there is an example of the greater amount of employment given by the good farmer than by inferior cultivators, when the reporter says:—

"A large farmer told me, he occupied half a parish; there were several small farmers in the other half. *He employed half the labourers; the small farmers did not employ their proportion.* He said, 'I have often met men out of work, and said to them, Now, I know you are starving, why don't you go to the union. If you go there, my share of supporting you and your family will be about 9s. a week, and I should have to pay you that in wages if I employed you; but I do not want your work. *The other farmers in the parish do want your work, and they will soon find you a job if they have to keep you.*'"

Now, this evidence is the more valuable, inasmuch as it is entirely incidental, being intended as a mere attack upon the poor-law, into which the *Times'* letters have lately degenerated.

THE EFFECT OF MONOPOLY ON AGRICULTURE.

The most gratifying evidence of the progress of Free-Trade opinions is to be found in the fact that in every district there are some few intelligent agriculturists who come forth from their retirement to declare that the Corn Laws have injured, not benefited, agriculture. Our attention has been called to an admirable lecture on the thesis by which we have headed this notice, recently delivered in Whitehaven by Richard Barker, Esq. Having stated that possibly the first effect of a free trade in corn would be to lower prices here and advance them on the Continent, after which the trade in corn would, like other untrammelled trades, become steady and natural, he said:—

"I have admitted we should have agricultural produce at lower prices. Then arises the question, 'How are these prices to be met, and the present rental of the country kept up?' *Either rents must be reduced in proportion to the reduction in the price of corn, or the produce of the land must be increased.* The former would be a national loss, as well as an individual injury; and, my belief is, the latter result may be accomplished."

This we believe to be true. If the tenant had a secure tenure, and game-law and other semi-feudal customs were abolished, we believe farmers would gladly give their present rents. But, where the landlord should still insist on political subservience and barbarian practices, of course Free Trade would reduce his rent. Mr. Barker said:—

"There are fair grounds for believing that by improved husbandry an average price of 45s. per quarter for wheat, with other products in proportion, *would enable the farmer to pay his present rent, and be better off than he now is with a price of 55s., by applying the same skill and enterprise to land that is applied to manufactures.*"

And this is, in brief, the whole remedy for the lower prices the monopolists apprehend, and forms a complete answer to all the fallacies of the monopolists.

After referring in detail to various agricultural writers of authority, to show that by mere economy of manures and other means within the farmer's own power, or at all events within the power of the farmer and the *landlord*, and after alluding to Flemish husbandry, Mr. Barker says:—

"As I was passing through the country from Brussels to Bruges in the month of October, I saw carrots and cabbages growing whence crops had been taken, which very clearly shows that by growing more hay under a five course rotation, our cattle would always be in good condition, our manure rich, and a large farm could be almost as easily managed as a small one. The small farmer might adopt the five course rotation after his land was in good heart, and thereby increase his profit. *It appears from the returns of nine farms in this neighbourhood, that a stock of 12 to 14 cows and three or four horses are kept for every 100 acres, requiring from 30 to 40 acres for pasture for their support during the summer, and generally shows from eight to twelve acres lying in fallow.* This quantity of land Mr. Barker considered to be altogether lost to the country, and that their system of farming showed only half the breadth of corn land which *such farms ought to produce, and maintained that by adopting the Flemish system of husbandry a stock of 30 cows could be maintained on each farm of 100 acres, and the following crops of corn be grown in addition.* Mr. Barker's rotation would give the following:—

1st year..20 acres turnips, mangold, and carrots, ground well prepared in autumn.
2nd year..20 acres wheat.
3rd year..20 acres clover and rye grass.
4th year..20 acres do. with liquid manure, followed by winter vetches and rape.
5th year..20 acres oats do. do.
Producing 120 acres of crop, and keeping a stock of 30 to 33 milk cows."

After Mr. Barker had concluded his lecture,

"The Rev. Edward Hawkes, of Kendal, presented himself to the meeting, and was welcomed with applause. He said he might justly ask, to what cause were we to attribute the great inferiority of the agriculture of this country? Why was it that our farmers exhibited so little practical skill and intelligence? *He thought it was owing to their leaning upon the broken reed of protection* (hear, hear); that they relied on the Corn Laws to secure advantages to them which could be maintained *by their own increased skill, diligence, and care alone.* He was convinced that the Corn Laws had been of no service, but the contrary, to the agricultural population. By the agricultural population he meant those who were actually engaged in the cultivation of the soil as their means of livelihood, and those farmers who had just sufficient capital to enable them to stock and manage their farms, but who were unable to hold their produce at their will until the time should arrive most favourable for the disposal of it. There was another class of farmers to whom the Corn Laws might have been of some apparent benefit, those who, in addition to the capital necessary for stocking and managing their farms, had a surplus which enabled them to wait until the market was in the most favourable state for selling their produce, when prices were highest, and when corn, owing to its growing scarcity, reached the average proposed by the law, or even rose above it. *But to the great body of the farmers, who were compelled to go early to market after harvest in order to provide for* RENT-DAY, *the Corn Laws had been a constant source of injury and deception.*"

This was caused by the fact that, upon the long run, farmers never obtained the prices promised them by their landlords and their landlords' law.

"The price had been uniformly much less for a considerable period after harvest, and therefore it was *upon the poorest, most industrious, and most numerous class of farmers that the ruinous effects of the Corn Law invariably fell,* while the advantage, such as it was, was reaped by the comparatively wealthy and independent few. (Hear, hear.) *The consequence was that the majority of farmers were in continual distress, and too frequently reduced to ruin.* They were either unable to pay a rent, *which had been calculated upon a deceptive standard,* and received as a gift from the landlord an allowance from their rent, which placed them in a situation of obligation and dependence, for which, had their rent been just, there would have been no occasion; or they sunk altogether into a state of poverty and ruin. (Hear, hear.) And, as such was the continual operation of the law upon farmers, it was not surprising to find that, *in purely agricultural counties, the condition of farm-labourers and their families was truly deplorable.*"

Mr. Hawkes then detailed with much force and feeling some of the fearful disclosures with respect to the state of the peasantry in the southern and western counties of England, which have recently been made, and concluded an excellent speech by fully explaining the monopolist "dodge" on the sugar duties, attempted by Mr. Miles's notorious motion; when Mr. Ainsworth, the chairman, closed the proceedings with the following remarks:—

"He must confess that the statements of Mr. Barker were too true; and that as a practical farmer, to some extent, he must plead guilty to his charges. He could however say, that during the short time that he had been engaged in agricultural pursuits, *he had succeeded in increasing his crops three-fold.* (Hear, hear.) In reference to Mr. Barker's allusion to gas liquor, he could state in corroboration that he had himself been employing sulphate of ammonia obtained from gas liquor this year, *and the results had been most favourable.* He then alluded to the difference of farming in Flanders and England; and particularly to the fact that in Flanders the boundaries of fields were marked by stones placed at certain points, and that they lost no land in high banks and broad ditches; *whereas in England a fence between two fields often occupied the breadth of a rood.*"

Meetings such as this are the true "agricultural protection" meetings. Why should husbandmen alone forget the proverb that "fortune helps those only who can help themselves?"

THE COST OF GAME PRESERVES.

When the landowners of this country passed a law which decreed that from the land of these islands alone should the people be fed, they thereby gave the people a right to see that all the land is made to produce as much as possible. Yet what is the fact? Though the landowners have restricted importation, they have at the same time prevented, for the sake of their own amusements, the production at home of much corn, which, but for their feudal interference, would naturally be produced. Instances of the cost to the public of game preserves crowd in upon us from every quarter; we last week gave some strong cases of the sort, and during the past week we find the following passage upon the subject in the letter of the Suffolk correspondent of the *Times* newspaper:—

"The farmers, I think with much justice, complain of the enormous quantity of game. They say they are quite eaten up with it. I quote Mr. Neave, by his permission, as my authority for saying *that the game in several parishes destroy more food, and deprive the farmer of more means, than would keep all the poor of the parish.* Mr. Neave instanced *one farm to me of 400 acres, on which last year upwards of 2000 rabbits were killed.* It is said that five hares consume as much food as a sheep [and this is too low an estimate, inasmuch as a hare destroys more than it consumes]; suppose seven rabbits do this, and you have on this farm the rabbits consuming as much food as 300 sheep would do. The farmers dare not destroy them, they would forfeit their leases if they did; they dare not even complain, or they would be looked upon as dissatisfied characters, and be got rid of at the termination of their leases. They cannot crop and trim their hedges and clean out the ditches, and give this work to do to the labourers to the benefit of their farms, because they would be found fault with if they did, as destroying the cover for the hares and rabbits. *A rural police is kept up by the gentry, the farmers say, for the sole use of watching game and frightening poachers, for which formerly they had to pay watchers.* And all this for what? For sport? Oh dear no; *that cartloads of hares may be sent into Norwich market, knocked on the head and sold to the game dealers and fishmongers at 9d. apiece, to the landowners' profit, every one of which has done half-a-crown's-worth of damage to his tenant's farm on which it was reared.* It is delusive to talk of this being considered in the rent; IT IS NOT SO. I say nothing of the temptation to a poor half-starved labourer to knock one of these poor animals, eating his food, on the head, which if he does he risks—only transportation. The farmers say they do not mind winged game being left for sport, but hares and rabbits positively eat their produce up."

And very much the same story will be told by every farmer throughout England, except that it is a great mistake to suppose that pheasants and partridges do no harm. They do a great deal of mischief, and it is only because so much more is done by hares and rabbits that farmers are sometimes inclined to offer a kind of negative testimony in favour of "winged game." They believe landlords will have game of some sort, and of two evils they would choose the least. But the most remarkable feature of this practice of game preserving is, that generally it is not sport but pelf—sordid illgotten money—which the majority of game preservers seek to extract from their tenants over and above a *full rent*. It is this base sentiment which renders the monopolists so thoroughly despised. They seek power by the meanest arts, to use it for the most sordid ends. They seek money by the most oppressive means, to spend it in the most idle and frivolous pursuits. Indeed, so fully sensible of this are the more intelligent of the English landlords, that all of them who are not deeply mortgaged—who, however, form the vast majority—would gladly give up the Corn Laws to be quit of the odium which now rests upon their class. Nor can we leave this subject without alluding to another murder which has been caused by the game laws. This is the report as extracted from a daily paper:—

"FATAL AFFRAY WITH POACHERS AT BRICKHILL, BUCKS.—On Monday night week, as Howe, the head keeper of Mr. Thomas Curtis, was going round a part of the manor in the parish of Little Brickhill, he discovered some snares. He immediately went and called Joseph Leech, one of the under keepers, and another of his assistants, and desired them to watch. *About three on Tuesday morning the keepers fell in with a party of poachers, one of whom had a gun, which afterwards proved to be heavily loaded.* The keepers demanded the gun; the poachers refused to give it up, but, after a desperate struggle, the keepers succeeded in taking it. The poachers then went on in the direction for the woods of Mr. P. Duncombe, of Great Brickhill manor, followed by the keepers. When crossing the land of Mr. Goodman, of Butternilk Farm, the keepers came up with the poachers, who were three in number, and walked side by side some considerable distance. One of the poachers then threw away a bludgeon he had, and picked up a fold-stake, which he brandished about the heads of the keepers. Shortly after this the party came to a fence. The poachers got over first, followed by the keepers. Joseph Leech was first of the keepers, and, in getting over the hedge, the man who had possession of the fold-stake turned round and struck Leech a blow on the head,

which immediately felled him to the ground. The other keeper then went and called a labouring man named Francis Collyer, and with his assistance removed the poor fellow to the house of Mr. Howe, the head keeper, in Brickhill Woods, where he lingered in the most excruciating pain till the Thursday following, when he died. Leech has left a wife and eight children, the youngest only three months old. Mr. Curtis, who was in London, was sent for, and as soon as possible was down at Brickhill. William Chandler was soon after apprehended, and identified as the person who had struck the fatal blow. On Saturday *an inquest was held on the body, and a verdict returned of wilful murder against Chandler, who was committed for trial. A man named Keen has also been committed as an accessory.*"

How long will the public consent that such crimes shall be committed to maintain the game laws? Why does not some resolute member of Parliament move for an inquiry into the whole subject? The restrictions on foreign importation, and the destruction of human food caused by game, render the game laws peculiarly the question of some Free-Trade member.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Several answers to correspondents deferred till next week.

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

Any person forwarding 3s. 3d. by Post-office order, to the Publisher, 67, Fleet-street, London, will have one quarter's copies of the LEAGUE forwarded by post on the days of publication. Subscriptions for the paper may also be left with J. Gadsby, Newall's-buildings, Manchester; and the LEAGUE may be had by order of any news-agent in town or country. Subscribers who receive coloured envelopes on their papers must bear in mind that their subscriptions are due.

POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, July* 20, 1844.

On Thursday evening Mr. Thomas Duncombe brought before the notice of the House of Commons some of the proceedings of the committee nominated by Sir James Graham, to investigate the charges which had been brought against Sir James Graham himself. When a dependant was allowed to select and pack a jury for his own trial, the result might have been so easily anticipated that we bestowed no farther thought on the matter; our confidence was in the public and not in the committee. Mr. Duncombe, however, was not daunted by his first failure to obtain a satisfactory investigation: he appeared before the committee and stated the charges which he was prepared to substantiate by evidence, should an opportunity be afforded him. In pursuance of the policy of suppressing everything which would render the results of the inquiry worth one straw, this opportunity was denied, and nothing remained for Mr. Duncombe but to reiterate his charges in the House of Commons. To one of the articles of accusation we beg leave to direct the attention of our readers. Mr. Duncombe stated—

"That *unscrupulous use* had been made *during the two last years* of the secret power which was conferred on the Government of opening letters under peculiar circumstances; *that a roving commission had been sent into the country in* 1842, *for the purpose of opening letters; that letters of certain individuals had been opened*, and he believed he was in a condition to prove that his own letters had been opened. He also stated that 50 or 60 of Mr. Mazzini's letters had been opened since Christmas last; that the letters of Stolberg, the Pole, had been opened, and that those letters, as well as other letters of foreigners, had been opened at the instigation of foreign powers. He described to the committee the mode in which he believed the process of opening letters was carried on at the Post-office; and he also said he could prove the existence of 'the secret or inner office,' where these deeds were going on."

Our readers are aware that this "roving commission" was formed in consequence of the disturbances that had just taken place, and that simultaneously with the issue of this commission the *Morning Herald* and the *Standard*, the twin-organs of the Government, declared that the outbreak had been instigated by the League, and boldly hazarded a prophecy that the inquiry which the Government had instituted would prove the complicity of our body. Heaven, it appears, has no monopoly of prediction. Sidmouth's spies were in the habit of foretelling outbreaks, and of organizing the fulfilment of their prophecies; it is far from improbable that one who had been trained in the school of Castles and Edwards was the author of this "foregone conclusion," and that his premises were the knowledge that the Peel Cabinet, having employed the Sidmouth arts, would be able to obtain Sidmouth results.

We have now evidence tendered that letters were opened, and we have before us presumptive proof that efforts were made to entrap persons into correspondence for the purpose of laying hold of some unguarded phrase which might be turned to a mischievous and injurious purpose. We appeal to the recollection of the Earl of Derby, and of Sir James Graham himself, for corroboration of the fact, that a letter was written to a magistrate of the county, in the name of his brother-magistrates, which they never authorized; and that an effort was made to get up a case on the reply made to this false and forged communication. If they deny it, we are prepared to publish the entire correspondence, with the dates of the letters and the names of the parties.

Now, we ask our readers to bear in mind the nature of the ordeal to which the League was subjected: spies were set on the actions of its leaders; their private correspondence was violated, and false pretences were devised to extort letters from them in unguarded moments. Against such a system innocence itself, even when guarded by more than ordinary prudence, might have been of little avail. The League passed unscathed through the ordeal; the spy was baffled, the opener of letters disappointed, and the deviser of false pretences left to the mortifying consciousness of having practised treachery in vain. All that the commission could collect was, a stock of materials for the veteran libeller of the "Quarterly," to compose a Rigby article, in which the venom of antiquated spite was neutralized by an exhibition of ignorance which would disgrace a schoolboy.

But the country has no right to be satisfied with the simple vindication of the League; it is now called upon to sanction or to denounce a system worse than that which has condemned the worst tyrant of old to eternal infamy. "The ear of Dionysius" was not so dangerous an instrument of despotism in Sicily as "the secret cabinet of the Post-office" is in England. That cabinet may be made the instrument not merely of the most atrocious cruelty in public life, but of the meanest injustice in private affairs. It is very possible for a high functionary of the Post-office, involved in a lawsuit as executor to the will of some eccentric or depraved nobleman, to get at the secrets of his opponent by opening his confidential letters, and thus to anticipate his case before the matter can be brought to trial. Post-office espionage can be applied to fraud on the Stock-exchange, to the baffling of one mercantile speculation and the securing the success of another. Letters may be detained as well as opened, and there is more than suspicion that they have been detained. A fair investigation into the workings of this secret and perilous system has been virtually refused; it remains to be seen whether the nation will ratify the course pursued by its so-called representatives.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

A skirmish took place on the 3rd instant between the French and the Moors, in which several of the latter were killed and wounded. It appears that Abd-el-Kader, the Arab chief, was present during the engagement. Marshal Bugeaud commanded the French. This news is considered important as showing that the expectations formed of a peaceful termination of the differences between the Governments of France and Morocco have not been realized.

The accounts from Athens of the 30th ult. describe Greece as on the eve of becoming again the theatre of party strife. A few days previously some rioting took place in that capital. Cries of "Down with the Ministry?" and "*Viva* the Constitution!" were vociferated under the King's windows, and Callergis was obliged to order a body of cavalry to disperse the mob. Several persons were wounded in the affray, two of whom subsequently died. By letters of a subsequent date it appears that tranquillity has been re-established.

The Brussels journals remark with bitterness that Belgium is not fortunate in her foreign commercial relations. Struck by the Zollverein, she is about to be still more injured by measures of reprisal, the Belgian Government not having continued the favour conferred upon the wines and silks of Germany in the month of August, 1842.

Among the papers received from New York is one published at that city in the Spanish language, and called the *Noticioso de Ambos Mundos*. This contains an official communication from the Mexican Government to Senor Almonte, the representative of Mexico in the United States, stating the return of Mr. Thompson with the definite answer that Mexico will never consent to the annexation of Texas.

We learn from Dresden, July 9, that although apparent tranquillity has been restored at Prague, there is great agitation still among the labouring classes in other parts of Bohemia. At Reuschenberg the weavers have destroyed all the machinery and several factories.

Malta letters of the 5th inst., received by the Levant mail, give some details of the landing of the Italian refugees in Calabria. Some of them appear from these to have joined the Calabrian bands; and at Malta hopes were entertained that among them were all the leaders of the enterprise, with the exception of Moro, who was known to be mortally wounded.

The official statement of the modified Austrian tariff contains several very important alterations in the tariff of colonial goods, coffee, sugar, spices, &c., besides a considerable reduction of the duty laid upon cotton yarn, which hitherto paid about 15 Austrian gulden (about 30s.) per cwt., and which in future is fixed at the amount of one guinea per cwt. This is, doubtless, the most important of those alterations with respect to British manufacture, which, by this reduction of the Austrian duties, may be compensated in some degree for the losses by which it it menaced on the part of the Zollverein.

German manufacturers, who have sent a considerable quantity of goods (cotton and linen cloth, &c.) to China, have received news of the result of this new enterprise of commerce; they are most satisfied with this intelligence, especially the many-coloured cotton cloths (calicoes, &c.), of Saxonian origin, which met with an appreciation above similar goods of English manufacture. It has been suggested to appoint a German consul at Canton, and this suggestion will doubtless come to reality.

The Acadia, Royal Mail steamer, arrived at Liverpool last Saturday from the United States. The treaty between the United States and France, for the mutual surrender of criminals other than political, escaping from one country to the other, has received the approval of the President and Senate, and the Government of France.

The report of the committee on foreign relations upon the Zollverein treaty has found its way into the newspapers, and it appears that the Senate, in rejecting it, but acted upon the recommendation of that committee, made upon the ground that the Legislature is the department of Government by which commerce should be regulated, and laws of revenue be passed; and that the committee is not prepared to sanction so large an innovation upon ancient and uniform practice, by adopting this measure of the Executive.

A serious conflagration had taken place at Boston, which resulted in the total destruction of upwards of a dozen houses. The loss is estimated at 100,000 dollars. The Halifax papers contain accounts of a great fire at Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, which commenced on the evening of the 5th ult., and was not subdued until half-past two o'clock on the following day. The loss on this occasion is is stated to be £30,000, and but little of the property destroyed was insured. We have yet to chronicle a further disaster—a steamboat explosion at Detroit, on the 25th ult., by which several lives were lost.

On the 6th ult., the British bark Dominican, Captain Salter, from London, was wrecked on the Folle, a coral reef in the vicinity of Aux Cayes, about 20 miles distant from that port, and was found to be totally abandoned. It is supposed that her crew and passengers took to their boats, and attempted to proceed to Jamaica, being afraid to land at Aux Cayes, as they knew the island to be in a state of insurrection. Nothing had been heard of them when the Preble left. The Dominican had a valuable cargo of dry goods, liquors, &c. Among her passengers was a Mr. Field, lieutenant of Royal Artillery.

The commerce of Oporto and Lisbon was never in a state of greater depression than it is at present. Outrages against property are now of daily occurrence throughout the wine districts of the north of Portugal, and the robbery of churches is again resorted to. There are likewise numerous commercial failures.

The following important notification had been issued at the Havannah, just before the last advices from thence were despatched:—"Our intendent, on consideration of the calamitous consequences of the drought, which, until lately, has been experienced throughout the island, has decreed:—Firstly, That, from the 10th of July until the end of the present year, the following articles shall be admitted upon paying half the present rate of duties, viz., maize, corn-meal, beans, potatoes, and rice; and that sweet potatoes, yams, and plantains shall be free of duty. Secondly, That the ports of Cardenas, Mariel, and Sagua la Grande shall be open for the importation of the above articles; also that junk beef and salt fish may be imported at said ports upon paying duties specified in our tariff. Further, that Batabano, upon the south coast, directly south of Havannah, at the termination of the Havannah railroad, shall be open for the importation of yams and plantains."

The state of Maryland, it is said, will soon be in a position to realize considerable revenues from two or three of the public works in which she has a large pecuniary interest, but which have heretofore paid little or nothing into the treasury. Pennsylvania, it is now hoped and believed, will restore herself speedily to the rank of solvent states.

The new bill regarding savings' banks is to be considerably altered. The most important concession towards depositors is that touching the interest. It will be now £2 15s. per cent., and not £2 13s. 2¾d. as at first proposed.——The scheme of an agricultural college at Cirencester receives very influential support. A farm of about 400 acres, near Cirencester, is to be the example or experimental farm of the college.——The grand festival in honour of the poet Burns, which is to take place near Alloway Kirk, is fixed for the 1st of August. The Earl of Eglinton will preside. Two days afterwards the Highland and Agricultural Society's grand show, at Glasgow, will take place, so that both places may be easily visited.——The Earl of Lincoln has given notice that, on Tuesday, the 30th of July, he will move for leave to bring in a bill "for the embankment of the Thames."——The riots which took place in the early part of June, in Silesia, have been followed by others in Prague; and commissions are sitting in both districts, to explore the real cause of these excesses. From the various accounts from those districts, these causes are pretty plainly excessive lowness of the price of labour, and, to a great extent, utter want of work.——On Saturday a fire broke out on board the barque Hand, 150 tons burden, Captain Chambers, laden with guano, and lying in the South Dock of the West India Docks, Poplar, and before it was subdued destroyed a portion of the vessel and cargo.——It appears, from returns ordered on the motion of Mr. Hume, that the gross total number of persons who are or were imprisoned for debt in the United Kingdom, for a period of more than five years, amounts to 3352. The total number imprisoned for debts (exclusive of costs) under £1 amounted to 210; under £5, to 794; under £10, to 483; under £50, to 922; under £100, to 249; under £500, to 298; above £500, to 101; and 36 for amounts not stated in the returns. Nearly one-half of the prisoners, or 1469, were (exclusive of costs) confined for debts under £10. One prisoner is mentioned as having been imprisoned within the Queen's Prison for 32 years, at an annual expense to the county of £9 2s. 6d.——We announce with much pleasure the abolition of slavery in the British settlement of Hong-Kong. The ordinance issued for this purpose has appeared in the *Hong-Kong Gazette*.—*Anti-Slavery Reporter*.——The Commissioners of Fine Arts, after considering the merits of the respective artists contributing to the exhibition of fresco paintings now on view in Westminster-hall, decided on selecting six from among their number, whom it has been determined to commission to execute works on given subjects for the decoration of the new Houses of Parliament. The names of the successful competitors were declared as follows:—Charles West Cope, John Calcott Horsley, William Dyce, Daniel Maclise, Richard Redgrave, and Wm. Cave Thomas.——On Sunday last a coiner, who gave his name Henry Brown, was arrested, after a desperate resistance, by Inspector Penny and a party of police at a house in Half-moon-alley, St. Luke's; two females were also apprehended. The prisoners were engaged in the very act of making base coin when the police forced their way into the room.——On Saturday last a gentleman named Rawlings, and two daughters of a Mr. and Mrs. Bentley, from Preston, aged respectively eight and ten years, were drowned by the upsetting of a small pleasure boat off

Dover. Mrs. Bentley and two men named Fox and Lewisham, who were also in the boat, were upset at the same time, but were fortunately saved.——Monday afternoon, shortly after two o'clock, a very destructive fire broke out in the recently-erected mansions at Upton-park, near Slough, the property of Mr. J. T. Bedborough, the extensive builder, of New Windsor; but such was the ascendancy that the flames had obtained before the arrival of the fire-engines, that all attempts (although there was a plentiful supply of water) to preserve the property were totally ineffectual, and three houses were completely gutted, forming the west end of Victoria-terrace. We understand the property is insured to the amount of £3000.——On Monday night week, a gamekeeper named Leech lost his life in an affray with a gang of poachers near the manor of Brickhill, Bucks. The unfortunate man was struck on the head with a fold-stake by a poacher named Chandler, who has since been apprehended, and against whom a verdict of "Wilful murder" has been returned. Leech, who may be reckoned amongst the numerous victims of the game laws, has left a wife and eight children.——The schooner Isabella arrived at Plymouth, July 9, from Corunna with 32 head of Spanish cattle; and the Camilla (s), from Jersey, has brought over sixteen more. These are the first import of foreign cattle this season.——In consequence of the high price of hay in Liverpool, the Irish boats are bringing it over in large quantities.——The Wesleyan Methodists of the Bingham circuit have erected a moveable wooden meeting-house upon wheels, capable of seating about 120 persons, at a cost of about £60, for the accommodation of several villagers where no site could be obtained.——Deputations have been sent from Sunderland and the neighbouring ports, for the purpose of giving evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, lately appointed on the motion of Mr. Lyall, as to the state of the shipping interest at the respective ports which they represent, as well as to state their views generally on the subject, in answer to questions from the Committee.——The imprisonment of O'Connell has revived the repeal meetings in the United States. Probably, since the last steamer brought the news, about 5000 dollars or more have been collected from the Irish to help to pay the fine. In two nights, in New York, about 1500 dollars were collected and accounted for—the amount unaccounted for uncertain.——An exceedingly destructive fire, involving loss of property to the amount of several thousand pounds, broke out a little before four o'clock on Sunday morning, upon the premises of Messrs. George Wilson and Co., engineers, millwrights, and screw-bolt-manufacturers, Garden-lane, Salford, which, together with the extensive sizing works of Messrs. J. G. Lavino and Co. adjoining, were quickly destroyed. Messrs. Wilson are insured to the amount of £3500 in the Globe Assurance-office, and Messrs. Lavino to the amount of £5250 in the Imperial and Atlas offices.——A bill to repeal a number of acts for regulating the trade in butter and cheese has been brought into the House of Commons.——Thomas Rust, who has undergone several examinations at Halstead, charged with setting fire to Mr. Nott's premises at Pebmarsh on the 6th of April, and Mr. Ball's premises, in the same parish, on the 6th of June, by which property to a considerable amount was destroyed, has confessed himself guilty of the several charges.——On Wednesday week Mr. Wm. E. Ryan, brother of Alderman E. F. Ryan, of Limerick, fell over the taffrail of the steamer at Lough Dergh, near Killaloe, and was drowned. The deceased, when a mere lad, was blown up in his bed, at the awful gunpowder explosion at George's-street, in this city, on the night of the 3rd of January, 1837, and most providentially escaped.——During a severe storm which blew at Liverpool on Saturday night, a fine large packet-ship, the Russell, Glover, laden with a costly cargo, was driven back into Bootle-bay, where it was expected she would have gone on shore, but two steam tug-boats having been sent to her assistance, she was brought into the river on Sunday, at noon, without having received any damage. The tide in the river rose several feet higher than it otherwise would have done, and the dead body of a man was washed ashore by the violence of the waves.——On Monday a novel sale of 3000 pine apples took place at the sale-rooms of Messrs. Keeling and Hunt, 2, Monument-yard. They were all in excellent condition, and landed and arrived in London within a month of their shipment from Eleuthera and Nassau, in the Bahama Islands. The price at which they sold were from 2s. to 5s. each; and there was a brisk competition from fruit salesmen from all parts of the metropolis.——An unhappy woman, a widow, named Mary Ryan, forty years of age, who has, it appears, been an itinerant vendor of fruit, attempted self-destruction on Monday morning by precipitating herself from the attic window of the house, No. 10, Short's-gardens, Drury-lane, where she resided. She has suffered severe injury, and is now in a dangerous state at Charing-cross Hospital. She assigned distress as the cause of the rash act.——There has been a very large importation of new potatoes this season from Holland, one salesman alone in Spitalfields Market having received as many as 2103 baskets during the present month.——The Paris and Lyons Railway Bill passed the House of Peers on Saturday with a majority of 75.——At Worship-street, on Tuesday, four finely-grown but exceedingly sunburnt young Lancashire women, very neatly and picturesquely attired, were placed at the bar before Mr. Broughton, charged with singing some dolorous ditty, collecting crowds, and begging in the streets. They stated that they had been employed in the coalmines, but were thrown out of bread by an act of Parliament. The clerk, by direction of the magistrate, had written to their last employer, to know whether their statement was true, and received an answer stating that a great number of young women have within these last few months been deprived of employment by the operation of Lord Ashley's act for excluding females from coalmines, and that the statement of the girls was likely to be true. On reading the letter, Mr. Broughton expressed his conviction of the truth of the prisoners' statement, and ordered a sufficient sum of money to be given to each of the girls from the office poor-box to carry them comfortably to their native place.——The usual quarterly meetings of ironmasters were held during the past week. During the last quarter the trade has been in a healthy state, the demand steady, and the prices for all descriptions of iron fair and remunerating.——The Earl of Bradford has given a piece of land at Bolton for the erection of public baths.——The accounts of the weather and crops in the north, and particularly in Scotland, are highly favourable. The weather, says the *Fifeshire Journal*, is still delightfully dry and warm, and is pushing forward the crops rapidly. Should the present weather continue, barley would be cut by the middle of August, if not sooner. Better weather for the hay crop was never known: the yield is light, but the best hopes are entertained of a heavy after crop.——On Sunday afternoon a man was killed on the Croydon Railway, having accidentally fallen over the side of the carriage in which he was while the train was in rapid motion.——The commission for the county of Essex was opened on Monday by Mr. Baron Gurney. The calendar is heavy, and some of the offences are of a very serious character, there being no less than eight charges of arson, and in five of the cases the respective ages of the accused are 16, 9, 11, 12, and 8 years.——The 12th of July has passed off in Ireland without those disturbances which usually result from the Orange celebrations on that day.——Since the early closing of warehouses and offices in Leicester, upwards of fifty new names have been added to the list of members of the Mechanics' Institute, in consequence of the greater amount of leisure that is now afforded the young men in the evening.——The Duchess of Nemours was safely delivered of a son on Friday week, to whom the King has given the name of Duke d'Alençon. When the last accounts came away the royal patient was as well as could be expected.——At Dublin, on Thursday week, a man named Michael Hogan, a shoemaker, while labouring under delirium induced by drink, attempted to murder his three brothers, by cutting their throats with a razor, as they lay asleep in the same apartment with him. He was happily prevented from fully executing his horrible purpose by the brothers awaking, but not before he had inflicted several severe wounds upon them.——On the 25th ult. the steam-boat General Vance left the wharf at Detroit, and went over to Sandwich, on the Canada side, to take in passengers. Immediately after leaving the wharf the boiler burst, killing four persons, and the vessel immediately sunk.——Sir John Guest stated in the House of Commons, the other evening, that he paid in poor-rates more than £1000 per quarter. Every mill, every piece of machinery, every steam-engine, was assessed to the poor.——A letter from Gibraltar says, that no doubt existed that matters would be settled between Spain and Morocco without the former having to proceed to extremities, as the mediation of the British Consul would have its weight with the Emperor, notwithstanding the reports which had been propagated to the contrary.——All the hay about Brussels has been got in. During many years past there has not been so great an abundance of it as there is this season. In consequence of the anticipated scarcity of hay in England, we understand that some extensive farmers near Ghent and Brussels are fully prepared, in case of need, to supply our home market.—*Brussels (British) Gazette.*——O'Connell, according to a statement made at the Repeal Association on Monday, is joyous and buoyant, and occupies himself with "practising gymnastics;" so that, it was added, when he comes out of prison he will have acquired not only additional strength, "but more grace of attitude."——Another bridge across the metropolitan portion of the Thames is proposed. Among the speculations of the day is a plan of a metropolitan junction railway, one of the most conspicuous schemes of which is the formation of a railway bridge across the river Thames at Battersea.——Wednesday forenoon an inquiry took place before J. J. Mills, deputy coroner for Middlesex, and a most respectable jury, at the Strand Union workhouse, Cleveland-street, on the body of William Edward Carson, aged 32, who died from the effects of starvation and destitution. A witness stated that whilst deceased was at the hospital he was questioned, and stated himself to have been a barrister's clerk in the Temple. He had not tasted food for three days. He had some bread in his pocket, but he said his destitution had become so great that his stomach could not take it. He was in the most deplorable condition, and on being searched, all that was found on him was a piece of bread and an old pocket-book, containing his certificate of baptism, extracted from the register of the church of St. George's, Bloomsbury. The jury returned a verdict—"That the deceased died from extreme exhaustion, produced and imbibed from destitution, and the want of the common necessaries of life."——Mr. Baily, the Academician, has just completed a colossal cast of the late Duke of Sussex, of which a private view was given on Wednesday in the artist's studio, Percy-street. Among the visitors was the Duke of Cambridge, who stated that the figure was the finest likeness extant of his late illustrious brother.——Intelligence has arrived by the way of Trebizond (from whence the dates are to the 24th of June), announcing the safe arrival at Bokhara of the Rev. Doctor Wolf, and that he had been kindly received by the Bokharees. No mention, however, is made as to whether he had found the objects of his journey, and therefore the next accounts are looked forward to with great anxiety.——From a return, moved for by Mr. Hindley, the member for Ashton-under-Line, of all children who have been removed from union houses into the army and into the navy, &c., it appears that, in England, the total number of children so removed into the army, amounts to 132, and into the navy, 139; making altogether 271. Of these 137 were from 10 to 15, and 134 from 15 to 20 years of age.——The Secret Committee on the Post-office has held a meeting, Lord Sandon chairman. The Earl of Aberdeen was the first witness examined.——A new telescope comet was discovered at Paris, on the 7th inst., by M. Victor Mauvais.——The Wesleyan conference will be held this year in Birmingham. It will commence its sittings on Wednesday, the 31st inst.——Petitions to both Houses of Parliament, emanating from the Pro-Corn-Law Society, are now being hawked about Horsham for signature by an ex-Liberal lawyer, praying protection against any *further* diminution of the landlords' monopoly.——The present possessions of France in Africa costs her from two to three millions sterling a year, and require an army of 100,000 men.——The number of vessels which have gone to the African coast in search of guano is not less than 600, at the lowest estimate, a great number of them being very large ships.——It appears, by a tabular statement in the *New York Herald* of June 24th, that the arrivals of emigrants from the 1st to the 24th of that month amounted to the extraordinary number of 13,683! Of these about 3000 are from this country, and the remainder chiefly from Germany.——At the Devonshire quarter sessions, last week, there were 100 prisoners for trial. The Earl of Devon, in charging the grand jury, expressed himself at a loss to account for the largeness of the number. "Every sessions," said his lordship, "we have from 80 to 100 prisoners for trial. See to what a state we have come! I cannot account for it, nor can I discover a remedy."——It appears by the recent accounts from the United States that, down to the latest dates received at New York on the 29th ult., just before the sailing of the Acadia, the receipts at the cotton ports of the United States amounted to 1,964,248 bales, against 2,319,726 bales at the corresponding period of last year.——At the meeting of the Repeal Association, at the Conciliation-hall on Monday, the rent for the week was announced to be £1688 14s. 3d. The hall was crowded to excess; among those present were Mr. H. Grattan, M.P., Mr. E. B. Roche, M.P., and Sir Valentine Blake.——The Irish Judges on the circuits have, in almost every instance, congratulated the grand juries on the peaceable state of the counties, as set forth on the face of the calendars.——Mr. Smith, of Holborn, who was wounded by the Hon. Mr. Touchett, is progressing favourably, and strong hopes are entertained that he will ultimately recover. On Monday, the piece of coat which was carried into the wound by the bullet forced itself out. The bullet has not yet been discovered, but it is supposed by the medical gentlemen who attend him that it is lodged between the fangs of the vertebræ, having been stopped there in its progress, and prevented from injuring the spinal chord.——The convict Dalmas, whose sentence has been commuted to transportation, will be shortly placed on board the Agincourt convict ship, now lying off Deptford, which will soon sail for her ultimate destination.——The new Governor-General of India reached Alexandria in the Geyser, from Marseilles, on the 22nd of June, and after having had one public and several private audiences with the Pacha, left on the 25th for Cairo.——A committee, upon a general meeting, has been formed for the purpose of watching the progress of the Savings' Banks Bill when it is introduced into Parliament.——The great extent of the growth of potatoes for the London market is shown by the circumstance of one gentleman in Essex having received from a London dealer for his crop on the ground the sum of £2230.——The public petition on behalf of a repeal of the Legislative Act of Union between Ireland and Great Britain, laid down for signature in Glasgow during the last week, was signed, in four days, by no fewer than 40,000 inhabitants.——At the Chelmsford assizes, a boy, nine years of age, was convicted of setting fire to a barn, by which property to the value of £400 had been destroyed. Sentence deferred.——From almost all parts of the country where recently wool fairs have been held, the results have been most satisfactory. In some instances the improvement is asserted to have been from 7½ to 10, and in a few instances 15 per cent.——Earl de Grey and suite took his final departure from Dublin on Tuesday.

THE HEAVY DUTY ON SUGAR.—Large quantities of green rhubarb lately brought to the London market being unsaleable, were carted to the dunghill. The true reason of this waste appears to be that, through the heavy duty levied on sugar, it is very much out of the reach of the poor, and rhubarb, we know, cannot be eaten without sugar. The high price of sugar also prevents cottagers from using the produce of their little gardens, gooseberries and currants, which induces them to offer these fruits in the neighbouring towns, and here again there is the same disappointment — after toiling through the streets for many hours in search of customers, these poor people are often compelled almost to give away their fruit, the oppressive duty on sugar depriving them of purchasers. In the recent debate on the sugar duties, the Earl of Radnor stated that the allowance of sugar to each seaman in the Queen's navy was double the quantity consumed by the cottager at home; and the Marquis of Lansdowne also stated that the convict transported to New Holland could obtain three times as much sugar as the honest labourer in England!—*Sun.*

BRITISH SHIPPING.—We mentioned last week that the opening of the guano trade had greatly relieved British shipping, and put an end, for a time, to the ruinous competition for freights, which had for some time existed, but we had not, at that time, any idea of the number of vessels which have gone to the African coast in search of this new manure. We have since learnt that it is not less than 600, at the lowest estimate, and that some persons even estimate it as high as 800, a great number of them being very large ships. It is, therefore, no wonder that the taking up so many vessels at good freights, and the withdrawing them from the usual trade, has had a good effect on freights, and on the demand for shipping everywhere.—*Liverpool Times.*

CONDITION OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—In one of his lectures delivered to the working classes of Edinburgh, Mr. Simpson thus refers to the Corn Laws as a cause of their depression:—"As his lectures were to be, at their own request, addressed to the improvement of the character and condition of the working classes, his first inquiry was what that condition and character really were. He showed that they suffered in part from causes not, at present at least, within their own control. He told them plainly that neither the intellectual nor moral character of the masses of the people was yet brought to a satisfactory elevation. A general system of enlightened education alone would work out that important result. That at present is *denied* them, but it will come. The food of the country is not adequate to the population. (Hear, hear.) By yet prevailing ignorance and prejudice, agriculture, in four-fifths at least of these islands, is so low as to reap from the land scarcely one-half of its proper production. The sea teems with nutritious food, sufficient itself to feed the people; but we are not yet so far civilised as to command these vast supplies. Fleets should be engaged in the fisheries. Edinburgh is supplied by what a few fish-women can carry on their backs! The food produced in foreign countries is a prohibited supply. He could not avoid alluding to that as one cause of the depressed condition of the working classes, although circumstances had rendered it a vexed political question. That such restrictions are suicidal, was his conviction long before they became the subject of political controversy (cheers), and although he abjured party politics in his addresses, he could not pass over this great evil, which stands prominent in his way. (Renewed cheering.) The same restrictions recoiled and produced another cause of depressed condition—want of work. This was too obvious to require to be dwelt upon. Long before, he repeated, these points had become political, he (Mr. S.) had hoped to see the day when, as long ago counselled by Adam Smith, all restrictions on trade should be removed, and our country rise like a giant unswathed, and command the wealth of the world. (Cheers.)"

REVIEW.

A Guide to the Blackwater. By J. R. O'Flanagan, Esq. London: How.

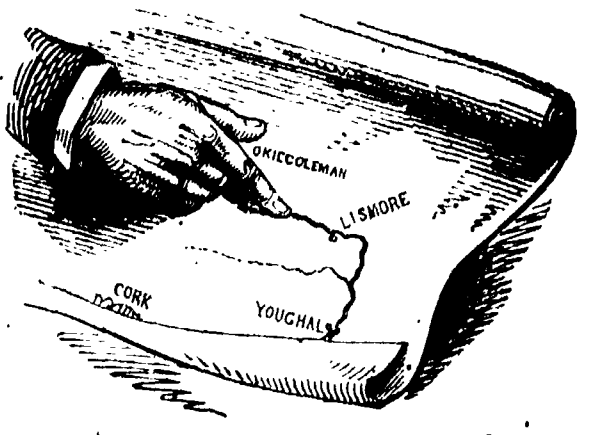
There is no river scenery in Europe, not even that of the Rhine, which exhibits, within the same number of miles, such an extent and variety of picturesque beauty as the Blackwater in its course from the town of Mallow to the bay of Youghal; and yet to the generality of British tourists it is as little known as the steppes of Tartary or the wilds of Siberia. The line of country through which the river flows is not only productive but luxuriant; and yet there is probably no district within the seas of Britain in which the natural productiveness of the soil has been less fostered by art, and where the physical resources, above and below the surface, have been more signally neglected. The blight of the protective system, which, like the hug of the bear, destroys those it was intended to cherish, is everywhere apparent; landowners and tenants have been taught to rely upon acts of Parliament for results which could only be produced by their own skill and industry; they have looked for miracles from legislation, while greater blessings than even such miracles could have effected might easily have been wrought out by their own exertions.

A river, which might be easily made navigable for sixty miles of its course,—affording to the farmers a market and port for their produce, enabling them to obtain coal and culm to burn their lime, and abundant supplies of the sea-sand, which is their best manure,—has not merely been neglected, but has been artificially obstructed. Two hundred years ago, as we learn from the "Boyle Papers," boats freely sailed up and down the full course of sixty miles, from Youghal to Mallow; they do not now traverse one fourth of the distance, the river being only open from Youghal to Cappoquin. The writer of the work before us justly observes:—

"There is nothing can confer greater benefit on any country than a cheap and ready mode of conveying her agricultural produce to her seaports; or, as the commissioners of public works report, what Ireland stands most in need of at present is, a cheap and expeditious means of having her agricultural produce conveyed from the heart of the country to the extremities. The worst crimes of the people are produced through poverty, and its concomitant idleness, and not through any innate depravity of the population. Remove the cause, and the result is certain of being gratifying to the lover of order and peace. Give but a good line of water-carriage along the Blackwater, and it will be the means of inducing capitalists to establish factories, for they will find every facility for trade: cheap labour, cheap and plentiful provisions, and a ready mode of shipping their goods to the mart for the produce of their industry. Again; see the great blessing to the population who reside in the vicinity of this navigable river. It runs along a country of 75 miles, which, doubling the length of coast, gives 150 miles. For about 50 miles it has a depth of water sufficient for all purposes of internal intercourse. We have, then, 100 miles which would be clearly benefited by the navigation. The greater portion of this line has a substratum of limestone, rendering it dry, and yields an abundant harvest of grain, and other produce. There is, however, much deep loam, strong tenacious soil, requiring manure and labour. Some farms along the banks yield wheat and potatoes, and others lighter crops, while miles of fertile meadow land afford pasturage for droves of sheep and black cattle. Now, it requires but little argument to show how so great a tract of thickly-populated country would be benefited by interchange of products. Sand, so excellent for manure, might be had reasonably. Coal and culm to burn lime might be brought in a lighter of from 50 to 60 tons to Cappoquin or Lismore, and then transferred to flat-bottomed boats for the more shallow waters. Building materials, stone, sand, flags, bricks, slates, &c., could be easily brought from those districts in which they abound, and readily disposed of where they do not exist, and are only to be procured now at a great expense. The towns would derive much benefit also from the intercourse of passengers and strangers. Possessing the attractions of exquisite scenery, it is more than probable that thousands of our fellow-subjects of this and the sister countries, hitherto ignorant of the lovely landscapes on every side of the river, will gladly avail themselves of the means afforded to permit their enjoying them, and resort to our hotels and places of entertainment. The Rhine has become familiar as a high road, and even Switzerland is now well known: any novelty is sure to have an influx of visitors; and I feel proud to say the banks of the Blackwater from Youghal to Mallow, and for miles higher, may fairly rival those of any European river for the same distance."

Sir Richard Musgrave, one of those intelligent landed proprietors who, like the Marquis of Westminster, the Earls Ducie, Radnor, Spencer, and Fitzwilliam, has long seen the suicidal influence of the Corn Laws, and the evils which arise from a dependence on legislative protection, has honourably exerted himself to restore the ancient free navigation of the Blackwater river. As there never was an abuse that was not profitable to somebody, his patriotic efforts have encountered some opposition. A pamphlet has been sent us written by a gentleman bearing the sounding name of Nelson Trafalgar Foley, the perusal of which would justify the substitution of Folly for Foley in the title-page. This gentleman declares that the upper Blackwater is innavigable, though he has seen it navigated with his own eyes, and this, too, in a very hot season, when the supply of water was more than usually scanty. Mr. Foley's opposition to Sir Richard Musgrave's project whimsically resembles the Duke of Richmond's hostility to Sir Robert Peel's tariff, "There is salmon in both." So far as we can comprehend his not very intelligible reasoning, he fears that the opening of the river navigation might interfere with some salmon fisheries which he rents from the Duke of Devonshire, and of course he thinks that the agriculture of the entire valley of the river, and the comfort of the thousands of families dependent on that agriculture for support, should weigh but as dust in the balance against the salmon to be caught in the weirs of Mr. Nelson Trafalgar Foley. But it is useless to waste words on this "Triton of the Minnows," and we turn with pleasure to the beautiful volume before us.

This work is chiefly designed as a guide to tourists, and we trust that its publication will lead many to visit the beautiful scenery which it describes. The bay of Youghal, into which the river Blackwater disembogues itself, is full of attractions not only to the lovers of the picturesque, but also to the students of geology and natural history. Its submarine forest, from which large quantities of peat are annually dug, contains the bones of several indigenous animals now extinct in Ireland; and the



trees that are sometimes dug up near low water retain their leaves and fruit little injured by the lapse of centuries. Few bathing-places in Great Britain possess such a convenient beach, and such

complete seclusion for those who dislike exposure while enjoying the healthful luxury of a dip in the ocean; and still fewer have more romantic scenery surrounding it in every direction. To the antiquarian its old collegiate church, the ruins of its monasteries, and the remains of the preceptory of the Knights Templars above the town, furnish many objects of attraction, and suggest interesting themes of historic reflection. Nor should Sir Walter Raleigh's house escape notice; it was for some time his favourite residence, and in its gardens he planted the first potatoes ever introduced into Ireland. In the engraving which we give, the ruined choir of the old collegiate

church is seen in the distance, with part of its stone window, which is fully equal to that in the cathedral of Rouen in its richness of work, and far more harmonious in its proportions. We should also mention the chapel of the Boyles, forming one of the transepts of the church, which contains the monuments of the first Earls of Cork and Orrery.

The navigation of the river is now open nearly to Lismore, and the tourist ascending the river in the steam-boat, which plies daily, will meet a continued

series of picturesque panoramic views, one of which, near the ruined castle of Strancally, we give as a specimen. The remains of the magnificent abbey founded by Strongbow's favourite companion, Raymond le Gros, are between Strancally and Youghal; they are well worthy of a long visit, and the proprietor, R. Smith, Esq., is remarkable for the courtesy which he exhibits to strangers. In the parts of the river about to be opened for the purposes of internal navigation there are so many interesting objects that we must refer our readers to Mr. O'Flanagan's work; but, among modern edifices, we must notice Castle Hyde, the beauties of which have been celebrated by many rustic bards, and

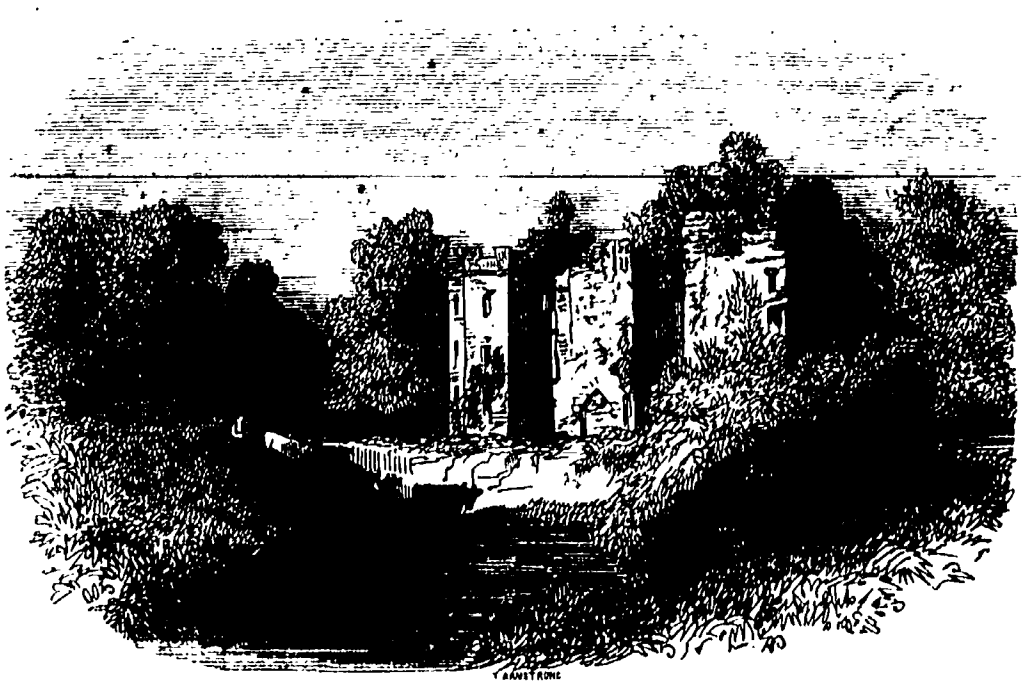
especially by one whose singular lays first suggested the well-known "Groves of Blarney." Among other natural curiosities, the poet mentioned

"The trout and salmon
A-playing backgammon,
To charm the ladies by the water side."

And not less singular was his account of

"The bees perfuming
The air with music,
All to adorn sweet Castle Hyde."

Among the objects of antiquity, we shall only mention the castles of Lismore and Mallow; and the engraving which we give of the latter precludes the necessity of description.



Historic Fancies. By the Hon. G. S. Smythe, M.P. London: Colburn.

This delightful volume, the production of a thoughtful, cultivated, and ingenuous mind, has many claims upon our attention, but none greater than its manifestation of sympathies with all that is excellent, all that is noble, and all that is true, irrespective of sect, party, or faction. There are no doubt traces of that immaturity of opinion which in some degree is characteristic of the party designated "Young England;" for though that party is honourably distinguished by having a principle and a purpose, it shrinks from following that principle into all its consequences, and evolving that purpose into its necessary results. But, were the short-comings of "Young England" even greater than they are, still its members would be entitled to respect, because they have made their appeal to the intelligence of the country: they have taken their stand on literature, philosophy, and historic lore in preference to the brute force of feudalism and the meaner arts of intimidation and corruption. It is a party that seems to have arisen for the express purpose of falsifying the proverb, *Noscitur a sociis;* for the section of Young England is wholly unlike every other division of the great party with which it is usually, though loosely, connected. It is equally removed from the trickery and artifice of the Tapers and Tadpoles on the one side, and from the stolid obstinacy of the country squires on the other; it may accompany these allies for a certain distance, but "it will not march with them through Coventry, that's flat." As a party, it is yet in its early youth, and has not gained sufficient confidence in itself to venture on independent action: it has indicated rather the courses it will avoid than those that it will pursue. The volume before us, whether viewed in its relation to the author or to the party with which he is connected, replete as it is with literary promise, is still richer in its promise of political integrity. It is impossible that a mind so highly endowed and so sedulously trained should submit to the fellowship of obstinate stupidity and hereditary dulness; it must revolt against the Mezentian policy which would thus unite vivid genius with inert stolidity; it cannot be "cribbed, cabined, and confined" by mere conventionalisms and traditional phrases, which, by the progress of time, have lost the little meaning they ever had; the genius that produced the "Historic Fancies" is one that cannot be trammelled by party:—

"The captive thrush may brook the cage;
The prison'd eagle dies for rage."

After having read this volume it is impossible to avoid feeling an affectionate respect for the author, and a sincere anxiety for his pursuing the right course, which he shows that he can both perceive and appreciate. But, at the same time, we know too well the difficulties which a man must encounter when he steps out from his order and his party to advance the general good of mankind. He will have to bear up against the calumnies of the envious, the sneers of the thoughtless, the reproaches of the prejudiced, and the artifices of the designing; but, what is infinitely more difficult, he will have to steel himself against the remonstrances of old friends, and the whispered fears of near connexions; he must look for at least a temporary life of isolation, and a long career of labour, to win back by repeated triumphs the respect which his associates now accord him almost as a birthright. It is for this reason that we look forward to the author's future career, and to the course generally which Young England will pursue, with some anxiety; hope, however, predominating over fear:—

"Si quâ fata aspera rumpas,
Tu Marcellus eris."

But even should the trammels of party and hereditary association prevent Young England from asserting the manly and generous principles of universal justice, still it will have done good service by relieving the dreariness of political life by the cheering light of literature and philosophy. It is something that, amid the managers of red tape and the feeders of cattle, amid the routine of officials and the sluggishness of country squires, there should appear a burst of energy and vitality which gives hope of some improvement. Hitherto the Conservative party has been like some inert mass of brute matter, powerful only in its weight and magnitude, and possessing no better claims to respect than unwieldiness and immobility; but now a part at least of it is instinct with life:—

"Infusa per artus
Mens agitat molem et magno se corpore miscet."

Mr. Smythe's first lyric is devoted to the ancient aristocracy of France, and the historic recollections connected with that brilliant nobility now little better than

"Dream of a dream, and shadow of a shade."

He has read a part, at least, of the moral to be deduced from this wreck of feudalism's proudest chivalry:—

"Why deplore the excesses of an oppressed population? It is the tendency of misery to brutalise. Why regret the perfidy of nobles? It is the tendency of prosperity to harden. Their education and pursuits alike prepare and exact the condition which is essential to their existence. It is the very nature of an aristocracy to be sycophantic during the stability of monarchy, and perfidious during its decline. Woe to the sovereign who confided in,—Woe to the people who submitted to them!

"I have thus endeavoured to show, while the French aristocracy was attired in her robes of state, and decked out with all those golden presents which the Bourbons delighted to lavish on her, that she was unsound, and rotten to the core. Brilliant as was her illustration, I have not been blind to her defects. With reign after reign, which I have been considering but a succession of glory, and renown, and panegyric for the same names, I have not repeated this without referring to the vice which detracted from them. But the aristocracy of France is now presented to our view in a far different attitude and aspect. They have undergone a great and terrible vengeance. They have been doomed to a shameful and bitter penance. Emigration and Death with the Revolution,—Exile and Proscription with the Empire,—Slight and Disappointment with the Restoration,—Disqualification and Disgrace with the July dynasty! From the moment when their fathers rode out of Paris, with the flames still smouldering beneath the ruins of the Bastille, down to this our own time, their career has been one long mortification. The sternest of moralists will admit that the retribution has been more than ample. The severest of republicans might be moved at the recollection of some among its earlier passages. It is little more than half a century ago when fair ladies and princesses—the most winning in their manner, the most tender in their love and friendship, the most beautiful in grace and form that ever shone through a crowded drawing-room—were dragged by their hair into the street—were flung by one butcher to another with unseemly and ribald jesting—were tossed upwards to the nearest lantern, there to hang—were mocked and taunted in their dying agonies—were mutilated even before life had departed, while pieces of their delicate flesh were displayed as trophies by savages, with wild dancing and ferocious song. Or, perhaps, a more lingering fate awaited them. There was many a daughter of a patrician race, whose whole life had been one of charity and good, the only changes of which had been from a father's house into a convent, and from a convent to a prison, and whose sole consolation there was laid in the fresh arrivals which informed her that the hour of her death and liberation must be near. Imagine the scenes before her eyes, the prayers and the oaths, the blasphemies and the tears—the contrast of vice and virtue. Here the meeting of a father and a son, who had each hoped that the other might survive. There the reproaches and the curses of some victim to his Judge of the week before, now become himself a victim. Upon this side, the terrible earnestness of irony, with which men acted their own judgment and execution. Upon that side, the blindfold *game*, which was to show who was to be the next to die. And these were the daily spectacles which a young maiden had to look upon, whose only ideas of mankind had been derived from the holy men to whom she had confessed, or the poor whom she had relieved."

The whole truth is not, however, told in this clever essay; the ancient aristocracy of France perished because it sacrificed the interests of the entire community to the aggrandisement of its class so recklessly and so ostentatiously that the entire body of the people became convinced that the existence of the order was inconsistent with national prosperity. It is forgotten that the mad excesses of the Parisian populace were retributive; and it is not generally known that the most sanguinary excesses were perpetrated by the parties of the populace which, from various circumstances, had been brought into closest connexion with the families of the nobles. It is not necessary to enlarge on this theme, and we shall merely quote Mr. Smythe's portraiture of the present condition of Gaul's old nobility:—

"Oh never yet was theme so meet for roundel or romaunce
As the ancient aristocracy and chivalry of France.
As now they lie in poverty; and dark is their decline;
For the sun that shone so long on them, it now hath ceased to shine.
And the mighty house of Bourbon, that made them what they were,
Kneels humbly at the Austrian's feet, beneath the Austrian's care.
And the nineteenth Louis knows not France, and his queen she never sees
Her soft St. Cloud, her Rambouillet, her solemn Tuileries;

And the revel, and the pageant, and the feast that were of yore,
And courtly wit and compliment—these things are now no more,
Save in some old man's memory, who loves to ponder yet
On Lamballe's playful jesting, and the smile of Antoinette.
And bids his son remember how the middle classes reign
In the Bastile of Monarchs, and the nobles' old domain!"

In one of the most powerful ballad lyrics which we have seen for many years Mr. Smythe has portrayed the feelings with which the ancient aristocracy of France was viewed by the frenzied populace at the time of the Revolution. He shows us that there was method in the Jacobin's madness, and retribution in his ferocious excesses. We shall quote the entire poem. It exhibits an extraordinary power in the writer of entering into the feelings and seizing on the motives of parties the most opposed to his own principles:—

"THE JACOBIN OF PARIS.

"Ho, St. Antoine! ho, St. Antoine! thou quarter of the poor,
Arise with all thy households, and pour them from their door;
Rouse thy attics, and thy garrets,—rouse cellar, cell, and cave,—
Rouse overworked and overtaxed,—the starving and the slave.

"'Canaille'—ay, we remember it, that word of dainty scorn,
They flung us from their chariots, the high and haughty born.
Canaille—canaille—ay, here we throng, and we will show to-night
How ungloved hand, with pike and brand, can help itself to right.

"It was a July evening, and the summer moon shone fair,
When first the people rose, in the grandeur of despair.
But not for greed, or gain, or gold, to plunder or to steal;
We spared the gorgeous Tuileries,—we levelled the Bastille.

"A little year, we met once more, yea 'Canaille' met that day,
In the very heart of *his* Versailles, to beard the man Capet;
And we brought him back to Paris, in a measured train and slow,
And we shouted to his face for Barnave and Mirabeau.

"Ho, Condé, wert thou coming, with thy truant Chevaliers,
Did'st thou swear they should avenge the Austrian wanton's tears?
Ho, Artois, art thou arming, for England's ceaseless pay,
Thy Brunswickers, and Hessians, and Brigands of Vendée.

"Come, then, with every hireling, Sclave, Croat, and Cossack,
We dare your war, beware of our's—we fling you freedom back.
What, Tyrants, did you menace us,—now tremble for your own!
You have heard the glorious tidings of Valmy and Argonne!

"How like the Greek of olden time, who in the selfsame hour,
At Platæa, and at Mycale, twice crushed the invader's power,
So we had each our victory, and each our double fray,
Dumouriez with the strangers, and *we* at the Abbaye.

"O but it was a glorious hour, that ne'er again may be,
It was a night of fierce delight we never more shall see.
That blood-stained floor, that foes' red gore, the rich and ruddy wine,
And the strong sense, all felt within,—our work it was divine!

"They knew that men were brothers, but in their lust they trod
On the lessons of their priests, and the warnings of their God.
They knew that men were brothers, but they heeded not the Lord;
So we taught them the great Truth, anew, with fire and with sword.

"O but it was a glorious hour, that vengeance that we wreaked,
When the mighty knelt for pardon; and the great in anguish shrieked!
But we jeered them for their little hearts, and mocked their selfish fears,
For we thought the while of all their crimes, of twice five hundred years.

"He used to laugh at justice, that gay aristocrat;
He used to scoff at mercy, but he knelt to us for that.
But, with untiring hate, we struck, and, as our victim fell,
He heard,—to hear them echoed soon,—the cries and jests of hell.

"Ho, St. Antoine, arouse thee now,—Ho, brave Septembrists all,
The tocsin rings, as then it rang! Arise unto its call.
For the true friend of the people, and our own Père Duchene;
Have told us they have need of the people's arms again.

"For the Gironde hath turned traitor, and the Moderates have sold
The hard-earned rights of Hoche's fights for promise of Pitt's gold.
And the pedant, and the upstart, as upstart only can,
Have dared deride, in lettered pride, the plain and working man.

"What we, who burst the bondage our fathers bore so long,
That oppression had seemed sacred in its venerable wrong,—
What we, who have outspoken, and the whole world obeyed,
With its princes and its monarchs on their high thrones afraid.

"What we, who broke that mighty yoke, shall we quail before Brissot?
And shall we bow to him as lowly as he would have us low?
And shall we learn the courtier's lisp, and shall we cringe and sue
To the lily hand of fair Roland, like love-sick Barbaroux?

"No, by great Heaven, we have not riven—the mighty chains of old,
The state-craft, and the priest-craft, and the grandeur and the gold,—
To be ground down by doctrines, to be crushed by forms and schools,
To starve upon their Corn Laws, but to live upon their rules.

"No, if we must have leaders, they like ourselves shall be,
Who have struggled and have conquered with single hearts and free;
Who do not ape the noble, nor affect the noble's air,
With Tallien for a Richelieu, and Louvet for Voltaire.

"No, we will have such leaders as the Roman tribunes were,
Couthon, and young St. Just, and simple Robespierre.
Now glory to their garrets, it is nobler far to own,
Than the fair half-hundred palaces, and the Carlovingian throne,

"And glory to the thousand proofs that day by day they give
Of some great end to which they tend, those solemn lives they live,
When the Monarch and the Anarch alike shall pass away,
And morn shall break, and man awake, in the light of a fairer day."

Passing over some very powerful sketches of the leaders in the French Revolution, we turn to the ballad lyric on "The Merchants of Old England," never more worthily celebrated than they have been by this aristocratic poet. In this spirit-stirring song the appreciation is earnest and sincere, the feelings are the genuine emanations of the soul, and evince a mind trained to investigate the real causes of moral greatness. The lines describing the origin of the United States will find an echo beyond the Atlantic:—

"Then, when long years had glided by, in those colonies they made,
The same free spirit, which was theirs, in those plantations stayed.
As refuge here and shelter full many an exile found,
When the Old World grew in dotage, and by priests and kings was bound,
And in some far savannah, where man had never been,
They came with thoughts as simple as was that savage scene;
Or in the lonely prairie they kept their solemn tryst,
When Sacred Word and Hymn were heard, and the equal laws of Christ.
"And the young and strong Republic was by these in virtue bred,
She was cradled in adventure, she was nursed in good men's dread;
The young and strong Republic that has filled the world with fame,
And with great praise and marvel of the Anglo-Saxon name.
And well she shows her origin in the deeds that she has done,
With her Franklin, and her Whitney, and her hero Washington.
Then glory to the fathers who had such sons as these,
The merchants of Old England, the seigneurs of the seas!"

The concluding description of English commerce at the present day is bold and striking:—

"The land it boasts its titled hosts—they cannot vie with these,
The merchants of Old England—the seigneurs of the seas,
In the days of Queen Victoria, for they have borne her sway
From the far Atlantic islands, to the islands of Cathay,
And o'er one-sixth of all the earth, and over all the main,
Like some good fairy, freedom marks and blesses her domain.
And of the mighty empires that arose, and ruled, and died,
Since on the sea, his heritage, the Tyrian looked in pride,
Not Carthage, with her Hannibal, not Athens when she bore
Her bravest and her boldest to the Syracusan shore,
While the words of Alcibiades yet echoed wide and far,
'Where are corn fields, and are olive grounds, the Athenian's limits are.'
And in each trireme was many a dream of the West, and its unknown bliss
Of the maidens of Iberia, and the feasts of Sybaris—
Not in those younger ages, when St. Mark's fair city ran
Her race of fame and frailty,—each monarch's courtesan,
No! Lusia in her palmier hour, in those commercial days,
When Vasco sailed for Calicut, and Camoëns sang his praise,
Not Spain with all her Indies, the while she seemed to fling
Her fetters on the waters, like the oriental king,
Not one among the conquerors that are or ever were,
In wealth, or fame, or grandeur with England may compare.
But not of this our Sovereign thought, when from her solemn throne
She spoke of the poor, and what they endure, in her low thrilling tone,
And offered a prayer that trade might bear relief through the starving land,
To the strong man's weakened arm, and his wan and workless hand.
And by the power, that was her dower, might commerce once more be
The helper of the helpless, and the saviour of the free.
Then glory to the merchants, who shall do such deeds as these,
The merchants of Old England, the seigneurs of the seas."

It is with grief we add that the name of this powerful advocate for the extension of commerce was found in the list of the monopolist majority that rejected Mr. Villiers's motion, and that the same list contains the name of the author of "Coningsby," to whose eloquent denunciations of commercial restriction we recently directed the attention of our readers. This is a sad anomaly; it proves that men of the highest intellectual endowments shrink from following out right principles to all their consequences—a proof that their faith in those principles is as yet hesitating and wavering. Neither of these authors, however, belongs to the class of minds that can rest satisfied with an imperfect creed. In this volume Mr. Smythe has given abundant proof of his power to burst through the prejudices of position and the conventional trammels of mere party: there is a universality in his sympathy which is freely accorded to every phase of intellectual and moral might. He will not long be found among those whose vision is limited by their own acres, and who can go no farther in calculation than examining the coarsest means of swelling a rent-roll. He must soon discover that the wealth of an aristocracy will be best secured and extended by its taking the lead in all measures that will promote the general prosperity of the country. He cannot help despising the selfish envy which grudges their gains to the merchant and the manufacturer; and he must detest the servile degradation of those who have harnessed themselves to the chariot of a minister, content to endure whip, curb, and rein, provided that they are allowed the privilege of trampling upon others. A Richmond mourning over his fisheries, a Mountcashel requiring the operatives to bear the burden of his mortgages, and a Knatchbull demanding that artificers and tradesmen should be taxed in their bread and stinted in their food to provide settlements for his younger children, are examples of aristocratic meanness from which a mind so richly gifted as that of our author must revolt with disgust. "The instruments of the churl are evil; he deviseth wicked devices to destroy the poor with lying words, even when the needy speaketh right; but the liberal deviseth liberal things, and by liberal things shall he stand."—(Isaiah xxxii., 7, 8.)

Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England. Edited by J. Stewart, Esq. London, Spettigue.

This is far the best edition of Blackstone's admirable work with which we are acquainted. The changes which have recently been made in our code of law have made but little change in the great principles of our common law, but have nevertheless led to such important alterations in many of their forms that the usefulness of the "Commentaries" was greatly impaired, both as an elementary guide for students and a book of reference in practice. Under these circumstances Mr. Stewart has performed good service to the legal profession and the public at large by adding continuously in the text all the changes that have been made in the law since the days of Sir William Blackstone, preserving, however, in the past tense the portions that have been so altered. The task was one which required a rare union of ability, integrity, and industry, qualifications possessed by Mr. Stewart in an eminent degree, combined with a clearness both in conception and expression which often reminds us of the best parts of Fearne's "Contingent Remainders." To the young student about to enter on the preliminaries of his very difficult profession this edition is peculiarly valuable: it will solve many doubts and remove many of his most formidable difficulties. But the value of the work is not limited to professional purposes: it is the best summary of our constitutional codes which can be placed in the hands of those who desire to obtain that knowledge of the English constitution and English law which ought to form an indispensable part of the education of every English gentlemen.

The Poetical Works of Ebenezer Elliott. London, Steill.

We have so recently and at such length noticed the works of this eminent poet that we shall not now dwell upon their merits. The cheap and beautiful form in which they are now brought before us places them within the reach of persons of the most moderate means; and we sincerely hope that this great poet of the people will find his way into the house and heart of all who suffer by monopoly, until his brilliant denunciations of the injustice of all class legislation be rendered as "familiar in all mouths as household words." We should gladly

and the following brief song made the rallying cry for all honest voters in a contested election :—

"What is bad government, thou slave
Whom robbers represent?
What is bad government, thou knave
Who lov'st bad government?

"It is the deadly *Will* that takes
What labour ought to keep;
It is the deadly power that makes
Bread dear and labour cheap."

Elliott is not so well known in the south of England as he deserves to be. There is a notion abroad that he has written for the operative rather than the farm-labourer. This is a great error. He could not advocate for the one without pleading for the other. The burdens imposed by class legislation fall on all classes of the industrious: they are badges of slavery but slightly disguised. The Corn Laws enable the oligarchy to wrest a portion of his earnings from every one who lives by toil, whether he works beneath a shed or under the open sky, whether his days be spent in the factories or in the fields. We should, however, be glad to find Elliott addressing himself directly at the present moment to the unfortunate cultivators of the soil: on them the tyranny of the Corn Laws falls with crushing weight, and they sink in despair because they believe themselves placed beyond the range of intelligent sympathy. Words of consolation from Elliott's muse would cheer their wretchedness :—

"Like moonlight on a troubled sea,
Brightening the storm it cannot calm."

On the Effects of Rain.—The benefit derived from rain is not, as many persons imagine, so much from the actual contact of water to plants, as from the presence of certain matters which it contains, and are obtained by its dissolving them out of the atmosphere as it passes through it on its way from the clouds to the earth. The fact that rain-water acts differently to ordinary spring-water, is, I may say, known to all; how very much better plants thrive when watered by "Nature's fountain" to those that are supplied from below, is equally admitted: but the *reason* of this superiority is not, I believe, generally known; it is, therefore, my intention to state in what the difference consists, though in as brief a manner as possible. Rain-water is commonly known under the name of "soft," while spring water is called "hard:" the one is soft from containing a peculiar matter, that is, ammonia; while the other is hard from containing lime. It is not within the precincts of these observations to explain how it is that ammonia finds its way into the atmosphere—it is sufficient to state that it does so, and that the rain in coming to the earth brings it down, just as we may imagine how the dust in a flour-mill would be brought to the floor by a shower of water, with this difference—that the ammonia is a gas, or invisible matter, and therefore its presence cannot be seen. Now, the ammonia which occasionally exists in the air is a necessary ingredient in the formation of plants, and consequently it becomes essential to their existence, and forms, in fact, a part of their food; therefore, during a dry season, though plants may be dying for want of water, they are also starving for want of ammonia. Any persons having a grass plot may illustrate this themselves, by watering one half with spring-water, while the other half is sprinkled with water that has had some ammonia* put into it. In a short time the luxuriance of that which has had the ammonia will be developed. The presence of water, either hard or soft, is doubtless of the greatest value to plants: without it they could not exist, because a certain amount of liquid is absolutely necessary to cause their juices, sap, or blood, to flow. A well-manured field contains sufficient ammonia for the crop that is to come off it; but plants cannot take up or eat ammonia without it is first dissolved in water. There are other salts which are equally necessary for plants, and may be in contact with them; but they cannot absorb them (the salts) but through the medium of water. By a singular provision of nature, water containing a minute quantity of ammonia, as rain-water, possesses the power of dissolving certain salts which ordinary spring-water does not; hence, again, for this reason, rain-water for plants is preferable to spring. Plants take up an enormous quantity more water than is absolutely necessary for their composition, but the excess evaporates or dries up from the surface of the leaves, leaving the saline ingredients which it contained in them. As an article of food, "spring-water" to man is preferable to rain-water, because the lime which it contains is a necessary ingredient in the formation of his bones. He also takes more liquid than is requisite to the proper formation of his blood; but the excess is always passed off, carrying with it certain salts which are obnoxious to the system. Although a certain amount of water enters into the composition of the tissue or frame-work of plants and animals, yet its chief use is to act as a mere medium of other food, a sort of bearer or carrier which, immediately it has done its work, is cast off by the plant or animal, as the case may be; by animals it is made further subservient in carrying off useless substances. The effects of manures are stopped when there is a want of water to dissolve the saline ingredients they contain. Much of the guano which has been used this year remains in the same state as when first applied, for the same reason. Rain also dissolves other compounds besides ammonia, which it meets with in passing through the air, as "sulphureted hydrogen," which, in many cases, becomes subservient to the plants.—*Shrewsbury Chronicle.*

* Persons trying this experiment may purchase a little rough "carbonate of ammonia" of any druggist, about an ounce to a gallon will be enough; have it well powdered previous to putting it in the water.

Next Easter.—The following curious article regarding "Easter Day, 1845," is by Professor de Morgan, and appeared in the *Athenæum* of Saturday last:—"In an article which I have prepared for the next number of the 'Companion to the Almanac,' I have discussed the reasons why Easter-day will next year fall, in apparent defiance of the act of Parliament, upon the very day of the full moon. But, as an accidental application which I have received (and I know that the superintendent of the 'Nautical Almanac' has received another from a different quarter) makes me think that the computers of almanacs will be puzzled, and that the useless discussion of 1818 (when the discrepancy last occurred) will be revived, unless some one will forthwith state the reason of the difficulty, I request that you will publish some of the conclusions of the paper to which I refer, which will in due time appear in the work cited. And I hope that the daily papers will give additional currency to the same conclusions; and I should recommend that the same thing should be done in the almanacs. The rule adopted in this country for finding Easter is that of the Roman Catholic Church, as established at what is called the reformation of the calendar by Pope Gregory XIII. in 1582. The authority for this rule is contained in the Papal brief of March 1, 1582, in which reference is made, for all explanations to the then forthcoming work of the Jesuit Clavius, to whom both the adjustment and explanation of the calendar had been intrusted. The British Parliament, in adopting the rule of Clavius, made two mistakes in the explanation of that rule. Their explanation is, that Easter Sunday is the Sunday after the full moon which comes on or next after the 21st of March, and that if the full moon fall on a Sunday, Easter Sunday is the next Sunday. The two mistakes are as follow:—1. Instead of 'full moon,' they should have said, 'fourteenth day of the moon, the day of new moon being reckoned as the first.' That Easter, as well as the Passover, was always regulated, not by the full moon, but by the fourteenth day of the moon, is of the utmost historical notoriety. And Clavius says, that 'none but a few who fancy themselves sharpsighted ever imagined that the fourteenth of the moon and the full moon were the same in the Church of God.' 2. Instead of the 'moon' of the heavens, they ought to have said the 'moon of the calendar,' which is a very different thing. The moon of the calendar is not even a mean, or uniformly moving moon to which astronomers refer the real moon; but differs from it intentionally and avowedly, by two classes of arbitrary alterations—the first class intended for simplicity of calculation, the second for avoiding the possibility of the Christian Easter falling on the actual day of the Jewish Passover. In the year 1815, the fourteenth day of the calendar moon falls on Saturday, the 22nd of March, whence Easter is rightly made to be Sunday, the 23rd, according to the law both of the Roman and English churches, though the English statute does not well explain its own method. With regard to this country, it should be noticed that this statute enacts that Easter shall be kept by the 'calendar, tables, and rules,' annexed to the act: and these agree with Clavius. Of course any one is at liberty, as many did in 1818, to think that the statute should be altered; and certainly it would be worth while to avoid misconception by repealing the faulty definition, and substituting a better one, in the prayer books of the Established Church. But if any one should wish to advocate the repeal of the rules, and the construction of new ones agreeable to the existing definition, and astronomically true, he will perhaps pause when he finds that his own system would sometimes cause it to happen that St. Paul's Cathedral must keep Easter a week after Westminster Abbey, and would very frequently make a week's difference between the festivals of the colonies and the mother country. I remain, Sir, yours faithfully, "A. De Morgan.

"University College, London, July 11, 1844."

The Years of a House of Commons.—A young horse, wild and skittish at first, is put into the hands of the breaker, and gradually, as it grows older, becomes docile and tractable under its master's guidance. But a young Parliament is of exactly an opposite nature. It exhibits all its docility, and, if ever, is without trick and vice in its early years. Then is the golden age, the *Saturnia regna*, in which Ministers of State so much delight. Analyze the thing. As the result of our own observation, we should say, that for the two first years after a general election, the majority of the House of Commons are as submissive as so many negroes and coolies to the voice of their leader. They seem for such a period to be totally dependent upon him; to live only to do his will, and for such a portion of the loaves and fishes as he may choose to cast among them. In the third year, however, they evince symptoms of a more refractory and ungovernable spirit. Many of them by this time have met with either political or personal disappointments at the hands of the Minister. With regard to the one point, they have found out that the imaginary god of their devotions was only a fallible man like themselves. With reference to the other, either they have been able to get nothing in the general scramble, or nothing equal to their hopes and expectations. Murmurs of discontent, therefore, begin to be heard on the benches where all was peace and acquiescence before. Measures which a year ago would have been passed with acclamation, now proceed *sub silentio*, or, it may be, are questioned, opposed, thrown out. In short, the session now expiring, being the third year's session of the present Parliament, will thoroughly illustrate our opinions of the doings of a House of Commons in this era of its existence. But let us proceed. The difficulties of a third year to a Minister are awfully enhanced when a fourth year comes. Visions of the future, as well as thoughts of the present and the past, then begin to flit before the minds of members of Parliament. They have lived two years for the Minister, and one for themselves. They must now look to their responsibility to those horrid, monstrous nuisances, the electors and the people at large. In a fourth session, then, patriots increase in untold numbers in the House of Commons. They are as thick as blackberries on a hedge. The wishes of the people are taken into consideration. Ministers are snubbed and thwarted by the very drudges on the Treasury benches. A fifth year's Parliament becomes more desperately liberal still. A sixth year's even more outrageous in its bids for popularity, and thus the thing goes on increasing so in its ratio, that, if not saved by a dissolution from its legislative attempts, there is small doubt that a House of Commons, allowed to die a natural death, would play such antics in the last moments of its seventh year, that it would give, if the people wished it, a new Ministry and a new Reform Bill twice a week, set up a model republic, or perpetrate anything else which would win favour at the hustings now in view.—*Liverpool Albion.*

War.—It appears from authentic documents which Mr. Alison has collected, that, from the commencement to the close of the revolutionary wars, the levies of soldiers in France exceeded four millions, and that not less than three millions of these, on the lowest calculation, perished in the field, the hospital, or the bivouac. If to these we add, as we unquestionably must, at least an equal number out of the ranks of their antagonists, it is clear that not less than six millions of human beings perished in warfare in the course of twenty years, in the very heart of civilised Europe, at the commencement of the nineteenth century of the Christian era. But even these stupendous numbers give us no adequate conception of the destruction of human life directly consequent on the wars of the revolution and the empire. We must add the thousands who perished from want, outrage, and exposure, and the hundreds of thousands who were subsequently swept away by the ravages of that pestilence which took its rise amid the retreat from Russia, and the crowded garrisons of the campaign of 1813, and for several years afterwards desolated, in succession, every country of Europe. And even when we have summed up and laid before us, in all the magnitude of figures, the appalling destruction of life here exhibited, we can still gather only a faint and remote conception of the sufferings and evils inflicted by this awful scourge. Death in the field is among the smallest of the miseries of war; the burned villages—the devastated harvests—the ruined commerce—the towns carried by assault—the feeble and the lovely massacred and outraged—grief, despair, and desolation, carried into innumerable families—these are among the more terrific visitations of military conflicts, and the blackest of the crimes for which a fearful retribution will one day be exacted at the hands of those who have provoked, originated, or compelled them. * * Historians rarely tell us of the privations suffered—the diseases engendered—the tortures undergone during a campaign; still less of the vices ripened, the selfishness confirmed, the hearts hardened, by this "temporary repeal of all the principles of virtue." They do not speak of the ties broken—of the peasants ruined—of the hearths made desolate—of grief never to be comforted—of shame never to be wiped away—of the burden of abiding affliction brought upon many a happy household—of all the nameless atrocities, one of which in peaceful times would make our blood run cold, but which in war are committed daily by thousands, with impunity.—*Westminster Review.*

Chinese Skill.—During the recent expedition, instances of the readiness and skill with which the Chinese take advantage of any improvement noticed in our mode of warfare or machinery, were constantly meeting the observation of the officers. The most remarkable is related by Commander Hall, in his narrative of the voyage of the Nemesis steamer. Finding their war-junks unable to compete with our vessels, they constructed not only gun-boats, but, in imitation of our paddles, *wheeled* vessels, which were brought for vard against us with great confidence at the engagement at Woosung, the last naval affair of the war; and were each commanded by a mandarin of rank, showing the importance they attached to these new vessels! The wheels were of wood, very like an undershot mill-wheel, and were moved by machinery inside. The vessel was worked by a sort of capstan by manual labour, the crew walking it round and round, just like walking up an anchor on board a man-of-war; the horizontal revolution was turned into the upright one by strong wooden cog-wheels upon regular mechanical principles.—*Chambers's Journal.*

The Upright Man of Business.—There is no being in the world for whom I feel a higher moral respect and admiration than for the upright man of business. No, not for the philanthropist, the missionary, or the martyr. I feel that I could more easily be a martyr, than a man of that lofty moral uprightness. And let me say, yet more distinctly, that it is not for the generous man I feel this kind of respect. Generosity seems to me a lower quality, a mere impulse, compared with the lofty virtue I speak of. It is not for the man who distributes extensive charities, who bestows magnificent donations: that may be all very well; I speak not to disparage it, I wish there were more of it, and yet it may all consist with a want of the true lofty unbending uprightness. That is not the man, then, of whom I speak; but it is he who stands amidst all the swaying interests and perilous exigencies of trade, firm, calm, disinterested, and upright. It is the man who can see another man's distress as well as his own. It is the man whose mind his own advantage does not blind or cloud for an instant—who could sit as a judge upon a question between himself and his neighbour just as safely as the purest magistrate upon the bench of justice! Ah! how much richer than ermine—how far nobler than the train of magisterial authority—how more awful than the guarded bench of majesty, is that simple, magnanimous, and majestic truth! Yes, it is the man who is true—true to himself, his neighbour, and his God; true to his right, true to his conscience—and who feels that the slightest suggestion of that conscience is more to him than the chance of acquiring a hundred estates.—*Dr. Dewey.*

Provisioning the Navy.—Some idea may be formed of the vast expense of provisioning the navy, from the annexed statement of the stores taken by the Albion, 90 guns, when proceeding on her voyage to Gibraltar:—3385 gallons of rum, 1000 lb. tea, 8008 lb. sugar, 4998 lb. chocolate, 1900 lb. peas, 4800 lb. pork, 2290 lb. beef, 10,080 lb. flour, 900 bags of bread, 89 gallons of vinegar, and 619 lb. soap. The quantity of live stock and fresh provisions, poultry, &c., was large in proportion.—*Cork Examiner.*

Farm Buildings Bill.—The Government have just introduced a short bill, to amend the law as to burning farm buildings. It is prepared and brought in by Sir J. Graham and the Solicitor-General (Sir Frederick Thesiger), and contains four clauses only. They enact that whoever shall unlawfully and maliciously set fire to any hovel, shed, or fold, or to any farm building, or any building or erection used in farming land (whether the same shall then be in the possession of the offender, or in that of any other person), with intent thereby to defraud any person, shall be guilty of felony, and on conviction shall be liable, at the discretion of the court, to be transported beyond the seas for the term of the natural life of such offender, or for any term not less than fifteen years, or to be imprisoned for a term not exceeding three years. Persons setting fire to any hay, straw, wood, or other vegetable produce, in any farmhouse or farm building, or to any implement of husbandry therein, with intent to injure or to defraud thereby, will be deemed equally guilty of firing the said farmhouse or farm building. This act is to be deemed a part of the 7th William IV. and 1st Victoria, cap. 89, the provisions of which it merely proposes to extend.

OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE IN EVERY COUNTY OF SCOTLAND.

In our publication of Wednesday last we gave the official summary of the various occupations of the people in the whole of Scotland, but without particularising any county. We are now enabled, we believe exclusively, to present our readers with the classification of the population of every county of Scotland into the several great divisions of occupation, in which we have stated, from official documents, those of the entire population of England, Wales, and the islands of the British seas. The following table exhibits the relative numbers of agriculturists and of those engaged in trade, manufactures, and other occupations *not* agricultural, in each of the thirty-two counties of Scotland :—

Counties.	Farmers, graziers, and yeomen.	Agricultural labourers.	Total in agricultural occupations.	Not in agricult. occupns
Aberdeen	6,590	15,923	22,513	53,430
Argyll	2,481	8,285	10,766	18,966
Ayr	3,024	7,618	10,742	50,342
Banff	1,958	4,912	6,870	10,842
Berwick	566	5,481	6,047	7,234
Bute	611	755	1,366	3,771
Caithness	1,814	3,164	4,978	6,830
Clackmannan	126	762	888	5,428
Dumbarton	521	1,896	2,417	17,526
Dumfries	1,849	8,847	10,696	15,664
Edinburgh	656	5,809	6,465	85,246
Elgin	1,435	3,448	4,883	8,293
Fife	1,181	8,433	9,614	43,603
Forfar	1,718	7 851	9,569	61,339
Haddington	320	5,708	6,028	7,370
Inverness	2,952	9,727	12,679	16,916
Kincardine	1,166	4,369	5,535	8,453
Kinross	152	852	1,004	2,457
Kirkcudbright	1,123	3 944	5,067	8,522
Lanark	2,527	9,933	12,460	173,262
Linlithgow	369	1,987	2,356	8,586
Nairn	393	1,179	1,572	1,934
Orkney and Shetland	3,959	2,228	6,187	12,224
Peebles	252	1,363	1,615	2,454
Perth	3,734	11,872	15,606	38,213
Renfrew	1,111	4,380	5,491	58,561
Ross and Cromarty	1,659	7,784	9,443	13,209
Roxburgh	688	5,607	6,295	1,831
Selkirk	86	775	861	2,184
Stirling	1,260	4,905	6,165	25,572
Sutherland	450	2,901	3,351	3,530
Wigtown	1,202	3,884	5,086	7,116
	47,931	166,726	214,657	790,955

As we have already stated, these totals show that the agricultural population of Scotland does not reach *one-twelfth* of the entire population of that country; while that engaged in trade, manufactures, and other occupations *not* agricultural, is not very far short of *four-twelfths* of the whole population! In other words, the agriculturists form only 8·16 per cent. of the entire population; while the great trading and *non*-agricultural class form 30·46 per cent. of the entire population of Scotland! The following are the other classes, which, with those already given, constitute the aggregate population of that country :—

Counties.	Persons of independent means.	Alms-people, beggars, and pensioners.	Other persons not described.	Residue of population; women and children.	Total population.
Aberdeen	6,837	1,633	377	107,597	192,387
Argyll	1,401	1,019	214	65,017	97,371
Ayr	2,510	680	197	99,885	164,356
Banff	1,581	559	43	29,782	49,679
Berwick	734	327	52	20,014	34,438
Bute	511	61	74	9,958	15,740
Caithness	648	319	155	23,413	36,343
Clackmannan	387	31	49	12,369	19,155
Dumbarton	852	88	224	23,189	44,296
Dumfries	1,683	608	177	44,002	72,830
Edinburgh	8,634	2,513	1,057	121,539	225,454
Elgin	1,259	349	56	20,072	35,012
Fife	2,911	587	106	83,319	140,140
Forfar	3,599	505	795	94,713	170,520
Haddington	810	157	41	21,480	35,886
Inverness	2,044	1,194	246	64,720	97,799
Kincardine	699	498	46	17,844	33,075
Kinross	266	230	—	5,011	8,763
Kirkcudbright	1,175	298	78	25,979	41,119
Lanark	6,879	2,090	1,436	230,845	426,972
Linlithgow	487	86	29	15,328	26,872
Nairn	219	77	19	5,396	9,217
Orkney and Shetland	1,023	736	254	40,641	61,065
Peebles	242	84	27	6,077	10,499
Perth	3,147	714	331	79,379	137,390
Renfrew	2,517	525	447	87,531	155,072
Ross & Cromarty	983	734	153	54,163	78,685
Roxburgh	1,102	470	119	26,208	46,025
Selkirk	149	59	12	4,725	7,990
Stirling	1,820	293	165	48,042	82,057
Sutherland	428	383	41	17,054	24,782
Wigtown	759	94	59	26,081	39,195
	58,291	17,799	7,080	1,531,402	2,629,184

The following would be the centesimal proportions of each class of persons to the entire population of Scotland in the year 1841 :—

	Per cent.
Agricultural occupations	8·16
Trade, manufactures, &c.	30·46
Independent	2 21
Alms-people, &c.	0·67
Others, not described	0·26
Residue of population: women and children	58·24
	100·00

It may be interesting to contrast Scotland with England in some of these proportions. These are the only two portions of the United Kingdom which can be fairly compared. The returns of the occupations of the people of Ireland are in so different a shape, that it is impossible to ascertain from them, for instance, the number of persons of independent means in the country. Again, no one would think of comparing Scotland and Wales. The following, then, are the centesimal proportions of the people in the various classes of occupations specified in England and Scotland :—

	England. per cent.	Scotland. per cent.
Agricultural occupations	7·40	8·16
Trade, manufactures, &c.	29·56	30·46
Independent	2·81	2·21
Alms-people	0·90	0·67
Others, not described	0.42	0.26
Residue: women and children	58·91	58·24
	100·00	100·00

The differences in the occupations may be thus denoted. The proportion of the people of Scotland engaged in agriculture exceeds that of England by 0·76, and that in trade and manufactures, &c., by 0·90 per cent.; in other words, Scotland has 1·66 more per cent. of her population engaged in various occupations than England. This industrial surplus is caused by the excess of England over Scotland in the following divisions:—England has more persons of independent means by 0·60 per cent.; more paupers, &c., by 0·23 per cent., more whose occupations are undescribed in the census by 0·16 per cent; and more unemployed residue of the population (women and children) by 0·67 per cent. These several items just make up the 1·66 per cent. of the excess of Scotland over England in the items above specified. We think this state of facts is calculated to surprise many persons; especially those who regard Scotland as so poor a country, and who will now see that in England there is not one per cent. more of persons of independent means than in Scotland (while there are 0·23 per cent. more alms-people and paupers in England); and those who imagine the industrial classes to be more numerous in England than in any other country in the world; for we find that in this respect Scotland exceeds England by 1·66 per cent. or nearly 1½ out of every 100 individuals! It is possible, however, as the residue of the population in Scotland (after all the previous classification) is smaller than that of England by 0·67 per cent. that part of the difference is due to this source, and part (0·16 per cent.) to the less careful returns of occupations, in taking the census. On the whole, however, it is remarkable how nearly the same proportion of the whole population of each country is maintained in one great class or branch of occupation. This general coincidence, with the slight variations noticed, is a strong presumption in favour of the accuracy of the returns on the whole.—*Manchester Guardian.*

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. July 13	Mon. July 15	Tues. July 16	Wed. July 17	Thurs July 18	Fri. July 19
Bank Stock	199½	200	200	200	200	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½
3½ per Ct. Red. Ann	102½	103	103	102½	103	103
3½ per Ct. Ann. new	102	102½	102½	102	102	102
Long An. Ex. 1860	12 9-16	12 9-16	12½	12 9-16	12 9-16	—
Cons. for Opg.	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½
Exc. Bills, pm.	76 6	76 8	76 80	78 9	77 9	—
Ind. Bds. und. 1000*l*	94	94 6	95 7	96	96 8	—
India Stock	285	284½	285½	285½	285	—
Belgian Bonds	104	104½	104½	104¼	104	—
Brazilian	83 4	83½	84	84	83 4	—
Buenos Ayres	34 5	34 6	34 6	34 6	34 6	—
Chilian	103 5	104	103 5	103 5	103 5	—
Columb. ex. Venes.	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜	13¼
Danish	88 9	88 9	89½	88½	88 9	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	101⅝	101⅝	101⅝	101⅝	101⅝	101⅝
Dutch 2½ pr Ct. Acc.	61⅝	61⅝	—	61⅝	61⅝	62
Mexican, 1837	35¾	36	36	36	36	36
Peruvian	26	26 7	26 7	25 7	—	—
Portug. conv. acc.	45 6	45½	45 6	45½	46	46
Spanish 5 per Ct.	22½	22½	22½	22½	22¾	23½
New do. 3 per Ct.	32½	33½	33½	33½	33¾	33¾

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

MARK-LANE, Monday, July 15.—The supply of English Wheat this morning was rather large for the season, the sales made were at a decline of 2s. from this day week, and a considerable quantity remained unsold at the close of the day. There was a slow demand for Foreign at 1s. decline. Barley, Beans, and Peas met a very dull sale at rather lower prices. The quantity of Irish Oats in the return is very large, and in addition about 20 vessels arrived in time for this morning's market, making altogether the largest supply we have had for some months; prices must be quoted 6d. to 1s. lower than this day week, and even at this decline the sale was not very extensive. S. H. LUCAS and SON.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk	Red 55 to 60	White 58 to 64
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire	— 54 — 58	— 57 — 60
—— Scotch	— 52 — 56	— 54 — 60
—— Irish	— 50 — 52	— 52 — 55
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire		Feed 21 — 23
—— Ditto Ditto	Short 22 — 24	Polands 23 — 26
—— Scotch	Feed 24 — 26	Potato 27 — 29
—— Limerick	— 21 — 22	Short 22 — 24
—— Cork	— 20 — 21	— 21 — 22
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork		Black 20 — 21
—— Sligo		21 — 22
—— Galway		20 — 21
Barley, Grinding	28 to 30	Distilling 30 — 32
—— Malting	32 — 34	Irish 26 — 30
Beans, Mazagan	— — 32	Tick 33 — 35
—— Harrow	37 — 39	Small — — 40
—— Old Tick		— — 40
Peas, White	31 to 34	Boilers 35 — 36
—— Maple and Grey		30 — 34
Flour, Best Town-made		per sack of 280 lbs 46 — 48
—— Norfolk and Suffolk	—	— 40 — 42

FOREIGN.

		Free.	In Bond
		Per Imperial Quarter.	
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed		56 to 63	42 to 46
—— Rostock		51 — 63	42 — 45
—— Stettin		48 — 56	40 — 43
—— Hamburgh		48 — 56	38 — 42
—— Odessa Polish		48 — 53	36 — 38
—— Barletta		48 — 54	32 — 38
—— Russian	soft	48 — 52	— — —
—— Ditto	hard	45 — 50	— — —
—— Spanish	Red	49 — 55	— — —
—— Ditto	White	52 — 56	— — —
Barley, Grinding		26 — 29	— — —
—— Distilling		30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel		21 — 22	15 — 16
—— Swedish		22 — 23	16 — 17
—— Dutch Polands		— — —	19 — 20
Beans, Egyptian		32 — 33	22 — 23
Peas, White		30 — 34	— — —
—— Ditto Boilers		32 — 35	— — —
Flour, Canada	per barrel of 196 lbs	29 — 31	— — —
—— United States	— —	30 — 32	22 — 24
—— Dantzig	— —	28 — 30	— — —

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from July 8 to July 15, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	5808	225	492	801	295
Scotch	—	—	3090	—	—
Irish	—	—	44926	8	—
Foreign	7041	6061	8313	464	2542

Flour, 5451 sacks, 1830 bars.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending July 9, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat	4447	55s. 9d.	Rye	74	33s. 0d.
Barley	1138	34s. 9d.	Beans	2715	36s. 5d.
Oats	15338	21s. 11d.	Peas	914	38s. 1d.

FRIDAY, July 19.—The supplies of all grain since Monday are moderate; the largest proportion of the Irish Oats which appear in the return were in time for Monday's market. There is a slow trade for both English and Foreign Wheat at Monday's rates. There is so little doing in either Barley, Beans, or Peas, that we cannot report any alteration in prices. There is rather a better sale for Oats at Monday's prices. The duty on Beans fell to 5s. 6d., on Barley to 5s., and on Peas to 7s. 6d. yesterday. S. H. LUCAS and SON

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 15th of July to the 19th of July, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat	5660	—	5905
Barley	80	—	5810
Oats	2560	22260	2770

Flour, 3190 sacks.

A WEEKLY REPORT of the NUMBER of QUARTERS, and the AVERAGE PRICE of CORN and GRAIN, sold in the several Counties of England and Wales (comprising the Two Hundred and Ninety Towns named in the Act of the 5th Vic., cap. 14), which governs Duty.

WEEK ENDED JULY 13, 1844.

	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Wheat. Aver price	Barley. Qrs. sold.	Barley. Aver price	Oats. Qrs. sold.	Oats. Aver price	Beans. Qrs. sold.	Beans. Aver price
		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.
Weekly Averages	84387	54 10	4727	34 10	25029	22 3	7582	37 9
Aggregate Averages	..	55 6		33 2		22 6		37 5
Duty	..	17 0		5 0		6 0		5 6

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JULY 12.

BANKRUPTS.

G. FRYER, Alfred-street, City-road, grocer. [Hill and Matthews, St. Mary-axe.

W. R. WOOD, Brighton, dentist. [Lambe, Bucklersbury.

F. E. C. DE LA MARCOTELLE, Fenchurch-street, merchant. [James, Basinghall-street.

T. G. THORN, Southampton, builder. [Fitch, Gray's-inn; Stace, Southampton.

S. SOUTHEY, South-street, Finsbury-market, cabinet and furniture manufacturer. [Watson, Worship-street, Finsbury.

H. WHITTAKER, Macclesfield, silk throwster. [Lowe and Co., Southampton-buildings; Brocklehurst and Bagshaw, Macclesfield; Slater and Heelis, Manchester.

W. WEIR, Carlisle, iron merchant. [Mounsey and Gray, Staple-inn; Bendle, Carlisle; Hoyle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

T. BIGGS, Bath, woollen draper. [Whittington and Castles, Bristol.

T. GRIFFITHS, Stoke-upon-Trent, tailor. [Middleton, Stone; Hodgson, Birmingham.

W. BOND, Liverpool, publican. [Nethersole, Essex-street, Strand; Owen, Liverpool.

J. A. FORREST, Liverpool, glass merchant. [Johnson and Co., Temple; Grocott and Dodge, Liverpool.

DIVIDENDS.

Aug. 6. H. Alden, Oxford, stationer—Aug. 6. J. Hardley, Newport, Hampshire, miller—Aug. 2. F. J. Manning, Dyer's-buildings, City, money scrivener—Aug. 7. R. Hine, Sutton, Cheshire, grocer—Aug. 20. E. Glover, jun., Leicester, ironmonger.

CERTIFICATES.

Aug. 6. H. Alden, Oxford, stationer—Aug. 5. E. Brennand, Highgate, ironmonger—Aug. 3. E. Hodson, Thrapston, Northamptonshire, linendraper—Aug. 3. W. Parson, Southampton, grocer—Aug. 2. S. Bache, Commercial-road, Peckham, builder.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

R. MACKENZIE, Edinburgh, writer to the Signet—Rev. A. SCOTT, Colinsburgh, Fifeshire—R. ALLARDICE and J. LAUGHTON, Edinburgh, booksellers.

TUESDAY, JULY 16.

CROWN-OFFICE, JULY 13.

MEMBER RETURNED TO SERVE IN THIS PRESENT PARLIAMENT.

City of Limerick.—James Kelly, of Erina-house, in the county of Clare, Esq., in the room of Sir David Roche, Bart., who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

DECLARATION OF INSOLVENCY.

J. PARKIN, Whorlton, innkeeper.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

E. SWIFT, Chingford mills, Essex, miller.

BANKRUPTS.

W. B. SMITH, Sudbury, Suffolk, surgeon. [Marston, Torrington-square.

S. HAMMOND, jun., Upminster, Essex, market gardener. [Davidson, Bread-street, Cheapside.

R. BANISTER, Portsea, Hampshire, draper. [Reed and Shaw, Friday-street, Cheapside.

H. WILLIAMS, Farringdon, Berkshire, grocer. [White and Co., Bedford-row.

E. SYLVESTER, Agar's-field, St. Pancras-road, contractor. [Collins and Co., Crescent-place, Blackfriars.

J. G. WILSON, Wharf-road, City-road, engineer. [Nias, Copthall-court, Throgmorton-street.

T. PEARCE, Bermondsey-street, tripeman. [Hilleary and Co., Fenchurch-street.

B. KASNER, Old Cavendish-street, jeweller. [Rhodes and Co., Chancery-lane.

T. W. GREEN, Leeds, Yorkshire, bookseller. [Dyneley and Co., Bedford-row; Shepherd and Co., Beverley; Bohlton, Leeds.

W. H. WILLIAMS, Martock, Somersetshire, linendraper. [Stedman, Aldermanbury.

T. L. GORDON, Exeter, cabinet maker. [Laidman, Exeter; Clowes and Co., King's Bench-walk, Temple.

J. L. LORAINE, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, wine merchant. [Clayton and Co., New-square, Lincoln's-inn; Clayton and Co., Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

DIVIDENDS.

Aug. 6. J. S. Gowing, Lowestoft, Suffolk, grocer—Aug. 9. G. S. Park, Charles-street, Commercial-road, Stepney, cowkeeper—Aug. 9. J. Elliot, Caxton, Cambridge, innkeeper—Aug. 8. N. T. Smith, jun., Lime-street—Aug. 7. S. Moore, King William-street, London-bridge, woollendraper—Aug. 7. Sandeman and Graham, John-street, America-square, merchants—Aug. 8. S. Sly, Cornwall-road, Lambeth, engraver and printer—Aug. 8. J. Sparham, Froston, Suffolk, miller—Aug. 7. J. King, Kingston-upon-Hull, mercer—Aug. 9. T. Bagshaw, Buxton, Derby, innkeeper—Aug. 9. W. Carr and J. C. Cart, Sunderland, merchants—Aug. 9. J. Taylor, Middlesborough, York, coal fitter—Aug. 14. W. Stone, Birmingham, printer—Aug. 14. J. Arnold, jun., Farndon, Chester, and H. Arnold, Derby, cheese factors.

CERTIFICATES.

Aug. 8. T. C. Lancefield, Augustus-square, Regent's-park, builder—Aug. 8. J. Pledge, Vauxhall-street, Lambeth, bricklayer—Aug. 9. J. Elliot, Caxton, Cambridge, innkeeper—Aug. 7. J. B. W. Knight, St. James's-walk, Clerkenwell, printer—Aug. 6. O. Johnson, Great Braxted, Essex, corn dealer—Aug. 8. C. Hopkins, Stapleton, Gloucester, miller—Aug. 8. C. Eicke, Rotherhithe, Surrey, iron rivet manufacturer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

W. FIMESTER, Glasgow, mason.

London: Printed by ROBERT PALMER (of Providence-place, Upper Kennington-lane, Lambeth, in the County of Surrey) and JOSEPH CRAFTON (of Number 320, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at their Printing-office, Number 16, Crane-court, in the Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West, in the City of London, and published by ABRAHAM WALKER PARMENTER (of Number 33, Norfolk-street, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at the Office of THE LEAGUE, Number 67, Fleet-street, in the said Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West.—Saturday, July 20, 1844.

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THE LEAGUE.

No. 44.] SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1844. [3d.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive a copy, weekly, of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and addresses to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND, *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

REGISTER, REGISTER, REGISTER!

Particulars to be attended to up to the 25th of August.

The overseers must, on or before the 31st of July in each year, make out an alphabetical list of all £10 occupiers, within their respective parishes, entitled to a vote for the borough, including such as occupy the adjoining precincts and liberties, if any. They are entitled to have access to the books of assessed taxes, to ascertain whether the claimant is liable for, or has not paid his assessed taxes "*in respect,*" *only,* "*of the premises.*"

They must make a separate similar list of all parishioners, other than freemen and liverymen, qualified to vote in respect of ancient rights.

These lists, signed by the overseers, must be affixed on the doors of every place of worship, established and dissenting, within the parish, on the first two Sundays in August—and copies are to be kept for public inspection, without fee, in the overseers' custody.

Persons omitted from these lists will send claims to be registered to the overseers, on or before the 25th of August.

Persons on the first list may be objected to by any one, whose name is on any list of voters for the borough, serving notice of objection on the overseers, on or before the 25th of August.

DUTIES OF CLAIMANTS AND ELECTORS.—Every person should see for himself that his name is inserted in the list of that class of voters to which he belongs. If he have a twofold qualification, he should see that his name is on both lists. This is of great importance, as the voter may lose one qualification between the registration and election, and may still vote for the other.

Any person whose qualification consists of a successive occupation of different premises, should be careful to observe that each set of premises is inserted in the list.* He must also be very careful to see that the place for which he claims, and his own place of residence, are very correctly described in these lists. If this should not have been done, he must send in a claim to the overseers, as below, describing all the premises, and also (if he have changed his residence) his new place of abode.

CLAIMS BY PERSONS OMITTED FROM THE LISTS.—Persons omitted from the overseers' lists, should give notice, on or before the 25th of August, to the said overseers, in the following form. If the claim be for a successive occupation of different premises, each of such separate premises must be described:—

To the Overseers of the parish [or township] of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I claim to have my name inserted in the list made by you of persons entitled to vote in the election of a Member [or Members] for the City [or Borough] of ——, and that the particulars of my qualification are stated in the columns below.

Dated the——day of——, one thousand eight hundred and——

Christian name and surname of the claimant at full length.	Place of abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Street, lane, or other place in the parish [or township], where the property is situate, and number of the houses, if any (when the right depends on property).

(Signed) A.B.

Persons, omitted from the List of Freemen, should give notice to the town clerk in the following form:—

To the Town Clerk of the City [or Borough] of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I claim to have my name inserted in the List made by you of persons entitled as Freemen to vote in the Election of a Member [or Members] to serve in Parliament for the City [or Borough] of ——, and that my qualification is as Freeman of ——, and that I reside in —— Street, in this City [or Borough].

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and ——

(Signed) A.B.

* And of course, also, as a preliminary, in the rate-book relating to each occupation.

Lists of these claims are to be made out and published, in the manner already described, by the overseers, and the claimant should inspect them, and, if incorrectly inserted in any of the essential particulars, he must attend the Revising Barrister's Court, and get them altered. If, notwithstanding of his making his claim, he is omitted from the list of claimants, he upon attending the Revising Barrister's Court, and proving the serving of his claim on the overseers, will be placed on the register.

Notices of claims must be delivered on or before the 25th of August.

OBJECTIONS TO PERSONS ON THE LISTS.—It is of importance that every voter should carefully examine the lists made by the overseers and town-clerk, to ascertain if the name of any person has been inserted who is not entitled to vote. If there be any such, he is to give to the overseers, or to the town-clerk, a notice of objection, in the following form:—

To the Overseers of the Parish [or Township] of (or to the Town Clerk of the City [or Borough] of) ——

I hereby give you notice, that I object to the name of —— being retained in the List of Persons entitled to vote in the Election of a Member [or Members] for the City [or Borough] of ——

Dated this — day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and —

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode]

On the list of Voters for the Parish of ——

The notice must also be given to the person objected to, as follows:

To Mr. ——

I hereby give you notice, that I object to your name being retained on the list of persons entitled to vote in the Election of Members [or a Member] for the City [or Borough] of ——

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and ——

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode]

On the list of Voters for the Parish of ——

In all notices of objection, the christian name and surname of the person objected to, exactly as it appears in the list, should be written at full length. The christian name and surname, and place of abode of the objector must also be written at length, or the notice will be void.

If there be more than one list of voters, the notice should specify the list to which the objection refers; and if the list contains two or more persons of the same name, the notice should distinguish the person intended to be objected to.

These notices must be given on or before the 25th of August. Copies of the notices should be kept by the person objecting.

Notices of objection may now be sent by post; but care must be taken to have a duplicate copy of such notice stamped by the postmaster. Such duplicate will be good evidence of the service of the notice. The notice must be posted so that the person objected to may get it on or before the 25th of August, or the objection will fall to the ground.

It is of importance that none but well-founded objections should be made, as the Revising Barrister has now the power, in cases of frivolous objections, of awarding the payment of costs to the amount of not more than twenty shillings in each such case.

PURITY OF ELECTION.

Last Monday, on occasion of the second reading of the Sudbury Disfranchisement Bill, Lord Lyndhurst edified the House of Lords and the country by a homily upon Purity of Election, to which Lord Brougham, *more suo*, said Amen; having "never admired his noble and learned friend more than in the delivery of that perfect model of a clear and conspicuous, and, at the same time, convincing statement of facts." His lordship further reinforced the morality of the Lord Chancellor by denouncing "the guilt of bribery, either by taking or by giving, or countenancing the gift of sums of money, to swerve for the lucre of gain, from sordid, base, and venal motives—to swerve from the discharge of a duty—to forfeit a trust—to violate a responsibility which the constitution of their country—of their free country—invested in the hands of the voter, and to make a mere means of traffic that which ought to be an exercise of conscience—to sell that conscience, and to make it liable to the dictates of fear in some instances, and of corruption in others," &c. &c. We have read something like all this before—in his lordship's prize Preface for the sixth volume of *Punch*, and elsewhere,—except that the tying this tassel of words to the tail of Lord Lyndhurst's kite was one of those finishing touches in which Lord Brougham is not to be anticipated. And now that it is done, and the great moral lesson from the woolsack is sent forth into the country with his lordship's emphatic sanction, what will happen beyond the disfranchisement of Sudbury, and the enfranchisement of some other borough or district, of which, in no long time, station will command, or money purchase, the nominal representation?

Lord Lyndhurst stated many indubitable and important truths. He remarked upon the equal criminality of the two great parties, Whig and Tory. He spoke of the election following the greatest outlay, as a matter of course. He noticed the knowledge and countenance of what was going on in the borough, by "the wealthy and respectable inhabitants." And he portrayed the difficulty of procuring evidence, from these wealthy and respectable persons declining to answer questions which might criminate themselves. That is to say, his lordship described a very corrupt condition of the middle classes, in the borough of Sudbury, as to electioneering matters. To the generality of this phenomenon, or to its causes and remedies, he did not advert. His lordship held a brief for the bill to disfranchise Sudbury, but not for exposing and putting down the sinister influences by which, all the country over, elections are perverted from their legitimate and constitutional object. To remedy this evil, the disfranchisement of Sudbury is about as hopeful an undertaking as the cure of consumption in its last stage by a single box of Morrison's pills.

The corrupt freemen of Sudbury and other places have been brought into their present degradation, and kept in it by superiors in station with whom they come into contact. But these superiors are not the eventual paymasters, nor the parties whose ambition, or other craving, is gratified by electoral corruption. This moral pollution descends in society. Do not Lords Lyndhurst and Brougham know the way to its fountain? Who lead the "respectable" inhabitants of a county town into temptation? Who profit by the demolition of electoral conscientiousness? Who enjoy the ultimate fruits, and originate the first impulse? Who but the aristocracy—the owners of land, and the traders in legislation? Could these moralizing brethren of the Upper House preach so as to reach the consciences of that class, they would, indeed, do something towards a reformation. As it is, the solemn truths they enunciate pass by like idle wind: they are a decent form, which is gravely discharged, and there an end.

How far the Lord Chancellor applies his intellectual vigour to eradicating the evil, may be inferred from his shock that canvassing had become obsolete in Sudbury as an "unnecessary and idle" practice. The canvass is the stronghold of the enemies to freedom and purity of election. The extent of direct bribery had rendered it "unnecessary" in Sudbury; but generally it is the channel of bribery, both direct and indirect. And it is also necessary for that system of intimidation which is yet more extensive and more pernicious than bribery itself. The negative bribery, as it may be called, of threatening loss of custom or patronage, is by far the most formidable weapon of the corruptionists. This is the great power of the higher over the middle and trading classes. Every body knows how unsparingly it is exercised. Thousands submit to it who would spurn the direct offer of cash for their votes; and yet the crime is, in essence, the same. It must be a purblind moral sense that does not pierce through the flimsy veil of distinction. While this system is left untouched by the Legislature, all local disfranchisements, for some want of external decorum in the management, are mere smoothings of the surface, leaving the disease within unabated. They are a whitewashing of the sepulchre, leaving it as full of rottenness as ever.

What, then, is to be done? Nothing, unless we can rouse the sounder portion of the middle classes to a deep sense of the enormity of the case, and a determination to do their utmost, at all hazards, for its correction. They are the natural guardians of local morals. The decencies of society are under their charge, and when they awake to a sense of the virulence of electioneering vices, the power of the tempter will be checked in its exercise. Let them treat this species of iniquity as they do other kinds: without fear or favour. Let them show, in daily intercourse, that they regard the briber and intimidator, and the bribed and intimidated, as all of tainted character: the former the most deeply. Let them cease to palliate sinfulness, not less foul for involving public injury, because it is common; or because it implicates the adherents of their own political party. Morality is above party. The class that generally aspires to legislative honours has a seared conscience. So have the wretched venders of their votes. Those of intermediate station palter with their own minds, and are content with one or two removes of the guilt. These facts only render more imperative the duty of those who know the right, and who usually are not satisfied merely to know it. Enough is not done by washing their own hands of the offence. There is a testimony to be borne: it is due to their own consciences, to their country, and to the sacred cause of religion and morality. They are called to deliver society from this cleaving sin, this foul demoralization.

We ask their co-operation for the League whenever it is possible to bring this offence before a legal tribunal. There must be examples made, to arrest its course; and the screening of neighbours, or poli-

tical associates, is as great a deviation from rectitude as compromising offences against individuals. No opportunity should be lost of showing that such is the light in which electoral corruption is regarded. It is guilty, sinful, wicked; and as such let it be treated, or we may as well say no more about the matter.

In one borough, where there has been abundance of corruption, we understand that the preachers of all religious denominations have been requested, and have most or all of them assented, to make the violation of electoral duty a theme of pulpit admonition at an appropriate season. Few localities are there in which this example may not be followed beneficially. If preachers ought not to bring politics into the pulpit, assuredly they ought not to shut morals out of the pulpit. To a branch of morals so important, an occasional admonition may be well devoted. When the wrongs and sufferings which flow from corruption in the first duty of a citizen are rightly considered, it will scarcely appear that lying, swearing, and drinking are worthy of denunciation. We would recommend similar applications to the clergy and to Dissenting ministers generally. Let them be urged to help in this good and necessary work; let them interpose between the dead and the living to stay this plague. It will worthily magnify their office, and add to their sacred functions the title of being national benefactors, if they become instrumental to the abatement of this moral pestilence.

CONDITION-OF-ENGLAND QUESTION.

Manufactures give higher wages and steadier employment to the operative than agriculture can afford to the farm-labourer; and one of the chief reasons for the insane hostility of the monopolists of land to manufactures is their dread that their establishment and extension would lead to the necessity of raising the wages of the miserable serfs whom they employ in the cultivation of their estates. In the late struggle to force restriction of labour by a "ten-hours bill" on the mills and factories, the wages of the operatives were secretly more the object of hostility than the profits of the manufacturer. From the time that the difference between the rate of wages in Lancashire and in the agricultural counties was made known, the monopolists of land have set themselves to work devising plans to diminish that difference, not by raising the remuneration of the agricultural labourer, but by lowering that of the manufacturing operative. Every man in his senses knows that the amount of wages would fall when the number of hours of work was diminished, if all other things remained as they are. Now, we do not deny that the hours of labour are too long for the factory operative; for though they are not longer, and not indeed so long as the time during which operatives engaged in far more toilsome and unwholesome occupations are compelled to work, we are thoroughly convinced that all our operatives and labourers work too hard and too long. They are compelled to do so by the difficulty of procuring food, and the obvious remedy is to remove that difficulty, and enable them to obtain the necessaries of life by a smaller amount of toil. The able and benevolent author of the "Song of the Shirt" has stated the case in a single sentence—

> "Alas! that bread should be so dear,
> And flesh and blood so cheap."

The dearness of the bread is the cause of the cheapness of human life; and it is nothing better than arrogant hypocrisy to affect sympathy for the condition of the labouring classes, and at the same time to maintain the Corn Laws by which this misery is produced. It was painful to see a nobleman of such good intentions as Lord Ashley, stealing in at the end of the debate on Mr. Villiers's motion, and giving his vote for monopoly, and to find him a few days after heading a deputation to Sir James Graham, to solicit the commiseration of Government for the victims of that very monopoly which his vote had contributed to maintain. We cannot comprehend the philanthropy which affords sympathy to the overworked operative and refuses it to the underfed farm-labourer, which has a tear for the starving sempstress and a dry eye for the perishing cottager: it comes too close to the sentimentality of him who was said to bestow on a dead ass the compassion which he refused to a living mother. We demand that attention should be given to the degraded condition of all the working classes. Too truly has Ebenezer Elliott declared—

> "Like a rootless rose or lily;
> Like a sad and lifelong sigh;
> Like a bird pursued and weary,
> Doom'd to flutter till it die:
> Landless, restless, joyless, hopeless,
> Gasping still for bread and breath,
> To their graves by trouble hunted,
> Albion's helots toil for death."

But the worst feature of the case is, the desperate determination manifested by the landed oligarchy to keep the condition of the suffering poor concealed, and to prevent, by force, an investigation into their wrongs. We last week directed attention to the discreditable exhibitions of false charges hastily made against those who have sought to ascertain the causes of that discontent among the agricultural peasantry, which, for want of any other means of making itself known, proclaims its existence by the incendiary fire. The ink with which we wrote was scarcely dry ere the House of Commons witnessed another and still more irrelevant attack on private character. Sir James Graham, who seems to have a perverse desire for enhancing the amount of unpopularity which he has dearly earned, is declared by the reporters to have stigmatized the Honourable and Reverend Sidney Godolphin Osborne as "a popularity-hunting parson," simply because in his published letters he had with equal force and truth depicted the condition of the agricultural peasantry as far worse than that of the brute animals by which they are surrounded. The character of the accused, and still more that of the accuser, renders it unnecessary for us to say one word in defence of the reverend gentleman. But we point to the speech of the Home Secretary, and to the accompaniment supplied by Sir John Tyrell, for further proof of the determination that has been adopted to shroud the condition of the agricultural peasantry from the ken and from the sympathy of the rest of the country. Such policy can only be very partially successful; men may be bribed or browbeaten into silence in England, but the voice of reprobation will be raised against us in other lands, until the proud boast that "Britons never will be slaves" comes to be regarded as the most degrading mockery and the most monstrous delusion ever played off upon an infatuated and ruined people. Already the slave-owners of the United States boast, and not without reason, that their negroes are better off than the free peasantry of England. We take, as a specimen of their vindication at our expense, the following paragraph from a New York paper:—

"We regard the whole subject of the abolition of slavery as one of the greatest popular absurdities of the age. And nothing can so speedily satisfy any practical man of the absurdity of the notions entertained by the abolitionists of all complexions and names about the slavery of the South, than to see and examine for themselves the social system in England and Ireland, and contrast it with the social system of this country, both North and South,

"Let us come to facts. Any person who will take a ramble through England, Scotland, and Ireland—who will look at the condition of the lower classes there, or read the reports and speeches of their public men—will admit that a more degraded system of permanent slavery has never existed on the face of the globe. Nominally the masses of the people in the British islands are free. But what is their freedom? They are free to starve and rot. They are free to grovel in the most abject penury and wretchedness. That is their freedom. In consequence of the social condition of the British empire—the unrighteous distribution of wealth and power, the laws of primogeniture, and other civil institutions—the lower classes, both agricultural and manufacturing, of that empire are in a state of slavery so abject, distressing, and miserable, that no parallel can be found for it in the world throughout. Now, let us turn to the southern institutions, and look at the condition of the black races there, over whose position so many tears are shed and so much sympathy bursts forth, and what do we find? We find a happy, contented, well-fed, well-clad race, possessing, from the peculiar nature of the State laws of that region of the country, a lien upon the soil. They are absolutely part proprietors of the very acres on which they live, although they may be nominally known as slaves, and are subject to the orders of their masters."

We dissent altogether from this reasoning; we believe that "the existence of slavery in America is an atrocious crime;—a crime with which no measures should be kept, which makes the name of liberty itself suspected, and the boast of it disgusting." But we fear that the Americans have the power of retort.

> "Pudet hæc opprobria, nobis
> Et dici potuisse et non potuisse refelli;"

or, as it may be translated,

> "We feel the charges grating to our pride,
> But Oh! we feel they cannot be denied."

Is slavish subjection and some of its most revolting incidents quite unknown in England? We have seen the President of her Majesty's Council contending that one of the favoured race of squires should be allowed the luxury of horse-whipping the children of the peasantry; we have beheld a magistrate restored to his office after having been dismissed for alleged acts of greater oppressiveness than a Mohammedan would have practised on a rayah in the worst days of Turkish tyranny. We have that badge of servitude, the system of the game laws, maintained in all its iniquitous strength, which allows to a hireling keeper a power not possessed by the American slave-driver, the power of hanging up the poor man's dog, however valuable the animal may be, whenever it follows its natural instincts and pursues a hare or partridge. Look at the statute-book, and compare the number of laws for the protection of the labouring poor with those for the preservation of game, and you will have no difficulty in determining whether a peasantry or a pheasantry is most valuable in the eyes of our legislators. Our game-preservers seem to have parodied the brilliant lines of Goldsmith; instead of—

> "Princes or lords may flourish or may fade,
> A breath can make them, as a breath has made;
> But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
> When once destroy'd can never be supplied"—

the game-preservers read

> "Peasants and serfs may flourish or may fade,
> We've slaves enough to use the plough and spade;
> But a fine pheasantry, the landlord's pride,
> If poach'd upon costs much to be supplied."

And in the midst of this oppression, with this palpable badge of slavery worn in the presence of all nations, England boasts of freedom, and taunts other nations with the imperfections of their institutions. Would that the country heard the still small voice which whispers—

> "Yet scorners say thy hills and vales
> Are curs'd from sea to sea;
> The land of palaces and jails
> Derision nameth thee."

It is time for the country to wake from its lethargy and fairly examine its condition. A Lord Wodehouse may bluster, a Mr. Wodehouse may calumniate, a Sir James Graham may covertly insinuate what he fears to charge directly, or a Sir John Tyrell may aim a shaft, though with less effect than his ancestor of old, but the condition of the labouring classes is a matter of too much urgency and importance to be neglected through fear of an oligarchy. That oligarchy itself is perilled by the accumulation of explosive forces at its foundation. Our restrictive and monopolist laws have produced an unnatural state of society, which, if not righted by legislative foresight and wisdom, will right itself with a vengeance by some terrible reaction:—

> "To fall'n humanity our Father said,
> That food and bliss should not be found unsought;
> That man should labour for his daily bread,
> *But not that man should toil and sweat for nought.*
>
> "Not that the best should live a living death,
> To give the worst a beastly sense of life;
> And waste in servitude their fleeting breath,
> Waging with care and want a hopeless strife."

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE FREE-TRADE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE SESSION 1844.

Twenty-fourth Week, ending Saturday, July 27.

A very interesting discussion arose incidentally on Friday night, the 19th, in the House of Commons. On the question being put that the SPEAKER leave the chair, to go into Committee of Supply, Mr. MILNER GIBSON rose, and, in a most admirable and telling speech, called attention to the subject of the causes and the cure of incendiarism in the eastern agricultural counties of England. This raised a discussion, far more animated, earnest, and sincere than any of the recent debates on clap-trap motions, brought forward for the mere purpose of personal display or party spite. Sir JAMES GRAHAM tried to evade the real question by an insolent tone and manner, and still more insolent insinuations; but, though the country gentlemen connected with the eastern counties endeavoured to mimic his example, they were too fluttering, too anxious, too uneasy, to be able to do it with effect, and yet conceal their real feelings. The Home Secretary was taken to task by Mr. VILLIERS, in a way which made him feel (at least so far as a look of annoyance could express internal mortification) that bullying insinuations are not always creditable substitutes for honest arguments.

Mr. Milner Gibson having made his speech, Sir James Graham rose, insinuating motives, deprecating discussion, and attacking so honest and benevolent a clergyman as the Hon. and Rev. Godolphin Osborne as being "a popularity-hunting parson!" He was followed by two country gentlemen, Mr. Wodehouse (Norfolk), and Mr. Darby (Sussex), and then Mr. BRIGHT rose, and made a speech which we consider to have been the most effective which he has yet delivered in the House of Commons. It fell with very great power on those who heard it; the country gentlemen could not and did not listen to it with apathy; and the peroration, in which he expressed his hope that, in the coming day of retribution, Heaven would be more merciful to the landowners than they had been to their unfortunate peasantry, startled his auditors, causing, it is to be hoped, that pausing and meditating thoughtfulness which precedes repentance and a new life.

Colonel Rushbrooke, Mr. Bramston, and Lord Henniker all followed, speaking in subdued phrase and tone; and then Mr. VILLIERS, as we have said, rebuked Sir James Graham, and, in a speech which, though short, was worthy of his reputation and of the subject in hand, recalled the House to the real question before it, which the country gentlemen were trying to evade. One of those whom Lord John Russell characterised as the "heavy clays" of Essex—the redoubtable Sir John Tyrell—closed the debate, of which we here give a report. The three speeches, of Mr. Milner Gibson, Mr. Bright, and Mr. Villiers, will be found worthy of attentive and deliberate perusal.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY, JULY 19.

On the motion that the Speaker do leave the chair,

Mr. M. GIBSON said it was now his intention to bring forward the motion of which he had given notice relative to the incendiarism now prevalent in the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridge. He did so because he felt a question of this importance did not stand in that position in which it ought to do, inasmuch as the explanations given on the subject in that House had not produced the impression on the public mind that a full inquiry had

been made into the subject, or that there might not be on the part of the Government considerable misapprehension as to the causes of these atrocities. He was aware that during the last week or two, and at the present moment, these awful crimes had somewhat subsided, but so short an interval could scarcely be relied on, and he thought this ought to be an additional reason for inquiring into the condition of the peasantry, and endeavouring to trace, as far as they could, into the causes of discontent which had given rise to them. The extent of the crime of incendiarism had been very great during the last six or eight months; so much so that he believed he spoke within the mark when he stated, on information which he had received, that considerably more than one hundred separate offences of this kind had been committed in the county of Suffolk alone, and he believed upwards of two hundred in the two adjoining counties. He had it also from good authority, that insurance-offices which insured something like £4,000,000 of agricultural property had lost more than four times the amount of all the premiums paid to them on insurances of this description. If, therefore, these incendiary practices continued, the insurance-offices must either increase their rate of insurance to such a degree as materially to restrict the insurance of agricultural property, which it was very desirable should be insured, or they must exclude from the insurance contract the risk of incendiary fires, just as they did that by civil commotion, foreign invasion, or other contingencies not within the ordinary calculation of chances. But although he had thus alluded to the pecuniary loss and the effects of these crimes on the insurance system, he still conceived it was a much more serious consideration to reflect, that during this short period they had seen in these counties so much malignant feeling, and such disregard for the rights of property, as had been evinced by these incendiary fires. They knew that various causes had been assigned for the discontent which it was alleged had originated incendiarism; and the motion he meant to make was for an address to the Crown to send into these counties trustworthy, discreet, and careful men, for the purpose of inquiring into the general condition of the agricultural labourers there, and to ascertain what were the grievances under which they were supposed to suffer. He had hinted to the right hon. baronet a few nights ago, that he thought it would be desirable to issue a commission for the purpose of inquiring into these matters; and the reply of the right hon. baronet was not such as gave him to understand that he (the right hon. baronet) was averse to such an inquiry, though he was not prepared to give his assent to it without further consideration. He trusted, however, that the furthe consideration which the right honourable baronet had been able to give to the subject would induce him to assent to sending down some discreet persons to make this inquiry. He would not suggest that it should be made through the poor-law commissioners—not but that he should have the greatest confidence in them, and in any report which they might make to the House,—but that it was said a feeling with reference to the poor-law itself, amounting to a "detestation" of it, had given rise to the discontent, and, consequently, he feared that any report made by the poor-law commissioners on this subject would not be satisfactory to the public, but would be regarded rather as an attempt to make out the good working of the poor-law than to show the actual condition of the agricultural labourer. The right honourable gentleman, the other night, said that trials were about to take place of many persons who were in custody charged with offences of incendiarism, and he suggested that it would be better to wait the result of those trials. Now he (Mr. Gibson) called on the right honourable baronet rather to take a statesman's view of the question than that of a police-officer or administrator of the criminal law. He called upon him not to take what had been designated "a chief-constable's view" of this question. They wanted to go beyond the mere detection of particular offenders, and to ascertain what were the exciting causes of this crime, that, if possible, they might guard against it for the future. It might be said it was too much to assume that distress and misery were the causes of this incendiarism, since many persons were charged with the crime who were not in those distressed circumstances which could have urged them to commit it. But it was well known, nothing more so, that when considerable discontent prevailed among the labouring population, individuals were always to be found to gratify malignant passions, by doing the work of violence for those who deemed themselves suffering under oppression. He was induced on the best authority to think that in the eastern counties this incendiarism must be regarded as a symptom and a proof that a dangerous and deep-rooted discontent was smouldering amongst the labouring population. He was using the expression of a gentleman whose name would carry great weight in that House, and who was the best authority on this subject in the county of Suffolk—he meant Sir H. Bunbury—who, in a letter recently published in the public papers, said, "I must avow my conviction that these incendiary crimes are symptoms of smouldering and dangerous discontent." He (Mr. M. Gibson) thought it right, therefore, to call upon the Government to send some persons, in whom they could confide, to investigate the truth of the different allegations respecting the causes of these outrages. He thought it peculiarly right to call upon the Government to do so, considering that they upheld, in reference to the rest of the people, laws and restrictions which they only attempted to justify on the ground of the well-being and happiness of the rural districts. They avowed that it was their first duty to maintain order, morality, happiness, and prosperity among the rural population. Other classes were called on to make sacrifices for this express purpose—trade was interfered with, and restrictions were upheld, to maintain those scenes of rural felicity which the right hon. gentleman once said would cease if the Corn Laws were abolished. He considered, therefore, that this gave him a peculiar claim to call upon those who took upon themselves to sacrifice other interests to maintain the good order and happiness of a particular class, to institute an inquiry, when they were informed on so high an authority as Sir H. Bunbury that the incendiarism which prevailed was symptomatic of deep and dangerous discontent among the rural population. He knew it had been alleged, and Sir H. Bunbury mentioned it, that the new poor-law was the cause. But he (Mr. M. Gibson) wanted to know if it were the new poor-law? It was said that under the old poor-law and the allowance system, and when the amount of out-door relief given to the poor was considerable, incendiarism prevailed to as great an extent as it did at present. It had existed under the old poor-law; it now existed under the new; and, therefore, he concluded that something beside the mere mode in which relief was administered had given rise to those feelings among the rural population. Considering the great number in this country who were driven, from want of employment, to parochial relief for their support, he much doubted whether any system could be adopted by which they could avoid complaints against the administration of the poor-law. He himself had witnessed even the distribution of coals, raised by subscription for the poor, give rise to a much bickering, bad feeling, and charges of favouritism, as the administration of legal relief. No doubt similar cases would occur to hon. gentlemen opposite. In these counties there were many charitable subscriptions to relieve distress; but all these were temporary expedients, resembling that of the charitable sermons which the Government appointed to relieve the manufacturing population, and were not likely to be permanently effectual for the relief of the agricultural labourer. With regard to the other statements of the operation of the new poor-law, without going into the question, he could not help feeling that there might be some truth in saying that the labouring classes were prejudiced against it. But he did not think it was the main cause of the present alienation of the peasantry from the landowners and occupiers in those counties. He believed that no class in this country comprised men better disposed, more industrious, more willing to bear up cheerfully against the pressure of distress, than the agricultural population of the counties he had mentioned. He believed that no class in this kingdom—and he spoke from his own personal knowledge of them—could be so well brought forward as instancing general good conduct and industry as the agricultural population of the eastern counties. He could not help thinking, therefore, that the pressure must be strong indeed, and the discontent very deeply rooted, which could induce men, naturally so well disposed, to give almost direct encouragement to the commission of so awful and horrible a crime as that of incendiarism. He saw the honourable member for West Norfolk in his place, and he could not help regretting the remarks he made to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when alluding to the conduct of the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk. The honourable member seemed to him (Mr. Gibson) to overlook altogether the pressure of distress and the effect of want and despair upon men's moral perceptions. He seemed to take the old view which had been so long relied on, and with so little effect, that nothing could be done but through the instrumentality of the dungeon and the gibbet. The honourable member had not used these words, but still he (Mr. Gibson) inferred from the question he put, that he found fault with that exercise of mercy which the Secretary of State had felt it his duty to recommend to the Crown, in the case of two persons convicted of incendiarism. He would not say the honourable member actually made such a remark, but any one who heard his question would infer that in those cases he impugned the judgment of the right honourable gentleman the Secretary for the Home Department. In his opinion crime had thriven under severe penalties, and never would be put down by an increase of capital punishments. Before the honourable member ventured to question the exercise of the royal prerogative of mercy, he ought to have recollected for how many crimes the state was answerable. (Cheers.) By bad legislation the wants of the lower orders had been augmented; they saw themselves neglected, and that nothing was done to mitigate the evils under which they suffered. Such a course could not conciliate the lower orders or tend to diminish crime. There certainly was a growing feeling among the labouring classes, that all legislation was in favour of the middling and upper ranks of society, and that as long as the wealth of the rich was swelled, the poverty of the poor did not merit consideration. Even the clergy had contributed to nourish this feeling, and a distinguished divine had very recently printed a letter to the Duke of Richmond, which having appeared in the London papers, was soon transferred to the weekly journals circulating among the labourers of the country. He would take the liberty of reading an extract from it:—"At a meeting lately held in London, a deputation of landowners and tenant-farmers waited upon you, and of course did all in their power to apprize you of the dangers that threaten and the difficulties that now beset them; but I do not find that any one appeared at that meeting to represent the agricultural labourer. . . . And now I will only add, that if your Grace will kindly accept this assistance—if you and your colleagues will only give to the labourers' condition one half the attention you have given to the condition of the landlord and tenant, and the improvement of the condition of your cattle—I have no doubt but that you will arrive at the conclusion at which I have arrived—that there is no one creature belonging to the farm, there is not an animal you rear, to use or to sell, that has been the subject of so much neglect, in everything that tends to his improvement, as the labourer. Compare the way he is housed, fed, clothed, and valued, with the way in which the animals he tends are treated in these particulars, and then answer to the public and to yourself—why in the present agitation is he overlooked." Such was the language of the Rev. Godolphin Osborne, a gentleman of unquestionable authority, and possessing great local influence, and thus it was seen that the pastors of the people themselves propagated the notion that the welfare and interests of the lower orders were disregarded by the higher. When, in answer to this, augmented penalties were asked for, could it be wondered that alienation was increased? It had been urged that, in some of the manufacturing districts, disorder had been produced by the want of pastoral care—by the absence of a sufficient number of clergymen; but, in the district to which he was now adverting, it could not be said that there was any deficiency of spiritual instruction, if the abundance of the clergy might be taken as a test. The true deficiency was a deficiency of physical comforts; and what did the Rev. Godolphin Osborne state upon that point? "Neither law nor gospel can avail, when hopeless indigence has made a man hate the power that checks him in getting the food he needs, but cannot earn; when he sees, in a land of churches, the poor left to struggle how they may against circumstances that keep them down in the very lowest stage of civilized existence—a stage in which they find much in the condition of the brutes about them to envy." He (Mr. M. Gibson) entirely concurred in these expressions, and did not think that any extension of church accommodation, any increase in the number of clergymen, any attempt to keep up the price of corn by legislation, would conciliate the working classes, or would ward off at some future day the serious disorganisation that might be anticipated, looking at the limited surface of our island, and at the rapid growth of population. Increased population had been assigned by some as the cause of distress; and the honourable member for East Norfolk, some time ago, attended a meeting where he recommended the production of flax as a means of giving employment to the poor. He had to charge gentlemen opposite, though he was sorry to make a charge on a matter of this nature, because he wished to say nothing the least intemperate, and most sincerely desired that the right honourable baronet would agree to his motion, and send down commissioners to inquire; but he must complain of gentlemen opposite for strengthening prejudices among the labouring classes—prejudices upon subjects which were very likely to lead to acts of violence and incendiarism. There was no doubt that machinery had lately been much applied to the purposes of agriculture — there were threshing machines, machines for hoeing wheat, and for other purposes; in fact, the peasantry saw machinery supplying the place of manual labour, and the argument on this subject, applied to the manufacturing districts, might, to a certain extent, be applied to the agricultural. At public meetings on the Corn Laws, landed gentlemen had not hesitated to revile the manufacturers, and to utter tirades against the use of machinery. No argument was more in vogue than that the use of machinery in manufacturing districts was the cause of distress; and agricultural labourers finding that such an argument had been employed against others, would not fail to apply it to their own cases. The labourers were aware that the indifference shown to the manufacturing operatives existed as regarded themselves. He (Mr. Milner Gibson) charged landed gentlemen with augmenting these prejudices—and he farther charged them with doing it for party purposes (cheers)—to excite a feeling against the manufacturing interest: and now it recoiled upon themselves. Then, again, on the question of wages, a similar attempt had been made to delude the poor labourers, and it was said that the farmers gave too low wages. The fact was that the farmers could not give what wages they liked, for they must be regulated by circumstances over which they had no control. Nevertheless landed gentlemen endeavoured to produce a prejudice against the farmers, that they were screwing their labourers down to the lowest amount of wages, and not doing them justice. This was a most improper statement to make.

A Member: Who made it?

Mr. M. Gibson: It had been made repeatedly. Great incredulity was affected whenever the statements of the *Times* on the poor-laws were mentioned; but he (Mr. M. Gibson) believed that what was said by its correspondent on the question of wages was true. A farmer who held only a small quantity of land, as he could not increase that quantity, and was required to increase his rent, being afraid of being outbid, was driven to save where he could, and that saving must come out of the pockets of the labourers. But rendering the barrier between the manufacturing and agricultural classes more impassable, was to augment the difficulty, and to promote emigration to the manufacturing districts. Labourers were redundant, farmers were obliged to pay higher rents, and the money saved out of the wages of the labourer found its way into the pocket of the landlord. He would also direct attention to the promises of protection held out up to a recent period, promises that the price of grain should be maintained by act of Parliament. He was happy to say that confidence in the durability of that protection was not so great as it had been. He had been lately in the country for change of air, and had made it his business to inquire into the subject, and he found that even the last declaration of the head of the Government was considered somewhat equivocal. He had felt it his duty to increase that opinion (cheers), and he would continue to do so while he saw the present uncertainty, and felt that there was no real intention to maintain the Corn Laws for any lengthened period. Interested as he was in the prosperity of the occupying tenantry, he had thought it his duty to caution them not to build on a rotten foundation—not to trust to a broken reed. Such, he believed, was the opinion of the agricultural tenantry, and, as far as it went, it was conducive to good. The more the farmers were disposed to rely upon natural instead of artificial prices, the more profitable would be their business, and they would thus be enabled to employ agricultural labourers at fair wages, and to carry out the various improvements in agriculture. Agricultural labourers were deeply interested in the prosperity of the farmer, and the prosperity of the farmer depended upon his belief that Parliament would do nothing for him. (Cheers.) He called upon the right honourable baronet (Sir James Graham) to meet him fairly upon this motion, and he trusted that he would pardon him for having said one word which might indispose some gentlemen to concur in a proposal for inquiry. It was not unprecedented: not long ago an inquiry had been instituted into the condition of the aborigines, the Hottentots, and the Esquimaux; and why should not an inquiry be undertaken into the state of persons severely suffering at our own doors? Some might urge that there was no distress, but there could be no doubt that the most grievous distress existed. Magistrates had stated, that where labourers did not perpetrate the crimes themselves, they looked on with a sort of satisfaction while the flames were destroying their neighbours' barns and stacks. The chairman of the Bury sessions, Mr. Bevan, was reported to have used these words:—"At the occasion of the late calamitous fire at Tuddenham, while the populace did all they could to extinguish the flames, others of the Mildenhall people did all they could to promote the fire by casting fuel upon it. A certain magistrate who was present had said he had seen fuel placed on the fire, and could not prevent it." More important evidence than even this had recently been obtained, and Professor Henslow had published a pamphlet containing the following:—"Notwithstanding any assurances that I have heard to the contrary, I feel convinced that it is want of employment among the labourers which must be considered as the proximate of those motive causes to the incendiarism which has lately prevailed. The labourers themselves refer the fires to this cause; and although the great majority of them hereabouts acknowledge the folly and wickedness of incendiarism, some of the worst disposed refer to them too significantly not to have it understood that they are

rejoicing in these exhibitions of infatuation and cruelty." Although he (Mr. M'Gibson) would not for one moment assert that the whole body of the labouring population, or any large proportion of it, viewed incendiary fires with any other feelings than those of abhorrence; yet, when he found some of them talking with apparent satisfaction of what had occurred, it could not fail to increase his conviction that not only discontent but bitter hatred existed among them. He had put his motion into writing, but he did not wish to confine the right hon. baronet to particular words, if he would consent to send down a commission, consisting of persons unconnected with the poor-law, and likely to give an unbiassed opinion after an impartial investigation. His proposal would be in the form of an address to the Crown for a commission to inquire into the discontents in the counties of Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridge, with a view to ascertain the causes of grievances under which the working classes there suffered. It might be said that he limited the investigation to two or three counties, but after that part of the subject had been gone through if it were thought desirable to extend it, he should be most happy to do so. The result, he believed, would be to show that the condition of agricultural labourers was deplorable; and if the investigation were deferred much longer, the country would have to rue the delay. (Cheers.)

The motion was then put from the chair, and, on the question that it be agreed to,

Sir J. Graham said, that, after the speech just delivered, the House would presume that it was imperative upon him to make a few observations. During the time of the delivery of that speech, he could not help asking himself what could be the object of the honourable member in giving utterance to such sentiments? (Cheers.) He recollected that the honourable member was a Suffolk gentleman, and that he must have a kindly feeling towards his native county. He could not therefore desire to fix public attention on the crimes which disgraced it. To advert to them must to him have been a very painful task. Some deep sense of duty must, he presumed, have prompted the honourable member at such a moment, and in relation to his own county, to make such a speech. (Hear, hear.) He had said in the outset what was quite true, what the House must have heard with great satisfaction, and what, if the honourable member had not mentioned it, it would have been his (Sir J. Graham's) duty to communicate, viz., that the crime of incendiarism, so disgraceful in itself and of such a contagious nature, was diminishing in the district to which the motion applied. (Cheers.) Having made that admission, and knowing it to be the fact, it seemed extraordinary that the honourable gentleman had felt it his duty to address to the House the speech just concluded. (Hear, hear.) The honourable member had told him (Sir J. Graham) not to take a chief-constable's view of the question. Whatever the honourable member might consider a chief-constable's view of the question, he (Sir James Graham) was bound to tell him and the House, that discussions of this nature forced on the attention of Parliament had a direct tendency to increase the evil. (Much cheering.) There was such a thing as fanning a slumbering flame. (Cheers.) The honourable gentleman had quoted the statement of the chairman of the Bury sessions, that in certain cases it had been proved that fuel had been cast on an incendiary fire. It was quite possible by such discussions as that of to-night to cast fuel upon a fire that happily was almost extinct. (Loud cheers.) What could be the purpose of the hon. member in introducing various topics? Why had it been his duty to state that the labouring classes were neglected by Parliament? What had been the chief occupation of the House of Commons during the last four or five years? Late and early, morning and evening, it had been discussing, with the most intense desire, the best means of promoting the interests and adding to the comforts of the labouring classes by the amendment of the law for their relief. (Cheers.) While the House had been so employed, this great advocate of the rights and happiness of the lower orders had been seeking elsewhere that gratification which, had they consulted their own pleasure, those who toiled in legislation would have sought also. While others discharged their duty as legislators, with much pain and anxiety, searching how best to alleviate the misfortunes of the poor, the hon. member had been disporting himself in the country. What was the meaning of his comparison about the aborigines, the Hottentots, and the Esquimaux? (Hear, hear.) What was the meaning of the passage of his speech, in which he dwelt upon the selfishness and cold-heartedness of landlords?

Mr. M. Gibson: I did not use any such words.

Sir James Graham: I do not mean that he used those words.

Mr. M. Gibson: I quoted a passage from the letter of a reverend clergyman.

Sir James Graham: I have the greatest respect for the clergy, but even among the most sane of that body there are some indiscreet individuals. There is such a thing as a popularity-hunting parson, as well as an agitating member of Parliament. (Cheers.) Such communications as the honourable member quoted are not well calculated to promote that peace, harmony, and order, which it was the great object of the religion of which the writer is a minister to enforce and inculcate. (Cheers.) But permit me to tell the honourable member that there is no need of the commission he proposes. On a former occasion I said that the assizes now in progress could not fail to throw distinct light on the causes of the crime to which the honourable member had adverted. I have received communications from the judges now employed in trying criminals in the district embraced by the motion, and I have the satisfaction and gratification of stating that there is no difficulty whatever in administering the law there. The greatest willingness is evinced by witnesses in depositing to the truth—the greatest alacrity by the jury in dispensing the law, and the greatest discrimination in their verdicts: the guilty are convicted, and where a doubt arises upon the proof, the prisoner has the benefit of the doubt. (Hear.) I am told, moreover, on the highest authority, that no symptom has been displayed of a generally diseased state of society, and that the crimes may usually either be traced to personal malignity, or have been committed by very young offenders. (Cheers.) I grieve to state the fact, but at Chelmsford, I think, three children were sent to trial, two of whom were convicted, one being aged eight years, another nine years, and the third not twelve years. Another learned judge at Huntingdon informs me that the same charge had been made there against a child of eleven years old. (Hear.) I have, in consequence, received a suggestion to insert in the bill on this subject, now sent to the other House, a clause inflicting the punishment of whipping in the same way that it has been awarded to other juvenile offenders for a different description of crime, to which they seem to have been incited by a love of notoriety. I am bound to state that in the instances now under consideration the juvenile offenders appear to have been urged on by bad example, and by a similar love of notoriety. I repeat, however, that there has been no proof whatever of a generally diseased state among the labouring classes in the district comprehended by the motion. (Cheers.) If I could believe a commission necessary, I would not hesitate to advise the Crown to appoint it; but at the present moment the crime is decreasing, and the law has been carried into execution without difficulty. The perpetrators of those crimes have been committed and convicted, or are now about to be tried. Under such circumstances I should not think it expedient to advise the Crown to depart from the usual course in the administration of the law, by the appointment of a commission to institute a special inquiry. As to other topics which the hon. gentleman has thought fit to introduce, it may be enough for me to say, that I do not think the course he has taken, the language he has employed, or the train of argument (if argument it can be called) which he has followed, are likely to lead any large portion of the House to concur in his motion. I am satisfied that neither his speech nor his motion would have the effect of lessening the evil the honourable member declares it to be his intention to diminish; on the contrary, I am quite satisfied, though it does not become me to impute motives to the honourable member, that the course he has taken is precisely that which might have been adopted by a person who was desirous of producing a serious increase of the deprecated evils. (Hear.) On these grounds I shall give my decided opposition to the motion.

Mr. Wodehouse would take another opportunity of replying to the greater part of the speech of the hon. member for Manchester, and would only now advert to points demanding immediate notice. He denied that he had any intention to apply to the Secretary of State, in order to impede the exercise of the prerogative of mercy. The case was of a peculiar nature, and two persons having been convicted of incendiarism, were sentenced to fifteen years' transportation. In a few weeks they received a pardon, and it was impossible to deny that the circumstance was calculated to excite surprise. To what the hon. member had said about his (Mr. Wodehouse) being in favour of the dungeon and the gibbet, all he should reply was, that the charge was the offspring of a heated mind. There were several cases pending, to which he would not advert; but he might mention that of a boy employed on a farm belonging to Lord Stafford, who was no doubt guilty, but with whom nothing could be done, he was such a favourite with his master and mistress. Another case was that of a dumb man on a farm the property of Lord Leicester, and an unfortunate woman was burnt in effigy because of the testimony she had given. He could refer upon the point to the member for Sussex, when he said that eight fires in that county had been all committed by one person, who was in nowise connected with the agricultural districts, but was a cooper by trade. As he would enter upon the question on the first opportunity, he would not say more now, except to assert distinctly, that the discontent prevailing was materially attributable to the nonsense—for he could call it by no other name—which had been circulated by gentlemen opposite on the subject of wages; but as the subject was a large one, he would not then pursue it. But when the hon. gentleman said that he complained of the extension of the royal mercy, he gave the assertion the most unqualified and the most decided contradiction.

Mr. Darby would not have risen but for the quotation which had been made of a part of a letter of the Rev. Mr. Osborn, and the portion of the speech which attributed to gentlemen connected with agriculture that they were exciting the people. He could only say that the honourable gentleman was one of the last who ought to attribute to others what had been done on that ground, or to say that it had been done for party purposes. He must say that the late visit of the honourable member to the county of Suffolk to persuade the farmers that the Government would alter the Corn Laws in spite of their declaration, did somewhat savour of partisanship. The honourable gentleman had spoken of the Duke of Richmond as not allowing labourers to attend the agricultural meetings, and as paying no attention to the agricultural labourers. Of all persons such observations ought not to be addressed to his noble friend. (Cheers.) In this very session his noble friend the Duke of Richmond had gone down to attend a large meeting, at which labourers' rewards were given. There was no man in his county who paid more—few paid so much—attention to the labourers; there was no man who was more beloved by the labourers than the Duke of Richmond, and there was no one in his neighbourhood who was not aware of this. Therefore the indiscretion displayed in the letter was not only shown, but also the extreme ignorance of the character of his noble friend. (Hear, hear.) As to the motion itself, it came at a most inconvenient time, because it was well known that there were particular times when, if such questions began to be discussed even in courts of justice, crimes had a run. Men of morbid mind were induced, by the mere discussion, to commit like crimes. Not knowing the state of the county of Suffolk, he would not enter upon the cause of the particular crime there; but in his own county, in the neighbourhood of Battle, there had been eight fires successively; the farmers were under great apprehension; but one man was convicted of the offence, and it turned out that this one man caused the whole eight fires, and was not connected with the agricultural labourers, but was a cooper (hear, hear); and with regard to one of the more recent fires elsewhere, it had been shown that the stacks had only been burnt by a boy, in the belief that if the straw were burnt, the house in which he himself lived would be destroyed, and that he would then live in the town, which he much preferred. He thought that this motion would produce mischief, and that the honourable gentleman had shown a want of discretion and fairness in the discussion of these matters.

Mr. Bright said: I have observed ever since I have had a seat in this House, and also from what I had previously read of its proceedings, that there is always a very strong disinclination to inquire into anything connected with the agriculture of the country, and that the convenient time for such an inquiry never arrives. Why is all this extreme sensibility, except from the fear that inquiry might lead to some explanations on a subject which I deem all-important, but which hon. gentlemen opposite seem to think it intrusive to trouble the House with? The right hon. gentleman refuses to grant the inquiry now proposed by my hon. friend the member for Manchester, and has thought it right to taunt him with the fact of his having been enjoying himself in the country, whilst the right hon. gentleman was engaged in looking after the interests of the poor, in legislating on the amended poor-law. It was an excellent occupation, and some legislation is, doubtless, much needed; but it may be just as useful that some members of this House should be endeavouring to discover the causes of pauperism with a view to its prevention, as that others should be engaged in devising schemes for its temporary relief. The right hon. baronet has also thought fit to apply the term "popularity-hunting parson" to an authority quoted by my hon. friend. Nothing is more easy than to use epithets of this kind, and nothing is more common than for persons in a debate to attempt to ride off upon some such phrase, rather than grapple with the facts and arguments brought forward. And who is this popularity-hunting parson? He is a man of aristocratic family, and has the prefix "honourable" to his name; he is a clergyman of the Established Church, and men of such a class are not generally chargeable with a dangerous amount of sympathy for the poor. No one connected with the county of Dorset can fail to know that Mr. Osborne is a man indefatigable in the discharge of the duties of his office, and anxious to mitigate the sufferings and to better the condition of the poor around him; and he may well afford to despise the taunts and insinuations of the right hon. gentleman. (Hear, hear.) The right hon. gentleman has alluded to the information he has received from the judges now on circuit, as a reason why the inquiry is unnecessary. Doubtless, witnesses may be found to give evidence and juries to give honest verdicts; and it is also true that for some days past the fires have been less frequent than before; but are we to suppose from this that the cause of these dreadful outrages is removed, and that we may not again be startled by the recurrence of them? Many threatening letters have been received in various parts of the county of Suffolk; and I suppose it is only because my honourable friend the member for Manchester did not wish to add to the alarm which already exists, that he did not mention some facts which have recently come to his knowledge, and which go to prove that the destructive and vindictive spirit still prevails, and that there is great risk of its assuming even a more dangerous character. (Hear, hear.) Honourable gentlemen opposite have spoken of the question of wages, so little understood by the labourers generally. Now, I can truly say that among all the meetings held by my honourable friend the member for Stockport, and myself, in the rural districts, there is not one at which we have not endeavoured to elucidate the question of wages, and to show to the farmers and labourers that the amount of wages did not depend so much upon the will of either party as upon the number of labourers in relation to the amount of work to be done; and if the gentlemen opposite, in this House and at their meetings in the country, had taken the same course, much of the ill feeling which now exists between the employed and the employers in the manufacturing and agricultural districts would have been spared. But hon. gentlemen opposite are unwilling to inquire; we can never catch them in the right mood. One of the earliest questions of the present session was a motion of my honourable friend the member for Stockport, for inquiry into "the effect of protective duties on the interests of the tenant-farmers and farm-labourers." The President of the Board of Trade did not strongly object to it on any ground of apprehension in his own mind, but there was a sensibility which recoiled not only from touch but from sight among the country gentlemen, and in order that he might not alarm them he decided to refuse the inquiry. Then, again, the honourable member for Manchester suggested an inquiry into the produce of the agriculture of the country. You know how much cotton is imported, manufactured, retained for home consumption, or exported, and these statistical returns are deemed very important; and why should we be kept in total ignorance about the produce of the soil? The Government admitted that the proposition was an important one, and promised some attention to it; but there was evidently a great timidity on the part of many of their supporters. Surely there must be something very rotten and hideous beneath the surface to create all this jealousy and this fear lest any investigation take place. But why is the motion of to-night refused? The right honourable baronet says the fires are less frequent, and nobody in the disturbed districts wishes an investigation. Now, at a meeting of the farmers and inhabitants of the parish of Rattlesden, to take into consideration some statements in the *Times* paper, there was great anxiety expressed that an inquiry should be made; here is one of their resolutions:—

"We are anxious and desirous that her Majesty's Government should immediately issue a commission to inquire into the true condition of the poor in the agricultural districts, and into the causes of the alarming and increasing spirit of incendiarism which unhappily prevails."

This is the opinion of persons who do not agree with the *Times* or with us, but who see the necessity of the case; and I do think that the Government fail in their duty if they allow these desperate outrages to continue without endeavouring to discover the true cause of them, that the true remedy, if there be one, may be applied. I am sure the taunts of the right honourable baronet, and of honourable members opposite, will fall harmless upon my honourable friend who has brought this motion forward. He is a Suffolk landowner and a member of this House, and as such has performed his duty in bringing on this question. For nine months at least have the incendiary fires been raging; some hundreds of fires have taken place, and yet not one of the members for the counties in which they have chiefly prevailed has thought it his duty publicly to ask the attention of the Government to a state of things so alarming. Why, Sir, if Lancashire or Yorkshire had been thus troubled, if not 250 fires in nine months, but if one fire in each month had occurred, how great would have been the interest taken in the state of the manufacturing districts by members opposite, and how loud their condemnation of the conduct of the manufacturers to those they employed! (Hear, hear.) I ask the Government if they consider this subject of incendiarism alarming or not? Is it nothing that insurance-offices should be at their wits' end, and be losers of sums so large as to make it doubtful if they will continue to insure farming

stock? Is it nothing that farmers are in a state of constant alarm, having a watchman to guard every homestead from the torch of the incendiary? Is it nothing that the demoralization of the unhappy peasantry should be completed? Is it possible that one of the worst crimes human nature can commit should be going on over several counties for many months, and that Government should have no concern about it? If, however, the Government refuse to appoint a commission, the *Times* and the *Chronicle* have not forgotten their office. Their reporters differ greatly in one point, but on the truly important one they are perfectly agreed. The *Times* says the new poor-law is the main cause of incendiarism, and the *Chronicle* asserts that this is not the fact, because the crime existed under the old poor-law; but both reports come to the conclusion that security to property is not compatible with the terrible distress which exists among the labouring population of those counties. It may be true that the new poor-law is harsh in its operation. Only yesterday I passed through a part of the county of Kent, and met one of the supporters of the right hon. gentleman the Paymaster of the Forces (Sir E. Knatchbull); I asked him if the poor-law has worked harshly to the poor? His answer was, that the clause making £25 a year of rent the qualification for a guardian was very unfair and injurious. In many unions none but farmers could be guardians under this clause; and thus the labourer when seeking relief had to apply to the very men from whom the only employment was to be had, and was subjected to every description of hardship which farmers and guardians chose to inflict upon him. But if it be granted that the poor-law is a harsh measure, and I willingly grant that it is, we must never forget that a man has other evils of no light character before he feels the poor-law. Distress and poverty have attacked and overcome him before the poor-law finds him, and he must be a miserable legislator indeed who fancies that any change in the poor-law could secure permanent comfort to the people. The great and all-present evil of the rural districts is this,—you have too many people for the work to be done, and you, the landed proprietors, are alone responsible for this state of things; and, to speak honestly, I believe many of you know it. I have been charged with saying out of doors that this House is a club of landowners legislating for landowners. If I had not said it, the public must long ago have found out that fact. My hon. friend the member for Stockport on one occasion proposed that, before you passed a law to raise the price of bread, you should consider how far you had the power to raise the rate of wages. What did you say to that? You said that the labourers did not understand political economy, or they would not apply to Parliament to raise wages; that Parliament could not raise wages; and yet the very next thing you did was to pass a law to raise the price of the produce of your own land at the expense of the very class whose wages you confessed your inability to increase. (Hear, hear.) What is the condition of the county of Suffolk? Is it not notorious that rents are as high as they were fifty years ago, and probably much higher? But the return for the farmers' capital is much lower, and the condition of the labourer is very much worse. The farmers are subject to the law of competition, and rents are thereby raised from time to time so as to keep their profits down at the lowest point, and the labourers by the competition amongst them are reduced to the point below which life cannot be maintained. Your tenants and labourers are being devoured by this excessive competition, whilst you, their magnanimous landlords, shelter yourselves from all competition by the Corn Law yourselves have passed, and make the competition of all other classes serve still more to swell your rentals. It is for this object the Corn Law was passed, and yet in the face of your countrymen you dare to call it a law for the protection of native industry. The hon. member for East Norfolk smiles, and probably pities the ignorance which can make statements like these, so contrary to the rules of his political economy. The hon. gentleman has probably asserted at farmers' meetings that this law is for the protection of native industry. How have you protected it? You have limited the supply of food and the field of employment, but you have not prevented the increase of the population or of the number of labourers. You have protected yourselves only by your legislation. Take the county of Suffolk as an example. I find that in that county for the quarter ending Ladyday, 1843, out of a population of 314,722 persons, there were 39,489 receiving parish relief, being 13 per cent., or more than one in eight of the whole population. In the county of Essex, out of a population of 320,818, there were 44,694 receiving relief, or 14 per cent., or about one in seven of the whole population. In the county of Norfolk, out of a population of 343,277, there were 37,666 receiving relief, or 11 per cent., or about one in nine of the whole inhabitants of the county. Is this not a proof that you do not find employment and wages for all your population? And other evidence is not wanting. From the late census it appears that the increase of the population throughout the country has been 14 per cent. during the ten years, from 1831 to 1841. There is no reason to suppose the number of births above deaths to be smaller in Suffolk than in other counties. Now, of this increase of 14 per cent. in ten years how much was maintained upon its own soil? Not more than 6 per cent. of increase, and the remaining 8 per cent. have been driven away to other counties by the necessities of their position. If we look to the chief agricultural counties, we shall find they do not on the average retain half the real increase of their population. The increase of population during the ten years has been, in Buckingham, 6·4 per cent.; in Cumberland, 4·9; Hereford, 2·4; Norfolk, 5·7; Oxford, 6·2; Westmorland, 2·5. These are purely agricultural counties, and, although so many have left them, yet they are the counties which complain most of a surplus population. The following counties have found room for about half their natural increase:—Devonshire, 7·8; Salop, 7·2; Somerset, 7·8; Wilts, 7·7; North Riding of Yorkshire, 7·0; and Essex, 8·6. As it is evident these counties have got rid of some portion of their natural offspring, let us see where the outcasts have found a home. The increase in Monmouth has been 36·9 per cent.—railroads and steam-engines, and the increased consumption of iron, of course, account for that; Lancashire shows an increase of 24·7; Durham, with its mines, 27·7; Staffordshire, 24·3; Cheshire, north division, with its manufactures, 18·3; Warwickshire (Birmingham and its district), 19·3; and the West Riding of Yorkshire, 18·2. These are manufacturing counties; they provide for their own increase of population, and find a home for those you cannot support in the agricultural counties. If these statements be correct, how dangerous must be a system of protection which diminishes the demand for labour! The free competition under Free Trade would stimulate a better cultivation of the soil, and find increased and steady employment, whilst extended and prosperous manufactures would give great additional employment and wages to the people. You mistake altogether if you fancy you have got rid of this question. If the League would even cease to trouble you, there is a more formidable and more unrelenting foe coming upon you. The increase of population will force a settlement of this question; and so long as it remains unsettled, you will have to sustain a constant return of the difficulties which now embarrass you. This House is responsible for the state of things in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire; it springs from your legislation; and nothing can permanently heal it but a change in your policy, and a common-sense course of proceeding with respect to the trade of farming. Honourable gentlemen opposite seem wholly to forget that property has duties as well as rights. I would not greatly complain if *quod tuum tene* were your motto and your rule. But you are no content with your own. Your acres are yours, but the labour of the people is not; and you have no right to enhance the value of your estates by a system of spoliation on the estates of all other men. Do you want proof of your disregard of all rights but your own? You have a law to raise the price of the produce of your land, and great fluctuations in the price occur. The farmers are often ruined in great numbers. In one Suffolk paper last year, I saw ninety-eight advertisements of the sale of farming stock, showing how many changes of tenancy were taking place. Prosperous farmers do not change much. Are these changes hurtful to the landlord? To some small extent they may be so; but you have cunningly devised another law, by which, when your tenant can go on no longer, you sweep off everything he has left to satisfy your demand for rent, and often and almost always leave the other creditors without a farthing. Your tenant probably owes money to his wheelwright, his grocer, or his draper; but the landlords' law of distraint for rent sweeps all away, and no dividend is left for them. You shelter yourselves thus from the consequences of the farmer's ruin. He leaves his farm; you see him take himself off along the high road; another tenant succeeds him; a fierce competition makes him give even a higher rent than his predecessor, and he runs the same career of hopeless struggle, and at last sinks into the same ruin. Again, see how you treat the tenantry in respect of preserving game. Have you nothing to answer for on this score? A noble lord, a relative, I believe, of the honourable member for East Norfolk, lately spoke of or quoted, in another place, a Mr. Neave, whom he described as a very respectable man. What says Mr. Neave about the game? A letter in the *Times* says, "The farmers, with much justice, complain of the enormous quantity of game. They say they are quite eaten up by it. I quote Mr. Neave, by his permission, as my authority for saying, that the game in several parishes destroy more food, and deprive the farmer of more means, than would keep all the poor of the parish. Mr. Neave instanced one farm to me of 400 acres, on which last year upwards of 2000 rabbits were killed. It is said that five hares consume as much as a sheep (and this is too low an estimate, as a hare destroys more than it consumes); suppose seven rabbits do this, and you have on this farm the rabbits consuming as much food as 300 sheep would. The farmers dare not destroy them; they would forfeit their leases if they did; they dare not even complain, or they would be looked upon as dissatisfied characters, and be got rid of at the termination of their leases." Again, "a rural police is kept up by the gentry, the farmers say, for the sole use of watching game and frightening poachers, for which formerly they had to pay watchers." Is this true, or is it not? If not, let some honourable gentleman get up and deny it, and prove it to be false, and I for one will never again repeat these charges either here or elsewhere. I say, then, you care everything for the rights, and for something beyond the rights, of your own property, but you are oblivious of its duties. How many lives have been sacrificed during the past year to the childish infatuation of preserving game? The noble lord the member for North Lancashire, were he present, could tell of a gamekeeper killed in an affray on his father's estate in that county. For that offence one man was hanged, and four men are now on their way to the penal colonies. Six families are thus deprived of husbands and fathers that this wretched system of game-preserving may be continued in a country densely peopled as this is. (Hear, hear.) The Marquis of Normanby's gamekeeper has been murdered also, and the poacher who shot him only escaped death by the intervention of the Home Secretary. At Godalming, in Surrey, also a gamekeeper has been murdered; and at Brickhill, in Buckinghamshire, a person has recently been killed in a poaching affray. This insane system is the cause of a fearful loss of life; it tends to the ruin of your tenantry, and is the fruitful cause of the demoralization of the peasantry. But you are caring for the *rights* of property;—for its most obvious *duties* you have no concern. With such a policy what can you expect but that which is now passing before you? It is the remark of a beautiful writer, that "to have known nothing but misery is the most portentous condition under which human nature can start on its course." Has your agricultural labourer ever known anything but misery? He is born in a miserable hovel, which in mockery is termed a house or a home; he is reared in penury, he passes a life of hopeless and unrequited toil, and the gaol or the union-house is before him as the only asylum on this side the pauper's grave. Is this the result of your protection to native industry? Have you cared for the labourer till, from a home of comfort, he has but a hovel for a shelter, and have you cherished him into starvation and rags? I tell you what your boasted protection is—it is a protection of native idleness at the expense of the impoverishment of native industry. (Cheers.) The honourable member for West Suffolk (Colonel Rushbrooke) has been understood to advocate a resort to the punishment of hanging for the crime of arson. I confess I am surprised that any man at this time of day should make such a proposition. If there is one thing more clearly proved than another it is this, that capital punishments fail to prevent crime. I have here a return of the number of committals, convictions, and executions for incendiarism, during the six years from 1831 to 1836, and for the six years from 1837 to 1843. In the former period there were 493 committals, 119 convictions, and 58 executions. Imagine, for a moment, the state of things in which not less than 58 human beings had been put to death, and 32 of them in the space of two years, for the single crime of burning. This horrible and most unchristian punishment has since been abolished for this crime. It is the proudest boast of the late Ministry that they did so much to mitigate the severity of our criminal code, and I trust the present Administration may hereafter be entitled to equal praise for similar changes during their tenure of office. From this return it appears that from 1837 to 1843 the number of committals was 344, of convictions 117, and of executions none. It will be observed that the convictions are more in proportion to the committals in the latter than in the former period, owing, doubtless, to the repugnance of juries to convict when death was to be the penalty; thus choosing the side of mercy rather than give a verdict according to evidence which would consign a fellow-creature to death. (Hear, hear.) I believe there are many persons in the counties where incendiarism prevails who are anxious for the restoration of capital punishments. Honourable gentlemen opposite may not wish it, but some of those they represent do so. This wish arises from the apprehensions under which they live; cruelty and fear generally go together. They see no remedy, and probably many of them make no efforts to discover one; they therefore turn to this desperate and inhuman punishment as a means of suppressing this appalling crime. The hanging of incendiaries will do no good; their crimes cannot be put down by halters and penal colonies. These have been tried before and they have failed, and they will fail now if tried. You know that your peasantry are poor, helpless, hopeless and despairing, and yet not one of you has ever proclaimed the sad condition of your labouring population; no, you have left that task to others, to my hon. friend here, whilst you have done all you could to conceal it. (Hear, hear.) You taunt us with a wish to produce discord in the rural districts; I throw back the imputation with the scorn it deserves. You have laboured long and hard to provoke discord in the north of England; your newspapers, and your hired agents have done their worst; whilst, on the other hand, we have had no meeting in your counties at which we have not explained the true principle of wages, endeavouring to soothe the minds of the labourers and to soften their feelings towards the farmers. But what has been your conduct to your tenantry? Instead of showing them how worthless is the policy of protection, and how rotten and precarious as a resource for their prosperity, you have taught them wholly to rely upon it. Instead of showing them how certainly Free Trade was approaching, you bade them rely on the *dictum* of the right honourable baronet. You have magnified the difficulties which Free Trade presents to them. As foolish nurses frighten children with tales of hobgoblins, so you have worked upon the ignorance and the fears of your tenantry, and your conduct in these respects has been as absurd as it will prove itself injurious. Surely your policy has had a sufficient trial; your farmers are not prosperous,—"protection to native industry" has placed your labourers in hovels, gaols, and union-houses. Try something else; it is not the halter and the convict-ship, but a little justice, a little fair dealing, a little common humanity, a little common sense, that your peasantry require at your hands. (Cheers.) Your labourers are every day increasing in numbers—you have no employment for them—what are you to do? The time is coming when you will know what to do: it may then be too late. (Hear, hear, hear.) Your ancestors four hundred years ago were as wise as you, and you are as benighted as they were. From a law passed in 1441, it appears the landowners of that day thought and said that, "the people engaged in husbandry were greatly endamaged by reason of bringing grain from beyond the seas to sell in this country, to keep down the price of the grain of this country." Our ancestors 400 years ago were barbarians compared with our present population, and yet you have not abandoned one of their most childish follies. They had some excuse, you have none; with them restriction was the rule in almost every case, with us it is the rule in almost no case but your own; for them Adam Smith had not written, and political economy was unknown; they had no leaders, as you have in the present Administration, from whom you receive lessons on common sense and common justice as fast as you are able to bear them; and yet, with all your advantages, you have not made a step in advance for 400 years. (Cheers and laughter.) But here you sit, representatives of the people, legislators of this great commercial empire, making laws for your own exclusive gain, and denying the most natural and incontestible right of all men, the right to live by their industry, to the great mass of those for whom you profess to legislate. You, the magnanimous aristocracy of Britain, you own the soil, you boast of ancestry, you amuse yourselves with much painting on the panels of your coaches, and yet you make laws in this House to enrich your own class at the expense of millions, to whom you deny all political power, and to whom you give no protection whatever. For all this you must one day answer, and the worst I wish you is, that, when the time of retribution shall come upon the landed proprietors, it may please Heaven to visit them with more of mercy than they have ever shown to the poor of this country. (Cheers.)

Colonel Rushbrooke said he would not imitate the excursiveness and prolixity of the hon. member who had just sat down, but would trouble the House with only one or two remarks. He had been charged with advocating the punishment of death with respect to this crime. He certainly did echo the expression contained in a petition which he presented in consequence of the great number of fires, thinking that it would have a good effect if capital punishment were allowed to hang over the heads of old offenders, and were to be exercised in some extreme cases. With respect to the lowness of wages being the cause of these fires, that certainly was not always the case, because in one district where the wages were highest a greater number of fires had taken place than in others where wages were lower. As the right honourable baronet had stated, many of these fires were the work of boys, and had nothing whatever to do with agricultural distress.

Mr. Bramston said, that if a commission were to be issued in the tone, character, and temper of the speeches of the two honourable gentlemen opposite, he was sure that the result of it would be, that we should have a general conflagration. But the reason, and the only reason why he rose, was to state the opinion of the judge who presided in the criminal side in the county of Essex—Mr.

Baron Parke—and no man was more able or more respected in his judicial character throughout the country. In his address to the grand jury, Mr. Baron Parke said, that "he regretted to find that the calendar contained many cases of a crime which was so common, not only in that but the adjoining counties, that of the destruction of barns, ricks of corn, and so forth; it was, however, some satisfaction to find, that, amongst the numerous instances of that description of crime, the great majority were not committed by agricultural labourers, on the ground that they might be supposed to be discontented with their masters or with the law, but the great bulk of such crimes were committed by children, by boys and girls of tender age." Such was the statement of Mr. Baron Parke. (Hear, hear.) The persons charged with the crime of incendiarism in the county of Essex were all in employment. (Hear, hear.) The honourable gentleman opposite supposed that the greater part of the fires had arisen from distress and poverty, but these children were living comfortably with their masters and mistresses. As he thought the commission proposed would be productive of more harm than good, as he believed it would rather create mischief than tend to calm and quiet the feelings of incendiarism which existed, he for one begged to thank the right honourable gentleman for having refused to grant such commission. (Hear, hear.)

Lord Henniker trusted, as one interested in this question, residing, as he did, in that part of the country where the incendiary conflagrations most prevailed, that he should be allowed to address a few observations to the House on the subject. He would not go into all the irrelevant questions adverted to by the honourable member for Manchester and the honourable member for Durham, but he would endeavour to keep the attention of the House to the question before it. It had been his duty to apply to the right honourable gentleman the Secretary for the Home Department on more than one occasion, and he begged to bear testimony to his willingness—his earnest desire—to promote an investigation, to ascertain the causes of, and apply a remedy to, this unfortunate spirit of incendiarism. (Hear.) He did not feel it his duty to make any motion on the subject in that House, because he had confidence in the right honourable gentleman, and for the same reason he should vote against the motion of the honourable gentleman opposite. He did expect, after the speeches which he had heard the honourable member for Manchester, on more than one occasion, make in the county which he had the honour to represent, speeches made at Conservative meetings in the county of Suffolk, when they were in the habit of promoting that which they thought would in any way benefit agriculture—whether they considered the interests of landlord, tenant, or labourer—he did expect that the honourable gentleman would now have expressed similar sentiments. (Hear.) Time was when the honourable gentleman would have joined in the praise which he must know to be due to the gentlemen of Suffolk for their anxiety to promote the welfare of the lower classes. (Hear.) He must know that the same feeling and the same efforts had continued, and been exercised in the same way as when he had been loud in their praise in former times. (Hear.) He (Lord Henniker) could make the House ring with applause, were he to read—but time would fail him—the number of institutions which had been established in the county of Suffolk for the benefit of the labouring class. The honourable member for Durham could know but little of the county of Suffolk, from the observations which he had made and the tone which he had assumed. A letter which had come into his hands, written by a person connected with one of the fire-offices in the county of Suffolk, stated that, so far as the information of the writer went, no man had a right to say that the fires had been frequent in proportion as the wages had been low, for in most places where they had happened he found the wages of agricultural labourers to be 9s. per week, and where the wages had been 7s. and 8s. per week, there had been a much less number of fires. (Hear.) The honourable member for Manchester had not, he believed, overstated the number of fires, but he thought he had made statements that could not be borne out by the facts. (Hear.)

Mr. Villiers said, that he thought that if the right honourable baronet had not before regretted the tone and manner in which he had met the motion of his honourable friend, when he charged him with calling for a needless and mischievous inquiry, he must feel that he had reason then for doing so, for the noble lord who sat behind him, and who represented the county of Suffolk, had just disclosed to the House, that such was his apprehension of the state of his county, such was the necessity which he considered the extent of the crime in question had caused for instant inquiry, that he had himself, in the discharge of his duty as a proprietor and a member of that county, gone to the right hon. gentleman to request him to institute some inquiry into the causes of its present condition (hear, hear); and he had farther told them that the only reason why he had not made the motion of the honourable member for Manchester himself, was that he had implicit confidence in the right honourable baronet the Secretary for the Home Department. This was the calm, deliberate, Conservative feeling of the noble lord who represented that county. (Hear, hear.) Why then, he asked, was his honourable friend (the member for Manchester)—who, in the absence of any investigation having been made, in the absence of any confidence in the right hon. baronet, a proprietor in the county himself, sharing in the same feeling with the noble lord, desirous of inquiry—to be precluded from making a motion to that effect in the House by the fear of the charge or imputation of deliberately promoting crime? (Hear, hear.) The right honourable gentleman certainly said that it did not become him to impute motives to his honourable friend. He wished he had thought it as little becoming in him to insinuate motives (hear, hear), for that was what he did: there could be no mistake as to the purpose of what he said; and, considering the character of his honourable friend's speech, a more unworthy insinuation he had never heard; for he ventured to say, that a speech more moderate, more confined to the points in question, or more careful in steering clear of those objections charged upon it, he had never heard. (Hear.) His honourable friend had a right as a proprietor, wishing to live well with his neighbours, as the right honourable baronet admitted he did, wishing that the truth should be elicited as to the cause of the odious crime that prevails in his county, with a view to its prevention in future—he had a right to ask the Government to attend to it, to set the public mind at ease on the subject—to ascertain its extent, and at least determine, if possible, what was or was not the cause of it. (Hear, hear.) Where would the objection of the right honourable baronet end if it was good in this case—that to mention a grievance tended to create discontent? It would go to stop agitation on any question which was always said to disturb the public mind; if so, what chance was there of a single evil or grievance ever being removed? Where was the single instance of this House volunteering any measure of public good that did not spring out of agitation, almost amounting to violence? (Hear, hear.) The right honourable gentleman had taken credit to himself for amending the poor law. Why had he done it? Why, he admitted he did it reluctantly, and why? because what he called the evils of the law had been so frequently pressed upon him (hear, hear); and whenever there had been any inquiry into the condition of any portion of the people, or any concessions of any good made by the Government, it had usually been introduced with an apology, that resistance was no longer possible. (Hear, hear). Every body had been charged in the same way as his hon. friend had that night. Was his honourable friend, moreover, the only person by whom, or was this House the only place in which these matters were discussed? Was there not in the two leading journals—the *Times* and *Chronicle*—at least a column and a half every other day referring to the state of these counties, and speculating upon the causes? (Hear.) If the discussion of the state of the poor was so mischievous, why did the right hon gentleman not reprove his friends on his own side of the House, who, in their addresses against the poor laws, made speeches far more inflammatory and violent, more calculated to excite discontent among the poor, than any that the member for Manchester had ever made. (Hear.) The hon. member for Durham had just explained that, by referring to this peculiar sensitiveness on the score of mischief, whenever the Corn Law is mentioned: touch and attack what else you please, and how you please, and nothing will be said; but allude to the evils of the Corn Law, and there is no crime that will not be imputed to you. Now, the fact was the Corn Laws made the application of his hon. friend to the Government peculiarly in season, for he and all those who complained of the impediments thrown in the way of trade, thereby depriving thousands of their bread, had a right at all times to invite public attention to the condition of the agricultural districts, seeing that the enormous mischiefs which were occasioned by these monopolies were defended, and defended solely on the ground of the great advantages they conferred on the labourers of the country. (Hear, hear, hear.) It was not him and his friends on that side who introduced irrelevant subjects into a discussion of this kind, if that law which makes food scarce is to be called irrelevant to an inquiry into the state of the poor (hear, hear.) It was those who defended this law, who invariably intruded upon a discussion of the Corn Law the blessings it entailed on the agricultural population (hear, hear); and when the whole country was roused by the unceasing and shocking distresses of these people, they had a right to remind gentlemen opposite of their plea for upholding a law so obviously maintained for their own interest (hear, hear), on the ground of its profit to the poor. (Hear, hear.) Such a plea required to be supported by the strongest evidence to gain the slightest credit, and might well deserve the character it obtained when it was rebutted by every day's and every hour's experience. (Hear, hear.) But the motion is proper at any time that it may be made, for the condition of the agricultural people in these counties is not new. (Hear.) It is one of the grounds for inquiry that it is traced to causes which have had existence subsequent to the distress in question. It is a common notion that the discontent of the people is referable to the new poor-law alone, which is not the whole truth. There was abundant evidence to show that the people were precisely in the condition they then were a few years before the new poor-law, and that then the evil was traced to the maladministration of the old poor-law. (Hear, hear, hear.) He would read a letter addressed from the county of Suffolk to the *Times* newspaper, in the year 1830, complaining of distress, and alluding especially to the cruelty and hardships of the old law. (Hear, hear.) The letter purported to be from a day labourer, and it seems made a great sensation in the county at the time. The letter says, "Sir,—As I hear that you always put into the paper anything likely to do good to poor people, I make bold to write to you. I am told that the great people talk of nothing but the riches, the happiness, and the flourishing state of the country; but, Sir, I see nothing but famine, misery, and distress; and I think that, if our Parliament men knew the real situation of myself and thousands of my fellow-labourers, they would do something for our relief. I am an industrious labourer, about thirty years of age, with a wife and three young children. I have regular work, which is more than half my poor neighbours can say. How then, it may be asked, come you to be distressed? Why, Sir, because my wages are not enough to put bread into the mouths of myself and family. The wages have been for a long time 7s. a week; and, as it is impossible to live upon this, I am obliged to beg every week at the vestry." He then proceeds to show the way in which his wages are made up out of the parish fund, and how the whole is applied for his maintenance, and says, "Thus, Sir, after having provided myself and family with a cottage to live in, and about one pound of bread for us to eat, I have 6d. a week left to supply us with clothes, cheese, potatoes, candles, and firing. Think, Sir, on the miserable, hopeless, half-starved condition of myself and family; and then, Sir, think of the far worse condition of nine-tenths of my neighbours, who have not such good health and regular work, or who have larger families than myself. Don't you think (he farther says) that for the employers to pay their labourers half their just wages, and to send them to the parish to beg a wretched pittance, is like defrauding them of their hire, and is what is called in the Bible 'grinding the faces of the poor;'" and after dwelling upon the effect on strength and health of the inadequate requital for their labour, and saying that half of them are supported in beggary, he says "he does not understand much about law making, but that he has heard that a law has been passed to keep up the price of corn for the good of the farmers, and that surely it would be but just that another law should be passed to make those who employed the labourer to give him wages in proportion to the rise in the price of food." (Hear, hear.) Now, the *Times* of the day in which that letter was inserted invites general attention to its contents in a leading article, and says:—"We know that the statements which it contains are true, and that they apply to a very large district in a quarter from which the letter comes, and to some thousands of parishes in England." (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Villiers) referred to it to show that this bad condition of the people in these districts was not new, and that, however angry the people might feel with the mode in which relief is given to them now, yet it could not be considered to be the cause of their distress. (Hear, hear.) The *Times* is right, and does much good in pointing to the wretched state of the rural population; but it points too exclusively to the new poor-law as the cause of that condition. (Hear, hear.) There was a deeper cause of their deterioration, and one which punishment—which the honourable member seemed to believe was the cure—will be far from removing. It would seem, when the gentlemen connected with the county hear that magistrates dare to commit, and juries dare to convict, that all is done that is required (hear), but that is far from satisfying the question. It is clear that the evil was not mending; for upwards of twenty years before the new poor-law, the people of these and other agricultural counties had been deteriorating; and unless the great fact of increasing numbers and diminishing employment was met boldly in the face, no amount of punishment, or no amount of caution in refusing inquiries of this kind, would stop the evil. (Hear, hear, hear.) In the year 1824 there was a committee in this House to inquire into the operation of the old poor-law, and persons the most competent to describe the real state of the rural population—clergymen, proprietors, overseers—all agreed in depicting the people as fearfully distressed, immoral, and discontented (hear, hear); the evil, then, existed at that time, continued still, and was getting worse; and it could not be otherwise while a law to impede trade and check the supply of food, and thus lessen the demand for labour, continued. (Hear, hear.) Since the prices became first so high, since it was attempted to continue them so by legislation, without making adequate provision for the wants of increasing numbers, so long have the people been sinking, and so long would the people sink (hear, hear, hear); and honourable gentlemen opposite should really reflect upon the fact they cannot dispute—that it was just at those intervals when the Corn Law fails in its purpose and there is abundance of food that those very people, those labourers whom they profess to care for, were well off. That the people were ill off in these counties was not disputed, he believed, out of this House, but he had heard it denied this evening. Well, grant it that they were not distressed; was it not ground for inquiry that the contrary was very generally believed; and was there any fear of inquiry, or of increased incendiarism, if they were well off? (Hear, hear.) It was said that these fires were caused by others, and not by the people of the county. Well, then, the people would be thankful to have that elicited, and there was no fear of exciting them to the commission of crime by inquiry. (Hear, hear.) He knew that divers reasons had been assigned for this offence in those counties, and he believed that in the insurance offices there was an idea that some of the persons insured were not so careful as they might be, for being fully insured offered a great temptation to their not being so; but the more conflict of opinion there was, the more doubt as to whether it was an act of despair on the part of the people in the hopelessness of their condition, surely the more reason was there for inquiry. In short, as coming from his honourable friend the member for Manchester, as a proprietor in that county, he could conceive no motion more appropriate, more called for, or more likely to be useful, and, presented as it was in a very careful speech as he thought, he should give it his cordial support. (Hear.)

Sir J. Tyrell said that the speeches on the other side had all the characteristics of incendiary speeches. Mr. Bright was just come up from an agitating tour in Kent; and the present discussion was only an adjourned debate upon the Corn Laws. He believed that much of the existing uneasiness was owing to the agitation of the Corn Laws by the late Government.—The House then divided upon Mr. Gibson's motion—

Against it	130
For it	41
Majority against it	89

[Mr. Bright, on Thursday evening, gave notice that early in the next session of Parliament he will move for a "select committee to inquire into the operation of the game laws; especially with reference to the consumption of agricultural produce by game, and to the effect of these laws upon the interests of the tenant-farmers, and the morality and well-being of the peasantry."]

Arson.—Mr. Ewart, M.P., has procured, at the expense of the House of Commons, a statement of the number of persons committed, convicted, and executed in England and Wales for the crime of arson since the year 1837, and for the six years preceding 1837. In the six years since 1837 (from 1838 to 1843 inclusive) the actual number of persons committed amounted to 344, of whom 117 were convicted, but not one executed. The punishment was, we believe, mitigated in the year 1837. In the six years preceding 1837 (that is, from 1831 to 1836 inclusive (the total number of persons committed for arson amounted to 493, of whom 119 were convicted, and 58 forfeited their existence on the scaffold. Thus it appears, on calculation, that from 1838 to 1843, after the mitigation of the penalty annexed to this offence, the centesimal proportion of convictions to commitments was 34.01, whilst from 1831 to 1836, when the extreme penalty remained in full force, the centesimal proportion was only 24.14. Of course it is Mr. Ewart's object to show, by statistical facts, that more convictions are likely to be obtained under the mitigated than under the old law, and so to advance another argument against the infliction of capital punishments.

Home-made Sugar.—It may not be generally known, that a small but certainly an increasing quantity of sugar is made in this country, from the farina of potatoes and other similar substances. By a recent parliamentary return we find, that in 1841, upwards of 2358 cwts. were made and charged with duty; in 1842, more than 3478 cwts.; and in 1843, 3843 cwts. 3 quarters. These amounts paid an excise duty respectively of £2971, £4382, and £4823; and the accountant-general adds a note, to the effect that this sugar was principally manufactured from potato farina, but sago, Indian wheat, and barley have been used to a very limited extent; the sugar made therefrom, however, could not be stated, as no separate account was taken at the time of charging the duty.—*Manchester Guardian.*

MEETINGS.

SALISBURY.

It having been announced that a deputation from the Anti-Corn-Law League would visit Salisbury on Wednesday, the 17th inst., preparations were made by the Free-Traders of the city to give them an honourable reception. A great number of the inhabitants accordingly repaired to meet the deputation on the London-road, and welcome them on their arrival. Messrs. George Thompson and Moore arrived about half-past three o'clock, and were received with loud cheers. A procession was immediately formed, preceded by music and various gay banners, which moved through the principal streets of the city, and proceeded to a meadow in the occupation of Mrs. Naish, of East Harnham, in the immediate vicinity of the Close, where a convenient hustings had been erected, and every accommodation had been made for the reception of the meeting. Mr. Cobden had been announced as one of the deputation, but that gentleman was prevented from attending by a domestic calamity. The proceedings of the meeting commenced a little before four o'clock.

Mr. SQUAREY, who was received with loud cheers, in proposing that Mr. John Lambert should take the chair, said he was happy to see so numerous and respectable an assembly met together on that occasion. He wished prosperity to the cause they had met to support, and trusted that they would agree together in their discussion of a question in which they were all deeply interested. Unless that question was repeatedly agitated, they must succumb to the monopolists: let them, however, do their duty to themselves and to their country, and stick together, and they were as certain to beat the monopolists as that the sun would rise on the morrow. (Cheers.)

Mr. FAWCETT seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. LAMBERT, in coming forward to open the proceedings, was received with loud cheering. He said he feared they had made an improper choice in selecting him as their chairman, since it was scarcely possible for an individual who had taken so active a part as he had done in the attempt to obtain a repeal of the Corn Laws, to act with that strict impartiality which the situation demanded. He was, however, resolved to discharge the duties of the office to the best of his ability. (Cheers.) The question they were met to determine was, whether the great principle of Free Trade should be carried into effect—whether the labouring, industrious man should be enabled to exchange his labour for the commodities he wanted, or whether he should be barred from the enjoyment of that privilege by the landed proprietors. (Cheers.) The case of the Corn Laws came under discussion in 1815, when these laws were first proposed. At that period the freeholders of the county of Wilts met together in the Council Chamber (they could then obtain the use of that building for their public meetings), when 14,000 names were appended to a petition, praying that so infamous a bill might not be passed into a law. (Cheers.) In that remarkable petition it was stated that, at a period when they expected to enjoy the blessings of peace, attempts were making to inflict upon them the sufferings of war, by raising the price of corn. (Cheers.) This petition was signed by George Eyre, high sheriff of the county, he (Mr. Lambert) believed the father of the present Mr. Eyre, of Warrens. At this meeting it was decided that the landowners ought to reduce their rents one-third. (Cheers.) At the same period, too, able letters on the subject of the Corn Laws appeared in the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, signed by J. Bleeck, of Warminster—whether the same gentleman who spoke at a recent meeting in the Assembly-rooms of that city in support of the Corn Laws, he was unable to determine. (A laugh.) In these letters the Corn Laws were strongly opposed, as calculated in their effect to oppress the poor, and their supporters were described as actuated no doubt by good motives, but as suffering under the errors of self-delusion. (Cheers and laughter.) After some further remarks, Mr. Lambert expressed his regret at the unavoidable absence of Mr. Cobden—a gentleman whom, whether viewed in his public or his private character, he regarded as a truly good and honest man—which absence had been occasioned by his having to attend the funeral of a near and dear relative—and concluded, amid great applause, by introducing Mr. Moore to the meeting.

Mr. ROBT. R. MOORE and Mr. G. THOMPSON then severally addressed the meeting in able and eloquent speeches, which were heard with every mark of attention, and warmly and repeatedly applauded.

Mr. FAWCETT moved the following resolution, which was seconded, and carried by acclamation:—

"That it is the opinion of this meeting, that all prohibitory duties and restrictions on commerce ought to be totally and immediately abolished; and that, with the view of accomplishing this just object, this meeting pledges itself to promote, by all peaceable and constitutional means, the return of men to Parliament who will zealously labour to promote the principles of Free Trade, not in the abstract, but in practical operation."

Thanks were then voted to the Chairman; and the meeting separated with three hearty cheers for Free Trade.

The party then repaired in procession to the pleasure-grounds attached to the Rose and Crown Inn, at Harnham, where ample provision had been made for a tea-meeting, at which 600 persons sat down. The viands were unexceptionable, the speeches delivered were eloquent and appropriate, and the events of the day terminated with a cheerful dance on the green, which was kept up with much spirit and animation.—*Abridged from the Salisbury Journal.*

YORK.—On Monday last, a deputation from the National Anti-Corn-Law League, consisting of George Thompson, Esq., the popular advocate for the extinction of slavery; Thomas Plint, Esq., of Leeds; and Robert R. Moore, Esq., delivered addresses on Free Trade, in the Concert-room in this city, to a numerous audience. On the motion of Mr. Henry Lyons (the Secretary of the York Anti-Corn-Law Association), seconded by Mr. Joseph Swale, the chair was taken by Mr. Caleb Fletcher. Mr. Plint, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Thompson then severally addressed the meeting in able and argumentative speeches. Votes of thanks were passed to the deputation, and also to the chairman, after which the meeting dispersed about ten o'clock.

HULL.—On Wednesday evening last, the Town-hall, Hull, was crowded to excess, to hear addresses in favour of Free Trade by George Thompson, Esq. (the celebrated anti-slavery advocate), Robt. R. Moore, Esq., of London, and Thomas Plint, Esq., of Leeds. Never was a more respectable, enthusiastic, and unanimous meeting held in this town on any public question. The side galleries were filled with ladies, for whom tickets had been reserved; and we observed on the platform, and in the body of the hall, Mr. Alderman Thompson, Mr. Alderman Cookman, Mr. Alderman Atkinson, Mr. Alderman Brownlow; Councillors Herbert Seaton, John Foster, T. Watson, H. Blundell, Jesse Malcolm, B. Tapp, W. Bettison, John Lovitt, Jos. Jones, Gunnell, Sissison; Dr. Gordon, J. Petchell, Esq. (sheriff); Messrs. W. E. Jalland, Barrick, Gill, W. Blenkin, Gibson, Hodgson, W. Mitchell, T. N. Jarratt, Robert Liddell, W. Ayre, jun., John Ostler, T. Meggitt, W. H. Bell, Viccars, Reckitt, Jones, jun., Waterworth Hall, Staniforth, Mitton, Meyer, J. Richardson, James Bowden, J. Tapp, B. L. Johnson, Carvill, R. Thorp, E. Thompson, P. Lowther, D. Thorpe, W. Dales, Rev. G. Lee, Dr. Firth, Captain Meggitt, Captain Ash, &c. &c. The speakers came on the platform at seven o'clock, and were greeted on their appearance with loud cheers from the vast assembly. After silence had been obtained, Mr. Alderman Cookman moved that Mr. Alderman Thompson should take the chair. Dr. Gordon seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation. Mr. Alderman Thompson, after some introductory remarks, said—"I have been lately examined before a committee of the House of Commons with reference to the depressed state of the shipping interest. I was there asked what remedy I proposed in order to remove the existing depression. I proposed what I have just now told you, to let the working-classes have the means of purchasing all the articles they required as cheap as the labourers of other countries can do. (Cheers.) That can only be done by taking the duty off those articles of import which at present are liable to duty. (Cheers.) One of the members of the committee asked me how then I would pay the revenue? I answered, 'Let those who have property to protect pay for its protection (cheers); let those who have property to watch pay the watch-rate' (applause); and until this is done the trade and commerce of this country will never be placed on a sound footing, will never be in a healthy state." (Loud cheers.)—Messrs. Moore, Plint, and Thompson then addressed the meeting in eloquent and powerful speeches.—*Abridged from the Hull Advertiser.*

Our contemporary, the *Kentish Independent*, gives a full and excellent report of Mr. Bright's speech at the Gravesend meeting, held last week, and which we have already noticed.

DEMORALIZED CONDITION OF THE PEASANTRY.

We do not hear quite so much now-a-days about the misery and vice generated and fostered in mills and factories, and other commercial establishments, as we were wont. There is somewhat less talk about the ignorance of the *manufacturing* population, and less sympathy expressed for their deplorable condition. The public begin to suspect that they have been rather gulled in these matters; and that the crusade against ignorance and hard labour which was declared chiefly against the territories of the "cotton lords" might, with equal if not greater propriety, have been directed to those districts which were believed to be the envied abodes of rural felicity, where the rule of the patriarchal aristocrat was believed to be distinguished and blessed by the peace, plenty, and orderly conduct of his happy and contented dependents. The fabrics of the manufacturers were wont to draw forth the indignant denunciations of the lords of the soil, who delighted to paint vivid and melancholy pictures of the horrid effects resulting from crowded flats, and indiscriminate mingling of sexes in the pursuit of the same employments. So great was the pious wrath of what has generally been considered the upper classes at the scenes of suffering and immorality which these great establishments were supposed to contain and encourage, that they solicited and obtained from the Legislature power to enter into any of them where they chose to push their discoveries; and having zealously ransacked every corner where they supposed a crime, or a misery, or an abuse might lurk, they have arranged and paraded before Parliament what in their wisdom they deemed to be such, and Parliament, with equal wisdom and humanity, have passed a bill for their prevention and cure. We think Parliament did their duty by halves. While they were at it they might have abolished labour and its consequent hardships, then and in all time coming. This would have been little less correct in principle than the bill which they have passed, or any one where, in legislating for grievances, effects are taken for their causes, and where symptoms are misunderstood for a radical disease.

A few years ago, when a great portion of the manufacturing population *struck*, and the cry was a fair day's wages for a fair day's work, there were not wanting rabid politicians who put the blame on the masters, and who averred that the use of machinery robbed the working man of the natural market for his labour. There were others of the agricultural interest who scrupled not to aver that the ambition of capitalists had, by overproduction, glutted the markets of the world, and caused a reaction at home, which cheated the labourer of his hire. We mean not to entertain for a moment any of these absurd and mischievous propositions. We wish to know what the agriculturists say now, to the scenes which are enacted in *their* districts,—what they assume to be the cause, and what they propose to be the cure.

Has machinery lighted the torch of the incendiary? Has overproduction fed the flames in Kent and Sussex? Does agricultural speculation fill the poor-houses with starving labourers? The factory owners were compelled to educate their working people: who is to enlighten the ignorant—the brutally ignorant agricultural population? We were bad enough some years ago in the factory districts—and we vindicate not the insane strikes of the labouring classes; but we have never had conduct so diabolical as that now exhibited in the districts of the "Corn Lords"—the systematic deadly hatred which the servant bears to his master—the fiendish rejoicings of all the lower classes at the destruction of property, which are to be read of in every English journal. A correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* writes as follows:—"Of the behaviour of the people who crowded to the fire from all parts of Walter Belschamp and adjoining parishes, nothing was complained of as regarded the apparent anxiety of the men at first to save all that could be saved. The *women* who crowded about behaved differently; they jeered and laughed at the men who worked at the engines or otherwise exerted themselves, and *testified their delight in loud shouts of laughter when any part of the buildings fell in and blazed up.* Considerable damage was done to the growing crops of barley and wheat by the crowds, who for several hours *amused themselves*, men chasing women and women chasing men, all rolling together, and shouting, in the smoke and red glare of the ruins. At this period one or more of those men who had been first at the fire, and had carried away gates, palings, &c., in apparent eagerness to save them, attracted notice by their conduct in *obstructing those who were still working at the ruins.*"

Misery among the lower classes springs from the same source whether in town or country—whether in the cotton-mill or in the corn-field; and the radical cause of it in this country is the fact *that labour cannot command a sufficient price.* The population is daily increasing, and a corresponding increase to the field of their employment is denied by the Legislature. So long as this denial is persisted in, we expect to hear not only of a continuation of the dreadful conflagrations which at present are disgracing England, but of greater sufferings among the starving people, and of greater enormities committed in their despair. Judge, jury, and hangman may "do their duty," but they will not extinguish the torch of the incendiary until he himself and his family are allowed to earn their bread.

Are the people in England to be demoralized like the people of Ireland? Are midnight meetings and midnight murders to become the offspring of unjust legislation on this side of the Channel, as they have already on the other? Will our Legislature indeed persist in their hardened policy, until indignation and revenge are systematized; and until the hatred of the lower classes, already fearfully excited, become inextinguishable? These things have been gravely put to the House of Commons by one of the most dignified of its order. Lord Howick said that, "when once the persuasion shall become general that those in whose hands political power is now placed shall pervert that power to their own benefit—to the injury of others—when once that persuasion gets possession of the mind of the great body of the people, THE DAYS OF OUR EXISTING INSTITUTIONS ARE NUMBERED."

Colonel Sibthorp said, "WHEN IT DOES."

Some time ago Sir Edward Knatchbull blundered out an unfortunate piece of intelligence for his party. We think the gallant colonel even more indiscreet. He admits, by his emphatic remark, that his party hold their present tenure only by the ignorance of the people, and he relies upon its continuance. Let him look round about him and consider how long they are likely to remain passive.—*Dundee Advertiser.*

ADVANCE OF WAGES IN BOLTON.—The operative cotton-spinners of Bolton, considering the revival of trade sufficiently established to warrant an application on their part for an advance of 10 per cent. upon their wages, being the amount to which they were reduced in consequence of the depression, that body gave notice to their employers a month ago, that, unless the advance was given, they would leave their work on the 13th of July. Up to Friday night no arrangement had been made, though the masters that day had made a proposal to meet the men half-way, by making an advance of 5 per cent. On Friday, the 12th, thirty-five delegates from the various mills in the town and neighbourhood, met at Mr. Suttle's, the Crown Inn, Deansgate, to take the proposal of the masters into consideration. It was then decided by 24 to 11, that the offer should be rejected, unless the masters would include the price of gas in the advance. The delegates were instructed to acquaint their masters with this resolution, and to ask for their concurrence. This was done on Saturday morning, when the masters expressed their determination not to go beyond an advance of 5 per cent., especially as they had no assurance that the country masters would make any advance at all. This objection was urged upon the delegates by several masters who are very popular with their workpeople, and its force was felt and acknowledged by the spinners. The question remaining thus unsettled, and the week in several of the mills being completed on Friday night, the spinners in these establishments struck on Saturday morning, and remained out that day. On Saturday night, however, a meeting of delegates and others was held at the Crown Inn, to determine upon what course should be pursued. There were 69 spinners present; and, after a protracted discussion, the question was decided by a show of hands. For adhering to the original demand of 10 per cent., 6; for an advance of 5 per cent. and gas free, 30; for accepting the proposal of the masters of 5 per cent., 33. It was, therefore, decided to go to work on Monday morning, at the advance offered by the masters, and thus, to the credit of both parties, the dispute was amicably settled.

ODD FELLOWS.—The growing importance of this body is not generally understood. At the Selby anniversary last week, where Dr. Hook, of Leeds, preached, himself a brother and warm friend of the order, it was stated after dinner, in his presence and with his concurrence, that the funds of the order consisted of upwards of one million of money!—the supposed income £230,000. The increase of members for the last year had been 25,000!

SALE OF SPANISH BULLOCKS.—The sale of the oxen brought from Corunna took place on Friday last. The company was numerous, the buyers many, and the bidding of a very spirited character. We are sorry to find that the result of this sale will not operate as an immediate inducement for the importation of another such lot of cattle, the cost of bringing them from the country sales to the water side, and shipping them in Spain, and the attendant expense of freight, warehouses, and keep, on this side of the water, with the duty, having considerably lessened the speculator's profit. Though it was admitted by many competent judges that the bullocks were not of an inferior description, they have fallen very short in appearance of the sleek, finely-grown Devonshire cattle. They had evidently been deteriorated in apparent worth by the voyage, though short (only five days), and having remained in cellars for five or six days on dry food—the fields in our neighbourhood not affording sufficient pasturage to renovate them. Forty-seven (the whole) were sold, realizing cash to the amount of £590 1s., or £12 11s. per head, or at about 50s. per cwt. As a proof of the determination of butchers to buy, the 47 bullocks were sold in two hours and a half. The bullocks averaged in weight about five cwt. each.—*Plymouth Journal.*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, July 24, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

William Joynson, St. Mary Cray, Kent		£10	0	0
Gravesend.	Robert Oakes	1	0	0
	Charles Spencer	1	0	0
	Mr. White, draper, High-street	1	0	0
	Jonathan West, Windmill-street	1	0	0
	John Nightingale, Bath-street	1	0	0
Samuel Cox, 13, Weymouth-street, Portland-place		2	0	0
Dr. Woodfall, 16, Great Dean's-yard, Westminster		1	1	0
William Chalfont, stationer, Kennington-cross		0	5	0
Benjamin Palmer, 422, Strand		0	4	0
W. B.		0	2	6
James Scott, Yelland Conyers, Lancaster		0	2	6
Small subscriptions		1	6	0
Samuel Greg and Co., Manchester		265	0	0
G. T. Stevenson, Queen street, Dudley		1	1	0
J. Kenyon, All Saints place, C.-on-M., Manchester		0	5	0
R. A., a Friend to the Cause, Docking, Norfolk		0	1	0
Thomas Gibson, Tofts Combs, Biggar, N.B.		1	0	0
Robt. Paterson, Lindsay Lands,	do.	1	0	0
James Bell, brewer,	do.	1	0	0
Robt. Johnson, merchant,	do.	1	0	0
Robt. Pairman, do.,	do.	1	0	0
Small subscriptions from Droylsden, per Alfred Andrew		0	8	1
Joshua Crook and Son, Newport-square, Bolton		50	0	0

ERRATUM.

In the Subscription List in the LEAGUE, No. 42, *for* "Joseph Jesper, Birmingham, 5s.," *read* "Mrs. Stokes, Birmingham, 5s."

THE COMPOUND VOTERS QUESTION.

The Brighton Free-Trade Association having determined to take measures for obtaining a legal decision as to whether occupiers of premises of the annual value of £10 or more, whose rates are compounded for by their landlords, have a right to be inserted in the list of voters, the initiatory step was taken when the last rate was laid of serving a notice upon Mr. Alger, one of the churchwardens, signed by Henry Cowley, whose rates were compounded for, requiring his name to be inserted in the column of occupiers in the rate-book. This not being done, an information was laid against Mr. Alger for refusing to obey an order of the poor-law commissioners, and he was summoned to answer the charge before the magistrates on Saturday last. The magistrates on the bench were Major Allen, Captain Heaviside, J. Borrer, Esq., and J. C. Strode, Esq. Mr. Creasy, the barrister, was engaged in support of the information, and Mr. Somers Clarke, the solicitor to the parish officers, appeared on their behalf.

Mr. Upperton, the clerk, read the information of Henry Cowley, which stated that William Alger did, on the 11th of May, being then one of the overseers, wilfully disobey a certain order of the poor-law commissioners dated 22nd June, 1837, which order directs that every rate made for the relief of the poor shall be made in the form set forth in the schedule thereunder written, and which said schedule contains the name of the occupier of the premises rated; that he, Cowley, caused a notice to be served upon Alger that he occupied a certain house in Spring-gardens, and thereupon claimed to have his name inserted in the list of occupiers; and that in a rate made on the 11th May the said William Alger had disobeyed such order by neglecting to insert the name of the said Henry Cowley as the occupier of the said house, whereby he had forfeited a penalty not exceeding £5. After a good deal of fencing Mr. Alger admitted that he had received the notice, and had refused to put Mr. Cowley's name on the rates. Mr. Alger was fined in the mitigated penalty of 1s. with costs; the latter he refused to pay, but was warned by one of the presiding magistrates that if he did not, a distress warrant would be issued against him.—*Abridged from the Brighton Guardian.*

NOTES TAKEN BY A TRAVELLER IN THE SUMMER OF 1844.

No. IV.

Ghent, July 1.

Ostend is too insignificant in extent, and Bruges too retired and tranquil, to make the impression upon a stranger's mind that is expected from a Belgian city. The antique appearance of the streets of Bruges, deserted as they are, might lead one to fancy that the old citizens with their short cloaks and rapiers, together with their dames of high-crowned hats and formidable ruffs, were pent up still within them, and must appear with every opening door. The city stands like the scene of a play long since acted, and all but the real *dramatis personæ* seem out of place within its walls. Ghent presents a very different appearance. The greater part of the town is new, and is built either in the modern French style, or in the Italian fashion. The dark brick walls with large windows are rarely met with that form the standing type in Holland, and but a few buildings of ancient date have any pretensions to picturesque effect. Amongst these is the well-known house of the *Bateliers*, or boatmen, which has outlived the craft that erected it. The Town-house preserves something of the rich Gothic exterior, but it looks somewhat displaced amidst the white fronts and modern ornaments that surround it. Ghent belongs evidently to the present age; and the feelings and tendency of the exertions of its inhabitants are to go with the times, and share in their fortunes. The difference in this respect between Ghent and Bruges is mainly to be attributed to the circumstance that Ghent has long been a manufacturing centre. Bruges in the middle ages depended on its trade—the richest source of profit. The manufactures that grew up in and around it were luxurious in their nature, such as could only be indulged in by the wealthy. The tapestry of Arras, of which a great deal was made at Bruges; rich dyes for cloths, that were left to be spun and woven in England; works of art, lace;—these were the products of the capital of West Flanders...Its domestic industry would become again of a luxurious nature if another Philip of Burgundy were now to open the harbours of Flanders to all the civilized world with the same hospitality that gave the town its wealth in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Ghent was at all times renowned for its linen cloths. The weavers were the mightiest guild of its corporation, and they often sent numerous armies into the field under their own banner. And yet Ghent, in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, was less important than Louvain as a manufacturing town. Louvain, however, declined in importance more rapidly than Ghent, which place, from its position between the waters of the Scheldt and the Lys, was almost impregnable, and could only be reduced by famine. A city in those early days consisted of an agglomeration of corporations, civil or religious, not merely boasting of an existence in parchment records, or in meetings in guildhalls, but each shut up in a little enclosure of its own, whose limits were carefully watched by guards against intruders by night. It frequently happened that one guild would declare a feud against another in the same city; and the power of the chief magistrate was null, unless he was able to secure the support of each of these little communities. A last monument of this state of things is shown in the great *Béguinage* of Ghent, which is situated on an island in the Lys. A single bridge communicates with the town across the narrow stream that surrounds the island, which contains eighteen conventional houses, a hospital, and a church. The buildings are of brick, and are not very ancient. But thus were all the trades and clerical establishments formerly shut up. In this manner the houses belonging to the Hanseatic League and the factories of other tolerated merchants were enclosed, each forming a little *imperium in imperio*, governed by its own laws, and mixing but little with the inhabitants of the town. In this manner we must represent to ourselves the wards of London originally to have been, near which the Tower, and afterwards the Temple, several religious communities, and the Steelyard, or place of deposit for the Hanseatic merchants, protected the interests of the several tolerated or associated interests. Such little fortresses or factories were held especially by the Hanseatic traders at Lisbon, Bergen, and in many Baltic cities, as well as in England and in Flanders. Whoever joined a town—and many adventurous nobles entered into the citizens' bond in Belgium, Italy, and Germany—was obliged to enter one of these corporations, which had always full employment for those who were fond of fighting either in their domestic feuds or in escorting their wares by sea or by land. It is remarkable that, as late as the celebrated *Joyeuse Entrée*, or recognition of the privileges of the people of Flanders and Brabant by Wenceslaus, of Luxembourg, in 1356, no mention is made of the nobles as forming a separate class in either land. The *right* of the *cities* and of the *country* to control the acts of the sovereign, even in family arrangements, is by this document specially acknowledged. The towns of the Low Countries were then in their most flourishing condition; and their sovereignty was of such importance that Wenzel's brother, Charles IV., had been chosen by the electors of the empire to fill the throne of the Cæsars, to the exclusion of the house of Hapsburg, in which dignity Wenceslaus followed him. The respect for trade which these dukes carried with them into Bohemia, the sovereignty of which they inherited, and their tact in dealing with rich and independent burghers, whose thriving condition was their boast, raised Prague, within a short period, to be the capital of the Germanic empire, and caused it to rival these western cities, although situated so far inland.

Ghent long owed its wealth and consequence to the linen manufacture, of which it formed the centre, and which did not depend upon the whims of sovereigns at home, or on the progress of rivals abroad, so much as trade necessarily does. The revocation of the Edict of Nantes added the superiority in woollen manufactures to the linen trade, and the more easily that wool had always been a staple manufacture of the Belgian cities. Finally, when cotton was introduced as an article of general demand in Europe, the manufacturers of Ghent, who had a population prepared by habit for factory undertakings, found no difficulty in imitating the processes invented in England, and in making their city an indispensable source of supply for the continent of Europe. The long interruption of all direct communication with England under the reign of Napoleon prolonged the palmy days of spinning and weaving by hand; and the fostering protection of the Dutch King encouraged the introduction of machinery after the peace had restored the communication with England, but had opened new markets in the East for the products of Flemish industry.

Amidst all the political and industrial changes, it is easy to trace the spirit that I alluded to in a former letter, and which affords a valuable clue to the history of these cities. Nothing could destroy the commercial spirit (if the French *esprit de commune* may be so translated) that has ever predominated amongst them. Ghent is for its citizens what Rome or Hamburg is for the inhabitants of the banks of the Elbe and the Tiber—a centre of affections and calculations that have scarcely yet learned to stray as far as Bruges on the west, or Antwerp on the east. Napoleon, although an Italian, could not understand, or would not enter into such sympathies, or his gigantic plans would have met with valuable aid in this part of Europe. But, even in a French empire, Ghent, Bruges, Brussels, Mechlin, and Antwerp were not to be sunk in the departments of the Lys or the Scheldt, just as they claimed an independent existence in the days of the German empire, under Maria Theresa and Joseph II. These Belgian cities may see their trade ruined, their political lot may transfer them from one rule to another, and they will prove rebellious or remain passive; but, to ensure the co-operation that they still can give, the independence of their corporations must be respected—the citizens must be acknowledged to be capable and free agents. They have from the earliest time been educated in feelings of distrust of continental rule, and the homely standard of local advantage has, as yet, found no other to supersede it in the minds of practical Flemings.

At the moment of my arrival at Ghent, an unusual degree of animation could be traced amongst all classes. In this week an event of no small importance for the commercial portion of this little world is to take place. The King is coming to lay the first stone of a large bonding warehouse near the basin in which the Canal of Terneuse, the shortest communication to the sea, terminates. Next week is to be one of fêtes, in which it is hoped that the manufacturers and traders will condescend to join. On Leopold's last visit he could persuade none of the manufacturers to meet him, and an original *mauvaise plaisanterie* amounted almost to an insult in the theatre of the town. The rich citizens all took boxes for the night when the King declared his intention of going to the play; but all staid at home with their families, and left him with his aides-du-camp to enjoy the performance in solitude.

Still the King is too well aware of the importance of securing the co-operation of the manufacturers, if anything is to be made of his new kingdom; and, as their resentment may be supposed to be mollified by the reflection that the old state of things cannot easily be restored, it is supposed that they will lend their aid to the improvement of the present circumstances. Ghent was the city that lost most by the separation of Belgium from Holland; and the sturdy manner in which its citizens of the higher classes expressed their loyalty to the King contrasts remarkably with the impression that has unaccountably obtained in many countries, and even in England, that the manufacturers are not conservative in their inclinations. The manufacturing interest is one that bears less a vacillating policy than the landed interest. It demands a higher grade of security of property, because its investments are more exposed to destruction. For this reason landowners are not fit judges of the interests of manufacturers; and the citizens of Ghent appeal from the decisions of the Cabinet, and even of the Legislature of Brussels. Their protest consists in inactivity whenever it is called forth; but as this inactivity is a dangerous thing where a dense population is demanding employment, and in a small country its effects are immediately visible in the revenue, kings and councillors are obliged to recognise the position which the manufacturer is politically called to occupy, and to meet him on the ground he has the power to choose.

The establishment of the great entrepôt at Ghent holds out the prospect of adding maritime commerce to the present sources of industry in this important city. It is practically a confession that an indemnification for the loss of a monopoly must be sought and may be found in an extension of trade. That the festivities and even the presence of the Monarch will not induce these mistrustful citizens to embark in wild shipping speculations, whose success or failure lies in the hands of priests and nobles at Brussels, may be anticipated. The entrepôt at Ghent may therefore, in the present spirit of the Chambers in the capital, be expected to remain as empty as the splendid canal on which it stands, and the completion of which was effected by the personal interference of the King of Holland. It is a real triumph on the part of the present Monarch that his personal qualities, his moderation, and his tact in conciliating rival parties have made it possible for him to appear on the banks of this canal, and assume the office of inaugurator on this occasion. It must strike the least reflecting observer that this appearance of his ought to be significant of a new system. If the canal reminds the "Gantois" of the monopoly of the Dutch colonial market, to which it was intended to facilitate their access, the entrepôt should proclaim the larger view of trade, from which the manufacturers would not shrink if they were only assured of its continuance. But how would the proclamation tally with the recent vote of the Chambers at Brussels? Can we wonder that these citizens shut themselves up within the circle of their local interests, and remain passive in debates that nearly affect their natural occupations, when every schoolboy who has interest enough in a village to be elected to a seat in the Chambers, and every descendant of a privileged family assumes the right of prescribing in matters that can only be understood by those who have inherited the wisdom of experience, and whose studies have been practical as well as theoretical. The King's visit to Ghent cannot be otherwise than productive of good. He will see that a powerful interest in the country demands consideration, and can only be aided by a liberal policy, both foreign and domestic. He cannot give them back what they sacrificed to place him on the throne. They have, therefore, the strongest claim on his care, and he will find that he is securing by far the steadiest supports of his crown in restoring his manufacturing cities to their former prosperity.

It will, perhaps, be said that these observations are uncalled for; that the Belgian manufactures are flourishing, and are even rivalling our own upon the Continent. That the limited markets which are opened to the manufacturer under the present duties are crowded with Belgian as well as English wares is an undoubted fact, but one which in no way invalidates what has been said. But were the present restrictions that now impede trade removed—were the markets even of Europe opened—the demand would be so great that all that Belgium, England, and the other manufacturing states could send would be insufficient to supply them. Instead, then, of measuring the improvement of manufactures by the establishment of single companies and solitary steam-engines, Belgium would count its progress by the rise of new cities, as in the middle ages, and as England did before the close of the first quarter of the present century. Russia, with its sixty millions—Austria, with its forty millions of rich and unsupplied inhabitants, now kept in a state of artificial privation—these countries present the field to open which Belgium would have done well to persevere in the freest communication with every country of Europe, and to have resisted the return to the principle of monopoly, from which the Belgian manufacturers, like our own, are suffering.

I have already noticed the apparent error in the measures adopted to secure a monopoly of the supply of flax to the Belgian weavers. The first effect has been to diminish the cultivation of the plant, to which the landlords are most indebted for their high rents. The true mode of keeping the flax at home is the systematic cultivation and extension of the mode of dressing it, in which the Belgians are now superior, but are in danger of losing the art by having their attention directed to a factitious protection, which is to supersede the necessity of this further exertion. Free trade in this, as in every other case, is the spur to improvement. Instead of robbing Ghent of its linen mart, it would convert its coarse cloths into lawns and cambrics, by the force of the principle that the more abundant and cheaper the coarse wares are furnished, the greater will be the demand for fine stuffs. The housewife who has to pay dear for sheets and towels will spend the less in handkerchiefs and body linen. In the same course of deduction the farmer arrives at the important result which has so long been overlooked by political economists, that the value of a crop of flax must be in an inverse ratio to that of a crop of corn, and must rise in price as the other declines. No decrease in the consumption of linen can be proved since the introduction of cotton, that has relieved so many wants, and proved a source of health and comfort to millions. Nor need the people of Flanders fear any

rivalry in this their peculiar branch of industry, if no mischief be done by those measures that are so falsely called protective.

It is so important that the true movement of Free Trade should be fully comprehended by every one, that I must dwell a little upon the official statement published here as the result of a long and minute parliamentary inquiry into the state of the linen trade. It was calculated that, in 1840, there were employed in the linen manufacture :—

	In towns.	The country.	Total.
Families	1861 ..	33,989 ..	35,850
Individuals	9525 ..	171,732 ..	181,257
Persons preparing flax ..	3522 ..	43,083 ..	46,605
" spinning (at once)	2546 ..	66,035 ..	68,580
" weaving (do.)	785 ..	20,300 ..	21,085

	In towns.	The country.	Total.
Spun annually	328,636 lbs.	7,647,506 lbs.	7,976,152 lbs.
Wove annually	898,903 metres	9,088,151 m.	9,987,054 m.
Flax annually steeped ..	1,492,600 lbs.	32,256,356 lbs.	33,748,956 lbs.
Flax annually dressed ..	1,137,722 lbs.	13,324,980 lbs.	14,462,702 lbs.

It is clear that, between all these numbers, there must exist a connexion; that if weaving could be cheapened and facilitated there would be more demand for spinning; that when spinning improved there would be more to do in growing and preparing the flax. The first condition of an improved sale would be a reduction in price; the second is, then, an increased supply. Thus the increased demand in every antecedent grade of the industrial chain is the cheapening of the labour of that which follows it. Another process, however, runs parallel to this augmentation of supply, which is the improvement of quality. The wages of all parties employed depend very much upon the quality of the work. We have seen that the value of flax upon the field is highest in those districts where the dressing is best understood. For the wages of the dresser there is a margin between £60 per ton, which is often paid in England, and £200, which is sometimes obtained in Belgium. In the same manner the yarn for fine lawns and cambrics brings a very different price from the coarse qualities. But the condition of an increased demand for these fine articles is the abundance and cheapness of the coarse goods. Hence the true receipt for improving the condition of the linen trade in Belgium is the abundance of machine-spun and machine-woven wares, whether produced at home or imported from abroad. The exclusion of cheap goods will keep the linen manufacture in a backward state, in which not only there is no improvement in profits and wages, but the competition of machinery is most felt. The truth of this is exhibited by the markets of Flanders. The number of pieces inspected was, in

West Flanders, in 1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.
Pieces of linen 135,122 ..	112,225 ..	121,508 ..	102,266
East Flanders—			
Pieces of linen — ..	117,361 ..	102,315 ..	97,086

Thus in every year there was a perceptible diminution in the quantity of linen sold, notwithstanding the increase that took place in the spinning mills worked by machinery, of which Belgium now has twelve that move 64,000,000 spindles. The number of wheels worked by hand average, it seems, 68,581, in constant employment. Thus the spinning power had multiplied twofold, and yet both the production of flax and of linen has declined. How are we to solve this problem otherwise than by supposing that weaving has remained too dear to allow of increased consumption proportioned to the increased power of spinning, or that cotton goods are not sufficiently cheap and abundant to allow of an increased consumption of the dearer article.

This seeming paradox is confirmed by the condition of the cotton factories at Ghent, of which several are in full activity, but produce only coarse articles for the consumption of the peasantry. The finer goods that are displayed in the shop windows are all of French or of English manufacture. Since 1836 this manufacture may be said to be stationary. In 1833 the weight of raw cotton imported was 6,171,231 kilogrammes of two lbs. each; in 1842 the importation was but 6,148,237 kilogrammes. Supposing the protecting duties to secure to the Belgian manufacturer the supply of the home market for coarse goods, he does not yet furnish more than 3lbs. per head for the consumption of his fellow-citizens annually.

In the closest juxtaposition with these protected and not improving manufactures, Belgium affords the most valuable instance that the history of industry presents of the triumph of one branch that by its nature defies protection. I mean, of course, its thread lace, of which more in my next letter from Brussels.

I must, however, remark that the little progress which manufactures are making in these their ancient seats is in no way to be ascribed to want either of activity or of capital. Whenever a plan is started for the embellishment of the town, or the construction of necessary buildings, the money is immediately forthcoming. The recent expenses of the private clubs, in building and gardens, are on the most liberal scale, and the new Palais de Justice is one of the finest buildings in Belgium. The immense hall in this building contains too characteristic a trait to be omitted. An exhibition of modern pictures has been prepared to celebrate the King's arrival. Amongst these the most conspicuous in size, though not in merit, represents the people assembling to accompany Philip van Artevelde in his well-known expedition to Bruges, in which the latter city was plundered, and 9000 citizens were massacred by the people of Ghent. I asked one of the magistracy what he thought his neighbours of Bruges would say to this strange picture. "Indeed," he replied "I never thought of them." So long has the exclusive spirit of local interest and attachment been preserved in these towns. And to what can we ascribe it but to the ill success of all the centralising governments they have been under, in reconciling their views of private interest and fame with those of a larger circle of their fellow-creatures. The "Gantois," as a citizen, has traditions, has wealth, has a social, and even a political system. What has he as a Spaniard, as an Austrian, as a Frenchman, that he can boast of? What will he have to show one day as a Belgian?

THE LANDOWNERS AND RAILWAYS.—It was given in evidence before the Select Committee, that no less a sum than £8,500,000 has been expended by railway companies in England and Scotland, on land and "compensation." This is about an average of £5000 a mile. On the Paris and Rouen Railway, the item was £2300 a mile. The average in Belgium is £2750 a mile.—*Railway Record.*

COMPARATIVE INCOME FROM REAL PROPERTY IN ENGLAND—1815 AND 1843.

(*From the Economist.*)

One of the interesting and instructive results connected with the imposition of the Property and Income Tax is to be collected from an examination of the progress of the value of real property in the kingdom. Since the income-tax was repealed in 1815 we have had no certain data on which to form any accurate estimate. Among the press and the public generally this subject has created much speculation and interest; and we feel happy now to have it in our power to lay before our readers, from official documents, an accurate comparison of the value of all the real property in England assessed to the income-tax in 1815 and 1843, and the same for each separate county, which will enable us to draw many interesting and instructive conclusions as to the main cause and source of the increasing wealth of this country.

The comparison shows, as all were prepared to expect, a great increase of the value of property. But there are two circumstances needful to be borne in mind, which show the actual increase to be even greater than appears by this comparison: the first is, that in 1815 all property was chargeable with the income-tax, except such as was under a clear net produce of £50 a year, whereas by the present law this exemption is extended to proprietors whose incomes are less than £150 a year. There is, therefore, a considerable amount of property exempt under the present law, which would not have been under that of 1815. Again, the returns in 1815 were made in a depreciated currency as compared with those of 1843; and to whatever extent the value of our currency was increased by the resumption of cash payments in 1819, little or much, that difference again indicates even a greater increase of value at the present time, when compared with the former period. We are not aware of any circumstance whatever that can affect the comparison in an opposite direction. The following is

Amount of Real Property (including Tithes) assessed to the Income Tax in the Years ending April, 1815, and April, 1843, respectively; showing the per centage Increase between the two periods, in each County of England.

	Year ending 5th April, 1815.	Year ending 5th April, 1843.	Increase per Cent.
	£	£	
Bedford ..	343 683	502 728	46·27
Berks ..	643,781	955,270	48·38
Buckingham	643 492	813,611	26·43
Cambridge ..	645,554	1,110,869	72·08
Chester ..	1,082,724	1,732,127	59·97
Cornwall ..	916,060	1,386 514	51·35
Cumberland	702,839	849,104	20·81
Derby ..	885,402	1,386 940	56·64
Devon ..	1,897,515	2,606,829	37·38
Dorset ..	698,395	905,273	29·62
Durham ..	789 697	1,706,262	116 07
Essex ..	1,549,385	1,946,634	25·64
Gloucester ..	1,463,260	1,985 566	35·69
Hereford ..	603,371	808 820	34·05
Hertford ..	571,107	859,084	50 39
Huntingdon	321,963	404,441	25·62
Kent ..	1,644,179	2,779,166	69·03
Lancaster ..	3,087,774	7,307,109	136 65
Leicester ..	892 951	1,343,552	51 58
Lincoln ..	2,059,710	2,832 480	37·52
Middlesex ..	5,595,537	11,059,131	97·64
Monmouth ..	295,097	510 410	72·99
Norfolk ..	1,535,526	2,277,701	48·33
Northampton	940,387	1,227,522	30·53
Northumberland	1,239,613	1,482,648	19·60
Nottingham	733 108	1,132 455	54·47
Oxford ..	712,307	1,018,631	43 00
Rutland ..	132,760	151,445	14·07
Salop ..	1,039,061	1,475,631	42·01
Somerset ..	1,899,491	2,918,969	53 67
Southampton	1,123,520	1,693,235	50·71
Stafford ..	1,150,285	2,433,042	111·52
Suffolk ..	1,127 404	1,747,768	55·02
Surrey ..	1,579,173	2,915 874	84 65
Sussex ..	913 560	1,611,397	76·38
Warwick ..	1,230,967	2,266.781	83·33
Westmorland	297,827	339 398	13 96
Wilts ..	1,156,054	1,432,914	23 95
Worcester ..	799,025	1,337,497	67 39
York, West Riding	2.385,826	4,343,238	82·04
— N. Riding	1,144 849	1,387.205	21·17
— East Riding	1,186,509	1,523,735	28 42
Total ..	£49,660,728	£80,519,084	62·14

Thus showing that during that period the annual net income derived from real property in England has increased £30,858,356, or 62·14 per cent., being at the rate of £1,102,084 per annum. On examining the above table it will be observed that the increase of value varies very materially in the different counties—the lowest being the county of Rutland, which is only 14·07 per cent.; the highest being the county of Lancaster, which is 136·65 per cent.; the former being the county in which the largest proportion of the population is engaged in agriculture, the latter (with the single exception of Middlesex) being that in which the smallest proportion of the population is so engaged. This marked distinction leads us naturally to institute a comparison throughout the whole country between the various counties, according to their different characters of pursuits, whether agricultural or otherwise; and, in so doing, we emphatically repudiate any desire to place particular classes in an invidious comparison with others, but only to indicate the source of our greatest national wealth, a knowledge and due appreciation of which must be equally important to all classes. For ourselves, we cannot recognise either wisdom or justice in the commonly-conceived notion that a class is to be favoured in a community against the rest, because it can be proved to be either the most numerous or the most wealthy. There is no justice or sense in the notion that the minority, whether in number or wealth, is to be sacrificed to the majority; but we do recognise and insist on this great and important principle, that, in a country like this, rapidly increasing in population, pent up in comparatively narrow and confined limits, with great national burdens to maintain, it is of the utmost consequence to all classes that we should have a just appreciation of the means by which those burdens may be maintained or lightened in their effect; by which that increasing population may find profitable employment, and be made a source of increased wealth, in place of an increased burden, which it can only be if unemployed; and by which the capital, enterprise, and intelligence of a growing community can find a profitable application.

The following is the order in which, by the latest accounts, the counties of England stood according to the proportion of the population employed in agriculture, beginning with the county in which the largest number were so employed :—

21 Counties most agricultural.	Increase per cent. of value of property.	21 Counties least agricultural.	Increase per cent. of value of property.
1 Rutland ..	14·07	22 Devon ..	87·38
2 Bedford ..	46 27	23 Somerset	53·67
3 Lincoln ..	37·52	24 Southampton	50·71
4 Huntingdon	25·62	25 Worcester	67·39
5 Suffolk ..	55 02	26 Cornwall	51·35
6 Buckingham	26·43	27 Kent ..	69·03
7 Cambridge	72·08	28 Cumberland	20·81
8 Essex ..	25·64	29 Leicester	51·58
9 Hereford ..	34·05	30 Nottingham	54·47
10 Northampton	30·53	31 Gloucester	35·69
11 Wilts ..	23 95	32 Derby ..	56·64
12 Norfolk ..	48 33	33 Chester ..	59 97
13 Hertford ..	50·39	34 Northumberland	19·60
14 Oxford ..	43 00	35 Warwick	83 33
15 York, N. R.	21 17	36 Stafford	111·52
16 Sussex ..	76·38	37 Monmouth	72 79
17 Berks ..	48·38	38 York, W. R.	82 04
18 Dorset ..	29 62	39 Durham	116 07
19 Westmorland	13·96	40 Surrey ..	84·65
20 York, E. R.	28·42	41 Lancaster	136·65
21 Salop ..	42·01	42 Middlesex	97·64

In which the real property assessed to the income-tax was, in

	1815.	1843.	Increase.	Incr. p. ct.
	£	£	£	
21 most agricultural counties & ridings	18,266,685	25,332,557	7,065,872	38·68
21 least agricultural counties & ridings	31,394,043	55,186,527	23,792,484	75·88
Total of England	£49,660,728	80,519,084	30,858,356	62·14

Increase in 28 years of 38·68 per cent. is equal to a mean yearly increase of 1·38 per cent.

Increase in 28 years of 75 78 per cent., is equal to a mean yearly increase of 2·70 per cent.

Thus showing that the real property in the least agricultural half of the kingdom has increased in value during the last twenty-eight years at double the rate experienced in the most agricultural half. An examination into the subject will also show that the greatest increase of population has been in those counties in which the greatest increase of wealth has occurred.

So many of the counties are of a mixed character in their pursuits—agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial—that, in order to show the comparison of the results of the different pursuits on the increase of wealth, and as affording means of subsistence to increased numbers, we propose to make a comparison between the six counties which are most purely agricultural, and the six which are least so, as indicated by the proportion of the inhabitants so employed.

The following are the six most agricultural counties, with the yearly value of the real property therein, in 1815 and 1843, also the population by the census of 1811 and 1841, showing the increase of both :—

	Yearly Value of Property. 1815.	1843.	Population. 1811.	1841.
Rutland ..	132,760	151,445 ..	16,380	21,802
Bedford ..	343,683	502,728 ..	70,213	107,986
Lincoln ..	2,059,710	2,832,480 ..	237,891	362,602
Huntingdon ..	321,963	404,441 ..	42,208	58,549
Suffolk ..	1,127,404	1,747,768 ..	234,211	315,073
Buckingham..	643,492	813,611 ..	117,650	155,983
Total ..	4,629,012	6,452,473	718,553	1,021,445
	Increase 39 per ct.		Increase 42 per ct.	

The following are the six least agricultural counties, with similar comparisons of property and population :—

	Yearly Value of Property. 1815.	1843.	Population. 1811.	1841.
Middlesex ..	5,595,537	11,059,131 ..	953,276	1,576 636
Lancaster ..	3,087,774	7,307,109 ..	828,309	1,667,054
Surrey ..	1,579 173	2 915,874 ..	323,851	582,678
Durham ..	789,697	1,706,262 ..	177,625	324 284
York, W. R. ..	2,385 826	4,343,238 ..	655,142	1,154,101
Monmouth ..	295,097	510,480 ..	62,127	134,355
Total ..	13,733,104	27,842,094	3,000,230	5,439,108
	Increase 102 per ct.		Increase 81 per ct.	

The result being :—

	Increase Value of Property.	Increase Population.
In the six most agricultural counties	39 per cent.	42 per cent.
In the six least	102 per cent.	81 per cent.

Which shows that not only has the increase been enormously greater in the latter than the former, but that, in the latter case, the income from real property has increased at the rate of 21 per cent. more than the increase of population; showing that the community, individually, has become more wealthy; while, in the former case, the population, though increased only at one-half the rate of the latter case, has done so at a greater rate than the property, and that the community, individually, has, consequently, being grower poorer.

As we before stated, we have no wish to make any invidious distinctions or comparisons of the importance of different classes, but we wish to indicate the course of policy by which the true interest of all classes is best to be advanced; for it would be the blindest folly to suppose that the particular parts of the country which evince the most rapid increase of wealth and power of sustaining population are alone, or even most, benefited thereby. An increase of wealth, or of employment for the population in any part of the kingdom, cannot fail to be beneficial to all other parts, and especially in three prominent and distinct ways:—first, by creating a greater demand for the natural products of the country; secondly, by absorbing the surplus population of other parts of the country, and converting into valuable consumers and customers masses of people who would otherwise constitute a heavy charge on districts to which they naturally belong; and thirdly, by lightening and diminishing the general burdens of taxation payable by the whole country, and especially by the districts of slower growth.

First, by creating a greater demand for the natural products of the country. Can there be the slightest doubt that while Essex has only increased in value of income 25 per cent.—while Middlesex has increased 97 per cent.—that the former county has not been much benefited, and even owes a considerable portion of that increase to its proximity to Middlesex, and the consequent increased demand for its produce to sustain the increased population and consumption of the latter county? Can there be the slightest doubt of the great advantages which the increased wealth and employment apparent in the county of Lancaster and the West Riding of Yorkshire have plentifully and liberally showered over the counties

of Lincoln, Derby, Nottingham, Chester, and other neighbouring parts, in the constant weekly demand for their varied produce; and, by thus absorbing the products of so many counties, indirectly raising the value of that even in more distant counties, by abstracting the former from competition with the latter in their own districts? The cattle and other produce raised in the counties of Lincoln, Nottingham, Derby, and the East Riding of Yorkshire, which at present find a good market in the districts of which we speak, are withdrawn from the London and southern markets, and enable the producers in the southern and western counties to command better markets than they otherwise could. During periods of distress and bad trade in the manufacturing districts the want of this usual demand exercises a most prejudicial effect on distant counties and markets.

Secondly, by absorbing the surplus population of other parts of the country, and converting into valuable consumers and customers masses of people who would otherwise constitute a heavy charge on districts to which they belong. During the last thirty years the proportion of the population engaged in agriculture has been gradually diminishing. In 1811, out of every 1000 persons in the whole country, 352 were employed in agriculture; in 1821, out of every 1000 persons, only 332 were so employed; in 1831, the proportion had sunk to 281; and at the same rate in 1841 (the accounts not having yet been published), we will find this proportion has sunk to 240 persons so employed out of every 1000 of the whole population. Now, it must surely be of the first consequence, not only to the labourers employed in agriculture to be relieved of so much competition as they are by what absorption of surplus labourers takes place in the towns and manufacturing districts, but also to the owners of property in such districts, who would otherwise be burdened with the maintenance of a still greater number of paupers than they now are. There can be little doubt that the constant tendency to redundancy of labour; that the indisposition of men to remove even from one part of the country to another; that the difficulties interposed by the old law of settlement; and more than all that, the depression of late years in the manufacturing districts, and in the trade of large towns generally, which must have in a great measure suspended for a time the demand for increased labourers, have tended to, and are quite sufficient to account for, the extreme distress, dissatisfaction, and increase of crime which have been recently apparent in the agricultural districts. The same symptoms were apparent in 1829, 1830, and 1831, from a combination of the same causes—those symptoms disappeared in 1834, 1835, and 1836, with a return of manufacturing and commercial prosperity; during which years, it is in parliamentary evidence that the agricultural and rural *labourers* were in more comfortable and contented circumstances than at any former period. And we have no doubt—on the contrary, we feel the greatest assurance—that in less than a year hence, if the prosperity now apparent in trade and commerce shall continue, of which we have every confidence, at least for that time, the condition of the agricultural labourer will be much improved, and the whole face of the rural districts changed; and this will take place, not by increased prices of agricultural produce, but in presence of and by the indirect consequences of lower prices than at present exist. But not only is the owner of property benefited by being relieved of burdens to which he would thus be exposed, but he is further benefited by this very surplus population being converted, in neighbouring towns and counties, into large consumers of his produce.

Thirdly, by lightening and diminishing the general burdens of taxation payable by the whole country, and especially by the districts of slower growth. It must be plain that in any country, burdened as this is by a large national debt and other expenses, requiring an income of nearly fifty millions a year, that the greater number of individuals and the greater amount of property over which that burden is distributed, the less must be felt by each individual. In the *Economist* of November 4, we showed that the taxes of this country in 1811 bore the proportion of £3 19s. 3d. to each individual then living; while in 1841 the proportion was reduced to £1 18s. 10d. to each individual, being little more than one-half, which is the same in effect as if the taxes and burdens of the country had been reduced by that proportion. Now, it must be quite plain that, while Lancashire and Middlesex have been increasing at so great a rate, and finding employment for such increased numbers of people, from whose increased consumption of articles paying excise and customs duties the whole revenue has from time to time so much increased as to enable great reductions of duties to be made, these counties have in this proportion been relieving the whole country of a share of taxation; and inasmuch as they have been able to accomplish this by a foreign trade, by finding a market abroad for the cheap products of our combined skill and mechanical achievements, they have been drawing from foreign countries the direct means of paying our public burdens, and of relieving their countrymen at home—not by attempting to tax their produce, but in the legitimate way of supplying them with the produce of English labour and ingenuity at a cheaper rate than they could otherwise be supplied, to the mutual benefit of all parties. This is real and true national reciprocity. Again, on the other hand, the twenty-one least agricultural counties have increased only 38 per cent. since 1815 in the amount on which the income-tax is collected, but they equally share the advantages of its being collected on an income increased by 75 per cent. in the other twenty-one counties. *Three per cent.* on the whole income of real property now yields £2,415,569 to the state; but if the property of the whole country had only increased at the same rate as it has done in the agricultural half, it would have required an income-tax of rather more than three and a half per cent. to have raised the same amount; for the saving, therefore, of the additional *half per cent.* the agricultural half of the country is clearly indebted to the greater increase of value in the other half of the kingdom.

If these facts do not sufficiently indicate to every honest and patriotic mind the course which this country can alone pursue to secure the future welfare of ALL existing interests, and specially of the labourers of every class—if they do not sufficiently indicate how much of what this country has done for its own advancement and the benefit of the human race is to be attributed to its great mercantile superiority and enterprise, and how much all parties in the state are interested in the future advancement of these great sources of national prosperity, we shall cease to hope to produce evidence or reasoning sufficient to that end.

AGRICULTURE.

THE COST OF PRODUCING GRAIN.

There is no topic upon which greater diversities of opinion exist, or on which more paradoxical statements are made by persons professing to be practical agriculturists, than upon the cost at which grain, especially wheat, can be grown in this country. And upon the mystification of this question the last remnant of argument in favour of protective duties on corn mainly depends. There are many reasons which prevent a complete exposition of a subject which, when fairly examined, is sufficiently simple and intelligible. The principal one appears to be an unwillingness on the part of those farmers who cultivate their farms well to admit the real amount of their returns, from an apprehension—by no means altogether unfounded—that, should their landlords become aware that they are making considerable profits, an advance of rent would be the certain consequence.

It was with such feelings that very many farmers regarded Lord Ducie's statement of the cost at which wheat is produced upon his Whitfield Farm, and on other well-cultivated farms in Gloucestershire. Then the whole band of monopolists saw that, if the statements of his lordship were borne out and became generally understood, their cherished monopoly, their artificial, law-made scarcity, would receive a death-blow. Hence all manner of contradictions have been hazarded. First, a trio of land-agents *asserted* that the produce given as that of a farm on the Cotswold Hills was too high, and that 25s. a ton was more than the value of straw taken at a spending price. Now, as these gentlemen did not condescend to reason—land-agents, seldom do—but relied each on his own *ipse dixit*, their contradiction might have been fairly disregarded as worth nothing, for every farmer's experience would have told that, when men farm *under favourable circumstances*, the produce stated by Lord Ducie is by no means high; and no farmer can doubt that these very agents would themselves set the value of the straw at as high a figure as his lordship had done. However, in a letter to the *Mark-lane Express*, Lord Ducie has effectually disposed of the objection to the price of the straw, by showing that by so much as the straw is overcharged will the allowance for manure become too high. The balance is, therefore, the same. But to show that the value of the straw is really that at which Lord Ducie stated it, we would refer to the report of a paper lately read at the *Burton-upon-Trent* Farmers' Club by Mr. Lathbury, which is reported in the *Farmer's Journal*. The subject of his paper was the economy of the "application of steam to agricultural purposes;" and amongst the objects that gentleman had effected upon his own farm by the erection of a steam-engine was the steaming his cut hay and *straw* as provender for neat cattle. This enabled him to substitute a large quantity of straw instead of hay, and he thus states the saving effected thereby:—

"The difference between *the consuming price* of 30 tons of hay and the 30 tons of straw which supplied its place, reckoning hay at £3 10s. *and straw at* £1 5s., would amount to £67 10s., while the expense of cutting and steaming amounted to less than £5."

And let us remark in passing, that the chaff-cutter used was stated to be Lord Ducie's improved implement, for which the Royal Agricultural Society awarded a prize at their Bristol meeting.

Here we have a farmer mentioning incidentally the value of the straw to consume on the farm, and that on an occasion when he wished rather to understate than overstate such value, and in so doing he completely confirms Lord Ducie's estimate. *Ex uno disce omnes*, to such worthlessness are all the monopolist calculations reduced whenever they are really examined.

Then we have a second letter from Mr. Samuel Jonas, on whose former letter we lately made some remarks, and we find him attacking Lord Ducie's accuracy by quoting calculations taken from Mr. Morton's appendix to his work "on soils," and showing that the cost of producing wheat there set down considerably exceeded the cost as stated by Lord Ducie, and thereupon fondly anticipates that his lordship must be waiting to acknowledge that he had "committed an error." It so happened that a Mr. Townsend had discovered this selfsame mare's nest, and began, like Mr. Jonas, to cackle with delight at what they both believed to be a discovery of the way to make food scarce. Neither of these astute monopolists seems to have thought of consulting Mr. Morton's supplement, which brings down the account of the operations on Whitfield to (we believe) 1842, which would to some extent have shown them their "error." However, Mr. Townsend's letter came under Lord Ducie's notice, and has drawn from him a letter to the *Mark-lane Express* (inserted, by-the-bye, in a most obscure corner of that journal), wherein he has fully shown the misapprehensions under which his monopolist assailants have written. After saying that Mr. Townsend's style is after the "best protection patterns," Lord Ducie adds:—

"As regards the substance, I must say that it proves its author to be either most carelessly or most wilfully ignorant. He quotes from a work by Mr. John Morton, published in 1843, *thereby leading the public to suppose that it was Mr. Morton's Whitfield Farm report for* 1843. He quotes from page 290 of the Appendix to 'Morton on Soils.' Now, if he had taken the trouble to look at that which was before him, he would have found that he was looking *at a reprint of the report originally made to my father and myself in the year* 1838, *as to the probable results of the meditated improvements on Whitfield Farm*, in which, as was right, Mr. Morton stated the probable expenses as high, and the probable returns as low, as possible."

The comparative statements made by Mr. Townsend will be found in another column. Mr. Jonas's are nearly or quite identical.

Thus, instead of the figures of Mr. Morton being contradictory of Lord Ducie's statement, they prove to be the estimate of a farmer who really does know the capacity for production of our soils, giving to his employers a statement—a carefully subdued statement—of the probable results of an expensive experiment he was leading them to undertake. Thus, like all the attempted refutations by the monopolists, the evidence in favour of Free Trade which Whitfield Example Farm furnishes becomes corroborated by the discussion they have induced. Lord Ducie subsequently says:—

"Now, at the time of the prophecy, we were not aware of the valuable properties of the Uley cultivator. We have since found that, by twice working the land that has borne roots with that implement, we are able to dispense with the plough, and the work is done at one-half the expense of *one* ploughing. This, added to the *unexpected and increasing friability of the soil, is sufficient to account for the difference between the fact and the prophecy*. The next point of difference is the charge for seed-wheat, amounting to about £44. The prophecy charged for the amount usually sown at that time; *but experience has taught not only myself, but every intelligent agriculturist, that a smaller quantity of seed will produce a better crop on all soils*, and that an enormous annual loss has accrued to the country from the erroneous use of too much seed-wheat. If Mr. Townsend will take the trouble to travel to Whitfield, *I will undertake to show him a better crop of wheat than is often produced at the expense of a double quantity of seed.*"

And his lordship afterwards invites his assailant to inspect the Whitfield accounts, and adds, "If he finds I am correct, he can have no alternative but to withdraw his attack on me as publicly as it has been made." But Mr. Townsend appears not to belong to the class of disputants who seek for truth, for he does not "consider it at all necessary to accept his lordship's invitation to Whitfield Farm for the purpose of inspecting his farm books;" and upon what plea does the reader think this redoubtable monopolist declines the opportunity of being convinced that he, and not Lord Ducie, is in error? Why, this is his sneaking withdrawal from his assertions:—

"*I am not a practical farmer, and, therefore, not competent to enter into any discussion with Mr. Morton upon the subject of the charges entered in his lordship's accounts.* The only remark I shall, therefore, offer upon the subject of Lord Ducie's statement at Covent-garden is, that it *materially differs from whatever I have either read or heard upon the subject of agriculture.*"

And this is the sort of opponents with whom the Free-Traders and the public have to deal! They invariably refuse to inquire or investigate; in Parliament or in the press they are alike afraid to submit their assertions or opinions to the test of examination: and thus other men's nonsense is adopted by them as their nonsense, and they are content. As Mr. Townsend's agricultural reading has probably been confined to the leading articles of the *Morning Post* and the Protection Society's tracts, we advise him to extend his studies on rural affairs before he again attempts to impugn the experience of those who do know practically of what land is capable.

Mr. Morton, in a letter of the 10th inst., also confirms the accuracy of his lordship's statement of the expense of wheat-growing on Whitfield Farm, but adds that his lordship has "put the produce too low, whether we judge by the crops of past years, or the prospects of the present." The same statement completely disposes of Mr. Jonas's objection, who, if he doubts the facts, may also be satisfied by inspecting the Whitfield Farm accounts. But Mr. Jonas, we opine, is not one who seeks conviction, and we may venture to say he will not go to inspect the accounts at Whitfield. But Mr. Jonas, unlike his co-assailant, Mr. Townsend, is a practical agriculturist, and offers us some partial glimpses of his own farming affairs to rebut the conclusions of Lord Ducie and the Free-Traders, and he therefore makes his business a public question. Let us examine his statements, or rather his hints, for they have neither the coherence nor explicitness of statements. He says:—

"I consider that we tenant-farmers *can grow wheat so as to be fairly remunerated for our skill and capital at 7s. per bushel, but at not less than that sum.*"

It is not many years since that men like Mr. Jonas, and probably Mr. Jonas himself, stoutly maintained that the price to be remunerating must be 10s. a bushel. We have no doubt they will hereafter find they can grow wheat, and with more profit than at present, at 6s. a bushel or less. Mr. Jonas, then, in order to prove that he "is not a very bad poor farmer," states that "he last year expended

£2949 7s. 8d. in the purchase of artificial manures, and for corn and cake for sheep and cattle." This is by no means conclusive. It is by no means uncommon to find a large proportion of a farmer's capital employed on one particular branch of his business, while other parts of it are comparatively neglected. Success in farming is only to be attained by applying the farmer's best skill and sufficient capital to every part of the farm; and we have a shrewd suspicion, notwithstanding his big words, that Mr. Jonas farms upon a system which renders him very dependent upon high prices, in other words, that his acreable produce is low compared with his expenses.

As an instance of the way in which farmers often expend large sums in manure, and yet neglect all else that is necessary to render the use of that manure profitable, we may mention a case within our own observation. A farmer—of the protectionist school—who occupies 400 acres of strong land within sixteen miles of London, is in the habit of sending two or three three-horse teams into London three and four times a week for ten months of the year for manure, by which means, at a very great expense, he accumulates a large quantity. He also buys artificial manures, guano, and so forth, to a considerable extent. We have no doubt that, in proportion to the size of his farm, his yearly expenditure for manure is higher in proportion than Mr. Jonas's. Yet, strange as it may seem to Mr. Jonas, this gentleman—who is a man of property—is "a bad, poor farmer." If we desired to exhibit a specimen of the worst husbandry practised in a not very highly cultivated district, we should certainly point out this gentleman's farm. And why is this? Simply because he follows a system of slovenly culture, by which his father, during the high prices of the war, realized a considerable fortune. He is remarkable for the deficient supply of manual labour, and consequently his land is so foul that the grain and the weeds seem to be struggling for mastery in every field. His land is undrained, or drained partially with bushes laid at the depth of twenty inches only; his ditches have not been dug out for twelve or fourteen years; and whilst he sends his sheep out to winter, at a considerable cost, he has perhaps one-fourth of his land yearly under a naked fallow, every acre of which, if properly cultivated, would bear an abundant crop of turnips and other roots! The result of such a system is, that on land which might easily be made to grow 45 bushels of wheat to the acre, the average produce barely reaches 20 bushels per acre. Of course, this gentleman is a strenuous protectionist, and considers the maintenance of the Corn Laws as essential to the very existence of the farmer!!

Our readers will recollect that Mr. Jonas stated, in his former letter, that he occupies 1700 acres of land; and as he lives in an arable district, and he said nothing to the contrary, we must presume that it is all cultivated land, and that there is no considerable portion of the farm which consists of mere sheepwalk, rented at a shilling or eighteenpence an acre. Now, if any novice will turn to any agricultural work of authority—take Loudon's "Encyclopædia of Agriculture," for instance—he will find that the lowest estimate of the capital required for the proper cultivation of a farm chiefly arable, is £10 per acre; and thus, unless Mr. Jonas has a capital of £17,000 engaged on his 1700 acres, he is not in a position to cultivate his land most advantageously. That he is, in fact, however disagreeable it may be to him to know it, a farmer without capital sufficient to adopt high farming, which alone can be profitable farming. That such is Mr. Jonas's condition is clear from the circumstance of his calling our former reference to the amount of his capital "an attempt to gag him." We believe that the mistake he has made in taking too much land for his capital is by no means uncommon; in fact, that it is the rule amongst farmers, and that the contrary is the exception. But this, as we have often shown, is one of the direct consequences of the Corn Laws, which have taught agriculturists to rely on high prices rather than large acreable produce. We are glad, however, to see farmers make any reference to their own circumstances, even when they do it with such one-sided objects, and on such imperfect data, as in the case before us; but to pretend to bring forward their own practices and their individual businesses as evidence for monopoly, without fully and fairly stating the amount of capital they employ, their produce per acre, and similar *real* information, so as to enable those acquainted with husbandry to judge of the value of their testimony, is mere trifling.

In farming, perhaps more than in any business, there are endless diversities of skill, knowledge, and industry, of security and insecurity of tenure, and of other advantages or disadvantages; but there is one rule to which no exception exists, namely, that, all other things being equal, the man who farms with the largest amount of capital will obtain the highest rate of profit. He who has £5 per acre would probably farm at a loss the same land which another man, no more skilful or industrious than himself, but possessing a capital equal to £10 to the acre, would farm with a profit; while the man with £10 per acre will assuredly make a far less rate of profit than he who employs £15 to each acre of his farm. The obvious consequence is, that no mistake a farmer may make can be so grievous as that of taking a farm too large for his capital. All our best farmers admit this; and it is only the delusive hope of an occasionally high price held out by the Corn Laws which prevents farmers from acting upon the sound views of the more intelligent of their body.

THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S MEETING.

At the dinner of the Royal Agricultural Society, held at Southampton, on Thursday, at which 1200 farmers were present, several hints were dropped which are sufficiently significant of the approaching fate of monopoly. Thus, Lord Carnarvon said, "The time was now arrived when the farmers must help themselves by applying, so far as they could, all the resources of science to the work;" and that intimation was received with marked approval.

Again, when Lord Palmerston proposed the toast of "Prosperity to Agriculture, Commerce, and Manufactures," and, in the course of an admirable speech, enlarged upon their mutual dependence in allusive terms, which could not be misunderstood, he was warmly applauded; and none more so than the following truthful sentences:—"In the infancy of states, agriculture was the first employment which the industry of man pursued. Agriculture gave employment to commerce, commerce gave encouragement to manufactures; and thus both commerce and manufactures repaid with ample interest the obligation they owed to their mutual parent." But the most decided expression of the feelings of the farmers was called forth by a brief speech of Lord Portman, in which he said, "He (the farmer) must apply patiently to his work. It was not to be done in a day. He must try to improve his stock, his method of cultivation, and the *tenure of his land*." Here he was interrupted with a tumult of applause and reiterated cheering; and so strongly had this sentiment been expressed that the Duke of Richmond, who appears to have considered himself the representative of bad husbandry and dependent tenants, thought it necessary to say "he had heard something said about the tenure of land. He would not then pursue the subject; *but he would refer to any of his tenantry for information as to his conduct in this most important matter*. Let them have no legislative enactment about the matter, but let them all consider the interest of the landlord and tenant as one and the same." This is mere evasion. Why did not the Duke boldly say, "I give leases (if he does so) and recommend others to do likewise;" but the fact is he does nothing of the sort. The interest of the landlord and tenant being one and the same in the mouths of monopolists like the Duke of Richmond is as ominous to the tenant-farmer as the promise of the brass pot to the earthen pot, when, as recorded in Æsop's fables, both were floating in the stream together.

MONOPOLIST TESTIMONY AGAINST THE GAME LAWS.

It is only under cover of the delusions and uncertainties caused by the Corn Laws that game laws and game preserves could have existed in this country down to the present time; and amongst the many benefits the tenant-farmers owe to the exertions of the League, not the least is the universal condemnation with which game-preserving is now visited. Thus, in the *Herts County Press*, one of the most abject tools of the monopolists, a paper which in fact owes its lingering existence to the occasional assistance of Lords Salisbury, Verulam, and other monopolist landowners of Hertfordshire, we meet with a fierce article against game-preserving. This must, undoubtedly, have, received the sanction of the editor's patrons, and, though it looks very like West Indian diatribes against slavery, it forms important evidence of the impression which this part of the landlords' semi-feudal system has made upon the public. Thus speaks the Hertfordshire monopolist-editor:—

"THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF GAME.—We have *long been anxious* to call the attention of game preservers to the serious mischief arising from the preservation of hares and rabbits in many of the districts *in this* and other counties; and we do not know that we can avail ourselves of any more favourable opportunity for alluding to the subject than the present, *now that the Anti-Corn-Law agitation is suppressed, and the minds of men are calmed down* to a point best calculated to induce a careful consideration of all matters relating to the general welfare of the farming interests."

It is wonderful how carefully this writer and his fellow-monopolists contrived to restrain their anxiety about the mischief done by game, until the Free-Trade agitation had dragged into the light of day all the damnatory facts. Do not the writer and his patrons feel that what he calls the suppressed Anti-Corn-Law agitation to be very like suppressed gout, which has got hold of the vitals of monopoly? We know the monopolist landlords well enough to understand their tactics in abandoning the game nuisance: their object is merely to throw a tub to the whale, and they fancy that by throwing overboard the game they can preserve monopoly rents and a dependent tenantry. We tell them the move will not serve their turn, though it furnishes "confirmation strong" of the truth of the Free-Trade view of the wants and burdens of agriculture. But to the question:—

"To those of our readers who are spared the ravages their less-favoured neighbours are subjected to it may appear somewhat immaterial; but we are quite sure that others of our friends, particularly in many parts of Bedfordshire, will not fail to agree with us that the time has arrived for inquiry how far the suggestions thrown out on this subject by Sir Robert Peel, in his celebrated speech to his tenants at Tamworth, can be adopted with mutual advantage to landlords and tenants. The question involves many considerations, which of themselves are worthy of discussion separately. The point, therefore, we desire to establish first is, that *large districts are overrun and wasted*, to an extent almost incredible to those who are ignorant of the fact, and that *the occupiers of land are* thereby injured to a proportionate extent, without the *power, under the present operation of the Game Laws, of destroying them, or indeed, of remedying the evil* in any corresponding degree."

All this will be nothing new to the readers of the LEAGUE, though we suspect some of the squireens of Hertfordshire who read the *County Press* must have rubbed their eyes and mentally exclaimed, "What's in the wind now?" But the monopolist writer stops not here; for he goes into an estimate of the pecuniary damage sustained from game, saying,

"In order to arrive at the truth, we have made *patient inquiries in several districts*, and we have found to our amazement, *that many farmers are injured to an extent equal to an additional rental of 10s. per acre, on the whole of their holdings, by hares alone, putting altogether out of view the damage done by rabbits, which may be fairly estimated at a similar sum.*"

This is a higher estimate than we have ever thought it right to give, as we prefer stating the losses from game, as they are the most generally sustained; but we have no doubt that in many cases this estimate of our monopolist contemporary is not too high. Of course, under such circumstances, the farm must be occupied at a loss, and the landlord who exacts *any* rent from a tenant so game-ridden can scarcely deem himself an honest man. That hundreds of tenants have been ruined during the last thirty years by game alone is a fact notorious to all who are much acquainted with rural affairs. Hear how the monopolist comments upon the, to him, newly admitted, if not newly discovered, fact:—

"This of itself is surely a 'great fact;' and the question naturally arises, whether *there is not something radically wrong in the system which compels a tenant to submit to have his farm overrun, and his produce consumed, without the power to destroy or to obtain compensation, except by a tedious and most vexatious process.* This is a question for consideration by all well-disposed landlords; and we doubt not that it only requires to be put plainly before them to ensure a more equitable state of things."

That there is "something radically wrong in the system" most readers of the LEAGUE understand, nor will they, or any one who honestly approaches the question, be able to resist the conclusion that the *root* of the "wrong" is the *Corn Law*. The writer next gives a particular instance:—

"The necessity for this is so palpable, that one instance of grievous injury sustained by the system alone requires to be mentioned. A tenant occupying 500 acres has to keep no less than 1000 hares, *the average being ascertained to be two hares to an acre; in many parts of Bedfordshire the average is far higher.* No stipulation for these is made on his entering the farm: in course of time his landlord (perhaps a new one) *finds that hares are a useful marketable commodity at 1s. 6d. each, and he has them strictly preserved, at his tenant's expense*—not, mind, for the sake of showing sport to his friends and neighbours, but for slaughter by his keepers, who, be it observed, are paid by the proceeds of the sales effected at Leadenhall! This, we are assured, is the true state of the case; and we mention it for the *purpose of inviting discussion and inquiry on a subject of so much importance.*"

After this, which is really as much a monopolist landlords' article as if it bore the *imprimatur* of Hatfield-house we wonder whether the squires in the House of Commons will next year refuse a committee to inquire into the effect of the game laws and game preserving upon the condition of agriculture, tenant-farmers, and agricultural labourers? Here we find a statement of the loss caused to the tenant by game for the sake of a small advantage to the landlord; the account should be carefully read and remembered by every tenant-farmer in England:—

"We subjoin a statement of the profit and loss to landlord and tenant in the instance above referred to, and we court investigation as to its accuracy, and any authentic information from our numerous readers in Bedfordshire, which can be of service:—

	£.	s.	d.
Loss to tenants by the consumption of 1000 hares, on a farm of 500 acres, per annum, as estimated by an old observer and sufferer, *is equal to* 200 *sheep at* 17*s.* 6*d. each*, i.e., 1 *sheep to* 5 *hares, at* 3*s.* 6*d.*	175	0	0
Waste caused by hares in feeding, equal to one-fourth	43	15	0
	£218	15	0
Gain to landlord by sale of 1000 hares at Leadenhall-market, at 1s. 6d. each	£75	0	0

"N.B. *Every hare on a farm costs or wastes annually to the value of 4s. 6d. at least. Rabbits 2s. each.*"—*Herts and Beds County Press.*

Thus the tenant is robbed of £218 15s. of his own money in order that his landlord may pocket £75 over and above his full rent; a sum to which he has no more right than he has to the purse or pocket-handkerchief of any person he meets on the highway.

And precisely this kind of calculation is applicable to the Corn Laws, which, for the sake of giving the landlords a short cut to high rents, occasion losses to tenants exceeding the landlords' gains by monopoly even when those gains are multiplied by five or six!

MONOPOLIST FALLACIES.

The following letter is that we have referred to in our agricultural leading article, in which we have embodied the substance of Lord Ducie's reply to his shallow assailant. The Free-Traders owe the monopolist their thanks for eliciting the explanation so decisively confirmatory of the views of the Free-Traders.

"To the Editor of the Gloucestershire Chronicle.

"SIR,—I am much concerned to find I made two mistakes in the statement of Mr. T. Morton (p. 290) which I sent you last week. I perceive I charged for the carting to market twice over, and only charged £31 for hoeing instead of £36. This will cause a reduction of £34 2s. from the difference (viz., £129 13s.), but will in no wise affect my arguments. I lose not a moment in correcting the error, and beg to hand you an amended and, I believe, correct account of the statements both of his lordship and of Mr. Morton, but more at length and more in detail than in my former letter. As I before stated, the items in Mr. Morton's book (p. 290) must be multiplied by 8 to correspond with Lord Ducie's 120 acres.

"From whence *could* his lordship obtain his figures? See the difference in his account and Mr. Morton's in the items of *hoeing* and *threshing*. Surely gentlemen are not beginning to *reduce wages* in anticipation of *Free Trade?*

"N.B. Mr. Morton (p. 290) has omitted to charge for the half bushel of seed wheat, which, multiplied by 8, will give

four bushels; this at 7s. per bushel, will make £1 8s.; add that sum to his figures, and you will get £160.

"I am, Sir, yours respectfully,
"R. L. TOWNSEND."

LORD DUCIE.	£	s.	d.	MR. MORTON (page 290.)	£	s.	d.
To 186½ days of a man and 2 horses ploughing, cultivating (*i. e.*, working with cultivator), drilling, and harrowing, 120 acres, at 10s. per diem	93	2	6	To 136 days, one man and two horses ploughing, drilling, &c, 120 acres, at 10s.	68	0	0
To 173½ bushels of seed wheat, at 7s. per bushel	60	14	6	To 300 bushels of seed wheat, at 7s. per bushel, being 2½ bushels p. acre	105	0	0
To hoeing 120 acres, at 2s 6d. per acre	15	0	0	To hoeing 120 acres, at 6s. per acre	36	0	0
To cutting, binding, and stocking 120 acres, at 8s.	48	0	0	To harvesting 120 acres, at 10s. per acre	60	0	0
To pitching to carts and ricks, building, and leading, at 2s. 4d. per acre	14	0	0	To carting home, one man and two horses for 32 days, at 10s. per diem	16	0	0
To 72 days of one horse, cart, and boy, to hand the produce from the field to rick yards, at 4s. 6d. per diem	16	2	0	Threshing 500 quarters, at 2s. 6d. per quarter	62	10	0
(That amounts altogether, for harvesting and bringing home to the yards, & THATCHING, to 14s. 10d. per acre.)				To carting to market 500 quarters, one man and two horses, 96 days, at 10s. per diem.	48	0	0
To threshing and winnowing and taking out 500 quarters, at 2s. per quarter	50	0	0				
To marketing 500 quarters, at three quarters per cart, 50 days of a man with 2 horses and carts, at 10s., and for expenses £2, 50 at 10s.	30	0	0				
	£326	19	0		£395	10	0
				N.B. THATCHING NOT INCLUDED (charged in Lord Ducie's account at 4s. 6d. per acre	27	0	0
					422	10	0
					326	19	0
				Difference	£95	11	0

To the Editor of the Bury Post.

SIR,—Permit me to offer to Lord Thurlow's communicant a problem, which, though parallel to his own, appears to have escaped his notice.

"In these old countries," he says, "where profitable employment is limited, as long as uneducated men multiply their species without thought of the future, labour will be superabundant and wages low." But there is the question, why should employment be limited because a country is old? If the land is all occupied, we have still plenty of coal and iron, and men to work them up, and plenty of people on the other side of the water to exchange these with us for food. The antiquity of our laws, and not the antiquity of our soil, alone forbids it.

"Uneducated men" may multiply their species faster than educated men, but while they are undergoing the process of education it is rather hard to limit their field for employment because they are ignorant, and it is after all a great truth that comfortable circumstances will do much to prevent early marriages even among uneducated people.

That labour is abundant, and wages low, is unfortunately true; and that farmers alone have it not in their power to raise wages is also true; but open the trade of the country, and let our surplus population find itself employment in towns, if the country will not afford it, and it will be out of the power of any class of men to keep wages down if employment is plentiful, for the wages of agricultural labourers do not depend on themselves alone, but on the quantity of labour in the country generally.

The reward of labour, Lord Thurlow's communicant says, depends on the quantity of labour, and the quantity of capital in a country that can be profitably employed; and then he goes on to say that the problem is to "regulate the supply of labour." Let me suggest, that it is part of the question to increase the capital of the country, and that, as Free Trade would increase both corn and capital, it has a great deal more to do with the question of wages than is generally supposed. Increasing the capital has the same effect as diminishing the number of labourers, and is at any rate the most humane, if not the most politic, of the two measures.

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR MORSE.

Swaffham, July 12, 1844.

WOOL.—At the recent wool fairs held in the agricultural districts in this country the prices realized by the growers for their produce were far greater than those obtained in 1843.

THE "STRIKE" AND THE EXPORT TRADE.—The following extract of a letter from a highly respectable house in Rotterdam, to a correspondent in Newcastle, speaks volumes of the sad effects of the "strike." The letter is dated the 12th instant:—"A bad thing, indeed, is the long-continued strike of your pitmen. Very few colliers come here now; and we are much afraid that the coal-trade from Newcastle and Sunderland—which once was a very good and brisk one, but which was partially spoiled through the embargo in 1832—will be greatly diminished again by the strike, as the German and Belgian coal is more and more being introduced; and the prices of these coals being lower, our coal-merchants will not be able to pay the prices charged on your side." With Peel on the one side with his duty, and the pitmen on the other with their strike, the poor coal trade, we fear, will have a hard struggle for its life.—*Gateshead Observer.*

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received a letter from Mr. Joseph Sturge after our paper was made up for press; it states that "the condensed report of his speech at Birmingham, which we commented upon in our last paper, does not convey a correct account of what he said." We are, of course, bound to accept Mr. Sturge's disavowal, and to withdraw such parts of our comment as were inapplicable to what he really did say.

"Samuel," of Tynemouth, does not say whether the premises occupied in partnership with his father are situated within a parliamentary borough or not. If they be, they give no vote for the county, even although they should be *freehold*, because they are *occupied* by the proprietors, and are *capable* of giving a borough vote. At the same time, the partners, as freeholders, might *let* the premises to *one* of them *as tenant*, and then one would have a vote as freeholder, and the other as tenant would have a borough, but not a county vote. If the premises are freehold, and *not* within the borough, then *both* would be entitled to be registered as freeholders, and they might put all their sons or brothers on by giving them a freehold interest worth 40s. a year, the property being capable of qualifying twenty-five persons. No *tenant* of premises within a parliamentary borough, worth £10 a year, can register for those premises for the county, nor any freeholder if he occupy them himself.

We have received several important communications which we are reluctantly compelled to defer until next week.

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

Any person forwarding 3s. 3d. by Post-office order, to the Publisher, 67, Fleet-street, London, will have one quarter's copies of the LEAGUE forwarded by post on the days of publication. Subscriptions for the paper may also be left with J. Gadsby, Newall's-buildings, Manchester; and the LEAGUE may be had by order of any news-agent in town or country. Subscribers who receive coloured envelopes on their papers must bear in mind that their subscriptions are due.

POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, July* 27, 1844.

The rules and regulations of the proposed "Free-Trade Club" have been printed, and seem well adapted to carry out the objects for which it is instituted. There is no doubt of the success of this very useful project. The good results which may reasonably be expected from such an association should lead the friends of Free Trade generally throughout the country to seek an early connexion with it, that the capital thus realized by the entrance-money may enable the Club to start with a proportionately larger extent of accommodation for its members.

Care is taken by the rules that only real Free-Traders, those who are so on principle, and who pledge themselves to the principle by the fact of becoming candidates, shall be eligible. The usual conveniences of a club will be obtained; but they will be the secondary, and not the primary object. With the cookery and architecture of the Reform Club, it may not be found practicable to compete; but something more will, it is hoped, be effected for the cause of Free Trade than has been achieved for the cause of political reform by that splendid establishment. The one great public object will not be postponed to party interests, nor absolute inertness enforced by difficulty of combination amongst different and mutually hostile sections. The new Club will be an union of like-minded men, thoroughly in sympathy, and disposed for efficient co-operation. Even the simple fact of putting them into communication with each other will be a benefit of no little moment. It is impossible for the League to provide facility for this to any considerable extent. But here will be a place of common resort for our friends from distant parts of the country, and those resident in the Metropolis, which can scarcely fail to draw closer those bonds of union that afford the League so much of its strength, and are the condition of its energetic and successful progress.

The establishment of the Club will also be a pledge of the continuous application of the Free-Trade principle to all points and branches of commercial legislation. Should the League obtain the object for which chiefly it was formed—the repeal of the Corn Laws—it is scarcely likely that any efforts, should such efforts be made, will be able to prolong its existence. Whenever the monster evil is destroyed, its power must also pass away. No less oppression than that of taxation upon the people's food can sustain this great antagonist agitation. In victory it is fated to expire. But much will remain to be done in abating and removing those minor mischiefs of monopoly which impair, in various ways, the prospects of industry and enterprise, although they are not of such flagrancy as to stimulate the zeal of congregated multitudes. To watch these, and take appropriate and well-timed measures for their extinction, will, we hope, then become the business of the Free-Trade Club. The League, now in full vigour, may nevertheless make its will, and bequeath to the Club this legacy of usefulness. For itself, sufficient is the work of grappling with the evil principle, and achieving its overthrow. And during that contest, whatever its duration, we anticipate most hearty and important co-operation from the new Club, to which we wish all success.

The Earl of Ducie, "the farmers' enemy," as the monopolists designate him, has carried off four silver medals, besides more substantial rewards, for the best agricultural machines exhibited at the Southampton meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society.

LAUNCH OF THE IRON BARQUE "RICHARD COBDEN."

On Thursday, the 18th inst., a beautiful barque, constructed of iron, was launched from the building-yard of Messrs. J. Hodgson and Co., North Shore. She has been designated "The Richard Cobden," after the distinguished gentleman of that name, who is the acknowledged champion of the principles of Free Trade. Her owners are the Coalbrookdale Iron Company. Her extreme length is 147 feet; her breadth is 28 feet 8 inches, her depth 19 feet 6 inches; and the thickness of the iron plate at bottom is three-fourths of an inch. She is about 400 tons register and 800 tons burden, and will sail under the command of Captain Jeffrey Scales. She is intended for the China trade; and we believe her first voyage will be to Chusan. The launch took place about one o'clock, when an immense concourse, including a majority of ladies, had assembled to witness the interesting ceremony. The christening was performed by Mrs. Abraham Darby, of Coalbrookdale, and the gallant vessel glided into her native element amid the cheers of the assembled hundreds. The scene was heightened by the display of colours and the firing of cannon; and when the vessel, which is one of half a dozen to be constructed on similar principles by the same firm, had been towed into dock, about two hundred ladies and gentlemen were conducted into another iron vessel, now on the stocks, where a splendid *déjeûné*, furnished by Mr. Skanes, of the Rotunda, was laid out. Among the company present were Sir Arnold Knight, Henry Ashworth, Esq., T. Bagnall Esq., of Staffordshire, the Messrs. Darby and their families, &c. &c. Mr. Blain, one of the firm of Messrs. Hodgson and Co., the hosts, presided at the head table.

Immediately after the cloth had been drawn,

Mr. WILLIAM BLAIN rose amid loud cheers, and after thanking the numerous company for their presence, assured them that the name of Richard Cobden had not been given to the newly-launched barque with any view of offending those who differed from them in opinion, but merely with the design of embodying those principles which were dear to many hearts in the name of that distinguished man who was the champion of the cause. (Applause.) He then said that Mr. John Smith had kindly consented to act as toastmaster on the occasion, and that he was quite sure that gentleman would not utter a single expression which could give the slightest offence to any gentleman present, whether his sentiments were in favour of or in opposition to the cause of Free Trade. (Applause.)

The toast of "The Queen" having been given from the chair and enthusiastically drunk by the company,

Mr. SMITH said he was quite sure they had been very much gratified by the *launch* of one vessel, and, in a great degree, with the *lunch* in the other. (Laughter and applause.) They were met on an occasion on which it was their happy privilege to celebrate the progress of the town of Liverpool in commercial affairs. They lived amongst a community who were giving constant proofs of human industry and intelligence; and they had just witnessed what was produced by skill and labour, and what was designed to carry a worthy name across the seas, and to bring, as he trusted she would, successful issues to her owners at home. He begged to propose success to the Richard Cobden, and may she be soon followed by another, the Henry Ashworth, whose name they regarded, and by another equally good vessel, the John Bright. (Cheers.) The gentlemen were the A B and C of the Free-Trade movement: they therefore wished well to a vessel bearing the name of Richard Cobden; they hoped she would justify the expectations of her owners, and of those who ventured their capital in her foreign voyages. He concluded by giving "Success to the Richard Cobden." The toast was most enthusiastically received.

Mr. ABRAHAM DARBY briefly returned thanks. He thought their worthy chairman would have addressed them in reply to the toast; but that gentleman had not only slipped the vessel into the water, but he had also contrived to slip out of his speech. ("Hear," and a laugh.) He (Mr. Darby), as one interested in the iron trade, hoped the Richard Cobden might prove a successful voyager—profitable to her owners, and profitable also to those gentlemen who had found a cargo for her to take to the extreme point of the globe. The voyage was generally one of five months; he hoped she would make it in three. (Hear, hear.) He thought they had to thank Mr. Blain and Mr. James Hodgson for the able manner in which those gentlemen had executed their task. He could assure the company that a great deal of care had been taken in the way the lines of the vessel were formed, and in the manner she had been constructed throughout. He concluded by thanking the company for having so kindly and promptly accepted of Mr. Blain's hospitality, and sat down amid applause.

Mr. SMITH next gave the healths of Messrs. James Hodgson and Co., the builders of the Richard Cobden, and may they always prove themselves good tradesmen, and have their names carried throughout the world by dint of the excellency of the vessels they produce. (Drunk amid loud cheers.)

Mr. BLAIN was in hopes that Mr. James Hodgson, his partner, would have responded to the sentiment. He could assure them that the building of the Richard Cobden had been matter of much anxious consideration; and that, in order to avail themselves of the first talent in the country, they had obtained an introduction to Mr. Duffy, of Bristol, upon whose lines the vessel had been formed. Mr. Duffy's health ought, therefore, to have preceded that of Hodgson and Co.; for the latter were the mere workmen who had endeavoured in the construction of this, their first essay, to do all they could by themselves, and where they felt themselves deficient they had not hesitated to consult the talent and experience of others. ("Hear" and applause.) At the same time, he thought they had within their own establishment talent of no inferior order; and they should always endeavour, when executing any works intrusted to them, to do them faithfully and to the best of the ability they could command. (Cheers.)

Mr. SMITH next proposed "Success to the manufactures of Great Britain, and their best respects to Mr. Henry Ashworth, of Bolton." (Cheers.)

Mr. ASHWORTH returned thanks, and, in doing so hailed the occasion upon which Richard Cobden's name was mentioned, and expressed a hope that they would not only honour that gentleman's name, but carry out those great and enlightened views of which he was the distinguished advocate and champion. (Great applause.)

Mr. SMITH next gave "Success to the Iron Trade of Great Britain."

Mr. BAGNALL returned thanks.

"The Ladies;" "Prosperity to the town and trade of Liverpool;" and "The health of the Captain of the Richard Cobden," were next given in succession, and enthusiastically drunk; and the company separated at three o'clock, highly delighted with the interesting sight they had witnessed, and the handsome *déjeûné* they had enjoyed.—*Liverpool Journal.*

CAPTAIN WARNER'S EXPERIMENT OFF BRIGHTON.

The experiment illustrative of the powers of Captain Warner's invention, which we announced on Saturday morning as fixed for the afternoon of that day, was exhibited between five and six o'clock. The proposition which Captain Warner undertook to illustrate by the exhibition of this experiment was, that no ship could chase a vessel furnished with his implements of warfare, without herself being certainly destroyed.

On the morning of Saturday crowds of visitors from all parts of the county of Sussex flocked into Brighton, and the first railway train brought down upwards of 500 passengers from London, a majority of whom were attracted to Brighton solely by a curiosity to witness the proposed exhibition of Captain Warner's much-discussed, but much-doubted, powers. The experiment was originally appointed for Saturday, the 13th inst., but a gale of wind drove back the vessel to be operated upon on her passage from London to Brighton. This delay, however, seems to have sharpened rather than destroyed curiosity, for the visitors on this second were much more numerous than on the former occasion. We think there must have been from 30,000 to 40,000 spectators congregated to witness the scene. The ship to be operated upon was a stout bark of 300 tons measurement, but capable of carrying 450. She was a perfectly seaworthy ship, and generously presented to Captain Warner by Mr. Somes, the eminent shipowner, for the purpose of testing the powers of his alleged destructive invention.

Shortly before four o'clock we repaired to the platform of the battery, from the signal-staff of which we had learned that a flag was to be hoisted by the command of Lord Ingestre and Captains Dickenson and Henderson, to indicate to Captain Warner when the ship, the subject of his operations, was to be destroyed. The reason of this arrangement was to remove any doubt as to the *bonâ fide* nature of Captain Warner's power of destroying a pursuing vessel without having any communication with that vessel at the moment of her destruction.

At last, about a quarter to five the John o'Gaunt began visibly to move towards the destined spot of operations, abreast the battery. She was towed by the Sir William Wallace, and attended by a small Shoreham steam-tug, the Tees, to take off the crew of the John o'Gaunt previous to her destruction, and to render other services. When the John o'Gaunt came abreast the battery, being at a distance of about a mile and a half from shore, a union jack, the signal agreed upon, was hoisted on the flagstaff, to intimate to Captain Warner that he was now to destroy the ship in the wake of the Sir William Wallace, on board of which he himself was, with his implements of destruction. A short delay took place, and the union jack on the steamer's mast, which it was arranged should be hauled down previous to the destruction of the pursuing ship, was rehoisted half-mast high, to indicate, as we understood, that some obstacle was in Captain Warner's way. We have been since informed that a cutter kept hovering in the John o'Gaunt's track, in a direction very dangerous to herself, and this prevented Captain Warner's immediate operation. At last the union jack was fairly lowered, the steamer's head was turned somewhat towards the shore, and the devoted John o'Gaunt followed in her wake. We may say without exaggeration, that the suspense of all present was painful, the silence was deep and unbroken. A smoke seemed suddenly to envelop the John o'Gaunt, her mainmast shot up perpendicular from her deck, no noise save that of the rending of timbers was heard, and on the apparent smoke's clearing away, the smitten ship heeled over to port and sank. We say apparent smoke, because we have since ascertained that what we, and a majority of those present, apprehended to be smoke, was in reality displaced water sent up in a huge column into the air. When the John o'Gaunt heeled over on her larboard side, we saw through a powerful telescope, and Captain Dickenson stated to us that he saw the same, through the main hatchway, the sea on the starboard side—a plain proof that the ship's starboard bilge was carried away. The decks, however, were not blown up, but remained entire when the ship sank—a clear proof that the force, whatever it was, and from whatever quarter it proceeded, was external, and not from within the cavity of the ship.

We notice this as a fact from which important conclusions may be drawn; but we will not imitate the example of many around us in this scene of excitement, and hazard conjectures of our own. To this fact we can bear testimony—the swift, and sudden, and complete destruction of the ship; and we are authorized by Lord Ingestre and Captains Dickenson and Henderson to give their decided opinion, founded upon an examination of the vessel and the facts displayed in the course of the experiment, that the cause of destruction was exterior, and not intrinsic.—*Times.*

Another account says:—"The instrument of destruction, whatever it was, seemed to strike the vessel midships, for, from that point a huge column of water, in which was intermingled some of the shingle of which her ballast was composed, shot up perpendicularly into the air higher than her highest topmast; her mizen went by the board, her mainmast, a new one, was shot clean out of her like a rocket; she heeled over to port to an angle of 45 degrees, and her main hatchway being open, daylight was visible through her bottom timbers on her starboard side, and probably her larboard also, having been blown away, and she seemed to part asunder as she went down, leaving nothing perceptible but the top of her foremast. The time which passed from her being struck and her sinking could not have exceeded two minutes and a half. Some few of the more enthusiastic spectators, chiefly professional men, raised a cheer, but with the mass all was mute astonishment. The eyes were rivetted on the last observable fragment of the large object that but the moment before floated gallantly on the waters 'like a thing of life.' The expression on the countenances of the multitude generally seemed to say—What was it? An illusion? A dream? A magical trick? A work of destruction so sudden, so frightful, so stupendous, appeared impossible for a moment even to the thousands and tens of thousands that witnessed it. It was like an awful mystery. There were none of the ordinary circumstances which accompany similar catastrophes. There was no smoke, there was no fire, there was no noise, save the low groan of the rending timbers, and the succeeding hush of the waters as they rolled over the instantaneous wreck; and then arose a melancholy feeling, for it was impossible to prevent the imagination depicting the terrible effects of such an explosion upon a peopled ship, thus silently and suddenly perishing. To convey the effect in words is difficult—extremely difficult. Language is inadequate for the description, it cannot flow fast enough, and a single sentence is too long to tell the tale. It was like a dissolving view. At one instant you see the tall ship riding proudly on the waves; at the next she is enveloped in the elements of her perdition; another moment only, and her shattered limbs are engulfed in the deep!"

On Monday night this extraordinary matter was brought under the notice of the House of Commons. In answer to a question put by Captain Plumridge, Lord Ingestre read the certificate signed by himself, Captain Henderson, R.N., and Captain Dickenson, to the effect that the experiment was performed, Captain Warner being at a distance of 300 yards; that the explosion took place at a signal given by them at a time unknown to Captain Warner, who had not been on board the destroyed vessel. The noble lord concluded by strongly expressing his belief that Captain Warner had proved himself to be in possession of a power of immense importance to the country.—Sir C. Napier asked the gallant officer if he was sure there was no torpedo on board the John o'Gaunt?—Lord Ingestre said he had just read a certificate to the House, and he was ready to make oath to the truth of its contents.

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE AT BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE.

On Monday night a most melancholy accident, attended with the loss of several lives, happened, by the breaking down of the floating pier belonging to the Watermen's steamboats, moored upon the east side of Blackfriars-bridge. A crowd of men, women, and children had congregated upon the pier, for the purpose of witnessing the grand heat of the Bankside boat-race, when suddenly the temporary bridge gave way, and precipitated not less than twenty persons into the water, which was then about ten feet deep, on the Middlesex side. The confusion was at once indescribable, a dense mass of human beings struggling together, each clasping the other, and many of them sinking to rise no more. With all posible speed drags were procured, and four persons were, after much difficulty, rescued, and, after most careful attention on the part of Dr. Hutchinson, they were restored to their families and friends. About eight o'clock the bodies of two children, whose names we have since ascertained to be Benjamin Breadent, aged four years, and Rhoda, his sister, about fourteen years of age, were brought ashore quite dead. The bodies were taken at once on stretchers by the police to the Glaziers' Arms, in Water-lane, and every possible attempt made to resuscitate them, but without effect. About half-past eight the body of a young female, about eighteen years of age, was found close by the bow of one of the coal-barges lying alongside the floating pier. She was dressed in a black drawn bonnet, a lavender print dress, had on an apron, but no ring upon her finger. She was quite dead when taken to the above public-house, where she was laid by a large fire, and wrapped up in flannel. Up to nine o'clock no one had appeared to identify the body; nor up to that hour had any other person been found.

By ten o'clock two other bodies had been picked up at St. Paul's Wharf, but the parties were restored. Just before that hour another female body was found; and, as all the bodies are identified, we are enabled to furnish a correct list of those discovered, who now lie dead at the Royal Humane Society's house, the Glaziers' Arms:—

Mary Ann Breadent, aged eighteen years, living with her father in Newgate-market.

Rhoda, aged fourteen, her sister.

Benjamin, aged about four years.

Also Maria Bulstead, twenty-three years of age, a fringe-maker, who was residing at 8, Jerusalem-passage, St. John's-square.

A fifth body was discovered near the bridge on the following morning (Tuesday), and proved to be a little girl, about ten years of age, the daughter of Alfred Mundy, a publican, in Printing-house-lane.

On Tuesday an inquest was held by Mr. Payne on the body of the little girl, Aurelia Mundy, when, after the examination of a great number of witnesses, who proved the principal facts as detailed above, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

Mr. Under-Sheriff Anderton waited upon the Lord Mayor on Tuesday at the Mansion-house, for the purpose of particularly calling his lordship's attention to the dreadful accident which occurred at the temporary pier at Blackfriars-bridge on Monday evening. The Lord Mayor expressed his satisfaction at the manner in which the Under-sheriff had publicly called his attention to the melancholy disaster which had occurred, and to the practice of overcrowding the steam-vessels—a subject which had frequently occupied his mind. He regretted that delays arising from the nature of the difficulties which pressed upon the subject had taken place, but the committee, together with the Watermen's Company, were, with the aid of the City solicitor, at the present moment engaged in framing rules which would now be acted upon, and were calculated to remedy the hazardous evil of overcrowding.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The meetings of this society is now being held at Southampton, which is thronged with visitors. The chief attraction and the great influx of company were on Thursday, when the cattle show took place. Amongst the prizes for implements we perceive the following:—£10 and a silver medal to Earl Ducie, for the Uley cultivator; £10 and a silver medal to Earl Ducie for a patent chaff-cutter; and a silver medal to Earl Ducie for a Richmond cart.—On Wednesday a meeting of the members of the society and others was held at the Freemasons'-hall, Southampton, for the purpose of establishing the Cirencester Agricultural College. The chair was taken by Mr. Pusey, who briefly stated the objects of the meeting. Lord Bathurst had, in addition to providing a suitable farm of 400 acres on which the college and other buildings were to be erected, advanced £2000 in furtherance of the object. Resolutions were then moved and seconded in accordance with the object of the meeting. The dinner of the council and members took place in the evening at the Victoria Rooms, when about 400 sat down to table. Earl Spencer presided.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

A telegraphic despatch, of which the following is the substance, was received by the French Government on Wednesday:—"A telegraphic despatch, dated from the bivouac of Sidi Zaer, the 16th, announces that Marshal Bugeaud, having been provoked by a fresh attack on the part of the Moors, completely overthrew and pursued them as far as three days' march beyond Ouchda. He returned on the 15th to the camp of Lalla Magnia. All the tribes are offering to submit, even those within the Moorish territory."

By the last courier from Africa despatches from Marshal Bugeaud, dated Lalla Magnia, the 6th July. These despatches contain an account of a great razzia executed by General Tempouri's column upon the Ouled Belagh, the Ouled-el-Mahr, the Beni Muthar, and the Ouled-Sidi-Iahia fraction of the Djafra. These tribes were come up to at 15 leagues to the south of Sebdou, and made a stubborn resistance, and had 30 of their horsemen killed; 100 prisoners taken, with 20,000 sheep, 600 oxen, 150 camels, besides many horses and mules.

The Madrid journals of the 17th announce that preparations were actively commencing for the approaching electoral struggle.

According to the last accounts received from Ceuta, that place was exactly in the same state as in a war. The passage of French ships of war along the Spanish coast had caused great sensation.

The *Madrid Gazette* of the 15th contains a decree, forbidding the use of arms throughout Spain except by special authority, and subjecting the offending parties to a fine of 160 ducats and an imprisonment of thirty days. The decree is founded upon laws already existing, but the publication of it at this moment is an indication of the apprehension of danger on the part of the Government.

On the 10th inst. three citizens of Saragossa were shot in one of the public squares. They were said to have been implicated in the death of General Esteller during a popular tumult in 1838.

General San Miguel and his brother have been imprisoned (without accusation or trial), the one in Bilbao, the other in Majorca.

Letters received from Havannah state that fresh ramifications of the conspiracy of Matazens had been discovered.

BOHEMIA.—The *Nuremburg Correspondent* states that the working classes of Brood, in Bohemia, had risen *en masse*, and destroyed several factories. Troops had arrived, however, from the neighbouring garrisons, and no doubt was entertained of the restoration of order.

The *Universal German Gazette* states that twenty-four persons lost their lives in the riots at Prague on the 19th.

THE GERMAN LEAGUE.—The *Augsburg Gazette* states that the receipts of the import, export, and transit duties by the Zollverein, during the first quarter of the present year, amounted to 4,700,000 crowns, of which 74,400 were for exports, 94,000 for transits, and 4,535,600 for imports.

THE AUSTRIAN TARIFF.—There is a letter in Liverpool which states that the Austrian Government is about to reduce the duty on cotton twist 1d. a pound.

BRUSSELS, July 22.—We learn from Berlin that the Prussian Government has just introduced into its tariff of customs a measure which affects Belgium exclusively. Dating from the 1st of September next, our cast iron will be subject to an extraordinary duty of 30 per cent. more than that of other countries. At present it is subject to a duty which English iron cannot bear. Prussia thinks it has reason to complain of Belgium for not receiving some concession which was made to it by a decree of August 28, 1842.

AMSTERDAM, July 20.—It appears from the annual report of the affairs of the several provinces of the kingdom, that the population on the 1st of January, 1844, was 2,953,618; on the 1st January, 1843, 2,927,343; increase, 26,275. There were in 1843, 21,212 marriages and 36 divorces; of the divorces, 29 were in North and South Holland, the population of which is about a million.

HANOVER, July 16.—We were alarmed yesterday by a report that the town of Gelas was almost entirely burnt to the ground. To-day, however, we learn that there has been a great fire, which destroyed a church, with a celebrated organ, and two houses. It is stated that to the indefatigable and judicious exertions of the military in directing the fire-engines may be ascribed the preservation of the remainder of the town, the wind being very stormy, and the roofs of the adjoining houses being often in great danger.

A dreadful fire took place on the 1st inst. at Drontheim, in Norway. Several streets and twelve public edifices are stated to have been burnt to the ground. A similar disaster occurred at Cronstadt, in Transylvania, on the night of the 30th ult.; more than ninety buildings were destroyed. It is stated, also, in a German paper, that the fine market-place of Marienburg has been burnt down.

An explosion of gas, the consequences of which were frightful, took place on Monday evening, at the porter's lodge of No. 25, Rue Neuve St. Jean, Faubourg St. Denis, Paris. A vent having opened in the pipe supplying the wine-shop in the same house, the porter, whose lodge is very dark, took a lighted candle too near to it, and the gas caught fire. Two children of the unfortunate man were killed, and his wife so severely wounded in the leg that she was necessarily carried to the hospital.

GAME LAWS ON THE CONTINENT.—The Correctional Tribunal of Lille has recently decided that larks are game, and that it is unlawful to carry them about even when alive!

DOMESTIC.

Dr. Charles Locock, first physician accoucheur to her Majesty, has arrived at Windsor, and taken up his residence at the house of the Rev. D. F. Markham, one of the canons of Windsor, and within the precincts of the Castle. Dr. Ferguson, second physician accoucheur, and Sir James Clark, Bart., one of the physicians in ordinary to the Queen, have also arrived. Mrs. Lilley, who has been again engaged as her Majesty's monthly nurse, has been staying at the Castle during the past week.—On Saturday morning, a Russian frigate, reported to be the

Aurora, and having a Vice-Admiral on board, was riding at anchor at the Nore. She is reported to have gold specie, and some very valuable presents on board for her most gracious Majesty.——One of the inmates of the Metropolitan Benefit Societies' Asylum at Ball's-pond, Dalston, has given birth to no fewer than 32 children. On one occasion she was confined with four, on two with three children at a birth, besides at other times having given birth to twins.——The crops in Lancashire are in much better condition than it was anticipated they would be, previous to the recent showers. The whole country appears greatly refreshed, and the crops much improved. The wheat, which has looked well all the season, now presents a beautiful appearance; and there is every prospect of our having a very early harvest, and a first-rate crop both in point of quantity and quality In some districts the harvest has partially commenced; about 40 quarters of new oats were sold last week in the Wakefield market. The quality was very fine and sold at 13d. per stone.——Prime Severn salmon is now on sale at Bristol at 6d. and 7d. per lb.; and other fish, brought by railway and steam-vessels from the coasts of Devon, is also exceedingly cheap.——A police force is about to be established by Government at Hong-Kong. Mr. May, the son of the active chief superintendent of metropolitan police, and who is himself the inspector of the K division, is appointed to the command of the whole force, with a salary of £500 per annum. He will be assisted by two sergeants, at present also in the K division, who will have £250 per annum each. We believe it is not intended to take out any constables, as the force will easily be organised at Hong-Kong.——It appears that the sum of £12,000 and upwards is yet required for the completion of the Nelson monument, which the Lords of the Treasury have recommended Parliament to supply, a vote of £8000 being proposed to be taken for the expenses of the present year.——Before Baron Richards, at Waterford assizes, all the weirs in the river Suir were indicted as a nuisance, as obstructing the navigation, and a verdict to that effect returned.——On Sunday last no less than four accidents took place on the Thames, by which seven lives were lost by drowning.——A deputation from the Society for the Employment of the Distressed Needlewomen in London, consisting of Lord Ashley, M.P., Mr. Alderman Farebrother, and other gentlemen, attended by Mr. Roper, the hon. secretary, had an interview with Sir James Graham, at the Home Office, on Saturday last, upon the subject of the low prices at which work is taken in at the various prisons and other establishments, to the great detriment of the industrious poor; when the Home Secretary was pleased to express his anxious desire to afford all possible attention and assistance to remedy the evil complained of.——On Tuesday week, within the higher ward of the barracks at Chester Castle, one of the privates of the 6th Regiment of Foot, having been charged with some offence against the Mutiny Act, was sentenced to be flogged. The regiment was formed in the upper ward, the doors were closed, and the punishment was inflicted to the extent of 150 stripes. Now, as the cat contains nine lashes, this unfortunate defender of his country received no less than 1350 lashes, each cutting into the muscle, and lacerating his frame!——On Thursday an explosion of fire-damp occurred in Mr. Jeremiah Rawson's colliery, at Swan Bank, Southowram, by which James Barstow and Joseph Holmes, the stewards, were severely burnt.—*Halifax Guardian.*——On Monday week Captain Postle, and other officers of her Majesty's steamer Flamer, preferred informations before Alderman Watson and Alderman Boyse, of Limerick, for breaches of the Admiralty statute, by vessels in this harbour, decorated with (repeal) flags not national. The legal penalty is £500, and not less than £50. It is hoped the law proceedings will not be followed up, for the offence we believe to have been purely unintentional; but the navy officer unquestionably did only his duty, and nothing more. However, in a commercial port so seldom visited by ships of war, it is not surprising that neglect of the Admiralty regulations should be apparent.—*Limerick Chronicle.*——About three o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, while there were several persons in the shop of Mr. Rewe, woollen-draper, &c., of Skinner-street, Snow-hill, corner of Farringdon-street, beside himself and his assistants, a bullet suddenly struck one of the pieces of cloth, and fell upon the floor of the shop, narrowly missing the parties purchasing there. Shortly afterwards, another bullet was driven with great violence through the plate-glass of the folding-door leading into the shop. Fortunately this fell harmless at the feet of the parties employed. The ball perforated the plate-glass very cleanly, the hole through which it passed not being much larger than its own diameter. Finding he was not safe in his own house from the hand of some villain who either sought his life, or was endeavouring to destroy some one else, the principal immediately gave information of the double attempt to Inspector Martin, at the Smithfield station of the City police, who made immediate arrangements for strictly watching the premises, by having two men constantly on duty in the immediate neighbourhood. Just at the time that the nine o'clock change of the constables was taking place, another ball was fired, which made a deep indentation in the shutters; but this bullet having rebounded, was not picked up. It is believed the shots were fired from an air-gun. Inquiries are being made as to the perpetrator of these diabolical attempts.——On Monday week Sir Robert J. Paul, high sheriff of Carlow county, had two of his fingers dreadfully shattered by the explosion of a gun, while amusing himself shooting rabbits at Brown's Hill.——It has been communicated to us, from a respectable and well-informed source, that Mr. O'Connell is to be examined as a witness in an important Record case connected with the property of the O'Sullivan family in the west of this county, to be tried in Cork, at the approaching assizes, his testimony being considered indispensable by counsel in the case.—*Cork Reporter.*——At the Limerick assizes James O'Regan, Mary O'Regan, Mary Burns, and Thomas Looney were indicted for setting fire to the out-offices of the Earl of Dunraven, at Adare, on the 18th of April. The singularity of the case is, that the four prisoners were Crown witnesses on former occasions, and, having tasted and partaken of the benefits derivable to such a class of persons, they actually planned this, more for the purpose of again getting into the pay of Government than from any malicious motives towards the nobleman whose property was consumed. Without leaving the box the jury found a verdict of guilty against all but Mary O'Regan.——On Thursday, at Tullamore, Peter Dolan was tried, charged with the murder of the late Lord Norbury. The principal evidence was that of an approver and his wife, whose statements were denied in some important particulars by the approver's brother. The jury acquitted the prisoner.——During a storm of thunder and lightning, which passed over the neighbourhood of Gloucester on Thursday, the 18th inst., a poor old labouring man named John Lane, 71 years of age, who was working in a potato field at Churchdown, between that city and Cheltenham, was struck by the lightning and instantly killed.——The animated appearance of commercial activity still pervades our docks, and at no time since 1839 has there been, we believe, anything like so much business doing as during the last few weeks. The arrivals of every description of grain from foreign ports have during the last fortnight formed a prominent feature in the imports, and at the present moment every warehouse has got a tenant.—*Gloucester Journal.*——So cheering are the prospects of the harvest at this moment, that prime wheat was sold in Bristol market last week at the low price of 6s. 3d. to 6s. 9d. per bushel.——Tuesday afternoon an alarming fire broke out in the scutching-room, at the Coronation-mill belonging to Messrs. Bolling, Bolton. A quantity of cotton has been destroyed, but the damage will not be heavy. The exertions of the workpeople to extinguish the fire were most praiseworthy; they appeared to stop at no danger, and to their persevering efforts the safety of the whole building is, in a great measure, attributable.——In the quarter ending March, 1842, a friendly society in the district of Blackburn expended £47 4s. in the relief of members in search of employment. In the quarter ending March, 1844, the amount expended for the same purpose was only £3 1s. 6d.——According to a statement made by Mr. Bright, in the House of Commons, the other evening, the London and Birmingham Railway Company employ from 1500 to 2000 persons, at salaries from £70 to £1.00 each, and pay about £200,000 a year to their servants and tradesmen.——About a thousand claims have already been prepared by the Working Men's Committee in Birmingham, and will be put on the parliamentary registration list, under the four shillings-a-week rent decision, before the 20th of August.——The House of Commons has voted for England £40,000, and for Ireland £75,000, instead of, as before, £50,000, for education.——Baron Alderson, in passing sentence at Buckingham on James Holbrook, who was convicted of setting fire to a rick of wheat, the property of his wife's uncle, said that in all cases of arson, where the evidence was clear and satisfactory, it was his intention to transport for life.——At the Cambridge assizes, Mr. Justice Williams, in his charge to the Grand Jury, directed their attention particularly to ten cases of arson on the calendar; and thought it right to say, that if the grand jury should find themselves in a position to give any authentic information with respect to the crime of arson, an impartial and faithful report to the Government of the peculiar causes of the crime in this district woud be a most valuable communication.——The *Bury Post*, a Suffolk paper, states that the incendiary fires for the past week "have been fully equal to the *average* of the year, viz., five or six burnings in seven days."——A most important post-office arrangement is said to be in progress, by which it is anticipated that, by steamers, letters will reach China in fifty days!——A regular agency for the sale of American ice has been established in Liverpool. It is brought from Wenham Lake, a sheet of pure spring water, situated near Boston, and is about two feet in thickness.——For the Taunton Theatre, which was offered for sale by auction last week, there was not a single bidder.——On Thursday evening Oxford was visited by a thunder storm of an alarming character. The electric fluid struck the south-east pinnacle of Magdalen College Tower, throwing the whole of the upper portion of it, weighing three or four hundred weight, upon the pavement below, fortunately without doing any material injury.——The bodies of eleven of those who were drowned by the wreck of the Manchester steamer, at the mouth of the Elbe, including all the passengers and Captain Dudley, have been cast on shore, and recovered. One of the bodies is that of an unknown gentleman, round whose neck was fastened a sum of money amounting to £3900.——The Repeal Association held their usual weekly meeting at Conciliation Hall, Dublin, on Monday. Among the sums of money announced was £200 from the Repealers of Halifax. The total rent for the week amounted to nearly £1600.——The wounded men from the army of Gwalior disembarked from the ship Windsor on the morning of the 22nd inst., and proceeded forthwith to Chatham.——On Wednesday Mr. Bright presented a petition to the House of Commons, from Durham, complaining of the practice of opening letters at the Post-office as unmanly, unconstitutional, and unworthy the character of Englishmen: the petition, therefore, prayed that the practice might be made illegal.——There was no convict left under sentence of death at Clonmel assizes. Kildare, Carlow, and Queen's County assizes occupied only a day each!—*Dublin paper.*——At the Lincoln assizes, Eliza Joyce pleaded guilty to the charge of having administered poison to and caused the death of two female children, one her own, the other her step-child. Mr. Justice Coltman sentenced the wretched woman to be executed.——A considerable reduction of the fares between Liverpool and London is about to be made, the directors of the Grand Junction and the London and Birmingham Railway Companies having both decided in favour of such a step.——A delegate meeting of the operatives of Lancashire was held at Manchester on Monday, for the purpose of devising means to promote the further progress of the Ten Hours Bill. There were delegates present from Manchester, Bolton, Bury, Preston, Wigan, Ashton-under-Lyne, Chawbent, Hindley, Oldham, Stockport, Horwich, &c. Each delegate was requested to give a report as to how far the working classes were prepared, by organisation amongst themselves, to give effect to the declaration of the House of Commons—namely, that the factory day shall commence at six o'clock in the morning and cease at six o'clock in the evening.——The Ipswich assizes commenced on the 23rd. The calendar is very heavy, and contains the names of fifty prisoners, the majority of whom are charged with arson; of these 11 can neither write nor read, 9 can read and write imperfectly, and 8 are under 17 years of age, two of them being mere children.——A new asylum, called the New Asylum for Infant Orphans, has been established in the City on the most extensive and liberal principles. There is to be no religious distinction. The children of misfortune, of whatever creed, are to be received into the same asylum, and the hand of charity is held out to the Churchman and the Dissenter alike.——The annual distribution of prizes at the Government School of Design took place on Thursday, in the Great Room, Somerset House. The Hon. W. Gladstone presided, and distributed the several prizes.——It is expected that the regular business of Parliament will have been disposed of by the end of the first week in August. The Parliament will not, however, be then prorogued; but the session will be continued by adjournment to the 25th of August. The purpose of this arrangement is to afford time for receiving the reports of the judges, and making up the judgment of the House of Lords upon the writ of error brought by Mr. O'Connell and his fellow-prisoners.—*Herald.*——On Monday evening last Mr. Hampton, the aëronaut, who, it will be recollected, about five years since made perilous descents in a parachute at Chelsea and Cheltenham, ascended from the Vauxhall-gardens, Birmingham, in a stupendous new balloon. The atmosphere being very clear, the ascent was beautiful in the extreme, and after the aëronaut had gained an altitude of two miles, he effected an easy and safe descent at Shear's-hill, near Wolverhampton.——It is well known that King Louis Philippe has promised to pay her Majesty a visit this autumn. It is now understood that his Majesty will embark at Tréport, in the month of September, for this country. His Majesty will be accompanied by two ships of 74 guns, and four or five steamers, and will land at Portsmouth, whence he will proceed by railway to the station nearest to Windsor. His Majesty will remain eight days at Windsor, and will not visit London.—*Herald.*——We understand that his Royal Highness Prince Frederic William Louis of Prussia, brother of the King, and heir-apparent to the Prussian throne, is expected on a visit to her Majesty in the early next week.

Death of the League.—The *Morning Herald* of Thursday contains the last of thirteen leading articles, all demonstrating the sudden death of the League, from as many different causes. We recommend its next funeral dirge to the notice of the inimitable artist of *Punch*. The "*Wake of the League*," with Grandmamma as chief mourner, is a subject for our modern Hogarth.

"Punch's" Political Leader.—The public has lately been startled by an extraordinary glut of pine-apples, and it has been found impossible to turn either to to the right or to the left without being, as it were, stared out of countenance by this salubrious luxury. Everybody is asking what can be the meaning of such a sudden influx of this hitherto almost unattainable delicacy. Pines are now thrust under our very noses, and ticketed at the most tempting figures, so that every man may sport his pine-apple on Sunday, for dessert, as reasonably as he could luxuriate in his threepenny pottle of hautboys. Superficial observers see nothing in all this but a fall in the luscious fruit we have alluded to. We, however, take a deeper view of the subject, and look upon these pine-apples as the legitimate fruits of the tariff. The insane and selfish policy which, for a long time, crippled currants, and kept figs at a feverish price; which prevented the Brazilians from a friendly interchange of their nuts for our manufactures; which debarred the merry sons of Naples from sending us their maccaroni, and taking our Birmingham cutlery in return;—this insane and selfish policy no longer prevails, and we may hope that Sir R. Peel will, ere long, give us a cheap loaf, since he has ventured on the experiment of giving us a cheap pine-apple. We trust that the cry of "pine-apples for the people" will henceforth be the watchword of Free Trade; and it is very possible that "melons for the million" will hereafter find an echo in the policy of future Governments.—*Punch.*

The Registration.—In consequence of the recent decision of Lord Chief Justice Tindal, that lodgers, paying a yearly rent of £10, were entitled under the Reform Act to the privilege of voting at elections, there is every probability that the constituencies of the metropolitan boroughs will this year be greatly increased. In the Tower Hamlets about 1000 claims have been sent in to the overseers; in the ward of Cripplegate notices have been served for 700; and in the borough of Lambeth there are no fewer than 1000 new claimants, the great majority of whom are lodgers. From this, it is evident that the revision of the lists of voters will this year last much longer than usual.—*Advertiser.*

Adulteration of Bread.—Another of the thousand ways in which our food is adulterated has been brought to light. So long ago as April last, the commissioner of police in this town, Mr. Dowling, received an anonymous letter from Cumberland, stating that gypsum, that is, primitive alabaster, was ground in large quantities at a mill near Carlisle, and forwarded to Liverpool under such circumstances as rendered the suspicion reasonable that it was used in the adulteration of flour, which it strongly resembles in appearance. Due vigilance being exercised, it was found that quantities of it arrived from Carlisle, consigned to a person here whose name is known, and who received it as gypsum, but afterwards shipped it to Runcorn as flour. It was consigned to a miller in that neighbourhood. The authorities there were put on the alert by Mr. Dowling, and some rumours having transpired, it was observed that the sacks of gypsum lay unclaimed for many weeks. At length, however, when the affair seemed to be lulled, it was called for, and immediately afterwards, we learn that Mr. —, of —, near Weaverham, was fined £10 by the Cheshire magistrates, for having gypsum in his possession. The officers detected him in the act of mixing it, and flour which was purchased from him was found adulterated with gypsum. They found and seized 23 bags of that article, and some further charges for mixing and selling it are to come on at another meeting of the magistrates. Thus is our "daily bread" adulterated; thus is the craft of the mason carried on in our very stomachs, and mortar there produced which is of mortal effect; and thus a family wishing to purchase a stone of flour is literally furnished with a flour of stone. Three years ago we recorded the dreadful sufferings of a gentleman who had eaten of bread adulterated with plaster of Paris, from a mill in Staffordshire, and we then said, what we now repeat, that all parties engaged in such diabolical deeds—such deadly assaults on their fellow-creatures, as those we are exposing—ought to be condemned to live, or rather to die, on the food they prepare, and no other. Gypsum is solid rock; it is altogether indigestible; and the deterioration of health, and the destruction of life itself, must be the consequence of using it mixed in food.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

REVIEW.

Murray's Colonial and Home Library, No. IX. *Western Barbary, its Wild Tribes and Savage Animals.* By J. H. D. Hay, Esq. London: Murray.

Although the preliminary flourish of trumpets with which Murray's new series of cheap books was introduced to the world savoured a little too much of self-sufficiency and arrogance, especially as the "Colonial and Home Library" was far inferior to Knight's series of the British classics, in cheapness, in value of the works produced, and in typographical execution, we took from the beginning a lively interest in the success of the project, which even the incivility of its proprietor, notorious as it is, could not diminish. We were glad to see works of such interest as Borrow's "Bible in Spain," and Heber's "Indian Journals," reprinted in so cheap a form as to be brought within the reach of persons of moderate means; and we are now gratified by being able to purchase an original work of merit at about the tenth of the price which would have been charged for it some years ago. Public attention has been recently directed to Morocco and Western Barbary, by the alleged probability of a war arising between England and France, in the event of the latter attempting the conquest of the country. War, however, is so costly a game, that it is well before commencing it to make an estimate of the cost. Of a French expedition to Morocco the leader may say with the Norwegian captain in "Hamlet":—

> "Truly to speak, sir, and with no addition,
> We go to gain a torrid patch of ground
> That hath in it no profit but the name."

And it might be added,

> "Two thousand souls, and twenty thousand ducats,
> Will not debate the question of this straw:
> This is the imposthume of much wealth and peace,
> That inward breaks and shows no cause without
> Why the man dies."

Reserving for the present the discussion of the political questions connected with the disputes between France and Morocco, we turn without any further preface to Mr. Hay's admirable sketches of the pictures of Arab life, which he met during his travels among the wild tribes of Barbary, and his well selected anecdotes illustrative of their customs and manners. Of the little regard paid to life or limb, the following description of "firing at the egg," related by an Arab chief, may serve as a specimen:—

"I remember, some years ago, when I was at the holy city of Wazàn during the feast of the lamb, Bengeloon and other marksmen of fame from distant parts had assembled to shoot at the target. Bengeloon and I were the only two who had fired at the egg. Then Kaid Absalam, he who had been governor of Alcassar, whose heart was black with envy, swore by the beard of our prophet that he could do what others had done before him: so he called one of his slaves and told him to take his place with the egg, about thirty paces from where he was sitting:—it was the same distance at which we had fired.

"The gun was levelled, and Bengeloon—may God profit us through him!—looking over the kaid's shoulder, exclaimed, 'Allah! unless you keep your gun steadier, O kaid, you will hit his left leg.' Bang went the gun, and the slave fell with a groan, for the ball had passed through his left ankle.

"'There go a hundred dollars,' said Kaid Absalam; 'but the next shot shall hit the egg. Abd-el-Habeeb,' said he, calling on another of his slaves, 'take another egg, and stand where Embarek stood. Coward! what do you tremble for? 'Stand steady, or I will put a ball through your heart.'

"Again the gun was levelled.

"'All wrong,' said Bengeloon, who remained at his shoulder. Bang it went, and the ball passed through the fleshy part of the leg, but the slave kept his position.

"'That is a fine fellow,' said Bengeloon to the kaid, who was again loading his gun: 'Be merciful, as you expect mercy in the world to come.'

"'True,' said the kaid, 'but I must have another shot, for all that.' He fired for the third time, and broke the egg."

The love of the Arabs for their horses has been frequently celebrated, and we find it signally illustrated by Mr. Hay's personal experience.

"It is not always that the Arab is ready to part with his horse, if a good beast, whatever price may be offered; though money amongst the degraded people of Marocco will work miracles. A circumstance which proved this occurred to me about four years ago when accompanying poor John Davidson some few days' journey into the interior.

"As we were proceeding between Mehedeea and Rabàt we were joined by a troop of mounted Arabs, one of whom was riding a mottled grey, the handsomest barb I ever saw.

"Riding up to the man, I entered into conversation with him, and having put him in good humour by praising his steed, I told him I would make him rich if he would sell me the mottled grey.

"'What is your price?' said the Arab.

"I offered a hundred and fifty *mitsakel*, about twenty pounds sterling, a large sum in the interior.

"'It is a good price,' said the Arab; 'but look,' said he, and he brought his horse on the other side of me,—'look at this side of him,—you must offer more.'

"'Well, come,' I said, 'you are a poor man, and fond of your horse; we won't dispute about the matter; so, give me your hand;*—What say you? two hundred?'

"'That is a large price truly,' said the Arab, his eyes glistening, and I thought the horse was mine. But my eagerness, I suppose, had been too apparent, so the Arab thought I might go still further; and shaking the bridle, off he went at full speed. The mottled grey curled its tail in the air and vanished to a speck in no time:—I turned to speak to Davidson, and the next moment the Arab was at my side; and patting the neck of his grey, he said, 'Look at him—see—not a hair is turned! What will you give me now?'

"Davidson prompted me to offer even four hundred ducats rather than let the animal go. Again I began bargaining, and offered three hundred. On this the Arab gave his hand, and thanking me, said, 'Christian, I now can boast of the price you have offered, but it is in vain that you seek to tempt me, for I would not sell my horse for all the gold you, or any other man, possess.' Having said this, he joined his companions.

"Calling the kaid, or chief of our escort, I asked him if he knew the rider of the grey,—adding, that I supposed he must be rich, as he had refused so large a sum. The kaid said, 'All I know is, that he is a great fool; for he possesses nothing in the world but that horse, which he bought when a colt, selling his tent, flocks, and even his wife, to buy it.'"

We next turn, as suddenly as the author himself, to the exciting incidents of a boar-hunt:—

"We were slowly winding up the hill, and I had just requested our new ally to resume his story, when we heard the well-known tongue of a boar-hound. 'Hark!' said the Hadj—'Hark, to old Zeitsoon!' I gave spurs to my horse, and was soon at the top of the hill, just in time to see a huge boar dash across the path some fifty yards in front. Pell-mell at his heels came a motley pack of curs in full cry; and at a distance I heard the usual shouts of the beaters—'Get out, you Jew!' 'At him, Zeitsoon!' 'Hide yourself, Jawan!' 'No other but the one God!'—and then many a long gun glistened through the bushes. I stood still until they came up, and soon recognised many old friends and fellow-hunters. They were half stripped, their legs well protected by palmetto buskins, formed exactly like the greaves of ancient Greece, with a leather apron to defend the body from the thorny thicket. Some with long guns, others with bill-hooks, to be used either to cut their way through the jungle, or, if need be, to defend themselves from the boar's onset, were following the dogs in ardent pursuit. A shot was heard upon our right, in the valley below, and in the direction that the boar had taken. They paused. By the note of the dogs they knew that the beast was at bay; so on dashed the whole hunt, shouting to their dogs to keep clear of the boar, and expressing their feelings in the most *endearing terms*. Such as 'My children—My dearest—Take care, he sees you—He is an infidel, a Nazarene—He will have his revenge—None but the one God!'

"The soldier with the baggage animals now joined me, and desiring him to go on to a well about a quarter of a mile off, where there was shade; and the Hadj and Sharky, both old hunters, also giving their animals to his care, we all rushed on into the thicket, and soon reached the spot where the shot had been fired: there we found a hale, though hoary hunter, who could not have weathered less than eighty winters, reloading his gun. He it was who had struck the boar.

"The beast was at bay in a thicket of brambles, surrounded by the dogs and hunters; he showed great fight, but we soon despatched him. He was a huge monster, and proved the truth of the poet's description:—

> "'On his bow back he hath a battel set
> Of bristly pikes, that ever threat his foes:
> His eyes like glowworms shine when he doth fret,
> His snout digs sepulchres where'er he goes.
> Being moved, he strikes whate'er be in his way;
> And whom he strikes, his crooked tushes slay.'

"Three of the dogs are wounded—one of them fatally. The poor animal had just life enough to wag his tail and raise his head as his owner, a fine young mountaineer, came up, and took him in his lap.

"'Alas! my poor dog,' he said; 'did I not warn you not to go near the infidel? But God's will be done.' The tears started in his eyes as his dog expired.

"The bill-hooks were set to work, and a grave was dug to bury the poor animal; each man put a stone upon it, as a tribute of his affectionate regret, and I, on my part, added one to the number.

"The wounds of the other two dogs were now sewn up—the thorn or point of the aloe leaf and its fibres being substituted for a surgeon's needle and silk thread.

"A fire was lit, and the boar put on to roast for their dogs, they having first offered me the lion's portion, whilst a little sly joking passed amongst them at my expense, such as—'Let *Jan* (the author) have a larger portion than the other dogs.'"

As a companion-picture to this we give a sporting anecdote of a boar and two lions, which is singularly illustrative of the Arab superstitions respecting the language of animals. It was related by a venerable sheikh, who ought not to be suspected of the western tendencies to romance:—

"Now this is a story of the boar and *two* lions.

"In the days of my youth, when a black moustache curled where now you see the hoary beard of my winter's age, I seldom passed a night within my father's hut; but sallying out with my gun, laid wait for the wild animals which frequented a neighbouring forest.

"One moonlight night I had taken my position on a high rock, which overhung a fountain and a small marsh, a favourable spot with our hunters to watch for boars, who resorted thither to drink and root.

"The moon had traversed half the heavens, and I, tired with waiting, had fallen into a dose, when I was roused by a rustling in the wood, as on the approach of some large animal. I raised myself with caution, and examined the priming of my gun, ere the animal entered the marsh. He paused and seemed to be listening, when a half growl, half bark, announced him to be a boar, and a huge beast he was, and with stately step he entered the marsh.

"I could now see by the bright moon, as he neared my station, that his bristles were white with age, and his tusks gleamed like polished steel among the dark objects round him. I cocked my gun, and waited his approach to the fountain.

"Having whetted his ivory tusks, he began to root; but he appeared to be restless, as if he knew some enemy was at hand; for every now and then raising his snout, he huffed the air.

"I marvelled at these movements, for as the breeze came from a quarter opposite to my position, I knew I could not be the object of the boar's suspicions.

"Now, however, I distinctly heard a slight noise near the edge of the marsh: the boar became evidently uneasy; and I heard him say with a clear voice, for you must know they were formerly men, '*I hope there is no treachery.*'

"This he repeated once or twice, and again began to root.

"Keeping a sharp look-out on the spot, whence I heard the strange noise, I fancied I could distinguish the grim and shaggy head of a lion crouching upon his fore paws, and, with eyes that glared like lighted charcoal through the bushes, he seemed peering at the movements of the boar. I looked again, and now I could see plainly a lion creeping, cat-like, on his belly, as he neared the boar, who was busy rooting, but with bristles erect, and now and then muttering something that I could not understand.

"The lion had crept within about twenty feet of the boar, but was hidden in part by some rushes. I waited breathless for the result; and, although myself out of danger, I trembled with anxiety at the terrible scene.

"The boar again raised his snout, and half turned his side towards the lion, and I fancied I could see his twinkling eye watching the enemy. Another moment, and the lion made a spring, and was received by the boar, who reared up on his hind legs. I thought I could hear the blow of his tusks as the combatants rolled on the ground. Leaning over the rock, I strained my eyes to see the result. To my surprise the boar was again on his legs, and going back a few paces, rushed at his fallen foe: a loud yell was given by the lion, which was answered by the distant howlings of the jackals. Again and again the ferocious boar charged, till he buried his very snout in the body of the lion, who was kicking in the agony of death. Blood, indeed, flowed from the sides of the boar, but his bristles still stood erect as he triumphed over the sultan of the forest, and now he seemed to be getting bigger and bigger. 'God is great!' said I, as I trembled with dread: 'He will soon reach me on the rock.' I threw myself flat on my face, and cried out, 'There is no other God but God, and Mahomet is his prophet!' I soon recovered my courage, and looked again. The boar had returned to his natural size, and was slaking his thirst in the fountain. I seized my gun, but, reflecting, said within myself, 'Why should I kill him? He will not be of any use to me; he has fought bravely, and left me the skin of a lion, and perhaps he may be a Jin;* so I laid down the gun, contenting myself with thoughts of the morrow.

"The boar had left the fountain, and was again busied rooting in the marsh, when another slight noise, as of a rustling in the wood, attracted my notice, and I could perceive the smooth head of a lioness looking with surprise and horror at the body of her dead mate.

"'What! treachery again!' said the boar in a low tone.

"'God is great!' said the lioness: 'he shall pay for this! What! a pig! an infidel! to kill a lion! One spring, and I will do for him.' Having said these words, she advanced boldly. The boar stood prepared, grinding his teeth with rage. She paused, and again retreated to the wood, and I could hear her say, 'O God! all-merciful Creator! What an immense boar! what an infidel! what a Christian of a pig!'

"'May God burn your great great grandmother,' said the boar.

"On hearing the creature *curse her* parent, she again stopped, and, lashing her tail, roared with a voice that the whole wood re-echoed, and she said, 'There is no conqueror but God.'

"The boar stamped his hoofs, and gnashed his tusks again with rage; his grisly bristles, red with the blood of her mate, stood on end; then, lowering his snout, he rushed headlong against the lioness, who, springing aside, avoided the dread blow. A cloud came over the moon; I could not see distinctly, but I heard every blow of the paw and every rip of the tusk. There was a dead silence; again the cloud had passed, and the heavens were clear, and I saw the lioness with her fore paws on the body of the boar.

"I seized my gun, and aimed at her head; that was her last moment.

"The morning dawned. I descended from the rock. The claw of the lioness still grasped in death the body of the boar. Many severe wounds showed that the boar had again fought bravely."

An amusing proof of the general belief that animals understand human language is found in the account which an Arab gives of the artful flattery by which he deceived a hyæna:—

"I have often been amused by the difference of tone in which the Arab sportsmen express themselves when speaking of the different animals of chase. When they talk of the lion, it is always as if they considered him a particularly gentlemanly personage; and they treat panthers and boars civilly enough. But their contempt of the cowardice and stupidity of the hyæna has no limit; indeed its Arabic name, 'dbaa,' means addle-headed or stupid.

"On the present occasion the Hadj was very severe upon them.

"'The dull-witted knaves,' he said, 'fancy that if they can hide their head in a hole, all the rest of their body will be invisible; and be assured, O Nazarene! that the Arab huntsmen are not slow to take advantage of their folly. I remember, continued the Hadj, 'accompanying a friend of mine to a cavern which he had marked down as the abode of one of these rapscalions. We took with us no other weapons than our daggers and a long rope. Having reached the mouth of the cavern, which was situated in a thicket, my companion, stooping down, peered within, and could perceive the hyæna nestled in a corner, with its head thrust into a cavity of the rock. Turning to me, he said—and he took care to speak loud enough for the beast to hear him—'Did you say that the hyæna was here? You must be mistaken, for he is not here now. O no! they call him a stupid fellow; but he is no fool: if he was, he would be here.' Then, entering the mouth of the cavern with his eye upon the beast, my companion continued: 'O what folly to suppose the hyæna would be here! It is quite light; I can see every thing; but the dbaa, poor fellow, he is gone. O no, he is not such a fool as we call him!' Then, cautiously approaching the animal, with his dagger in one hand and the rope in the other, talking loud all the time, 'Yes, yes,' he said, 'it would be very different with me if the hyæna was here.

* "The Moorish manner of striking a bargain."

* "An evil genius or spirit."

He is a brave fellow; he is not afraid of two men,—no, nor of a dozen. He is a clever fellow, though men do abuse him.' Then suddenly he slipped a noose of the rope round his hind-legs, and shouted to me, 'Pull away! pull away! He is here, the rascal, the coward, the fool! Pull, pull away!' So the hyæna was drawn out of the cave, and we despatched him with our daggers.'"

The hatred with which Christians and Jews are regarded seems to be unabated, and with an instance of it we shall conclude for the present.

"I could not help interrupting my friend, the Arab, by asking him what was the employment of several ragged-looking mortals, who, half naked, were carrying large bundles through the wood. He told me they had been collecting bark, which had lately become an object of commerce at the port of Laraiche.

"When we came up to these wretched specimens of humanity, they greeted me with the old rhyming malediction of '*Eussara fee senara, Lehood fee sefood*' (the Christian to the hook, the Jew to the spit); upon which our escort, the valiant Mallem, was about to resent the insult, and, putting his Rozinante to the charge, would willingly have belaboured them with the long thong of his bridle (the horsewhip of Morocco), had not I checked his *generous* rage, to which he then gave vent in the following tirade:—'O naked scurvy dogs! O reptiles of the slime of the earth! Cover your shame and put a bridle to your tongues; look at these Nazarenes, God's own creatures, and reflect whether they or you are best fitted for the hook.'"

THE POLITICAL SENTIMENTS OF WESLEYANS.

We continue to cherish the hope of being able to ascertain the political sentiments of our Wesleyan brethren as evinced by their votes at elections for the boroughs and counties in which they possess the elective franchise. From time to time the kindness of correspondents has enabled us to state in what way Wesleyan voters have in particular places disposed of their suffrages. We have been at the pains of collecting these accounts, and of registering the results which they disclose in a tabular form. These returns comprise twenty-nine cities and boroughs, and seven county districts, of which four belong to the West Riding of Yorkshire. They exhibit, as nearly as can at present be ascertained, the number of Wesleyan electors in each place, and the manner in which they voted at the last election.

CITIES, BOROUGHS, and COUNTIES.	Whole Number of Wesleyan Voters.	Voted for Liberal Candidates.	Voted for Tory Candidates.	Divided their Votes.	Did not vote at all.
Durham	23	21	2	0	0
Kendal	15	14	0	0	1
Salisbury	53	47	1	0	5
Leicester	66	60	6	0	0
Exeter	90	85	3	2	0
Rochester	74	44	18	7	5
Plymouth	73	60	10	3	0
Lancaster	33	27	2	2	2
Rochdale	130	105	15	0	10
Aylesbury	30	11	17	0	2
Newport, Isle of W. ..	52	36	15	0	1
Bury St. Edmund's ..	25	17	6	0	2
Canterbury	45	27	10	4	4
Norwich	80	63	12	0	3
Oxford	82	58	14	4	6
Stroud	46	32	1	0	13
Taunton	34	22	8	0	4
Halifax	81	49	21	5	6
Thetford	16	9	0	7	0
Frome	33	20	10	0	3
Worcester	61	52	6	3	0
Northampton ..	113	87	19	4	3
Maidstone	41	25	16	0	0
Derby	63	51	9	0	3
Kidderminster ..	24	17	2	0	5
Leeds (Bramley Township)	117	86	20	0	11
Yarmouth	111	84	10	1	16
Ludlow	22	14	7	0	1
Banbury	31	21	7	0	3
Mildenhall (West Suffolk)	25	24	0	1	0
Wednesbury (South Staffordshire) ..	48	34	12	1	1
Settle (West Riding) ..	12	11	0	0	1
Dent (West Riding) ..	29	10	14	0	5
Addingham (West Riding) ..	27	20	4	0	3
Oulton (West Riding) ..	16	7	7	2	0
Bury (South Lancash.)	24	20	4	0	0
Total	1843	1370	308	46	119

So far is it from being true that the Wesleyans are inclined to Toryism, that, of these 1843 Wesleyan votes, the Tories are able to command only one-sixth. That the places above-mentioned are sufficient in number, and sufficiently distributed over the kingdom, to form a fair criterion of the whole body, no person will question. We ourselves, however, shall not rest satisfied until we are able to present our readers with a table showing how the Wesleyans have voted in each borough and county of the United Kingdom. Our friends are, therefore, earnestly entreated to supply us as quickly as possible with the needful information.—*Wesleyan Chronicle.*

THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE.—At the last annual rent audit of Lord Hill, at Hawkstone, Shropshire, his lordship, through his agent, Mr. George Gill, stated that the time had now arrived when it was absolutely necessary to render every possible assistance to the farmer. With the view of attending to their welfare, he had offered his tenants a lease for eleven years, at a reduction of from 7 to 10 per cent., which would give them a sufficient opportunity of improving the cultivation of their farms, and of reaping the benefit of those improvements; and further added that, if at any period they found the system of granting leases was not beneficial to the full extent they calculated upon, he would at once cancel their leases and receive them as yearly tenants as heretofore. This announcement was received with loud applause by his lordship's tenants.

GUANO.—"Six hundred vessels seeking guano!"—(*Manchester Guardian and Liverpool Times.*)—Guano is nearly the price of wheat! Therefore, *if it pays* to use the article, its importation is at least equal in effect to an importation of wheat, or value in other agricultural produce. This will revolutionise agriculture. Guano, now £10 a ton, will be £3 in the course of next year, I am assured.—*A Correspondent.*

IMPORTANT TO AGRICULTURISTS.—About a month since three chimney-sweeps sold 60 bushels of soot to a farmer near Bideford, for 25s., each party being very well satisfied with the bargain. Some days after it was discovered that the gentlemen of the black robe had adulterated the soot with three sacks of very dry saw dust. The farmer, however, is convinced that his crop of turnips is greatly improved by the saw-dust, as it materially contributed to the passing the manure through the drill; and the vegetation of the seed looks more propitious, and promises to prove, with bone-dust, guano, gypsum, and other experiments, a valuable trial of the virtues of the chimney and the saw-pit.—*Western Luminary.*

INCREASE OF HOUSES IN MANCHESTER IN TEN YEARS.—In 1831 the parliamentary borough of Manchester contained 30,897 inhabited houses, and a population of 187,022. This gives an average proportion of 16.5 inhabited houses to every 100 persons of the population, or just six persons to each inhabited house. In 1841 there were 42,059 inhabited houses, for a population of 242,983; being 17·3 inhabited houses for every 100 persons, or 5·7 persons to each inhabited house. So that in the ten years, from 1831 to 1841, there was an increase of 36·1 per cent. in the number of houses in Manchester, and an increase of 8-10ths per cent. in the number of inhabited houses to a population of 100. The following are the number of persons to each inhabited house in the places named in 1814:—Metropolis, 7·4 persons; Lancashire, 5·7; Yorkshire, 5; Middlesex, 7·5; Liverpool, 6·9; and Leeds, 4·8. So that Manchester has not nearly so crowded a population as either London or Liverpool, for its average is 5·7-10ths persons to each house, while London has 7·4-10ths, and Liverpool 6·9-10ths (nearly seven persons) to each inhabited house. In the metropolis the proportion of houses to inhabitants is slightly diminished, while in Middlesex it has remained stationary. In Lancashire the average number to each house is very little above, and in Yorkshire it is slightly below, that of all England; and in both counties house accommodation has increased in a greater proportion than the population.—*Manchester Guardian.*

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. July 20	Mon July 22	Tues. July 23	Wed. July 24	Thurs July 25	Fri July 26
Bank Stock.....	199½	200	200	200	200	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	100½	100⅜	100⅜	100¾	100⅜	100½
3 per Ct Con Ann.	99½	99¾	100	100	99¾	99¾
3½ per Ct. Red. Ann	103	103¼	103½	103½	103⅜	103⅜
3½ per Ct. Ann. new	102¼	102¼	102⅜	102⅜	102⅜	102⅜
Long An. Ex. 1860	—	12 9-16	12 9-16	12 9-16	12 9-16	—
Cons. for Opg ..	99½	99¾	100	100	99¾	99¾
Exc. Bills, pm. ..	76 9	76 8	76 9	77 81	79 80	—
Ind. Bds. und. 1000*l*	95	95 7	—	—	96	—
India Stock	286½	286	286½	286	286	—
Belgian Bonds ..	104¼	104¼	104¼	104¼	104½	—
Brazilian	83½	84	—	84	84	—
Buenos Ayres....	34 6	34 6	34 6	86½	36½	—
Chilian..	103 5	103 5	—	105	—	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	13¼	14¼	14¼	14¼	14¼	13¾
Danish	—	88 9	—	88 9	—	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	101¾	101¾	102	102	101¾	101¾
Dutch 2½ pr Ct. Acc.	61¾	62	62	62¼	62	62
Mexican, 1837, Ac.	36	36	36¼	36¼	36½	36¾
Peruvian	25 7	25 7	26¾	—	26 7	—
Portug. conv acc.	45¼	45	45½	45	44¾	45½
Spanish 5 per Ct.	23¼	23	23	23	—	23
Do. 3 per Ct., acc.	33¾	33¾	33½	33¾	33¾	33¾

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

MARK-LANE, Monday, July 22.—There was again a good supply of English Wheat to this morning's market; before any progress could be made in sales a decline of 2s. to 3s per qr. had to be submitted to, and even then a considerable quantity remained unsold at a late hour. The demand for Foreign was in retail quantities at 1s. to 2s less than this day week. Barley, Beans, and Peas were nominally the same as last week, but it was impossible to effect sales to any extent even if holders had been willing to accept lower prices. The supplies of Oats since Friday were not large, and chiefly Irish; but the quantity left over from former arrivals made altogether a large show. There was a moderate sale at the prices of this day week.

S. H. LUCAS and SON.

BRITISH.

	Per Imperial Quarter.	
Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk....	Red 52 to 56	White 56 to 61
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire	— 49 — 54	— 53 — 58
—— Scotch	— 46 — 51	— 49 — 54
—— Irish	— 46 — 50	— 50 — 52
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire.....		Feed 21 — 23
—— Ditto ..... Ditto ..	Short 22 — 24	Polands 23 — 26
—— Scotch	Feed 23 — 25	Potato 26 — 27
—— Limerick	— 21 — 22	Short 22 — 23
—— Cork	— 20 — 21	— — — —
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork		Black ..... 19 — 20
—— Sligo.....		21 — 22
—— Galway		18 — 20
Barley, Grinding	28 to 30	Distilling .... 30 — 32
—— Malting	32 — 34	Irish ..... 26 — 30
Beans, Mazagan	— — 30	Tick ..... 32 — 34
—— Harrow	35 — 37	Small..... — — 40
—— Old Tick		— — 40
Peas, White.....	31 to 34	Boilers ..... 35 — 36
—— Maple and Grey		30 — 34
Flour, Best Town-made.....	per sack of 280 lbs	46 — 48
—— Norfolk and Suffolk	— —	40 — 42

FOREIGN.		FREE.	IN BOND
		Per Imperial Quarter	
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed		56 to 59	38 to 43
—— Rostock		51 — 58	38 — 42
—— Stettin		48 — 56	38 — 40
—— Hamburgh		48 — 53	38 — 40
—— Odessa Polish		48 - 51	36 — 38
—— Barletta		48 — 52	32 — 36
—— Russian	soft	46 — 50	— — —
—— Ditto.....	hard	43 — 48	— — —
—— Spanish	Red	47 — 53	— — —
—— Ditto	White.....	52 — 54	— — —
Barley, Grinding		26 — 29	— — —
—— Distilling		30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel		20 — 21	14 — 15
— Swedish		20 — 22	14 — 16
— Dutch Polands		— — —	19 — 20
Beans, Egyptian		30 — 31	22 — 23
Peas, White		30 — 34	— — —
— Ditto Boilers		32 — 35	— — —
Flour, Canada	per barrel of 196 lbs	29 — 31	— — —
—— United States ..	— —	30 — 32	22 — 24
—— Dantzig.....	— —	26 — 30	— — —

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from July 15 to July 20, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	3647	390	796	762	386
Scotch	—	—	2060	—	—
Irish	—	—	28070	—	—
Foreign	9491	8825	4845	3930	1799

Flour, 5147 sacks, 4140 bars.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending July 15, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	3775	55s. 0d.	Rye	—	—s. —d.
Barley.. ..	880	35s. 3d.	Beans	1666	37s. 1d.
Oats	19957	21s. 0d.	Peas	705	36s. 3d.

FRIDAY, July 26.—We are well supplied with English Wheat since Monday, and the arrivals of Foreign Wheat, Oats, and Barley are large. The continuance of fine weather has a very depressing effect on the Wheat trade; the business doing is quite trifling, and it would be impossible to effect sales to any considerable extent, even by submitting to a reduction. There is no alteration since Monday in Oats and Barley, though in a few instances sales have been made of the former at lower prices in order to clear vessels coming on demurrage; there is not so large a quantity pressing on the market as last week, and the dry weather, which is so favourable for the growing Wheat crop, being rather the reverse for all kinds of cattle feed, gives rise to an impression that present prices will be at least maintained. Beans and Peas are nearly unsaleable. There was no alteration in the duties yesterday.

S. H. LUCAS and SON.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 22nd of July to the 26th of July, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat.....	6760	—	13070
Barley.....	80	—	9570
Oats.....	1710	4360	14310

Flour, 4840 sacks.

A WEEKLY REPORT of the NUMBER of QUARTERS, and the AVERAGE PRICE of CORN and GRAIN, sold in the several Counties of England and Wales, comprising the Two Hundred and Ninety Towns named in the Act of the 5th Vic., cap. 14), which governs Duty.

WEEK ENDED JULY 20, 1844.

	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Wheat. Aver price	Barley. Qrs. sold.	Barley. Aver price	Oats. Qrs. sold.	Oats. Aver price	Beans. Qrs. sold.	Beans. Aver price
		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.
Weekly Averages..	83728	54 1	4010	34 5	30621	21 5	5423	37 7
Aggregate Averages..	..	55 3		33 8		22 5		37 8
Duty.....	..	17 0		5 0		6 0		5 6

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JULY 19.

CROWN-OFFICE, JULY 19.

MEMBER RETURNED TO SERVE IN THIS PRESENT PARLIAMENT.

Borough of Birmingham—Richard Spooner, Esq., in the room of Joshua Scholefield, Esq., deceased.

BANKRUPTS.

T. HARVEY, Wandsworth, Surrey, innkeeper. [Bird, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

W. TRUTCH, Barkham-terrace, Southwark, china clay merchant. [Cooke, Half Moon-street.

J. SMITH and H. TITFORD, King-street, Snow-hill, engravers [Jenkinson, Cannon-street, City.

C. COPE, Edgbaston, Warwickshire, wine merchant. [Reece, Birmingham.

B. H. HUNTER, Liverpool, merchant. [Gregory and Co., Bedford-row; Littledale and Bardswell, Liverpool.

J. CARRUTHERS, Blackburn, Lancashire, linendraper. [Milne and Co., Temple; Wilding and Fisher, Blackburn.

DIVIDENDS.

Aug. 10. E. Arnatt, Oxford, baker—Aug. 10. W. and I. Dunnage, Tooley-street, Surrey, plumbers—Aug. 14. C. Pearsall, Anderton, Cheshire, boiler maker—Aug. 15 E. Fozzard, Dobcross, Yorkshire, dyer—Aug. 10. J. Ulyatt, Crowland, Lincolnshire, cattle dealer.

CERTIFICATES.

Aug. 9. W. Smith, Strand, printer and stationer—Aug. 12. J. Clarke, Abington, Cambridgeshire, draper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

D. WILSON, Edinburgh, tavern keeper—D. CAMPBELL, Nairn, merchant.

TUESDAY, JULY 23.

BANKRUPTS.

J. AVERY, Mincing-lane, City, colonial broker. [Wright, London-street, Fenchurch-street.

T. H. WHITMARSH, George-street, Hanover-square, hotel keeper. [Stevens and Co., Queen-street, Cheapside.

M. THOMPSON, Saffron Walden, Essex, ironmonger. [Rhodes and Lane, Chancery-lane.

J. PIM, Clapham-common, Surrey, linendraper. [Hardwick and Davidson, Weavers'-hall, Basinghall street.

J. B. LARKE, East Harling, Norfolk, draper. [Storey, Gray's-inn-place; Gilman, Norwich.

R. DREW, Compton-street, Regent's-square, licensed victualler. [Vandercom and Co., Bush-lane.

J. DUNBAR, sen., Tottenham Court road, iron founder. [Billing, King-street, Cheapside.

W. H. WILLIAMSON, Dowgate-hill, City, tobacconist. [Lawrence, Old Fish-street, Doctors'-commons.

J. DUNPHY, Burford, Oxfordshire, victualler. [Holmer, Bridge-street, Southwark.

E. A. HAW, Moorgate-street, City, tavern keeper. [Robinson, Ironmonger-lane; Lawrence and Plews, Buckersbury.

I. TOBIAS, Birmingham, factor. [Messrs. Ryland, Birmingham.

E. F. DAVIS, Bristol, ironmonger. [Harley, Bristol.

J. ROYLE, Manchester, corn dealer. [Milne and Co. Temple; Crossley and Sudlow, Manchester.

R. YALE, Leeds, Yorkshire, engineer. [Mitton, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane; Shaw, or Dunning and Co., Leeds.

J. FAIRFIELD, Tranmere, Cheshire, corn merchant. [Humphreys and Co., Chancery-lane; Hetherington and Co., Liverpool.

DIVIDENDS.

Aug. 16. W. H. Nash and W. Gardiner, Exeter, drapers—Aug. 15. T. H. Wetmore, Worcester, grocer—Aug 14. E. Pritchard, Liverpool, wine merchant—Aug. 16 S. Speakman, Preston, Lancashire, ship builder—Aug 16. D. Smith, Halifax, Yorkshire, worsted manufacturer—Aug. 15. H. H. Wright, Shifnal, Salop, cattle dealer—Aug. 15. J. Dixon, Wellington, Salop, mercer—Aug. 17. C. Scott, Newcastle-under-Lyne, Staffordshire, currier.

CERTIFICATES.

Aug. 16. B. Land, St. Alban's, Hertfordshire, victualler—Aug. 16. W. H. Nash and W. Gardiner, Exeter, drapers—Aug. 15. T. Stephens, Newgate-street, City, umbrella manufacturer—Aug. 14. J. B. Lord and M. Coghlan, Admondbury, Yorkshire, woollen cloth manufacturers.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

P. MILLER, Forest, Dumfriesshire, cattle dealer—C. BROWN, Stranraer, watch maker—A. THOMSON, Arbroath, tea dealer.

London: Printed by ROBERT PALMER (of Providence-place, Upper Kennington-lane, Lambeth, in the County of Surrey) and JOSEPH CLARKE (of Number 320, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at their Printing-office, Number 10, Crane-court, in the Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West, in the City of London, and published by ABRAHAM WALTER PARKER (of Number 32, Norfolk-street, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at the Office of THE LEAGUE, Number 67, Fleet-street, in the said Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West.—Saturday, July 27, 1844.

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THE LEAGUE.

No. 45.] SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1844. [3*d*.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive a copy, weekly, of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and* addresses *to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or* 67, *Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND, *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

REGISTER, REGISTER, REGISTER!

Particulars to be attended to up to the 25th of August.

The overseers must, on or before the 31st of July in each year, make out an alphabetical list of all £10 occupiers, within their respective parishes, entitled to a vote for the borough, including such as occupy the adjoining precincts and liberties, if any. They are entitled to have access to the books of assessed taxes, to ascertain whether the claimant is liable for, or has not paid his assessed taxes "*in respect*," *only*, "*of the premises*."

They must make a separate similar list of all parishioners, other than freemen and liverymen, qualified to vote in respect of ancient rights.

These lists, signed by the overseers, must be affixed on the doors of every place of worship, established and dissenting, within the parish, on the first two Sundays in August—and copies are to be kept for public inspection, without fee, in the overseers' custody.

Persons omitted from these lists will send claims to be registered to the overseers, on or before the 25th of August.

Persons on the first list may be objected to by any one, whose name is on any list of voters for the borough, serving notice of objection on the overseers, on or before the 25th of August.

DUTIES OF CLAIMANTS AND ELECTORS.—Every person should see for himself that his name is inserted in the list of that class of voters to which he belongs. If he have a twofold qualification, he should see that his name is on both lists. This is of great importance, as the voter may be objected to and lose one qualification, and retain the other and vote for it.

Any person whose qualification consists of a successive occupation of different premises, should be careful to observe that each set of premises is inserted in the list.* He must also be very careful to see that the place for which he claims, and his own place of residence, are very correctly described in these lists. If this should not have been done, he must send in a claim to the overseers, as below, describing all the premises, and also (if he have changed his residence) his new place of abode.

CLAIMS BY PERSONS OMITTED FROM THE LISTS.—Persons omitted from the overseers' lists, should give notice, on or before the 25th of August, to the said overseers, in the following form. If the claim be for a successive occupation of different premises, each of such separate premises must be described:—

To the Overseers of the parish [or township] of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I claim to have my name inserted in the list made by you of persons entitled to vote in the election of a Member [or Members] for the City [or Borough] of ——, and that the particulars of my qualification are stated in the columns below.

Dated the——day of——, one thousand eight hundred and——

Christian name and surname of the claimant at full length.	Place of abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Street, lane, or other place in the parish [or township], where the property is situate, and number of the houses, if any (when the right depends on property).

(Signed) A.B.

Persons, omitted from the List of Freemen, should give notice to the town clerk in the following form:—

To the Town Clerk of the City [or Borough] of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I claim to have my name inserted in the List made by you of persons entitled as Freemen to vote in the Election of a Member [or Members] to serve in Parliament for the City [or Borough] of ——, and that my qualification is as Freeman of ——, and that I reside in —— Street, in this City [or Borough].

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and ——

(Signed) A.B.

* And of course, also, as a preliminary, in the rate-book relating to each occupation.

Lists of these claims are to be made out and published, in the manner already described, by the overseers, and the claimant should inspect them, and, if incorrectly inserted in any of the essential particulars, he must attend the Revising Barrister's Court, and get them altered. If, notwithstanding of his making his claim, he is omitted from the list of claimants, he upon attending the Revising Barrister's Court, and proving the serving of his claim on the overseers, will be placed on the register.

Notices of claims must be delivered on or before the 25th of August.

OBJECTIONS TO PERSONS ON THE LISTS.—It is of importance that every voter should carefully examine the lists made by the overseers and town-clerk, to ascertain if the name of any person has been inserted who is not entitled to vote. If there be any such, he is to give to the overseers, or to the town-clerk, a notice of objection, in the following form:—

To the Overseers of the Parish [or Township] of (or to the Town Clerk of the City [or Borough] of) ——

I hereby give you notice, that I object to the name of —— being retained in the List of Persons entitled to vote in the Election of a Member [or Members] for the City [or Borough] of——

Dated this — day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and—

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode]

On the list of Voters for the Parish of——

The notice must also be given to the person objected to, as follows:

To Mr. ——

I hereby give you notice, that I object to your name being retained on the list of persons entitled to vote in the Election of Members [or a Member] for the City [or Borough] of——

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and——

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode]

On the list of Voters for the Parish of ——

In all notices of objection, the christian name and surname of the person objected to, exactly as it appears in the list, should be written at full length. The christian name and surname, and place of abode of the objector must also be written at length, or the notice will be void.

If there be more than one list of voters, the notice should specify the list to which the objection refers; and if the list contains two or more persons of the same name, the notice should distinguish the person intended to be objected to.

These notices must be given on or before the 25th of August. Copies of the notices should be kept by the person objecting.

Notices of objection may now be sent by post; but care must be taken to have a duplicate copy of such notice stamped by the postmaster. Such duplicate will be good evidence of the service of the notice. The notice must be posted so that the person objected to may get it on or before the 25th of August, or the objection will fall to the ground.

It is of importance that none but well-founded objections should be made, as the Revising Barrister has now the power, in cases of frivolous objections, of awarding the payment of costs to the amount of not more than twenty shillings in each such case.

GROUNDS OF OBJECTION TO TEN POUND OCCUPIERS.—That the person does not occupy as owner or tenant; in other words, that he occupies by permission only. That the property is not of the required value. That the person has not occupied for twelve months before the 31st of July. That he had not been rated twelve months before the 31st of July. That he had not, on the 20th of July, paid all poor-rates or assessed taxes payable before the 6th of April. That he has not resided six months, before the 31st of July, within seven miles of the borough.

GROUNDS OF OBJECTION TO A SCOT AND LOT VOTER.—That he has not been rated to all rates made for six months before the 31st of July, or has not paid any of such rates demanded from him. That he has not resided during the time or within the distance required.

GROUND OF OBJECTION TO A FREEMAN OR BURGESS.—That he was not duly admitted by the 31st of July; or, if the freedom is in right of birth, that it has not been derived from or through a freeman admitted before the 1st of March, 1831, or admitted since that period in respect of servitude. That he has not resided during the time or within the distance required.

DISQUALIFIED ON ACCOUNT OF PERSONAL INCAPACITY.—Persons under twenty-one years of age; persons of unsound mind; persons convicted of felony, perjury, or bribery; commissioners and officers of excise, customs, and stamps; collectors of house and window duties, unless appointed by commissioners of the land-tax; all persons employed by the Post-office; police magistrates, police officers, and all persons employed in the Thames and Metropolitan police. Also all persons who have received parochial relief within twelve months previous to the 31st of July.

COUNTY REGISTRATION.

The register of voters, and also the lists of claimants for counties, should now be carefully examined, and where there is reason to believe that a party has not a sufficient qualification, or that he is disqualified to vote, a notice of objection should be given on or before the 25th of August, to the overseers, or any one of them, and another should be given to the person objected to, or left at his place of abode, as described in the list. Any person whose name is on the register, may object to any person on the list, or to any claimant. The notice must be signed by the party objecting, and in the following form:—

To the Overseers of the Parish [or Township] of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I object to the name of the person mentioned and described below being retained in the List of Voters for the County of ——, [or for the —— Riding, Parts, or Division of the County of ——, as the case may be].

Christian and Surname of the Voter objected to, as described in the List or Register.	Place of Abode, as described.	Nature of Qualification, as described.	Street, Lane, or other like place, where the qualifying Property is situate, &c., as described in the List or Register.

Dated the —— day of ——, in the year ——

(Signed) A. B. [Place of Abode.]

The following notice must likewise be given to the person objected to:—

To Mr. ——, of —— [as described in the List.]

Take notice, that I object to your name being retained in the [here insert the name of the Parish] List of Voters for the County of ——, [or for the —— Riding, Parts, or Division of the County of ——.]

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and ——.

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode], on the Register of Voters for the Parish of ——

When the person objected to resides out of the parish or township to which the list relates, and the name of the occupying tenant of any portion of the property is stated in the list, the following notice must be given to tenant so named, besides the notice to the person so objected to:—

To Mr. ——, of —— [as described in List.]

Take notice, that I object to the name of A. B. [as described in the list] being retained in the [name of Parish] List of Voters for the County of ——, [or for the —— Riding, Parts, or —— Division of the County of ——.]

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and ——.

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode], on the Register of Voters for the Parish of ——

It is necessary that the notices of objection should specify the place of abode of the objector, and the notices to the voters and tenants, also the parish in which the objector is registered, otherwise they will be void.

Duplicate copies of each notice of objection should be kept by the objector.

Notices of objection may now be sent by post, but care must be taken to have the duplicate copy stamped by the postmaster; the production of such duplicate, in proof of their having been so sent, will be taken by the revising barrister as proof of service.

The principal grounds of objection are—

First, the insufficient value of the property, reference being had to the tenure by which it is held.

Secondly, the insufficiency of the title of the party to the property in respect of which he claims.

Thirdly, that the party has not been in possession during the period required by law.

Fourthly, that he has omitted to set forth any of the particulars required in his notice of claim.

Change of residence, since registration, is a good ground of objection, although the barrister, upon proof of the qualification, will not expunge the name, but correct the place of abode, if supplied at the revision.

Persons who are disqualified to be registered, in respect of personal incapacity, are as follows:—

Women; persons under twenty-one years of age; peers; Irish peers, except members of the House of Commons; aliens, unless made denizens by the King's letters patent, or naturalised by act of Parliament; persons of unsound mind, such as idiots, lunatics; persons convicted of felony, bribery, perjury, or petit larceny; commissioners and officers of excise, customs, stamps, and taxes; all persons in the employ of the Post-office; police magistrates or police officers; and all persons in the Thames and Metropolitan Police in the counties of Hertford, Essex, Kent, Surrey, and Middlesex. All these are legally incapacitated, and may be objected to.

A collector of taxes who is not appointed by the Tax-office, and a *sub*-deputy in the Post-office not appointed by the Postmaster General, are not disqualified.

The receipt of parochial relief will not disqualify a freeholder who claims to vote for a county.

The revising barrister has power to adjudge costs, to be paid by objectors to persons objected to upon groundless or frivolous objections. The barrister is the sole judge of the nature of the objection, and may make such order as he shall think fit for the payment of the costs of any person in resisting it; such costs not to exceed twenty shillings.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EXAMINATION OF THE LISTS.

Under the Reform Act one list for each parish, of the old and new claims, was sufficient. The 6 Vic., c. 18, s. 5, directs that lists of all new claims shall be printed; also a copy of the register for the parish then in force; such lists shall be published by placing them on the church and chapel doors on the first and second Sunday in August. (Sec. 22.) It is most important that the lists be printed separate, and that the new claims be not inserted in the copy of the register, for this obvious reason: The 40th section requires the revising barrister to correct the list; and if he finds more names in the copy of the register than on the register, he must strike out those names. The effect will be, that, unless a list of the new claims are made out, the barrister has no list to revise; and the voter loses his vote, unless he is prepared with a duplicate claim, and is prepared also to prove his qualification, as directed by the 37th section, as it must be treated as if no list of new claimants had been made.

The negligence of overseers (to speak in the mildest terms) is so great, that often three parts of the voters on a parish list stand a chance of being disqualified by the improper way in which the copy of the register is made. Example—St. Michael-le-Guerne, city of London, in the present year:—

Joseph Chapman ..	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
John Cowper	Starford-street.	Ditto.	4, Ditto.
Frederick Cowper ..	Russell-square.	Ditto.	Ditto.

The 40th section requires the revising barrister to expunge the name where the nature of the qualification shall, in the opinion of the barrister, be insufficiently described for the purpose of being identified. *And it is a very common practice for the vestry clerks, instead of procuring a copy of the register, signed by the clerk of the peace, to copy, year after year, some old list of their own, the result of which is the omission frequently of many names.*

Electors must not, therefore, and those who are watching the Registration, be content with having claimed, or take the lists as a matter of course as being perfect, but should carefully see that their new *claims are on the* new-claim list (*separately*), *and not on the copy of the register; and also that those who have claimed years back should see that their names, addresses, and qualifications are properly discribed on the list for the present year's revision, or the overseers, by their errors, may disfranchise them without their having any notice on the subject, which, if detected, may be rectified on application at the court at the time the list is revised.*

MONOPOLIST BOROUGHMONGERING.

The farce of an election at Cirencester this week replaces one nominee of Lord Bathurst by another nominee of Lord Bathurst. The forms of political freedom and choice are applied to this transaction with just as much propriety as if they were gone through on occasion of his lordship's changing his cook or butler. There are only 153 £10 householders in the town; who are swamped by 343 pot-wallopers, and the neighbouring peer, as to one member; a resident banker taking charge of the representation, as to the other member. Such is the machinery by which a brace of bread-tax votes in Parliament are quietly and safely manufactured. Cirencester tells, in a division, for as much as Manchester. That is to say, my Lord Bathurst and Mr. Cripps the banker tell for as much as Manchester; with the addition of his lordship's personal vote in the House of Peers. The only reason assigned by Mr. Master, the late member, for his sudden retirement, is, that he can no longer discharge his Parliamentary duties "except at a personal inconvenience and sacrifice." This must be a perfectly satisfactory reason in that class which regards law-making and tax-levying as means of warding off such personal inconvenience and sacrifice as they apprehend might be occasioned by liberating the food and industry of the country from some of the burdens they have imposed for their own advantage. At any rate, my Lord Bathurst takes no exception to the excuse, and accords very graciously in the choice of a successor, of whom his lordship will scarcely be supposed to have first heard at the exact point of time indicated in the following narrative (from the *Times*):—

"It appears that Mr. Master's intention to resign has been known for about a fortnight to the leaders of the Conservative party, and they had adopted measures to secure the coming forward of a candidate likely to prove acceptable to the constituency. Lord Villiers, the eldest son of Earl Jersey, and the son-in-law of Sir Robert Peel, has been selected.

"A deputation proceeded from Cirencester to London, and waited upon his lordship, who at once consented to offer his services to the constituency. This important point having been settled, a deputation, consisting of Mr. Croome, Mr. Joseph Mullings, Mr. Birch, Mr. David Bowly, Mr. Newmarsh, and Dr. Kinnear, waited upon Earl Bathurst this morning, in compliment to his lordship, and with the view of explaining what had been done in the way of supplying the vacancy in the representation.

"His lordship stated, that his position as a peer did not authorize his interference in the election of a member of Parliament, but he had much pleasure in assuring the deputation, that, so far as he was personally concerned, he was highly satisfied with the choice which had been made, and hoped that what the deputation had done would meet with the entire approval of the electors, and of the inhabitants generally."

Lord Bathurst has a queer conscience. If "his position as a peer did not authorize his interference," why *did* he interfere? His reception of the deputation is an interference—his expression of satisfaction with the previous steps is an interference—his avowed hopes of success are an interference. And all this public interference bespeaks much more which is not public. It is needless interference too; for the dirty dogs who went on this fawning errand, proclaiming thereby their submissiveness to rank and influence in the nominal exercise of the dearest right of a freeman, would have done the job just as thoroughly had the park-keeper been instructed to give them their answer at the lodge, and kick them back to their fellow-pot-wallopers. The *Morning Post* says, "Lord Villiers is residing at the hospitable mansion of Earl Bathurst." He came there close upon the heels of the deputation; the movement glaringly betokening a "foregone conclusion" which renders yet more sickening the gratuitous display of this ostentatious servility.

An opportunity would have been afforded by the League for any number of electors, however small, who were desirous of protesting against this disgraceful state of things, for doing so on the present occasion. No proceedings could, however, be taken but in conjunction with the liberal electors there; and the following resolution was adopted at a meeting held for the purpose of ascertaining their sentiments:—

"Resolved—That, in the present circumstances of the borough of Cirencester, and especially considering the aristocratic and undue influence which can be brought to bear on the electors, this meeting is of opinion, that for the Anti-Corn-Law League to send a candidate at the present vacancy would be an expenditure of energy and means, without any prospect of success.

(Signed) "JOHN R. SMITH, Chairman."

Were the case of Cirencester a singular one, we might be tempted to enlarge more upon its exhibition of the anomalies and evils which the Reform Act was passed in order to abolish. Those evils are as rife as ever. As in superstitious times it was believed that fiends could reanimate the bodies of dead persons, and keep them still amongst the living; so has the demon of monopoly possessed the carcase of boroughmongering, unnaturally prolonging its vitality, and sustaining its pernicious and unconstitutional power. The present instance of Cirencester is only one of a long series which has occurred during this session. We take the enumeration of them from the *Globe*:—

"Cirencester is a large constituency, in comparison with many others. At Andover, we find by the same return, 240 electors send two members to Parliament; at Lymington, in Hampshire, 282 electors return two members. Constituencies of this size are inevitably governed by proprietary influence or bribery. We have had elections during the present session for Abingdon, Woodstock, Launceston, Christchurch, Horsham, Huntingdon, and Devizes. The first five places return one member each. Huntingdon and Devizes each return two. Abingdon has 158 electors; Woodstock, 392; Launceston, 344; Christchurch, 327; Horsham, 339; Huntingdon, 374; Devizes, 374. The number of electors in every one under 400! Why, what a farce of popular representation is this! The Duke of Marlborough does what he likes with Woodstock, the Duke of Northumberland with Launceston, Sir G. Rose with Christchurch, the Duke of Norfolk with Horsham, and Lord Sandwich with Huntingdon. At Abingdon and Devizes every one knows that money and proprietary influence together do the business. The 158 electors of Abingdon strengthened the Government by returning the Solicitor-General, when his Grace of Marlborough would have nothing more to do with him at Woodstock. What a proud proof of popular confidence! And even to gain this great popular victory, his 'elegance' had to come down with scramble-money! With the exception of Horsham, the members for all these boroughs are supporters of the Government; and the member for Horsham is a protectionist."

There are from sixty to seventy boroughs of this description. Is it any wonder that monopoly has a large Parliamentary majority? Why, monopoly can at once pay for the seats, and make the seats pay. The extent of this evil was scarcely, we apprehend, understood by the Council of the League when it engaged to contest the seats which should become vacant in the borough representation. This peculiar mischief must be met in other modes. Mr. Thomas Duncombe has given notice of a motion for inquiry into the state of these boroughs, which will come on early in next session. We consign them to his tender mercies. They can only be dealt with by a complete Parliamentary exposure in the first instance; ulterior measures must follow. And, meanwhile, the object is vigorously pursued of obtaining such a registration as will display the names of a large majority of the electoral body in the muster-roll of Free-Traders.

Facts of the description here specified render more imperative the obligation of large and free constituencies to do their duty thoroughly, and enhance the moral weight which attaches to their electoral decisions. Monopoly raises no shout at the return of protectionists for Cirencester, or Abingdon, or Devizes. No; it exults at Birmingham and South Lancashire. It points at Liverpool and Hull, and Blackburn and Leeds, and London and Bristol. Such returns as these bind the Premier to the tail of the interest that drags him through the dirt. Nominees may be ordered to the rightabout any day. Populous and important constituencies must decide the struggle. Weight counts as well as number. And for what can it count while every conundrum is allowed to make a split, and Free Trade is sacrificed to the little bigotries of political sectarianism? With the registration machinery, let us have that which alone can work it well: the independent electoral spirit, disregarding peers and party when they obstruct the manifestation of a national expression on behalf of a national right and interest.

INCENDIARISM IN THE EASTERN COUNTIES.

The pretexts under which Sir James Graham refused, in a very summary and supercilious manner, the Commission of Inquiry into the causes of Incendiarism in the Eastern Counties, moved for by Mr. M. Gibson, have been anything but confirmed by the facts which have since transpired. In the fortnight which has elapsed, the trials have proceeded, but the fires have not ceased. That during assize and harvest time they should be less frequent than before, was to be expected. Such abatement is a poor foundation on which to build the hope of permanent amelioration. In so far as the operations of harvest benefit the labourers, the diminution of crime supports, instead of disproving, the persuasion that it arises mainly out of the wretchedness of their condition. Of this too the fact, which is undeniable, however mystified, that indifference to the destruction, and in some cases active enjoyment of it, are extensively manifested by the spectators, is further and strong proof. At that large fire near Colchester, a few days after Sir James Graham's speech, we are told by the newspapers that "a great number of persons witnessed the devastation, a large portion of whom evinced but little concern at the melancholy catastrophe." Very prematurely, therefore, did he speak of incendiarism as "a crime that happily was almost extinct." Nor has his boast of the efficacy of the law been warranted. It is true that "the law has been carried into execution without difficulty;" but not true that "the perpetrators of these crimes have been committed and convicted, or are now about to be tried." The committals in Suffolk were only of 28 persons for 21 cases. By the *Times*, this number is reckoned at not more than one-tenth of the fires that have actually occurred. The estimate is probably not far from the fact. Out of the 28 committed, only 15 were convicted. On his own argument, therefore, does the assumption of the Home Secretary recoil with crushing effect. The law has not fulfilled his promise. Its limited operation scatters to the winds his objection to Mr. Gibson's proposition. His part should be now, as a statesman and an honest man, to come forward and institute the inquiry he opposed. The ground of refusal is cut from under him.

Sir James also relied upon "the assizes now in progress to throw distinct light upon the crime." They have produced at Ipswich a presentment of the grand jury, which, instead of throwing light, shows that the magnates of the county are much more disposed to throw darkness on the subject. This curious document echoes Sir James Graham's speech on the healthy condition, in morals, of the peasantry. It flies in the face of notorious facts as to the behaviour of the people at the fires. It professes "great satisfaction in presenting, that in very few cases the plea of inadequate wages has been instrumental to the commission of the offences with which the present calendar is so fearfully charged;" from which luminous phraseology we gather that a "plea," even of low wages, is not a lucifer match or a fireball: a certain truth, literally; not so certain, metaphorically. The results, negative and positive, are thus summed up by the grand jury:—

"In consequence of your lordship's directions, the following observations on the state of the calendar at these assizes, in examining very minutely the witnesses upon the respective bills which have come before us with a view of eliciting from them the causes, the motives, and the instigations by which the parties implicated have been led to the perpetration of the crime of arson and threatening letters, we regret that we can arrive at no satisfactory conclusion as applicable to any one system, or to any prevailing cause, that has sufficiently manifested itself to suggest any remarks. We can, therefore, only present the following as our analysis of the cases which have come before us, of which there appear to be seventeen committed by children or young persons under the age of twenty, and fifteen by persons above that age, namely, four arising from inadequate employment, thirteen from malicious feeling towards individuals, eleven from actual mischief and without any premeditated or criminal intention, one only by a party travelling about the country as a vagrant, and four for which we cannot discover any cause or motive whatever."

The first portion of this paragraph is simply a confession of ignorance and failure. It indicates the desire to avoid specifying any one great prevailing cause, well knowing to what the admission of a cause generally operating must inevitably lead. The latter portion refutes the beginning. Out of the thirty-two accused persons, seventeen are children. Why, but because children represent a prevalent feeling? They perpetrate that of which their parents speak with glee—the glee of desperation. "Actual mischief," no discoverable "cause or motive," and "malicious feeling," are all, so far as we understand what is meant by these not very distinct expressions, indicative of a general state of mind expressing its discontent by a mode which that discontent had not unnaturally suggested. Even the solitary "vagrant" who was "travelling about the country" was not, as the language seems meant to suggest, a wandering stranger, but a real Suffolk man, doubtless imbued with the feelings of his class. This is the man, by the way (Lankester), who avowedly acted upon the protectionist principles, of the mischief of machinery, and the influence of a diminished quantity and consequent higher price of corn, in raising the rate of wages. He has put into deed what the monopolists put forth as philosophy. Can they deny his reasoning? He aimed at keeping down the quantity of corn in the country, as they do; and looked to higher prices and wages as the result, as they do. Their principles may boast in him of a martyr.

A correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, whose letter we commend to the careful perusal of our

readers, has brought into juxtaposition with this case one of those frank admissions which people are apt to make when they are not arguing for a selfish purpose, nor thinking of the future effect of their language. On such occasions truth slips out; and it should be put on record. We extract it, together with the writer's commentary:—

"Nor do the farmers pay high wages to their work-people, commensurate with a rise in the price of corn. Many of the pretended friends of agriculture say they do. The county members for Suffolk have said they do. Colonel Rushbrooke, if I mistake not, has used this argument in favour of monopoly to agriculture during the present session of Parliament. At all events, he is one of that party who support the monopoly. Now, I happened to be in a house in the parish of Stowupland a few days ago, and in that house I saw a document, framed and hung up against the wall, partly printed and partly written, and signed by Colonel Rushbrooke, which throws some light on this disputed law of the wages of agricultural labourers. The document read thus:—

"'West Suffolk Agricultural Association, established 1833, for the advancement of agriculture, and the encouragement of industry and skill, and good conduct among labourers and servants in husbandry.

"'President, the Duke of Grafton, lord-lieutenant of the county.

"'This is to certify that a prize of £2 was awarded to William Burch, aged 82, labourer, of the parish of Stowupland, in West Suffolk, September 25, 1840, for having brought up nine children, without relief, *except when flour was very dear*, and for having worked on the same farm twenty-eight years.

(Signed) "'—Rushbrooke, Chairman.
"'Philip Ray, Secretary.'"

"*Except when flour was very dear!* If this certificate proves anything, it proves that one of the best labourers of Stowupland, instead of deriving a benefit from the high prices of wheat, was reduced to pauperism by high prices. It proves beyond all question that his wages did not rise with the price of wheat; and we may safely enough infer that every other labourer in the parish and in the county was in the same position. William Burch, so Colonel Rushbrooke certifies, was an independent labourer when flour was moderate in price; but he was a pauper, seeking and obtaining parish relief when flour was very dear; and yet he is such a rare specimen of an independent labourer that he gets a prize for his independence."

This is a tolerably plain case. It shows, moreover, that landowners understand the matter very well when they have no inducement to mystify. The exceptive clause must have been "when flour was very *cheap*," if there be a word of truth in monopolist speeches, tracts, and leading articles on this subject. William Burch would have stared at such a certificate; and we suspect that Colonel Rushbrooke would have demurred to affixing his signature, unless, indeed, the prospect of a Parliamentary debate, and the possibility of the production of the document, had been present to his mind. As, however, dear flour does sometimes tend to pauperize the best agricultural labourers in Suffolk, although the general effect is maintained to be the reverse, this only strengthens the case for inquiry.

The *Times* lays all the mischief at the door of the new Poor Law. The grand jury avoid that inference, and Sir James Graham deems it a prejudice. Why not make clear what it is, which the Government can do so easily, by acceding, though late, to Mr. Gibson's proposition. Their acquiescence would, even now, be as manly and becoming to themselves as it would be useful to the country.

THE TABLES TURNED—MONOPOLY IN AMERICA.

We have often thought that if the landowners of this country could, by any possible contrivance, be put in the same circumstances with reference to the manufacturers in which the latter are now placed in relation to them, they would in one year become sufficiently satisfied of the injustice of their protective policy. They would in such a case find themselves in the predicament of producing every year more corn than the people of this country could consume; whilst the manufacturers, who were unable to fabricate a sufficient supply of clothing, interdicted them from exchanging the surplus of their agricultural produce for the manufactures of other countries. Now, this is precisely the situation in which the landowners of the United States are placed by their protective tariff. The Americans raise *more* of agricultural produce of every kind than can find a market at home, but *less* of manufactures than suffice to clothe their population; and the manufacturers *have* contrived to pass laws to prevent the agriculturists from exchanging freely their cotton, tobacco, wheat, rice, &c., for the clothing of other countries. The opinions and feelings of the landowners of America, under such circumstances, may fairly be assumed to be such as would be produced in the minds of Englishmen if similarly treated; and they are, as we shall show, precisely the opinions and feelings of the manufacturers of England, whose case is an exact parallel to that of the landowners of the United States.

By the late arrivals we have received a copy of a speech delivered by Mr. M'Duffie upon the subject of the American tariff. Mr. M'Duffie, who represents the purely agricultural state of South Carolina in the United States Senate, and is one of the most distinguished advocates of Free Trade in America, appears to have been invited, on his way home at the close of the session, to address a public meeting at Richmond in Virginia. Let our readers imagine Mr. Cobden or Mr. Bright intercepted by a meeting of Free-Traders midway between London and Manchester; and what more probable than that they would begin their speech in precisely the words of Mr. M'Duffie's exordium:—

"1st. Free Trade or prohibitory duties, and I will not let this question pass without letting you understand it. We contend for Free Trade precisely as we contend for liberty itself. Free Trade and freedom are identically the same thing. What, then, do we understand by Free Trade. We do not mean, as some senators and representatives have contended, by Free Trade, that the custom-houses are to be abolished and the general government supported by means of direct taxation. This is known by those who say differently, and by others who are totally unfit for the places they occupy if they dont know differently."

Mr. M'Duffie explains, as we have done again and again, that Free Trade means the abolition of *protective* duties, and not the removal of duties for revenue; that duties for protection are duties for *exclusion*, and, therefore, not intended to promote the prosperity of the revenue. He then proceeds to deal with the arguments of the monopolists, taking care, however, to reiterate emphatically that they can have no *right* to interfere with the freedom of industry:—

"We have as much right to exchange our products with foreigners as one man has a right to trade with another—as much right as there is to exchange a horse, or any other article, without the intervention of a police, exacting a severe taxation. But forty or fifty men from the North, principally from New England, have devised a system that shuts us out from our foreign markets."

We had the impression that our own *Morning Post* and its followers monopolised the phrase "protection to native industry;" but the manufacturers of America have been improving upon it by adding a clap-trap of their own, the "American system." Let us suppose that the manufacturers of England had had the upper hand, and had used their power as the landlords have done, in protecting "native industry" in cotton-mills, what would the Duke of Richmond have said? Why, doubtless, that which Mr. M'Duffie says under precisely similar circumstances:—

"The friends of the so-called 'American system' come before us for our favour, with many soft words, and as many delusive names. There is a patriotic devotion in them when they speak of protection to 'home industry;' and when they lay the flattering unction to their souls, that by putting these heavy duties upon us they are protecting 'domestic industry.' Domestic industry! What is it? When I produce 100 bales of cotton, and feed and clothe the men that raise it, is not that *home* industry? And is not protection as much, nay more, needed for that than for in-doors, in-wrought machine-working industry? Yet the delusive idea is got up, that there is no *home* industry but that of the manufacturers. The work of men and the work of women in the southern states is no *home* industry; but the work of machines, of tools, of iron, and steam, and water, that, forsooth, is *home* industry, that needs must be protected and supported by the south."

Surely our protectionists, who babble about cornfields as the only scene of "native industry" in England, will be somewhat ashamed of an argument which can be turned to manufacturing purposes in America. But there are Colonel Torrenses, it seems, on both sides of the Atlantic. Let us see how Mr. M'Duffie disposes of their arguments:—

"You are often called upon, because foreign countries impose heavy duties upon your tobacco, to revenge yourselves by imposing a heavy duty upon their productions. This is a great appeal in our tobacco-growing states. Now, there is nothing in which more delusion prevails than in this. Surely it matters not to the tobacco-planter whether his crop is sold in London or New York, if he gets as good a price for it in one place as in the other, but it does matter much to him whether he is taxed heavily or taxed lightly upon what he receives in return. Let us look into this. The Hon. Nathaniel Macon, of North Carolina, for example, say, raised five hogsheads of tobacco. This he sold in London, where he got as high a price as in New York, notwithstanding the heavy duty; and the proceeds he invested in supplies for his family, say five bales of merchandise. He comes to the custom-house in the United States with those five bales of merchandise, where he is met by a duty of 40 per cent., which he must pay. Now, here are two bales of his merchandise gone at once to pay for being allowed to use them in the United States. Three only are his, but two are taken by the United States. What I say of the tobacco-planter is just as true of the cotton-planter or the rice-planter. The annual income of all is diminished to two bales out of five."

When the British Corn Law was passed in 1815, there were not a few legislators to be found who maintained that their object in supporting the law was to secure a cheap supply of corn. To do our *Morning Post* and its party justice, we must allow that they have boldly repudiated this low-priced doctrine. Poor Mr. M'Duffie seems to have a less candid adversary to deal with:—

"But we are told, gravely told on the authority of members of Congress, and of the creators of the tariff of 1842, that that tariff reduced prices! There is no knowing what reasons men may assign for a thing done, or to be done; but this reason, of reducing a thing by the levying a tax upon it, is the last I should have thought human ingenuity would have ever hit upon. What, too, is as surprising as the reason, is, that it should have been adopted in a southern city. I saw a manifesto from the city of Richmond, setting forth, ay, gravely setting forth, that the tariff of 1842, which has laid an average duty of 50 per cent. upon dutiable articles, effected a reduction in price. Now, in the name of all that is good, are the people to be thus deluded? Is it expected that full-grown people, sensible, reflecting, thinking people, are to be duped by such assertions, or such sophistry as this? What estimation, indeed, what low estimation is put upon their understandings by submitting to them such arguments? Is it supposed that men engaged in the cause of self-government cannot see through the falsity of an assertion that a common schoolboy would detect? If I had a son fifteen years of age, and fresh from his classics, and he were to gravely tell me that a tax of 50 per cent. made cheaper a thing thus highly taxed, I would make him throw by his books, and tie him to the plough tail. (Cheers.) Yet this is the staple argument fluently, commonly uttered!"

The League is sometimes urged by those who advocate organic reforms in our Constitution to "abandon its narrow ground," and espouse the cause of universal suffrage as the only means of carrying the repeal of the Corn Law. We hold that the practical teachings of the League are necessary to obtain Free Trade, whatever the form of government may be; and if there be one country where more than elsewhere a similar organization is required to put down commercial monopolies, it is in that great republic where all and more than all the constitutional changes which the most ultra-reformers of England seek to accomplish have been for more than half a century realized. We do not say this unadvisedly; for we find in Mr. M'Duffie's speech repeated exhortations to the Free-Traders of America, to unite for the purpose of disseminating their principles and bringing public opinion to bear upon the Legislature. He tells his hearers plainly that in the session just closed, "all is lost to the Free-Traders save honour and conscience;" and he throws upon the people out of doors the responsibility of retrieving the disasters of the Senate. In America, as here, the lease of monopoly is for the term of years during which ignorance sways the minds of the people, *and for no longer*. From the moment that the plain and simple truths of Adam Smith shall be understood by a nation, its commerce will be free; and no matter what the form of government, whether British, Russian, or American, its policy will be in the main enlightened or otherwise, according to the intelligence of its people. It is gratifying to find that able champions of Free Trade, like Mr. M'Duffie, are actively engaged in preparing the public mind in America to reciprocate with England the diversified blessings which Providence has placed at the disposal of both countries for the obvious purpose of enabling them to minister to each other's necessities. Let us meet their exertions in a spirit of amicable rivalry; and we trust we shall not be accused of a leaning to monopoly, if we indulge the patriotic hope that England may be the leader amongst nations in the path of Free Trade,—that in addition to her glorious achievements in giving to the world the institutions of a representative government, trial by jury, and a free press, she may have the still nobler destiny in store of exhibiting for the imitation of other nations the first example of perfect commercial freedom.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE FREE-TRADE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE SESSION 1844.

Twenty-fifth Week, ending Saturday, August 3.

The legislative history of great questions is exceedingly instructive. Take three of the most important and prominent which have agitated British society during the past half century. Wilberforce laboured for twenty years before he obtained the abolition of the slave *trade*, and frequently had he to struggle with "hope against hope." The excesses of the French Revolution, and of the negroes in St. Domingo, threw his question back for seven years; and, even when he was approaching his triumph, he had occasionally to endure the mortification of diminishing minorities and considerable apathy in the House of Commons. Yet he still abated not one jot of faith in his principles; and at last, with streaming eyes, and heartfelt thankfulness, listened to Sir Samuel Romilly congratulating him that his labour was accomplished, and his work was done; an act of Parliament declared that the British slave trade was a crime, and inflicted on it the penalty of extinction. His work, however, was not altogether complete. Twenty-seven years of labour still lay before him, in order to carry out the consequences of the abolition of the British slave trade. His death, too, was marked by an affecting closing characteristic. The bill for granting twenty millions for the emancipation of our colonial slaves was read a second time on a Friday; the heart of the good old man was swelled with exulting joy by the tidings; and as if he had prayed, "Now let thy servant depart in peace," he died on the Monday following.

Catholic Emancipation furnishes another example. From Burke's time, the question struggled on, through every alternation of parliamentary triumph, apathy, neglect, obstruction, hope, fear, defeat; and as it approached realization, there were occasions when the barriers in the way appeared higher, stronger, and more formidable than ever. So also of Parliamentary Reform. It was a ques-

tion growing for sixty years; and yet, in 1829, 401 to 118 members of the House of Commons opposed resolutions condemning "rotten boroughs;" and Lord John Russell was only supported by 140 in the very moderate proposition of giving representatives to Leeds, Manchester, and Birmingham.

The truth is, that a great question, arising out of a great REALITY, constitutes, in sober earnest and in sober truth, a "great fact," which is imbued with a vitality that nothing but concession can extinguish. The slave trade was a horrid fact; penal restrictions on Dissenters and Roman Catholics were monstrous facts; and the green mound of Old Sarum returning members to the House of Commons, while Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, and Glasgow had none, was also a fact combining the extreme of the ludicrous with the height of wrong. These facts grew stronger from day to day; and every child born in the country added to their power. And this may be considered as the history of their progress, if we round off all the circumstances, and take an "average" view. The question is mooted when PUBLIC OPINION is encrusted over with prejudice, and neither thinks nor feels, nor understands about it. At the first sound nobody hears, nobody listens, nobody cares. The sound is repeated, and the "vested interests," pricking up their ears, look at one another, and then at the public, and burst into fits of contemptuous laughter. By-and-by, a deeper and a more earnest call is heard; and FALLACY, like Goliah, starts to his feet, girds on his "triple brass," and advances to swallow up the little David coming to meet him with but a stone and a sling. But Fallacy has nine lives; and every time he falls, Monopoly, his mother earth, resuscitates his shattered frame. Onwards goes the strife, the combatants in earnest, the battle furious, the interest great. Slowly, by iteration and reiteration, great truths drop into the public mind, and become "part and parcel" of public opinion. But a legislative triumph, like a Chancery suit, has to wait the sluggish process of "bill and answer." The public mind is made up, and while waiting on the judicial decision, falls into apparent apathy. Like Captain Warner's Brighton experiment, the day seems wearing away, and the thousands looking on, with their curiosity abating and their patience exhausting, think that nothing will come of it. But the invisible power is applied at last; and the hulk that seemed floating in solid security, is suddenly shattered into ten thousand fragments.

The session just expiring testifies that *this* is the position of MONOPOLY—*that* of FREE TRADE. The ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE began the session with an open avowal of its determination to care little for what might pass *within* the House of Commons, and to direct its energies to action on public opinion out of doors. In this, we think they were to a certain extent wrong: for however much of dulness, prejudice, and self-interest there may be to struggle against in the Legislature, the House of Commons constitutes a national fermenting vat, by means of which, and aided by other appliances, great changes in public opinion are effected. Yet, even if the League had wholly abstained from raising discussion in Parliament, such is now the position of the question that the session could *not* pass away without some sharp conflicts between Monopoly and Free Trade. The League did not abstain; it brought on some of the most interesting debates which the question has yet raised within the House of Commons: but, apart from these more direct and legitimate exertions, the question, by the force of its own momentum, compelled financial changes and commercial reforms, extorted the pledge of still greater yet to come, hurling, at the same time, the two political parties of Whig and Tory into a state of chaotic confusion, antagonistic particles being seen in strange agglomeration without coagulation, and in the giddy whirl a strong administration twice knocked down, and all but trampled into dust. In truth, it is this struggle between Monopoly and Free Trade which has weakened the Government without strengthening the Opposition; which has effaced those conventional lines of demarcation by which political parties have been hitherto divided; and until the struggle terminates in the triumph of Free Trade, there will be no subsiding of the waters, no reappearing of the old political landmarks.

The session opened on Thursday, the 1st of February; and on that night the doubting, half-despairing country gentlemen were somewhat reassured by the declaration of Sir Robert Peel, that he contemplated no *present* change in the Corn Law of 1842. Yet he accompanied the announcement with nothing to inspire confidence or enthusiasm. There stood the law, "a naked, intelligible fact," with no old constitutional associations to embalm it, with no virtue to give it vitality, no logic or reason on which to base its duration. It stood, but it stood alone; Sir Robert Peel would not touch it; but he left it to be inferred, that, when the time came, he would be more joyful than sorrowful to see the rotten planks kicked down by a powerful foot. Good service, too, did Sir Robert Peel do, on that opening night of the session, to the cause of Free Trade. Lord John Russell clung, with melancholy fatuity, to his "fixed duty;" whereupon the Prime Minister, taking a leaf out of Mr. Cobden's book, exclaimed, that if you laid a fixed duty on foreign grain at the Custom-House, common justice required that you should also levy a fixed duty on home-grown grain when ground at the mill! Mr. Villiers closed that night with one of his truth-telling speeches; and thus the session was opened with the sliding scale all but tottering, the fixed duty destroyed, and nothing but an additional pressure from the public without to compel the concession of Free Trade within.

Wonderful, too (yet not surprising), was it to hear the upholder of the sliding scale, the half-bold half-timid meddler with monopoly, Sir Robert Peel, shouting out in the House of Commons, on the 5th of February, "IS NOT SELF-INTEREST THE VIVIFYING SOUL OF ALL COMMERCE?" But, though this "abstract" question all but passed unnoticed, its tendencies were seen when the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in making his financial statement, pleaded the *paramount interest of the consumer* as the reason, the right, and the apology for reductions of Import Duties on Wool, Currants, Vinegar, Ay, and on SUGAR! Nor can it be forgotten that, later in the session, the President of the Board of Trade pronounced "A HIGH PRICE OF BREAD A GREAT PUBLIC MISFORTUNE!" it being the object of the Corn Law, which he affected to be defending, to maintain a high price for bread! As little can we forget that the sole reason, throughout the entire session, assigned by Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Gladstone for the maintenance of the sliding scale was simply that, so long as, by the bounty of Providence, *the price of bread was moderate*, it was not convenient or expedient to encounter hostility by proposing a change, as if a low price of bread were all that a repeal of the Corn Laws would produce; forgetful of extended commerce, increased employment, with all their accompanying blessings of poverty mitigated, crime reduced, disease averted, and a better fed, better lodged population, standing up in the manliness of self-dependence, instead of cringing like paupers, or standing aloof in the sullen, hopeless, reckless feeling of despair.

The first regular Free-Trade discussion of the session was raised by Mr. Labouchere, on the 7th of March, in an elaborate speech, introducing a motion on the subject of our trade with Brazil. It was on this occasion that the first hint was thrown out, vaguely and obscurely, of those contemplated changes in the SUGAR DUTIES which, at a later period of the session, raised such a commotion. The Opposition tried to pump the cautious administration, but Mr. Gladstone told them that, if they guessed, the chances were even that they might guess wrong. Nevertheless, enough was thrown out to enable sagacious guessers to anticipate at least the *idea* of the Government, and thereby to prepare the public for the coming change; and it was on this occasion that Lord Sandon declared that 63s. of duty on foreign sugars was "perfectly absurd."

Shortly afterwards, namely, on Tuesday, March 12, occurred the debate on the celebrated motion by Mr. COBDEN, for a select committee to inquire into the effects of protective duties on the interests of farmers and farm-labourers. That was a memorable night, one of those occasions on which men can look back with natural and legitimate pride, and from it draw solace for the toils of the past, and fresh courage for the labours of the future. It was pre-eminently a legislative triumph. During the entire night, a crowded House manifested an unabated and excited interest; and not a solitary member, be he monopolist or anti-monopolist, who did not feel constrained to do homage to the intellectual power which invaded the very homestead of the Corn Law—which beleaguered the citadel of Monopoly with accumulative argumentation based on facts, and with logic, wit, reason, and common sense, struck down, in succession, every prop on which Protection leans. What was the reply of the Government? Let the sceptic search the book of *Hansard*, and there will he find that speeches were spoken, of which the condensation is—"No ANSWER." Nor was it one of the least signal evidences of the advance made by the question, that the House literally put down—both sides of it—a juvenile protectionist, who endeavoured to revive those trumpery charges against the Anti-Corn-Law League, which, a short year previous, had been hailed with "tumultuous applause." It is hardly worth while to notice the numbers that voted at the close of the debate, for that is the least feature of such a debate; but we may recal the fact, that after a very animated discussion, in which Mr. Cobden was aided by Messrs. Villiers, Bright, Brotherton, Hawes, &c., there appeared 133 for his motion, and 244 against it.

Lord Ashley, who had paid marked attention to Mr. Cobden's speech, especially his descriptions of the condition of the rural population, had his own turn in a few days afterwards. He brought on his "Ten Hours" amendment on the Factories Bill; and was himself not a little amazed to learn that he had a chance of carrying it, and of defeating the Government. The debate began on a Friday, and the great opponent of the noble lord was Mr. BRIGHT, who encountered his statements, tested his authorities, and disproved his allegations. An adjournment took place; and the interval, from Friday till Monday, was an anxious one for the Government. It was currently reported, that the "whipper-in" went about in the clubs, warning the country gentlemen of the danger of intermeddling with the hours of labour, so long as the Corn Law existed; and on the Monday, Sir James Graham told them that the protective system was a "HOUSE OF CARDS," which the slightest displacement might tumble about their ears. Sir Robert Peel, too, pictured the horrors of Paisley in 1842, and plainly intimated that the Corn Laws imperiously forbade the reduction of the hours of labour in factories to a lower point than twelve hours per diem. In vain; the public learned with astonishment that the Government had been defeated; and in their amazement they severely scrutinized the motives of those who joined the majority. Amongst the supporters of Lord Ashley they found, with a surprise not unmixed with indignation, the names of Lord John Russell, Lord Howick, and other Whigs, who thus wheeled about, with sharp abruptness, on past policy and professed principles. The triumph of Lord Ashley was a sad damage to party morality; the conversion of the Whigs was attributed to collusion; Lord John Russell lost caste with those who had hitherto regarded him as a statesman whose adherence to principles was proof against party manœuvres or personal interest; and though the Government were damaged by their defeat, the Opposition only gained a loss by their victory.

We need not here recal how Lord Ashley, staggered by his success, shrank from following it up; how a new Factories Bill was brought in; and how, by waiting till after Easter, time was allowed for the return of members to town, and the "Ten Hours" was ultimately rejected by a majority of 138—one so large as to surprise the Government itself.

During the interval between the success and the defeat of Lord Ashley, there were several Free-Trade discussions—that raised by Mr. RICARDO on reciprocity, by Mr. EWART on import duties, and by Mr. HUTT, on giving similar facilities to all our colonies as to Canada, in the introduction of their grain at a low fixed duty. Mr. Ricardo's motion was a very important one, and was supported by Lord Howick in a clear, powerful, and convincing speech. But the mind both of the House of Commons and of the public was engrossed with the causes and the consequences of "JACK CADE legislation," and comparatively little attention was paid to the different motions we have named, with the exception of Mr. Ricardo's. The Government, however, through Mr. Gladstone, promised to devote attention to the collection of AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, pressed on their attention by Mr. MILNER GIBSON; and the opening of the Budget on the 29th of April, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was another *practical* evidence of the progress of Free-Trade principles, however slowly or tortuously the Government might adopt or apply them.

Passing over the important BANK CHARTER, the introduction of which argues a foregone conclusion in the mind of Sir Robert Peel, that FREE TRADE must follow it, we come to the serious, and, as it was likely to prove, solemn subject of SUGAR. Lord John Russell, in moving that the differential duty be the same on ALL foreign sugars, made an excellent Free-Trade speech, ridiculing the attempt to erect a pulpit in every custom-house, and to convert landing-waiters into preachers of morality. Then came the Free-Trade debate on sugar, raised by Mr. Ewart, and the discussion on which was enlivened by the apt citations by Mr. Cobden, from the journals of the House of Commons, respecting sundry monopolists formally expelled two centuries ago. Last, not least, came the awful "*white-glayed*" debate, ending in a Government defeated [illegible] restored, votes affirmed and rescinded, political p[illegible]s revolutionized, and executive power weakened. The whole history of that "crisis" is still fresh in the recollection of our readers. An advocate and representative of West India monopoly, indignant with the Free-Trade tendencies of the Government, and at last roused into action when his craft is touched, proposes an amendment on the Government proposition, the effect of which, by *lowering* the duties on colonial produce, would *raise* the protection to the West India interest to a higher point than the Government think sufficient. He is persuaded to amend his amendment, so as to enable all who advocate the lowering of import duties to join him and his friends, however dissimilar the motives of the coalition. Almost at the last moment, the Free-Traders, on principle, in the House of Commons, discover that the amendment is a trap, and that the Government proposition is better for the consumer; they therefore refuse to support it. The Government, notwithstanding, are defeated; wild rumours fly about, cabinet councils are held, fear and hope strain their eyes towards Downing-street; the clubs are in a flutter; and at last, down comes the Prime Minister, on the Monday, to the House of Commons, and bids it rescind its vote of the previous Friday, or else he resigns!

Suppose that Sir Robert Peel had been again defeated—that he had resigned—that his resignation had been accepted. What then? The Duke of Richmond "sent for," to declare the utter hopelessness of forming an ultra-protection administration; an attempt made to patch up a coalition between the STANLEYITES and the RUSSELLITES; *perhaps* an administration formed, from which Sir R. Peel would have been excluded, and by which an attempt would have been made to extinguish the Free-Trade question by compromising it; and, perhaps, a dissolution of Parliament!

The effect of all this would have been undoubtedly disastrous, and might have thrown back Free Trade for several years. No special pleading could have disguised from the public the fact, that the motion by which the Government had been thrown out was a *sinister* one; that the coalition by which it was supported was most unnatural, and could only have been the result of a party movement, the leaders of which availed themselves of it, on the old see-saw of the INS and the OUTS, with no reference to high principles, either of party morality, or of public advantage; and that commencement of the breaking-down of the SUGAR MONOPOLY, out of which the whole arose (and which has now been effected), would have been postponed to another period, and probably to a worse settlement than now awaits it. A general election, too, would have been a mere scramble of petty interests, without a particle of that generous enthusiasm which wins a national victory. Though Sir Robert Peel has lost some of the confidence of his *rural* friends, a considerable portion of the middle and moneyed classes have come to consider him as good as the Whigs, and much safer, and they would have resented a movement which disturbed both him and them. Though the Whigs voted for the "Ten Hours," they have not recovered either the affections or the confidence of the working classes, while, at the same time, they damaged themselves most seriously with that portion of the trading and commercial community which hitherto confided in them, because they had foolishly turned round on their own professed principles, and had fatally pledged themselves to a legislative interference with the employment of capital and labour, adverse to the recognised axioms of commercial freedom. In such a state of things, had those members of the House of Commons who are usually identified with the Anti-Corn-Law League voted, without inquiry, and without consideration, for the amendment of Mr. Philip Miles, and thus lent their aid to overthrow the existing Government, and bring about a general election, the LEAGUE would have gone to the country as one of the lowest joints in the tail of the most unnatural and (as the country would have believed) the most unprincipled Parliamentary COALITION of modern times; the constituency of the empire, divided, distracted, and disheartened, would have marched in clans to battle, each under the banner of its leader; Richmond or Peel, Stanley or Russell, would have been rallying cries, not for parties but for sections; and the League, shorn of that moral strength which straightforward honesty of purpose always confers, would have seen the question of Free Trade indefinitely postponed, until the chaos settled into order, and some Government appeared in Downing-street that could stand against the most ordinary ebb and flow of the tide.

We have omitted many debates which occurred, some bearing directly, others indirectly, on the question of Free Trade. Of the latter class was the coal-duties debate; of the former, several interesting discussions, raised by the Earl of RADNOR in the House of Lords. In the Upper House, too, there was, on the 13th of June, Lord Monteagle's motion for a select committee on Import Duties, with the view of investigating their effects on foreign commerce, home industry, the revenue, and the general prosperity of the empire. This, of course, raised the entire question, which was discussed with statesman-like breadth and ability, and brought out the Earl of Dalhousie, Vice-President of the Board of Trade, claiming credit for the Government on account of its going as fast in the direction of Free Trade as was practicable. Besides all this, we had the Duke of Richmond weeping over the fall in his salmon; and the Earl of Winchilsea calling out for National Granaries, in order to keep the price of corn steady! We now come, however, to the debate on the motion by Mr. VILLIERS in the House of Commons, which suggests considerations too important to be summarily dismissed, and therefore must be held over till next week.

MEETINGS.

NEWCASTLE.

In consequence of the intimation that George Thompson, Esq., the eloquent advocate of Free Trade, and Robert R. Moore, Esq., of the Anti-Corn-Law League, would address the public of Newcastle, the Lecture-room in Nelson-street (the place engaged for the meeting) was crowded to excess on Monday night by a most respectable auditory, and no inconsiderable number of persons were unable to gain admission. The front seats were filled with ladies, who appeared to take great interest in the vital topics which were brought under discussion. The body of the room was so crowded that many parties were compelled to stand, and the chairman (Sir John Fife) more than once appealed to the company to put themselves in as small a compass as possible.

Shortly before eight o'clock, George Thompson, Esq., and Robert R. Moore, Esq., accompanied by Sir John Fife, the Mayor, and several of the leading members of the Committee of the Newcastle Free-Trade Association, entered the room, and were received with loud cheering.

On the motion of J. Watson, Esq., Sir John Fife was unanimously called to the chair.

The Chairman said he had great satisfaction in seeing so numerous and respectable a meeting. Since last they assembled here, great progress had been made in public opinion upon this question. It was of importance that public attention be directed to Free Trade—it was of great importance that the restrictions on it should no longer be continued. (Applause.) He would detain them no further, but make room for the gentlemen who were to address them that evening.

Mr. Moore, in a most effective speech, pointed out the effect of our existing monopolies on the shipping interest, so important to the port of Newcastle, and proved by documents of unquestionable authority, that the depression of the shipping interest was not owing to the approaches to Free Trade which have been made in our navigation laws, but to the continuance of monopolies in timber and provisions, by which our ships have been made artificially costly, and have been expensively worked, whilst the same monopolies have greatly narrowed the amount of foreign trade in which our commercial navy has found employment.

Mr. Thompson took a larger view of the subject, treating it as a great question of morals. He dwelt upon the palpable and monstrous injustice and wickedness of restraining the inhabitants of a realm so densely peopled, and the population of which is increasing at the rate of nearly a thousand per day, from purchasing food freely in the world's market. He showed how the denial of the natural right to freedom of exchange was an invasion of the rights of the most sacred of all property, the labour of the industrious artisan; and he pointed out how dangerous was such a policy, leading by rapid steps to an overturning of all the principles upon which society is based.

At the close of Mr. Thompson's speech, which was followed with great cheering, Mr. Lockey Harle rose to move a vote of thanks to the two gentlemen who had addressed the meeting, and in the course of his speech arraigned anew the vote given by Mr. Cobden and others on the Sugar-duties question, which he affirmed was wrong, as it kept *in the Tories*, and kept *out the Whigs*. This led to a very clever and effective reply from Mr. Moore, who ended by calling for "a show of hands," when a forest of hands was held up in approval of the course taken by Mr. Cobden, while there was not one dissentient.—*Abridged from the Tyne Mercury.*

The question of Free Trade has gained much in Newcastle by this meeting, and we feel no small confidence that the electors of that borough will give a more decided vote for the good cause at the next election.

Kirkburton Anti-Corn Law Association.—This association held their annual meeting at the George Inn, Kirkburton, yesterday week, and sat down to a sumptuous repast, provided by the host and hostess; a more harmonious meeting was never held. The members have made great progress in the principles of Free Trade, and were unanimous in their condemnation of the Corn Laws, but they agreed to differ a little on the question of machinery. The chief speakers were Messrs. D. Sugden, Midgley, Parker, Gainer, Lockwood, and others; Mr. T. Beaumont in the chair. Thanks to the great champions of Free Trade in Parliament, who have so gallantly done their duty, were not forgot, and vows never to relax in their endeavours to accomplish the great end in view were renewed.—*Leeds Mercury.*

CIRENCESTER ELECTION.

(*From our own Reporter.*)

Cirencester, July 30, 1844.

This borough, *legally* speaking, sends two members to Parliament, but *virtually* it sends but one, for the Earl of Bathurst, who owns most of the property in the neighbourhood, assumes to himself the right of nominating one of the two members who, by a constitutional fiction, are supposed to sit for Cirencester. Thus it is a fact (and one which no one attempts to disguise) that one of the members is the nominee and representative of his lordship, the other is *supposed* to be the choice of the electors and the representative of the borough. But whilst his lordship permits the electors of the town to indulge in the idea that they nominate one of the two members, no one who knows anything of the working of aristocratic influence in its far-extending and subtle ramifications, can for a moment suppose that the electors, overawed and watched as they are by a power which openly arrogates to itself the right of nominating one of the members, will be left free in the exercise of their right in choosing the other. The constitution confers upon the electors of Cirencester the right of sending two members to serve in Parliament, but a noble earl steps in and deprives them of one half of their privilege. After this, is it to be expected that the same nobleman will be very scrupulous in leaving them unshackled in the enjoyment of the remaining moiety of their political rights? And the truth is, that whilst Mr. Master, whose resignation has caused the present vacancy, was avowedly his lordship's nominee, Mr. Cripps, the other member, is, to all intents and purposes, his very obedient and very humble servant.

There is a rumour afloat here that Mr. Master has been compelled to *resign* in consequence of having displayed somewhat of a refractory spirit. Whether the report be true or not, it is quite certain that some of his recent votes have not been of a character to give satisfaction in certain quarters, and it is equally true that, in his address announcing his resignation, he has not assigned any reason for the step he has taken. These facts give the report a colouring of truth.

Last evening (Monday, the 29th), a select number of the most influential Free-Traders were convened to meet a gentleman from the League who had arrived from London, to take such measures as might be expedient in reference to the election. The result of the meeting, however, was the following resolution:—

"Resolved—That, in the present circumstances of the borough of Cirencester, and especially considering the aristocratic and undue influence which can be brought to bear on the electors, this meeting is of opinion, that for the Anti-Corn-Law League to send a candidate at the present vacancy would be an expenditure of energy and means, without any prospect of success.

(Signed) "John R. Smith, Chairman."

To-day (Tuesday), the canvass commenced for Lord Villiers, and it is reported that the canvassing party received more rebuffs than they expected.

There is one circumstance connected with this election which deserves to be specially noted, as displaying both the tactics and morality of the monopolists. It has been customary for the monopolists to give the electors who voted with them 10s. in money, or a ticket to a dinner, which was considered to be worth that sum. On this occasion one of the leading townsmen of the Liberal interest declared his intention, if this practice were persevered in, to petition against the return of the member on the score of bribery. This threat has caused the monopolists to resolve on giving no head-money this election; and they have issued a placard, in which they gently designate their former bribery and corruption as the "trifling civilities of past times," and express their regret that they are not permitted to continue them. They glory in their past misdoings, and by implication cast a slur on the law which condemns and interferes with their "*civilities.*" They also take very ungenerous means to throw the whole of the odium of this "stopping of the supplies" on the Liberal alluded to, and represent that he has robbed the poor voter of his customary ten shillings. Men who can tempt the poor man in his poverty to sell his vote—who can sneer at a law which forbids the practice, and can unblushingly blazon their own shame by issuing a placard in which they avow that if they abstain from bribery it is not because they are too conscientious, not that they have any scruples about buying and selling men's consciences, but because the law will not allow such "civilities"—are men who will sell their own votes when occasion serves.

NOTES TAKEN BY A TRAVELLER IN THE SUMMER OF 1844.

No. V.

Brussels, July 10, 1844.

During my stay at Ghent I visited several of the numerous factories in that city. In some everything was shown with a cordial politeness that testified to the liberal disposition of the owners; in others the entrance was obtained with more difficulty, and in one it was altogether refused. A jovial and well-informed friend, who was in other respects indefatigable in procuring me opportunities of turning my time to the best account, when I requested him to use his personal influence to remove in one instance a difficulty of this kind, assured me that he would rather do anything else I required of him than interfere; adding jocularly, "You make no secret of your intention to criticise us; but you do not return to bear the brunt of the ill humour you may raise, and which I do not like to run the risk of feeling." The fact is, that the number of travellers who are running about with note-books, and who put forward opinions without being fully informed as to the true value of the figures they note down, have frightened the manufacturers, who do not know in what parliamentary report they may be quoted, or in what tourist's journal they may be held up to the civilized world as responsible for all the evils that are now traced to a faulty industrial organization. I believe the manufacturers would care less about the perorations of our travellers, if they felt themselves secure against legislative interference from the capital, in imitation of our English proceedings, by which they are anything but edified.

Ghent had to stand a dangerous crisis when the first effects of the restricted market to which the sale of its cottons was reduced on the loss of the colonial trade became perceptible. The labourers, dissatisfied at the prospect of reduced wages and changed work, assembled riotously and destroyed machinery which they had not been taught rightly to value. On such occasions the dragoons and police commissaries of the Government are insufficient aid to help the sufferers on either side. The elasticity of trade alone enables the trader to right himself; and so it was on this occasion. The labourers turned eventually to the new sources of industry which the necessities of the masters obliged them to open. The cotton manufacture shrunk within the limits that I described in my former letter, and now produces only coarse stuffs for home consumption. In 1843, the importation of cotton stuffs was 334,038 kilogrammes, and the exports were 451,745 kilogrammes, leaving, according to the official reports, a balance of £40,000 in favour of the national industry. This is the enormous production against which Paris, Berlin, Vienna, and, I may add, London, think it necessary to shut up their ports, and to arm thousands of frontier guards—a production that would hardly stock one set of shelves in one of Morrison's shops in London!

In this formidable seat, then, of cotton manufacture, where the men who have embarked large capitals in useful establishments are so much afraid of ill-judged interference on the part of agriculturists and others who can know nothing about their wants and arrangements, there is now little to be seen but exertions conducted with strict economy and extraordinary diligence. The factories are on a moderate (perhaps a small) scale. The most expensive part—the pattern designing—in which the French have rendered it so difficult to compete against them, has, in most factories, been given up, and common patterns in fast colours suit both the wants and pockets of the peasants, who are the chief consumers. As there is but little room for an extension of enterprise in this field, capital will henceforward probably seek employment in direct importations of the raw material, and the new *entrepôt* at Ghent may now be fairly welcomed as an useful gift.

The factories are subject to no official inspection, excepting with regard to the state of the steam-engines, for which peculiar safety-valves are prescribed; and all such interference is deprecated by the masters, whose profits are so small that any additional burdens would extinguish them. They have too, perhaps, no very high opinion of their Chambers, which, considering the influence that they are able to exert over them when they chime in with the prejudices of the ruling caste, afford no very edifying proof of the intellectual powers of either Deputies or Senate. Were the Legislature to insist upon regulations similar to those that have been forced on the manufacturers in England, the people of Ghent would, no doubt, act like their neighbours at Bruges, and retire into inactivity rather than expose themselves to the peril of uncertain votes, and still more formidable ministers, ambitious of fame in fields that they have not practically studied.

The elasticity of trade, as I have said, has furnished, as it never fails to do, a remedy for the stagnation which the protective duties have brought upon the cotton manufacture. The country which was best supplied with cotton, and before whose cheap linens the Belgians trembled, came to their aid with a demand that the Belgians were both willing and able to turn to good account. England—saturated, if I may use the term, with bobbinet—became desirous of returning to thread lace; and so great has been the demand within the few last years, that its influence is visible here in every town. The fine quality and good dressing of the flax give the Flemings a great advantage; and the habits of the people suit this kind of manufacture, which was invented in the Low Countries, and has been there brought to the greatest perfection. The circumstance that our ladies, young and old, were ready to pay enormous prices for fragments of priestly ephods, and for the hoards of old housekeepers, in no way tended to lower the value of these curious productions of art in the eyes of their possessors. Our sovereigns, indeed, tempted many to part with the rich point of former days, but it was mostly replaced with the more humble production of our own time. It is certain that the fabrication of lace now employs thousands of hands, young and old, in every town in Flanders, Brabant, and Antwerp, and probably yields a better return than the factory, under the most favourable circumstances of the present times, could afford for labour.

This resource is however, at present, one that is available only for rather a superior class of working people. It is for many reasons inaccessible to the poor. The price of thread lace consequently remains high, and its consumption is limited; while the profits are too low to content such as have a wider field of exertion open to them, from the education they have received or the skill they have acquired. M. Brianoine states the cost of producing an ell of lace that sells for 16 francs to amount to 13 francs:—

Price of thread	fr. 1	70
12 to 15 days' work ..	11	30
Salesman's profit, &c. ..	3	0
	fr. 16	0

This, if twelve days are assumed for work, leaves less than tenpence per day for wages, a price that the lower kind of labour is worth in Belgium. If lace-making were to be sought as a general employment for females of the lowest class, their education would have to be improved, and the mode of treating the flax and preparing it for spinning would have to be ameliorated. At present the quantity of the fine flax suited to lace-making is very limited, and it is bought up at high prices by the established factories at Brussels and in the large towns. It is the want of flax suitably prepared that precludes the manufacture of cambric in Belgium; for although the flax is grown near Soignées and Tournay, from which the cambric is made, yet it is sent into France to be dressed and spun; and the efforts of a society established for the improvement of the linen manufacture in Belgium have as yet been unsuccessful in their endeavours to rival the French in this article.

The fiscal regulations of the two countries meet here in a point that forms one of those curious *reductiones ad absurdum* which what we call the civilized world presents to the political economist. The present state of the trade shows that, if the Belgian weaver could obtain more of the fine thread of Valenciennes and Cambray than he now can, he would probably weave cambrics instead of coarse linens. The demand for fine thread would then cause an increased demand for that fine kind of flax which the Belgian farmer is able to produce, and would draw attention to the processes of dressing and spinning, which, as we have seen, have so much influence on the value of the raw material. The perfect agreement of the manufacturers' and landowners' interests is here easy to trace; but a link is wanting in the reasoning *cyclus*, the absence of which has all along occasioned the confused views that have been so long acted upon by those who call themselves statesmen. The French are afraid of the cheap but coarser productions of the Belgian linen weavers; while the Belgians, desirous to introduce the finer manufacture, impose prohibitive duties on the French cambrics. On both sides the economical law on which I have so much insisted has been overlooked, according to which the demand for fine goods is proportioned to the supply of coarse wares, and would grow in France if the French took cheap ordinary linens from Belgium, and if the people of the latter country supplied themselves with coarse stuffs cheaper from abroad than they now do at home. In short, the condition of a demand for cambrics is an abundant supply of coarse and cheap cottons and linens; the condition of producing fine thread is an abundant supply of coarse and cheap yarn. Thus, also, the condition of an improved agriculture is the same with that on which improved manufactures depend.

We thus meet in the linen manufacture the phenomena that presented themselves in the cotton manufacture; and from this point of view much heartburning and bad feeling appear removable on a candid examination of facts. These are the general reflections which a survey of the linen in connexion with the lace manufacture suggests; and such investigations ought always to embrace as many parallel cases as possible.

But the lace manufacture, in this its original seat, has a great deal to recommend it, as it gives employment to the fancy, and includes the art of designing arabesques. It has begun to form a subject of public instruction, and in many large towns there are schools for training girls

to this branch of industry. The most celebrated of these schools is at Antwerp. But at Brussels, where the finest lace is made, the art is studied not in schools, but in the workshop.

For lace Brussels is still unrivalled. The *réseaux*, or network ground, on which the pattern is worked, is here made of very superior quality. For this finest lace the Brussels lacemakers are dependent on the French spinners, as these are upon the Flemish farmers for the flax which bears such fine spinning. The manufacture, so peculiarly their own, cannot be conducted without foreign aid; nor would any minister venture to interrupt this commerce by adopting with respect to it the principles which he advocates regarding iron, wool, or ships.

The lace trade is one that bids defiance to amateurs of statistics. The portability of the article adapts it especially to the hand of the smuggler; while the delicate nature of the product, and the exercise of taste which it demands, rather invite than repel many who are disposed to be industrious, but who find themselves precluded from ordinary labour by their position in society. In the windows of a great number of shops the little mystical word on a card, *Dentelles*, points out to those who are concerned that the lady of the house, or perhaps her daughters, has established a traffic in addition to that carried on by her husband, to which a woman's tact and quickness is well suited. In these little depôts the industrious of the town and its neighbourhood can place their handiwork, and there it is sought by inland or foreign dealers, and distributed thence to all the countries of Europe. On the history of this curious monument of European ingenuity we are but sparingly informed. It seems to date from the period of those minute details in architecture, for which the Flemish buildings are famous, and to admit of little improvement either in design or in texture. As it sprung up at a time when the Belgian cities were the resort of traders from all the world, and these countries were the richest of Europe, it seems to remonstrate here more forcibly than elsewhere on the theme I have been discussing, and to point out that, when abundance in articles of primary necessity is secured, we need be under no fear that human ingenuity will be at a loss for employment. It shows, moreover, that the occupations which succeed when hard labour is rendered dispensable are of a refined and artistic character, that tend both to improve the faculties of the mind and the feelings.

At present the freedom of trade, which would lead to such vast material as well as moral improvement, is proscribed by the united efforts of ignorant and selfish members of both the classes who are thus sacrificed under the pretence of protection.

But we know that Belgium does not stand alone in this false position. In every capital in Europe we may cry, "*mutata nomine de te fabula narratur.*" The present mode of levying duties by weight, which prevails in all continental states, causes coarse goods to be charged most unreasonably in comparison with the tax that the same duty imposes on fine wares. Thus the duty that admits bobbinet and muslins into France and Belgium is prohibitive on coarse cottons. This effect is well known in all countries that have adopted the system; and the excuse is, that they find the greatest difficulty in producing coarse things at a cheap rate. Without stopping to inquire whether the profit on coarse things is greater than on fine, it is tacitly assumed that such is the case; and thus the consumer is deprived both of the fine and the coarse in sufficient quantities, and the labourer of the benefit of a healthy market that would find him constant employment at a constantly improving rate of remuneration. The inspection that is at present wanting to improve the state of the labourer is not one of factories, which the labourer himself can control as soon as his aid is felt to be necessary to the success of an establishment, but an inspection of the capacities and knowledge of ministers and members of Parliament, whose votes and motions, held *in terrorem* over the heads of the industrious classes, paralyze exertion and distort the phenomena of industry, which the political economist would fain seize in their natural form.

The worst tariff that could be devised, if it were but unchangeable, would, like a poor soil or rude climate, prove, at least, positive disadvantages that could be measured, and perhaps even overcome, by the exertions of the industrious. But an unstable set of duties, liable to be raised one year and lowered another, according to the whims of influential individuals or corporations, forms an obstacle to progress that cannot be got over.

Nor is there any mode of escape from this difficulty but by the adoption of an industrial creed. The first article is this belief must be, that, as God sends man naked into the world to provide himself with all necessaries by his own exertions, any impediment offered to an innocent exertion of his faculties in so doing is a contravention of the will of the Creator, and a crime against society. This creed, embraced in the words "Freedom of Trade," it is the glory of the League to have propounded in its undiminished purity. The fact constitutes an epoch in morals as in literature, not only for Great Britain but for Christianity; and its history will one day be appealed to, when the views of its opponents shall be displayed as immoral and reprobate, to vindicate the fame of having originated this grand movement for the country of its birth.

Brussels, the seat of the government of this remarkable country, in which the interests of two cities not fifty miles asunder have given matter for such lengthened remarks, bears all the tokens of having been a focus of luxury and of proud aspirations. The quarter of the Park with its palaces would as little arise under the influence of the present aristocracy, as the magnificent cathedral of St. Gudule or the splendid Town-house would be constructed by the church or civic corporation in their present condition. Our age labours under the oppression of a weight that keeps it down, and destroys all faith in its own energies. It is in vain to proclaim freedom of debate and of the press in political matters, and freedom of instruction. When the mass of any nation is so far advanced as to be able to feel the value of these privileges, no government will be able to deprive them of their benefits. But in our time the mass of the people are not given to political debating unless they are forced to it; nor do they dispute about forms of education provided they get education. The ruling classes use these fields of dispute, as the knights of old did their enclosed lists and tourneying places to exercise their prowess, not thinking that a dark old man in the German heaths was cooking a mixture that had the mission to overturn the whole system by which they swore, and to transform, as by magic, the whole fabric of society from a gloomy, narrow, and dark structure, to one of cheerful aspect, and bolder in all its proportions. Thus it is with the parties and partial interests who deem their struggles the only important events in history. Unless they involve some grand beneficial principle for mankind, and their leaders conscientiously and bravely avow this principle to form the motive that actuates them, they will pass as the Spaniard, the Austrian, the French, and the Dutch have passed from this land, on which each has left but a slight impression that recals their reign. Brussels, as I explained, from its geographical position, does not belong to the flat and broken land in which commerce first prospered on the north side of the Alps, but it owes all its former importance and its present position to its connexion with those countries who with wealth brought civilization into central Europe. Its prosperity is now altogether dependent upon that of the cities around it, with which, instead of being in a state of rivality, it is included in a brotherly bond. And yet, as I have hinted, the influence that prevails at Brussels is a different one from that which is popular in the great manufacturing and trading cities. The old mistake that nations can in the nineteenth century be governed by cliques, and that courts and capitals are not amenable to the bar of public opinion, is here not eradicated; the idea that high and low church parties—dynastical or antidynastical clubs and cabals, because they possess a majority in the Legislature—will inspire confidence or awaken respect amongst the people is here taking fresh root. But we may hope that the recent lesson taught by the interference of Antwerp, Liege, and the southern towns, when their right of trade was about to be sacrificed to the party advocating restrictions, will not be lost on the Chamber, or if so, that it will not be forgotten by those who gave it.

The present Ministry in Belgium is the result of a coalition, whose history is highly valuable from the experience it affords of the little use that results from any compromise in matters of high principle. M. Nothomb, the present Minister of Home Affairs, and the most active member of the present Cabinet, after long adhering to the liberal party in the State, entered office in conjunction with the agricultural and high-church party just as they were reduced to the necessity of laying down the helm which they had shown themselves unable to guide. The popularity and known personal acquirements of the new ally promised at first to ensure unanimity by uniting the moderate men on both sides of the Chamber to support the Cabinet. But when principles differ so radically as they everywhere do between these two parties, it was impossible that their representatives should go on long together without a sacrifice on one part or the other. In the present session the adoption of the avowed principle of restriction in trade will not easily be forgiven by the numerous and ardent friends of progress throughout the country; and in the elections of the provincial councils (that represent our grand juries, but of which the members are chosen by the inhabitants of each district,) the candidates who were known to be opposed to the Minister have everywhere been preferred. These elections took place during the discussion of the tariff. The same party, however, in the Chambers, to whom the limitation of trade was desirable, refused to support a proposal for an excise duty on tobacco, which threatened to deprive them of a profitable crop. The effect that such undisguised selfishness in the votes of the legislative body must have upon public opinion may easily be divined. They must increase the disgust with which those who find their exertions paralyzed by arbitrary interference feel at such proceedings in proportion as the suffering of the lower classes is gradually and more clearly seen to originate in these restrictions, and in proportion as this state of suffering is seen to be a growing and fearfully threatening evil in every state. M. Nothomb has thus sacrificed his position as one of the champions of the popular rights, and can never be more than a tool in the hands of the intolerant and narrow-minded faction that he has joined. Our Free-Traders did better on a recent occasion.

*** Our correspondent in his last letter omitted to insert the average price of wheat in Belgium, which for the last three years has been 52s. per quarter.

INCENDIARISM IN SUFFOLK.

A DOCTRINE IN POLITICAL ECONOMY, SLIGHTLY VARIED FROM THE SLIDING-SCALE ACT OF PARLIAMENT, BY AN INCENDIARY.

[*From the Correspondent of the Morning Chronicle.*]

The case of James Lankester, who was tried and found guilty on Friday, is well worth public notice, public comment, and public study. It is replete with instruction. It led the judge, Baron Alderson, to deliver a brief lecture to the jury, who were chiefly farmers and millers, on those principles of political economy involved in the Corn Laws.

James Lankester, a labourer, aged 30, who is stated to be able to read but not to write, and who was committed for trial on the 17th of July by the Rev. T. Anderson, was charged with "having maliciously set fire to a stack of wheat, the property of Frederick Paine, of Great Barton."

He did not reside in the neighbourhood of Great Barton, but he was a native of Suffolk, and had been in the habit of associating with other persons who tramped from village to village, and from one gentleman's house to another, complaining of what they had suffered by the use of machinery. Sometimes they professed to be natives of Bradford, in Yorkshire, and sometimes of certain towns in Lancashire, who had been cruelly deprived of employment by the use of steam-engines. This did very well in the villages, and at the gentlemen's and farmers' houses; but in some of the towns, among the shopkeepers, they, in perambulating the streets in a band, professed themselves to be agricultural labourers, thrown out of work by the use of threshing-mills and other mechanical inventions. Some of them were apprehended and committed to gaol on a charge of vagrancy. While on the treadwheel, Lankester made such disclosures to some new friends whom he met there as led to his being accused of incendiarism. The superintendent of the treadwheel was sitting, as they thought, fast asleep; but, if his eyes were shut, his ears were open, and he heard the jokes which were perpetrated at his expense, together with the doctrines of political economy promulgated by Lankester, as also an account of the practical application of those doctrines.

Lankester had not only been able to trace much of the misery of the present times to the introduction of machinery; he was convinced, and tried to convince others, that cheap corn was the greatest of curses to the English labourers. He knew of no means, he said, of raising the wages of the labourers but by raising the price of corn; he knew of no way of raising the price of corn but by making it scarce; and he knew of no way of making it scarce so readily as to burn the stack-yards. He was therefore in favour of burning stacks, though greatly opposed to those who set fire to barns and houses; and, if the witnesses and jury are right in what they have said and done, he, to carry out his principles of "encouragement to native industry," and thorough out-and-out "protection to agriculture," set fire to at least one stack with his own hand.

The grand jury, headed by Sir William Middleton, in their presentment to the court, allude to this prisoner as a "vagrant," which doubtless he was; yet he was a Suffolk man, and not a stranger; they also speak of his act of incendiarism as "malicious." In this they are wrong; they cannot, or are not willing to account for it on other grounds, and therefore it is put down as springing from malicious motives. But, according to the evidence on which Lankester is convicted, he had no dislike to the farmers, he harboured no malice. He was full of a patriotic love of the British farmer and his interests, as those interests are advocated by the "agricultural protection societies." For the good of the farmers and the farm-labourers he wanted to make corn scarce and dear, and therefore he burned some of it. If this was not Lankester's motive, then Lankester is not guilty of the act. The evidence which proved the act proved the motive. The one part was inseparable from the other. The jury on that evidence found him guilty, and virtually declared by their verdict that this incendiary did the act out of *friendship*, not out of *malice*, as the grand jury says, to the farmers and labourers of Suffolk.

The judge deemed it necessary, in his summary to the jury, to explain to them, that though a high price for corn would give them the means of paying better wages, that end could not be secured by burning the corn stacks to make the corn scarce and dear. It is not probable that the jury needed to be told this; nor did the judge thus address them as if he supposed they needed such instruction. His intention seemed to be to warn them against being led astray by certain abstract propositions. He said there was much danger to be apprehended from ignorant persons, or minds with little power of reflection, getting hold of certain theories and adopting them without qualification. Whether on the one side of the question or the other (meaning whether for or against the Corn Laws), the danger was equal to the ignorant when they could not qualify abstract propositions by practical knowledge.

He did not say whether on such subjects it was best to instruct the ignorant, or to let them rest in their darkness. I presume that, from his own explanatory remarks on the doctrines of political economy, he was in favour of instructing the ignorant. At the same time he seemed to intimate (so I understood him) his belief, that dear corn, so as its dearness did not arise from its wanton destruction, would improve the farmer's ability to pay wages. He thus supported the favourite but most false doctrine, of "protection to agriculture," that wages rise and fall with the prices of food. Mr. Prendergast, the barrister, does not, however, hold this view; at least, in speaking from the instructions in his brief, he does not. Yesterday he conducted the prosecution of Samuel Jacob, the shepherd of Mr. Boby, of Stowupland, who was found guilty, not on clear evidence, of having burned down his master's premises on the 25th of June. Mr. Prendergast, to show some probable motive for this act, stated that Samuel Jacob was only paid 6s. a week; and to justify the paying of only 6s. a week to a man twenty-eight years of age, he said to the jury, "Gentlemen, the prisoner is not a man capable of doing a day's work with first-rate men; and I need not tell you, gentlemen, *that a day's work in that state of society in which we live commands in the market, like any other commodity, just that price which it is worth.*" This is the true law of wages where masters and men are properly or nearly balanced; but it is not the law of wages in such a county as Suffolk, where the supply of men so far exceeds the demand. The law of wages in a community where the masters have only places for two men, and three men are seeking places, falls to this and nothing more, that the men must take what the employers offer; and the employers offer nothing more than what barely sustains life. Hence they pay a married man with a family 9s. a week, because if they only paid 6s., the man and his family would have to be maintained in the workhouse, at an expense of 20s. or 25s. a week. But they know that the single man may keep himself in existence on 6s. a week, and that if he does go into the workhouse he will cost much less than the married man and family. Hence he only gets 6s. And this was the law of Samuel Jacob's wages; there were plenty more men to take Samuel Jacob's place even at 6s. a week, and therefore he was told, when he asked for higher wages, that Mr. Boby did not care whether he stand in his service or not.

Mr. Prendergast, in saying that a day's work, like any other commodity, brought that price which it was worth, stated what is true, in Lancashire or Yorkshire, where there is full employment; but not what is true in Suffolk, where there is not full employment.

Nor did the judge speak more correctly in intimating that wages depended on the price of corn. In trade and manufactures, wages, and profits from which wages are paid, are always lowest when corn is dearest. The reason is obvious: when seven and twenty millions of people must pay a double price for their food, they must not only have less money left to buy clothes and furniture, but they must have less of clothes and furniture to provide for others, and therefore lower profits and lower wages.

Nor do the farmers pay high wages to their workpeople, commensurate with a rise in the price of corn. Many of the pretended friends of agriculture say they do. The county members for Suffolk have said they do. Colonel Rushbrooke, if I mistake not, has used this argument in favour of monopoly to agriculture during the present session of Parliament. At all events, he is one of that party who support the monopoly. Now, I happened to be in a house in the parish of Stowupland a few days ago, and in that house I saw a document, framed and hung up against the wall, partly printed and partly written, and signed by Colonel Rushbrooke, which throws some light on this disputed law of the wages of agricultural labourers. The document read thus:—

"West Suffolk Agricultural Association, established 1838, for the advancement of agriculture, and the encouragement of la-

dustry and skill, and good conduct among labourers and servants in husbandry.

"President, the Duke of Grafton, lord-lieutenant of the county.

"This is to certify that a prize of £2 was awarded to William Burch, aged 62, labourer, of the parish of Stowupland, in West Suffolk, September 25, 1840, for having brought up nine children, without relief, except when flour was very dear, and for having worked on the same farm twenty-eight years.

(Signed) "— RUSHBROOKE, Chairman.
"PHILIP RAY, Secretary."

Except when flour was very dear! If this certificate proves anything, it proves that one of the best labourers of Stowupland, instead of deriving a benefit from the high prices of wheat, was reduced to pauperism by high prices. It proves beyond all question that his wages did not rise with the price of wheat; and we may safely enough infer that every other labourer in the parish and in the county was in the same position. William Burch, so Colonel Rushbrooke certifies, was an independent labourer when flour was moderate in price; but he was a pauper, seeking and obtaining parish relief when flour was very dear; and yet he is such a rare specimen of an independent labourer that he gets a prize for his independence.

Do we not see in this that as corn advanced in price he became less and less able to get new shoes, and shirts, and frocks, and caps, and smocks for his wife and children and himself; until, having to pay all his wages for bread, he could not get these articles at all, nor even enough of bread, but had to apply to the parish? Need we be told that the shoemakers of Stowmarket and the tailors would have a hard job to get their money from such labourers at such times? That the drapers would sell less clothing, and buy less from the merchants and manufacturers, who in their turn would make less and employ fewer hands and pay lower wages; and that their workpeople would do nothing for trade by reason of the corn being so dear? What have the two hundred and fifty thousand tenant-farmers of the kingdom and the thirty thousand owners of land gained by these high prices? They and their families are but a fraction of the population. Everybody else paid a dear price to them and received no corresponding benefit. Even their own immediate work people received no corresponding benefit. But if they had been benefited, even they are only a small portion of the population. It has been customary to claim every one, save the traders and manufacturers of large towns, as dependent on agriculture and the high prices of farm produce. This is not correct. The shoemaker who furnished shoes for William Burch and his family, though he might live in that most rural of parishes, Stowupland itself, was as really a manufacturer as are the Birleys and Houldsworths of Manchester; so was the tailor who made their clothes; and these manufacturers of Stowmarket and of Stowupland had not only less work to do in those dear times, but having less work to do, and greater difficulty in getting paid for what they did, they had also to pay an excessive price for their own food. Could *they* get new clothes for themselves, and dresses for their wives and daughters, and use in their families the same quantities of sugar, and tea, and butcher's meat? Certainly not. The grocer sold less tea and sugar, and less of everything he dealt in; he paid less to carriers for carrying, and less to merchants. He had, with bad trade, to pay dearer for his own and his family's bread; and, as a matter of course, fewer new clothes were got than in years of better trade.

Young men and lads, the sons of grocers and linen-drapers, and also of millers and farmers, were obliged to stay at home, because in the large towns and the manufacturing districts, shopmen and clerks, overseers and apprentices in trade were not required. All over the kingdom, in all departments of industry, people had to pay exorbitantly for food, the same as William Burch did, according to Colonel Rushbrooke's certificate, at Stowupland; and the great majority of the industrious population of the kingdom, being directly dependent on trade, were thrown out of work or reduced in income at the very time they had to pay dear for food.

Trade being thus paralyzed, traders could not meet their engagements. Merchants failed—bills were protested—banks broke—and panics destroyed credit. There being no credit and no speculation, employment for the multitude became still scarcer, and wages still lower. Clothes and furniture were pawned and sold, and worn out, and not replaced; and at last, when an abundant harvest came, the farmers found themselves obliged to sell at very low prices, not because of the great abundance, but because of the great poverty of the mass of the population, who were too poor to buy a sufficiency of food now when it was cheap.

The farmers having been led to expect that the Parliament could maintain high prices, contracted to pay rents accordingly. Consequently, they fell into distress when prices were low; and they are now frightened lest there should be a return to very low prices, and a continuance of them, which those who profess to be exclusively their friends tell them will be the case if the Corn Law is repealed.

But the surest protection which the farmer can obtain is that of a steady market. The surest way of keeping up prices is to maintain, in the great body of consumers, the ability to buy and consume. This can never be secured to the farmer when such men as William Burch, independent at other times, have to get parish relief when "flour is very dear," as Colonel Rushbrooke certifies.

But the farmer has another disadvantage to contend against, arising out of that corn monopoly, commonly, but most inappropriately, called "protection to agriculture." The farmer is not only induced to look to what the Corn Law will do for him to pay his rent, instead of devoting himself exclusively to the resources of his farm; he must support his landlord, and all of the landlord's class, by his votes, that they may support his "protection." That there may be no mistake about him, the landlords and the agents give the farmer only such a hold of his land as will secure his vote, not his good cultivation. To be thoroughly secured as a voter, and kept under lock and key, as it were, is utterly incompatible with good farming. There is no kind of protection which is so indispensable to a farmer as protection from insecurity of tenure, and from political agents.

Mr. Baron Alderson, when he heard that the prisoner Lankester, who stood before him at the bar, charged with burning a stack of wheat, had justified such an act by saying it would make corn dearer and wages higher, remarked that "this is certainly a new and very strange application of the doctrines of political economy." And he subsequently, in addressing the jury, reprobated such an absurd opinion as this, and said it could only coexist with the meanest intellect or the grossest ignorance.

But this opinion is very little removed from that held by those who uphold the corn monopoly. There is less corn produced from the soil, not designedly that it may be scarce and dear, but because the monopoly is maintained, and because the means by which it is maintained render good agriculture impracticable. The only difference between James Lankester, the convicted incendiary, and the majority of the members of Parliament, is, that James professes to raise wages through a scarcity and dearness of corn produced by his burning the stacks; while the M.P.'s, asserting also that good wages depend on the scarcity and dearness of corn, prevent it from becoming plentiful by not producing by one-third what they might produce if they were not afraid of competition, and if they did not depend on something else than good agriculture and good trade for good rents and good prices.

THE REGISTRATION.

LEEDS.—THE REGISTRATION.—A meeting of the Reform Association for promoting the Registration of Parliamentary Voters took place in the rotunda of the Coloured Cloth-hall, in Leeds, on Thursday week, Sir Edward Vavasour, Bart., in the chair. From statements made to the meeting, it appears that not a few Whig landlords who used to contribute to the fund for registration purposes have ceased to do so, and in some instances have become subscribers to the Agricultural Protective Society! The deficiency occasioned by these defaulters was promptly supplied by the delegates from the large towns, who agreed to contribute in proportion to their extent as much as was needed. It was also reported that the state of the registration in the different polling districts was satisfactory, and arrangements were made for carrying the business through the Revision Courts with energy and effect. [The Whig landlords who have withdrawn their aid from the Reform Registration Society cannot surely be aware that they are doing their best to cut the throat of their own party; for the funds they give to the Protective Society are appropriated to the expenses of the Tory registration—at least, so it is said, by persons not unlikely to be well acquainted with the fact: they are, therefore, weakening with one hand their own political party, and with the other they are strengthening the party of their opponents. To us, who belong to no party, this equivocal behaviour is highly amusing.]—*Bradford Observer.*

THORNTON.—There are in this township this year 18 amended and 15 new claims, all of which belong to the Anti-Monopoly party, excepting two.—*Ibid.*

SOUTH LANCASHIRE REGISTRATION.—The number of claims sent in to the overseer, for the Manchester district, rather exceed 1100,—and, for the *town*, there are about 600; whilst the claims for the town, from the party of the Corn-Law advocates, do not quite reach 250. The entire of the claims throughout South Lancashire are about 2500; so that, if an election should take place after the present registration, the return of the present members would be somewhat doubtful. When it is considered what great efforts have been made in the two last years to increase the register, it will, in some measure, show the extraordinary exertions that must have been made by the League in the present year; for to the League must be attributed whatever increase the Liberal list of voters may exhibit.—*Preston Chronicle.*

The registration accounts from Liverpool, Bury, Oldham, Ashton, &c., are most favourable; and even in the farming districts the Free-Traders have succeeded in sending in claims quite as numerous as the landlords.

DEBATE ON MR. VILLIERS'S MOTION.

(From *Tait's Magazine.*)

The Corn-Law debate this year is generally felt to have gone off flatly; for the simple reason, we conceive, that all debating whatever about the matter is understood to be, at this time of day, useless and needless—useless in the House, and needless out of it. That the weakened interest in parliamentary Anti-Corn-Law speeches is any symptom of the increased strength of the Corn Law, is an opinion confined, probably, to that class of politicians who hold that the Irish Protestant Church is stronger and safer just now, when no one seems to care about it, than it was in the days when ministries went out and in on the appropriation clause. These annual motions on questions where argument is worn out and defeat foreknown, are valuable chiefly as testing and measuring progress. In this view, the late division on Mr. Villiers's motion shows that the League has not been at work among the constituencies in vain. Reminding the reader that the first of these annual motions, which went on the principle of total and immediate repeal, was made in 1842, we may point to the statistics of the divisions as evidencing that, however powerless argument may be, as argument, the action of the Free-Traders on the opinions of the constituencies is not without its reaction on the votes of the representatives. Since the question, in its present shape, was first mooted, its progress has been as follows:—

	Ayes.		Noes.		Majority against.
In 1842,	92	..	395	..	303
1843,	127	..	383	..	256
1844,	126	..	330	..	204

From which it appears that some fifty of last year's monopolists are neutralized and silenced. The doubtfuls, the men who decline placing themselves in "an unenviable position," by recording votes adverse to the known or presumed opinions of registered or registerable electors, are an increasing class; the rate of whose growth does credit to the shrewd and business-like plan of the League—exchanging miscellaneous petitions to the House collectively, for electoral memorials to individual members.

We regret that we cannot, while on this subject, report any "philanthropic" conversions to the cause of Free Trade. Nothing would have been pleasanter to our feelings than to have added our humble voice to the general chorus of eulogy which hymns Lord Ashley, and his "motives," and his friends, and his friends' "motives." But, alas! we have no clue to men's motive, except that afforded by their actions. "By their fruits ye shall know them." The philanthropy which made loud speeches in March, April, and May, against too much work, gives silent votes, in June, for too little bread; keeps the screw down tight on the victims over whose wrongs and woes it whines and blubbers; maintains the scarcity of food and work, that necessitates the competition, that causes the miseries, that draw forth the eloquence, at which people are expected to wipe their eyes, and ejaculate, "What a good man!" We have nothing to say about "motives" of which we know nothing; and altogether disclaim any imputation of "hypocrisy;" but never was a clearer case of eagerness to pull the mote out of one's brother's eye, while blind to the beam in one's own eye, than the ten-hours' philanthropy of the corn monopolists. If Lord Ashley and his followers do not *know* that their monopoly of the bread market makes it harder than it need be for men to live; that it is the cause of that fearful struggle for existence, that competition for life, which makes female and infant factory slavery a physical necessity; what is his and their opinion worth on any question of legislation whatever? The Tory Ministers know this; and, as they will not touch the Corn Law, dare not touch the social evils which it necessitates. The Free-Traders know this; and, as they cannot get the Corn Law abolished, decline the responsibility of making bad worse. The Whigs and Radicals know this; and see, in the straitening of manufacturing industry, chiefly a short and sharp passage to Corn-Law repeal. Lord Ashley and his adherents are the only people in the country who seem not to know that their monopoly makes food dear, and man cheap; that the scarcer bread is, the more labour must be given to purchase a sufficiency of it. To credit these bread-taxing philanthropists with "sincerity" and "good motives," is to debit them with an almost preternatural stupidity. Still, it is possible, for aught we know, that when the Spanish friar gave the beggar his blessing, and picked his pocket, the holy man performed the latter part of the operation in sheer absence of mind. We must not leave this topic without adding that, with such ten-hour philanthropists as Lord Howick, who evince the sincerity of their zeal for the protection of industry by an equal zeal for its emancipation, and, in abridging labour, would increase its remunerative value, our difference is one of time and degree, rather than of principle. Though we believe their sympathies to be in part misdirected, and their efforts decidedly mistimed, there can, at all events, be no question about their integrity and consistency.

THE CORN MONOPOLY.—These lords of the soil, then, are a congeries of land-capitalists closely knit together for one purpose, and that purpose a bad one—the maintenance of the most extraordinary monopoly that reckless and inhuman selfishness ever created for its own advantage. They are invested, or rather they invested themselves, with the monopoly of bread. Not a morsel of bread is consumed by the whole people of the United Kingdom but is purchased of them at the price they choose to put upon it. This is virtually the case; for the sliding scale wafts no foreign corn into an English port till our native loaf is far, very far above its natural and equitable level of price. When Sir Thomas Robinson was urging upon Dr. Johnson the expediency of putting some restriction upon the importation of foreign corn, the stanch old Tory replied, "Sir Thomas, you talk the language of a savage. Would you tell me that a nation has not the right to get its bread as cheaply as it can?" Nothing can be more reasonable, or more in accordance with the first principles of human nature, than the proposition involved in the doctor's reply. Every nation has that right; for bread is the *pabulum vitæ*—the necessary of life. All doctrines turned into fiscal laws, which affect or interfere with other importations, are inapplicable to the importation of corn. Say what men will, and at whatever length, about the necessity of protective duties upon foreign produce, they never can bring the sense and reason of mankind to admit that a tax should be levied upon corn. To make the iniquity of the Corn Laws, if possible, more apparent, let us suppose them repealed, and then let us imagine a ministry levying an excise tax upon bread of 80 or 100 per cent. Now this, monstrous though it appear, is not half so bad as the Corn Laws, for the revenue thus raised would go to the public service—whereas, the Corn Laws put vast sums into the pockets of those who are of no service whatever. And now let us hear what the landlords have to say why judgment should not be passed upon them. They tell us, then, that assuredly they are not quite disinterested; for that upon the maintenance of the Corn Laws depend the marriage settlements of their daughters. "Ought marriage settlements to be disturbed?" The appeal is solemn. No. *That* revolution must never be. Up with the quartern loaf, and let the well-jointured Lady Sarah make Lord Tom Noddy supremely blest. "*Hommage aux dames.*" We must give and bear it. But if the landlords are not quite disinterested, still they are not selfish. Far from it. Some fiery scion of a noble stock starts up to charge you with any, the most atrocious crime, if you presume to hint at selfishness. No. They have a sacred duty to perform. They tell us so. They love the labourer. Their interests are identical. He *must* be protected. And now let us cast a moment's glance at this highly-favoured being, for whose welfare the people of this country are so heavily taxed in the article of bread. But wherefore cast a further glance upon him? He is the William Sparkman of last week: he is any one of those Wiltshire men working upon the roads at 3s. a week: he is the wretched inmate of the workhouse—he is the desperate incendiary of Suffolk. He is the man of whom the Rev. Godolphin Osborne thus speaks in his letter to the Duke of Richmond. He says, "there is no one creature belonging to the farm, there is not an animal you rear, to use or to sell, that has been the subject of so much neglect, in everything that tends to his improvement, as the labourer. Compare the way he is housed, fed, clothed, and valued, with the way in which the animals he tends are treated in these particulars, and then answer to the public and to yourself—why in the present agitation is he overlooked?" And this is landlords' protection! "Defend me from my friends," is a Spanish proverb. "Protect me from my protectors" is likely to be an English one.—*Lloyd's Weekly London Newspaper.*

Died, on the 24th of July, after many Parliamentary attacks, the Franchise of Sudbury. Owing to internal corruption, the Franchise was obliged to undergo the amputation of two of its members, which, mortification having ensued, hastened its death. The pockets of 440 voters have been left to deplore the loss of the Franchise. The deceased, in its lifetime, was not much respected, though its death will certainly leave a large void in the annals of bribery and corruption, which will require the united ability of Parliament properly to fill up.—*Punch.*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, July 31, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

	£	s.	d.
William Mann, Southwood House, Halfway-street, near Eltham, Kent	£1	0	0
William Yerbury, Market-street, Poole, Dorsetshire	1	0	0
Mr. Beacham, Dover-place, Old Kent-road	0	2	6
Stephen Bacon, Northampton-place, Old Kent-road	0	2	6
George Avery, Backhill, Redditch	0	13	0
Southwark, 2nd Remittance.			
Joseph Percival, Green-street, Blackfriars-road	1	0	0
William Moss, Little Guildford-street	0	5	0
J. M. Webb, 215, Blackfriars-road	1	0	0
B. Webb, 208, do.	2	2	0
Wm. Carver, 93, do.	0	2	6
John Firmen, 131, do.	0	2	6
A. Stewart, 52, London-road	0	10	0
Thomas Harradence, 66, do.	0	2	6
Joseph Warrier, 14, do.	0	2	6
Joseph Burgess, Crosby-row, Walworth	0	2	6
Henry Bray, 11, Crown-row, do.	0	2	6
B. Calway, 119, Tooley-street	1	0	0
Vincent Grose, 152, do.	0	5	0
John Holder, 8, Bermondsey New-road	0	2	6
John Gillham, 211, High-street	0	5	0
Wm. M'Gillivray, 99, do.	1	0	0
John Brewer, 264, do.	1	0	0
William Duvall, Holland-street	1	0	0
John Edmunds, 43, Suffolk-street	0	2	6
The Workmen at Mr. H. Williams's, chair maker, Union-street	1	3	0
Mr. Tuckett, Castle-street	0	2	6
Joseph Stainburn, Southwark-square	1	1	0
H. Seward, 15, Blackman-street	0	10	0
John Thwaites, 18, do.	0	5	0
John Swinsted, 30, do.	0	5	0
J. Breillat, 27, do.	1	0	0
C. Doddemeade, 29, Newington-causeway	0	2	6
John Dobson, 54, do.	0	2	6
Mrs. Hall, 65, do.	0	2	6
Mr. Barnes, 66, do.	0	2	6
F. Pearce, 9, do.	1	0	0
H. Howgood, 10, do.	0	2	6
Samuel Sturge, 2, Walworth-road	0	10	0
W. E. Gee, 22, Bridge House-place	0	2	6
J. Coles, 42, do.	0	2	6
A Friend, Walworth-road	0	2	6
Matthias Medwin, Crown-row, Walworth	0	5	0
T. Medwin, 2, Wellington-road, Cold Harbour-lane, Camberwell	0	2	6
T. Costaworth, 4, John's-place, Holland-street	0	2	6
John Simmonds, 5, Portland-place, Borough-road	0	2	6
Charles Andrews, 61, St. George's-road	0	5	0
R. Wisdom, 71, do.	0	2	6
G. Carpenter, 62, do.	0	2	6
W. Wright, 13, do.	0	2	6
Thomas Benbow, do.	1	0	0
Wm. Wright, George IV., Southwark-bridge-road	1	0	0
Thomas Perry, 203, High-street	0	2	6
William Tarn, 2, Newington-causeway	1	1	0
William Clifford, 112, Great Suffolk-street	0	2	6
D. Williams, 100, do.	0	2	6
P. Drinkwater, 20, Lant-street	0	2	6
Small subscriptions	0	17	6
Wm. Walker, Cannon-street, Manchester	200	0	0
Michael Marshall Rooker, Rio de Janeiro, S.A.	5	0	0
Wm. Bradford, High-street, Manchester	5	0	0
Thos. Fleming, Akid's-road, Halifax, Yorkshire	6	10	0

"THE CUSTOM OF THE COUNTRY."—At Buckingham Assizes, an action was tried in which Mr. Abel Smith, M.P. for Hertfordshire, claimed to recover damages from a yearly tenant at a farm at Wendover for bad husbandry. It appeared from the evidence that Wendover is badly pre-eminent for its husbandry; and the verdict was given for the defendant, not because he was free from the charge of bad cultivation, but because his practice of growing a succession of white crops had been pursued by other farmers in the neighbourhood. Mr. Justice Williams told the jury, that in these cases the custom of the neighbourhood constitutes the law between a landlord and tenant.

VOTE ON THE SUGAR DUTIES.—The vote of Mr. Cobden, and the other League leaders who supported Sir Robert Peel on the Sugar Duties, against the West Indians and the Whigs, we regard as both an honest vote and an expedient one. On the honesty of it, we have no need to say much now. The question at issue, divested of its technicalities, was simply one of a little more or a little less of monopoly; and they voted for a little less, having previously divided the House, a few days before, for the abolition of the whole. What else could they do? It has been said, that, in this stickling for Free-Trade dogmas, when the existence of the Tory Ministry was at stake, they acted as Leaguers, not as representatives of the people. It would be more to the purpose to say, that in this adherence to principle the principle on the strength of which they exist as public men—they acted as representatives of the people, not as Whigs. The assurance with which the Whig newspapers took Mr. Cobden and his friends to task for their conduct in this matter, and seemed to expect Free-Traders to ignore their principles for a night or two, by particular desire of Lord John Russell, is amusing in the extreme, and shows a hungering and thirsting after office, which must be strong indeed to have come out so powerfully on so slight an occasion. If the Whigs think proper to quarrel with the League for this, and leave their seats ostentatiously empty during Corn-Law debates, the Whigs, we apprehend,—not the League, will be the ultimate losers, and will have to make the first overtures of amity. The respective positions and mutual relations of the two parties are sufficiently plain to show which must yield first. The Whigs want office; the Free-Traders do not. The Whigs are not nice to a shade of principle and character, on Free-Trade questions; the Free-Traders are,—have nothing but principle and character to live upon as public men, and not only can afford to be consistent, but cannot afford to be anything else. It is a good thing well done, to have informed the Whig aspirants for office, once for all, that the strength which the Free-Traders possess in Parliament and in the country, and the strength which they are quietly gathering up on the registry for the next electoral struggle, is neither to be bought nor had on loan for Whig party uses.—*Tait's Magazine.*

REVIEW.

Report on the Exposition of the Industrial Arts of France in the Museum-Palace in Paris. Art-Union, No. 70. London: How.

The exhibition of the products of French industry, which has just closed in Paris, is of such interest to all classes of manufacturers in this country that we take the opportunity afforded us by this seasonable publication of directing the attention of our readers to the subject. Reserving for a future article an examination of the question how far a similar exposition would be practicable and desirable in England, we shall at present only give our readers some extracts from the report of the "Art-Union," and the first passage we quote contains sentiments in which we are sure that our readers will heartily concur:—

"Periodical exhibitions of the products of industry were first commenced by the French Government in 1798, and every successive *Exposition* has displayed a marked improvement over that by which it was preceded. This progress has been particularly remarkable since the Restoration; the arts of peace were regarded as the means of affording triumphs not less brilliant and far less costly than those of war, and a party was formed in France, which continually, though silently, increases in strength, having for its object the development of the material and industrial resources of the nation, and the preservation of both from the ruin with which they were menaced by the popular passion for military glory. "Young France," as the hot-headed youths of the schools and universities have denominated themselves, has not forgotten the ambitious passions of the revolutionary age; such traditions are the inheritance of every generation, from fifteen to five and twenty, that comes upon the stage of Parisian life; but, as each generation ripens into maturity, the ardour for war fades away and gives place to an honourable desire to raise the national character by the cultivation of the arts and sciences, and the development of all the means which can tend to the physical or intellectual advancement of mankind. We look upon the French Exposition of this year as a manifesto in favour of peace, published by the middle classes of France, showing that their interests are essentially connected with the preservation of public tranquillity externally and internally—appealing to their countrymen against a course of policy which would close foreign markets against such results of French industry, and protesting against wars which would effectually destroy production by putting an end to consumption. Some of the journalists most conspicuous for their devotion to the cause of war and tumult have assailed the Exposition on this very ground: they declare that it is likely to damp the warlike spirit of the nation by exhibiting the great amount and importance of the interests which are all but absolutely dependent on the conservation of peace. The value of such a lesson cannot easily be over-estimated; it will be well not only for France, but for the world, if the energies which were long directed to the desolation of the Continent be henceforth applied to internal improvements, and the triumphs of peaceful industry be henceforth preferred to the empty glories of useless conquests and barren victories."

The economic result of the Exposition is described to be highly gratifying, and we trust that its influence will be permanent and extensive.

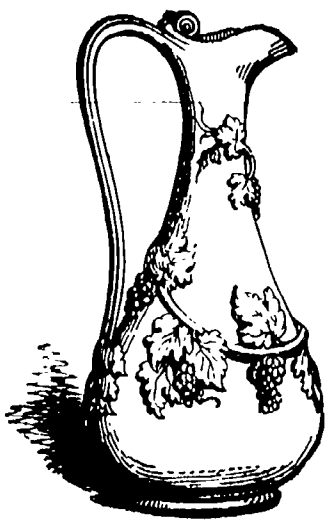
"This is a point on which the Exposition has served to disabuse the people of France of a common and mischievous error, which had long tended to check the progress of industry. We have said that the true test of progress is the amount of cost saved to the consumer; it was thence falsely inferred that the producer lost all that the consumer gained; but as every increase in cheapness is followed by an equal increase in the extent of consumption, the producer found that small profits on large sales more than compensated for large profits on small sales; and he had this further advantage that a large market must necessarily be more steady and less liable to fluctuations than one of limited extent. Further, though in one specific relation a man may be viewed as a producer, yet in all the rest he is simply a consumer, and therefore, if he should apparently lose a little on his own article, he is more than compensated by what he gains in the diminished cost of all other articles. This beautiful illustration of the great principle of self-adjustment, which regulates every branch of commerce and industry when left free from interference and external perturbations, was strikingly manifested at the Exposition; and it was gratifying to find how generally and how readily its truth was admitted, and its importance appreciated."

Without further preface, we shall now proceed to select a description of some of the most striking objects in the Exposition:—

"The richest part of the exhibition, artistically considered, was the portion devoted to glass, porcelain, and earthenware. Reserving for another place the consideration of the objects of luxury, such as vases, wine-coolers, and ornaments for splendid rooms, we shall first direct our attention to that which was at once the most novel and the most gratifying portion of the exhibition—the improvements in the coarse kind of earthenware (*grès*)—and the efforts made to improve the public taste by introducing elegance of design into articles of common and ordinary use. Some very beautiful designs were executed in the commonest ware, or the material that is rarely used in England for any other purpose than the manufacture of jars and the coarsest bottles. Our attention was first directed to this part of the subject by a curious coincidence. In an article already published in the "Art-Union," we suggested the propriety of introducing a new design for handles into vases and other articles covered with raised flowers, suggesting that the handles might be very appropriately formed by intertwining the stems. Passing the stall where the productions of M. Langlois were exhibited, we saw this hint very tastefully realized in a set of coffee-cups, covered with a pattern of raised vine-leaves, and having the handles formed by an intertwining of the stems, such as commonly occurs in the natural growth. The price, in consequence of the material used, was so low as to place the set within reach

of the means of the humblest artisan, and the design, particularly as displayed in the sugar-bowl, rendered it worthy of a place at the table of every man of taste.

"We subsequently visited two of the depôts for the sale of these articles, and found that the specimens displayed at the Exposition were fair samples of the perfection,



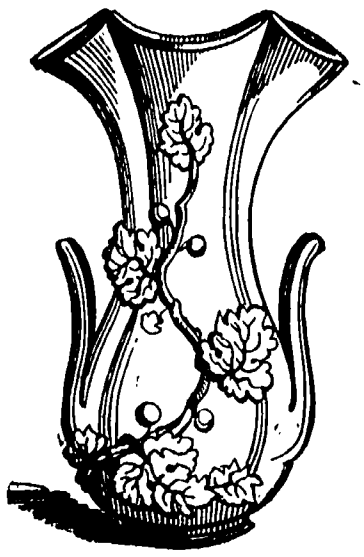
and, what is not less important, of the cheapness to which this process of manufacture has been brought. The depôt in the Rue Richelieu was richer in articles of fine material than that of M. Bovay, No. 39, Rue Montmartre; but the latter seemed to us preferable, both for the cheapness of the articles produced and for the purity of the designs. The best patterns were those derived from the vine; and where the effect was increased, as in the accompanying jug, by giving the natural colour to the raised fruit and leaves, a result was produced highly creditable to the taste and skill of the inventor."

We quote the following description of a new process, which is of great importance to the sanitory condition of the persons employed in the potteries:—

"The glazed ware of France appeared to us for the most part deficient in permanency. In many of the articles which we examined it was obvious that the glaze had not so amalgamated with the ware as to adhere to it as a part of the body: there appeared an obvious probability that it would soon scale off. The cause of this appears to have been some imperfection in the firing, a process in which we believe the English manufacturers to be superior to their rivals at the other side of the Channel. On the other hand, the French have devised a process, which, we believe, has not been yet tried in England, but which, if its success be complete, is likely to produce a revolution in the fictile art. This is the electro-plating of earthenware instead of glazing it. Every one knows that the glazing process is most injurious to the health of the workmen, on account of the great quantity of the oxide of lead employed in the composition, being about 60 per cent. of the entire glazing mixture. Now, if electro-plating succeeds, this insalubrious process will be set aside, and, if we may judge from the specimens exhibited, art will gain in beauty as much as the workmen in health. The new productions in this novel art have received the affected name of galvano-ceramics, according to the modern fashion of baptizing everything in barbarous Greek. The articles are said to be perfectly impermeable to water, to resist the fire better than the ordinary glazed ware, not to scale off any portion of their metallic covering, and to be very easily kept clean. So far as our limited experiments have enabled us to judge, these qualifications have not been exaggerated. The galvanic plating resisted a very strong heat, and did not tarnish when exposed to vapour, smoke, and gas. But these articles are unfortunately dear; a little vase which unglazed would have cost about 2s. was charged at 5s. when electro-plated. The cost of the metallic coating, which is of microscopic tenuity, could only be the fraction of a farthing, and we cannot believe that the process by which it

is laid on is one that involves much labour or expense. We trust that this new art will be found extensively available, for by removing the necessity for using deleterious glazes it will render a real service to humanity.

"The specimens of electro-bronzing on the Beauvais ware may be noticed as a new art, which promises great decorative effect at a very moderate cost. We annex the engraving of a vase, of which there were several copies in the Exposition, some plain, some with the raised pattern coloured, and some bronzed by the electro-galvanic process. In one the bronzing was confined to the body of the vase, and the raised pattern was coloured, but, from some failure in the manipulation, the design was not completely carried out. The vase itself is very graceful and effective."

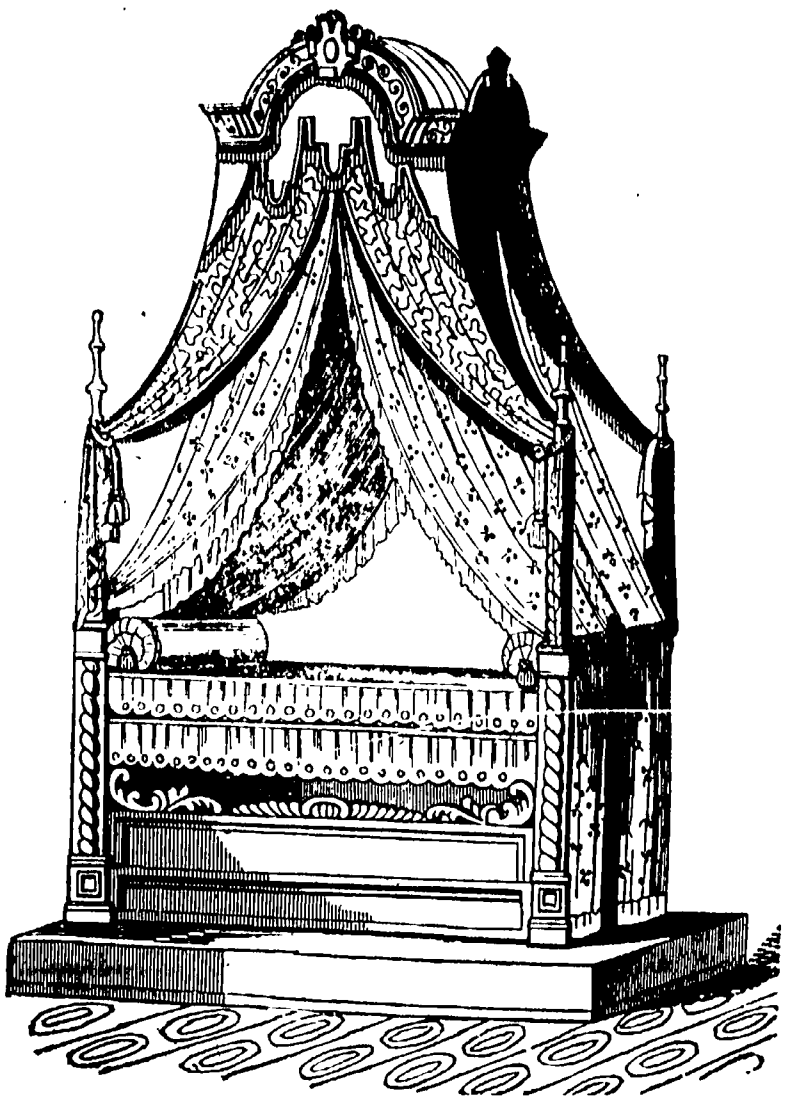


The subject of ecclesiastical decoration has of late raised so much discussion, that we believe that most persons will be anxious to learn how the subject is viewed in France. We must not, however, be held responsible for the reporter's sentiments; we think that his censure of the interior of *La Madeleine* is unnecessarily severe, and that he has given a little too much praise to the design for a high altar in the Cathedral of Notre Dame :—

"Tapers form a part of the splendid ceremonials of the Catholic Church, and we saw several designs of candelabra destined for ecclesiastical purposes. Many of these were wrought in a florid meretricious style, and might be deemed specimens of the same perverted taste which has turned the interior of La Madeleine into an overgrown toyshop, and made Notre Dame de Lorette something like a gigantic baby-house of gilt gingerbread. There were, however, several of much purer design, calculated to suggest religious thought; one of these we have engraved, for we think it a happy conception to represent the prayer of angelic purity ascending to the source of light. The various ecclesiastical ornaments exhibited, not less than the candelabra, seem to show that the taste for exaggerated theatrical display in religious ceremonials is on the decline in France, and that public worship is becoming a matter more of inward feeling than ostentatious show. There were several *bénitiers* and *oratoires* in the Exposition which had nothing to offend a severe Protestant taste; and we may mention as a further proof of this gratifying change that the design which has been selected for the high altar of Notre Dame is one which perfectly harmonizes with the severe Gothic style of that very ancient cathedral. It may also be remarked here that copies of Gothic windows are made in France of burned clay (*terre cuite*), in which the tracery of the most florid Gothic is as sharp and well-defined as in the original stone. This is a matter of some importance to the ecclesiastical architects of England, for the windows of many of our new churches sadly disfigure the general effect of the edifices."

We must now turn to a specimen of domestic furniture :—

"The French have always been distinguished for excellence of taste in the arrangement of drapery, and bedrooms are reckoned among the show apartments in most houses of the upper classes. Indeed, at both the Tri-anons the furniture of the bedchambers is more likely to attract the attention and excite the admiration of visitors than the furniture of the other apartments. To some extent this exposure of the bedchamber is not very consistent with our English notions of delicacy and privacy; but even at this side of the Channel greater attention is paid to the tasteful arrangement of the sleeping apartments than was usual some years ago. We insert an engraving of a French bedstead and canopy, which struck us as equally remarkable for its simplicity and its beauty. We recommend the pattern to our manufacturers of brass and iron bedsteads, most of whose articles, however laudable on the score of cleanliness and comfort, have hitherto displayed a lamentable deficiency in elegance and taste. The cornice might easily be obtained in Bielefeld's *carton-pierre*, which we believe could be most extensively and cheaply applied to the decoration of works in metal."



Here we must pause for the present, but we shall again return to the subject.

Western Barbary, its Wild Tribes and Savage Animals. By J. H. Drummond Hay, Esq. London: Murray.

We return to this very interesting work, and our first extract, though a little long, shall be the account of a public execution :—

"I had arisen at break of day, and, accompanied by a friend, had set out to shoot near the town, in ignorance of the execution which was about to take place. On reaching the principal gate of the town, we found it shut, which surprised us much, knowing old Ben Khajjr, the porter, to be an early riser.

"'Well,' said the old gatekeeper, as I slipped into his hand a small silver key, 'you and your friend may pass, but no Moor can.'

"We sallied forth, wondering what could be the cause of such a novel order. This, however, was soon explained; for the first object that caught our eye was a party of soldiers moving slowly down the road adjoining the old ditch, on the south-western side of the town wall.

"As we hastened towards the party, we perceived they had two prisoners, who were secured with ropes fastened round their arms and waists. I recognised one of them to be a native of Reef, who had formerly been a gardener in the service of one of my friends at Tangier. He was a fine, tall, handsome youth, and his countenance was far from indicating anything vicious and depraved. Having joined them, I inquired of the kaid of the soldiers what was the cause of these men being led as prisoners.

"'The Sultan—may God prolong his life!' said he, 'has ordered that their heads be cut off; they have been carrying on a contraband trade in oxen on the coast of Reef with the infidel Spaniard.'

"Some wrangling now ensued between the kaid's soldiers and the executioner as to the reward which the latter was to receive for decapitating the poor wretches; who, all the time, were standing by, compelled to listen to this bartering for their blood. The butcher insisted that four dollars had been offered him for one head alone, and that he must have a second four for the other. The kaid unwillingly yielded the point, and immediately the first victim, who was already half dead with terror, was thrown down on the ground by the executioner, who, kneeling on his breast, put the knife to his throat. I turned away, a violent struggle ensued, and I heard the executioner say, 'Give me another knife; mine won't cut.' I looked round; the wretched man was lying with his throat half cut, his breast heaving, and every limb writhing! My companion now loudly reproached the party for their cold-blooded atrocity, and called upon them to put the suffering man out of his misery. After a time another knife was handed by a soldier to the executioner, and the head was severed.

"The soldiers shouted feebly, 'May God prolong the life of our Sultan!' though I observed that many of them were as much horrified as ourselves.

"I remained riveted on the spot, where yet another victim awaited his fate. This was the fine-looking fellow of whom I have spoken: again there took place a bartering for his blood; the kaid denying his late promise, and declaring that he would not give even the four dollars unless the head of the second criminal was cut off. To this the executioner was at length forced to consent. The culprit now begged to be untied. This request being acceded to, he took off his gelab, and giving it to the soldier who had performed this last act of kindness towards him, said, 'Accept this; we shall yet meet in another world.' His turban he threw to another, who had uttered a word of pity, instead of joining in the insulting shout of the soldiery; and walking steadily to the spot where his companion lay, he cried out with a distinct voice, 'There is no God but God, and Mahomed is his prophet.' Then turning to the executioner, he loosened his girdle, and gave it to him, saying, 'For the love of God, sever my head with better despatch than you did that of my brother.' He laid himself flat on the ground, yet moist with blood; and the knee of the ruffian, for so he deserved to be called, was placed on the Reefian's breast. A horseman was now seen galloping towards the party.

"'A reprieve!' shouted my friend. 'Stop! stop!' The executioner withheld his knife.

"'It is only the son of the governor,' exclaimed a soldier; 'he is coming to see the execution. Wait for him'"

A very amusing instance is given of the results of the Moorish bigotry which excludes Jews and Christians from entering the mosques, under the penalty of death, or embracing Islam.

"The clock of the '*Jamaa Kebeer*,' the great mosque at Tangier, being much out of order, needed some skilful craftsman to repair it. None, however, of the 'Faithful' were competent to the task, nor could they even discover what part of the machinery was deranged, though many put forth their opinions with great pomp and authority, amongst the rest one man gravely declared that a *Jin*, or evil genius, had in all probability taken up its abode within the clock. Various exorcisms were accordingly essayed, sufficient, as every true believer supposed, to have expelled a legion of devils—yet all in vain: the clock continued dumb.

"A Christian clockmaker, 'a cursed Nazarene,' was now their sole resource; and such an one fortunately was sojourning in Tangier—'the city protected of the Lord.' He was from Genoa, and of course a most pious Christian; how then were they, the faithful followers of the Prophet, to manage to employ him! The clock was fixed in the wall of the tower, and it was, of course, a thing impossible to allow the Kaffer to defile God's house of prayer by his sacrilegious steps.

"The time-keeper *Moakkeed* reported the difficulty to the kady (judge); and so perplexed the grey-bearded dealer in law and justice by the intricacy of the case, that, after several hours of deep thought, the judge confessed he could not come to a decision, and proposed to report upon the subject to the kaid, advising that a meeting of the local authorities should be called, 'For, in truth,' said the kady, 'I perceive that the urgency of this matter is great. Yes! I myself will expound our dilemma to the kaid.'

"The kaid entered feelingly into all the difficulty of the case, and forthwith summoned the other authorities to his porch, where various propositions were put forward by the learned members of the council.

"One proposed to abandon the clock altogether; another would lay down boards over which the infidel might pass without touching the sacred floor; but this was held not to be a sufficient safeguard; and it was finally decided to pull up that part of the pavement on which the Kaffer trod, and whitewash the walls near which he passed.

"The Christian was now sent for, and told what was required of him; and he was expressly commanded to take off his shoes and stockings on entering the Jamaa. 'That I won't,' said the stout little watchmaker; 'I never took them off when I entered the chapel of the most Holy Virgin,' and here he crossed himself devoutly, 'and I won't take them off in the house of your Prophet.'

"They cursed in their hearts the watchmaker and all his race, and were in a state of vast perplexity. The wise

Oolama (learned men) had met early in the morning; it was already noon, and yet, so far from having got over their difficulty, they were in fact exactly where they had been before breakfast; when a grey-bearded Mueddin, who had hitherto been silent, craved permission to speak. The kaid and the kady nodded their assent.

"'If,' said the venerable priest, 'the mosque be out of repair, and lime and bricks have to be conveyed into the interior for the use of the masons, do not asses carry those loads, and do not they enter with their shoes on?'

"'You speak truly,' was the general reply.

"'And does the donkey,' resumed the Mueddin, 'believe in the One God, or in Mahomed the prophet of God?'

"'No, in truth,' all replied.

"'Then,' said the Mueddin, 'let the Christian go in shod as a donkey would do, and come out like a donkey.'

"The argument of the Mueddin was unanimously applauded. In the character of a donkey, therefore, did the Christian enter the Mahomedan temple, mended the clock—not indeed at all like a donkey—but as such, in the opinion of 'The Faithful,' came out again; and the great mosque of Tangier has never since needed another visit of the donkey to its clock."

The bigotry of some of the Arabs is not insurmountable, as the following very interesting anecdote proves:—

"I remember, on one occasion, travelling in this country with a companion who possessed some knowledge of medicine: we had arrived at a dooar, near which we were about to pitch our tents, when a crowd of Arabs surrounded us, cursing and swearing at the 'rebellers against God.' My friend, who spoke a little Arabic, turning round to an elderly person, whose garb bespoke him a priest, said, 'Who taught you that we are disbelievers? Hear my daily prayer, and judge for yourselves:' he then repeated the Lord's prayer. All stood amazed and silent, till the priest exclaimed:—

"'May God curse *me*, if ever I curse again those who hold such belief; nay more, that prayer shall be my prayer till my hour be come. I pray thee, O Nazarene, repeat the prayer, that it may be remembered and written amongst us in letters of gold.'"

In the mountainous country of the Berbers we find that a statute fair is held annually for the sale of wives. To escape the palpable ignominy of such a procedure the affair is thus delicately and dexterously managed:—

"Each lady desiring to enter into wedlock dresses herself in her best and most becoming attire, and taking with her a piece of cloth of her own weaving, sits down unveiled in the market-place. The men, both young and old, who are candidates for matrimony, parade about the market examining the texture of the cloth displayed by the ladies, and scrutinizing at the same time their looks and behaviour. Should the customer be pleased with the maiden, he inquires the price of the cloth; she replies by naming what she would expect as a dowry, and the amount of this she raises or depresses according as the candidate for her heart may please her, resorting to the demand of an exorbitant sum should she be averse to the purchaser. During this barter, the enamoured swain is able, in some degree, to judge of her temper and character. If they come to an agreement, the parents of the girl are appealed to; and they have the right to assent or not, as they please. Should they assent, the parties adjourn to a public notary, the contract is made, and the purchased bride is carried off to her new home.

"In this traffic, widows are at a low price in general, and divorced ladies sell their cloths very cheap. The wife thus purchased cannot be resold, however much the purchaser may repent of his bargain. She is his *lawful wedded wife*, and retains the purchase-money, which is her jointure or dowry.

"It is evident that this curious system of barter has been resorted to by these Mahomedan mountaineers as a means of evading the law of the Prophet, which interdicts all courtship before marriage."

An interview between a pilgrim and a lion is too amusing to be omitted:—

"He had hardly finished his prayers when he heard a rustling in the wood, as of some large animal; and presently, some thirty yards in front of him, a huge lion appeared in his path, fixing upon him his angry glance. Mohamed stopped short, and trembled from head to foot: but he soon took courage, and thus addressed the lion:—

"'O dread sultan of the forest, I am a poor man, and on a pilgrimage to Seedy Boaza—May God have mercy on his soul! Prithee, let me pass! They tell me lions are generous and brave—I believe it; and I am indeed a harmless and inoffensive man.'

"On hearing this the lion shook his mane, as if he was satisfied; and, turning round on the path, walked away from the man.

"'Thank God!' said Mohamed; 'most true it is that the lion is a noble and sagacious animal.'

"But he had scarcely uttered these words, when again the lion halted, and, turning round, looked at Mohamed full in the face, and began to lash his tail. Then Mohamed thus again addressed the beast:—

"'O yellow-haired Shereef, think not that I have spoken aught against thee, I was only praising thee because thou hadst pity upon God's creature. I never thought or said that thou wast running away. I know thee to be brave: I know that thou fearest no living creature.'

"Upon this the lion left off lashing his tail, and turned away again; but still he kept upon the path along which Mohamed was journeying: and the young man, walking on with caution and as slowly as possible, ejaculated a prayer or two; but speaking very low, for fear of making the lion angry.

"However, his prayers were soon put an end to, for all on a sudden the lion stopped for the third time, crouching with his head towards him, and his eyes glaring with fire, lashing his tail against his sides fiercer and fiercer.

"'What!' said Mohamed, cocking his gun and holding it ready, 'must we then meet as foes? Know, O lion, that I have spoken to thee fair words; but know also that I am a man; and, being a man, above all the beasts of the earth.'

"The lion roared defiance, and sprung towards him. Mohamed took a steady aim and fired; and the huge yellow monster rolled at his feet. The ball had entered the centre of the forehead, and gone through his brain.

"'My father told me,' exclaimed Mohamed, 'that in a good cause this gun would never fail. Seedy Boaza has given me a sharp trial, but has not forgotten the family of Biteewy.'

"Mohamed now continued his journey; and at every rustle of the leaves he expected another encounter with some dread animal; but God befriended him; and he arrived without further harm in sight of the shrine of his patron saint: and, taking off his shoes, he approached the holy ground. As he drew near, he perceived a numerous party of huntsmen, whose long guns bristled in the neighbourhood of the sanctuary; and the oldest man of the party, stepping forward, thus addressed him:—

"'O stranger, I see that thou comest from afar! Where are thy followers?'

"Mohamed pointed to his gun.

"'What!' exclaimed the old hunter, dost thou mean that thou camest hither alone? Impossible! Lions infest the forest; dangers beset the sons of men. We are numerous; we have killed lions ere we reached Seedy Boaza's tomb. Speak then the truth, O stranger, that we may hear and understand.'

"'I am from Tangier,' said Mohamed; 'I am alone. I have met a lion: I have slain him. I have come to worship at this shrine; and to-morrow I return to the house of my fathers.'

"'If thou speakest the truth,' said one of the hunters, 'conduct us to the lion thou hast slain.'

"Mohamed made no reply; but led the way to the spot where the sultan of the forest lay dead. The hunters examined the lion's head for a good while; and then they embraced Mohamed, and called him Sheikh: and each hunter parted with some portion of his raiment and gave it to him; and some gave him money. And they loaded the young pilgrim with their favours; and they made him accompany them to their village, which was distant some two days' journey from the tomb of the saint."

Here we must pause for the present; but there is still an abundance of amusing matter from which we intend to make further selections.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor *of the* League.

My attention has been called to an article in the League of last week. The writers of editorial articles obviously possess such an advantage over ordinary correspondents, that I seldom take any more notice of their aspersions than of other anonymous attacks; yet as I see, on reference to the paragraph animadverted upon, that the condensed report does not convey a correct account of what I said, I may, perhaps, claim the insertion of the following brief statement:—

I did not accuse any member of the Council of the League of advocating a fixed duty upon corn; and every candid reader will admit that, even as the paragraph is worded by the reporter, there is not an imputation of the kind.

Although I did not claim that credit to myself which would appear from the report, yet those members of the League best acquainted with its *early* proceedings know the "impracticable" part I took in their more private as well as public meetings respecting total and immediate repeal, when many of them honestly thought I was standing by this principle too tenaciously.

Had it not been for the observation of a previous speaker, who, on the day of nomination at the Birmingham election, greatly but unintentionally exaggerated my aid to its funds, I should not have referred to the League at all. I made an allusion to the Anti-Corn-Law cause having come under the patronage of men who ridiculed the idea of total and immediate repeal, whilst it was unpopular with their class; and although I might have used an expression better adapted to convey my meaning than "bad company," yet I believe few will say that it is misapplied in designating such Reformers and anti-monopolists as claim to be the "country" and the "public," to the exclusion of the millions, who are deprived, by unjust laws, of their inalienable rights. The writer of the article in the League cannot surely be sincere in his expressions of regret that one to whom he imputes such motives and conduct as he charges upon me should have withdrawn from their ranks. So far from regretting the course I have taken at the recent election in this town, there is not a public act of my life that I regard with more unmingled satisfaction; and I wish that at all future elections in the United Kingdom the people would carry to the poll the men whom a majority have selected as fit and proper persons to represent them, though with the certainty of a still smaller relative number of votes than were recorded here. It is one of the best means of ascertaining who are their *real friends* amongst the electors, an important if not an essential step towards their obtaining justice.

The working classes naturally conclude that they who oppose monopoly in trade, and support monopoly in legislation, have small claim to their confidence; and they plainly see that their wishes are treated with equal indifference, contempt, and insult by each of the two parties who are contending for political power.

I am respectfully,

Joseph Sturge.

Birmingham, 7th mo., 18th, 1844.

[At the earnest request of Mr. Sturge we insert his letter, although, from the irrelevancy of a large portion of it, we have abundant grounds for omitting it. The letter has much of insinuation without explicit charges against the Anti-Corn-Law League; and, whilst affecting to defend the writer from reflections made upon him, it seeks the publicity our columns afford for a justification of the policy pursued by him at the Birmingham election. We leave our readers to judge how far that policy is either wise in principle or capable of adoption, with any rational prospect of beneficial result. There is such a thing as venturing on a prophecy, and then working to bring about its fulfilment. Some have foretold the failure of the League, and, that their prophecy may not fail, are now labouring to retard its progress, and, if possible, to prevent its triumph. Feargus O'Connor is one of this class. We hope Mr. Sturge is not treading in his steps.]

AGRICULTURE.

THE WOOL FAIRS' FARCE.

The trade in wool is now released from all fiscal and legislative protections and regulations, and it is to be hoped that those absurd meetings designated "wool fairs" will now be speedily abandoned. They have long been the laughing-stock of real men of business, whether growers or buyers of wool. The mode in which these fairs are conducted betrays an ignorance of the principles of trade, which is perfectly puerile. Some landed gentleman, a lord or squire of high degree, is usually the chief promoter of the farce, and he gravely takes the chair at an after-dinner meeting of a small section of the farmers of a district, and proposes to become a sort of mediator between the farmers and the woolstaplers, for the purpose of inducing the latter tradesmen to give higher prices than without his interference and the cajolery of a dinner-table they might have been inclined to do. For this purpose, first, there is usually a subscription for a bit of plate to be presented to the buyer of the greatest number of fleeces. Thus, at the Bedford wool-fair dinner, the chairman, Mr. Francis Pym, said, that "in order to keep up the character of the Bedford fair, and *to tempt the buyers*, a subscription had been entered into to provide a silver cup to be presented to the largest purchaser of above 2000 fleeces." Then the wine is pushed round with a view to create an artificial stimulus in the minds of the wool-buyers. But can anything be so ridiculous as the notion that these cautious capitalists, who are amongst the most shrewd and calculating men of business we have in the country, will be induced to buy a fleece more than they want, or to give a farthing more than the market price, for the sake of a silver plaything, or under the influence of a glass of wine?

None but men whose intellects and habits of thought never outgrow their boyhood could indulge in such silly expectations. And such is the case with the great mass of landlords, the only active promoters of wool fairs, who live in an atmosphere of illusion, and imagine that their patronage and their influence can affect men who deal with the realities of life.

And every report of these fairs shows their forced and unnatural existence. We have now before us nearly a score of such reports, and there is scarcely one in which complaints of want of support by the farmers and the wool-buyers are not heard. The wool-buyers universally dislike them, and usually transact their real business with the farmers either before or after the fair. Thus, in the report of the Bedford wool fair, to which we have alluded, it is observed that "the system of after-dinner public bidding appears to give much umbrage to the buyers, *and certainly the opinions of those gentlemen are entitled to some weight.*"

To be sure they are, especially as most farmers have an urgent demand for the money for which their wool is sold. This sort of feeling on the part of wool-buyers was pretty plainly exhibited at two of the recent wool fairs, namely, at Chelmsford and Croydon. For instance, at the former place, Mr. Morren, a buyer, said that—

"At those sales some said there was an advance and some said there was none; and those in the trade could scarcely tell whether there was an advance or not from six weeks ago, though there was an advance from last year's prices of 20 per cent., and the growers were receiving that to-day. *As to a high price, he thought they would not get it, for the chairman had let out that the farmers wanted money, which would bring a large quantity into the market, and that would lower the price.*"

Then as to the pretence upon which the squires profess to be delighted with a free trade in wool, which they could not avoid, while they are frantic at the idea of a free trade in corn, which they may possibly stave off for a few months, Mr. Morren said:—

"As to the measure lately passed for taking off the duty on wool, he thought there was a mistake at head-quarters *when it was said that a large quantity of English wool would be required to mix with the foreign; if they inquired of the manufacturers they would find this was all fudge.* There was little mixing of wools; it was like sowing beans and wheat together, which the farmers would not be likely to do. *The quantity used for mixing was only a few bags in a year.*"

So at Croydon. Mr. Lewis, who is stated to have been long known as the principal wool-buyer in that part of the country, when called upon by the chairman to give the meeting some intelligence on the state of the wool market, "seemed very unwilling to afford the slightest real information on the subject;" and said:—

"Very recently he had purchased 20 flocks of wool; *that farmers wanted money to enable them to keep their wool till the annual fair*, but they could not help themselves, they were so sadly off. He would not take £600 for his profits on the purchases that he had lately made."

And the chairman, subsequently referring to the want of support afforded by farmers to the wool fair, said, "He was desirous of impressing on the minds of his agricultural friends the vast importance of annual wool fairs; *he feared that they were not sui-*

ficiently alive to their own interest." And he added that there had been a "larger company" and considerable business transacted" at some neighbouring fair. "Here (said he) *we have three samples and two buyers.*" Could he have uttered a more completé condemnation of the scheme of a wool fair? And then various farmers present were induced to sign a paper, agreeing to keep their wool until this fair!!

The pretence for all this nonsense is, that by after-dinner biddings the farmers become acquainted with the state of prices, and thus get more for their wool than they would obtain at home. Nothing can be more absurd. Let the farmer who wants to judge whether he ought to keep (if he is able) his wool, or to sell it forthwith, take the only rational means of ascertaining the state of the markets in which his wool is ultimately disposed of. Let him consult the newspapers as to the state of trade in the woollen manufacturing districts, or, better still, let him establish a correspondence with some person resident in, and acquainted with the trade of those districts, upon whose information, communicated from time to time, he can rely to guide his discretion as to the disposal of his produce. This will be of far more use to him than the squire's silver prize pipkin, or the bad port wine of a village public-house. Let him thoroughly inform himself of the real state of the trade, and he will then be in a situation to obtain on his own farm the best price the quality of his wool will warrant. Of this he may be sure, it is always the wool-dealer's interest to buy if possible, because it is by the number and rapidity of his purchases from the farmers, and sales to the manufacturers, that his profits are chiefly produced.

The wool trade is now placed upon the firm basis of a free trade, and the result has been to contradict entirely all the desponding and sinister predictions of the monopolist Duke of Richmond. We quote a few passages from the speeches at these wool fairs, to show how greatly *free trade in wool has benefited the British wool-growers.* Thus, at Chelmsford, Mr. Unwin, a wool-buyer, said—

"That they met there, though not in such large numbers, on very good terms; *perhaps on better terms, and more comfortable relations as buyers and sellers, than they had for many years past.* It was not necessary to tell them that the last year was a more favourable one for the wool-buyers than many former years; *they had a revival of prosperity in the manufacturing districts throughout the year, which enabled the wool-buyers to heal some of their old sores, and they now met them in better spirits, and bid as fair prices as the times would warrant.*"

At the same meeting Mr. John Ellman, of Sussex, one of the monopolist followers of the Duke of Richmond, and a "short-wool master," also, said:—

"He must congratulate them on the *revival of the old prices they used to receive some ten or twelve years ago*, and he also sincerely congratulated them on the circumstance that it was likely, *from what they had heard from the buyers, that these good prices would continue.*"

And the same Mr. Unwin afterwards observed, "he was convinced that the reduction of duty on wool would enhance the price rather than lower it. In 1826, when the duty of 6d. per lb. was laid on, it fell in value, and when it was taken off, wool rose, and had borne a better price since, than it had ever done previously." And in answer to the croak of the chairman, a deeply-mortgaged monopolist squire, that "though it [the abolition of the duty] might be beneficial at the present time, hereafter it might be viewed with considerable doubt," Mr. Unwin said, "If there was any evil it was immediate, and not distant, because it operated to alarm the British grower, who might this year sell more freely; but the remote effect would be to enhance the price of wool."

Let us see, then, what are the immediate effects upon the British grower. In the *Mark-lane Express* of the present week, we find that at Leeds "there had been a larger number of buyers in the market last week than for a long time past, and their purchases had been in heavy low-priced goods. The *shipping houses had been busier than usual at this period.*"

So again at Huddersfield: "The demand for broad and narrow cloths was much better than ordinary, and prices generally ruled with an upward tendency. This extraordinary impulse to business was chiefly attributable to correspondence received from parties visiting *the sales of colonial wool in London, where prices are considerably on the advance of late sales.* This circumstance had the effect of giving an unusual zest to the wool market, and holders of the raw material evinced a disposition of firmness." Now, our readers will remember, that, according to the Duke of Richmond, the prophet and champion of monopoly, the colonial wool-growers were to have been totally ruined by Free Trade! This shows the real value of monopolist prophecies.

There is also a report of the Inverness wool fair in the same paper, which is recorded as having "proved a very brisk one, and more numerously attended than for many years."

A Mr. Lockwood, an old buyer, said:—

"That he had attended the market with much pleasure for a number of years, and found, by a note in his possession, that his first purchase of wool was made in 1788, when he was the age of 15 years, at Oxenham, near Berwick, at which time the price of wool was 14s. 6d., and he would not state it as an offer, but he would this year be willing to give as much."

And prices were quoted from 20 to 25 per cent. higher than those of last year.

So at the *Lewes wool fair*, in the heart of the Southdowns and the short-wool masters, who, according to the veracious Duke of Richmond, were to have been all destroyed by free trade in wool, Mr. Blackman said:—

"The trade was now in this position: the duty had been taken off wool, and the moment that took place—*an event which appeared to have come like a sort of thunder-clap upon the market*—it gave a check to prices, and a very great check. *He had always thought that as soon as that check was over prices would revive again; and so it was.* It appeared now prices were about the same as when the duty was laid on; and he gave the Minister very great credit *for having put the trade on a sound footing.*"

So Mr. John Ellman refused to take less than 42s. per tod for his wool, which is 2s. per tod more than had hitherto been obtained. This looks like a rising market.

And the chairman of the meeting, the Earl of Chichester, distinctly stated, "that the only solid ground on which the agriculturists of this country could rest their hopes of increased profits was from an increase of the trade and commerce of the country." This sentiment was received with applause as applicable to wool; and from wool to wheat the transition is easy and natural. The editor of the *Brighton Guardian* puts this well when, after referring to Mr. Ellman's high demand for wool, he says,

"In fact, he is said to have obtained a higher figure, and that his wool was bought for exportation to France. Before that could take place, it is clear that the value of such wool and its price must be greater abroad than at home. *The reduction of the duties therefore, putting an end to the artificial rise of prices here, permits exportation.* If this be the case as to wool, why not as to corn? It may be doubted whether prices *can be permanently maintained higher in one country than in another by artificial means.* As the price of wool has been so equalized as to permit export, so may the price of corn; but when it falls to that level under the present laws, which increase all the burdens of the farmers, they will be about ruined. Free trade in corn, which would reduce their charges and permit in favourable seasons exportation with advantage, would prepare for that equalization of price which must take place in corn as in wool. The abolition of protecting duties cannot be ruinous to the farmer, since the protecting duty on wool can be abolished; and instead of the price falling by the influx of foreign wool, it rises a full fifth, having fallen previously under the duty, and is expected to rise a third or a fourth. The Lewes wool-sellers must begin to see, we apprehend, that those are not their *worst enemies* who advocate the abolition of protecting duties."

The case of wool is quite analogous to that of wheat, and when Free Trade has been forced upon the landed interest—as in a very short time it will be—farmers will find that the ridiculous exaggerations the monopolist landlords have indulged in with respect to the price at which wheat can be imported from abroad, have no more foundation in fact than the Duke of Richmond's interested but mistaken outcry about wool.

WHO ARE THE "FARMERS' FRIENDS?"

We last week noticed some of the most striking expressions used by the principal speakers at the dinner of the Royal Agricultural Society, at Southampton, on the 25th of July; but the meeting itself as well as the tone and temper of the speakers at the dinner invite some further comment. The meeting itself was sufficiently remarkable, thousands upon thousands of spectators, chiefly persons interested in land or agriculture, thronged the show ground, in which some of the most perfect stock and specimens of the most complete agricultural implements this country can produce were exhibited. No one could witness the gathering without feeling that husbandry has become fashionable, and that rural affairs are just now the rage. Peers, landowners, and ladies, farmers and agricultural labourers, appeared to take equal interest in the show. All classes alike admired the symmetry of the animals, and the ingenious simplicity of the most improved machinery; nor was that admiration misplaced, for the exhibition was well worthy the skill and judgment of our best mechanicians and agriculturists. No one could have gone to this meeting without becoming sensible that a high degree of agricultural knowledge exists in this country; yet, whether he had travelled to the show from the north, east, south, or west of England, he could not but have observed that nine-tenths of the land by which he passed on his journey is cultivated in a way which bespeaks a very low degree of agricultural skill amongst the majority of farmers. Whence arises this anomaly? It is not because the agricultural classes have been neglected by the Goverment and the Legislature, for during the last thirty years the main business of Parliament has been to pass laws to render agriculture prosperous. Let any one who travelled to Southampton, with an eye to the husbandry of the different districts through which he passed, say with what result. Truly has the Legislature laboured for agriculture in vain.

And this brings us to the origin of the English Agricultural Society, which really is spreading a knowledge of some of the best practices of husbandry. The society was formed in May, 1838, just after the report of the Parliamentary Committee of 1836 had satisfied every sane man that legislation and protective laws might cause, but could never cure or prevent agricultural distress; and it was founded upon the principle of excluding all political questions from its consideration: in other words, it was the public recognition of the fact that agriculture, to be successful, must be self-dependent; that the only protection on which the husbandman can rely is his own intelligent industry. Increased production from our soil is the avowed object of the society, and the means by which it seeks to attain that object are implied in its motto of "SCIENCE WITH PRACTICE." And this principle of the society was pointedly brought into notice at the dinner by Lord Hardwicke, who, in allusion to some silly attacks which were made last autumn upon Lord Spencer, by a few noisy monopolists, said, "We are under the deepest obligation to our noble president, Earl Spencer, for having come to the manly resolution of refusing to yield to the demands of those, who could have but little understood the nature and constitution of this society, when they called upon him to resign his present position because he differed from them on a political question." And this sentiment was received with unanimous applause, as was the following:—"We are deeply obliged to Lord Spencer for having had the manliness to enforce, by his determination, the spirit of the laws of this society; thus setting the question at rest for ever, and sealing the destination of the society *as a lasting and enduring institution for the public good.*"

This is a distinct declaration that into a society really meant to advance and improve the art of husbandry the question of legislative protection must not be introduced. Yet what is the course pursued by the majority of the lords and squires who applauded Lord Hardwicke's speech, when they reach their own districts? Do they not invariably convert all the local agricultural societies into political clubs and Pro-Corn-Law meetings? Why is that which is admitted to be just and true when applied to the Royal Agricultural Society of England, false and erroneous of the local societies which profess to follow in its wake?

Let the success and utility of the Royal Society, where the sound principle of upholding agriculture by promoting agricultural skill prevails, be placed in contrast with the forced and lingering existence of the local monopolist clubs, misnamed agricultural societies.

We have on several occasions borne testimony to the usefulness of the Agricultural Society, and to the value of many of the papers which have appeared on its journals; and it is impossible to watch its proceedings, or to witness its shows, without being conscious that its most effective supporters are those clearsighted men who understand the wants and burdens of English agriculture and the capacity for production of British soils: in other words, the Free-Trade members of the society are those who best promote its objects. Who has been from the first the most efficient of its conductors, or rather, who was its actual founder, but Earl Spencer? Who, by the admission of the monopolist Earl of Hardwicke, has recently, by his sense and firmness, prevented the society from speedy extinction, by being converted for a brief space into a "protection association?" Why, again, Earl Spencer. Then look at the members who have distinguished themselves by skill in practical husbandry, and we find Earl Ducie setting an example of improvements in tillage which will form an era in the agriculture of this country. Then the same noble member stands foremost amongst the improvers in agricultural mechanics, as is proved by the prizes and medals he obtains at every meeting of the society for improvement in the implements of husbandry, and still more by the extensive use amongst farmers which the Uley implements obtain.

Then the owner of the second-best—and if fat rather than form, bulk instead of symmetry, had not prevailed, it should have been adjudged *the best*—short-horn beast shown at the Southampton meeting is Mr. Hayter, member for Wells, a steady and consistent advocate, both in Parliament and out of doors, of an immediate and unconditional free trade in corn. And Mr. Hayter is not merely a successful breeder of cattle, for he is one of the most energetic practical farmers of the day, and one who has done as much as any member of the society to demonstrate the advantages which landowners, by well-devised [illegible]ement of their own estates, may confer upon the [illegible] labourers.

It is by deeds like these, and not by such self-glorification and sentimental silliness about dining at the same table with farm-servants, in which the monopolist Duke of Richmond indulged, that the farmers may judge their "friends."

LANDLORD PROMISES.

THE DISTRESS OF THE PROTECTED!

We last week prepared an abstract of a monopolist landlords' meeting at Devizes, where statements relating to the condition of the Wiltshire peasantry, so entirely the reverse of true, were made by Mr. John Benett, one of the county members, that it is perfectly suprising how any sane man could have ventured to make them. That report was excluded from last week's LEAGUE by the pressure of other matter, and we have now the means of contradicting those statements out of the mouths of the Wiltshire farm-labourers themselves. At Brinkworth, adjoining the estates of Lord Suffolk, a Whig, whose son votes in support of monopoly, another of those meetings of agricultural labourers took place which will

render Wiltshire memorable as the rural county in which the serfs of the acred monopolists first publicly met to protest against monopoly. The *Wiltshire Independent* says :—

"A large meeting, the fourth held within the last two months in North Wilts, having the same object in view, was held on Tuesday last, at Brinkworth. Labourers and mechanics flocked into the village from all quarters, *not less than 1200 persons were present.* Waggons were placed on the green, as a platform; and the most earnest attention was paid to the speakers."

Mr. *John Edridge*, a stanch Free-Trader, took the chair, and, in his opening speech, said :—

"Although some of the *farmers* were wealthy, yet many others had as much as they could do to make out for themselves; let them not therefore lay their lack of employment at their door as a wilful act. To the unjust and oppressive taxation with which they were burdened, especially those taxes which pressed on the first necessaries of life, and to the neglect of those whose duty it was to remove the distress of the labouring classes, must they attribute all their privations and miseries. *If the landlords only paid attention to their land, levelled some of their fences, grubbed up some of their waste boundaries, giving the corn more room to grow, they would be able to employ a far greater number of labourers without making any sacrifice themselves. If there was any competition in their trade they would be obliged to do it. If foreign corn was allowed to enter, then they would level fences, drain their lands, and make many improvements which would afford a constant supply of labour; but the present system of shutting out all foreign competition was a mere premium on idleness, by which the labourers were the sufferers.*"

And he concluded by showing how the system of taxation in this country pressed unfairly upon the industrious classes, in exoneration of the landlord class.

The Rev. Mr. Read, a Dissenting minister, then addressed the meeting, and elicited from those present complete contradictions of Mr. John Benett's statements :—

"Were there not many in this parish *not fully employed? (Several voices—'Hundreds.')* What amount of wages would they receive when in full work? (*Voices—'7s., 8s.'*) Now, if a man with his wife and four children were placed in the workhouse their food alone would cost 9s. per week, and the guardians obtain it 10 per cent. cheaper than private individuals can. How, then, could the labourer, with 2s. less to provide food and every other necessary, be said to be in a prosperous condition? He would not live too well *in* the house, therefore his fare *out* must be scanty indeed."

The remedy was, the release of industry, especially rural industry, from the depressing influence of the Corn Laws :—

"Had they not been taught to say 'give us this day our daily bread?' *and yet their legislators made laws to keep it from them.* Had those laws benefited the *farmers?* they acknowledged that *they were not prosperous.* Had they benefited the *tradesman? Did they assist the labourer? Had his wages risen in consequence?* ('*No, no.*') What then have these laws done for you—the labourers? Do they get you bacon with your potatoes? (A voice—'*'Tis as much as we can do to get* salt, *say nothing of* bacon? *He believed that was true;* but if the Corn Laws were repealed they would have free trade too in labour, wages for all who were willing to work, they would be able to sell their labour in the best market."

And he added :—

"He had been censured as a preacher of the gospel for taking part in these meetings; but when he saw the labourers living *on potatoes and salt, burnt crust tea, and such fare* ('*'tis true, that's what we get;*')—when he saw the misery and wretchedness which existed, *he said the Corn Laws mainly produced that state of things*, and, whatever others might say, he would not cease to lift up his voice against them."

This is worthy of the high office of a Christian teacher.

Mr. Arkell adduced another instance of the distress of the labourers, saying :—

"Passing through Hook, this morning (a little place with about twenty houses), he asked a man whether many people would be at the meeting at Brinkworth. '*We want a meeting here,*' was the reply, '*for the people are half starving.*' *Afterwards he saw a man by the roadside faggotting, and asked him how times were with him.* He said he had never been so badly off in his life, and that *he and his family had been often through the winter living on boiled 'collets'* Can anybody contradict this? ('No, no.' A voice, '*There are many about here that would often be glad to get even collets.*') It was evident to him that numbers had little work and less food, and their distress was increased by the dry season causing their potatoes to fail. The farmers *made the dryness of the season their excuse for not employing more labourers. But why did they not grub banks and make other improvements? If they were to do this, labourers need not be out of employ.*"

This, let it be remembered, is from one of the best practical farmers in the county. Mr. Arkell then proceeds to deal with the county member's *facts* :—

"Mr. Benett, at Devizes, last week, said that the farmers had no cause for despair; and that so long as population increased they might defy the foreigner to depreciate the value of the land. *Why, then, should they desire to keep out foreign corn?* Further, he said prices were dependent on the seasons; and he added that the object of the present law was to keep prices steady. Now, he asked, could they do that if prices were, as Mr. Benett before remarked, dependent on the seasons? *But the law had not kept prices steady. He had himself sold wheat at 20 guineas and at 10 guineas the load.* What should cause these ups and downs? Mr. Benett said the variations in the currency. So here he acknowledged that prices had varied. *Who believed Mr. Benett when he said prices would be at 52s. for the next twenty years?*"

Then Mr. Benett's scheme of repealing the malt-tax, to give the labourers more beer, whilst he refused them bread, was treated by the hard-handed labourers [illegible] the just contempt it merits.

Mr. *Arkell* said :—

"Another idea of Mr. Benett's was, that the labourer ought to have his luxuries as well as the rich man, and he therefore wished to apply the proceeds of the tax on bread to the removal of the malt-tax; so that, according to Mr. Benett, the best thing they could do would be to petition for a repeal of the malt-tax, and *thus obtain cheap beer if they could not get cheap bread.* (Cries of '*Let's have some food to eat first,*' and '*That's what we want.*') Mr. Benett further stated, that in this *county the labourers were always in full employ, whether in wet or in dry weather.* (Cries of '*That's wrong.*') So he would have you believe that there was no distress or want of employment among you! Is that the case? ('No, no.')

Mr. *Pearce* gave the following detail of the income and expenditure of a Wiltshire labourer :—

"Supposing the man to earn 9s. per week, and to expend it in the following way:—

	s.	d.
4 gallons bread	4	4
3 oz. tea	1	0
¼ lb. sugar	0	4
3 lb. meat..	1	6
Soap and candles	0	6
Flour	0	3½
Sundries	1	0
	8	11½"

and remarked that, "if the above articles were free from duty they might be bought for about half that sum."

After the meeting had agreed to a petition for removal of all restrictions on trade and commerce, and for relief from excessive taxation, it was addressed by several agricultural labourers in the following terms :—

"Ambrose Lewis, a labourer, living in Hillmarton, then came forward to speak. He said he had walked for miles without obtaining a day's work. He went to his own parish, Broad Somerford, but the farmers all said 'No.' He then went to the guardian as the fittest person to apply to, but he had no work, and would not so much as give him a bit of victuals, and he was that day indebted to a poor man named Jacob Miles for a meal. He had now passed nine months without earning 2s. 6d. a week, and had sometimes two or three children to maintain. *When he was employed he often toiled all day with nothing but a bit of bread once in the day and a few potatoes at night.* No one could say he was a lazy fellow ('*No, you're not*'); *he had cut his forty acres of grass every year for the last twenty-five years, and sometimes more. Potatoes and salt was his general food*, and as for meat, he scarcely ever saw any except at the butcher's shop, and sometimes *smelling* it at the farm-houses. A parson gave him a bit to eat the other day—more than had been in his house for months before. *If it had not been for the piece of land let to him by the Marquis of Lansdowne he should have been starved or have been in the union seven months ago.*"

So again—

"Abraham Rivers, of Bremhill, said he had a wife and six children. He had been obliged to apply to the parish for work, and had 7s. a week to maintain his family, out of which it cost him 6d. per week for tools. It was not enough to keep them in bread, and he had no potatoes. He was sure one reason why labour was so scarce and so many labourers out of employ in his parish was because the farmers used drill machines and threshing machines so much instead of employing men. *When the farmers' rent becomes nearly due they send for one of these machines to get their corn threshed out quickly to turn it into money.* But for Lord Lansdowne's land his family would have been in a state of starvation. For miles round there was scarcely any work to do and no likelihood of any."

Now, this poor man's error in attributing to agricultural machinery that which is caused by deficiency of agricultural capital is not surprising; though, every one who understands husbandry is aware that the farmer who employs most machinery invariably employs the most manual labour also. It is the necessity of meeting the rent, the monopoly-enhanced rent, which causes the farmers to employ too little labour, too little we mean for the profitable cultivation of their land. The effect on the labourers of the present system has now been made fearfully apparent.

"Subsequently another labouring man, Walter Mathews, said that *several hundred people held allotments* of land under the Marquis of Lansdowne, *without which many of them would be starved.*"

Dare the Government, creature as it is of the landed monopolists, venture to maintain the Corn Laws for another session in the face of such things, thus spoken?

POLITICS IN DISGUISE.

How long will the farmers be gulled into serving as tools to their political landlords, by assembling under the pretence of showing cattle, and then be dosed with monopolist politics and high-rent schemes? We have been led to put this question by the report of the meeting of the "Wilts Agricultural Society," lately held at Devizes, at which all the principal monopolists of that county assembled, and, under the pretence of aiding agriculture, tried to bolster up their own rent-raising monopoly of food.

"The president of the society, John Benett, Esq., M.P., was in the chair, and was supported by Mr. Sotheron, M.P., Mr. Heneage, M.P., Mr. Bruges, M.P., the Rev. R. Ashe, the Rev. Mr. Marsh, Mr. Stephen Mills, Mr. Colston, Mr. Compton, the mayor of Devizes, Mr. Lewis, Mr. John Hayward, Mr. G. E. Sloper, and from seventy to eighty of the most respectable agriculturists of the county."

And after the usual adjudication of rewards to meritorious bulls, cows, sheep, pigs, and labourers,—and, judging by the scale of prizes, the squires of Wiltshire deem one bull equivalent in value to six and one pig equal to four labourers,—the *business* of the evening commenced by the monopolist member for North Wilts, Mr. Sotheron, proposing the health of his co-monopolist of South Wilts, Mr. John Benett, commonly known amongst the labouring classes of Wiltshire as "barley bannock" Benett; so well do these poor fellows understand the effect and objects of the high price of food Mr. Benett and his co-monopolists are so eager to obtain. In returning thanks, this veteran monopolist was eloquent on the "light of chemistry" as recently applied to agriculture, though he maintained a complete silence on security of tenure, game, and high rents. He, however, seems to be setting his house in order for a free trade in corn, for he said,

"With respect to the prospects of the agriculturists he would say a few words. He had repeatedly said the agriculturists had no cause for despair; and he now repeated, *that so long as population increased*—and with the increase of population there would be an increased demand for the produce of the land,—*they might defy foreigners to depreciate the value of the land, because* the British farmer *had on his side the costs of importation, which protected him in a certain degree.*"

Now, this looks like a lucid interval; but how widely it differs from the insane nonsense this same gentleman uttered at the last "protection meeting!" Does this gentleman fear a dissolution, and that even the patronage of Mr. Sidney Herbert may not secure him a seat in the next Parliament (and it is notorious that Mr. Benett would not be so comfortable without parliamentary privileges as with them)? However, having done homage to the Free-Trade principles of his patron, Peel, he followed it up with this, for a monopolist, new version of the Corn-Law question :—

"With reference to the prices of agricultural produde, *he would recommend them not to be too sanguine. No law could keep up prices to any certain sum.* So far he agreed with the Anti Corn-Law League; but he differed from them when they declared that any fixed prices had ever been promised by the Corn Law. *The law could not regulate prices.* Prices depended on the seasons, which were under the direction of Providence. In plentiful seasons low prices necessarily followed, and, not being the effect of importation, did no harm; at other times they had a deficiency, and high prices were the inevitable result. But for a minister to promise a certain price was impossible, and it had never been done. *The object of the present law was to keep prices steady; and he maintained that the present sliding scale was calculated to regulate prices*, and it was proved that it had done so, for the prices of grain in England had been more regular than in any other country."

Now, let the reader mark this man's inconsistency: first he says law cannot regulate prices, and afterwards "that the present sliding scale was calculated to regulate prices, and had done so." Who can have any reliance upon such politicians? and yet this foolish old man is a great light amongst the Wiltshire monopolists. Next we have a contradiction of his assertion that no certain price had been promised by the promoters of the Corn Laws :—

"Sir R. Peel was wrong when he first introduced the present Corn bill *in saying that prices would probably remain at 56s.* He believed they *would be somewhere about 52s. for the next twenty years*, provided the law remained stationary; and those who calculated on more deceived themselves."

Now, if the present harvest is well got in, it is probable that within six months the price of wheat will be down to 42s. a quarter, in spite of Peel's promises, or restrictions on import. How will the monopolists deal with that state of things?

Next he makes this important admission with respect to the labourers :—

"He thought the time *would come when gentlemen would see the importance of looking more to the labouring classes.* He congratulated them on the exertions which had been made in their favour. He thought they were entitled to their luxuries as well as the higher classes; *and the principal and most important luxury to them was beer; and, in order that they should be enabled to obtain it at a cheaper rate, he thought that the money received from the duty on corn should be applied to the repeal of the malt-tax.* (Hear, hear.) That would enable the poor man to drink beer instead of water, and he thought they were bound to endeavour to obtain it for him. It would signify little to the farmers whether they derived their return from wheat or barley."

This is one word for the labourers and two for the owners of barley-land; and it is impossible not to admire the philanthropy and disinterestedness of the proposal to increase the *drink* of the labourers, whilst they are denied food. We do not think fiscal measures should be used either to encourage or discourage the use of any commodity; but if there be one greater benefit than another (increasing the supply of food only excepted,) which could be conferred upon the peasantry, it would be to induce them to abandon the use of beer and intoxicating drink altogether. And let the following *lucid* exhortation to look to the interests of the labourers serve as a specimen of landlord appreciation of the great and pressing difficulty of the day :—

"It remained then in their (the agriculturists') hands to look to the interests of the poor. It was exceedingly gratifying to him to see such a spirit stirred up in favour of the labouring classes, *and on that account he rejoiced in the agitation which had been got up.* No one felt more anxious for their welfare than the agriculturist. *Wages, of course, were governed by the proportion of the supply to the demand;* and he was sure there were no farmers in the county who were not as anxious to improve the condition of the labourer as those persons who wrote puffing letters in the papers, finding out grievances, and making a clamour, but pointing out no remedy. Now, nothing was so difficult as to remedy grievances;"

and he might have added, especially where those in whose hand the remedy was had an interest in maintaining the system which caused those grievances. And, in the face of the recent exposures of the sufferings of the labourers, Mr. Benett ventured to say—

"One thing that greatly *surprised him was*, that in Norfolk and Suffolk a great number of industrious labourers were out of employ; he was assured that in those counties the labourers did not get work nine months in the year; the farmers, being in distress, only employing the men just as long as they had full work for them. In his neighbourhood no *man lost a day*, and he believed *it was the case throughout this county that the farmer paid wages whether he had any work to do or not.* In Norfolk and Suffolk when a job was finished men were often at once discharged and suffered to stand idle till more work was ready for them. *He was astonished at this. Were there any farmers who acted thus in this county?* There were none in this neighbourhood who did so, and he believed there were none in the county. The wages paid here were 8s., in some places 9s. a week; *and he believed in no case, in this county, would it be found that the labouring man, whether in wet or dry weather, was not constantly employed every day in the week.*"

Now, what said the labourers at Lyneham and elsewhere in Wiltshire on this point? The public will not fail to remember it, though the monopolist M.P.'s find it convenient to forget it.

On the same topic Mr. Sotheron found it necessary to descant, though in the following vague style :—

"He would say to every class that it was their duty to make the best of existing circumstances. In their endeavours to raise the social condition of the labourers it was a bad thing to look for legislative interference, while they had in their own possession so many means of doing them good; and if they would only consider their own responsibility as masters, and regard their servants as fellow creatures—a duty which he thought farmers in this neighbourhood conscientiously performed,—he believed the condition of the labourers might be greatly improved. This would be a work of time. Many delusive plans had been put forth; but his experience went to prove that a good landlord could do but little excepting he had a good tenant; and that the farmer could do nothing unless he had good labourers."

What childish twaddle! And yet, for its sins, by such twaddlers is this country misgoverned.

Mr. Heneage, one of the monopolist members for Devizes, kept the convenient ground of local compliment; while his co-bread taxer, Mr. Bruges, was heavily statistical, and made a long speech, which might be aptly described as much ado about nothing. He made, however, one statement which should be noticed. In reference to allotments of land to labourers he said :—

"He had himself adopted the plan with perfect success since 1830. He did not then *select men merely with reference to character. He had not deemed poaching a ground for excluding an individual from the benefit of these allotments;* and he might add, that, although he had included some persons who had been convicted of offences against the game laws, *not one of them had, since that time, been guilty of any such offences.*"

Does not this prove that sheer distress is the great cause of the labourers falling into the temptation the landlords game preserves offer?

We must conclude these extracts with the following passages, which show that the monopolists themselves are of necessity taking, in some degree and partially, that course of improvement which a free trade in corn would render general :—

"Mr. W. R. Brown said, he was anxious to ascertain the reason why the poor-rates in this county *were 3s. in the pound, while the average of all the other counties was only 2s.* He had accordingly made some calculations on the subject. He had first ascertained that the area of the county was 868,000 acres. He found that in Wilts the proportion of uncultivated land was one-tenth, or 87,000 acres. [By uncultivated land he meant downs, commons, &c.] The cultivated land was thus reduced to 781,000 acres. By the last census, in 1841, the number of males was computed at 128,000; by the returns of 1831 the labourers in husbandry were set down at 24,000. According to his calculation they were now nearer 30,000, giving about 30 acres to each man. He had also ascertained that on tillage farms the cost of labour

was from 16s. to 20s. an acre; on pasture, about 10s.; he had taken the average at 16s. This would show a yearly income of £22 10s.; or, deducting £3 for wages paid to women and children, of £20 per head for each man, *not much more than 7s. per week. That proved that the market for labour was not sufficient for the population.* He would suggest a remedy: *if a portion of the uncultivated land was thrown into the market it would increase the demand for labour.* [And the same effect would be produced by improved husbandry on the half-farmed lands already in cultivation.] He was glad to see that in the southern part of the county much uncultivated down land had been brought into cultivation; *and he found that where that was the case the demand for labour had increased.* Mr. Brown, of Winterbourne, and Mr. Mills, of Elston, had in this way *greatly increased the labour market.* He should be glad to see that principle carried out throughout the county.

"The President remarked that *thirty years ago it would have been thought madness to break up Salisbury Plain; but he had little doubt but that it would in the course of years be entirely cultivated.*"

This is precisely the same kind of land on which in Lincolnshire the best farming in the kingdom exists. Nothing but monopoly and its consequences have prevented the cultivation of the west country downs long ago. And Mr. S. Mills, to whom Mr. Brown referred, thus spoke of the results of his own improvements:—

"They would perhaps allow him to say a few words on the employment of the agricultural labourers. *Having converted a great deal of unprofitable soil to a profitable purpose,* he was enabled to state that it had greatly promoted the benefit of the labourers, *because they received the first profit, while it had been of great advantage to himself.* Last year he had a large number of applications for work, and this year a still larger number, *but he was happy to say he had been able to afford employment to the greater part of the applicants.* Mr. Mills then stated the profitable results he had found from 'stifle burning.' He had taken that course with 80 acres of land *previously considered by an eminent surveyor dear at 1s. 6d. an acre, and he had since grown on it an excellent crop of turnips, and afterwards one of oats.* He lamented that the spirit of improvement in agriculture *did not show itself in the employment of more manual labour.* Men might plough well and manure well, *but their success would be more sure if their plans involved the use of more manual labour.*"

True, perfectly true. But high monopoly rents and fluctuating prices, caused by monopoly, to say nothing of insecure tenures, make the farmers dread Saturday night; and hence the labourers are the most immediate sufferers by the Corn Laws.

THE HARVEST.—Owing to the great number of agriculturists from all parts of the two western counties who have, during the last few days, embarked at this place for Southampton to attend the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society, we have been able to make very extensive inquiries relative to the harvest. "One and all" are exhilarated by the fine prospects which are presented. The white crops will all be good, but wheat especially; which will be far beyond the average in straw as well as grain; while even the green crops, which it was thought were damaged, and in some instances destroyed, by the long drought, have been surprisingly invigorated by the late rains. This is good news for the poor and the country at large.—*West of England Conservative.*

BIRMINGHAM ELECTION.—The disagreeable event of the past month is the Birmingham election. That Mr. Sturge is not at this moment member for Birmingham we sincerely regret. We heartily desired his success, and should have thought his claims superior to those of his rival; but as it appears that the Liberal electors, in the proportion of about five to one, thought differently, there is on this point no more to be said. That the Birmingham Liberals have so managed matters as to disfranchise themselves for the remaining months, or years, of the present Parliament, we regret still more. One might have hoped that the men whose sagacious and energetic common sense originated political unions, would have found means of adjusting a quarrel, which seems to have had as much of personality as of principle in it, before going to the poll, to be beaten and disgraced altogether. The mode of effecting an adjustment in such cases—when men are in earnest about their common principles, and not intolerant bigots to their special opinions—is obvious enough. The example was set by Marylebone at the last general election. The Liberal electors, divided by the conflicting and nicely-balanced claims of two Liberal candidates, chose their man by ballot before the day of nomination, under the compact (which was honourably kept) that the minority, however large, should support the candidate of the majority, however small. The result was, a tolerably good sort of representative for Marylebone, instead of a very bad one. The commodore can scarcely be called a model legislator—perhaps he is as much below Mr. Young in political aptitude as Mr. Scholefield is below Mr. Sturge—still, it is better for Marylebone to be saying "Ay" than "No" on Free Trade and inquiry into Post-office infamies. Why, in the name of common sense, could not the Liberals of Birmingham transact their business in the same good-tempered and business-like way? is the question which Reformers are everywhere asking, and answering, very naturally, to the disadvantage of that candidate whom the result shows not to have had the shadow of a chance of success from the beginning. But what we most lament in this business is the mischief which such experiments do to the cause of free and extended suffrage. We find no fault with Mr. Sturge or any other man for postponing the Free-Trade question to the complete-suffrage question, though the policy seems to us a mistaken one; but this Birmingham election is bad for both—worst for complete suffrage, as the younger and weaker of the two. With a very sincere respect towards men whose ultimate views and objects are our own, who number among them not a few of the truest and honestest politicians we have, who are working a difficult question, of first-class importance, in discouraging times, we beg to represent to the Complete-Suffragists that, if they have taken up the policy of division and repulsion deliberately, and as a policy, they may regard the cause of complete suffrage (an awkward name, by the way) as adjourned to somewhere within the next century. The true way to test the principles of such a policy is to suppose it carried out universally. Suppose the Complete-Suffragists to do everywhere what they have done in Birmingham; suppose them everywhere in a minority on the registries—everywhere to use their minority so as to let in the candidate of another and Tory minority; suppose them to succeed in silencing all the Liberal constituencies of the empire, and to get for us a *whole Parliament of Mr. Spooners,* how much nearer should we be to our new Reform Act *in posse?* A grosser practical solecism—a bolder defiance of the laws which connect means with ends—could not be.—*Tait's Mag.*

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The verses of J——s C——r are pretty, but as they are somewhat deficient of originality, we are reluctantly compelled to decline publishing them.

Our reply to the communication of Henry Turner is, that it is our duty fearlessly to enunciate the general principles of truth and justice, so far as relates to the great question we have in hand; but we do not assume to ourselves the office of becoming "judges or dividers" in particular cases, such as the one he alludes to. We have not leisure to examine carefully the clauses to which reference is made, we can only say briefly, that if, as Mr. Turner appears to believe, they infringe any principles of right or policy we have at any time expressed, the fault must rest on the head of the transgressor himself.

The following suggestion has been sent to us:—

"C. B. would suggest to us that the best way of carrying out the recommendation in the League to distribute that paper after subscribers have read it, would be by the officers of local societies furnishing the names of parties to send it to, or the papers might be left with the secretary for him to post. As it is probable that several papers might find their way to *one* individual if no arrangement previously took place of this sort, the latter plan C. B. thinks would answer best."

"A Member and a Farmer's Son" proposes that on some given day all the clergymen and ministers of the gospel should preach from the text, "Give us this day our daily bread." It may be said that, whenever and wherever the gospel is preached, and from whatever text, the *withholding of bread* is directly or indirectly condemned.

"A Subscriber from Patricroft" writes:—"I have thought if some detailed account of the rental from coal-mines, paid always to landowners, could be ascertained, it would show a startling amount. I know one estate, of about 100 acres, the rental from coal amounts to from £2000 to £3000 per annum, and nearly all paid by the manufacturers, for we know the farmers use very little coal."

We thank the "Hawick Stocking-maker" for his intelligent letter. We regret that we have not room to insert it.

"Philip M——" complains that his friends jeer him on our account. We can only say, that, if his communication to us be a fair sample of his intelligence and modesty, no wonder that his friends make sport of him. He lectures us about our editorial duties, and threatens that, if we do not follow his suggestions, he shall send a philippic on the subject to the *Times.* It is hard that the *Times* should suffer such an infliction for our faults. We should recommend "Philip M——" to read "Mason on Self-knowledge," a work he is evidently yet unacquainted with.

"A Farmer" writes to us, stating that he knows of two married men, one having four children, who are working for food only.

"Villein" very feelingly and very forcibly describes the miserable condition of himself and fellow "rustics," and winds up his harrowing tale with, "Physician, give us a balm." This request should be made to the *State* Doctor. Our "balm" is *Free Trade,* and we give the prescription without fee or reward.

"Josh. Martin" inquires upon what footing we would put game, and "whether we would continue it as property, and how we would deal with it legally?" We should deal with it as with rats, crows, and sparrows.

"Peter the Rhymester's" verses are not sufficiently spirited for publication.

We thank M. Waltham for his suggestions relative to the Free-Trade Club. His letter, however, is too long for insertion.

"On reading the account of Captain Warner's experiment in the LEAGUE of last week, I was struck with the nearly similar method of destroying ships proposed by the Marquis of Worcester in his 'Century of Inventions,' articles 9 and 10, which, for the information of some of your readers who may not be in the possession of the work alluded to, I have transcribed:—

"'9. An engine, portable in one's pocket, which may be carried and fastened on the inside of the greatest ship, *Tanquam aliud agens,* and at any appointed minute, though a week after, either of a day or night, it shall irrecoverably sink that ship.

"'10. A way, from a mile off, to drive and fasten a like engine to any ship, so as it may punctually work the same effect, either for time or execution.'—R. G. G."

The letter of Edward Whyte is forcible, but we have not room for it on account of its length.

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

Any person forwarding 3s. 3d. by Post-office order, to the Publisher, 67, Fleet-street, London, will have one quarter's copies of the LEAGUE forwarded by post on the days of publication. Subscriptions for the paper may also be left with J. Gadsby, Newall's-buildings, Manchester; and the LEAGUE may be had by order of any news-agent in town or country. Subscribers who receive coloured envelopes on their papers must bear in mind that their subscriptions are due.

GREAT LEAGUE MEETING. — The LAST MEETING of the LEAGUE for this SEASON in the THEATRE ROYAL COVENT-GARDEN, will be held on WEDNESDAY EVENING NEXT, the 7th instant.

GEORGE WILSON, Esq., will take the Chair at HALF-PAST SEVEN O'CLOCK precisely.

The Meeting will be addressed by Thomas Milner Gibson, Esq., M.P., George Thompson, Esq., and W. J. Fox, Esq.

Cards of admission may be had on application at the Offices of the League, on Monday and Tuesday, between the hours of eleven and four o'clock.

Applications for Private Boxes to be made personally or by letter on Monday.

The cards of registered Members will admit, as heretofore, to Pit and Galleries.—DOORS TO BE OPENED AT SEVEN O'CLOCK.

POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, August* 3, 1844.

To-morrow, and to-morrow week, being the first and second Sundays in August, the overseers are required to have lists, both of borough and county voters, affixed to the doors of every church and chapel in their respective parishes. Let Free-Traders look sharp, both in town and country. Every one who has claimed should see with his own eyes whether his name be there. If it be omitted, he should forthwith send his claim to the overseers to be placed on the list. The 25th of August is the last day on which such claim will be received. And there should also be a sharp look out for the names of unqualified voters, who may have been placed on the lists to serve the cause of monopoly. "Working the registration" has been practised as a trade by the sinister interests. Every name placed fraudulently on the list has the effect, if not objected to and expunged, of neutralizing that of an honest man. It is good service to defeat such tricks. Immediate information should be given to the Registration Committee, of any cases in which there is reason to suspect they have been played. Any voter on the list is qualified to object; but care should be taken that the objection is supported before the revising barrister. The various forms of claim and objection have already been printed in the LEAGUE; and we again refer for information on every needful point, to the excellent manual entitled a "Guide to the Elective Franchise," issued by the Metropolitan Registration Association, at 68, Cheapside. The secretary of that institution, Mr. Sidney Smith; or Mr. Hickin, the secretary of the Anti-Corn-Law League, Manchester, will, we have no doubt, promptly attend to any communications on difficulties that may arise. And now that we have briefly indicated the work of the day, let every man do his duty.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.—The anniversary *fêtes* in celebration of the "Three Days of July," commenced at Paris on Saturday. Low masses were performed in all the churches, and a special service took place in the church of St. Paul, which is nearest to the Bastille monument. The Prefect of the Seine, M. de Rambuteau, General Jacqueminot, commandant of the National Guards, and all the officers of his staff, were present at that service. At noon the posts were doubled, says the *Courrier Français,* and intrusted to the command of staff officers. In the barracks of the Municipal Guard the men were ready to mount their horses, or to rush to arms. The rounds of the superior officers were unceasing, the Prefecture de Police was crowded with Municipal Guards and policemen. At Neuilly, the garrison of the palace was tripled as early as nine in the morning.

The Duke of Bordeaux has addressed a notice to the European courts, stating that as he has become head of the house of Bourbon by the death of the Duke d'Angouleme, he protests against the change in the order of succession to the crown of France, and declares that he will never renounce his rights.

SPAIN.—The state of siege was raised at Saragossa on the 19th ultimo.

Lisbon papers state that the affairs of the Portuguese Government are so embarrassed that it has been obliged to suspend its payments. A paltry bill for £120 has been protested.

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE KING OF PRUSSIA.—The 26th of July, at the moment when the King of Prussia was about to set out on a journey, an assassin, named Tscheck, burgomaster at a little village some leagues from Berlin, fired a pistol. The ball glanced off the King's breast, without doing him any mischief. Her Majesty the Queen escaped the imminent danger by just at the moment accidentally leaning forward, and in this way the ball, which otherwise inevitably would have hit the Queen, passed behind her. The King continued his journey. The assassin is arrested.

The *Gazette des Tribunaux* states, on the authority of a letter from Berlin, that the Prussian Government has come to a resolution to abolish imprisonment for debt in all cases.

BOLOGNA, July 19.—Another execution has taken place in Bologna, in conformity with the finding of the military commission, and which was forwarded to Rome and received the Pope's ratification. Guiseppe Gardenghi was executed on the morning of the 16th inst., by shooting through the back. Another individual, Raffaelle Minelli, has been condemned to the galleys for ten years. A long list of persons moving in the better classes of society is expected to appear in a few days; it is feared that some of the sentences will be capital.

We learn from Prague that on the 16th of July notices were posted up in the city that, as tranquillity was completely restored, the ordonnance directing all public-houses to be closed at nine o'clock was no longer in force, and that they might, as before, be kept open till twelve.

LANDSHUT, IN SILESIA, July 20.—This morning, at ten o'clock, a fire broke out in the inner town, consisting of narrow streets, with lofty wooden houses, and, though there was no wind, spread with such rapidity, that in three hours fifty houses, besides the outbuildings, and the two large inns, were reduced to ashes. Nearly 200 families are houseless, and have partly lost, not only their property, but the means of gaining their livelihood.

The *Helvetie* complains of a new violation of the Swiss territory by French custom-house officers, who, it says, have crossed the Doubs, and seized a citizen of the canton of Berne, bound him, and carried him into France. The *Helvetie* adds, that this is the third instance of invasion for which the canton has had to demand reparation within the last three years.

INDIA AND CHINA.—The Indian mail arrived at Marseilles the 29th of July, bringing news from Bombay to the 19th of June, and from China to the 1st of May. The fact of Lord Ellenborough's recal was known at Bombay the 6th of June, on which an express was immediately despatched to Calcutta. His lordship would have known his recal, it was expected, by the 15th. The assembly of the Beloochee chiefs passed off most orderly, but the result come to is not yet known. The revolution in the Punjaub has as yet had no further consequences than the defeat and murder of Ittur Sing. The district of Boorhampore has been taken possession of without resistance, and has, it appears, been restored to the Mahrattas.—The populace of Canton rose against the quarter where the factories are situated, but the tumult was promptly put down.

We regret to learn from the *Hong-Kong Gazette,* of the 23rd of April, that Commander the Hon. Erskine Murray, who had proceeded with a couple of vessels to Borneo, to form a settlement there, and to establish friendly relations, was betrayed and treacherously murdered, with several of his party, by the Sultan of Coti.

The Rev. Doctor Wolff has written from Bokhara to Captain Grover, stating that he had had an interview with the King, who informed him that he had caused Colonel Stoddart and Captain Conolly to be put to death in June, 1842. Stoddart had been put to death on three grounds: first, on account of his having treated royalty with disrespect; secondly, that he had turned Mussulman, and then returned to the Christian faith; and lastly, that he had promised to get letters from England in four months,

by which he would be acknowledged ambassador from England, and fourteen months had elapsed without receiving any answer. Captain Conolly had been put to death for having, as the King alleged, induced the Khans of Khiva and Kokan to wage war against him.

MOROCCO.—Marshal Bugeaud informs his Government that he had received despatches from the Emperor of Morocco, to the effect that he had ordered the Calipha who had attacked the French troops to be put into chains, and to be placed at the disposal of Marshal Bugeaud. Marshal Bugeaud, on the 22nd of July, had his head-quarters at three leagues from Ouchda, and was continuing to burn the villages and destroy the crops on the Morocco territory. The same day (the 22nd) the Marshal sent despatches of a most pressing nature to the Prince de Joinville.

Intelligence has reached Constantinople of a signal defeat having been recently experienced by a corps of the Russian army, of 40,000 men, in Daghestan, by the Circassians, under the command of the famous Schamil, in which it is said that the latter captured a great number of prisoners, including 200 officers and two general officers, besides all the guns and war materiel.

UNITED STATES.—The royal mail steam-ship Britannia arrived at Liverpool early on Monday morning, after a quick passage, having left Boston on the 16th, and Halifax on the 18th ult.

The riots between the native Americans and the Irish were renewed on the 5th of July, and issued in a serious conflict between the former and the military, in which numbers on both sides were killed and wounded. It appears that on the 5th instant a report prevailed that a number of muskets had been conveyed by the Irish Catholics to the church of St. Philip de Neri, in Queen-street, Southwark, Philadelphia. The report caused much excitement; the street was soon crowded with citizens, the sheriff and two aldermen were sent for, the building was entered, and ten or a dozen muskets were found. A committee of the citizens was subsequently appointed, and, after much consultation, the church was again entered to search for more arms. They subsequently found a quantity of arms, bullets, cartridges, gunpowder, and percussion caps. The excitement increased greatly after this. On Saturday the state of affairs before the church was so threatening that the military were marched to the spot. The crowd made a rush upon them, and forced them back. At length the soldiers were assailed by missiles of all descriptions, which having been borne for some time, the word was given to fire. A Mr. Nailor, an ex-member of the Congress, stepped forward, and exclaimed, if they would fire on their fellow-citizens, they had better commence with him. He was instantly arrested, and locked in a part of the church placed under guard. This exasperated the populace greatly. After twelve o'clock the crowd gradually and slowly diminished in numbers, until about nine o'clock on Sunday morning, when they began to increase, and threats, loud and deep, were proclaimed, that unless Mr. Nailor were released, the walls of the church should be battered down. The demand was resisted for some time, until at length two pieces of cannon were brought up near the church. During all this time the military had possession of the church. Several attempts were made to break open the church doors, and they at last succeeded. On the church being taken possession of, an alarm was given by the tolling of bells, and a large body of military was marched to the spot, when, some formidable demonstrations having been made by planting pieces of artillery against the doors, &c., the rioters were induced to evacuate the building. The military were shortly afterwards assailed by a body of men, upon whom they fired, when several persons were killed and wounded. The crowd soon rallied in various places, and obtained possession of three cannon, taken from on board two vessels lying in the river, as also a considerable number of muskets and other firearms. The cannon were loaded with various substances, one of them with a thirty-feet chain, which killed or wounded a number of the military. The firing with musketry was kept up briskly, and the rioters took shelter in, and fired from, the houses and alleys in the vicinity upon the military. A squadron of cavalry arrived on the ground about half-past ten, and succeeded in capturing one of the guns. As soon as the cavalry made their appearance the rioters one generally dispersed before they were charged; and by o'clock the military had entire possession of the ground. The city was placed under military rule, and by dint of vigorous measures tranquillity was restored; but the authorities continued to exercise the utmost vigilance, and were in perpetual alarm of a fresh outbreak. Several of the rioters had been arrested, and examined on charges of riot, high treason, and murder.

General Waddy Thompson, who was some time Minister for the United States at Mexico, has published a letter of considerable length against the project for the annexation of Texas. As General Thompson is a native of the south, largely interested in Texas, and familiarly acquainted with its concerns, his arguments have excited considerable attention.

MURDER OF THE MORMONITE LEADER.—The Mormonites have for some time past been in insurrection. Their leader, however, Joe Smith, and some of his followers, had down their arms on the assurance of protection from outrage. Joe Smith, his brother Hiram, and some others were confined in gaol at Warsaw, in the State of New York, awaiting their trial on a charge of treason. The gaol was strongly guarded by soldiers and anti-Mormons, who had been placed there by the governor. A Mormon attempted to rush by the guard for the purpose of forcing his way into the gaol. He was opposed by the guard, and fired a pistol at one of the guards, giving him a slight wound. The governor and his forces being absent, a general confusion ensued in the crowd around the gaol. Joe and his Mormon fellow-prisoners, it seems, had provided themselves with pistols, and commenced firing upon the guard within. He then attempted to escape from the window, when a *hundred balls* entered his body, and he fell a lifeless corpse. His brother Hiram shared the same fate. Richards, a leading Mormon, was badly wounded. There our intelligence ends—what took place after this, God only knows. Mormons immediately left for Nauvoo to carry the news of the death of the prophet.

FLOODS IN THE WEST.—We have by this arrival fearful accounts of the overflow of the Mississippi. For a region of more than a thousand miles in extent, along the Missouri and Mississippi, above St. Louis, the inhabitants have been deprived of their cattle and crops, and, in many instances, their houses and barns also; while the soil itself, for hundreds of thousands of acres, has been either seriously injured or totally destroyed. The loss of the cotton crop now growing is estimated at equal to 300,000 bales. The city of St. Louis, itself a severe sufferer by the flood, has naturally become the refuge of hundreds of houseless, destitute, and starving creatures, driven from their homes by the pursuing footsteps of the flood; and the scenes of want and suffering presented by them—gathered together in sheds and rude tents, and fed by the hand of public charity—is represented as heart-sickening in the extreme. We are yet to hear of the destructive course of the flood for *thirteen hundred miles* between St. Louis and New Orleans; and we anticipate disasters of the severest kind when the mighty torrent roars through the Louisiana plantations—the garden of the south.

CANADA.—Accounts from Canada represent the prospects of the agriculturists as highly favourable.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—A letter received at Monmouth, from Hobart Town, dated March 8, 1844, states, "I often see Frost, Williams, and Jones: the former lives a few doors from me, at a grocer's, he is in the counting-house; Williams is a constable; and Jones is a guard to the mail."

CUBA.—A letter from Havannah, dated the 23rd of June, published in a Philadelphia paper, announces that affairs in that island were in an awful state. The writer says:—"Executions are going on daily under sentences of the military commission at Matanzas. Eight negroes and one white man were shot there three days ago. Ten more are for execution next week, and among them the poet 'Placido.' Arrests are still numerous, principally of free people of colour, whose properties are immediately confiscated, and a wholesale system of robbery is thus established." The writer adds that General O'Donnell had positively refused the British Commissioners to liberate any of the "emancipados," or negroes captured long ago by English cruisers, and who, having served their probationary term, were entitled to their free papers, under the treaty with Great Britain. There were upwards of 5000 of these unfortunate people, all of them entitled to their freedom; but their condition is represented as far worse than that of the slave whose owner had some motive to treat him well, while, from the emancipado working for a term of years, the master exacts the greatest possible amount of labour, at the least possible outlay for food and clothing.

A frightful steam-boat accident occurred on the 25th of May last at Rio de Janeiro. About 200 persons had taken their passage in the Especuladora steam-boat for a village called Nitheropy, when, as the boat began to move off, the boiler burst and caused the death of about seventy persons, besides wounding thirty more.

By letters from Tahiti, dated March last, it appears that the French had taken military possession of Tahiti, and had imprisoned the British consul, Mr. Pritchard, and several of the chiefs of the island, whose property they had confiscated. Queen Pomare had taken refuge on board an English ship, the Basilisk. The island was declared to be under martial law; and the French commandant, D'Aubigny, had threatened, in case of any insurrection on the part of the natives, or any loss of property or injury to the French, to hold the consul responsible, both in person and property, as "the daily mover and instigator of the disturbance of the natives." Mr. Prichard is now in London; and the whole matter has been brought by Lord Aberdeen under the notice of the French Government.

DOMESTIC.

At Nottingham, on Saturday last, William Saville, aged 29, was found guilty of the wilful murder, on the 21st of May last, at the parish of Colwick, of Ann Saville, his wife, and of his three children, being two daughters, aged respectively seven and five, and a little boy, aged about three years, and was sentenced to be executed.——John Dickenson, Esq., of Abbott's-hill, Herts, has, with great liberality, given a plot of ground, of about three acres in extent, situated on his estate, between King's Langley and Abbott's Langley, to serve as a site for the Booksellers' Provident Retreat.——The celebrated chemist and philosopher, the venerable Dr. Dalton, of Manchester, died suddenly at an early hour on Saturday morning. He had been in comparatively good health a few minutes previously. Dr. Dalton was in the 78th year of his age.——A series of lectures on the subject of explosive compounds were commenced by Dr. Ryan, F.R.S., at the Polytechnic Institution, on Monday evening. The subject of this, the first lecture, tended to show the power the lecturer believed Captain Warner had probably used in blowing up the John o' Gaunt. He believed Captain Warner had used chlorate of nitrogen, a most dangerous compound; but, as a great many people believed, he did not suppose that Captain Warner used a lock or a trigger for the purpose of causing the explosion, for there were innumerable other means at the disposal of the chemist much easier of application, and several of which were more to be depended on.——A parliamentary paper, on the subject of military savings' banks, has been printed. The total number of those banks (which have been established up to the 31st of March, 1844) amounts to 108; the total amount of cash deposited therein was £15,002, the amount withdrawn only £303; and the total number of depositors 1840.——Mr. Master, M.P. for Cirencester, has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, and Lord Villiers, son in-law to Sir Robert Peel, has declared himself a candidate for the borough.——Mr. J. R. Clark, ironmonger and tinner, of Beverley, has been the successful party in obtaining the contract for making the whole of the lamps for the intended new gas works in the city of Hamburg. About 3000 lamps will be required.—*Leeds Times.*——A bill to legalise Art-Unions, brought in by Lord Monteagle, has passed the House of Lords, and is now before the House of Commons.——The brig Grace, of Newcastle, arrived at Shields on Saturday last, from Ichâboe, bringing 300 tons of prime guano. The Grace left the island on the 1st of May, and there were thirty-seven vessels then loading and waiting for cargoes, with others coming every day.——The cities of Scotland are competing with each other in the excellent object of founding public baths. Dundee is to have this convenience for the people. Lord Kinnaird has promised to give a hundred pounds towards the formation of a bath, and Mr. Duncan, the member for Dundee, five guineas.——The first railway ever formed in the British colonies, is about to be constructed in the island of Jamaica, between Kingston and Spanish Town. The length is twelve miles.——Dr. Vaughan, the historian, and the principal of the Independent College, Manchester, has consented to become the editor of a projected review, which it is proposed to publish under the title of the "British Quarterly Review," and which is intended to advocate the principles which have been held by the English Nonconformists for nearly three hundred years, as well as to serve the general purposes of literature and science.——On Saturday, at the weekly meeting of the committee of aldermen, the members of the Navigation Committee and the Watermen's Company attended, and presented a copy of by-laws and rules for the future regulation of the numerous steam-boats on the river. The alterations proposed by these rules are, that in future no steam-boat is to carry beyond a certain number of passengers, according to its tonnage, and that proper persons are to be appointed to see that the regulation is not violated; and also that no boat is to be permitted to go beyond a certain rate of speed; and the places of embarkation are to be upon a secure and uniform footing.——On Sunday evening, the Starlight, iron Chelsea boat, on her passage down the river at nine o'clock, ran foul of Westminster Bridge, and received such damage as prevented her from making the pier by at least 10 feet, at which distance she sank and grounded, fortunately for all on board, at low water. She was crowded with passengers, male and female, who had to make their way to shore across two planks not 20 inches in width, supported in the middle by a small boat. With the assistance, however, of the captain and pier attendants, the affair was managed without any accident to the passengers.——It is understood that, in consequence of the disfranchisement of the borough of Sudbury, attempts are being made by a large number of the influential electors of the county of Middlesex to obtain the consent of her Majesty's Government to Middlesex having two additional members.——A prize-fight took place on Monday week, near Nottingham, between two men of the names of Fitzhugh and Cumberpatch, in which the former received such serious injury that he died. A coroner's inquest has been held, and a verdict of wilful murder returned against Daniel Cumberpatch, the principal, Samuel Braines, William Cooper, and Joseph Page, the seconds, and against John Fitzhugh (deceased's father), Charles Coles, Edward Lenton, and Henry King, as accessaries.——Our reports from all parts of the country (Ireland), says the *Dublin Post*, are in the highest degree satisfactory. The harvest will be about a fortnight earlier than the average of years. Reaping of wheat, oats, and barley, has already commenced in some few places, and next month it will be very general.——Lord Heytesbury, the new Irish Lord Lieutenant, made his public entry into Dublin on Friday, July 26.——Intelligence was received on Saturday that the Irish steam-ship, Robert Napier, trading between Liverpool and Londonderry, had been totally destroyed by fire. The vessel was of 500 tons' burden, with two powerful engines of 180-horse power. The Robert Napier left Londonderry on the previous Wednesday forenoon, for Liverpool, with a heavy cargo on board and about thirty passengers. About half-past ten o'clock at night, when she arrived off a place called Woodson-town, between Portrush and Ballycastle, she was found to be on fire, and, notwithstanding every effort made to save her, was burnt to the water's edge. The crew and passengers escaped uninjured.——William Stanley Warner, the clerk in the Birmingham District Banking Company charged with having stolen from that establishment notes and sovereigns to the amount of £1210, and subsequently absconded, was apprehended at Chester, on Saturday evening, with upwards of £1100 in his possession.——An appalling murder was committed on Sunday last at Liverpool, by a tailor, named Owen Leonard, who cut his wife's throat with a razor, and otherwise mutilated her person with the same weapon, his son, a lad of twelve or thirteen, being present. He was immediately taken into custody.——A bill to enable private partnerships to sue and be sued in the name of the firm, has been prepared and brought in by Mr. W. Gladstone and Sir George Clerk.——The following are the pensions which have been granted during the year ending June 20th last:—Dame Maria Bell, £100 a year, in consideration of the services rendered to science by her late husband, Sir Charles Bell; Miss Ann Drummond, in consideration of the public services of her brother, the lamented Edward Drummond, Esq., assassinated by M'Naghten, £200 a year; Robert Brown, Esq., the botanist, £200 a year; Dame Florentia Sale, wife of the "hero of Jellalabad," £500 a year; and Sir William Rowan Hamilton, the astronomer royal for Ireland, £200 a year.——Messrs. Hardman and Co., of Birmingham, recently applied in the proper quarter for leave to register a new pattern repeal button, but the application was refused on the ground that the act of Parliament precludes registering any work of art bearing on it words "*contrary to order or public morality.*"——The pitmen's strike still continues, the men appearing determined to hold out.——The Rev. Mr. Brasbie, a Roman Catholic priest, read his recantation on Sunday week in Dingle church, Kerry. This act is said to have caused great excitement amongst the people, and to have induced the Hon. Captain Plunket, of her Majesty's steamer Stromboli, to march into the town from Ventry, with a force of about one hundred men, including the marine artillery and marines, with drums and colours, for the protection of the rev. gentleman from "Lynch law," with which it is alleged he was threatened.——On Thursday the act of Parliament for abolishing the collection of tolls at the different gates in Newington, Camberwell, Kennington, and Lambeth, came into operation, and the above gates will soon be razed to the ground.——Lord Morpeth laid the foundation-stone, on Thursday week, of a new church in the borough of Morpeth. His lordship delivered a suitable address on the occasion.——Some workmen, while fishing off Preston-pans, July 25, caught a skate of the enormous weight of 129½lbs., and measuring in length six feet three inches; in breadth, five feet nine inches.——The subterranean fire in the Beaufort pit, which has for some time seriously alarmed every person interested in the welfare and prosperity of this and the adjoining mineral districts, has been at length, with much labour and difficulty, subdued, so that the men were enabled to resume their accustomed employment on Tuesday se'nnight.—*Cambrian.*——The *Galway Vindicator* states, that the judges of assize arrived at Clifden without the usual escort of military or police, but in lieu thereof and "in compliment to the hon. visiters, the beautiful and well-instructed Temperance band, all Repealers, accompanied their lordships, and played many of our national and soul-stirring airs, which the judges enjoyed in no small degree."——The Rev. G. Harris, one of the Church ministers of Gravesend, committed suicide in that town on

Friday week, while labouring under temporary insanity. —Between 11 and 12 o'clock, on Sunday night, James Smith, a driver on the Great Western Railway, was killed near Iver-bridge, West Drayton. It is supposed that the unfortunate man was going along the luggage to speak to the guard.——We think we do not exaggerate when we state that 4000 labourers from the counties of Mayo, Roscommon, and Leitrim passed through this town this week, on their route to England and Scotland, to reap the harvest.—*Longford Journal.*——The Repeal Association held its weekly meeting on Monday, in Conciliation Hall, Dublin. The Rev. Mr. Tierney presided. Mr. Daniel O'Connell, jun., announced that his father and the other prisoners were in excellent health. The week's rent amounted to £1000.——On Tuesday, seventeen public bills passed through a stage in rather more than half an hour, and without a single speech being made on either side of the House.——On Monday afternoon, a very handsome iron steamer, named the Elberfeldt, and intended for the Rhine, was launched from the yard of Messrs. Miller, Ravenhill, and Co., at Blackwall. She is upwards of 170 feet in length, but, being intended for river navigation, is narrow in comparison with her length, and draws very little water.——A pier for the landing and embarking of passengers by the steam-boats above bridge, is in progress of formation at Vauxhall Bridge.——In the course of the last year, 7337 indigent sick persons were admitted on the books of the Charing-cross Hospital for relief, at a cost of £2531 17s. 6d. Of these, 1120 were in, and 6217 were out-patients, many of whom were visited at their own homes, and the greater part were restored to the blessings of health, and to their occupations for the support of their families.——The Liverpool and Manchester Railway Company propose to form a new tunnel under the town of Liverpool. The company will thus be able to receive and discharge goods and merchandise with ease at both ends of the docks, and merchants and shippers will be able to effect great savings in cartage.——The trials for arson at Ipswich terminated on the 20th ult. There were 21 cases for trial, in which 28 persons were charged with the crime, and of these 15 were convicted, 12 acquitted, and one turned Queen's evidence.——The Committee of the House of Commons has given in a report against pulling down Westminster-bridge and building a new one.——On Tuesday morning, about three o'clock, a stack of oats, belonging to Thomas Collyer, Esq., and standing in a field of his on the road side, nearly opposite Milton old Church, Gravesend, was set on fire and completely consumed. Mr. Collyer is insured,——On Wednesday night Lord Ingestre introduced the subject of Captain Warner's experiment in the House of Commons, and concluded a speech on the subject by moving for the correspondence which had taken place between her Majesty's Government and Captain Warner, on the subject of Captain Warner's invention. Sir R. Peel seconded the motion, and entered at considerable length into the communications which had taken place between Captain Warner and the official authorities, and also as to the experiments already made. After some discussion the motion was agreed to.——The steward of the Vesper, Gravesend steam-boat, on Wednesday afternoon, lying off the Town Pier, while in a state of maddened intoxication, jumped from the vessel into the river, immediately sunk, and was drowned.——At a meeting of the General Shipowners' Society, held on Wednesday, in the Hall of Commerce, it was stated in the course of the proceedings, that not less than 200,000 tons of shipping were now engaged in the guano trade. ——The number of deaths in the Metropolis, for the week ending last Saturday, as made up by the Registrar-General, was 1066, showing the somewhat considerable increase on the previous week's mortality of 170, and an excess over the weekly average for the last five years of 120—the number of that average being 946.——On Monday the foundation-stone of the new public baths for the working classes, at Edinburgh, was laid with much ceremony, and a public procession of the trades of the city. ——A few days ago, as George Percy, Esq., younger brother of W. C. Percy, Esq., of Garradice, county of Leitrim, was amusing himself by shooting rabbits, the gun, owing to some mismanagement or a faulty lock, went off, lodging its contents under the unfortunate gentleman's arm, and inflicting a wound so dangerous in its nature that every means which medical skill could devise proved ineffectual, and he expired on Tuesday.——On Monday the Monarch sailed from Gravesend for Bengal, her first voyage, having been launched at Blackwall in June. The Monarch carries out 115 privates, a draft from the 39th Regiment, most of them recruits under 22. ——The Lord Mayor has caused placards to be posted up along the river side, prohibiting bathing in the Thames. Persons offending are to be prosecuted with rigour.——A Mrs. Delacour died on Sunday last, at Mallow, of hydrophobia, being the second of the family who within the short space of five months has fallen a victim to this frightful malady. ——The cricket match at Lord's, between "The Gentlemen" and "Players," was brought to a close on Wednesday afternoon after a contest of three days; the "Players" winning by 38 runs.——The Norwich assizes commenced on Tuesday. The cause list shows an entry of 16 cases, of which four are special juries; and the calendar contains 55 prisoners for the county alone, of which nine are charged with the crime of arson.——On the third reading of the Local Courts (Ireland) Bill, on Thursday night, the Lord Chancellor in suporting the bill drew forth loud cheers by the following remarkable words, so different from the memorable "aliens" speech:—"He did not know why Ireland should be put upon a different footing from England. (Very remarkable cheering.) For my part," said the noble and learned lord, "I cannot conceive anything more unwise—anything more mischievous—than a law which would place the people of Ireland in a more disadvantageous position, as regards the administration of the law, than the people of England. (Hear, hear.) I shall oppose this clause. I shall support the amendment of my noble and learned friend that it be omitted." (Hear, hear.)——Sir Robert Peel is to dine with the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers on Thursday, the 8th instant——The notorious Joseph Ady has again been detected in one of his old tricks to obtain money under false pretences. He was brought up at the Mansion-house, on Thursday, on a charge of this nature, and, after receiving a sound rating from Sir Peter Laurie (with whose name he had taken liberties), was permitted to go free, on promising the worthy magistrate not to use his name again.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

From Sir Walter Raleigh's "Observations touching Trade and Commerce with the Hollanders and other Nations, as they were presented to King James." London, 1681.

May it please your Majesty,—I have the rather undergone the pains to look into their (the Hollanders') policies, because I have heard them profess, they hoped to get the whole trade and shipping of Christendom into their own hands, as well for transportation as otherwise for the command and mastery of the seas. I find that they do daily increase their traffic, augmenting their shipping, multiplying their mariners' strength and wealth in all kinds; whereat I have grieved the more, when I considered how God hath endued this kingdom above any three kingdoms in Christendom with divers varieties of home-bred commodities which others have not and cannot want, and endued us with sundry other means to continue and to maintain trade of merchandising and fishing beyond them all, whereby we might prevent the deceivers, engross the commodities of the engrossers, enrich ourselves, and increase our navigation, shipping, and mariners, so that it would make all nations vail the bonnet to England, *if we would not be still wanting to ourselves in employment of our people.* Which people being divided into three parts, *two parts of them are mere spenders and consumers of a commonwealth*, therefore, I aim at these points following:—

To allure and encourage the people for their private gain, to be all workers and erecters of a commonwealth.

To enrich and fill your Majesty's coffers by a continual coming in, and make your people wealthy by means of their great and profitable trading and employment.

To vend home-bred commodities to far more reputation, and much more profit to the king, the merchant, and the kingdom.

To return the merchandises of other countries at far cheaper rates than now they are, to the great good of the realm in general.

To make the land powerful by increasing of ships and mariners.

To make our people's takings, in general, to be much more every day than now they are, which by God's help, will grow continually more and more by the great concourse and commerce that will come by settled constitutions and convenient privileges, as in other parts they do by this their great Freedom of Trade.

All this, and much more, is done in other countries, *where nothing groweth, so that of nothing they make great things.**

Then how much more mighty things might we make, where so great abundance and variety of home-bred commodities and rich materials grow, for your people to work upon, and other plentiful means to do that withal which other nations neither have nor cannot want, but of necessity must be furnished from hence?

And now, whereas our merchandising is wild, utterly confused, and out of frame, as at large appeareth, a state-merchant will roundly and effectually bring all the premises to pass: fill your havens with ships, those ships with mariners; your kingdom full of merchants, their houses full of outlandish commodities, and your coffers full of coin, as in other places they do; and your people shall have just cause to hold in happy memory, that your Majesty was the beginner of so profitable, praiseworthy, and renowned a work, being the true philosopher's stone to make your Majesty a rich and potent king, and your subjects happy people, only by settling of a state-merchant, whereby your people may have fulness of trade and manufactures, and yet hold both honourable and profitable government without breaking of companies.

These petty states finding truly, by experience, that small duties imposed upon merchandise draw all traffic unto them, and free liberty for strangers to buy and sell doth make continual mart; and, therefore, what excises or impositions are laid upon the common people, yet they still ease, uphold, and maintain the merchants, by all possible means of purpose to draw the wealth and strength of Christendom to themselves, whereby it appeareth that, though the duties be but small, yet the customs for going out and coming in do so abound that they increase their revenues greatly, and make profit, plenty, and employment of all sorts, by sea and land, to serve themselves and other nations as is admirable to behold; and likewise the great commerce, which groweth by the same means, enableth the common people to bear their burden laid upon them, and thus they grow rich by reason of the great commerce and trade occasioned by their convenient privileges and commodious constitutions.

Advance of Wages.—The principal portion of the cotton-spinners of Chorley have commenced working at an advance of 5 per cent. Messrs. Ashworth, of Turton, near this town, have, unsolicited, raised the wages paid to their operative cotton-spinners, 5 per cent. —*Bolton Free Press.*—The manufacturers of Carlisle have given the weavers an advance of 8d. per "cut," which will be about 10 per cent.

Preservation of Game.—We notice in the accounts we receive from different parts of England that a feeling against the expenditure of the county-rate in prosecutions, and the demoralization attending the Game Laws, is developing itself every where. At the last General Quarter Sessions for Bedfordshire one magistrate drew attention to the heavy item of expenditure prosecutions under the Game Laws in Bedfordshire was to the county ratepayer, and gave notice of a motion for discussion at the next Quarter Sessions on the subject. The heir of a dukedom, the Earl of Euston, whose benevolence has made him be beloved by all classes that have had the good fortune to live under his sphere of influence, has brought the matter before the magistracy of the county of Suffolk. When we bear in mind the relation borne by the noble lord to the first magistrate of the county, the Lord Lieutenant, we feel surprise that the magistrates of Suffolk should let slip in silence the opportunity offered to them to be the first to move in so noble a design. They have lost the honour of being the first to direct the attention of the Legislature to a measure that must become law or the Game Laws be abolished altogether as burdensome to the tenantry of England, and immoral in their tendency. —*Bedford Mercury*, Monopolist paper.

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* "*Amsterdam is never without 700,000 quarters of corn, besides the plenty they daily vend, and none of this groweth in their own country.*" "*The abundance of corn groweth in the east kingdoms; but the great storehouse for grain to serve Christendom and the heathen countries in time of dearth is in the Low Countries.*"

Cottage Allotments.—It is a remarkable and highly gratifying testimony to the value and moral tendency of the allotment system in the agricultural districts, that where the practice of allotments to labourers has been generally acted upon, no incendiary fires have taken place. Such a fact ought to have a constraining influence on landlords and statesmen in the extension and encouragement of the allotment system.—*Leeds Mercury.*

Rise in Value of Ground near Glasgow.—On Thursday week the lands of Stobcross, to the west of Finnieston, and extending from the Clyde northward to near the Dumbarton-road, were sold by public roup at the price of 3s. per square yard, imperial measure. These lands extend to about 63 Scotch or about 80 imperial acres, which, being about 387,000 square yards, makes the price amount to somewhere about £58,000; but as the purchaser pays the auction duty, which will be about £1770, as well as the half of the conveyance stamp, the price will actually amount to upwards of £60,000. We understand that these lands were purchased by the late Mr. Phillips (by whose trustees they have been sold), in the year 1817, for about £3700, making a rise in value of upwards of £56,000.—*Scotch Reformers' Gazette.*—[This is another of the many proofs which show how greatly the value of land is increased by the proximity of a manufacturing town.]

Incendiarism.—This evil has spread so much in the counties of Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, and Cambridge, that frequent attempts are made to draw the attention of Parliament to the subject, but they are always met by the Ministry with the uniform answer, that the forthcoming trials will bring the whole subject to light. In short, the question is purposely delayed, as if it were a matter of no moment whether the property of individuals or the food of the country became the prey of the incendiary. Perhaps the consoling idea is indulged in by the Ministry and their besotted followers that the more that is burned the higher will be the price the remainder will bring; or that, by persuading the farmer to insure, a blow may in this manner be struck at the capitalists, without injuring the landlords, who will get their rents, not from the grain which grew upon their ground—the only legitimate source of rent—but from the pockets of the money-holders. Let them try this game a little longer, and they will not be long in discovering that the capitalists are as sharpsighted as they are themselves. If they once discover that nothing but loss is obtained by insuring crops and farm-stocking, they will shut their pockets, and leave the landowners, and the farmers too, to the tender mercies of a discontented peasantry. To us, who remember what was passing in England from twelve to fourteen years ago, the discontent of the rural population is assuming the same appearance, and is breaking out in the very same form as it did then, betokening a very unhappy and dissatisfied condition of the agricultural population, indicative alike of debased ignorance, and wickedness, its concomitant, and oppressions urging them to the perpetration of crimes so barbarous and appalling, and so wholly irrational.—*Stirlg. Obsr.*

Lancashire *v.* Eleven Counties.—Recent statistical returns, for the census, the income-tax, and other purposes, are doing much to place Lancashire in its true relative position amongst the counties of England. Let us take, for the purposes of comparison, the following eleven:—Bedford, Berks, Buckingham, Cumberland, Dorset, Hereford, Hertford, Huntingdon, Monmouth, Rutland, and Westmorland. Of course the aggregate area of these eleven counties is vastly greater than that of the single county of Lancaster; indeed, more than *four times* as great; the total area of the eleven counties being 4,926,312 statute acres, that of Lancashire 1,117,260 acres. But, although it might be the only means, at one period of our history, of estimating the importance of a district, to enumerate its "broad acres," that is no longer the only or even the principal test of its wealth or value as an integral part of the kingdom. We apprehend few statists would now rest satisfied with the acreage as a measure of either value or relative consequence in the state. Their first inquiries would rather be directed to the population and the estimated real value of property in the two districts to be compared; and it is only when subjected to these tests that the real position and rank of Lancashire, amongst English counties, is clearly perceived. The aggregate population of the eleven counties named is 1,319,892; that of Lancashire alone, 1,667,054 persons; so that this county maintains 347,162 more persons than the cluster of eleven counties named, and that upon an area smaller by 3,809,082 acres than that of the eleven counties! We have recently shown that a larger per centage of its population is employed in industrial occupations of all kinds (agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial) than that of any other county in England. How does it stand with respect to real property? A recent parliamentary return of the amount of real property (including tithes) assessed to the income-tax in the year 1843, in every county in England, enables us to make this comparison also. The same eleven counties had an aggregate real value of property assessed to the income-tax in 1843 of £7,099,664. Lancashire alone, possessing not one-fourth of their area in "broad acres" or square miles, had in the same year real property so assessed to the amount of £7,307,109; more by £207,445 than that of all the eleven counties together! These are facts which ought to be known to, and remembered by, every member of Parliament, and especially the county members, many of whom are but too much disposed to treat lightly the claims of this great, populous, industrious, and wealthy county to justice at the hands of the Legislature. Let these honourable gentlemen bear in mind for the future that Lancashire represents *one-eleventh* of the total real property of England, as assessed to the income-tax, and then we shall hear less nonsense in Parliament and elsewhere about the unequal burdens which are pressing so much more heavily on the agriculturists than on any other class of the community.—*Manchester Guardian.*

In Norway there are 72,624 full *owners* of land, to 30,568 farmers and 42,974 labourers. In France there are 10,296,682 *owners*. In Ireland only 10,000.

The *Morning Post* exclaims—"Alas! beyond the walls of the House—beyond the few who are interested in the down-sittings and up-risings of its members—who is there not perfectly indifferent to what becomes of the House of Commons? Is there one thinking man in the whole community who does not ridicule its forms of mock debate —who does not feel that the whole spirit of legislation is sacrificed to barren forms and empty sounds—that he who talks of the representation of the people is countenancing a deception and uttering a lie?"

OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

In the *Guardian* of Wednesday week we gave a summary of the occupations of the people of Great Britain; the result of separate returns in each county of England, Scotland, and Wales, and the islands of Wight, Guernsey, Jersey, &c., and Man. We have since received a copy of the summary of the official returns, as to the "Occupations of persons in Great Britain (including its islands, but exclusive of Ireland); including the army, navy, merchant seamen, &c.;" and as this is altogether in a different form, and includes several heads or classes of employment not hitherto published, we give it as to some extent corroborating and verifying the accuracy of our previous statements, and also furnishing much additional information on a subject of great national importance. The following is the official summary; and it will be seen that we did right in deducting "the army at home" from the total numbers engaged in trade, manufactures, and other occupations not agricultural.

	Total.
Total number of persons whose occupations are returned in Great Britain, including army at home, and navy and merchant seamen, &c., on shore ..	6,851,045
Army abroad and in Ireland	89,230
Navy and merchant seamen afloat	96,799
Other persons employed in trade (branch not specified)	57,112
Total occupations	7,094,186
Number of persons returned as of independent means	511,440
Almspeople, paupers, pensioners, and beggars ..	164,886
Other persons (including 957 convicts on board the hulks) not hereinbefore accounted for	76,057
Total number of persons returned as above ..	7,846,569
Residue of population	10,997,865
Grand total of Great Britain	18,844,434

We have no means at present of ascertaining the numbers of navy and merchant seamen on shore; but it will be seen that those afloat are not far short of 100,000 (viz., navy, 31,067; merchant-seamen, 89,230). The army abroad and in Ireland being 89,230, if we add to this amount the number in barracks in Great Britain on the night the census was taken, 33,075, we have a total of 112,305 for the whole army. The total number of persons engaged in industrial occupations is upwards of seven millions out of 18¾ millions of people, or nearly 37.7 per cent. of the entire population. The residue of the population, including all children of tender years and unemployed, all unemployed females of all classes, &c., forms 58.76 per cent. of the entire population, leaving only 3.54 per cent. for the persons of independent means, the paupers, beggars, &c., and the other persons whose occupations are not accounted for in the census.

It appears that the persons of independent means in Great Britain form 2.71 per cent. of the entire population; and that the alms-people, paupers, pensioners, and beggars form only 0.87, or considerably short of 9-10ths per cent. of the whole population.

As in some measure connected with the subject, we may add the total population of Great Britain and islands in the British seas, as divided into those under 20 years of age, and those above that age, distinguishing the sexes:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 20 years	4,301,081	4,301,566	8,602,647
20 years and upwards .	4,961,045	5,280,742	10,241,787
Total	9,262,126	9,582,308	18,844,434

The principal points worthy of observation in these figures are, 1st, the close approximation of the numbers of males and females in Great Britain under 20 years of age—there being an excess of only 485 females on upwards of 4¼ millions. In adults there is an excess of 319,697 females—making the total excess of that sex 320,182. It has usually been supposed, and with some degree of correctness, that the age of 20 years divides the whole population of Great Britain more equally than any other given age, without using fractional parts of a year. Thus it would seem there were in 1841 more than 8½ millions of young people and children, and nearly 10¼ millions of adults in Great Britain. The excess of adults over juvenile population, is 1,639,140.—*Manchester Guardian.*

IMMIGRATION INTO THE MANUFACTURING FROM THE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS.

It has been constantly assumed that, in large and manufacturing towns, the demand for labour, by encouraging early and more numerous marriages, produces so excessive a number of births to the total population as to lead to a natural increase of numbers much greater than occurs in other places. That such is not the only, or by any means the principal, cause of the great increase in numbers in the more flourishing manufacturing towns, the commissioners themselves point out in their comments upon the information offered with respect to the place of birth, showing that the cause which has the greatest influence is the enormous extent of *immigration* into those places where capital and enterprise hold out temptations to the industrious classes from other parts of the kingdom. We cannot find room for the interesting tables by which they show that the proportionate numbers, not natives of the places in which they are enumerated, are always greatest in those counties in which the rate of increase is most remarkable.

The extent and influence of immigration, however, may be exhibited in another mode, viz., by comparing in certain localities the natural increase, that is, the numbers added in every ten years by mere excess of births over deaths, with the actual ascertained increase exhibited by the census returns.

We shall find that the ten counties in which the population returns exhibit the *least* increase (giving an average of only five and a half per cent. in the last ten years) have, within the same period, added to their number by natural increase at the average rate of ten per cent., thus showing that they have increased their population by nearly twice as much as they have demands for or means of maintaining it.

On the other hand, if we take the five counties in which there is the greatest ascertained increase, viz., at an average of something over twenty-six per cent. in the decennial period, we shall find that their natural increase within the same time has been only at the average rate of eleven per cent., or very little more than those of the first set of counties. We see, too, that they have not only been able to support the whole of their natural increase, but to give employment and support to an additional population, from overburdened and less fortunate localities, to the extent of fifteen per cent. on their own original population.

We must add, that the ten counties of the first set are all agricultural, viz., Buckingham, Cumberland, Devon, Hereford, Norfolk, Suffolk, Oxford, Westmoreland, Wiltshire, and the North Riding of York; and that the other five are the principal seats of manufacturing and mining industry, viz., Lancaster, Stafford, Monmouth, Durham, and Warwick.

If it is thus made clear that the large additional population exhibited by these returns for some of the towns, and for the manufacturing counties generally, is produced, not by a natural increase from excess of births over deaths to an extent much above the general average of England, but by receiving within their limits, and supporting, the surplus population of less flourishing districts, and especially that of the agricultural counties;—if it can be shown that these latter have almost universally an accession to their numbers, by natural causes, much greater than the increase returned by the population tables, what is the natural inference, and what the obvious course to follow? The natural inference would be, that the agricultural counties have not the means of supporting the population they raise—of providing labour or food for the additions they annually make to the disposable hands, and the craving mouths within their limits. And what would be the reasonable conduct to follow under such a state of things? We might answer simply,—Let things take their own course; let industry flow in its natural channels, and receive, with gratitude, the benefits it confers upon you. As that is, however, just what the agricultural interest, as it is called, will not do, we must say more distinctly, give free course to that commerce which is your preservative against poverty and ruin; make no suicidal attempts to continue, still less to tighten, those bonds which have already restrained the saving powers it might have exercised for you. Stop not up the natural channel for that stream of population which, if not allowed to escape, will inundate, and ultimately overwhelm you!

We are confident that, if either landed proprietors or honest yeomen could realize, in idea (for we would not wish them to experience in fact), all the evils that would follow—nay, we might almost say, *must* and *will* follow—the depression of our manufacturing towns, from the further or even continued restriction of foreign markets, they would soon change their tone. Let them but have returned upon their own hands the surplus population of their own raising, who have wandered forth from the pinching want and cold hearths which a limited demand for labour and miserable wages afforded, in their much-vaunted rural homes, to seek the rewards held out in the manufacturing districts to capital and enterprise; let but all these be forced back to swell the number of labourers that already exceed the demand,—let but *the burden of all these be thrown upon the poor-rates*, and thrown it must be, and we will venture to say, that a combination of ruin for the landed proprietor, and misery to the death for the labourers, will be presented, such as they dream not of.—*From the last number of the Edinburgh Review.*

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. July 27	Mon. July 29	Tues. July 30	Wed. July 31	Thurs. Aug. 1	Fri. Aug. 2
Bank Stock.....	200	200	200½	200½	200½	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	100½	100⅜	100⅜	100⅜	100⅜	100½
3 per Ct Con. Ann.	99⅝	99⅝	99⅝	99⅝	99⅝	99⅝
3½ per Ct. Red. Ann	103½	103½	103½	103½	103	103½
3½ per Ct. Ann. new	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½
Long An. Ex. 1860	12 9- 6	12 9-16	12 9-16	12 9-16	12 9-16	—
Cons. for Acc. ..	99⅝	99⅝	99⅝	99⅝	99½	99⅝
Exc. Bills, pm. ..	78 80	78 9	77 9	77 9	77 9	—
Ind. Bds. und. 1000*l*	95	95	95 7	96	97	—
India Stock	286½	285½	—	—	287	—
Belgian Bonds ..	104½	104	103½	103½	—	—
Brazilian	84	84	84½	84½	84½	—
Buenos Ayres....	35 7	35	35 7	36	35 7	—
Chilian..	105	104 6	104 6	104 6	104 6	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜	14	14
Danish	89½	89½	89½	89½	89½	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	101½	101½	101⅜	101½	101½	101½
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	61⅜	61⅜	61⅜	61⅜	61⅜	61⅜
Mexican, 1837 ..	36½	36½	36½	36	36½	36½
Peruvian ...	25 7	25 6½	25 7	—	26	—
Portug. conv. ..	44½	44½	44	44½	44½	44½
Spanish 5 per Ct.	22½	23	22⅞	22½	22½	22⅞
Do. 3 per Cent. ..	33½	33⅜	33½	33½	33⅜	33½

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Monday, July 29.—The supply of English Wheat this morning was not large, but sellers were obliged to submit to a decline of 3s. to 4s. per quarter, and much remained unsold at the close of the market. The trade in Foreign Wheat was very limited, and 2s to 3s lower. There was no alteration in the value of Barley, Beans, or Peas. There were only two or three vessels fresh up with Oats since Friday. The trade was very inanimate, and sales could not be made to any extent; except however in those cases where vessels were on demurrage a decline was not submitted to. S. H. Lucas and Son.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk....	Red	42 to 50	White	48 to 54
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire	—	42 — 48	—	44 — 51
—— Scotch	—	40 — 44	—	44 — 48
—— Irish	—	40 — 42	—	44 — 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire.....			Feed	20 — 21
—— Ditto	Ditto ..	Short	21 — 22 Polands	22 — 24
—— Scotch		Feed	22 — 24 Potato	25 — 26
—— Limerick		—	20 — 21 Short	22 — 23
—— Cork				19 — 20
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork Black				18 — 19
—— Westport				19 — 20
—— Galway				17 — 19
Barley, Grinding....	28 to 30	.....	Distilling	30 — 32
—— Malting	32 — 34	.....	Irish	26 — 30
Beans, Mazagan	— — 30	.....	Tick	32 — 34
—— Harrow	35 — 37	.....	Small.....	— — 40
—— Old Tick				— — 40
Peas, White.....	31 to 34	.....	Boilers	35 — 36
—— Maple and Grey				30 — 34
Flour, Best Town-made.....	per sack of 280 lbs....			46 — 48
—— Norfolk and Suffolk	—	—	.....	40 — 42

FOREIGN.

Per Imperial Quarter.

		FREE.	IN BOND
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed		48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.
—— Rostock		47 — 54	
—— Stettin		44 — 52	
—— Hamburgh		42 — 48	
—— Odessa		42 — 46	
—— Ditto	Polish	47 — 50	
—— Russian	soft	42 — 46	
—— Ditto.....	hard	40 — 44	
—— Spanish	Red	45 — 49	
—— Ditto	White.....	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding		26 — 29	— — —
Barley, Distilling.....		30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel		20 — 21	14 — 15
—— Swedish		19 — 20	13 — 14
—— Stralsund		19 — 20	13 — 14
—— Dutch Feed		18 — 19	12 — 23
—— —— Brew.....		20 — 22	14 — 16
—— —— Polands		— — —	19 — 20
Beans, Egyptian		30 — 31	22 — 23
Peas, White		30 — 34	— — —
—— Ditto Boilers		32 — 35	— — —
Flour, Canada	per barrel of 196 lbs	29 — 31	— — —
—— United States..	— —	30 — 32	22 — 24
—— Dantzig.....	— —	28 — 30	— — —

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from July 22 to July 27, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	7577	106	449	568	399
Scotch	—	—	2015	—	—
Irish.....	—	—	4369	—	—
Foreign	15103	11260	14879	2486	3205

Flour, 7046 sacks, — barrs.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending July 23, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	5343	54s. 7d.	Rye	263	34s. 1d.
Barley.. ..	1230	36s. 11d.	Beans	1801	37s. 4d.
Oats	27966	20s. 4d.	Peas	504	37s. 11d.

Friday, Aug. 2.—The arrivals of Grain of all descriptions from abroad during this week have been large, but the supplies of English Wheat and of Irish Oats are moderate. On Tuesday and yesterday we had some heavy showers of rain, and the weather still appears unsettled; this has given a little increase of firmness to the holders of Wheat, but the millers do not exhibit much greater anxiety to purchase. About 47,000 quarters of Wheat were released from bond in this port previous to the duty rising yesterday to 18s. There is a moderate demand for Barley, at about Monday's rates. No alteration in Beans and Peas. The buyers of Oats appear rather more disposed to stock themselves with Foreign Oats at the present low rates, but the quantity left over from former supplies, added to the fresh arrivals of this week, is too large for the sellers to obtain any improvement on Monday's prices. The duty on Barley fell to 4s. yesterday. S. H. Lucas and Son.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 29th of July to the 2nd of August, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat.....	4120	—	14160
Barley.....	310	—	21230
Oats.....	70	8340	25400

Flour, 2990 sacks.

A WEEKLY REPORT of the NUMBER of QUARTERS, and the AVERAGE PRICE of CORN and GRAIN, sold in the several Counties of England and Wales (comprising the Two Hundred and Ninety Towns named in the Act of the 5th Vic., cap. 14), which governs Duty.

WEEK ENDED July 27, 1844.

	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Wheat. Aver price	Barley. Qrs. sold.	Barley. Aver price	Oats. Qrs. sold.	Oats. Aver price	Beans. Qrs. sold.	Beans. Aver price
		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.
Weekly Averages..	86756	52 9	4602	34 2	35634	20 10	6044	37 1
Aggregate Averages..	..	54 9		34 1		22 2		37 9
Duty.....	..	18 0		4 0		6 0		5 6

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, July 26.

BANKRUPTS.

I. MUNRO, Princes-street, Leicester-square, builder. [Ford, Bloomsbury-square.

H. DEACON, Waterloo-road, coal merchant. [Silvestre, Great Dover-street, Newington.

J. DAVIS and R. DAVIS, Chiswell-street, linendrapers. [Goddard, Wood-street, Cheapside.

G. MOORE, Middleborough, Yorkshire, grocer. [Myers, Middleborough; Bond, Leeds.

G. CRAVEN, jun., and H. CRAVEN, Wakefield, Yorkshire, corn millers. [Fiddey, Temple; Markland, and Dunning and Stawman, Leeds.

R. WILLIAMS, Bristol, dealer in butter. [Messrs. Bevan, Bristol.

M. M'DIVITT, Liverpool, merchant. [Holme and Co., New-inn; Yates, jun., Liverpool.

T. B. ANDREW, Ashton-under-Lyne, tea dealer. [Gregory and Co., Bedford-row; Ascroft, Oldham.

A. WATSON, G. MACKENZIE, and M. MACKENZIE, Liverpool, ship brokers. [Gregory and Co., Bedford-row; Watson, Liverpool.

S. F. WILLIAMS, Liverpool, hosier. [Chester and Co., Staple-inn; Tyrer, Liverpool.

DIVIDENDS.

Aug. 20. H. M. Godwin and C. Lee, Bishopsgate-street Within, shipowners—Aug. 20. J. Cooper, Stoney-lane, Southwark, wheelwright—Aug. 20. C. Gatehouse, Chichester, brewer—Aug. 14. R. Phillips, Exeter, chemist—Aug. 22. J. Smith, Warwick, wine merchant.

CERTIFICATES.

Aug. 16. W. Gardiner, Exeter, draper—Aug. 19. W. Stewart, Fort-street, Spitalfields, silk manufacturer—Aug. 17. D. Macfarlane, Berners-street, Oxford-street, wine merchant—Aug. 17. J. Cundy, Ranelagh-street, Pimlico, carpenter—Aug. 17. D. Ross, Little Love-lane, City, warehouseman.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

G. STEPHEN, Edinburgh, ironfounder.

TUESDAY, July 30.

BANKRUPTS.

H. RODD, Great Newport-street, Long-acre, commission agent. [Collins and Rigley, Crescent-place, Bridge-street, Blackfriars.

J. JENKINS, Crown-place, Old Kent-road, Surrey, currier. [Williams, Alfred-place, Bedford-square.

J. SMITH, Southampton-street, Strand, news agent. [Maltby and Otter, Old Broad-street.

J. BAIL, Salisbury, cabinet maker. [Kirk, Symond's-inn.

J. BARLOW, Congleton, Cheshire, silk throwster. [Hudson, Bucklersbury, City.

G. GRANTHAM, Manchester, grocer. [Johnson and Co., Temple; Dearden, Manchester.

S. M. MASON, Wigston Magna, Leicestershire, maltster. [Gregory, Leicester; Motteram and Giddy, Birmingham.

DIVIDENDS.

Aug. 23. J. Pledge, Vauxhall-street, Lambeth, bricklayer—Aug. 20. E. Hayward, Castle Hedingham, Essex, innkeeper—Aug. 23. E. Laughton, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, brewer—Aug. 23. R. Turner, Woodsome Lees, Yorkshire, fancy cloth manufacturer—Aug. 22. S. B. Lines, Oldbury, Shropshire, grocer.

CERTIFICATES.

Aug. 21. J. Baker, Romsey, Hampshire, grocer—Aug. 23. W. Lickfold, Merrow, Surrey, licensed victualler—Aug. 20. H. Wood, Basinghall-street, woollen draper—Aug. 23. J. Howard, Hendon, Middlesex, hay salesman—Aug. 21. W. Lize, Ramsgate, builder.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. SMITH, Wardie, Edinburgh, hotel keeper—W. LESSLIE, Standhill, Linlithgow, grain dealer.

London: Printed by Robert Palmer (of Providence-place, Upper Kennington-lane, Lambeth, in the County of Surrey) and Joseph Cleaver (of Number 320, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at their Printing-office, Number 10, Crane-court, in the Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West, in the City of London, and published by Abraham Walton Paterson (of Number 32, Norfolk-street, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at the Office of The League, Number 67, Fleet-street, in the said Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West.—Saturday, August, 3, 1844.

THE LEAGUE.

No. 46.] SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1844. [3*d*.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive a copy, weekly, of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and* addresses *to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND, *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

REGISTER, REGISTER, REGISTER!

Particulars to be attended to up to the 25th of August.

The overseers must, on or before the 31st of July in each year, make out an alphabetical list of all £10 occupiers, within their respective parishes, entitled to a vote for the borough, including such as occupy the adjoining precincts and liberties, if any. They are entitled to have access to the books of assessed taxes, to ascertain whether the claimant is liable for, or has not paid his assessed taxes "*in respect,*" *only*, "*of the premises.*"

They must make a separate similar list of all parishioners, other than freemen and liverymen, qualified to vote in respect of ancient rights.

These lists, signed by the overseers, must be affixed on the doors of every place of worship, established and dissenting, within the parish, on the first two Sundays in August—and copies are to be kept for public inspection, without fee, in the overseers' custody.

Persons omitted from these lists will send claims to be registered to the overseers, on or before the 25th of August.

Persons on the first list may be objected to by any one, whose name is on any list of voters for the borough, serving notice of objection on the overseers, on or before the 25th of August.

DUTIES OF CLAIMANTS AND ELECTORS.—Every person should see for himself that his name is inserted in the list of that class of voters to which he belongs. If he have a twofold qualification, he should see that his name is on both lists. This is of great importance, as the voter may be objected to and lose one qualification, and retain the other and vote for it.

Any person whose qualification consists of a successive occupation of different premises, should be careful to observe that each set of premises is inserted in the list.* He must also be very careful to see that the place for which he claims, and his own place of residence, are very correctly described in these lists. If this should not have been done, he must send in a claim to the overseers, as below, describing all the premises, and also (if he have changed his residence) his new place of abode.

CLAIMS BY PERSONS OMITTED FROM THE LISTS.—Persons omitted from the overseers' lists, should give notice, on or before the 25th of August, to the said overseers, in the following form. If the claim be for a successive occupation of different premises, each of such separate premises must be described:—

To the Overseers of the parish [or township] of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I claim to have my name inserted in the list made by you of persons entitled to vote in the election of a Member [or Members] for the City [or Borough] of ——, and that the particulars of my qualification are stated in the columns below.

Dated the—— day of——, one thousand eight hundred and——

Christian name and surname of the claimant at full length.	Place of abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Street, lane, or other place in the parish [or township], where the property is situate, and number of the houses, if any (when the right depends on property).

(Signed) A.B.

Persons, omitted from the List of Freemen, should give notice to the town clerk in the following form:—

To the Town Clerk of the City [or Borough] of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I claim to have my name inserted in the List made by you of persons entitled as Freemen to vote in the Election of a Member [or Members] to serve in Parliament for the City [or Borough] of ——, and that my qualification is as Freeman of ——, and that I reside in —— Street, in this City [or Borough].

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and ——

(Signed) A.B.

* And of course, also, as a preliminary, in the rate-book relating to each occupation.

Lists of these claims are to be made out and published, in the manner already described, by the overseers, and the claimant should inspect them, and, if incorrectly inserted in any of the essential particulars, he must attend the Revising Barrister's Court, and get them altered. If, notwithstanding of his making his claim, he is omitted from the list of claimants, he upon attending the Revising Barrister's Court, and proving the serving of his claim on the overseers, will be placed on the register.

Notices of claims must be delivered on or before the 25th of August.

OBJECTIONS TO PERSONS ON THE LISTS.—It is of importance that every voter should carefully examine the lists made by the overseers and town-clerk, to ascertain if the name of any person has been inserted who is not entitled to vote. If there be any such, he is to give to the overseers, or to the town-clerk, a notice of objection, in the following form:—

To the Overseers of the Parish [or Township] of (or to the Town Clerk of the City [or Borough] of) ——

I hereby give you notice, that I object to the name of —— being retained in the List of Persons entitled to vote in the Election of a Member [or Members] for the City [or Borough] of——

Dated this — day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and—

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode]

On the list of Voters for the Parish of——

The notice must also be given to the person objected to, as follows:

To Mr. ——

I hereby give you notice, that I object to your name being retained on the list of persons entitled to vote in the Election of Members [or a Member] for the City [or Borough] of——

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and——

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode]

On the list of Voters for the Parish of ——

OBJECTING.—The party having taken the necessary steps to secure his own vote, should also examine the overseers' list of voters, with a view of objecting to the name of any person he finds inserted in the list, and believes to be disqualified; any person whose name is on the list of voters may object to any other name, either in his own or any other parish, within the city or borough. Those who do not possess the franchise themselves can prevent others not entitled from voting, by looking over the lists of voters, and giving the names of any persons they may find improperly inserted to some person whose name is on the list, or to a Registration Society, if there be one.

In all notices of objection, the christian name and surname of the person objected to, exactly as it appears in the list, should be written at full length. The christian name and surname, and place of abode of the objector must also be written at length, or the notice will be void.

If there be more than one list of voters, the notice should specify the list to which the objection refers; and if the list contains two or more persons of the same name, the notice should distinguish the person intended to be objected to.

These notices must be given on or before the 25th of August. Copies of the notices should be kept by the person objecting.

Notices of objection may now be sent by post; but care must be taken to have a duplicate copy of such notice stamped by the postmaster. Such duplicate will be good evidence of the service of the notice. The notice must be posted so that the person objected to may get it on or before the 25th of August, or the objection will fall to the ground.

It is of importance that none but well-founded objections should be made, as the Revising Barrister has now the power, in cases of frivolous objections, of awarding the payment of costs to the amount of not more than twenty shillings in each such case.

The following are the Grounds of Objections.

INCAPACITY.—Peers, except Irish peers being members of the House of Commons. Aliens, unless naturalized, or denizenized, father or grandfather English, or served in the army, navy, or whale fishery. Under twenty-one years of age. Idiots, or lunatics. Officers of Excise, Customs, Stamps, Post-office, Assessed Taxes, if appointed by Assessed Tax Commissioners, or not ceased to hold office twelve months. Conviction of bribery, or any other crime. Receipt of parochial relief within one year previously to the 31st of July.

DISQUALIFICATIONS.—Dead. Premises not of sufficient value, not a house, warehouse, counting-house, shop, or other building. Not occupied twelve months ending the 31st of July, the same or any other premises in the city or borough to qualify. Premises let during any part of the year, and not retained part, or kept by a servant. Bankrupt, insolvent, unless still in occupation. Not rated, or claimed to be rated. Poor's-rate not paid. Window-tax not paid. (These are the only taxes necessary to be paid.) Non-residence within seven miles, from the 31st of January to the 31st of July. Partners where premises do not give £10 a year to each partner, or not in partnership for a year ending the 31st of July, or want of qualification in other respects as above. Landlords who do not occupy a part of the premises. Servants, as secretary or manager, carrying on their employers' business on the premises. Not having occupied the premises described in the list during the whole year, that is, from the 31st of July, 1843. It is not sufficient that the voter previously occupied other premises that make up the year's occupation; if such premises are not described in the list, it is sufficient ground of objection.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE GROUNDS OF OBJECTION TO SCOT AND LOT VOTERS.—1. Not an inhabitant householder on the 31st of July next previous to the time of serving the objection. 2. Not an inhabitant householder on the 7th of June, 1832, and for six months previously. 3. Not having been rated, or not having paid all poor's-rates demanded, on or before those respective periods. 4. Not inhabiting (sleeping) in any part of the city or borough at those respective periods. 5. Not having resided (slept) within seven miles from the 31st of January to the 31st of July in the current year. 6. Name omitted from the register for two successive years.

GROUND OF OBJECTION TO A FREEMAN OR BURGESS.—That he was not duly admitted by the 31st of July; or, if the freedom is in right of birth, that it has not been derived from or through a freeman admitted before the 1st of March, 1831, or admitted since that period in respect of servitude. That he has not resided during the time or within the distance required.

COUNTY REGISTRATION.

The register of voters, and also the lists of claimants for counties, should now be carefully examined, and where there is reason to believe that a party has not a sufficient qualification, or that he is disqualified to vote, a notice of objection should be given on or before the 25th of August, to the overseers, or any one of them, and another should be given to the person objected to, or left at his place of abode, as described in the list. Any person whose name is on the register, may object to any person on the list, or to any claimant. The notice must be signed by the party objecting, and in the following form:—

To the Overseers of the Parish [or Township] of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I object to the name of the person mentioned and described below being retained in the List of Voters for the County of ——, [or for the —— Riding, Parts, or Division of the County of ——, as the case may be].

Christian and Surname of the Voter objected to, as described in the List or Register.	Place of Abode, as described.	Nature of Qualification, as described.	Street, Lane, or other like place, where the qualifying Property is situate, &c., as described in the List or Register.

Dated the —— day of ——, in the year ——

(Signed) A. B. [Place of Abode.]

The following notice must likewise be given to the person objected to:—

To Mr. ——, of —— [as described in the List.]

Take notice, that I object to your name being retained in the [here insert the name of the Parish] List of Voters for the County of ——, [or for the —— Riding, Parts, or Division of the County of ——.]

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and ——.

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode], on the Register of Voters for the Parish of ——

When the person objected to resides out of the parish or township to which the list relates, and the name of the occupying tenant of any portion of the property is stated in the list, the following notice must be given to tenant so named, besides the notice to the person so objected to:—

To Mr. ——, of —— [as described in List.]

Take notice, that I object to the name of A. B. [as described in the list] being retained in the [name of Parish] List of Voters for the County of ——, [or for the —— Riding, Parts, or —— Division of the County of ——.]

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and ——.

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode], on the Register of Voters for the Parish of ——

It is necessary that the notices of objection should specify the place of abode of the objector, and the notices to the voters and tenants, also the parish in which the objector is registered, otherwise they will be void.

Duplicate copies of each notice of objection should be kept by the objector.

Notices of objection may now be sent by post, but care must be taken to have the duplicate copy stamped by the postmaster; the production of such duplicate, in proof of their having been so sent, will be taken by the revising barrister as proof of service.

The principal grounds of objection are—

First, the insufficient value of the property, reference being had to the tenure by which it is held.

Secondly, the insufficiency of the title of the party to the property in respect of which he claims.

Thirdly, that the party has not been in possession during the period required by law.

Fourthly, that he has omitted to set forth any of the particulars required in his notice of claim.

Change of residence, since registration, is a good ground of objection, although the barrister, upon proof of the qualification, will not expunge the name, but correct the place of abode, if supplied at the revision.

Persons who are disqualified to be registered, in respect of personal incapacity, are as follows:—

Women; persons under twenty-one years of age; peers; Irish peers, except members of the House of Commons; aliens, unless made denizens by the King's letters patent, or naturalised by act of Parliament; persons of unsound mind, such as idiots, lunatics; persons convicted of felony, bribery, perjury, or petit larceny; commissioners and officers of excise, customs, stamps, and taxes; all persons in the employ of the Post-office; police magistrates or police officers; and all persons in the Thames and Metropolitan Police in the counties of Hertford, Essex, Kent, Surrey, and Middlesex. All these are legally incapacitated, and may be objected to.

A collector of taxes who is not appointed by the Tax-office, and a *sub*-deputy in the Post-office not appointed by the Postmaster General, are not disqualified.

The receipt of parochial relief will not disqualify a freeholder who claims to vote for a county.

The revising barrister has power to adjudge costs, to be

paid by objectors to persons objected to upon groundless or frivolous objections. The barrister is the sole judge of the nature of the objection, and may make such order as he shall think fit for the payment of the costs of any person in resisting it; such costs not to exceed twenty shillings.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS FOR COUNTIES.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EXAMINATION OF THE LISTS.

Under the Reform Act one *list for each parish, of the old and new claims, was sufficient. The* 6 *Vic., c.* 18, *s.* 5, *directs that lists of all* new *claims shall be printed; also a copy of the register for the parish then in force; such lists shall be published by placing them on the church and chapel doors on the first and second Sunday in August. (Sec.* 22.) *It is most important that the lists be printed* separately, *and that the new claims be not inserted in the copy of the register, for this obvious reason: The* 40*th section requires the revising barrister to correct the list; and if he finds more names in the copy of the register than on the register, he must strike out those names. The effect will be, that, unless a list of the new claims is made out separately, the barrister has no list to revise; and the voter loses his vote, unless he is prepared with a duplicate claim, and is prepared also to prove his qualification in the Revising Barrister's Court, as directed by the* 37*th section.*

The negligence of overseers (to speak in the mildest terms) is so great, that often three parts of the voters on a parish list stand a chance of being disqualified by the improper way in which the copy of the register *is made. Example—St. Michael-le-Guerne, city of London, in the present year:—*

Joseph Chapman ..	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
John Cowper	Starford-street.	Ditto.	4, Ditto.
Frederick Cowper ..	Russell-square.	Ditto.	Ditto.

The 40*th section requires the revising barrister to expunge the name where the nature of the qualification shall, in the opinion of the barrister, be insufficiently discribed for the* purpose of being identified. *And it is a very common practice for the vestry clerks, instead of procuring a copy of the register, signed by the clerk of the peace, to copy, year after year, some old list of their own, the result of which is the omission frequently of many names.*

Electors *must not, therefore, and those who are watching the Registration, be content with having claimed, or take the lists as a matter of course as being perfect, but should carefully see that their* new *claims are on the* new-claim list (*separately*), *and not on the copy of the register; and also that those who have claimed years back should see that their names, addresses, and qualifications are property discribed on the list for the present year's revision, or the overseers, by their errors, may disfranchise them without their having any notice on the subject, which, if detected, may be rectified on application at the court at the time the list is revised.*

"NATIONAL HONOUR."

We are particularly desirous of directing the attention of our readers to that part of Mr. Gibson's speech, at the League meeting on Wednesday, in which he comments upon the sensitiveness to "national honour" manifested of late by the landed interest. Many symptoms have appeared, confirmatory of the accurate observation of the member for Manchester. It is the misfortune of this country that its predominant class has an obvious interest in a state of warfare. The horrors of such a state must be much mitigated to the imaginations of those who associate war with high rents, large patronage, and, for some members of their families, with those immense prizes of fortune and title which await successful commanders. How the judgment may be biassed by selfish considerations, is very evident in the inability of this class to perceive, or rightly to feel if they perceive, the multiform miseries produced by their Corn Laws. Those who can find, as they declare they do, a pure and patriotic motive for upholding the food monopoly, will scarcely be at any loss for a pure and patriotic motive to plunge the nation into war with France, upon some pretext or other which is sure to occur. It is necessary to watch these people. Circumstances lead them into temptation. An influence is always over them most malignant in its aspect for the country.

The danger of a war party arising and prevailing is enhanced by several concurring tendencies at the present moment. War saves a Government a world of trouble. Such a plea as "the country's defence and glory" overrides all political discontent. The movement of agitators is superseded by that of battalions. The columns of contending armies occupy the columns of antagonist newspapers. Battles furnish more stimulative reading than meetings for discussion. The remote echo of the cannon's roar drowns the nearest cry for redress of grievances. Just involve us in active hostilities, and Ministers would care little about the Post-office question, the Suffrage question, Irish Repeal, the Tariff, or Anti-Corn-Lawism. Sir Robert Peel would be rid of a world of troubles and difficulties. All improvement would be in abeyance. The county members would discover that the Premier was truly British in spirit. Her Majesty, God bless her, would be advised to review the Guards on a white charger. Even the Bishops would not object to the Sunday drilling of volunteers to repel threatened invasion; and the Income-tax would, in a trice, be forced up to 10 per cent.

The worse than questionable foreign policy of the late Administration smooths the way for the present Administration, should it unhappily be so ill-disposed as to consult its own convenience and the interest of its backers, by speculating on the diversion of a few years of bloodshed. Lord Palmerston brought us to the very verge of a rupture with France. There has been the studied appearance of contrast on the part of Lord Aberdeen, who gains thereby for the Government a division of responsibility with their predecessors. It might be pleaded that they were urged and goaded by their opponents, and yet held out to the longest possible moment consistent with "national honour." The Whigs have played the game of the Tories for them, up to the winning point. To make a peace party of the Opposition would be for a long time impracticable.

Nor are there wanting hostile elements in the public mind, which might, by a certain dexterity, be turned to account. John Bull is impatient of being bound to keep the peace by the amount of his debt. He is easily irritated by the notion of a foreign power, and of France especially, presuming upon his hands being tied, or his spirit cowed. He does not half like the settlement in Algiers, and the meddling with the Emperor of Morocco. He tingles to have a finger in the pie. It has never been his custom to look on quietly. And now fuel is added to the flame from a most unexpected quarter. Together with Queen Pomare of Tahiti, the Missionary Society is insulted and assaulted. The late extraordinary freaks of the French in the South Seas have occasioned angry demonstrations amongst those classes of religionists whom almost any other provocation would have left watchful guardians of the spirit and principles of peace. On many sides the Ministry is loudly called upon to take care of the "honour of the country."

Trusting that no such awful calamity as the return of warlike times is impending over us, we yet deem it needful to mark these threatening symptoms, and admonish to timely carefulness. The spread of pacific principles is no adequate security. It is nine-and-twenty years since the battle of Waterloo finished the last long war, and a new generation has arisen without any practical or lively conception of the attendant evils and horrors. National interest is no sufficient safeguard; for that interest is already and obstinately sacrificed to a sordid advantage by the very class that would reckon on being benefited by war. To all who have any concern for the progress of improvement, who have any feeling for the condition of humanity, ever doomed to suffer so bitterly by national hostilities; who have any regard for that social well-being to which war is deadly; we say—beware. Watch these indications attentively. Prepare to restrain the mad selfishness that would interrupt the peaceful and honourable occupations of commerce, sever entirely the ties, already damaged, of nations whose mutual friendship is the means of mutual prosperity, and throw back the civilization of Europe, perhaps, for centuries. In the name of humanity and religion, we repeat, be watchful.

A FEW WORDS TO THE WORKING CLASSES.

Our journal is so extensively read by the operatives in the principal manufacturing towns of the empire, that we trust our other readers will excuse us for addressing ourselves more especially to that very valuable class, particularly as there is no section of the community more deeply interested in the speedy success of the great cause of Free Trade. An attempt has been made to divert their attention from this object, and induce them to devote all their energies to obtain an extension of the suffrage;—some designing men have gone further, and tried to persuade the working men to play the game of the monopolists, by *resisting* the repeal of the iniquitous Corn Laws until the anomalies of the elective franchise are satisfactorily arranged. We shall not enter into any examination of the probable motives of such men: we need not inquire whether they are hired agents, or involuntary tools; we seek not to know whether they have been led astray by mortified vanity, disappointed ambition, or the paltry pride of being leaders in one movement, instead of followers in another. Let them have the benefit of the doubts which the most charitable interpretation of their proceedings can suggest; but let us confine ourselves to the practical point of the effect of such proceedings, and see how far the course of conduct which they recommend is likely to promote the general interests of the working classes, and to advance the great object which they profess to have in view.

The repeal of the Corn Laws and the extension of the suffrage are not incompatible objects; indeed it is difficult to comprehend by what perverse process of reasoning they have ever been brought into collision. All the members of the present Parliament who are favourable to the extension of the suffrage, and particularly Mr. T. S. Duncombe and Mr. Sharman Crawford, are also strenuous advocates for the repeal of the Corn Laws, and gave their hearty support to Mr. Villiers's motion. In this they but follow the course of those who, in the past generation, claimed and won the confidence of the working classes. William Cobbett (who, with all his errors and eccentricities, effected more for the political education of the people, and their consequent elevation to the position of a recognised power in the state, than any other man, save O'Connell, ever attempted,) was one of the most steady enemies of the wicked and impolitic monopoly of food. When the system of Corn Laws was first proposed, he called a public meeting in Hampshire, and denounced their tendency with an eloquence which was only rivalled by the sagacity that enabled him to predict the consequences which the country has since so bitterly experienced. No sooner was Henry Hunt elected for Preston by the honourable and manly exertions of the independent working classes in that town, than he declared his hostility to the monopoly of food, and placed a notice for the total and immediate repeal of the Corn Laws on the journals the very first night that he entered the House of Commons. On Thursday, September 15, 1831, he brought forward the subject in a speech of distinguished ability, discussing it on the true ground of its being a working man's question.

"If the Corn Laws are repealed (he said), you will give an impulse to the commerce of the country that will completely compensate any class that may suffer from such a measure being carried into effect. It is probable that I shall have very few supporters in my present proposition; but, as I consider that I have pledged myself to bring the matter forward, I should have neglected my duty if I had not done so. *I know that the removal of the Corn Laws will afford greater relief to the working classes than any other measure that could be adopted.* I therefore call upon all those who have regard to the permanence of the institutions of this country to come forward and support me. I know that, in the first instance, the landlords must make a sacrifice; but I say that the nobility and gentry of England ought to be ready to come forward and do so in a case like this, where there are thousands perishing from want. * * * * I have no wish to degrade or injure the agricultural interests; on the contrary, I think they are of the utmost importance, and that we ought to do everything in our power to support and uphold them, provided we do not injure the other interests of the country. *I deny, however, that the farmers are benefited by the Corn Laws; on the contrary, I think they are as much interested as any class in having them repealed.* I cannot, I think, be considered the enemy of the agriculturist, when it is remembered that nearly all that I possess in the world is in land. I am sure, however, that whether the Corn Laws are beneficial or injurious, a *system cannot be carried on to uphold one class at the expense of all the others.* I cannot think that the landowners are so selfish as to persist in the system from day to day, and from year to year, from which they alone derive a benefit. If, however, the system is unhappily persisted in, I know full well that the scenes of last winter will be renewed with redoubled horror, and violence and bloodshed will accompany the destruction of property. The burnings will not be confined to one district, but will extend throughout the country; and a line of demarcation will be drawn, so that the labouring classes will be induced to look upon the possessors of property as their enemies, and to treat them as such. Why, I would ask, is the yeomanry now being embodied throughout the country? Why is such an enormous standing army kept up in time of peace, and while, as I sincerely believe, there is no intention of involving the nation in a war? I will answer the question. It is because you fear that the labouring population are your enemies, and that this is the only means of preventing their breaking out into a state of insurrection. I say that the labouring classes are dissatisfied, and are ripe for rebellion."

And again in his reply he stated:—

"Now, however, to go to the serious part of the subject for one moment. It is written in the Bible, 'Cursed be he who grindeth the face of the poor.' Now, this would apply well to the supporters of the Corn Laws. Again, it is said by the clergymen in the Litany,—and I am ready to confess that I am not very fond of quoting from clergymen,—it is said in the Litany: 'That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the kindly fruits of the earth, so as in due time we may enjoy them;' to which the landlords and farmers respond, 'We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.' Now, I would ask any person, capable of forming a judgment on the subject, whether the conduct of these persons conforms with their precepts? The noble lord has stated that I uttered no arguments on the subject. I certainly did not, because I thought the facts that I stated were stronger than any arguments. * * * I have brought my motion forward with a view to benefit the humbler classes of society; and I can only say, that, if it should unhappily be rejected, I cannot answer for the consequences of the feelings of dissatisfaction that will prevail. These laws are a disgrace to the statute-book, as they inflict much evil on the poor, and do very little service to the landlord, for whose benefit alone they were framed."

In a former number of this journal we quoted the eloquent denunciations of the Corn Laws pronounced by that steady and consistent friend of the people, Lord King, and, we might add, the respected authority of Lord Radnor, whom Providence still preserves amongst us. But it is sufficient to say that, with the single exception of Mr. Feargus O'Connor, there has been no person in either House of Parliament during the last thirty years professing himself a friend of the people who was not a zealous advocate for the repeal of the Corn Laws. Mr. O'Connor's recorded views on the subject will be found in another part of our paper: it will be edifying to contrast his sentiments with those of Mr. Hunt, for the purpose of seeing which are more in accordance with the interests and the wishes of the working classes of Great Britain. The men of Northampton have decided this

question for themselves; Feargus and his followers, though supported by the whole strength of the monopolists in that agricultural district, were completely out-numbered and out-voted by the Free-Traders at the late meeting.

Viewing the question in another point of view, we cannot find any person distinguished as a supporter of the Corn Laws who is an advocate for an extension of the suffrage to the working classes. In everything the monopolists are consistently opposed to the claims of the operatives; and yet the course of policy recommended to the working classes by some of their professed friends is, to support monopoly. Their claims are repulsed with scorn and disdain, and the operatives are advised to take the attitude of Shylock, and say,

"Fair sirs, you spit on us on Wednesday last;
You spurn'd us such a day; another time
You call'd us dogs; and for these courtesies
We'll let you tax our food."

But we are told that our road to a repeal of the Corn Laws lies through the Extension of the Suffrage; let us as rational men examine how far such a road is practicable. The point is at once decided by comparing the parliamentary strength of the Free-Traders and the Suffragists. More than one hundred and sixty members of the House of Commons have voted with Mr. Villiers for the total and immediate repeal of the Corn Laws; less than forty voted with Mr. Sharman Crawford for simply taking the question of the suffrage into consideration. If we turn from Parliament to the constituencies, we shall find the same, if not a greater, disproportion between the strength of the Free-Traders and the Suffragists, as evidenced by the elections for Birmingham and Kilmarnock. We do not discuss which of the objects is the more desirable, for that is really a matter of little consequence; we wish to keep attention fixed on what is the only point worthy of consideration—which of the two is the more immediately attainable. So far as we know, all the Suffragists, except Mr. O'Connor and a few of his followers, agree with us in desiring a repeal of the Corn Laws; and we have, therefore, no controversy on the point with them; but as this repeal can only be obtained from Parliament, or from the constituencies that create the Parliament, we put it to them, whether is a measure so largely supported as Free Trade, or one so weak as Complete Suffrage in parliamentary strength, the more likely to meet a speedy settlement and accomplishment?

O'Connell has been always as zealous an advocate for a repeal of the Union as for Catholic Emancipation; but every one knows that if he had made emancipation his secondary object in the interval between 1820 and 1829—if he had set it aside for the question of repeal as some Suffragists would set aside Free Trade for the extension of the franchise—that the great act of justice to our fellow-subjects in Ireland would not, in all human probability, have been consummated at the present hour. But O'Connell was too wise to encumber the movement for emancipation with an effort to obtain some other less practicable, though to him more desirable object, and he therefore succeeded in removing those chains which had been rivetted on the necks of the Catholics for centuries.

The monopolists rejoice, and not without reason, when they see the cause of Free Trade, the great strength of which consists in its simplicity, encumbered and perplexed by being mixed up with another question totally unconnected with a repeal of the Corn Laws. Those Suffragists who make this confusion so obviously play the enemy's game that they are cheered on by the monopolist journals, and patted on the back so long as they appear the willing tools of mischief;—when the mischief is done, however, they are unceremoniously dismissed with scorn and contempt.

But this policy of saying that one question ought not to be settled except in connexion with another, to which it has little or no relation, is one which may be retorted to the great disadvantage, if not discomfiture, of the Suffragists themselves. Why may not the Ministers quote the obstructive course taken by certain Suffragists as a precedent, and refuse to consider the question of the franchise except in connexion with education, or with a new system of taxation, or with a levying of soldiers by conscription, or with all these three changes together? They could do so on far more plausible grounds than the Suffragists can assign for insisting on introducing their plan of electing members of Parliament into the Free-Trade agitation; and should they do so, it would not be difficult to predict the result. They would take good care to protract the arrangement of the preliminaries until public attention was weary of the subject, and the question of the franchise would be left to be settled by a wiser and more practical generation. We wish our readers to think for themselves on this point; they cannot possibly err if they gave the question a fair consideration. It is now thirteen years since the *Times*, in a leading article on Mr. Jacob's report, thus justly reprobated the Corn Laws:—

"But admitting at once the accelerated growth of population, and the dearth of demand for labour as affirmed by the notemaker on the tables to which we have been adverting; that is to say, granting that the power of buying food has not kept pace with the want of it, was ever madness so combined with inhumanity, as in the legislation of the British Parliament with reference to the supply of corn? As our people have become more numerous, as mouths have multiplied, while, according to these returns, the produce of the soil of England, for many years past, has been stationary, if not declining, our lawgivers have been straining every effort to make food more inaccessible, instead of more attainable to the poor. Far from inviting bread to the poor man's door, they have been expelling it, first, by open prohibition, next, to this moment, by severe and pinching duties. They have striven to check population by artificial famine. Why, such a system is no better than deliberate rebellion against Providence, and is, of itself, enough to draw down some signal visitation upon us, if instant means be not taken to retrace a course so indefensible."

This is the system which we are bound to overthrow, and we know of no grievance more widely felt and more generally understood; the question of Free Trade is ripe, that of the franchise is not; and is it wise, is it even rational, to continue an oppressive and injurious monopoly, until the question of extension of the suffrage shall reach a distant and precarious maturity?

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE FREE-TRADE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE SESSION 1844.

Twenty-sixth Week, ending Saturday, August 10.

Since Mr. VILLIERS first began to raise annual Anti-Corn-Law debates in the House of Commons, he has entered on the third cycle in the history of the question. He commenced when counteracted by the effects of abundant harvests and the influence of abundant ignorance—when agriculturists were contemptuously indifferent, commercialists sufficiently supine, and, consequently, the House of Commons utterly apathetic. He continued, when winter had descended on our national affairs; when the wolf howled at the national door; when country gentlemen became alarmed, and the entire community interested. He perseveres, now that spring appears again, and there is the probability of a shortlived summer of prosperity; but he continues it with the knowledge that there is not a man within the compass of Great Britain capable of putting two ideas together, be he Cabinet minister, landed proprietor, merchant, manufacturer, or hand-worker, who does not feel that the Corn Law but waits the next "fall of the leaf," in order to be blown into the gulf of oblivion, there to rot with the things that were.

And this latter reason may tend to explain what some friends, as well as foes, have termed the comparative flatness of the last annual motion raised by Mr. VILLIERS. The country gentlemen are now reduced to the humble position of maintaining their monopoly "from hand to mouth;" and having been repeatedly assured that there was no *immediate* change in the contemplation of Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Gladstone, they were content to endure the discussion, knowing that another session would be shuffled over without any material change. The same may be said of the public; delivered from the pressure of immediate and alarming necessity, yet with their minds sufficiently made up, they waited for the discussion, not with any expectation of novelty, either in argument or effect; but with the desire to see paraded the positive amount of the effective force available in the hour of actual conflict.

Yet, so far from being "flat" in any fair sense of that word, the debate raised by Mr. VILLIERS on the 25th of June last, was as interesting and as striking as any that has yet taken place on the same question. It lasted two nights, and produced some speeches, which, for breadth, comprehensiveness, and boldness of enunciation, were never surpassed in any previous Corn-Law debate. Hitherto the question has been too much viewed in the light of being a mere "knife-and-fork" one, as it was termed by Lord Howick. So unquestionably it is; and hence the pressing urgency with which, according to circumstances, it appeals, through the feelings and the sympathies, to the understandings of men. But Mr. VILLIERS took the subject out of the exclusive domain of the kitchen and the baker's shop, raised it from a mere household and domestic level, and invested it with all the attributes of a primal and first-rate social and political question. From insufficient food and miserable lodging, the result of scanty remuneration for labour, he traced the spread of disease, the prevalence of ignorance and vice, the increase of crime, with all their concomitants of misery, recklessness, despair, indifference to the means of good, proneness to those mere sensual gratifications of the hour which reduce man to the beast, and make him fit, not for GOVERNMENT, but chains, the scourge, and the cage. Nor did he avoid that delicate ground which now constitutes the sole support of the Corn Law. The condition of the agricultural labourer, in all its appalling nakedness, was laid bare; the utter weakness of the arguments of the Corn-Law upholders was exposed with a terseness which gave to every bullet its commission; and the firm confidence expressed in the ultimate triumph of truth and justice could not abate one particle of that fear which haunts monopolists when they take the bandage from their eyes, and examine the props on which the whole system leans.

The speech of Mr. VILLIERS may be said to have exhausted the subject; yet it was followed by others worthy of the one by which the debate was raised. Lord Howick, in particular, closed the first night's discussion with a statesman-like exposition of the economics, as well as the politics, which are entwined together in every aspect under which the case can be viewed; and with a manly boldness uttered warnings in the ears of unwilling listeners, which their neglect of them may yet change into bitter if not fearful realities. These were enforced by other speakers on the following night. Mr. MILNER GIBSON, himself a "country gentleman," told his peers that the question resolved itself simply into that on which Byron had rung the changes—"rent, rent, rent!" Mr. COBDEN, though comparatively brief, was pithy, as well as felicitous, in proving that the price of corn was a barometer of revenue, and therefore an indication of the adverse or prosperous condition of the country; and Mr. BRIGHT, taking up the old pretext of "special burdens," which had ventured for a moment to air its threadbare suit during the debate, once more flung out that challenge from which the landlords ever shrink, of establishing the allegation by deliberate investigation.

But though the motion of Mr. VILLIERS was supported by the admirable speech and the vote of Lord Howick, as well as by those of some other members who do not avow themselves as positively decided on the question of total repeal, the great body of the Whigs followed the example of Lord John Russell, and withheld, not alone their votes, but their presence. On the first night of the debate, Lord John avowed himself as still clinging to a fixed duty, and still indulging in the hope that the question will yet be settled by a compromise; and on the second night, the whole front bench on the Opposition side of the House was left purposely and ostentatiously empty, until, at a late period of the evening, members who do not usually sit there filled up the vacancy. Of course, every politician is aware, that there is a conventional rule in the House of Commons, by which the front benches, immediately on the right and left of the SPEAKER's chair, are considered to be reserved for the leaders of what are supposed to be the two parties of the supporters and the opponents of her Majesty's Government. On the right is the "Treasury" bench—that is, the bench on which all the leading Ministers sit; on the left is the ex-Treasury bench, usually reserved for those leading men who have been in office, and expect, on any change of circumstances, to return to it; and sitting along with them may be occasionally seen members who have never been in office, but who are either considered, or who consider themselves, to be entitled from their activity, their position, or their abilities, to take "front seats" on the Opposition side of the House. It was this front bench, then, which was purposely deserted on the second night of the discussion on the motion of Mr. VILLIERS; and as vacant front seats give an air of greater emptiness to a place than vacancies in back rows, the ostentatious absence of the leading Whigs gave Sir Robert Peel an opportunity to chuckle, of which he did not neglect to avail himself, in order to try and put the country gentlemen into good heart. Common rumour attributed the absence of the Whigs to something more than a predilection for a fixed duty, and an aversion to a total repeal of the Corn Laws. They were said to be mortified that the effort to upset the Government by a junction with the extreme section of the Protective party on the Ministerial side had failed; and, if this were the case, a motive more petty and unworthy could scarcely be supposed to animate leading men in political life, whose guiding principle is—*or ought to be*—not so much the gratification of their own personal ambition, as the advantage of the community at large, secured by a devoted and just confidence reposed in them.

Nevertheless, the motion of Mr. VILLIERS, which was an honest, straightforward, resolute proposition, was supported by 124 members in a House of Commons returned almost for the express purpose of resisting all change in the Corn Laws. The numbers as well as the arguments of the opponents of the motion were a striking illustration of an advancing cause and a diminishing resistance. Assaults on the Anti-Corn-Law League, with some ponderous jokes from Sir Robert Peel, formed the whole staple of defence. Well was it put by Mr. Cobden, that the opposition resembled the brief once handed to counsel, "No case, but abuse plaintiff's attorney."

This debate—like a great pitched battle in the field—may be said to have closed the regular Anti-Corn-Law campaign in the House of Commons for the present session. There was, indeed, the debate on July 19, raised by Mr. MILNER GIBSON, on the causes and the cure of Incendiarism, and on which Mr. BRIGHT made a very able speech. This, however, occurred so recently, and the speeches having been given at length in the LEAGUE, that we shall no farther advert to it than by reminding our readers that it was an earnest and an animated discussion, *felt* to be such by the country gentlemen themselves.

The session is now closed; and in reviewing it, none but the most purblind and superficial observer can deny that it has been a potent one for the cause of FREE TRADE. We pointed out last week that it was the struggle between Monopoly and Free Trade, which has rendered the Government insecure, and thrown political parties into a chaotic state, and which has brought about the strange spectacle we now witness, of her Majesty's Government and her Majesty's Opposition alike declining in strength, and from the same cause. Assuredly, there is much work, *on the surface*, to be done, before all obstructions can be cleared away: but skilful navigators take into account the action of the under current, as well as the direction of the wind; and feeble indeed must be his powers of perception, who does not see and feel, that whether local elections are gained or lost—whether majorities or minorities in the Legislature be large or small—nay, whether the Anti-Corn-Law League is in a flourishing or a fading condition—the great principles of that social and political economy, identified not alone with the material but the moral prosperity of a commercial people, have taken their place in the public opinion of the country.

The session just closed has exhibited the Government and the Opposition sides of the House of Commons not only in a chaotic but a pitiful condition. The conduct both of Ministers and ex-Ministers has reduced the popular branch of the Legislature to a kind of Holywell-street, with rival tradesmen on each side competing for business, and each puffing off his own wares. Be it the business of the LEAGUE to endeavour to infuse into what is called "Opposition" a higher purpose, and a directer aim—to banish that small huckstering spirit which would rest speeches, motions, divisions, and legislative triumphs, on mere personal claims—which would sink the House into a national Crockford's, in which the cleverest gambler is he who can dexterously bamboozle the Bank, and carry off Downing-street as a sweepstake. At

present, the Ins and the Outs rest on mere sufferance; and the whole difference between them turns upon whether Lord Palmerston or the Earl of Aberdeen displays the best capacity for the Foreign Office—whether the Earl of Minto or the Earl of Haddington can manage the Navy best—or whether Sir Robert Peel or Lord John Russell is the best bit-by-bit Free-Trader. The time is gone by for these little controversies; and by keeping a straightforward course, public men will yet find out that they must bid higher for popular favour, and the power which that favour confers. Meantime, we close the FREE-TRADE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT for the present session, not without a strong conviction that the Free-Trade concessions of next year will show, in a very powerful manner, the strength of Free-Trade principles, and the influence, *within* the Legislature, of that public opinion which has been created out of doors by the ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.

MEETINGS.

ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.

The last meeting of the Anti-Corn-Law League for this season took place at Covent-garden Theatre on Wednesday evening, when every part of the spacious building was literally thronged with the advocates of Free Trade of both sexes—the ladies by their animated countenances and repeated plaudits manifesting that the interest which they felt in the proceedings was at least equal to that of the other sex; and the spirit and character of the meeting was altogether of the most determined and enthusiastic description. These periodical gatherings of the enemies of monopoly have certainly proved that that portion of the people who most acutely "feel where the shoe pinches" are fully alive to the objects of the League, the majority of the audience having always been composed of those classes of the community who more directly and bitterly experience the social and physical evils which restrictions upon trade, and restraints upon industry, entail upon the victims of class legislation. And, notwithstanding the apparent absence of general popular excitement, the interest exhibited at these meetings has constantly increased rather than abated; affording, we presume, a palpable indication of the state of public feeling upon the subject of Free Trade, and shadowing forth the doom of those selfish and unwise laws which humanity and sound policy alike condemn. The necessity for discussing the merits of the Corn Laws is much less now than it was before the League commenced their systematic instruction of the people as to the wisdom and justice of such legislative enactments as impose a tax upon the first necessaries of life, and restrain the efforts of industry; and we doubt not that their exertions during the recess, although less prominent, will not prove the less effectual in working out the great purposes which form the mainspring of their varied movements.

The chair was taken at half-past seven o'clock by George Wilson, Esq., Chairman of the Council of the League; and we observed upon the platform the following gentlemen, many of whom were loudly cheered as they entered the theatre:—

Richard Cobden, Esq., M.P., Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P., Thomas Milner Gibson, Esq., M.P., Benjamin Smith, Esq., M.P., General Briggs, Arthur Pattison, Esq., W. J. Fox, Esq., R. G. Welford, Esq., Colonel Tucker, Rev. Dr. Louis, Dr. Epps, Dr. Sewell, Rev. Robert Philip, Rev. A. M. Walker, William May, Esq. (Mayor of Ipswich), Rogers Margaretting, Esq., T. B. Warren, Esq. (Bristol), Captain Whitehead (Nassau), Messrs. W A. Wilkinson, P. A. Taylor, G. Poulter, S. Harrison, Fearon, J. P. Burnard, John Bickers, John Walker, H. Leavens, J. Faulkner, James Henry Lewis, T. B. Farren, Jarvis, J. P. Williams (Manchester), Mylis, Luke Elesati, B. W. Cheshire, Owen (Manchester), Press Grainger, H. T. Stainton, A. Fiordati, Joseph Lindley, W. P. Knox, Joseph Ralph, James Phillips, J. C. Worthington, H. Ashton, J. S. Thompson, J. Ridge, Delvine, Whitehead, Blunt, F. Oliver (Cambridge), W. J. Adams, Robert Bell (Leeds), W. C. Jay, Henry Hogard, C. W. Cobby, James Wilson, John Blakeway, Richard Ware Cole, Thomas Leslie, J. H. Const, Benjamin Thorne, Robert Davison, Jones (Northampton), William Cooke, Joseph Lambert (Leeds), Henry Pritchard, John Chalmers, James Butterworth (Rochdale), Thomas Chadwick, John Poulton, Richard Trass, Edward Henman, J. P. Delafons, W. Gossin, J. Kingsford, N. Overbury (Westbury, Wilts), C. H. Lattimore (Wheathamstead), John Macartney (Manchester), James Cropp, Henry R. Claypole (Liverpool), Henry L. Keeling, Robert V. Smith, David Price, Thomas Tebbutt, Joseph Phelps, J. P. Fitzpatrick, C. Pack, D. Miles, W. Miles, W. James, Philip Howard, A. Macdonald, P. Const, N. Peacock, A. Nott, W. F. Miles, B. Dobson, S. Smith, D. Purday, George Ridge, D. Street, M. Hooker, G. Leigh, D. Auminer, W. Mackenzie, &c. &c.

Mr. SAUL having read the minutes of the previous meeting, upon the motion of Mr. JAMES WILSON, seconded by Mr. ARTHUR PATTISON, they were unanimously confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN then came forward and said—Ladies and gentlemen, after an interval of five weeks we resume, for one night more this season, the business of the proceedings of the League. It becomes my duty to state to you what are the operations in which the Council have been engaged since we last met together, in order that you and the public may judge, at least that portion of it which takes an interest in the abolition of the Corn Laws, how far those operations are likely to contribute to the settlement of that question which it is our duty here to dispose of; and I do this with the greater pleasure because many are apt to believe that, when the proceedings of the League occupy less space in the public journals, that there is a corresponding disposition on the part of its leaders and the more influential members to suspend for a time those labours which are most useful, and with which most of us here are familiarly acquainted. Our important business, as you well know, is not now so much to educate or instruct the people, as it is to act upon the electoral body generally. As was stated here at the last meeting by Mr. Villiers, although this question has made great progress in the House of Commons, still the House of Commons presents no reflection of the public mind on the question at the present period, and therefore it is for us to stimulate and excite the electors so that, when they may be called on to act hereafter, they may do so after due and timely preparation. Well, then, we have proceeded like men of business to the consideration of the best mode of attending to the registration throughout the kingdom of the electors residing in boroughs. We selected 140 boroughs, upon which we thought with reasonable exertions an impression might be made. We appointed for our visiting agents to those places men fully acquainted with the subject of registration in all its parts, fully qualified to undertake the business in as workmanlike a manner as any men in the kingdom could be expected to do. We sent them to these boroughs; they visited them and reported to the Council the result of their inquiries. In some instances they found that the registration had been totally or altogether neglected; in many but partially attended to; and in not a few that it was entirely in the hands of agents, or rather that the election rested in the power of bribers: but in very few instances did they find in these 140 boroughs to which I have referred the subject properly attended to. Then they formed committees where none existed previously; they exacted a pledge from the Free-Traders in many places that the subject should be fully attended to hereafter; and although the work is a great one and not brought to perfection, nor can it be expected to be so in a single day, yet I believe that now the first stimulus, the first great impulse, has been given to put in fit array and order that constituent body which has in its hands the destinies of this country, and which can, whenever called on so to decide, determine the fate of this and all other monopolies. (Cheers.) Therefore, whenever you hear it asked, "What is the League doing? What is the Council now occupied with?" until after the revision court let it be clearly understood that the whole of their attention is being given to the subject of registration in all its branches and in every part. It is not now my purpose to enter into any details as to the progress which may reasonably be expected to be made, but I would simply observe, that in the city of London you have a Registration Association which has made most unparalleled efforts on this occasion, and which has fully, I believe, provided, even now, against the return hereafter of any monopolist to Parliament. (Loud cheers.) In South Lancashire, if I were to go into the interesting particulars, the result would be equally satisfactory; and I firmly believe, do what they will in the shape of objections hereafter in that county, that it has now been wrested from their hands, and, with ordinary attention, no monopolist will be again returned for that division. (Loud cheers.) But although the subject of registration has occupied the greater part of our attention, let it by no means be understood that we intend for one moment to discontinue the discussion of this subject at public meetings at the proper time. (Cheers.) Since we last met, meetings have been held at Gravesend, attended by Mr. Bright; at Portsmouth, attended by Mr. Moore and Mr. Thompson; at Salisbury, attended by the same gentlemen; and there have also been meetings at York, at Hull, at Newcastle, and at Carlisle, attended by Mr. Moore, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Plint; and last, though not least, a meeting was held at Northampton on Monday (cheers)—which it will not do to pass over altogether unnoticed. We have heard constant complaints of the League, that they do not throw these doors open to the public, nor the doors of the Free-Trade Hall at Manchester. The answer is very simple. We never have yet been able to find sufficient accommodation for our own members at our own meetings; and when we have as much room as we want, then it will be time enough to decide who may be admitted hereafter. But do not let it be for one moment supposed that the League have ever wished to shun discussion on this subject. (Cheers.) Last year Mr. Cobden held thirty meetings in the open air, and which were open to the whole counties where they were held, in fact, to all the country. (Cheers.) On Monday last a similar meeting was convened upon the requisition of upwards of 1200 freeholders and others, who applied to Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright to request them to address the freeholders and others in the open air at Northampton. A requisition was also sent to Mr. Stafford O'Brien, the member for that division of the county, by freeholders who supported him at the last election, requesting him to meet and discuss with Messrs. Bright and Cobden the question at issue. Another reguisition was also presented to Mr. Feargus O'Connor (groans and hisses), signed by upwards of 1250 persons, asking his attendance also upon the occasion. Now, there could be no mystery there, or packing of the meeting. (Hear.) It was no secret; it was known to all the world; it was an open meeting, and, therefore, may be presumed to be a fair test of public opinion in that county. (Cheers.) Mr. Stafford O'Brien declined to attend, but Mr. Feargus O'Connor and his friends did attend the meeting, and the supporters of the monopolist county member gave their aid to Mr. Feargus O'Connor on that occasion. (Hisses, and cries of "Shame.") The vote was taken, and in the open air, in Northampton, perhaps the least favourable district in the country for the discussion of such a subject; for it is well known that in that town the extreme suffrage principle has obtained the support of a number, perhaps beyond that of any other place in the kingdom. Notwithstanding this, however, Mr. Cobden carried his resolution by a considerable majority, the fact being attested by the chairman, a man of influence, but still a gentleman in whom the Chartists have the most unlimited confidence. (Hear, hear.) So much, then, for the charge against us of packing our meetings. Although we have made considerable progress since we last met, yet I regret to say that we have received some shocks in the loss of Mr. Scholefield, the member for Birmingham, and Mr. Travers, the excellent chairman of Mr. Pattison's committee upon the last election for the city of London. (Hear, hear.) I am sure that the loss of these two consistent supporters of our principles leaves a void which it will be difficult to fill up. (Hear, hear.) No men were more distinguished in private life for those virtues which invariably secure to their fortunate possessors the esteem and friendship of the respective circles in which they move, than were the two lamented gentlemen I have named. (Hear, hear.) But beyond this, they belonged to that class of men who can conduct great commercial operations, and at the same time feel a strong interest in every object which promotes, and in the discharge of every duty which is for the good of all other classes of the community; and the best wish we could offer to the inhabitants of Birmingham and the citizens of London is, that a double portion of the spirit of these two distinguished men may rest upon each, and that the memory of their virtues may be respected by as numerous a body as that by which the memories of these two gentlemen are venerated. (Applause.) This, then, ladies and gentlemen, is the twenty-fourth and last meeting of the League; and I venture to say that it is very differently estimated now to what it was at the time of our holding our first meeting in Drury-lane. (Cheers.) Where is the man now who will charge us with being the abettors of assassination? and yet the Prime Minister and others then scrupled not to insinuate as much. (Groans and hisses.) Where are the men who would now dare do it? Where are the organs of public opinion that would support him in doing so now, and, above all, where are the people who would believe either him or the press if they so charged us? (Loud cheers.) It is true that this year we were threatened with an opposition which was to extinguish the League, in the shape of the protection societies. (Laughter.) We may fairly ask, where are those bodies now? (Renewed laughter). Have they accomplished all for which they were established? Have they increased the wages of the labourer? Have they made him satisfied with his 8s. a week and "protection to agriculture?" (Cheers and laughter.) Do the incendiary fires of Suffolk show that he is so satisfied? If these societies possess the power which they profess to have, there never was a field yet in which the leading members of such societies had fairer grounds and better opportunities of occupying than the county of Suffolk at this time, in order that they might arrest the fearful spirit which is abroad in that county, and check the incendiarism which has been lately exhibited there. (Cheers.) But they could not do it; they have no hold upon the affections of the working class. (Hear, hear.) The poor agricultural labourers know well enough that whatever protection may be afforded, that whatever marriage settlements and mortgages may be paid out of the proceeds of the Corn Laws, they have nothing to expect but the greatest penury and want. (Cheers.) It will require greater strength than the protection societies possess to put down the discontent which prevails among the working classes. We have gone on from day to day and from year to year gaining strength, sometimes in victory, at others in defeat, and we are proceeding now steadily, I believe, to that great point which must surely end in triumph. (Cheers.) This question, under the management of the League, has obtained a position which no other question ever did in the same length of time, and it occupies a position, too, which no other question ever did occupy in the public mind, without ultimately becoming successful and triumphant. (Cheers.) You will be addressed now, first by Mr. Milner Gibson, M.P. for Manchester. (Cheers.) Mr. George Thompson, who was advertised as one of the speakers for this evening, I regret to say is in Scotland; but I dare say you will be satisfied if Mr. Cobden supplies his place (vehement cheers), and that you will have much less regret at Mr. Thompson's absence than you otherwise would have had. The proceedings of the meeting will be closed by Mr. Fox. (Cheers.) Mr. Gibson will now address you.

MILNER GIBSON, Esq., M.P. for Manchester, then advanced to the table, and was received with loud and reiterated cheering. He said—It has been my good fortune to be present, Sir, at many meetings of the Anti-Corn-Law-League, but never have I witnessed a more splendid assemblage than is gathered within these walls this evening; and I do say, Sir, it is justly to be deemed a matter for congratulation that at this your farewell meeting for the season, you have received so signal a mark of public approbation. (Cheers.) It is impossible to conceive that a cause can be retrograding, it is impossible to imagine that a question can be losing ground in the public mind and estimation, when we see such a numerous, such a vast assemblage as is now gathered within this theatre. (Cheers.) Indeed, there are many who would lead us to suppose that because public meetings have not been quite so frequent, and that because there have not appeared so many speeches of late in the provincial and metropolitan papers, that therefore the cause of Free Trade is not occupying that place in the public mind which it did a short time since. There never was, Sir, a greater mistake than this. (Loud cheers.) It frequently happens that that work is the most telling which is the most quiet (hear, hear); and from your description, Sir, of the proceedings which are now being carried on by the Council of the League, it strikes me that they are taking a course which must ultimately lead to victory. (Continued cheering.) I am not one of those that are very confident as to the result of our present electoral constitution. I am aware that we cannot hope for those full, those generous fruits that we might have from a more liberal representation of the people (cheers); but this I do believe, that the great body of the electoral class in this country are an intelligent, that they are, when once awakened, an independent class; that they have within themselves the power, and that they can, if they please, return a majority to the House of Commons opposed to monopoly; and I trust in God that they will, by the next general election, see that by such a course they are promoting the happiness, the virtue, and the future welfare, both moral and physical, of this great community; I trust that they will throw aside all partial interests, and, standing forward in a spirit of independence, return a majority, not to support a particular set of partisans in Parliament, not to support a particular set of men, whether the ins or the outs (laughter), who may be looking merely to the sweets of office, but to support that great principle and it alone. (Long and loud cheering.) Our excellent chairman has alluded to the efforts of the Anti-Corn-Law League. He has also intimated to us the want of success on the part of the protection societies, and of that august body the Central Society for the Protection of British Agriculture. (Loud laughter.) And it does happen that there are some salient points that may be quoted in proof of the little success of these bodies. It may be shown to demonstration that their progress has indeed been backward if there be any truth in vulgar arithmetic. (Laughter and cheers.) Now, in 1839, when not half the effort was made by protection societies to petition Parliament that has been made during the past year, what was the number of signatures obtained by the landed interest? The numbes of signatures was 318,000. (Hear, hear, hear.) What is the number of signatures that has been obtained during the present year, after these great assemblages of distinguished and titled monopolists? (Hear, hear.) Why, only 287,000 signatures (cheers and laughter); 4000 petitions averaging 74 signatures a piece. (Renewed laughter.) The number of petitions is a clear proof that there has been no lack of diligence, no lack of zeal; but the number of signatures shows that there was a great deficiency of corresponding zeal on the part even of the agriculturists themselves, for it was from agricultural districts that the petitions principally came. (Loud cheers.) But it may be said the Anti-Corn-Law League has not petitioned the Legislature at all (hear, hear): and for a very good reason—it was given up as a useless and as a vain attempt. It was thought that the efforts of the

gentlemen connected with this association might be directed better, and petitioning was formally given up; but when the Anti-Corn-Law League—when the Free-Trade party of the country—did petition the Legislature, what was the result? Why, they began in the year 1839 with 500,000 signatures, and they left off petitioning last year with 1,700,000. (Tremendous cheers.) So that whilst our petitioning, while it lasted, showed a constant increase of signatures, the petitioning of the Central Society for the Protection of British Agriculture shows a constant diminution of signatures. (Loud laughter and cheers.) By all means give them *rope*. (Bursts of laughter and applause.) Now, I do really think that any impartial man who looks around him, and asks himself what are the wants of society, what are the cravings that manifest themselves not only throughout the British dominions, but I may say throughout the greater part of Europe, will find that they are all intimately connected with the existence of physical want; he will find that none of the great wants of society can be met until we first ameliorate the physical condition of the great body of the people. (Applause.) We hear a vast deal of a desire to educate the people. There are complaints of their ignorance, there are complaints of their want of moral training in early youth; but of what use is the attempt to educate, or sow seeds of virtue among a people who are cast down by deep distress, who are living in a state of hopeless penury, and who are not in a condition to receive either the admonition of the preacher or the teaching of the moralist? (Cheers.) Depend on it, if we wish virtue, if we wish knowledge, if we wish religion to take root among our labouring population, we must ameliorate their physical condition. We must endeavour to raise the agricultural labourer from the hopeless position in which he now seems to be placed; and we shall look in vain for any diminution of crime whilst the labouring population cannot look up to those who possess higher positions in the scale of society with any feeling of being of the same class or caste, who feel, as it were, that they are thrown aside as useless beings, and not treated better, nay, not so well, as the brute creation that are fed on the farms of our aristocracy. (Loud cheers.) We must not, when we read in the papers of the fine shows, the fine assemblages of agriculturists at Southampton and other places—when we read of the glitter and pageantry on those occasions, and hear tell of "oxen too fat to walk" or to be eaten (laughter)—we must not at all suppose that this is emblematic of the condition of the poor labourer in the districts from which these fat animals have been brought. (Laughter.) We must turn our thoughts from these fat beasts to the lean and neglected peasant—we must carry our minds from all this glittering pageantry to the incendiary, to the threatening letters, and to all those symptoms of deep and sullen discontent which now pervade the great body of the agricultural labouring population. (Cheers.) I ventured a few days since, Sir, to mention these things in the House of Commons, and I quoted a great authority (cheers); I ventured, thinking I could quote no higher authority in that assembly, to quote the authority of a clergyman of the Church of England in support of my position, that the agricultural labourer was neglected, and that he was suffering deep distress; but when I quoted the authority of a clergyman to that effect, notwithstanding that he is a gentleman of the highest character and of known fidelity in the discharge of his sacred functions, I was told by the Secretary of State (loud hisses)—I was told by the Secretary of State for the Home Department (renewed hisses and groans,) that this was "a popularity-hunting parson." (Cries of "Shame," and hisses.) So when a clergyman does come forth, and does speak kindly as to the wants and sufferings of the labouring population, if he ventures to expound that text of Scripture, that "the labourer is worthy of his hire," he is told that he is a "popularity-hunting parson." (Hisses, and cries of "Shame.") I had sometimes thought that it was not intended the clergy should really be in earnest in these matters—that it was never meant that they should keep up more than a show, and be used merely as the political instruments of the great; and it convinces me very much that there was some truth in the conjecture I had ventured to form, when I was told that a clergyman who came forward in support of the religion he professes—to complain of the wretched want and penury of the labourers who surrounded him—and that the public also are told (and told before the British Senate by the Secretary of State) that such a man is a "popularity-hunting parson." (Cheers and hisses.) The gentleman I allude to is the Rev. Godolphin Osborne. (Loud applause.) I wish from my heart that there were more of these popularity-hunting parsons. (Loud cheers.) I wish our bishops would even condescend to such behaviour. I remember a celebrated writer said that he thought a very good society might be established, and indeed that it was very much wanted, for the purpose of converting the bishops to Christianity. (Loud and continued applause.) I am quite sure that it is perfectly consonant with the spirit of the Christian religion—that it is, in fact, in direct accordance with the teaching of the gospel—to advocate the cause of Free Trade. (Cheers.) I do verily believe that the adoption of general and unrestricted intercourse between nations, such as is meant by Free Trade, would be the means of spreading religion and civilization through all the nations of the earth; and I do not believe that any missionary efforts, however well intended they may be, or however well supported, can be completely successful while governments keep nations separated from each other by artificial barriers in the shape of hostile tariffs, and inculcate feelings of jealousy instead of feelings of mutual interests, such as must arise if Free Trade be adopted, and which are easily fanned into a flame that ends in open hostility. (Loud cheers.) It is extraordinary what extreme sensitiveness there is growing up all at once amongst gentlemen who deal in provisions (laughter) as to the importance of maintaining the national honour. They seem to be training themselves into fighting condition. (Laughter.) But what does all this mean? Why, it means this—that war signifies rent. (Cheers and laughter.) I don't know whether the idea at once goes home to gentlemen's minds, though it does to mine. The high price of corn is the consequence of this country being engaged in hostilities with foreign nations; and that a great deal of patronage flows into the hands of Ministers is another consequence. (Cheers.) Our landed friends, these victuallers—(laughter)—they have a very large slice of this patronage. However much the community may be impoverished by taxation—however great the woes may be of the nation at large—depend upon it, in case of hostilities with foreign nations, the landed proprietors would be the party, if any body did, who would profit by it. Then there is another thing they say: they tell us we thus get rid of our surplus population. I believe in my conscience that there is a large party connected with the landed interest in this country represented by that well-known periodical the *Morning Post* (a laugh) which would give anything to stir up a sort of anti-French feeling in this country, for no other purpose whatever than to raise the price of corn. (Laughter.) What signifies to these gentlemen the country being engaged in hostilities: they don't fight. (Laughter.) They send others forth to battle, while they get a high price for their corn; and when the war is over they endeavour, as they have ever done, to maintain that price by a new Corn Law. (Cheers.) You'll have the old thing acted over again. Another of their reasons in favour of war is, that it would divert the public attention from the great popular movements which are now making them uneasy. "It is a very good diversion, a good war," say they: I have actually been told within the last few days by a distinguished gentleman, whose name I will not mention as I have not authority for doing so, that notwithstanding all that was said about the miseries of war, and all that moralists and philosophers had written as to the evils of nations being engaged in hostilities, he verily believed that it was a good war which this country wanted, and that it would relieve us from many difficulties. (Loud laughter.) This is the old doctrine. Most fortunately they will not have the means of goading the people of this country into those exhibitions of hostility which they are so anxious to bring about. I believe there is in the British nation a strong feeling of good sense upon this subject, which has taken very deep root since our late wars; and I believe it would take a great deal to convince the people of this country that it is worth their while to submit to excessive taxation, and all the evils incident to war, for the sake of enabling the already wealthy aristocracy to fatten still more on the woes of the community. (Great cheering.) The *Morning Post* has discovered that we can do without trade and commerce. (A laugh.) Now, who would believe that in the nineteenth century a metropolitan paper of some circulation should have a leading article telling us that England would be better if her manufacturing system were done away with altogether? (Ironical cheers.) There is one branch of commerce, indeed, which they do hold out to us, and that is the trade in guano. (A laugh.) They say we are to have enormous importations of guano, which is to be spread over our acres, and is to grow the food for our increasing population; and I have actually seen calculations within the last few days, of the number of ships and sailors that would be employed in order to bring this guano to our shores. (Great laughter.) It has struck my excellent friend Mr. Cobden, however, that the ships and men might be quite as well employed if they brought the corn and wheat itself instead of the guano. (Loud and protracted cheering.) Then there is to be another step taken (which I mention by way of digression), to make the application of this guano available. They say that guano contains elements that people are not aware of. (Laughter.) They say that chemists are at a loss to ascertain what are the elements that compose this guano; that it is necessary to know what these elements are in order to apply it successfully to the different kinds of lands, because what may suit one species of land may not suit another; what may be beneficial to heavy clay may be prejudicial to burning sand. So that the chemists have first to analyze this guano; but when they have analyzed it, the thing is not half finished; the most difficult part of the operation yet remains to be performed, for, having satisfied themselves, the chemists have still to teach the farmers. (Laughter.) Our worthy agriculturists have got to go to school and inform themselves of the mysteries of organic chemistry (cheers and laughter); for they, too, must know something of the elements of guano. When gentlemen talk of visionary theories they should look at home, and ask themselves whether this rising trade that we are promised of importing guano from the coast of Africa to this country is likely to be the beneficial thing for the population that it is represented to be. (Loud cheers.) No; let them try my excellent friend Mr. Cobden's experiment, and bring the wheat itself. (Great cheering.) Let the ships and the men be employed in bringing the produce of foreign climes to the shores of England that the population of this country may enjoy the greatest possible amount of the necessaries and comforts of life that their industry can enable them to purchase. (Loud cheers.) That is the true policy. Away with guano (laughter), away with chemistry. Let industry take its own course; let us not attempt to direct capital into the particular channel into which interested men think it best that it should flow; but let us leave each and all to enjoy their own industry—that full reward which Providence may have placed within their reach. (Great cheering.) I will read you a little extract from the *Morning Post*, because it may have escaped your notice. The editor quotes Dr. Southey, whose opinions he adopts. "Dr. Southey," he says "always had the sense to see, and the courage to declare, that our manufacturing system was a monstrous evil for the people, and always wished that foreign countries might from some cause or another cease to buy manufactures from Great Britain." (A laugh.) Why, if foreign countries cease to buy manufactures from Great Britain, I should be very glad to know how Great Britain could purchase all the luxuries and the comforts which the people of this kingdom now enjoy. (Cheers.) I should like to know where the *Morning Post* proposes to find all the gold and silver, about which so much apprehension has been expressed of late lest it should go out of the country to pay for corn. (Loud cheers.) Will they find that gold in the cellars or the safe-boxes of the Central Society for the Protection of British Agriculture? Where does it come from? Why, from the mines of Brazil—from far distant regions—and why? Because it is purchased by your manufactures (applause); not by your wheat, or your barley, or your turnips—no, the assistance even of guano itself will not enable them to purchase it. (Cheers.) But it is our manufacturing system which enables the population of this country to be even as well off as they at present are. Look at the countries which are purely agricultural. Look at Poland—look at Ireland. (Cheers.) Why, what a wretched population, as far as the enjoyment of the comforts of life go, do we find in that island, though it is a population capable, as we know, of everything of which man is capable—a population inferior to none, and whose great leader, for endeavouring to have them relieved from some of those oppressive grievances under which for centuries they have been suffering, is now suffering imprisonment. (Cheers.) Look at that country, and let us ask ourselves whether agriculture alone can bring about a happy and prosperous condition for the great body of the population. (Great cheering.) It is vain for me to dwell in this intelligent assembly upon such an absurdity. Who does not know that commerce and manufactures have led to civilization? Time was when every little baron was, as it were, a kind of bandit in the county in which he lived, when there was no law to protect the weak from the aggressions of the strong. Then was the time when commerce had not civilized, and when men were not knit together by ties of common interest—then was the time of the purely agricultural system; but it is too late in these days to endeavour to bring back what will soon be forgotten, or, at any rate, have passed away for ever—that is, the relics of feudal barbarism. (Great cheering.) The Corn Law is the last relic—no, not the last, but it involves the abolition of all the rest. It is the keystone, and when once removed the arch of monopoly, restriction, privileges, and unfair legislation must inevitably fall. (Loud and protracted cheers.) They profess, it is true, in the House of Commons to be taking great interest in the cause of the agricultural labourer, when they tell us they have been amending the new Poor Law. (A laugh.) The amendments may be beneficial, or they may not; but the great point at which the Anti-Corn-Law Association and the Free-Traders aim, is to prevent men from becoming paupers. (Cheers.) It is one thing to be charitable—it is a good thing to be charitable—but it is better to be just. (Great applause.) We wish justice to be the pervading principle of our laws; we believe if men had an opportunity of supporting themselves that we should not now have to look at the great amount of pauperism which alarms every thinking man who takes up any of the reports of the Poor Law Commissioners, and gives to them his calm consideration. And let us look at the condition of the labourer: why, notwithstanding the attempts of the Legislature to make the pauper "worse off," as they call it, than the agricultural labourer, they absolutely cannot do it—they cannot make the pauper worse unless they starve him—such is the condition of the independent labourer. (Great cheering.) If I am not trespassing too much on you (cheers, and cries of "Go on") I would show you what is the scale of living in this country amongst—I won't say the working population—but amongst different classes, who we may readily suppose do not enjoy much food or very good living. First in the list stands the transported thief; second, stands the convicted thief; third, stands the suspected thief; fourth, stands the soldier; fifth, stands the able-bodied pauper; and last of all comes the independent protected labourer. (Cheers, and cries of "Slave.") That is the scale of food. The transported thief has a greater number of ounces of substantial food than the convicted thief; the convicted thief has more than the suspected thief; the suspected thief more than the soldier; the soldier more than the able-bodied pauper; and the able-bodied pauper a great deal more than our protected independent labourer. (Cheers.) I think the calculation is, that the transported felon has 330 ounces per week of substantial food, and that the average quantity of the independent labourer is not more than 122 ounces. I am not quite sure of the figures, but I think that is the correct calculation. (Hear, hear.) Is it, then, I would ask, to be wondered at, when the labouring classes are informed of this fact, that they should begin to suspect that there is not much sympathy on the part of the more powerful classes of the community with their condition? (Cheers.) What must be the reflections of a hard-working diligent man, when he sees that with all his toil, and with all his willingness to earn a livelihood, he cannot place himself in as good a condition as the felon sent from this country for, perhaps, the worst of crimes? (Renewed cheers.) Yet such is the plain fact—it defies contradiction. (Cheers.) We are told, as I said before, that a great deal is being done for the poor; but how do they meet this startling fact? I was told when the subject of the Poor Law was before the House of Commons, that I had been enjoying myself in the country while others were working hard to benefit the labouring man by amending the new Poor Law. No doubt Ministers have hard work, especially when you reflect that their mornings are occupied in inspecting the correspondence at the Post-office. (Immense cheering, which lasted for a considerable period.) I dare say, when my hon. friend the member for Stockport told the Ministers of what successes he had met with at meetings in the country, that it was no news to them—they had read it all in the morning! (renewed cheers); and when the foreign Minister writes to the Foreign-office to communicate some important information to my Lord Aberdeen, it is no news to him—he read the contents of the letter in the morning! (Great cheering.) So that, indeed, if such be the occupation of Ministers, and if such be the occupation which the people of England desire that Ministers should undertake and be employed in, all I can say is this, that they have a very great deal to do, and that they have some excuse for doing so little for the poorer classes by their legislation. (Cheers and laughter.) But I must say that I have observed, since I have had the honour of being in Parliament, that there is complete apathy whenever the subject of the distresses of the labouring class is brought under the consideration of Parliament. (Cheers.) Gentlemen have been so long in the habit of dinning it into the ears of the country that the Corn Law is maintained exclusively for the benefit of the agricultural labourer, that they do not know where they are when the alarming statement is made that, notwithstanding protection, the labourer is in as bad a condition as any human being can be in to exist at all. Now, I may be supposed to be exaggerating, but I say that such is the fact in many parts of this kingdom. I do not say it is so in every parish of the United Kingdom; but in Wiltshire, and in many counties which I could name, I believe that the wages of the labourer are insufficient to enable him to bring up his family, and to keep himself from the necessity of applying for parochial relief. (Cheers.) Sir, it appears to me that we have now got to that position in this question in which it is very important that we should direct our attention exclusively to the agriculturists. (Cheers.) They, of all parties, appear to me to be the most interested in the total abolition of the Corn Laws. Until the Corn Laws are entirely swept away, it appears to me that the farmer can never carry on business on a safe and stable footing. At the present moment, undoubtedly, the uncertainty which prevails is one reason why the farmer is necessarily prevented from making those investments

of capital and giving that employment to the labourer which he otherwise would do. (Great cheering.) So long as the Corn Laws exist, so long this Anti-Corn-Law agitation continues, so long will there be uncertainty. I do maintain, therefore, with reference to those vested interests of which we have heard so much, that the shortest road to a safe, permanent, and proper settlement of the question is by the total and immediate unconditional repeal of the Corn Laws. (Loud and continued cheering.) I believe it will be the least dangerous of any step that could be devised. Anything short of it will still leave something else to be agitated for: there will still remain uncertainty, and your agriculture will not rest on that safe foundation which can alone be obtained by letting prices depend upon the natural operations of supply and demand. (Applause.) And, if we look at what will be the moral effect of sweeping away this great injustice, can we regard it for a moment without feelings of the greatest gratification when we reflect that it does away with one of the most prolific sources of discontent that now exists in this country—that it brings agriculturists, manufacturers, and commercial men together—that, so long as the grievous interference with the rights of industry continues, those classes must be separated by an almost impassable barrier—that that barrier once swept away, you knit together all classes of this great community, and make them feel that your laws are based in justice—that you will unite this country more closely with foreign nations, and that you will thus spread throughout the whole of Europe the blessings of civilization, of religion, and good feeling? (Tremendous applause, amidst which the hon. gentleman, thanking the audience for the patience with which they had listened to him, resumed his seat.)

Mr. Cobden on coming forward was received with vehement cheering, which was renewed again and again. Silence having been obtained, the honourable gentleman spoke as follows:—Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, you have heard much allusion to-night to a certain organ of the press which always excites a great deal of merriment when its name is mentioned here. I was reading this morning a leading article in another paper, the *Morning Herald* (laughter and hisses), where I saw it announced in distinct and leaded type, for the fourteenth time during the last six months, that the League is positively defunct. (Renewed laughter.) I wish Grandmamma was here to see this meeting. (Hear, hear.) I have known many instances since we began this agitation of papers which have announced our death having themselves expired very shortly afterwards; there was one journal of that description, I remember, in Manchester, which announced to its readers on one Saturday that the League was extinguished, and on the following Saturday it gave up the ghost itself. (Laughter.) I have heard that lately Grandmamma has changed hands, and been united with the *Standard*: perhaps on the principle which is acted on upon the coast of Africa, where they collect a very heavy description of wood which will not float; to carry it down to the ships they tie a log of this heavy wood to a log of lighter timber, in order that they may both swim together (renewed laughter); and if the light pinions of the *Standard* can keep Grandmamma above water, why, its vitality will be greater than I had given it credit for. No, the League is not defunct (cheers); it is living just for that length of time for which it was necessary such a body as this should exist in order to be able to accomplish the mighty object for which it was formed. (Cheers.) It is not in the nature of things that an association intended to accomplish a repeal of the Corn Laws should break down the greatest monopoly that ever was attempted on the face of the earth by a powerful aristocracy,—so powerful that it alone has had the effrontery of all the governments in the history of the world, to attempt the monopoly of the people's bread,—it is not, I say, in the nature of things that any association having for its object to put down such a monopoly could have possibly proposed to itself to effect this object unless after the lapse of a long period of time. We have to teach not merely a whole people, but nearly two generations—those who are passing away, and those who are rising up—in order that we may make them understand this question. We have to appeal to the experience of all classes, and we can only gain experience by time; and what is experience to one portion of the community—to show the evil of the Corn Law—is not experience to another, but it requires a second cycle of years, in order that all classes of the community may have an opportunity of perceiving by facts and experience that the Corn Law is an evil to every portion of the community. We began our organization five or six years ago, in the midst of unparalleled manufacturing distress, which we said arose from the sudden scarcity of food creating an artificial famine, raising the price of wheat 40 or 50 per cent. We were then told of joint-stock banks, of machinery, of speculations, of markets closed—I believe somewhere in Asia-Minor,—and all sorts of things were alleged as the cause of the evil; but it was denied that this sudden scarcity of corn had anything to do with the manufacturing distress. What could we do then? Only wait until we came round again to a period when Providence by His beneficent bounty had repealed for a time this Corn Law, by giving us an abundant supply, and then seeing whether lower prices of corn had not the effect of abating manufacturing distress. We have come to that period; we have passed through two years of a comparatively natural price of corn,—not, probably, entirely so, but yet nearer to a natural price of food than for several years before. The consequence has been a revival in the prosperity of the manufacturing districts; and you have seen, just in proportion as the price of provisions and of the first necessaries of life has diminished in this country, so has the condition of every man in the manufacturing, mercantile, and commercial portions of the community tended to rise in comfort and prosperity. (Cheers.) We are now coming to a time when, unless the elements at a most critical moment greatly disappoint us, we shall have an opportunity to appeal to the farmer whether the last three years of his experience has not been sufficient to satisfy him that "protection to agriculture," as it is called, is no benefit to him. I say, unless the elements greatly disappoint us, we have on this island such an abundant crop of wheat that, if it be all gathered in—mind, I make no prophecy of what weather we may have—but let us have that garnered in which is now upon the earth, and you will have wheat down in less than six months, in my firm conviction, lower than it would be if we had a perfectly free trade in that article. How, then, will the farmers be situated? Here is the rebound, the reaction, from the famine and distress of the manufacturers—the retribution brought home to the door of the farmer himself. How will the political landlords deal with him in his new position? Will the landlord say to him, "Wait, wait for a year or two, and you will have prices up again"? Why, what will the farmer say to such a declaration? He will reply, "We had prices up before, but you put up rents when that advance took place; we have had those rents to pay when prices were low; but the very fact of our having high prices and scarcity for three years caused the distress and ruin of our customers; and, when now we are blessed with plenty, our customers are without the means of consuming that which we bring to market for them." If the farmer has the intelligence which I would fain give him credit for, he will say to the landlord, "The very remedy you propose for our distress—another scarcity and artificial famine—will only prepare the way for our future disasters, by ruining, as before, the customers on whom we most depend to sell our produce when again we are blessed with a bountiful harvest. (Cheers.) Now, ladies and gentlemen, a great deal has been said about the condition of the agricultural labourer at the present moment: he is said to be badly off; and we speak of that fact as if it were something new for an agricultural labourer to be badly off. I am prepared to maintain that when we in the manufacturing districts were in distress three years ago, in the midst of high prices caused by scarcity, the agricultural labourer then was as badly off as the manufacturing labourer; but, owing to the sudden calamity and distress which occurred in the north of England, the cry that was raised there by that densely populated mass stifled the cry which would have sprung from the agricultural districts if there had been no such agitation in the north. The records of our poor-rates show that in those dear years, when farming was prosperous, the poor-rates increased in the agricultural counties more in proportion in those dear years to their former amount than even in the county of Lancashire or the West Riding of Yorkshire themselves. The agricultural labourer never benefited by a scarcity of food. The farmer may be enabled when there is a scarcity, by selling his corn for a higher price than in proportion to the diminished quantity, to benefit for a year or two by that scarcity; but the agricultural labourer never can. No working population in any country can ever possibly benefit by an artificial scarcity of the first necessaries of life. We are about to take our leave of you, ladies and gentlemen, and turn our backs upon this scene. The drop curtain will fall for at least six months. It may be well, before we leave, to anticipate a little what we may expect to occur during that period in the two sections of the community—the agricultural and manufacturing—in order that we may claim in the meanwhile the attention of the community at large to the facts that are going on; and if what we say be correct, and our principle be true, these facts will be working out our cause more in the next six months than anything we have done in any previous period of similar length. With respect to the manufacturing districts, if provisions remain at the moderate price at which they were even last year, but especially if the present harvest should be got in and wheat comes down to the price at which we may expect it, you will have great activity in all the seats of manufacture and commerce, in the iron districts, in the potteries, in the cotton, linen, and woollen businesses, and also in the shipping ports, and in the home trade generally. There will be strikes for advanced wages where, only three or four years ago, thousands and tens of thousands of labourers were seeking work upon the roads or finding subsistence from the parish. We have already had two strikes in Lancashire, and both have been successful. (Cheers.) The spinners have struck for an advance of wages, and they have got it. (A voice, "Bravo!") I say "Bravo!" too. (Loud cheers.) I have always given this advice to the operatives of the north: never strike when corn is up to 70s. a quarter, because you will not succeed; wait till it comes down to 45s. or 50s. The increased power and independence of the working class will be shown in many ways. You will hear of workmen brought up before magistrates because they will not finish their work, but put their arms akimbo and leave at a moment's notice; and, when convicted, they will pay down the money and say, "There is the fine; I shall go and get better work elsewhere." (A laugh.) You will hear less of pauperism, crime, disease, and mortality in the manufacturing districts than theretofore. You will find mechanics' institutions thriving and increasing in numbers, and lyceums and book-clubs also extending. I saw in a Lancashire paper the other day a statement, that in one town 100 fresh members were added to a mechanics' institution in one week. (Cheers.) To-morrow there will be a public meeting in Manchester, the mayor in the chair, to devise means to raise a public subscription to lay out parks and pleasure-grounds for the people of that town. (Cheers.) You will find the energy and activity of the masters and the middle classes in Manchester devoted to the extension of education, and the founding similar institutions to the Athenæum there; promoting religious and scientific establishments, and giving to moral objects that energy and exertion which, during three years past, they were obliged to devote exclusively to the miserable contest for bread. Now, that is what you will see in the manufacturing districts; and if they see that going on, even our enemies will say, "These Leaguers have been no false prophets; they told us, four years ago, the unnatural price of food caused their distress; they said a more natural price would cure the evil; they have proved true prophets." Let us turn to the agricultural districts. I assume that we have got in the crop, and that farmers are selling their wheat in their own country markets at from 40s. to 45s. per quarter. What will be going on there? The farmers will be rising up in all parts of the country, and proclaiming their unparalleled distress. Why are they now distressed? Because they have bargained to pay rents, calculating wheat at 64s. a quarter, and they are selling it at 40s. to 45s. (Hear.) And why have they made this mistake and this bad bargain? Simply because they have trusted to a law which can for a time cause an unnatural scarcity-price of corn, but which it is not in the nature of things to maintain permanently. What will the landlords say to them? That is a matter I should not like to turn prophet upon. (Laughter.) I should not like to venture to predict what the Central Agricultural Society for the Protection of British Agriculture will say in November and December next, when their members have to face the farmers, and explain what they have been doing in Parliament. Will they throw all the blame on Sir R. Peel, think you? Will they propose to set up Stanley in his place? They must find some new "dodge." (Loud laughter.) Some of them may say, "I will go and shoot my rabbits," and others, "I make you a present of a bull." (Laughter.) But my dependence is in that sharpened intelligence of the farmers who have had their wit ground upon this stone of adversity. I believe the farmers will doubt the efficacy of this so-called protection. What is it for? To give the farmer higher prices for his corn that they, the landlords, may receive greater rents. But the farmers will, notwithstanding, have low prices for their corn; as low, probably, as with free trade in that article. What will be the excuse? What will political landlords say to them? "It is true we cannot by an act of Parliament secure you this high price." Then the farmer should turn round upon them and reply, "Then I cannot secure you your rent." (Laughter.) But the landlords most likely will tell the farmers, "Oh, rent forms so small a portion of your outgoings that if you had your land rent free you could not compete with foreigners." What do you think they have had the assurance to tell the farmers? The *Morning Post* tells the British farmer that he only pays 6s. a quarter rent on the wheat he sells. How do you think they arrive at that conclusion? Why, they say that every acre of land grows about three quarters and a half of wheat—say twenty-six bushels, and as the farmer only pays £1 per acre for his rent, the rent is about 6s. a quarter. This calculation is founded upon an assumption that every acre of land that a farmer holds yields wheat every year. I am sorry, as a farmer's son, to think that nine-tenths of the farmers have believed this. I tell the farmers—and a good many of them are now rather inquisitive to hear what we say in this place—that for every quarter of wheat they take to market they pay 20s. at the very least to the landlord for rent. Why, under a good system of husbandry, it is only one acre out of four, and sometimes only one out of five, that is devoted to wheat in the year; yet the farmer pays rent every year on that which is growing turnips, upon that which is lying fallow, or in the greensward;—he pays rent on it all. It has been proved to demonstration that if a farmer paid no rent at all, he could sell his wheat at 27s. per quarter, and get as good a profit on his capital, and his labourers be as well paid or better than now, and every horse and all other cattle be fed just as well as they are at present; and yet the landlords think we can be bamboozled in this way, and that the world will go on *believing* because they choose to go on *asserting* that the farmer only pays 6s. a quarter rent on the wheat he grows. (Cheers.) I rely on one little incident to bring farmers to a favourable consideration of our question, and it is this—they have lately had free trade in wool, and while wheat is now tumbling down, wool is getting up in price. The manufacturers in Leeds do not complain of the high price of wool. They get work and give wages; and they are becoming saucy with their improved trade. (Laughter.) They are glad to pay 3d. a pound higher for their wool than they did before, because they get a higher price for their woollens in the market; they do not complain of the advance of wool, because while it has advanced here it has done so all over the world in the same proportion; and, so long as they have their wool at a natural price, it is no matter to them whether it is 1s. 3d. a pound, or 5d. Now, it is precisely the same with wheat. Allow the consumer to have it at its natural price, and whether the wheat rises, as Lord Spencer thinks it would on the Continent to meet our prices, or whether it falls here to meet prices there, if we have it at a natural price, and trade and manufactures can flourish, if every avenue on the surface of the earth is open to the people of this country to get an abundant supply of food, the population of England do not care what the money price of food is. (Loud cheers.) I do hope that this wool incident may become the means of opening the eyes of some farmers. I see that it has already enlightened certain county members. I have in my hand a Hertfordshire paper giving an account of a meeting called at Hemel Hempstead a few days ago, during the wool fair. It was attended by a Mr. Dudley Ryder. I never heard that gentleman speak in the House of Commons, but I am told he is exceedingly voluble in abusing the League in the country. Do not let us retort upon him; for I do not despair of seeing Mr. Ryder a capital Free-Trader yet. It seems that this gentleman, along with Lord Grimston, the other member for the county, attended the same wool fair last year, in 1843. It so happened that on that very day there was a motion of Mr. Charles Wood, the member for Halifax, coming on before the House of Commons, for the abolition of the duty on foreign wool. Mr. Ryder, in addressing these farmers at Hemel Hempstead, said—"This very evening there is to be brought forward in the House of Commons a proposition for *lowering* the *duty* on *wool*, and we (meaning himself and Lord Grimston) intend to go back to town by the six o'clock train in order to oppose that motion, for I do not think that, with 45,000lbs. of wool in Hemel Hempstead, *we want much from abroad.*" ("Hear" and cheers.) Well, back went the two distinguished senators (laughter) to oppose Mr. Wood's motion for a reduction of the duty on wool. They went by the six o'clock train, and arrived in time in the House of Commons, not to hear any arguments, which of course they did not want, but to vote against Mr. Wood's motion. This happened last year—1843. A few days ago there was another wool fair at Hemel Hempstead, and it was doubted by the farmers there whether these hon. members would attend on the occasion; for in the meantime the Government had brought forward a measure for the immediate and total abolition of the duty upon foreign wool, and these two consistent senators had supported the Ministers in that measure. However, they came; and Mr. Ryder seems to have primed himself for a long speech. His health having been drunk, he said, in returning thanks—"The question to which their attention was especially called on this occasion related to wool. At this moment it was rather an important question, because it was known that the Government had introduced a measure for the purpose of admitting, duty-free, foreign wool." (Hear, hear.) He then referred to some official returns relative to the trade, which showed that for many years past, when we had most foreign wool in the country, we obtained the highest prices for our own. The fact is, that he had, fortunately for himself, stumbled upon one of a number of admirable articles, the production of the pen of my friend Mr. James Wilson, in the *Economist* (cheers), in which by statistics he has beautifully worked out this question. He quotes these facts, and goes on to say:—"On a statement of these facts, then, he arrived at the conclusion, that they were *interested in obtaining the finest wools from abroad at the lowest possible price*; in fact, they *could not dispense with them of them*, if they were to maintain their pre-eminence in

the manufactures of the country. (Hear, hear.) . . . It appeared that in Hertfordshire they produced almost exclusively, if not entirely so, the short-stapled wool. (An exclamation of 'No.') Well, but he believed they did not produce much of any other kind. He (Mr. Ryder) had taken the liberty of stating these facts, because, after all, the question must be decided by facts, and by facts alone. (Hear, hear.) *Their theories might be very fine*, and their prophecies thought to be very sound at the time; but in dealing with questions of this sort, *experience*, and not theory, must decide. (Hear, hear.) *He had shown by incontrovertible facts, that in proportion as they had admitted foreign wool at a low rate of duty, to mix with English wools, British manufactures had prospered, and British wool had risen in price. He did not think that this happy union between English and foreign wool-growers ought to be dissolved*, or that they should interpose a Doctor's-Commons fiat to destroy the matrimonial engagement." ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) Some people would call that a very odd sort of *wool-gathering* in the course of a year. (Laughter.) There is one little fact which is certainly rather striking to us men of business. It appears that this distinguished representative for the county of Hertford was sent up to Parliament in the year 1841 to protect agriculture; and yet it does not appear that Mr. Ryder knows whether long or short wool is grown in Hertfordshire. (Hear, hear.) It goes far to confirm me in an opinion I have formed, by quietly taking stock of the benches opposite to those upon which I sit in the House of Commons (laughter), that although there are exceptions, such as Mr. Pusey and others, yet that the majority of the county members who were sent up specially to protect agriculture are about as ignorant of that matter practically as any men I ever met with in the whole country. Mr. Ryder seems to be a choice specimen of that class of guardians of agriculture. He certainly does not quite equal a young gentleman I heard of in one of the northern counties, who was brought down just fresh from Oxford as a candidate for the county. He was walking with a farmer, and saw in the course of his rambles some spacious fields of turnips, of twenty or twenty-five acres in extent, laid down in the Scotch fashion. "Bless me!" said he, "I knew that turnips were always eaten with boiled mutton; but I had no idea that people consumed so many." (Laughter.) I have no doubt, ladies and gentlemen, that very great progress will be made in the right direction upon this question during the next six months in the agricultural districts. We must afford to wait whether we like it or not; we cannot make more rapid progress than circumstances will permit. (Hear.) I am sorry to say that a false doctrine has been promulgated by some of the monopolist newspapers, which seems to me to have had a very serious and dangerous tendency in the agricultural districts. I read a striking instance of the pernicious influence of this doctrine the other day in a trial which has recently occurred at the assizes for Suffolk. It appears that a poor man of the name of James Lancaster had been reading the *Morning Post;* for, mind you, it is stated in the calendar specifically that "James Lancaster, aged 30, can read, but cannot write." That is just the class of intellect which I should say would read the *Morning Post* regularly. (Laughter.) This man had been reading in the *Morning Post* an article which stated that wages rise as the price of corn rises, and fall as that is depressed, and that a great abundance of corn caused wages to be low. James Lancaster appears to have had a logical mind; that is, he seems to have had naturally a logical intellect, but it had been exclusively applied to the study of the *Morning Post.* (Loud laughter.) He was determined to carry out practically the principles laid down in this eminent print; and he reasoned in his own mind thus:—Wages are low; wages depend upon the price of corn; the price of corn is low because it is abundant; the only way of making corn dearer is to make it scarcer. The only way of getting higher wages is by making corn dear; and I will, therefore, go and set fire to Farmer Hobbs's stacks." (Laughter.) Pray do not suppose that I am making up this story. In the statement I have given you I have not added one single syllable to what appeared in the newspapers. (Hear, hear, hear.) Mr. Baron Alderson, who tried the case, having his gown and wig on, stated with all the gravity of a judge that "this was a most strange and extraordinary application of the doctrines of political economy." (Laughter.) Now, bear in mind that people who read but cannot write are readers of the *Morning Post*, and this was a logical deduction. James Lancaster had no malice against Farmer Hobbs, and would not have touched his house, saddle horses, or cows, or anything of the kind: *corn* was the thing by which alone wages were to be regulated, according to the notion he had imbibed from the *Morning Post*, and therefore he went, not to the dairy or cheesehouse, or even to the cellar where the beer was kept, but he took his torch and went to the farmer's stack, and fired it, in order that he might, upon the *Morning Post* principle, make corn scarce and dear, and thereby raise wages. (Hear.) I think the doctrines of the *Morning Post* may very properly be hereafter called "*the logic of the lucifer match.*" (Loud laughter.) It seems that James Lancaster is to be transported for the term of his natural life, to propagate the doctrines of the *Morning Post* in Australia. I will ask you seriously, what difference there is in principle—I know that the law has made a great difference—between creating a scarcity by restricting the supply of that corn which the Almighty has given to the nations of the world on the whole surface of the earth,—where is the difference of making a scarcity here by unnaturally obstructing the supply of corn from abroad, and making that scarcity by burning Farmer Hobbs's stack? (Loud cheers.) Their plea in both cases is the same: the lawmakers, who pass the law to keep out foreign corn, say they do it to keep up wages; James Lancaster, whose profession of faith while on the treadmill was heard by the gaoler of the prison, who pretended to be asleep, avowed the same object in the crime he committed. Where is the difference in *effect* of the two cases? There is no difference in fact. I very much fear that in the sight of Heaven one-half the men who support our Corn Laws will stand less acquitted of guilt than James Lancaster. (Vehement and prolonged cheering.) Yes, I repeat it, the men who, knowing what they are doing—and many who support this system are quite conscious what they are about (hear, hear)—who are aware of the consequences, and still do it for a selfish object, are more to blame for upholding this system for starving the whole nation than that poor wretch was, if he was sincere in the avowal of his object in committing that crime, or than he will be in the eyes of Heaven for having burnt that stack. You have heard, ladies and gentlemen, from our worthy chairman, that though we are departing and taking our leave of you, and, like another class of performers on this stage, "going into the provinces," yet we do not intend to be idle during our absence from the metropolis. I hope we may leave with a conviction that those friends of our cause who have constantly attended our meetings here will not, in their capacities as politicians or citizens, fail to do what they can to advance this great cause by spreading information, looking after their own and their neighbours' registration (hear, hear), and by disseminating sound views in every possible way. You know that, as soon as this system is understood by all classes of the community, there will be no difference of opinion about it. We are coming to that time when men will be taking credit to themselves for always having been Free-Traders. We all know that Clarkson, who began the agitation for the abolition of the slave trade, commenced about the year 1786 to devote himself—his life, if needful—to the accomplishment of that holy object. I say it to the honour of the town where I live, that Manchester was the first place at which he held a public meeting. Joseph Lancaster was at work twenty years before he accomplished his object. When the slave trade was abolished, and the abolitionists renewed the conflict to put down the institution of slavery itself, it was twenty-six years more before that work was accomplished; but now, when the work is done, and there are no sinister interests to offend in declaring the principle of freedom to the negro, we see the men who, when those benevolent persons were labouring to accomplish their object, voted against them on every occasion, and even opposed the abolition of flogging of women, now going to Exeter Hall to sing psalms over the freedom of the negroes of the West Indies. (Hear.) May it not happen, perchance, that a few years hence, probably at no very distant period of time either, the very men who are now opposing us in a cause as holy in its nature, as beneficial in its consequences, as truly natural and heavenly in every property of it as the abolition of slavery itself—may it not be that the men who are now opposing us may ere long look back and say, "The League accomplished this great work of freedom of trade!" and then they will attend these meetings, take credit to themselves as being Free-Traders, and spread and disseminate Free-Trade principles by their diplomatists and envoys through all nations of the world. Well, may it be so: I wish it may. We will not deny them participation in the honour; we only want to succeed in this great object; and when we, who have taken a prominent part in the conflict, are forgotten (loud and general cries of "Never, never"): at all events, we are entitled to live in the belief that we shall have left some memorials on this earth by contributing to the prosperity, the peace, and the happiness of our fellow-creatures. (The honourable gentleman concluded amidst enthusiastic cheering, with which he had been repeatedly interrupted during the delivery of his eloquent address.)

The CHAIRMAN then came forward and announced that Mr. Fox would address the meeting.

Mr. Fox upon presenting himself at the table was received with loud applause, which having subsided he proceeded to address the meeting as follows:—Our excellent Chairman introduced the business of the evening by describing to you the operations carried on by the Council of the League, and extending through the length and breadth of the country; the object of which is to prepare a better registration, and to lead the way to such electoral efforts, upon the first opportunity to choose a new Parliament, as may secure the success of the cause of Free Trade. Those operations, quietly conducted, are as material to the advance of our cause as those which are most conspicuous; and although for a time these meetings are to cease, yet to-morrow, when you will have read in the *Post* and *Herald* for the twentieth time that the Anti-Corn-Law League is dead, those operations going on throughout the country will prepare for a season that shall show as obviously as now that the League is all alive; and that its supposed death has been so frequently proclaimed, that those who get their information from no other source than monopolist journals may well imagine that its ghost walks the earth, and works wondrous mischief. They will find that its alleged dissolution is as the seeming death of the seed which the farmer puts into the ground, which is covered up and buried there, but by the immutable laws of Divine Providence it is germinating too, and there in due time will spring up; and for us, as for that seed, harvest now is coming—a full ingathering of that glorious fruit for which so many have toiled and laboured in these years of struggle. (Loud cheers.) The League, however, does not require to be judged by operations carried on without the public observance, or by prophecies of the future relying on the certainty of principles—such a prophecy, for instance, as Mr. Cobden has uttered—for it can bear to be judged by the surest of all tests, that which it had done, and not that alone which is unseen or which is anticipated. (Hear.) My purpose in addressing you this evening is to advert to the memorials which already the League has created for itself, which need not to be explored like hieroglyphics by the antiquarian, but are written broadly on the face of the country, and form materials for the pages of its future historians. In every direction I find some impress of what the League has done. The few years which it has existed have been marked by two administrations in our Government; and both the great political parties show, in their policy, that they have been influenced by the Free-Trade agitation. It modified the policy of the late Ministry, although in its youth the then Minister was disposed to treat it as mere madness to talk of repealing the Corn Laws; yet at the close of his administration that which he scoffed at in the time of seeming power, he and his colleagues laid hold of as the most graceful thing by which to retire from office. They fell by it, and made their fall thereby more honourable than had been much of their existence during their power. They had their recompense too. It was the progress which the Free-Trade agitation had made at that period which caused Lord John Russell to be elected a member of Parliament for the city of London, and which now gives him his chance of returning to office provided he will carry out the principles on which he was returned, and by which he holds his seat and his prospects of office. A fixed duty might serve the Whigs to fall by; they can only rise by a total repeal. (Cheers.) The influence of the League on the policy of the Administration which succeeded the Whigs has been more marked; for the men in office now are those who for ten long years were consolidating a party on the principle of no change, no surrender. They would give up nothing—no, not one jot nor tittle. It was for this that they rallied and strengthened their forces; for this it was that they resisted every attempt at a movement on the part of those who had then possession of office; for this it was that they moved a vote of want of confidence in that party, and effected their overthrow. What was the language of Sir Robert Peel on the first of those great divisions by which the Whigs were expelled from office? I mean when they introduced their budget in 1841, and when Lord Sandon's motion on the sugar duties gave the then Government a blow which it was never able to recover from. On that occasion, when they began to show symptoms of resigning, and of following their resignation by an appeal to the country, Sir R. Peel told Lord John Russell, it was an irregular thing to resign on a mere fiscal question. He said they need not do that, no Government need resign on a fiscal question; yet he lived within three years to be beaten by his own party on this aforesaid sugar question, and to reduce that party to allegiance by his own threat to resign unless the vote was rescinded. (Loud cheers.) On Lord Sandon's motion in May, 1841, Sir Robert Peel spoke thus; he was then, as every body knew, looking forward to a change which had obviously become inevitable in the administration of affairs: "I am not," said he, "contemplating a recession in office from the principles, with regard to the Corn Laws, which I have hitherto maintained. (Opposition cheers.) You will ask me, then, how is it possible for me, who have consented to relaxations in commercial relations, to maintain the Corn Laws? You say now that this is the master interest, and that it is utterly impossible there can be a revision of the tariff, or a relaxation of the commercial code, without a revision of the Corn Laws. I utterly deny that proposition." "Mr. Huskisson," he says afterwards, "would have scouted the proposition that a liberal commercial policy was inconsistent with the maintenance of the present Corn Laws." Such was the language addressed to the monopolists in Parliament. The tone was modified in electioneering speeches to affect the choice of candidates for members at the election; and when the fresh Parliament was called, and the new Administration formed, why, within about fifteen months from this very declaration, from utterly denying the proposition that a revision of the tariff would involve any alteration of the Corn Laws, Sir Robert Peel revised the tariff and Corn Laws together, to the utter astonishment of those who had placed him in Downing-street. (Cheers.) And whence all this? Whence these unexpected measures? Whence this new tone, but from this cause, that public opinion has been so influenced by this agitation that Sir Robert Peel feels it prudent, notwithstanding his dependence on the great monopolist body at his back, to lay out some lines in another direction; to claim as much credit as he can for Free-Trade policy; to boast that within a year he relaxed commercial restrictions more than the opposite party had done in their whole ten years' tenure of office; and thus to make himself, too, a monument of the influence of this Anti-Corn-Law League agitation. (Loud cheers.) Why, Mr. Cobden, in that House, might adopt the language, in reference to his own success as the great leader of this movement, which is inscribed on the monument of Sir Christopher Wren in St. Paul's Cathedral, where the spectator is told, if he asks for a monument of the architect, *to look around him.* (Cheers.) A foreigner, whose taste was not exactly hit by the form of the dome of St. Paul's, remarked, "I do look around, and I only see one great fool's cap." (Laughter.) When Mr. Cobden looks round for a monument of the influence of this League in the House of Commons, he may see two great fools' caps—one for the Ministerial Leader, the other for the Opposition; fools' caps fitting the heads of those who have the perception of great, wise, and good principles, but who lack the consistency or moral courage to devote themselves to carrying out that principle in legislation, and throw themselves on the good sense and true interests of the country for their support. (Cheers.) On the state of parties the future commentator will have, I think, to observe that, in a very short period, and with immense difficulty to struggle with, Free Trade obtained in the House of Commons, a body of representatives sufficiently compacted, well-principled, and decided, to make it impossible for any monopolist faction—either Whig or Tory—to govern the destinies of this country. If the influence of this movement be visible on political parties in the Legislature, it may assuredly be traced distinctly and broadly on the public mind. No subject of a similar nature has ever yet in the world's history been so variously and ably illustrated, and I believe in consequence so generally understood and appreciated, as this Free-Trade question now is. I would put the meetings that have been held here in evidence; the kind of topics and arguments in which they have displayed the most lively interest; the quick responses which have been given to points which some few years ago would have been matter of hesitation and of thoughtfulness even to the great mass of highly-educated men. Political economy, as was said of philosophy of old, has been brought down from the clouds to human habitations, and mingles with the every-day thoughts of the great mass of the population—is the subject of their conversation. There is a political intelligence generated by this procedure, which must soon banish utterly from the world the prejudices, sophisms, and falsehoods by which mankind have hitherto been deluded. How short a time it is since two great statesmen, Pitt and Fox, made the world ring with their conflicts, and yet it was matter of discussion which of the two was most profoundly ignorant of the doctrines of political economy; whilst now there cannot be a lisping dandy sent down to the constituency of a pocket-borough, there to represent his relative's importance, who is not crammed from Adam Smith in Mr. Cayley's edition! (Laughter.) A people thus instructed are not to be trifled with. It is a proud boast for the League that, together with intellectual exertion and acquirements, they have been the means of diffusing through the country a spirit of intellectual independence. Wherever I find a disposition to break through that gross servility which has so long been a stain upon a large proportion of the people of this country—when I find a disposition to call things by their right names, however plausible the appellations by which they have been distinguished—when I see the same standard of right and wrong applied to the high and

the low, the peer being judged by the principles that are applied also to the peasant—when I find a desire to bear testimony to great and wise principles, and that lively sympathy in the wants and in the wrongs of the poor and helpless class—why, in all this I see the same influence exercised by the Anti-Corn-Law League, I behold the spread of that influence through the different classes of society, and recognise a determination to work out the right, and to put down the wrong, by peaceful, legal, but honourable and certain means of success, which it is the noble consolation and encouragement of the men who originated this institution that they have been instrumental in diffusing through the country. (Cheers.) I know that these best and noblest results are yet much more limited than the leaders of the League and all true-hearted persons must desire. We have evidence of that; facts which we need not shrink from looking fairly in the face. It is continually brought up about the League in certain journals, "Look how many elections they have lost; look at the places where they dare not show themselves for a contest;"—why, we have not been able to contest Horsham, Cirencester, and several other places I might mention;—"and they have been beaten in South Lancashire and Birmingham." And what of that? I hold it to be no evil, but I believe it to be a great good to a cause like this, comprising I apprehend a vast number of persons not hitherto connected with political agitation—not accustomed to the long toilsome process which must be gone through for the achieving of any great work of social or physical improvement—I hold it to be a great good that their minds are dispossessed of the notion that you have only to teach people what is true and right, and that then you may rely on the true and the right being forthwith triumphant. Why, if those elections had had a different result, what would the lesson have been—what the effect on a great portion of those who have been led, for the first time in their lives, in connexion with the Anti-Corn-Law League, into the struggle of an agitation? The lesson would apparently have been, that opinion and action were free in electors; that there was no intimidation, bribery, or active sinister interests to pervert the consciences of the voters, and turn them away in spite of their own thoughts and feelings. And that lesson would have been a gross falsehood. It would have seemed by such a result that monopoly was ready to give up the contest without making a vigorous and desperate effort, and would retire when the vanity and wickedness of its claims was demonstrated to the public; that there was not to be apprehended from it a tooth-and-nail resistance, a struggle to the death, and by most unscrupulous means. And that lesson would have been a falsehood too. It would have been judged, by such a result, that party spirit had subsided; that it had learned wisdom and rectitude; that people would not, for the sake of pragmatically asserting some point of political sectarianism, have suffered themselves to be beaten through division, when they might have conquered by unity. And that lesson would have been a falsehood also. It would have appeared, by such results, that the present arrangements are all-sufficient for maintaining the rights and the interests of people in elections; and everything connected with political machinery, and our institutions, as good as possibly can be imagined or desired. And this lesson, too, would have been a falsehood—a gross falsehood. I think we may well put up with disasters, defeat, and postponement of the time when we come to the great final decisive strife, for the effects which are thus produced in the minds of multitudes, for the training and discipline which is thus given for working the continuous—and eventually successful—assertion of the interests of the community. (Cheers.) To those who point with exultation and scorn to these results, I would say, Why, you are laughing at that which is training an antagonistic power—a might which nothing can resist. These are agencies of education in agitation. They have already given much instruction, and they will yet give more, until the whole community is wise enough to see, that in directing its energies towards a single point, and carrying triumphantly through one great principle, it is in reality achieving more than could be obtained by any other means, and laying the foundation of national character, greatness, and prosperity. (Cheers.) There is another thing which the League has done; and it was an object worthy of their exertions: it has unmasked the monopolist classes. (Hear, hear.) Their features are known to every one now, and they can never be disguised again. At a comparatively recent period there was a mystification about peers and men in station, as though a different blood ran in their veins from that which flows in the bodies of the great mass of the people; and it was only when Free-Trade principles came into that close, continuous, and animated discussion, which they have been recently doomed to undergo, that it was perceived that these feudal associations were all false, and that really those men were as much a trading class as though they had kept shops in Cheapside; and the coronets which used to be thought emblems of a semi-regal dignity in their several districts, pass for nothing more than a sign of so many acres to let, and so much corn to be sold. (Cheers.) Why, they are traders—traders all! They deal in land as well as corn; and in food for all sorts of beings—from the loaf which the man eats to the seed which the canary-bird pecks in his cage. (Laughter.) They trade in fish and pheasants, in ground for gambling booths upon race-courses; nay, they also lose their money in the races themselves, and then bring in an act of Parliament to suspend the payment of their penalties. (Cheers.) They trade in stars, garters, and ribbons—especially blue ones; and, what is worse of all, they trade in that legislation by which their business is made more profitable: they are hucksters with the power of law-making for the enhancement of their prices. (Cheers.) A great outcry has been raised against the petty cheap linendraper who teaches his apprentice boy to "shave the ladies" (loud laughter), while these noble legislators do infinitely worse than that, for they shave the nation, and the poor they shave the closest and hardest of all. Their fallacies have been exposed, and though they be not the original authors, yet are they the real patrons of the doctrines of the *Morning Post*—the connexion of which with incendiarism Mr. Cobden has so luminously traced—it is still their doctrine. *Rick-burning in practice is only Richmondism in theory.* (Prolonged and vehement cheering.) Nor was there ever a more complete parallel than that between the Richmondites and the rick-burners. If the one wantonly destroys property, so does the other; if the one endangers human life, why, human life has been more than endangered by the other, and that too by wholesale, by these abominable starvation laws. If, in the rick-burner's case, the innocent suffer, who are they that are injured in the other case but the unoffending, poor, and helpless—their suffering being greater the more helpless their position in society? If the one destroys the good gifts of Heaven to man, so does the other. It is highly probable that a much larger quantity of corn than these fires in Suffolk and the adjoining counties have destroyed, has, in the course of years, been rotting under lock and key in bond, and has been at last shovelled out into rivers or harbours, as we know was recently the case at Hull, where a considerable quantity, even within a very few months, has been thus destroyed. (Hear.) And where, I pray, is the mighty difference in the element of destruction? Why should it be villainous to destroy corn by fire, and virtuous to destroy it by water? (Loud cheers.) Even without reference to that more awful tribunal which has been appealed to this evening, I believe the doers of this wickedness will not escape their punishment; if the incendiary be transported for his life, why, after the lives of the monopolists, it will go hard if the honest historian does not gibbet their memory in his pages to all posterity. (Renewed cheering.) The League has also exposed the monopolist class in another way: by eliciting their virtues, by stimulating their philanthropy. How charitable, provided their Corn Law can escape untouched, do the monopolists show themselves! Plans for the improvement of the condition of the poor are quite in request; and every political section must get up something of the kind. One party founds a society for the relief of the poor needlewomen, who, they contend, are very much injured indeed by people buying cheap shirts, and allege that every one ought to buy dear shirts for the encouragement of the sempstresses. There is a great charity excited for the needle and thread, but not much for those to whom a cheap shirt is the only chance they have of obtaining any at all. (Cheers.) They evdn had compassion on the poor for working too long, and they were desirous that the machinery in mills should not work too much, so that the workmen had time to go home and meditate on what they would do with more wages if they got it. (Laughter.) They even took care that the poor should be enabled to recreate themselves by travelling on the railways, and they proposed to have third-class trains for the purpose, and here the philanthropy of the bishops was brought into practice, for they could not think of the poor travelling on railways, unless their enjoyment was complete, and they proposed that they should be compelled to go in a first or second-class carriage when they travelled by the railway. They looked everywhere for a means of indicating their philanthropy, but to the poor man's cupboard, where they might see the reduced loaf, which they had sliced away by their monopoly. (Loud cheers.) In the meantime, while all this is going on, in 1843—only the last year—the people of this country paid in direct taxation upon wheat imported into England the sum of £800,000; that amount of bread-tax averaging 15s. 3d. on the quarter, which still, we are told, is not protection enough. Wheat in this country last year averaged 53s. per quarter, 9s. more than our fellow-subjects pay for it in Guernsey, where they are out of the boundary of this law; so that we have the pleasure of paying 9s. a quarter more for our wheat, we never having been conquered from the French, but living under our own glorious constitution. (Cheers.) This overflowing benevolence looks at the morals of the people as well as at their physical condition; and as they want bread it will give them stones. They shall have churches, thus rendering applicable the usurer's epitaph:—

> "In pious as in impious works,
> Like water, still he found his level:
> For, having cheated all the world,
> He built a church to cheat the devil." (Laughter.)

Such absurdities and enormities as these will never suffer an antagonistic movement to abate. It cannot do so, while they exist; and, during the cessation of these meetings, if you want to know where the League is, if you see a man looking sharply after the registration list, and see him marking an omission to be supplied by a claim, or a name which ought not to be there for objection, there you see the League. (Cheers.) If you want to find its leaders, you will only have to look to the papers; as it is this week, so it will be in future weeks. You will see Bright and Cobden there, as heretofore, sometimes fighting with physical-force men at Northampton (cheers), at other times with monopolist Tories at Dudley, and frequently with wild beasts at Ephesus. The *Morning Herald* says today that these leaders of the League want to back out of the agitation, and that they would if they could. I suspect, by these remarks, the *Morning Herald* does not exactly understand the nature of the impossibility of their "backing out." There is a moral as well as a physical impossibility that men of clear minds and true hearts, who have put their hands to the plough, should look back. It is not in their moral being to desist from the great work that they have undertaken so long as they have life, or until the great triumph of their cause shall, through their efforts, be achieved. (Enthusiastic cheering.) They talk of disunion in the League. "Disunion" and "dissolution" are terms of which here we know not the meaning. If ever a movement showed confidence, mutual reliance, amity, and decision, it has been this Anti-Corn-Law-League agitation. In fact, it used to be charged against us, that there was too much confidence; and the monopolists were endeavouring to spirit up people here to inquire after the funds, and ascertain what had become of the £50,000 last year, and the £100,000 this; and many wonderful and wise insinuations were made in relation to these topics. Assuredly this shows no want of confidence, coming, as a large portion of this fund did, from where the leaders of the League are best known in their personal character and history. I should like to see the Anti-League evince similar confidence, by the farmers of this country raising and intrusting £150,000 to his Grace the Duke of Buckingham, even if he gave them his bills, those bills bearing interest, and endorsed by his Grace the Duke of Richmond. (Cheers.) If, in this seeming cessation of the League from a discontinuance of these meetings, those of us who live in London should feel that a blank is left in our lives, let us, as citizens of this metropolis, remember that the League came to us, and we did not in the first instance go to the League. We have been recipients of the benefits, and not the originators of the League; it has called and held these meetings, and if we grow impatient of the suspension or delay, the best remedy for that is to call our meetings in turn, and invite the League to come and see us. (Cheers.) I really think we owe them a response of hospitality after all which they have done for us. We owe them, in every way in which we can show it, our hearty, ready, and unremitting co-operation. (Hear, hear.) At the first meeting of the present season, I endeavoured to show that the triumph of this great cause rests mainly with the cities and large towns of the empire. I am sorry that such a town as Birmingham should have tarnished its fair fame by what has recently occurred there (hear, hear)—that any who have the means of information should give themselves the licence of employing their votes in any other way than in the assertion of the rights of labour, and the maintenance of the commercial interests of the nation. But such a circumstance as this is an admonition here and every where to do all that we can of the work of the day while the day lasts, ever preparing for that great future electoral struggle which is to come. (Cheers.) This is a cause of national interests; those interests are not decided by chance; they rest on no baseless theories. It is a science, and one which has been distinctly traced; its principles are laid broad and deep, and the testimony of all experience is against monopoly. But it is yet more strongly opposed to war under the pretence of national benefit. I trust that the warning which was thrown out by the hon. member for Manchester this evening will sink into your minds and hearts; for, when we see to what means monopoly has recourse, it is not chimerical that there should be found even that monstrous wickedness which would plunge a nation into war for the sordid interest of a class. Should such an emergency ever seem to be impending over us, I trust that the people of this country will, as one man, protest against the recurrence of those sanguinary doings of old which ought now to be matters of history, and of history alone. This agitation must continue and advance because it is founded in the extended perception of national interests, and is based on moral principles. It is indeed a moral question. We give our opponents all the advantage they boast of possessing: they have enormous property and influence; Houses of Lords and Commons; a large portion of the press; the use of the Post-office (cheers); the patronage of the army and navy; appointments in the church and its influence at their back;—they have all these, and the enumeration does not appal one: for we have against them all—what is stronger than the whole put together—the sense of justice in the human heart. (Cheers.) There is a power with which they know not how to deal, but which will teach others how to deal with them—a power more ancient than their oldest ancestry, which existed before castles and cathedrals, church and state—a power as old as, nay, older than creation—a sacred power which existed before the pillars of the earth were laid, or the mountains were brought forth; it dwelt with wisdom in the Eternal Mind; it was breathed into man with the first breath of life; it will not perish in him until our race shall have numbered its days upon earth. To contend with it is as vain as to strive with the stars of heaven. It will witness the extinction, nay, more—it will be the agency of destruction of all wrong in political and social institutions. Soon may Providence send that blessed consummation! (Mr. Fox concluded his speech amidst loud applause.)

The CHAIRMAN then come forward and said—Ladies and gentlemen, it now becomes my duty to express to each and every one of you, severally and collectively, the thanks of the Council for the constant and unwearied attention, and the great order and decorum, which have been manifested since we first commenced these meetings until the present time. We opened, in imitation of our betters, on the day upon which Parliament was opened, and our labours are brought to a close pretty nearly at the same time. During the meetings you have had opportunities afforded you of hearing every fallacy which has been from time to time developed or put before the world in defence of monopoly exposed; you have had opportunites of hearing some of the first men of England address you from this platform; you have had the means of becoming acquainted to the fullest extent with the sound principles of political economy, tending to the best exposition, and from the mouths of the best expositors living. Wherever the League has committed, or appeared to commit, an error, we have frankly stated to you the grounds on which certain steps which might appear to be disputable have been taken. The past has now become matter of history: that portion of our labours which has been wise and just will last for ever; and that which has been done in error, of course, will soon disappear. We separate, then, to-night for some time to come; when next we meet together I trust you will still find us engaged in our hostility to that monopoly which we have sworn together to put down. (Cheers.) We can never know, or have the opportunity of ascertaining, every individual who is here present to-night; but we can express to you our anxiety for your present and future welfare, and that we desire the blessing of Heaven may rest upon you in all your undertakings.

Several enthusiastic rounds of cheering were then given for the League, and the last of these extraordinary and brilliant meetings—which have maintained to the last the same intense interest which they excited at first—terminated.

CARLISLE.—In compliance with public announcement, a meeting was held on Tuesday evening, the 30th ultimo, in the lecture-room, Athenæum, Lowther-street, to hear an address on the Corn Laws from George Thompson, Esq. Soon after eight o'clock Mr. Thompson, accompanied by Mr. Robt. R. Moore, and Mr. E. Wright, an American, entered the lecture-room, and were received with loud applause. Mr. Carr moved that Mr. T. Sheffield take the chair. Mr. John Carrick seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation. Mr. Sheffield then took the chair, and called upon Mr. Thompson, who was greeted with several hearty rounds of applause. After an able and eloquent speech, which elicited repeated cheers, Mr. Thompson introduced Mr. E. Wright, an American, who made some apposite remarks on the question of Free Trade as it affected America, showing the connexion between slavery and monopoly in that country, and pointing out how the abolition of the Corn Laws in England would lead to the cultivation of a large portion of American soil for the raising of grain instead of tobacco and other slave-grown produce. Mr. Moore addressed the meeting at considerable length and with his customary ability. Mr. Sheffield moved a vote of approbation to the speakers, which was passed with loud cheers. Mr. Thompson made an appropriate reply, and the meeting broke up.—*Abridged from the Carlisle Journal.*

SCARBOROUGH.—A deputation from the League, consisting of T. Plint, Esq., and George Thompson, Esq., visited Scarborough on Friday week, when a meeting was held in the Town-hall, and addressed by the above gentlemen; Alderman Stickney in the chair. A person of the name of Kidd, a Chartist, interrupted one of the speakers, when the chairman gave him a quarter of an hour to address the meeting; but, wishing to exceed that time, he was stopped in his address, and a show of hands was taken whether he should be allowed to go on or not. A great majority being against him, he began to be very boisterous; but after a while the proceedings went on, and terminated quietly.

BOLTON.—Wednesday, the 30th ult., Mr. Falvey delivered an excellent lecture on Free Trade, in the Temperance-hall, Bolton, which was densely crowded on the occasion. Ralph Foster, Esq., presided. After the lecture a Chartist, named Brophy, addressed the meeting in support of the Charter, and proposed a resolution to that effect. He was replied to by Mr. Falvey, who proposed an amendment in favour of Free Trade, which was carried by a large majority. The meeting broke up after having given three cheers for Free Trade.

WELLINBOROUGH.—On Thursday, August 1, Mr. John Murray delivered an excellent lecture on the Evils of Monopoly, and the benefits that would result from Free Trade. Although not more than three hours' notice was given of the meeting, the spacious Assembly-room at the White Hart was crowded to excess. Mr. Murray's lecture gave an additional stimulus to the excitement which already existed respecting the great meeting that has just been held at Northampton, hundreds having left Wellingborough on Monday last to witness the triumph of Free-Trade principles on that occasion.

NORTHUMBERLAND PROTECTION SOCIETY.—The first meeting of this magniloquent association was to have taken place on Friday, the 2nd inst. (ominous day), at noon, at the Queen's Head, in this town. We had made, we confess, some preparations for the grand event. We had stuffed our ears with *cotton* lest we should be deafened by the rattle of carriages setting down the titled and aristocratic members. We had dealt out to our reporters a double allowance of "prog and pencil" to sustain them under the infliction of eloquence without end. We had provided additional small diamond type, to condense into our columns all that the lead pencils should succeed in setting down! Alas! what are the hopes of man! "Parturiunt montes" was true enough; but so was the other half of the distich—"nascitur ridiculus mus!" When our reporter reached the scene of action, precisely at noon, *three members alone were arrived*, two being natives of Newcastle. "Lazily the minutes stole along." The "golden number, three," still remained that of the meeting! One o'clock arrived—still "the fated three" stood stanch, but unaided, at their post! At last, at a quarter before two, making a virtue of necessity, they elected No. 1 chairman, and No. 2 secretary; No. 3 being the meeting; and adjourned the debate *sine die!*—*Tyne Mercury.*

TRIUMPH OF FREE TRADE OVER MONOPOLY AND CHARTISM.

On Monday last an important meeting of the inhabitants of the town and county of Northampton was held at that place, pursuant to advertisement.

Some short time back a requisition was forwarded to Messrs. Cobden and Bright, signed by 1200 agriculturists, manufacturers, and others, inviting them to attend a meeting at Northampton, for the purpose of discussing the great question of Free Trade, a request with which those hon. gentlemen immediately complied. A second requisition, signed by 91 supporters of the Corn Laws, was subsequently despatched to Mr. Stafford O'Brien, one of the members for the county, and chairman of the Publishing Committee of the Agricultural Protection Society, calling upon him to meet and refute the arguments of the members for Stockport and Durham. An answer was received from that gentleman declining to be present, on the ground that the requisitionists were quite able to form their own opinions without calling in the aid of strangers.

The Northampton branch of the Ishmaelite section of Chartists also despatched a third requisition, which was accepted, to Mr. Feargus O'Connor, who, it was intended, should act in concert with the hon. member for the county, whose presence was confidently anticipated, from the important situation he was known to hold in the great Central Society for the maintenance of the Corn Laws. Lord Fitzwilliam, the Mayor, and several of the most respectable inhabitants of Northampton, were severally proposed by the Free-Traders as chairman of the meeting, all of whom were successively objected to by the Chartists, who intimated their determination to allow no person to fill that office except Mr. Grundy, a retired tradesman of the town, who is held in great estimation by them. Notwithstanding the palpable unfairness of this dictation, the Free-Traders knowing Mr. Grundy to be a gentleman of integrity and high respectability, acceded to the proposition, and the meeting was accordingly presided over most impartially and honourably by that gentleman. Commodious hustings were erected in the noble market-square—a space capable of accommodating with ease 50,000 persons. At the commencement of the proceedings the numbers present amounted to about 5000, which was soon augmented to 6000. A great number of the most influential tradesmen and gentlemen of the town and surrounding districts were present, including many farmers, several of whom held up their hands in favour of a repeal of the Corn Laws.

Mr. COBDEN, contrary to his usual practice, submitted to the meeting a resolution in favour of Free Trade, which having been seconded by Mr. Alderman Cotton, Mr. Feargus O'Connor came forward and proposed a long and desultory amendment, recognising the great evils of the Corn Laws, but declaring their repeal to be inexpedient and injurious, unless preceded by the Charter. It is a singular fact, of which probably no parallel is to be found among the numerous and flagrant derelictions of principle too often met with in the history of political parties, that this amendment was supported by the votes of nearly all the Conservatives of Northampton, including most of their distinguished leaders, notwithstanding it recommended two propositions—the Charter and the ultimate repeal of the Corn Laws—to both of which measures they have repeatedly avowed hostility, in the hope that by the combination of these two extremes, and in principle utterly antagonistic bodies, they should be enabled to overthrow the Free-Traders. Bodies of Chartists had been brought in from the surrounding districts, and every exertion was made to secure the defeat of the Anti-Corn-Law League.

Mr. GRUNDY having been voted to the chair, read the requisition convening the meeting, and called upon

Mr. COBDEN, who was received with loud cheers. The honourable gentleman called upon the meeting to discuss the question in the terms of the requisition, with reference to the interest of the farmers, the labourers, and the community in general. He then proceeded, in his usual lucid manner, to show that the Corn Law had been positively injurious to all those classes. With reference to the interests of the farmer in the Corn Law, as securing high prices, if the present harvest were well got in, wheat, which is now as low as 47s., would, before next Christmas, be down to 42s. Mr. Cobden then alluded to the efforts made by the working classes in 1815, to prevent the passing of the law, and in subsequent years to procure its repeal. It might be asked, why had not the masters then united with the men for that purpose? The reason was, that there was not that union which ought to have existed between the two bodies; but that was no argument against the present generation acting more wisely than their fathers then did, especially as we have had thirty years' experience of its injurious working. He (Mr. Cobden) was at school at that period, and therefore could not be blamed for any sins of omission or commission which were made at that time. Whenever bread had been low, wages had risen in the manufacturing districts, and poor-rates and deaths had diminished in an equal proportion. If the Corn Law had thus injured England, would any Irishman stand forward on that platform and maintain that it had benefited Ireland? If so, he would appeal to the highest authority with reference to that country—Mr. O'Connell himself, who always voted in Parliament for the repeal of the Corn Laws, and had attended all the League annual meetings at Manchester. The Corn Laws were only maintained for the benefit of the landlords. (A voice—"And the cotton lords.") It could not be for the "cotton lords," for there were only some fifteen of them in Parliament, out of the 658 members. After referring to the reduction of the duty on wool, Mr. Cobden reverted to the case of hides, leather being an article with which the inhabitants of Northampton were well acquainted. The effect of prohibiting the importation of hides would be the same as the prohibition upon wheat—there would not be half enough for general consumption. People would be compelled to wear wooden shoes, or go without, and the trade at Northampton would be ruined. It had been said that there were important interests connected with the Corn Law, and, therefore, that it should not be immediately abolished. That point had been well settled at a public meeting by a man in fustian, who asked, "Why do you dispute about doing away with the Corn Law all at once? Did they not put it on all of a ruck?" There was a certain duty imposed on French shoes; but the smugglers brought them into this country at half the money; but wheat was a more bulky article, and could not be so dealt with, and the landlords had, therefore, the best of the bargain. Let them, then, have free trade in corn, for they had already done their worst with shoes. There were other questions, no doubt, of very great importance to the country; but let them not endeavour to carry those important points by frustrating the achievement of that which they acknowledged to be a great good. The League would not go out of their way to interfere with any other agitation, but, in any work where the road was long and the journey arduous, a man would not be worse off by having plenty of bread procured for him by the way. He himself had voted for the motions of Mr. Duncombe and Mr. Sharman Crawford. With regard to the sugar question, his (Mr. Cobden's) object had always been to get the people as much as possible, and at as cheap a rate; and, for aught he cared for mere political parties, he would sell either Whig or Tory, provided he could gain for the people a reduction of 1d. per lb. in sugar. Mr. Cobden concluded by proposing the following resolution:—

"That the Corn Law and all other laws restricting trade for the benefit of a class are unjust, and ought to be forthwith abolished."

The hon. gentleman concluded amidst loud cheers.

Mr. Alderman COTTON seconded the resolution.

Mr. FEARGUS O'CONNOR then came forward amidst loud cheers from the Chartists, and addressed the meeting for upwards of an hour, chiefly vituperating the manufacturers and the Anti-Corn-Law League. He said that the requisition, in pursuance of which he attended the meeting, contained 153 signatures more than that of Mr. Cobden. He denied in their presence, and that of the Great Ruler of events, upon his honour as a gentleman, and his oath as a man, that he had ever received a farthing, or the fraction of a farthing, from man, woman, or child, Whig, Tory, or Chartist, corporation, or individual, in the whole course of his existence, or had ever travelled one mile, or had eaten one meal, at the expense of anybody. When the poor men met at Peterloo to petition for the repeal of the Corn Laws, it was the Manchester manufacturers who came upon them and cut them down. What had caused the change in the spirit of their dream? They were then in political power, and now they wanted to gain their lost influence. Mr. O'Connor then proceeded to read extracts from the prize essays published by the Anti-Corn-Law League, which he alleged contained great contradictions, one set of arguments being for town and another for country—in the former representing that the manufacturers would get cheaper bread, and in the latter that the farmer would get higher prices. The League were only for pruning the rotten tree; he was for laying the mattock and the axe to its root. He was for Free Trade all over the world, but not for being monkeys or tame cats to any party; his object being to secure the poor man a share in the benefit which the manufacturers wanted to deprive him of. Mr. Cobden had spoken of the operatives being possibly reduced to wear wooden shoes, but they actually wear them at this time, and were glad to get them. Where was now (Mr. O'Connor asked) a working man's clock, feather bed, chest of drawers, and other things which he used to have? They had all gone; while the manufacturers boasted of possessing as much wealth as would pay the national debt. He did not charge the fault upon Mr. Cobden, but it was nevertheless true that a workman had been discharged from that gentleman's employ for reading the *Northern Star*.

Mr. COBDEN emphatically denied the assertion.

Mr. O'CONNOR proceeded to read some extracts from "Almack's Character and Proceedings of the Anti-Corn-Law League," but the purport of them, save for abusing the League, and thereby avoiding the question of the expediency of the Corn Laws, no one could discover. After uttering a great quantity of irrelevant matter, he concluded by moving the following amendment:—

"Resolved, That we, the inhabitants of the county and town of Northampton, in public meeting assembled, are of opinion that the repeal of the Corn Laws, unaccompanied by a fair and equitable adjustment of the several interests that would be affected by the change, must lead to a confiscation of the properties of the most weak and unprotected, and to the centralization of all manufacturing operations in the hands of those who would be most capable, from the possession of large capital, and most ready, by the possession of a large amount of inanimate machinery, to take advantage of the change. That, while we declare ourselves hostile and opposed to the principle of restricting commerce by interfering with the rights of exchange, we nevertheless feel assured that the question of Free Trade is one which must be dealt with as a whole, and not upon mere party grounds. And as we feel convinced that the whole question cannot be justly, equitably, or satisfactorily discussed, arranged, and finally settled by any other tribunal than that constituted by the whole people, or by representatives fully, fairly, and freely elected by them; and inasmuch as such full, free, and fair representation cannot by possibility be accomplished through other principles than those contained in the document entitled 'The People's Charter,' we hereby pledge ourselves, in spite of all opposition, to continue our glorious struggle until the People's Charter is made the basis of the British constitution."

M'GRATH, the Chartist orator, then followed his leader in a similar style of incoherency, and concluded by seconding the amendment.

Mr. BRIGHT then came forward amidst loud cheers, and spoke as follows:—I have listened with the utmost attention to the two speeches that have been made by the mover and seconder of the amendment which is now before you; and I confess that, with respect to the speech of the mover of that amendment, I am unable at this moment to discover any very clear ground for forming an opinion as to his views on the question of the Corn Laws; he spoke against and for them in about an equal quantity; but, if I had been under any difficulty with respect to his speech, that of his seconder has wholly cleared up that difficulty, for I have perceived during the progress of that speech a repetition of the arguments in favour of the Corn Laws which are poured forth to a small portion of the readers of the public newspapers in the columns of the *Morning Post*, the *Herald*, and the *Standard*. (Cheers and laughter.) That gentleman might, without any impropriety, be the writer of those articles, so clear is the resemblance, so entire the identity between his views on this question and those of the high protectionist paper, the *Morning Post*. I address this meeting with the impression that if there be one class in this country more deeply interested than another in the discovery and adoption of truth, that class is the great mass of the people who live by their industry. (Hear.) It may be that the aristocracy and the clergy benefit by a law which is unjust in principle and injurious to the rest of the people; but there can be no injustice practised in this country by the Legislature under which we live which can be advantageous to the millions of the people, who have no property but their labour, and no income but their wages. Being, then, impressed with this opinion, I am conscious of no anxiety on the subject but that of discovering the truth. I am willing to and do assume that in your minds also there is an entire wish, to perceive the truth, and act upon it. I shall, therefore, go into no extraneous matter that I can possibly avoid. I shall not heap obloquy upon this or that man (hear, hear), but I will ask you as a class of intelligent men, the thousands here assembled to hear the arguments fairly on this momentous question, to judge impartially, and help by your voices to swell the cry which is hastening the glad time when the worst brand which ever tyranny inflicted on a people shall be swept away, and your industry and mine shall be free. (Cheers.) But, before I go to that, there is just one point with respect to Mr. O'Connor that I must be permitted to allude to, and I am sure he will not object to it. I said I was unable to discover from his speech what were his views on this question, and if I leave to-day out of consideration, and look back to former periods, I am equally unable to discover anything like a clear course which he has pursued on this question. Mr. O'Connor was a member of the House of Commons in the year 1834. In that year, immediately after the passing of the Reform Bill, Mr. Hume, a gentleman whom the last speaker has thought fit to place before you in terms neither fair nor complimentary, moved for a committee of the whole House, for the purpose of abolishing the then existing Corn Law, and substituting for a time a much lower fixed duty, with a view of ultimately coming to the principle of total Free Trade. Mr. O'Connor was in Parliament then, and what said he on that motion? Did he then say that he was in favour of Free Trade with all the world, but that he would not have Free Trade because the working people were not represented? No; he did nothing of the kind. Mr. O'Connor got up in his place in Parliament and there and then defended the Corn Laws, and not upon any of those grounds which he has advanced here to-day, but upon grounds totally different. Mr. O'Connor may not be to blame in this matter, he may have changed his mind from conviction since.

Mr. O'CONNOR: Not a bit of it.

Mr. BRIGHT continued.—It will not be amiss if I give you a portion, or, if he please, and you have no objection, the whole, of his speech on that occasion. It is taken from Hansard's publication of the Debates: it has been before quoted in Mr. O'Connor's presence, and he has never disputed the accuracy of it:—

"Mr. Feargus O'Connor.—My hon. and gallant friend the member for Bolton has appealed to the Irish members upon this subject, and has called upon me more especially, as being the representative of the largest agricultural county in Ireland, to give him my support. Sir, I am going to give him my support, but it will be in the spirit of a guardian angel, to protect him from sacrificing his interest and his happiness upon the shrine of that block called political economy. The hon. member for Middlesex has said that this question is now at rest. I agree with him, and it is the only part of his speech with which I do agree. It is high time that this question, which, at present, not only agitates the manufacturing and agricultural interests of England, but also the agricultural interest of Ireland, should be set at rest. It is due to this House that I should point out certain fallacies into which those who support the present motion have fallen, and lay before it the different situation of Ireland, as contrasted with the situation of this country. The situation

of Ireland is this—we are a great agricultural country without manufactures, and we depend, as a vent for our produce, on the markets of England. If, then, you admit the importation of foreign corn, duty free, you will throw us completely out of the English market; agriculture in Ireland will be neglected; and not only will you sacrifice the only interest existing in that country, but also the landed interest of England, for the benefit of the Continental growers of corn. When we shall have ceased to cultivate our land at home, and when foreign nations find that we have so ceased, they will take advantage of our want of home production, and raise the price of their own corn at pleasure; and thus we should be left at the mercy or the whim and caprice of the foreign market. It has been said that the Irish members are unanimous in their determination to oppose it. I think I speak the sentiments of a large majority of those members, when I state that the agitation of this question will do considerable mischief in Ireland, and that mischief will be increased, if a determination to put it aside for some time is not manifested by a very large majority of this House. This is the only question, as it appears to me, in which the interests of the two countries are completely united and identical. The honourable member for Middlesex says that this is a question of justice against injustice—of the many against the few. But what is the reason that we have not heard of any manifestations of public opinion against the Corn Law? It is this—that while those persons who oppose the present system reside in large towns, and are easily called together in order to express their wishes to this House, the great agricultural population, who are interested in the continuance of the system, are spread thickly over the face of the country, and have not the same facilities for meeting together, to declare their opinions upon the subject. It is said that the repeal of the Corn Laws will make bread cheap without reducing the value of the land. This is a doctrine I cannot comprehend. If you reduce the price of the produce, rent must fall; if you keep up the standard of rent, you cannot reduce prices; and if not, how can you give the people cheap bread? I rose with a determination not to mix up any extraneous matter with the subject of this debate. I appeal again to the House not to allow itself to be led away by the absurdities or assertions of the honourable member for Middlesex. Without troubling the House any farther, I conclude by imploring the members from Ireland to consider this as a neutral question, threatening in its consequences, if carried, the annihilation of the liberty, rights, and protection of the poor man, and unanimously to resist the motion."

Mr. Bright proceeded at considerable length, with great force and eloquence, to refute the calumnies and fallacies of Mr. O'Connor, and to demonstrate the benefits which would accrue to all classes from the adoption of Free-Trade principles.

The Chairman then took the sense of the meeting, when there appeared a decided majority in favour of the original resolution of Mr. Cobden.

Mr. O'Connor came forward and questioned the accuracy of the Chairman's conclusion, and requested a division.

The Chairman replied that there could by no possibility be a doubt upon the subject.

Notwithstanding the indecency of impugning the decision of a chairman appointed by themselves, the Chartists separated from the rest of the meeting, when their minority, had there been any previous doubt, became still more apparent.

Mr. Cobden moved, and Mr. Bright seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The Chairman briefly returned thanks, and declared the meeting dissolved; notwithstanding which, after the departure of the Free-Trade party, Mr. O'Connor remained and harangued the meeting.

Clarke, one of the colleagues of Mr. O'Connor, then proposed a vote of confidence in that gentleman, which, as a matter of course, was carried.

THE NORTHAMPTON MEETING.

The following advertisement appeared in the *Morning Post* of yesterday. Why the readers of the *Morning Post* should be specially invited to read the *Northern Star* is not very apparent to those acquainted with the character of both papers. Probably Mr. O'Connor is anxious to show the extent of his labours in return for the monopolist patronage with which he has been recently favoured:—

"O'Connor and Cobden.—Northampton.—The *Northern Star* of Saturday next, the 10th instant, will contain a full and true account of the defeat of the League at Northampton, when Cobden, Bright, and Grundy, the chairman, were hissed and scouted from the hustings, in consequence of Grundy refusing to divide the meeting, and declaring a resolution to be carried against which more than two-thirds of the meeting held up their hands.—N.B. There was no vote of thanks passed to the chairman; and he was not elected by the Chartists, as falsely stated by the League press.—Office, No. 1, Shoe-lane, London."

Judging from the *accuracy* with which facts are stated in the advertisement, the report is likely to be a curiosity in its way, and to afford the public additional evidence of *that kind of veracity* for which Mr. O'Connor's lucubrations are distinguished.

"Purchase a knave who sense and shame defies,
He'll pay the price back with enormous ——."
Bishop Hale's Satires.

Free-Trade Razors.—We have received from Mr. Middleton, of Sheffield, some beautiful specimens of razors, which, in addition to their useful qualities, have the advantage of being decorated with very tasteful symbols of Free Trade. The style of these decorations is very pleasing, and seems to show that the arts of design may be applied with very happy effect to the ornamenting of steel; we have tried the useful qualities of these razors, and are bound to bestow upon them our warmest commendation. We may also mention that we have received Free-Trade pens, paper, seals, and sealing-wax, of excellent quality, and are glad to say that this is the only way in which our cause is *stationery*.

Lord Lyndhurst stated in the House of Lords, the other day, that the annual income from charitable trusts amounts to £300,000; that the sum invested for these purposes is *thirteen millions* sterling; and the number of trusts is upwards of *twelve thousand*; the whole management of which is vested in private persons.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, August 7, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the League of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

Stanley Mills Association, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, per E. Shipway (8th Remittance)	£2	10	0
C. S.	1	1	0
W. S. Rickards, 12, Hollen-street, Soho	0	5	0
Robert Gormully, 47, Gower-place, Euston-square ..	0	2	6
George Edwards, Broad-street, Ipswich	0	2	6
H. Sloman, 27, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields	1	1	0
Samuel Thompson, 11, Mount-row, New Kent-road	0	5	0
Thomas Baxter, Blackburn-street, Great Bolton ..	1	0	0
John Weatherman, Great George's-street, Bristol..	3	0	0
James Rider, White Hill-lane, do.	1	0	0
Joseph Eaton, Radcliff-parade, do.	50	0	0
A Friend, Worksop, Nottinghamshire..	1	0	0
W. H. Greenwood, Lowgate, Hull, per J. Mathewman, Barnsley	1	0	0
A Free-Trader	5	0	0
Nathaniel J. Denison, Daybrook, Nottingham ..	1	0	0
Miss R. Johnson, per S. Bean, Esq., Clinton-st., do.	1	0	0
Thomas Baines, 10, Castle-street, Liverpool ..	20	0	0
R. M. Beckwith, 72, Bold-street, ditto	5	0	0

DUDLEY ELECTION.

[*From a Correspondent.*]

However much to be regretted it may be that the result of this contest will not add to the number of Free-Traders in the House of Commons, it is certain that Free-Trade opinions will gain greatly in this locality from the discussion which has taken place on the most interesting question now before the public.

A deputation from the Council of the League arrived in Dudley on Sunday night or Monday morning, to consult with the Free-Trade electors as to the state of the borough, and the candidate to be proposed. No one connected with the town could be induced to stand, from the very prevalent feeling that the influence of Lord Ward, and of the iron-masters under his control, or actuated by a blind spirit of partisanship, was too potent to be successfully resisted. Several gentlemen were called upon and urged to offer themselves, but without obtaining the consent of any of them.

It then became a matter of discussion whether the election should be uncontested, or one of the League deputation should offer himself, to give the electors an opportunity of recording their votes. It was hoped that Mr. W. A. Smith, the brother of the hon. member for Norwich, and candidate at the last election, would arrive and offer himself. Mr. Smith was, unfortunately, in France, and could not return in time for the election; this hope was, therefore, at an end, and no resource was left but that one of the deputation should stand. Mr. Rawson, of Manchester, therefore, most reluctantly issued an address to the electors, and proceedings were immediately taken to canvass the borough.

We insert Mr. Rawson's address, and feel confident that every Free-Trader in the kingdom will approve the manly sentiments and the just opinions it contains:—

"Gentlemen,—The resignation of Mr. Hawkes having caused a vacancy in the representation of your borough, I have, at the earnest request of the friends of Free Trade in Dudley, consented to offer myself as a candidate for your suffrages.

"Free Trade I believe to be essential to the prosperity and happiness of all classes in this country. In this district the iron, nail, and glass trades have, until very lately, been in a state of great depression; the most skilled and hard-working men have scarcely been able to live by their labour.

"Every recurrence of insufficient harvests, and seasons of scarcity, must inevitably bring about periods of suffering, similar to those which you have just experienced, unless you can secure for the fruits of your industry a free exchange for the commodities of other countries.

"The repeal of the Corn Laws would increase your trade, and so find room for your ever-increasing population, by enabling you to sell your glass, iron, nails, and other manufactures, for the corn and provisions of foreign countries. There need never be want in England. The industry and skill of the people are unequalled, and yet the working men do not get a fair day's wages for a fair day's work; and never can until they are at liberty to work for the whole world, and take in payment whatever the world can give.

"Should I be chosen to represent you in the House of Commons, my utmost efforts shall be used to carry the total repeal of the Corn Laws, and of all other laws made for the benefit of the few, to the injury of the great masses of the people.

"I have the honour to be,
"Gentlemen, your faithful servant,
"William Rawson.

"Manchester, August 3, 1844."

On Monday evening a very numerous public meeting was held in the large Lancasterian School-room, Stafford-street, which was addressed in a speech of much ability by Robert R. Moore, Esq., and by Mr. Rawson, the Free-Trade candidate. A very excellent spirit pervaded the meeting, and a resolution to do all that could be done was manifested by those present. During Monday and Tuesday the canvass was prosecuted with zeal, and in all quarters where independence existed there was a most gratifying result. On Tuesday, Mr. Bright, M.P., arrived, and attended a second meeting held on the evening of that day in the Lancasterian School-room, which was crowded to excess. Mr. Palmer was in the chair, and addressed some excellent observations to the meeting. Mr. Bright spoke for about two hours, on the great question of freedom of industry, and on the solemn responsibility of electors. We have rarely seen a greater effect produced upon an audience. The arguments carried conviction to every mind, and the enthusiasm of the meeting was extraordinary. Mr. Bright alluded to the fact that iron-masters and manufacturers were acting along with Lord Ward's agents in retarding the triumph of Free-Trade principles. He felt a deep commiseration for the electors, whose position and whose necessities almost compelled them to submit to the dictation of the powerful monopolists. He was not surprised that Lord Ward and his order should work for "protection" whilst they believed that their interests and rents were involved in the question of its abolition; but he expressed the utter abhorrence he felt that men employing their capital in trade and manufactures, and dependent on the industry of the operative class, should combine with the lordly monopolist to ruin their own order. He compared them to the wretches who, whilst their town was surrounded by a hostile army panting for the spoliation of its inhabitants, should traitorously throw open the gates and invite the spoilers to come in and gorge themselves with their prey. He felt so deeply the conduct of such men that he knew hardly how to speak of them, but hoped they might be marked as traitors to their order, and as men unworthy of all confidence, and deserving of the scorn and contempt of every right-minded citizen of a free country.

The nomination took place this morning (Wednesday), when about 5000 persons assembled. Mr. Benbow, the monopolist candidate, was proposed by Mr. Badger, a glass and nail manufacturer, and seconded by Captain Bennett; Mr. Rawson was proposed by Charles Twamley, Esq., solicitor, and seconded by the Rev. J. Palmer. Mr. Benbow's speech was not heard beyond the few who surrounded him on the hustings, but he agreed that Free Trade was a good thing if other nations would become Free-Traders. Mr. Rawson spoke with great freedom and effect. He pointed out the hollowness of the plea that the Corn Law protected the industry of the people, for by it the price of their food was raised and the value of their labour depreciated. He drew a picture of the terrible sufferings which the population of this district have so recently endured, and proved its intimate connexion with the high price of food during the years 1839, 1840, and 1841; and tracing the matter still further, he clearly showed how reviving prosperity was the attendant on reduced prices of food, the consequence of more abundant harvests. These points were loudly cheered, and were evidently well understood by the auditory.

He then stated his conviction that two-thirds of the electors would vote for him if they dared; wherever he had gone they had wished him success, and declared that he should have their support if they could vote for him without the risk of losing their employment. He asked his honourable opponent on behalf of these voters to pledge himself before that meeting that no unfair conduct would be pursued towards those who voted according to their consciences at this election. After this appeal Mr. Rawson, turning towards his opponent, said, "I pause, Sir, for a reply;" but the monopolist candidate remained silent amidst the shouts of the people—"*Let us vote as we like.*"

Mr. Bolton, the returning officer, then called for a show of hands, when certainly two-thirds of the immense multitude raised their hands in favour of Mr. Rawson. The decision of the returning officer was at once given in his favour, amidst the most deafening cheers from the assembled thousands, and the countenances of the poor colliers who had been brought against him bore evidences of no less pleasure from the decision than did those of the great majority of the assemblage.

After the nomination, Mr. Godson, M.P., addressed a crowd from a window of the hotel, and certainly a more disgraceful speech was never made by any man calling himself respectable. He denounced all the League deputation as paid to agitate the Free-Trade question. He heaped his filthy slanders upon the manufacturers of the north of England, and declared that in the best of times the cotton-spinners and millowners have never paid wages sufficient to buy good wheaten bread for their workmen. He did not show how this, if it were true, could justify a law to make bread dear, whilst there was no law to raise the wages of the workmen. But Mr. Godson is very ignorant, or he knows that his charge is a direct and unblushing falsehood, as well as that which he brought against the Lancashire manufacturers, of being guilty of paying all their wages in goods, and often wholly in potatoes. If there be a county in England where the truck system is rarely practised, it is Lancashire; and if there be one trade more free from it than another, it is in the cotton trade itself. But Mr. Godson is a man whose chief merit is in a face of unsurpassable assurance, and whose political changes mark him a renegade of the very first water. As a lawyer he might, without undue modesty, say less about men being paid to advocate any particular opinions; and if he had been in the crowd, at the close of his speech, he would have heard the working men who had listened to him speculating upon how much *he* was paid for making a speech most abusive of better men than himself, and which a man less deeply sunk in political profligacy would have hesitated from uttering.

The whole discussion has turned on the question of Free Trade; not a single question on any other political subject has been asked during the week; and on that great question much progress has been made in the public mind of this locality.

Mr. W. A. Smith, the candidate at the last election, arrived very late on Tuesday evening, but unfortunately too late to make it possible for him to take the place of Mr. Rawson, who, had he arrived earlier, would most gladly have resigned in his favour. Mr. Smith is deservedly popular with the constituency of Dudley.

Thursday, Three o'clock.—The election has terminated in the return of the nominee of the old castle influence. No one expected anything else, and there is, consequently, no disappointment experienced. The League came here merely to disseminate the principles of Free Trade, and not to win the election. That they knew they could not do, but they also well know that had they the ballot they would have won. There is not a man, woman, or child in Dudley, having arrived at the use of reason, and uninfluenced by the terror of their superiors, who would not vote for cheap bread and plenty of it. At present, however, the greater part of the people have no will, and were obliged to vote as they were compelled.—*Morning Chronicle.*

FINAL CLOSE OF THE POLL.

Free-Trader.		Poll in 1837.
Mr. Rawson	175	180
Monopolist.		
Mr. Benbow	388	436
	563	616
Monopolist majority..	213	256

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

PETER PLAYFAIR'S LETTERS.—No. VI.

Leyden, July 15, 1844.

Leyden, as I before stated, has been rendered celebrated in the annals of the Low Countries, and, indeed, in the history of the world, by the siege which it endured from the Spaniards in 1573 and 1574. The military defence of the city was intrusted to John Vandardoes. The burgomaster or mayor of the town—and every small village in Holland and Belgium has its burgomaster—was Peter Vanderwerf; and the example of heroism and endurance afforded by the citizens under the guidance of these two men has never been surpassed in any country. When Vanderdoes was urged by the Spanish general to surrender the town, he replied, in the name of the inhabitants, "that when provisions failed them they would devour their left hands, reserving their right to defend their liberties." For nearly four months the inhabitants held out, without murmuring; every individual, even to the women and children, taking a share in the defence. For the last seven weeks of the siege, bread had not been seen within the walls, provisions were exhausted, and the horrors of famine had driven the besieged to appease their hunger with the flesh of horses, dogs, cats, and other foul animals; roots and weeds were eagerly sought for. So strictly was the blockade maintained that every attempt of the friends of the besieged to throw in provisions had failed. Pestilence followed in the train of famine, and carried off at least 6000 of the inhabitants; so that the duty of burying the dead was almost too severe for those that remained, worn out as they were by fatigue and emaciation. At length two carrier pigeons flew into the town, bearing tidings that relief was at hand. The Prince of Orange had finally adopted the determination of cutting the dykes of the Maas and Yssl, to relieve the heroic town. As this fearful alternative could not be resorted to without involving in total ruin the whole province, it is not to be wondered at that it was only adopted after much hesitation and as a last resource. But the inundation, even when the water was admitted, did not produce the anticipated results. Although the entire country between Rotterdam, Gouda, Dordrecht, and Leyden was submerged, the water about Leyden only rose a few feet. The flotilla of 200 boats, built by the Prince of Orange at Rotterdam, and destined for the relief of the town, was prevented from approaching it from the insufficiency of the water, though the inhabitants could easily see it from their walls. Then it was that, driven frantic by disappointment as well as suffering, they approached in a tumultuous mob, and demanded of the burgomaster bread, or the surrender of the town. "I have sworn to defend this town," said the heroic citizen, "and, by God's help, I mean to keep the oath. Bread I have none for myself or for you, but if my body can afford you relief, and enable you to prolong the defence, take it and tear it to pieces, and let those who are most hungry amongst you share it." Such noble devotion was not without its effect; the most clamorous were abashed, and they all retired in silence. But, fortunately, the misery of the besieged was now nearly at an end, and another Power, above that of man, came to the relief of the town of Leyden. The wind, which for several weeks had been blowing off shore, suddenly veered round. A violent storm arose: the waters were driven in through the cuttings of the dykes in large quantity; the Dutch fleet was enabled to float up to the town: a sort of amphibious battle was fought on the causeways, and even among the branches of the trees. The Spaniards were repulsed and the city rescued. To reward the citizens of Leyden for this noble defence the Stadtholder offered them a choice—of exemption from taxes for a definite period, or the outlay of a sum of money on some public building or institution; they chose the latter, and were granted a charter of incorporation for the University, since so renowned throughout Europe. The university, like the city of Leyden, has seen its palmiest days; but its museums are still the finest in the world. The Museum of Natural History, though not one of the largest, is the most perfect for the beauty of its specimens in Europe; more especially in the productions of the East and of New Holland. The Botanical Garden, formerly under the care of the great Boerhaave, contains also a choice and perfect collection of living plants; and the dried herbarium is equally complete. Grotius, the most able expounder of international law, was a professor at Leyden, and our own Oliver Goldsmith was a pupil there. The pupils in the different faculties now amount to about eight hundred, and the schools of medicine and of law still maintain their ancient celebrity. Many foreign students resort to the University for instruction. The examinations for the doctorate in medicine are three in number; they are conducted in Latin, and the expense of becoming a doctor of medicine of the University of Leyden amounts to about 315 florins, or £27. Degrees in arts and in laws are obtained in the same way, and the fees amount to about the same sum; but no degrees whatever are granted by the University except after the ordeal of public examination. The University is, in all its departments, in a high state of efficiency; but the students, who formerly counted by thousands, now count by hundreds or by tens; and the city itself, which formerly contained a quarter of a million of inhabitants, now numbers little more than a tithe of its population. England, Ireland, and Scotland, France, Germany, and Italy, the kingdoms of the East, and the far West, all sent their contingents to swell the ranks of the aspirants for knowledge in the colleges of Leyden. No education was considered complete until a pilgrimage had been made to this ancient and hallowed shrine of learning. Evelyn, who was a student at Leyden, quaintly remarks, "I have now arrived at the top-gallant-mast and crosstrees of learning, and have ascended, with difficult steps and slow, into the clear atmosphere of knowledge and of truth. Honour to the men of Leyden who have piloted us on, and opened to future generations vast regions which the light of science alone can penetrate! Let men of other days remember what the pioneers of knowledge have done for them in those that are past." The Dutch, at this and at every period of their existence as an independent state, have been essentially a commercial nation. The country itself possessed few internal sources of wealth; but commerce came to their aid, supplying them with money, or with its equivalent in the rich and rare productions of Africa and of Asia. Learning followed in the train of commerce; and the rich collections in natural history evidence the fact that the Dutch were not so absorbed in trading transactions as to be insensible to the higher and more ennobling pursuit of knowledge. Every town in Holland of any size has its botanical garden and its museum, open to the public from morning to night; and, to the credit of the Dutch be it spoken, they are too proud of these evidences of national taste to practise or permit any pillage or depredation, although the collections are so slightly guarded as to expose them greatly to this risk.

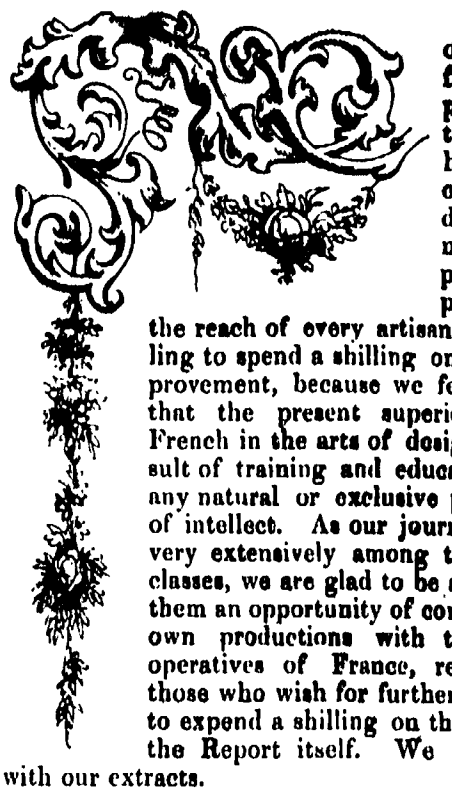
The Hague, July 20, 1844.

From Leyden to the Hague the land is thickly spread with cottages, villas, country seats, and gardens, and the scenery throughout presents the same rich but monotonous display of rural beauty. Although long the residence of the sovereign prince, and the seat of government, the Hague has only slowly risen from its condition of a village to that of a great town. Other Dutch cities owe their rise to commerce or to manufactures, or, as in the case of Leyden, to learning; but the Hague owes its rise and prosperity entirely to the presence of the court, the foreign ambassadors, and the native parliament or States General. Although the Hague is situated near to the sea, the canals and streams do not empty themselves into it, and they contain, in consequence, more stagnant water than any town in Holland. Fevers are common; and an Irishman, whom I saw at the hotel, insisted upon it that the *ague* was first met with at the *Hague*, from which he said it derived its name, with the omission of the first letter. Without stopping to question this opinion, we are bound to confess that the low fever arising from marsh miasm is very common in this district; and strangers who visit the country, and are incautious in exposing themselves to the night air, frequently suffer from its effects. If it were not for the windmills, by whose action the stagnant water is displaced and pushed out into the canal leading to Delft, the place would be unendurable as a residence. The principal promenade is the *Bosch*, or *wood*, a beautiful park nearly two miles long, and laid out in a style not unlike Kensington Gardens. It abounds in fine forest trees, and is one of the few places in Holland in which they are allowed to grow, as Nature designed, unclipped and untouched, and with all the luxuriance of their spreading foliage. The ground is diversified with fine sheets of water, and nothing can be more pleasant than the promenade through its delightful and refreshing groves. On Sunday the band of the Harmonic Society give an open-air concert, and the place is crowded with visitors. The Dutch, though a Protestant people, are by no means behind their neighbours, the Flemings, and the French, in their enjoyment of the Sunday; with the exception of dancing and theatricals, almost every other amusement is encouraged.

At the Hague I witnessed a public punishment which deserves to be mentioned. Seventeen criminals were brought on to the scaffold, which was built of wood, painted a red colour, and placed in the centre of the old square. Some of them were whipped; others, deemed incorrigible, were branded; but the chief criminal, whose crime was no less than that of murder, after witnessing the minor punishments, was brought forward in his turn. His story was as follows:—Ten years before he had quarrelled with his wife, and in a fit of passion had struck her a blow which proved fatal. He fled from justice and was sought for in vain; until after ten years, when the pursuit had ceased, he suddenly, goaded by conscience, determined upon delivering himself up to justice. He was tried and sentenced to death, and now stood on the scaffold. His appearance was that of a man about 45 years of age, but I was told that he was full 10 years younger. He had evidently been a person of powerful, athletic frame, but was now wasted and feeble: the gnawings of the "worm that dieth not" had brought him to his present state of emaciation. His appearance, and the fact of his having delivered himself up to punishment, excited commiseration in his favour, and an audible murmur was heard through the crowd when the executioners proceeded to strip him, and prepare the fatal block. Capital punishment is executed in Holland not with the guillotine, but with the sword; and the neck and shoulders of the criminal being bared, and the religious services finished, the head was placed upon the block, with a heap of sand beneath it to catch the blood. The executioner then took his place, with the sword of justice in his hand, to the left and behind the criminal; the sword was uplifted, but descended, not as I expected, with the full force of the arm, but was drawn three times lightly over the neck without cutting or breaking the skin. The criminal was then told that, in consequence of the mitigating circumstances of his case, the royal prerogative of mercy had been put in force, and his sentence commuted to hard labour for life in the galleys. I do not know whether he was prepared for this result; but if otherwise the sudden transition from the very "valley of the shadow of death" to the region of life, even though a life in the galleys, must have been startling and terrible. The criminal, however, betrayed but little emotion, and probably knew, which I as a spectator did not, what would be the result. To suppose otherwise would be to imagine a refinement of cruelty foreign to the character of the nation. I was also confirmed in this supposition by being informed afterwards, that, in all cases in which the capital sentence is pronounced in Holland, the form must be gone through, and the letter of the law complied with. The King can alter the final sentence, but the form of the sentence, as pronounced by the tribunal, is invariably adhered to. It is a curious fact, that, when the result became apparent to the spectators, a revulsion of feeling towards the prisoner seemed to occur, and the murmur which would have checked the execution swelled at once into an expression of disapprobation at the loss of the tragedy which they had wound themselves up to witness. The assembly consisted of the same class of persons who attend such sights in our own country; but, though the square was nearly filled with men, I could only count about a dozen women among the spectators; and the windows of the square were generally closed, instead of being filled with persons eager to see the sight. I did not see a single instance of drunkenness during the day, and but little misplaced levity. I understood that no capital execution had taken place before for many years, except one of a double murderer at Utrecht; and I believe that the Dutch, in common with other civilized nations, are coming rapidly to the conclusion that judicial murders do not operate as warnings to prevent other murders, and that there are better uses to put even criminals to than that of taking their lives. P. P.

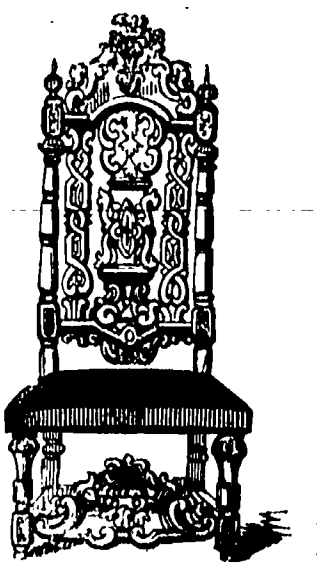
REVIEW.

Report on the Exposition of the Industrial Arts of France in the Museum-Palace in Paris. Art-Union, No. 70. London: How. Second notice.

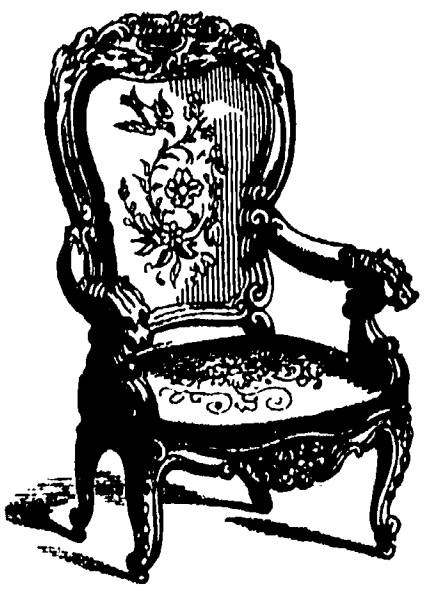


We continue our extracts from this Report, which the publishers have judiciously produced at a moderate price, to as to place it within the reach of every artisan who is willing to spend a shilling on his own improvement, because we feel convinced that the present superiority of the French in the arts of design is the result of training and education, not of any natural or exclusive pre-eminence of intellect. As our journal circulates very extensively among the operative classes, we are glad to be able to afford them an opportunity of comparing their own productions with those of the operatives of France, recommending those who wish for further information to expend a shilling on the purchase of the Report itself. We now proceed with our extracts.

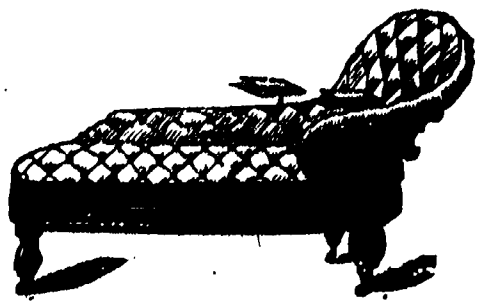
"In 1834 most of the articles of domestic furniture sent to the Exposition by the cabinet-makers of Paris, who engross almost exclusively the trade of France, were bad imitations of the worst English style. We have already mentioned that the Revolution brought in its train a complete change in the domestic furniture of France, compelling the artisans to abandon those massive designs for articles on a large scale, and to seek forms more in harmony with apartments of moderate size. Comfort, a word, by the way, which has now become thoroughly naturalized in the French language, began to be preferred to luxury. Under these circumstances it was natural that the French artisans should have recourse to Great Britain for the forms which their altered circumstances required, as in our country commercial and manufacturing enterprise had created a number of moderate fortunes, such as did not exist in France until after the Revolution, and the consequent wars had run their course. The first essays of imitation were miserably bad; but the French artisans have now struck out a new style, in which they have combined the old forms of decoration with the English shapes of comfort. The chair which we give, as an example of this new style, is also a specimen of an art which has made great advances in France within the last few years, that is the art of sculpturing wood by mechanical processes. The principle of one of those processes, and that which we believe to be the most successful, may be described in general terms as a combination of the lathe and the pantagraph: the latter principle in its application enabling the artisan to enlarge or diminish the size of his copy of the pattern at his discretion.



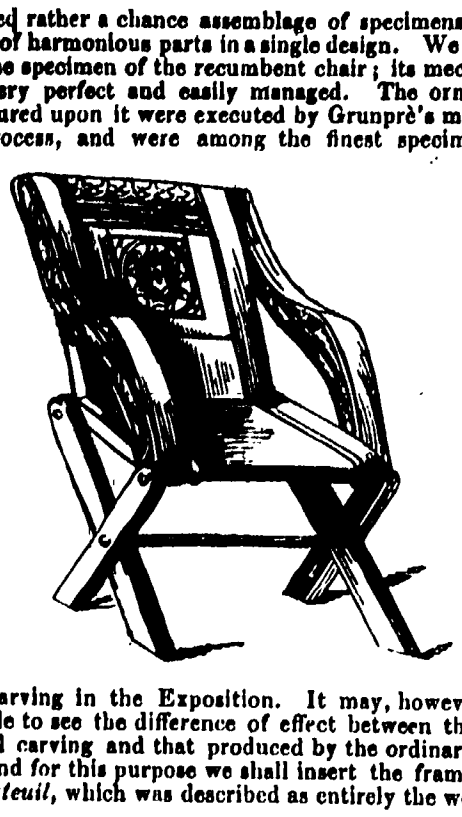
"The arm-chairs (*fauteuils*) are generally more perfectly modelled in the style of Louis XIV. than the other articles of furniture, and they are upholstered more richly than has been the fashion for the last century. Satin, figured velvet, and embossed leather, were the favourite materials for covering the soft backs and cushions; but it appeared to us that the embossed leather did not harmonize with the general effect. All the square-backed chairs had an awkward stiffness and rigidity in their appearance, which was rendered more striking by the flowing curvilinear outline of such *fauteuils* as that which we have copied. In couches there were several patterns which might be given as examples of simple elegance; we have engraved the design of one which was particularly pleasing



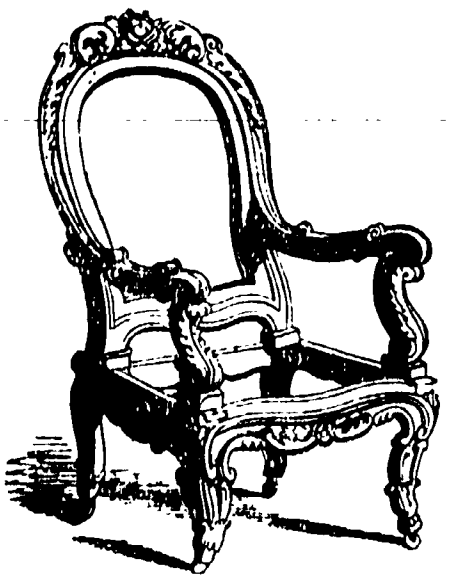
in its effect. But there were some others overlaid with such a profusion of inconsistent ornaments, that they re-



sembled rather a chance assemblage of specimens than a union of harmonious parts in a single design. We noticed out one specimen of the recumbent chair; its mechanism was very perfect and easily managed. The ornaments sculptured upon it were executed by Grunprè's mechanical process, and were among the finest specimens of



wood-carving in the Exposition. It may, however, be desirable to see the difference of effect between the mechanical carving and that produced by the ordinary process; and for this purpose we shall insert the framework of a *fauteuil*, which was described as entirely the work of

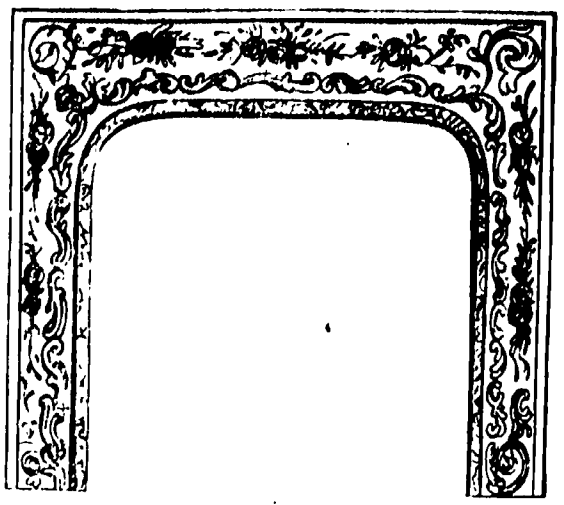


the hand, without any assistance from the mechanical processes. We did not think the hand-carving at all superior to that produced by mechanical means, while the latter had the obvious advantage of being attainable at less cost. It is said that some upholsterers have tried the experiment of getting chairs in plain wooden frames, and encrusting them with ornaments in *papier-mâché* and the *chauvre-impermeable*; but we saw no specimens in the Exposition."

Several articles were suggestive of designs extending to a wider range than the material on which they appeared; as, for instance, the decoration of letter-paper placed at the beginning of this article. On this subject we find the following remarks in the report:—

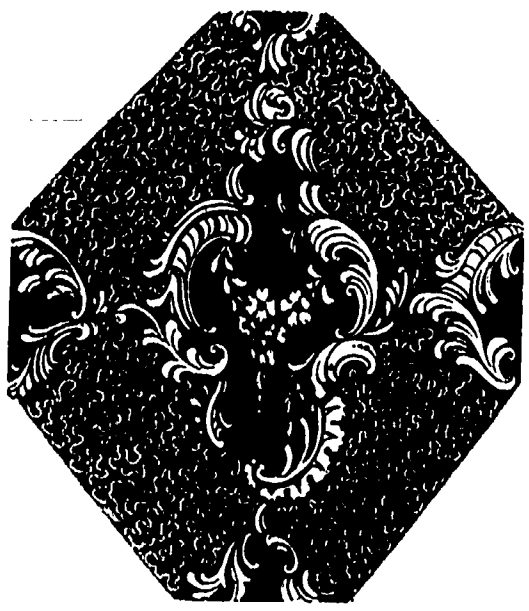
"While discussing these minor matters, we may take this opportunity of noticing the beauty of the *papéterie de luxe*, which was abundantly displayed at the Exposition, not merely for its own sake, but for the suggestiveness of the designs, which are applicable to a very wide range of manufacturing production. The scroll, in that which we have delineated, may, for instance, be reproduced in textile fabrics, in paper-hangings, and in metallic ornaments, with great advantage. The graceful grouping of the flowers, and the management of the pendent festoons, may also convey useful hints, for in nothing do the English designers for calico-printers more signally fail than in their management of pendent flowers and festoons. We may take in connexion with this a specimen of damasking on steel, which forms the cover of a

souvenir, and is equally remarkable for the beauty of its scroll-work, because it gives us an opportunity of again directing attention to what we regard as an excellence in the French artists, their making each design accurately fit the space it is intended to cover. We examined some scores of specimens of damasked steel, and did not find a single instance of a pattern broken off by a corner. The style in both these patterns is not new in its main features; but we wish to call attention to the boldness and decision manifested by the designers in their treatment of the subject. We subjoin a design for a border which we deem equally meritorious."

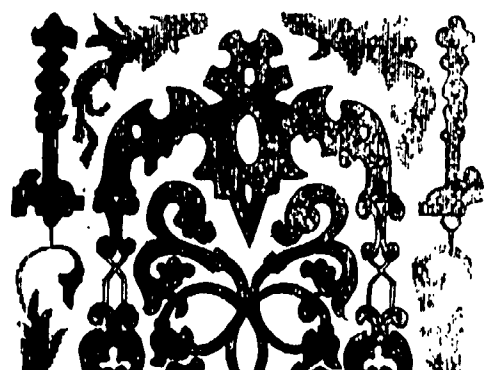


The following judicious remarks are made on the designs for paper-hanging, displayed at the Exposition:—

"Although we shall have occasion to dwell at more length than we can now afford on the subject of the paper-hangings displayed in the Exhibition, we must say a few words on the subject here in connexion with our more immediate topic, house decoration. We select two patterns; one of which illustrates the small panel, and the other the running pattern. The first of these exhibits a happy combination of the minor elements of *la Renaissance* with the more elaborate, and, at the same time, the bolder forms of the style of Louis XIV. It will be seen that the sweeping outlines of the larger portions of the pattern exhibit a complete harmony of curved forms, the diversities of the minor parts being all strictly subordinate to the grand unity of the centre. A



great portion of the excellence of this pattern is necessarily lost in our engraving, which cannot, of course, give the exquisite relief and blending of its colours. The flowers in the centre were really as fine as some of the ordinary flower-pieces painted in oil, and the groundwork had at a distance the effect of the richest satin. The



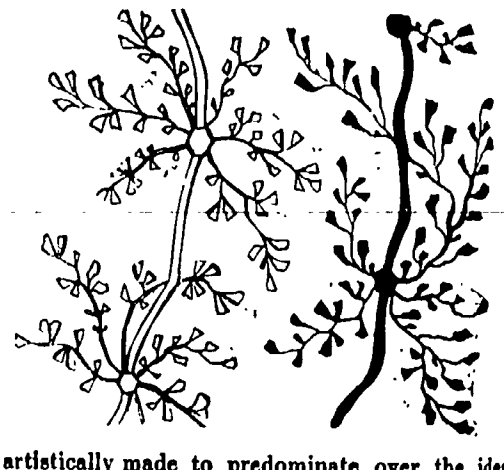
running pattern was more elaborate in its design, and more purely in the style of Louis XIV. Where the design for running pattern is composed of purely fanciful forms, and not a reproduction of flowers, scenery, &c., we should recommend the adoption of a design, which, however apparently simple, should have sufficient complication not to be easily taken in at a glance. The running pattern is designed to extend over a wide space, through which it is to be continuous; and the skill of the artist must be exercised to hide as much as possible the facts of reproduction and repetition. Now, this fact of repetition becomes almost painfully apparent when the pattern is too definite, and its forms brought too obviously into mathematical relations; the style of Louis XIV. errs generally in the opposite extreme, for it frequently discards not merely mathematical but even artistic relations between its parts, reminding us of Gray's old manor-house, full of

"'Long passages that lead to nothing.'

"In the design which we have copied, it will be seen that the artist has kept the notion of continuity steadily in view, so as to hide very cleverly where the processes of reproduction and repetition commence, and to convey the impression that the pattern, to whatever extent carried, has an unbroken and perfect unity. We saw some specimens of paper in which the fact of continuity was disguised by breaking up the pattern to some extent and baffling the eye by fragments and interruptions; this artifice of design was, however, best shown in a figured silk, an engraving of which is annexed. The use of run-

ning patterns in paper-hangings is very forcibly felt when we compare them with panel-patterns. The latter look far best in the piece, and are perhaps the most pleasing when casually examined; but for a room, in which the same parties constantly assemble with the same objects before their eyes, we think that the sameness of the panellings, however well each might be executed, would produce a heavy and very wearisome effect.

"The French designers, acting on the principle which we have enunciated and endeavoured to develop in the last paragraph, have laboured very strenuously of late to conquer the effect of reproduction and repetition in their flower-patterns. We take as an example a pattern of a figured silk, in which the idea of continuity has been



very artistically made to predominate over the idea of reproduction. But artists should bear in mind that this disguise is much easier attained in textile fabrics than in a stiff material to cover a flat surface, like paper-hangings; the folds of the drapery give great assistance in hiding the fact of continuity.

"There were a few specimens of paper imitations of fresco-panellings which possessed considerable merit, but we believe that the style to which they belong is not very popular in France. We saw very few arabesques, and none that deserved special notice; and we saw no designs for the decoration of ceilings, a branch of domestic ornament which we are glad to find making great progress in England. Borderings, mouldings, and other minor decorative ornaments were exhibited in great abundance, but they were so crowded upon each other as to defy all possibility of close and minute examination."

In conclusion, we have to express our thanks to the proprietors of the "Art-Union" for their liberality in giving us the use of their cuts; they have done so because they knew that this journal circulates largely among the operatives, and therefore was a good medium for showing them the progress of design amongst their brethren in France, and raising in their breasts feelings of generous emulation. The only rivalry between two such nations as England and France should be a struggle for elevating and benefiting humanity.

Mr. Day's "celebrated" Speech.—Mr. Hill, of Peterborough, has addressed a clever letter to the *Cambridge Independent*, exposing a statement which recently appeared in that paper, to the effect that Mr. Day's "celebrated" protection speech at Huntingdon had reached a forty-sixth edition. Mr. Hill says:—"The circumstance should be known (in order to prevent the unnecessary suspense and anxiety of those readers to whom the forty-sixth edition may be inadequate to furnish a supply; and who, therefore, may be kept in painful suspense waiting for the forty-seventh edition,) that *numerous copies of the early editions are yet on sale*. They are to be met with at many booksellers' in town and country. As recently as last week, in passing a shop in Chancery-lane, where Mr. Day's publications are sold, I was rather amused to see copies of the *second* edition, and the *fourth* edition, of the same speech of Mr. Day, exhibited in the same window; and it occurred to me rather forcibly, 'Why should it be necessary to publish a fourth edition when the second is yet unsold?' But, of course, if it was necessary to publish a fourth edition before the second was sold, it might, in like manner, and for the same reason, become necessary to publish a forty-sixth, or a one hundred and forty-sixth; and how greatly must this increase the celebrity of the 'celebrated speech!'"

The Maidstone Farmers' Club have resolved, after discussion, "That it appears to the members of this club that in this district it is most beneficial to the community at large that arable farms should not exceed 500 acres in extent, nor be less than 250 acres."—*Maidstone Gazette*.

AGRICULTURE.

A POLITICAL HARLEQUINADE.

The tricks and transformations which the political landlords, who are the most vehement supporters of monopoly, have performed before the faces of the farmers of England must, we should think, have given to those farmers a pretty accurate measure of the value of the opinions and consistency of that class of politicians. In fact, none have more loudly complained of this than the farmers themselves. But it was reserved for the Honourable Dudley Ryder and Lord Grimston, two of the members for the county of Hertford, to offer a practical instance of the lengths to which this sort of political gyration may be carried with impunity, or, at all events, without instant and summary punishment.

Not long since one of those catch-penny farces called wool fairs was exhibited at Hemel Hempsted, in Hertfordshire, and of course, as in duty bound, two of the county members were there to help to keep up the delusion that squires can coax wool-buyers to give to farmers *something more than the market price of wool*, for the sake of winning a silver spoon or plated pap-dish. Well, poor Lord Grimston cannot say much for himself anywhere, and probably the less he says the better for his own credit; and therefore Mr. Ryder, who is volubly violent where he is sure he cannot be answered, *did* the speech for the occasion. Being met at the wool fair, and wool being the article with which their heads were filled, wool naturally welled out of their mouths; and accordingly we find Mr. Ryder, after alluding to the recent measure of free trade in wool passed by Sir Robert Peel and his Parliament, and after referring to some official returns which proved that we have always sold our wool at the highest price *when most foreign wool* has been imported, thus eloquently defended the ministerial measure:—

"It was clear, therefore," said the monopolist member, "that, when they had taxed foreign wool the highest, they had taxed English wool higher at the same time; and the reason was perfectly obvious, because it turned out, in the competition with foreign nations, that every one was endeavouring to make use of the produce within its own boundary. (Hear.) On a statement of these facts, then, he arrived at the conclusion, that they were *interested in obtaining the finest wools from abroad at the lowest possible price*; in fact, they *could not dispense with the use of them* if they were to maintain their pre-eminence in the manufactures of the country."

And here some symptom of dissent and uneasiness having been manifested amongst the no longer "wool-protected" auditors, Mr. Ryder, with all the dignity and energy of injured innocence, added:—

"He had taken the liberty of stating these facts, because, after all, the question must be decided by facts, and by facts alone. (Hear, hear.) *Their theories might be very fine, and their prophecies thought to be very sound at the time*, but in dealing with questions of this sort, *experience and not theory must decide.* (Hear, hear.) He had shown by incontrovertible facts that, in proportion *as they had admitted foreign wool at a low rate of duty, to mix with English wools, British manufactures had prospered, and British wool had risen in price.* He did not think that this happy union between English and foreign wool-growers ought to be dissolved, or that they shold interpose a Doctors' Commons fiat to destroy the matrimonial engagement. ('Hear, hear,' and laughter). If they did so, *they would not only damage the manufacturer, but they would damage themselves.*"

This is all true enough, and it shows that Mr. Ryder is undergoing a not unpromising novitiate in the doctrines of Free Trade. But he should have been neither surprised nor angry that the farmers exhibited some impatience at hearing, in 1844, such doctrines *from him* upon the subject of a free trade in wool, who, at the very same place, and on a precisely similar occasion—no longer ago than June, 1843—made the following decisive speech:—

"This very evening there is to be brought forward in the House of Commons a proposition *for lowering the duty on wool*, and we (meaning himself and Lord Grimston) *intend to go back to town by the six o'clock train in order to oppose that motion*, for I do not think that, with 45,000 lbs. of wool in Hemel Hempstead, WE WANT MUCH FROM ABROAD." ("HEAR" AND CHEERS.)

Of course this speech of 1843 was received with "'hear' and cheers," but we do not observe any "hear" or "cheers" appended to that of 1844.

Now, what must a person who had not acquired some knowledge of the "reciprocal confidence between English landlords and tenants" have thought of the *face* of the man who could make, and the sanity of the audience who could listen to, two such speeches in two consecutive years?

This is not simply Jim-Crowism, it is not merely the case of a public man "turning his back upon himself," it is complete political Jack-Puddingism. If the Honourable Dudley Ryder had gone to the Hemel Hempsted wool fair and stood upon his head for the amusement of the rustics, he could not have excited the surprise of the farmers more than he did by his actual exhibition;—and, if he had any real friends there, they could not have grieved more over such an act of Merry-Andrewism than they must have done at his political Harlequinade.

But though Mr. Ryder—and Lord Grimston went through *his* clumsy tumble in imitation of his colleague—offers a palpable and ludicrous instance of effrontery, in first obtaining his seat at the hands of the farmers to oppose Free Trade in everything or anything, and then coming back to them and telling them, in despiteful and contemptuous language, such as has never been addressed to them by the Free-Traders, that "all their theories and prophecies might be very fine," but that, whether they knew it or not, free trade in wool was the best thing which could happen for them, he does not stand alone. Has not Sir Robert Peel done precisely the same thing upon a larger scale, and perhaps with a little more dexterity? And has not the same farce—peradventure not quite so broadly—been played upon this very wool question by every monopolist county member who has ventured to meet his constituents?

And let us call to the attention of farmers the false pretence upon which free trade in wool is justified by the monopolists of corn, and which Mr. Ryder, following his political leaders, used at Hemel Hempsted. He said "that in proportion as they admitted foreign wool at a low rate of duty, TO MIX WITH ENGLISH WOOLS, British manufactures had prospered, and British wool had risen in price." Now, this often-told tale about the mixture of foreign wool with British wool is a pure fiction. Nothing of the kind takes place to any extent in manufactures. Foreign wool is used for making some woollen articles and British wool for others, but there is no fabric of woollen manufacture made in this country in which the two kinds of wool are mixed together. This was distinctly stated by a wool-buyer, Mr. Morren, at the Chelmsford wool fair, in a speech to which we referred last week, who remarked, "There was a mistake at head-quarters, when it was said that a large quantity of English wool would be required to mix with foreign; *if they inquired of the manufacturers, they would find that was all* FUDGE. There was little mixing of wools; it was like sowing beans and wheat together. *The quantity used for mixing was only a few bags a year.*" Now, this is testimony of far more value to farmers than the statement of Mr. Ryder, who evinced at the *last* Hemel Hempsted wool fair such profound *knowledge* of the agriculture of the county he professes to represent, that he *did not know* whether long or short wool was the staple growth of Hertfordshire!

Yet such men as these proclaim themselves the special protectors of British farmers and of British agriculture!! Well may the agricultural interests exclaim, "Save us from *our friends!!*"

But all this political charlatanry is not without a motive. The wool duty was abandoned by the Government and its monopolist adherents in the hope of saving the greater monopoly of corn. Yet, the deed having been done, the result is telling immensely in favour of the principle of Free Trade; and hence the monopolists of food are anxiously seeking to draw a distinction between the principles which govern the trade in wool and those applicable to the trade in corn. No such distinction, however, has any existence, except in the speeches of monopolist members of Parliament; and the day is not very far distant when that which has been found to occur with regard to wool will happen in the case of corn; large foreign importations will take place, and with each additional importation the market for home-grown corn will become more buoyant and active. Then, probably, the farmers will have lots of county members telling them that the more foreign corn they admit the more English corn will be required *to mix with it.* Such are the puerilities by which the political landlords imagine they can retain their influence over the farmers of England!

THE COST OF WHEAT-GROWING.

We have received a somewhat irate letter from Mr. R. L. Townsend, who vehemently attacked Earl Ducie for showing that wheat could, by means of improved husbandry and full capital, be grown at a cost so moderate that all foreign competition must be a mere bugbear to a good farmer. It seems that we have incurred the displeasure of this doughty monopolist by not reprinting *all* his letter, that which did not, as well as that which did relate to the matter in question. The whole of this omitted letter consists of a rather lame attempt at sharpness in making it appear that we were in error in referring to Mr. Morton's book, and that Mr. Morton's book is no authority; all of which is founded on pure misapprehension on the part of this writer, whose trustworthiness may be judged of by the circumstance we before mentioned, and which, for the benefit of those who put faith in these self-constituted monopolist authorities, we now repeat. After Earl Ducie had shown that Mr. Townsend's grand discovery was a simple misapprehension, his lordship invited him to inspect the accounts at Whitfield Farm; and this gentleman to that invitation magnanimously replies, "*I do not consider it at all necessary to accept his lordship's invitation to Whitfield Farm for the purpose of inspecting his farm-books; I am not a practical farmer*, and therefore not competent to enter into any discussion with Mr. Morton upon the subject of the charges entered in his lordship's accounts. *The only remark I shall therefore offer upon the subject of Lord Ducie's statement at Covent-garden is, that it materially differs from whatever I have either read or heard upon the subject of agriculture.*"

Now, what direction Mr. Townsend's agricultural reading may have taken, or to what sources he may have gone for oral information, we do not pretend to know; but it has been our fate to hear and see, from the protectionists, so much that is false in letter and in spirit, and so inconclusive in point of reasoning upon the subject of agriculture, that we can easily believe him to have had some industry both in reading and in personal inquiry, and that his knowledge of the subject may still be exceedingly small. But that a man, who now comes out "not" to be "a practical agriculturist," should make a violent and public charge against a nobleman admitted to be the best arable-land farmer in England, and then, when called upon to contradict or substantiate his charge, and for that purpose is invited to inspect the Whitfield accounts, should "not consider it at all necessary to accept the invitation," really does lead to a more unfavourable inference as to the writer's motives than can be accounted for on the ground of mere ignorance. Let the reader imagine how such an admission would be dealt with in a chancery suit! Or what sort of a figure a witness giving such an answer would make before a jury!

But the richest part of Mr. Townsend's letter to ourselves is its conclusion: having set out at length Lord Ducie's letter respecting his charge, and the *ingenuous* rejoinder we have mentioned, Mr. Townsend says:—

"I was directed to Mr. Morton's book by reading YOUR article headed 'How to get the best of an argument.'—LEAGUE paper, No. 39, June 22nd, p. 631. I observed the unfair advantage you were endeavouring to obtain by referring to Mr. Morton's book, and was determined to turn the tables upon you. *This, I contend, I have accomplished.* I defy you to shift *your* reference to Mr. Morton's book, which I gave in my letters, to Mr. Samuel Jonas, or any other person. *I hold the* LEAGUE *paper, and can produce it.* To those who have read your paper as *regularly* and *attentively* as myself, this dishonest effrontery will not appear remarkable, and by the majority of your readers I doubt not it will be highly applauded as a very clever trick; but to those who *are* gentlemen I should imagine it will afford subject for considerable doubt, whether they should longer encourage a paper thus proved to be so utterly regardless of fair play and of truth. *Pray do not for one moment imagine I have been sufficiently silly to* PAY *for your paper. It has been forwarded to me by a friend.*

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"July 30, 1844." "R. L. TOWNSEND.

Now, how Mr. Townsend has turned the tables upon us because he has misunderstood an estimate made in 1838 to be a present statement of actual results, or what unfair advantage we could gain by referring to Mr. Morton's supplement—not his appendix to his book on soils—published in 1843, which is his report of Whitfield Farm operations to July, 1842, it passeth our imagination to conceive.

Indeed, the monopolists give us so many fair advantages in argument over them, that we could not in conscience take an unfair one, did we conceive it possible that the truth—which is our object—could be made manifest by misrepresentation. We have no doubt that our readers will, with us, laugh at poor Mr. Townsend's compliment to "the majority" of them, and be glad to find that, though he has in this matter of the cost of wheat-growing shown himself silly enough for anything, he has enough of saving knowledge to read our paper at his "friend's" expense. It is our duty to sow the seed of sound information, and we hope that even such of it as falls by the way side and on the stony ground may not ultimately be altogether without fruit.

A FARMER ON FREE TRADE.

When a farmer of education and intelligence applies himself to understand the real merits of the Corn-Law question, he invariably becomes a most strenuous Free-Trader; for it only requires a calm and careful consideration of the events of the last thirty years as connected with agriculture to convince any rational person that no one has suffered by the restrictive system in anything like the same degree as the tenant-farmers—unless we must except the agricultural labourers. The welfare, however, of these two classes is so strictly identical, that suffering by the one is sure to be the cause or consequence of suffering to the other.

It is the instant perception of these truths, arising from his knowledge of husbandry, which always renders the Free-Trade farmer one of the most earnest Free-Traders. Now, few names are better known than that of Mr. C. H. Lattimore, who is a first-rate farmer, and a most sincere and effective advocate of an unrestricted trade in corn; and the following passages from his speech at the recent Anti-Corn-Law meeting at St. Alban's show how the left-handed Free Trade of Sir Robert Peel, which is anything but Free Trade in practice, affects the farmer injuriously. He said:—

"The passing of the tariff without a free trade in corn was the *greatest act of injustice* which could have been committed against the agriculturists. (Hear.) *The best means the farmer had of keeping his labourers employed, and providing means for the efficient cultivation of his land, was by keeping stock.* He did not care how cheap beef and mutton were, but he would say, let them have Free Trade, *in order that they might be enabled to produce it as cheaply as the foreigner*, and not be obliged, as they had been by the ministerial measures to produce *meat at great cost by using Corn-Law enhanced food, and to sell it at cheapened tariff prices.* (Cheers.) Did they believe that any minister would have dared to direct all his measures exclusively against the farmers, *if he was not convinced of their political prostration to the landowners' will?* (Hear.) Sir Robert Peel had got the votes of the farmers' friends by promising that they should not be injured by any of his measures. To the landowner he said—your rents are secure; to the tithe owner—your tithes are fixed; and I want to lower the price of mutton and beef, in order that you may be able to purchase them cheaper, and that will compensate you for the income-tax. He (Mr. Lattimore) *contended that they ought to have free trade in corn, in order to enable them to meet the foreigner in the market with stock.* He was last week in company with an extensive agriculturist and producer of stock, a thoroughly respectable and practical man, Mr. Hudson, of Castle Acre, Norfolk, and such was that gentleman's opinion of the operation of the tariff and existing system, that although, as he stated, *he fatted two hundred bullocks for Smithfield last year*, he said to him, Mr. Lattimore, 'How many do think I shall fat this?' He replied, 'Perhaps half that number.' 'No,' said Mr. Hudson, 'I shall only fatten *one*, and that one for the Smithfield show, *and not one head*

... untill I can see my way clear! So that there was a prospect of our having to pay dear for our beef and mutton before long, in consequence of Sir Robert Peel's cheapening tariff and restricted supply of corn."

Now, this is the evidence of two practical farmers of great experience and enterprise; and it is impossible for the monopolists to resist its force. This season will render it even more obvious; for while cattle food is scarce at home, and made dear by the Corn Laws, wheat, the protected article, being abundant in this country, will, in spite of protection, probably be exceedingly cheap. The measures of the "Protection" Ministry, therefore, contrive to do harm to the farmer at every turn.

Mr. Lattimore then referred to the relations—the most unsatisfactory relations—which exist between landlord and tenant, and asked—

"Were the landlords so confident of the good feeling of their tenantry as they said they were? Dare they trust them with liberty? If they were so confident, *why not give their tenants leases, and thus enable them to lay out money on the cultivation of their farms?* But there was no proof that the landlords had confidence in their tenants; why, they did not go amongst them, but sent their agents. (Hear.) He would not be so great a hypocrite as to tell the labourer that he was benefited by the present system; he could not be benefited by laws *which decreased the quantity of corn in the country, of labour, and of food.*"

And he thus truly described that egregious delusion, protection:—

"What they [the landlords] meant by protection was *protection to themselves.* What he asked was, that the farmers should be protected in the exercise of their consciences, that he and other men should never be placed in a situation in which they could not act as freemen, and that they might be enabled to love and respect the country they lived in, on account of the advantages they derived from its laws and institutions. He asked for the total abolition of the embargo which they laid upon the produce of the soil, and in that claim he was fortified by truth, justice, and humanity. *Hundreds of good labourers had recently been out of employ. Was it because farmers were unwilling to employ them? No; it was because farmers had not the protection of leases, and could not, therefore, employ them with safety to themselves; nor had they the means.* He appealed to the most experienced farmers then present whether they ever recollected so many good and honest labourers out of employ in the month of June as they had recently seen? And, further, *did not they fully accord with him that ample room existed for the profitable employment of one-third more labour upon the land of this county, provided means and security were available for that purpose?* (CHEERS.) THIS WAS TRULY AN AUCTIONEERING AGE. FARMING STOCK AND PRODUCE WAS LITERALLY GOING BY AUCTION. The buildings in our towns and villages were placarded with such repeated announcements of sale that they resembled backgammon-boards. *All this showed change. The Corn-Law system prevented the land from being properly cultivated, and the labourers from being employed.* Now, the labourer had as much right to have his industry protected as the nobleman his estate; *but what both the labourer and the farmer really wanted was, not laws to protect them, but to be let alone.*' ("HEAR" AND CHEERS.)

Now, all this coming from a farmer surely deserves more attention from his brother farmers than the absurdities of political monopolists such as Mr. Ryder, one of the members for Hertfordshire, upon whose political harlequinade we have remarked elsewhere.

THE BLINDNESS OF MONOPOLISTS.

Nothing is more extraordinary than the way in which landlord-monopolists venture on assertions with reference to agricultural matters, known to be untrue by every man who hears them. Assertions of this sort are really most injurious to the cause of "protection," if anything can be injurious to that system which only requires to be understood to be disavowed by every disinterested and intelligent person.

We last week drew the attention of our readers to a statement of this kind made by Mr. John Benett, M.P., at Devizes, together with the prompt contradiction the labourers assembled in public meeting at Stratton gave to that statement. In the local paper of last week we find various direct contradictions, by different correspondents, showing the contrary of Mr. Benett's statement, that the Wiltshire labourers have been constantly employed at good wages, to be the truth. But the most striking evidence of the prevalence of distress, and of the new and decisive means the Wiltshire labourers are taking to make it known, will be found in their intention to continue such meetings as they have held at Lyneham, Hillmarton, Stratton, and elsewhere. And they have called upon that excellent nobleman, Lord Radnor, to aid them in their rational purpose; who, in reply to a memorial addressed to him by two hundred working men, has written the following letter, every way worthy of an English peer and statesman.

"Grosvenor-street, July 25, 1844.

"To James Maslin,

"I have this day received a paper signed by yourself first, and by a great number of other persons, working men of the town of Highworth, requesting me to call a public meeting to inquire into *their grievances, and investigate the causes thereof.*

"I can assure you that I shall at all times be not only ready, but well pleased to assist the requisitionists in forwarding the object they have in view; and *I am very much encouraged to lend myself to promote this object by the report which I have received of the mode in which the meetings lately held at Lyneham and Stratton were conducted.*

"Unluckily I am prevented by different causes from being resident at the present time at Coleshill; but I hope to be there in a few weeks, and, while there, will not miss the first opportunity of calling such a meeting as you desire. And probably, as harvest is now coming on, it will be most convenient to you and the other requisitionists that it should be postponed for a short time.

"If, however, any such meeting should be likely to take place in the meantime, and I am informed of it, I will, if possible, attend; I have little doubt that I shall be able to do so, and, if in my power, it will give me great pleasure to take the opportunity of explaining my views of the *real cause of the difficulties under which the labouring classes are suffering, and of pointing out to them, what I consider to be the remedy.*

"With hearty good will towards you and the other requisitionists, and with great feeling of pride and satisfaction at the confidence you are inclined to place in me,

"I am, yours faithfully, "RADNOR."

And it is well observed by Mr. Arkell, who forwarded this letter to the *Wiltshire Independent*, that it ought to be published, because it is desirable that the suffering poor should be made aware that all the noblemen and landowners do not mock their sufferings in the way Mr. John Benett thought proper to do. Those who know anything of the rural districts, will also fully understand how much the countenance of Lord Radnor will tend to elicit the whole truth; for, as Mr. Arkell says,

"I know there are a great number of persons who are fearful *of the ruin which may be brought upon them, provided they were to move in anything likely to benefit the tradesmen and labourers in the country villages, unless they could show how the land would receive the greatest benefit at the same time.* To such persons of the labouring classes *Earl Radnor's letter would give great confidence,* and it would strengthen the voice of the poor hard-working artisans and little tradesmen in all the villages throughout the country, a class of persons who, I firmly believe, *are suffering nearly as much as the labourers themselves.*"

When the labourers suffer, those who live chiefly by their custom must suffer in nearly the same degree; and that is pretty much the case with the tradesmen and mechanics in the Wiltshire villages.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received a long communication from Birmingham, signed "A Radical Reformer," in reply to Mr. Sturge's letter. The following extract, consisting mainly of facts, is all that we can find room for; and we beg to decline further correspondence on a question with which the League shall not, with our consent, be mixed up. "Mr. Sturge tries insidiously to make it appear to the public, that in opposing Mr. Wm. Scholefield he was fighting against 'the two parties who are contending for political power.' These are his words as given in his letter in your paper; and in justice to Mr. Scholefield, to those who nominated him, and those who voted for him, I trust you will allow me to show who and what Mr. Scholefield is. He is an advocate for the total and immediate repeal of the Corn Law, and for Free Trade; and, like his respected father, favourable to relieving his poorer fellow-countrymen from those taxes which press upon their comforts, and substituting, if necessary, direct taxation upon property. He is in favour of the ballot, short parliaments, and, I venture to say, there are not thirty men in the House of Commons who would go further in extending the suffrage than Mr. Wm. Scholefield. So far from being connected with the aristocracy, he is in all his interests identified with the unprivileged classes of his countrymen, and a thoroughly honest and honourable man. Mr Sturge knows all this; and yet he tries to screen himself by insinuating that he was opposing a candidate who belonged to one of the two aristocratic parties who are contending for political power."

Several reviews, notices to correspondents, and other articles are unavoidably postponed.

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

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POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, August* 10, 1844

The election at Dudley has terminated as we anticipated. The farce of representation is nowhere to be seen in greater perfection. There are about 720 voters on the register; of this number there are probably not 200 who can give independent votes; the whole of the remainder are under the direct or indirect influence of Lord Ward. Mr. Benbow, the successful candidate, was the opponent of Mr. Villiers at Wolverhampton, and is the agent of Lord Ward: it is understood that he is put in to keep the seat for Lord Ward's brother, a young gentleman who is just of age.

Dudley is a manufacturing town containing about 30,000 inhabitants, who are chiefly employed in iron, glass, and nail manufactures. A part of the town and the principal part of the surrounding mining district belongs to Lord Ward. From the possession of this immense property, great numbers of the voters are in his employ; and it always a condition that they vote for his nominee. At every election a note is sent to each elector under the *direct* influence of his lordship, couched in the most courteous terms, respectfully requesting the vote and influence of such elector in favour of his lordship's candidate. This request is understood; and if not complied with, the offender is visited with the summary punishment of discharge from employment, or notice to quit land or premises, as the case may be.

His lordship, in addition to his direct, exercises perhaps a still more powerful influence *indirectly;* the mines chiefly belong to him, and are let on leases to the ironmasters. These leases, however, afford no security for independence on their part: there are so many conditions attached to them that they are exposed to constant loss and annoyance from an ill-natured and unfriendly agent, and therefore, on occasions of election contests, it is always the interest of the ironmasters not to offend his lordship by opposing his nominee. The ironmasters give employment to large numbers of the electors, and many of the shopkeepers are dependent on them. The same influences which are exercised by Lord Ward over his dependents are exercised by the ironmasters over theirs, and these influences are united to return whomsoever Lord Ward pleases to appoint. It is, therefore, surprising to see so great an amount of independence as exists.

It would be injustice to the people to say they do not *feel* the galling yoke of bondage—they *do* feel it, and on every occasion manifest the greatest impatience to break their bonds asunder. Their oppressors know the feelings of the people; but though they knew that they could carry the election by an overwhelming majority, they knew also that they could not carry the show of hands at the nomination, and therefore the collieries were stopped, and from Tipton alone 500 were marched early in the morning, walking 12 abreast, headed by their gang-leaders, or butty-men. Notwithstanding all these efforts, however, the show of hands at the nomination was carried by two to one in favour of Mr. Rawson.

There could be no better exemplification of the feelings of the people and the influences at work, than the fact that Mr. Rawson was more warmly received in the district of Netherton, belonging to Lord Ward, than in any part of the borough. Everywhere the electors said, "God bless you, we wish you success; and we wish we could vote for you!" But mark how they polled—110 voted for Benbow, and 5 voted for Rawson!

In the Shambles (B district), where the electors are shopkeepers, publicans, and independent working men, there were 54 voted for Rawson, and only 49 for Benbow.

Perhaps the best evidence of the meanness and insolence with which the monopolists have exercised their power at this election is the fact that the screw was put on members of the League, who have been unfortunately placed in such circumstances that their refusal to comply with degrading demands would have caused their ruin.

Here is a sad example of a town containing twenty-five thousand inhabitants, nearly all of whom are deeply interested in the prosperity of manufactures, as completely reduced to the condition of a pocket-borough as ever were Gatton and Old Sarum. The "free and independent electors" voted for Lord Ward's agent, and would have voted for his black footman, if he so pleased, though aware that they were thus sending to Parliament a decided enemy of their dearest interests:—

"Can such things be,
And overcome us like a summer cloud,
Without our special wonder?"

ACCOUCHEMENT OF HER MAJESTY.

WINDSOR CASTLE, Aug. 6.—This morning, at ten minutes before eight, the Queen was happily delivered of a prince. His Royal Highness Prince Albert, several Lords of her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and the Ladies of her Majesty's Bedchamber, being present.

The news was immediately made known to the town by the firing of the Park and Tower guns, and the Privy Council being assembled as soon as possible thereupon, at the Council Chamber, Whitehall, it was ordered that a form of thanksgiving for the Queen's safe delivery of a prince be prepared by his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, to be used in all churches and chapels on Sunday, the 11th of August, or the Sunday after the respective ministers shall receive the same.

In the House of Lords, on Tuesday night, the Duke of Wellington moved an address of congratulation to her Majesty on the joyful event which had taken place that day. Lord Melbourne seconded the motion. A similar address was adopted in the House of Commons, on the motion of Sir R. Peel.

A daily bulletin of her Majesty's health has since been issued: the last states that "Her Majesty and the infant Prince are going on favourably."

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

The *Morning Chronicle* states that M. Guizot has written to the French embassy at London, acknowledging that the French commandant at Tahiti had acted hastily towards Mr. Pritchard; but he considers that he was perfectly justified in sending him out of the Society Islands.

The strong language of Sir Robert Peel and Lord Aberdeen with reference to the outrage on the person of Mr. Pritchard, has raised quite a storm in the French newspapers, all of which speak as if France not England was the party aggrieved.

The French Chambers were prorogued on Monday.

Louis Philippe has sent an autograph letter to the King of Prussia, congratulating him on his late escape from assassination.

By telegraphic accounts received from all parts of France, the *fêtes* of July have been celebrated with the most perfect order.

The large worsted-spinning manufactory of M. L. Gouvy, near Verviers, was totally destroyed by fire on the 28th ult. The damage is estimated at more than 100,000f., but the building was insured. Two brothers employed on the premises, and who were asleep in the garret, were burnt to death.

The great fair of Beaucaire has this year been extremely brisk in all branches of trade, more foreign dealers having attended than in former years. The most numerous have been Spaniards, who came to purchase goods of mixed silk and wool, and silk and cotton, which are now admitted into Spain on payment of moderate duties, instead of being, as formerly, absolutely prohibited. Larger purchases were made for Nice, Genoa, and Leghorn, which are free ports. There was a complete dearth of Americans, who, in former years, before the great augmentation of their tariff, frequented the fair, and did considerable business.

During the month of November last there were eight fires in two communes of the department of the Creuse, which, no doubt was entertained, were caused by incendiaries.

MOROCCO.—The *Journal des Débats* states:—"According to our last intelligence from Cadiz, which is to the morning of the 28th, we have every reason to believe that the French squadron was still in the bay at that period, but expecting orders to sail. All the French subjects at Tangiers had obtained permission to embark, and all the consuls, with the exception of the English consul, had quitted the city. Upwards of 800 persons of all nations had arrived at Gibraltar, where the English squadron still was on the 27th."

SPAIN.—The Government allege that they [illegible] covered a conspiracy to set fire to the barracks [illegible]

sists the officers. Some of the opposition papers, however, boldly deny its existence. It has been made the excuse for several arrests.

A letter dated 14th of June has been received from Lloyd's agency at Santa Cruz, Teneriffe, in which it is stated that in consequence of the differential duty in favour of the Spanish flag, the whole of the extensive importations of British cotton goods into the Canary Islands are made in Spanish vessels to the absolute exclusion of British. The duty is 7½ per cent. in Spanish and 15 per cent. in British vessels on a low valuation of cotton goods. The Spanish vessels making good freights to the islands became also the carriers of their produce to Great Britain.

The Medway arrived from the West Indies on Tuesday. The Jamaica colonists were all in arms against the Ministerial sugar plans, and still more at the prospect of farther changes taking place next session.

GERMANY.—Letters from Vienna state, that much excitement continues to be felt in the public mind in Bohemia; the people being, it was supposed, secretly worked upon by certain manufacturers, who dreaded their interests being affected by Austria joining the German Customs Union.

It is announced at Hanover, that Brunswick withdraws from the German Customs Union in the ensuing year.

THE SUGAR DUTIES ACT.—UTRECHT, July 29.—The Netherlands Government positively refuses to admit English agents into Java. The new English law on the sugar duties allows the importation of sugar the produce of free labour at a reduced duty; but in order to enjoy this privilege an English agent residing on the spot must sign a certificate of origin. The Netherlands will rather lose the advantage of this reduction than admit English agents into its colonies.

The *Journal de Commerce* of Antwerp, of the 7th, has an article calling upon Belgium to unite strenuously in support of the Belgic Government, in their attempt to prevent the imposition by the Zollverein of increased duties upon Belgian wrought and cast iron. The decree to this effect, of the court of Berlin, appears to have excited very considerable sensation, and of course some disapprobation, in Belgium. The states of Bavaria and Wurtemberg are those which have demanded the increase of the duty in question. Prussia is understood to have been unfavourable to the proposition; but the two first-named states, having little need of colonial produce, seem determined to insist upon the increased duty, in order to swell their revenues from that source.

TAHITI.—Accounts from Tahiti to the 21st of March state that a considerable body of the Tahitians (some say 4000) had risen against the French. They were joined, it is further said, by about 200 of the crews of the English, American, and Dutch whalers in the bay, and had, on the 21st, attacked the French camp at Tairaboo. A skirmish ensued, in which a party of French sailors were defeated, two being killed and seven wounded. The Phaeton steamer was despatched to the relief of this party. "As it was returning to Papeiti," says the same French account, "the vessel kept near the shore, *to throw shells at the native huts* which were within the reach of her mortars, when we discovered, with surprise, in a bay two intrenchments large enough to shelter 200 combatants apiece, whose heads were seen over the parapet. The more we examined this fortification, the more regular we found it. The flag of Queen Pomare was flying over it. Some Europeans, who seemed to have the command, came on the beach to provoke us to disembark. Prudence commanded us to do no such thing; we contented ourselves with sending them a few cannon shot, which did not seem to frighten them."

The civil war in Buenos Ayres between the parties of Oribe and Rosas still continues, without any appearance of coming to a termination.

UNITED STATES.—The steam ship Great Western arrived at Liverpool on Sunday morning, having left New York on the 20th ultimo.

Up to the 19th ultimo all was quiet in Philadelphia, but the military still continued to parade the streets. Active inquiries were being made concerning the late outrages. Arrests were daily taking place, and large rewards were offered for the apprehension of every person concerned. About 7000 dollars had been raised for the families of those soldiers who were killed or wounded during the disturbances.

With regard to the Mormons, a correspondent of the *New York Express*, writing from Nauvoo, June 30, says, "The Mormons, greatly to their credit, submit to the loss of their leaders in silence. Not the slightest disturbance has occurred. The prophet and his brother were buried, yesterday, without parade and in secrecy. Many of them believe that the prophet will rise again on the third day (to-morrow). A new prophet, it is whispered, has been selected, a Dr. Richards, formerly of Berkshire county, in Massachusetts. He is said to be a man of considerable talent, with a good deal of shrewdness and tact. The announcement would be made in a few days."

DOMESTIC.

The Railway Bill has passed the House of Lords, after an unsuccessful attempt on the part of the Bishop of London to prevent the running of third-class carriages on Sundays.——Count Nesselrode arrived in London on Monday. The principal object of the count's visit to this country is to enjoy the benefit of sea-bathing, and it is reported that he will leave town for Brighton early next week.——At the close of this present protracted session, Parliament will nearly have entered its fourth year of existence, having already lasted about three years, viz., from August, 1841 (on the 19th of which month it first assembled), to August, 1844. In order "to die a natural death," the actual Parliament must, of course, linger until the expiration of the session of 1848, four years in prospective.——A lad, the son of a respectable hatter residing in Union-street, Borough, named Harrison, was drowned on Sunday evening by the upsetting of a boat on the river at Bankside.——On Tuesday week, while a company of the 44th Regiment was on drill in George's-square Barracks, a private, named Richard Brooks, advanced from the ranks and stabbed Sergeant M'Kenzie in the arm with his bayonet. He was immediately placed under confinement, and awaits the order of a court-martial.—*Devonport Telegraph.*——Her Majesty's Attorney-General, Sir W. Webb Follett, and family, embarked at the Blackwall Pier on Saturday morning for Rotterdam.——At Guildford, on Monday, an action for breach of promise of marriage, brought by Miss Melville Roberts against Captain Frank Denham was tried, and a verdict given for the plaintiff—damages £800.——The increased consumption of plate-glass in Manchester is astonishing. There are at present no fewer than fifteen shop fronts, in various parts of Manchester and Salford, which are undergoing a course of modernizing, which mainly consists in the substitution of plate-glass for that of the ordinary description.——Two prize premiums, one of £6 and the other of £4, have been offered by Sir J. H. Lowther, Bart., M.P., to the members of the York Institute of Popular Science and Literature, for the best and second-best essays on the best means of preserving health, especially as adapted to the circumstances of York.——On Wednesday week five soldiers of the 70th Regiment were brought to Leeds, to undergo the punishment to which they had been sentenced by a detachment court-martial, at Sheffield, and two of them, on that day, received 150 lashes each, in the Riding-school, at the Cavalry Barracks; two were sent to Wakefield House of Correction for four months; and one for three months. The offence of which they were guilty is that of disobedience.——On Wednesday, 31st ult., the Wesleyan Conference commenced its hundred and first annual sitting, in Cherry-street Chapel, Birmingham, when the Rev. Jabez Bunting, D.D., was elected president by a very large majority. The Rev. R. Newton, D.D., was called to the secretaryship by 197 votes.——On Thursday evening (the memorable first of August), the tenth anniversary meeting of the friends of slave emancipation was held in Glasgow. The Rev. William Anderson officiated as chairman, and was surrounded on the platform by Mr. George Thompson, Dr. Burns of Paisley, Dr. Ritchie of Edinburgh, Rev. George Jeffrey of Glasgow, Rev. Mr. Kennedy of Paisley, Professor Wright of America, and other leading supporters of the anti-slavery cause. The meeting was one of the largest and most respectable description, and included a number of the fair sex.——The committee appointed to carry into effect the resolutions recently passed for the establishment of an Agricultural College at Cirencester, state that the application for a charter has been so favourably received by Government as to leave no doubt that one will be granted, in case the society consent that any surplus of income, after paying four per cent. on the subscribed capital, shall be applied to increase the efficiency of the institution.——On Friday, the 2nd inst., Lord Villiers was returned member for Cirencester.——The average stock of bullion held by the Bank of England for the four weeks ending the 20th of July is stated to be £15,485,000, showing an increase of £413,000 as compared with the preceding month, and an increase of £3,613,000 as compared with the same period last year.——A very extensive fire took place at Exeter on Friday, the 2nd inst. It originated in the stores and melting-rooms of Mr. Fuskett; and, before it was extinguished, consumed about twenty houses, besides injuring other buildings. The loss is estimated at about £10,000.——On Sunday night, the 28th ult., a police-constable, named James M'Faddon, stationed at Kessingham, was mortally wounded by a gun-shot, fired at him by one of a gang of men whom he detected in the act of stealing some sacks of corn from the barn of a Mrs. Button. The policeman died the following day. An inquest has been held on his body, and a verdict of wilful murder returned against William Howell, who has been committed for trial.——A pony and car were got this morning on the strand at Doran's Island. The pony was dead; and there is every reason to fear that Mr. Cuffe Martin and his lady, who had a sea-lodge in the island, and who left this town at about ten o'clock last night, have been lost in the tide. Indeed, it is very generally reported that their bodies have been found at the Point, clasped in each other's arms.—*Sligo Journal.*——A man, named John Weaver, attempted, on Wednesday the 31st ult., to murder his daughter, Charlotte Weaver, aged 22, at Erdington. He has since committed suicide by strangling himself. There is every reason to think that the wretched man laboured under insanity.——On Monday afternoon a most alarming fire broke out in the extensive sheds connected with the rope, marquee, tarpawling, and rick-cloth manufactory of Messrs. Staff and Son, 2, Lawson-street, Great Dover-road, Borough, and resulted in the destruction of property estimated by the proprietors at £2000.——Two incendiary fires took place in Bedfordshire last week. One occurred on the premises of Mr. J. Kingston, of Chalton, in the parish of Toddington, near Woburn. The property consumed comprised two large barns, cart-sheds, hovels, a dovecot, a large hayrick, several carts, waggons, and various agricultural implements. There were also a large number of lambs in the yard, 49 of which were destroyed. The second fire took place in an outhouse on a farm in the occupation of Mr. J. Whitworth, of Turney. The property destroyed was of no great value.——The weekly meeting of the Repeal Association was held on Monday, and the same degree of enthusiasm was manifested as at all the Conciliation Hall gatherings since the incarceration of Mr. O'Connell and his fellow prisoners. Every portion of the building was much crowded. Mr. W. S. O'Brien announced the Repeal rent for the eleventh week of the captivity to be £1396 9s. 7d.——A circular has been issued by the committee of the national testimonial to Rowland Hill, expressing their wish to bring the subscription to a close in the ensuing month. When the subscription is closed it is intended to convene a public meeting to determine in what way the amount shall be presented to Mr. Hill.——On Sunday night week, between ten and eleven o'clock, a haulm stack was maliciously set on fire, at Foxearth-hall, near Melford, in the occupation of Mr. Richard Aldham, farmer.——The saving between driving a sheep to the London market from Lincolnshire and conveying by steam-boat or railway, is proved to be no less than ten per cent. This has been ascertained by repeated trials made this year by a grazier in the neighbourhood of Wainfleet.—*Essex Herald.*——Information was received on Monday at Lloyd's and the various maritime insurance-offices in the City, of a dreadful hurricane having visited the different ports on Saturday and Sunday last, which was attended with a frightful sacrifice of human life, as well as great loss of property. At Tenby it commenced blowing fearfully from one o'clock in the morning from the south-east. About five o'clock A. M., the Richard, Captain Cooke, of Sunderland, from Cardiff, was driven upon the South Tenby Sand. The preventive men, as well as a great number of the inhabitants, rendered all the assistance in their power, and were instrumental in saving three of the crew. Captain Cooke, however, was drowned, and also three of the crew. A fishing smack called the Four Brothers, during the gale, lost two hands. At Llanelly, on Saturday morning, the Friends, a link vessel, belonging to Ilfracombe, was totally lost on the Geyden Sands, in Carmarthen Bay. The captain, his wife, and the whole of the crew were drowned. The Briton steam-tug parted from her moorings, and sank near the harbour.——A terrific gale commenced on the coast of Devonport, on Friday night. Three fishing boats were lost in Whitsand Bay, from this place, and five men drowned; four of them were pensioners, and have left 14 children destitute. Portions of the wrecks have been picked up.——On Monday there was another sale of 5000 pines in Monument-yard, making a total number of 36,000 of this fruit which have this season been brought to the hammer by Messrs. Keeling and Hunt. These last were brought from the Bahamas, by the Fear-Not, in twenty-six days, and the competition was very spirited, the best quality averaging from 3s. to 5s. 6d. each, whilst those of the inferior quality sold at 6d. to 10d. A quantity of live turtle which were sent over by the same vessel, and were the first imported duty-free under the new tariff, were sold by private contract at 1s. 6d. per lb. in the shell, it being hazardous to keep them, owing to the sudden transition from a hot to a cold climate, of which they appeared particularly sensitive.——We understand that the third-class passengers on the Brandling Junction Railway are carried at less than one halfpenny per mile.—*Railway Record.*——At a special court of the directors of the Caledonian Asylum, held on Monday at the Freemasons' Tavern, Mr. P. M. Stewart moved that the schoolmaster to the Institution be an "orthodox Presbyterian, and ready to sign the Confession of Faith." The Marquis of Bute moved as an amendment that he be a member of the Established Church of Scotland. The amendment was carried by a majority of 24 to 19, so that the Free-church men had the worst of it.——Some sensation has been occasioned by the discovery of two strangely-constructed houses (said to have been once the residence of Jonathan Wild), in West-street, Smithfield, on the west side of Fleet-ditch, which buildings have, it appears, been long occupied by a gang of thieves and receivers of stolen goods. One of these houses, it seems, was fitted up as a shop, but there are trap-doors behind the counter, cellars for the reception of property, in one of which was found a skull and human bones, nooks and recesses of all descriptions, as well as the means of conveying goods "up the spout," and of facilitating the escape of persons over the adjoining houses.——The heavens in the east over the German Ocean, and from Hornsea, on Monday last, which was an unusually hot and cloudless day, presented the appearance of a mirror, in which were reflected a number of vessels with their sails set, and a tower, supposed to be some lighthouse. A portion of the vessels were inverted—that is to say, all their masts and sails pointed downward to the sea.—*Eastern Counties Herald.*——A public meeting was held in Finsbury Chapel, Moorfields, on Tuesday, for the purpose of considering the recent aggressions of the French in the island of Otaheite, and passing resolutions upon the subject. Among others, the following resolution was passed:—"That the meeting felt that the good fame and honour of Great Britain was compromised by the denial to Queen Pomare of the repeatedly solicited pledge of protection given by Mr. Canning in 1827, and by the withdrawal of the English naval force from Otaheite."——The polling in the parish of St. Saviour's, Southwark, for a church-rate, closed on Tuesday, when it was found that the numbers were equal, there being for the 8d. rate 152, and for the 6d. rate 152, on which the warden gave the casting vote for the 8d. rate.——It is understood that the judges will meet, upon their return from the several circuits, on Monday, the 26th inst., to consider of their judgment on the writ of error in the state trials. The judgment will probably be delivered in the House of Lords on the following Wednesday or Thursday.——On Wednesday afternoon, shortly after one o'clock, the town of Gravesend was again excited by the outbreak of a fire at Lower Shorne, near Chalk, a few miles distant, which terminated in the all but complete destruction of what formed that secluded village.——On Wednesday morning the sentence of the law was carried into effect, in front of the county gaol, Nottingham, upon William Saville, aged twenty-nine, who was convicted at the late assizes of the wilful murder of his wife and three children. Just after the prisoner was turned off, a rush of the crowd took place, and a number of persons were forced down a narrow avenue, which leads to the street in which the execution had taken place. This avenue is a very steep descent, called Garner's-hill, and at the top are three or four steps. The persons who were forced down fell on the ground, and the others were pushed over them. Those who had fallen were trampled upon, and thirty persons were taken up more or less injured. Twelve were quite dead, and the rest were taken to the hospital, the dispensary, and to the residences of the medical men in the vicinity.——On Monday night last the Catherine and Mary brig, from Port Madoc in South Wales, laden with slates, and bound for Ipswich, was run down off Dungeness by a large ship, name unknown, which sailed on without the slightest assistance being offered to the foundering vessel. Two men were killed by the concussion, and the brig went down in deep water in about ten minutes. The remainder of the crew were saved by a coaster called the Dispatch.——During the month of July in the present year, 5180 Irish reapers arrived at Liverpool by the City of Dublin Company's boats. In the corresponding month of last year there came 3800.——A serious calamity by fire occurred in Manchester on Monday night, by which a large new pile of warehouses and their valuable contents have been entirely destroyed. The property in question, known as the Irwell Buildings, comprised the warehouses of Messrs. Robert Charlton and Sons, calenderers and packers, and Mr. Richard Rostron, merchant; also those of Mr. Garser, Mr. Henri Jacquet, Mr. M. Ralli, Mr. H. Fiesther, Mr. J. Helsted, and Mr. Mendel, all foreign merchants. The loss is estimated at £20,000.——On the night of the 29th ult., a barn, in the occupation of Mr. George Alpass, situate at Morton, in the parish of Thornbury, near Chipping Sodbury, was wilfully set on fire and destroyed, with a large quantity of wheat straw which it contained.——Sir R. Peel has given notice of a motion early next session to extend the repeal of the penal acts affecting Roman Catholics to those acts of the defunct Irish Parliament, which impose similar penalties to those which have been already repealed in England.——Prince Albert has kindly consented to send over a specimen of his stock to the show of the Royal Irish Agricultural Society about to be held in Dublin.

MR. GLADSTONE'S RAILWAYS BILL.

To the Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, Bart.

Sir,—The invention of railways is a discovery of the greatest national importance. Their beneficial effect in promoting the prosperity of this great commercial country is universally acknowledged.

The universal benefit derivable to all constitutes the only moral right which Parliament has to delegate to parties engaged in the formation of any public work the power of interfering with private property, and of compelling the sale of such lands to them as may be required for its construction. The earth which sustains these works is common property—the plenary, impartial, and inalienable gift of the Creator to man, individually and collectively. It is this irrefutable fact which justifies Parliament in resuming, on behalf of the public, the equal claim of all to the material world; and in diverting its application from a less to a more general useful occupation, on the equitable condition, always, that for such compulsory transferences of private property an equivalent be paid to the previous possessors, of the full value of their cultivated fields, beautiful parks, buildings, mansions, cottages, gardens, or other useful works, which labour has *incorporated* with the soil, or *erected*, or otherwise conferred upon it. It is not the individuals who have devoted their energies and funds to the construction of railways, and who have paid to the previous possessor the full value of the property they have superseded, who are the obliged party; but the party on whose account, and for whose advantage solely, the transference of private property has been, or ever can be justly legalized, is the public. Had the Legislature granted such power to benefit, exclusively, railway proprietors, or any other section of the community, even the poorest, or for any partial purpose whatever, it would have been a gross abuse of their delegated authority, and a monstrous invasion and outrage on the rights of private property.

A bill is now before Parliament to authorize Government to interfere with the management of railways, to limit the amount of dividends accruing from them to the proprietors, and, finally, to dispossess those proprietors of their property. If Parliament can transfer from individuals into the hands of Government *one* great interest in the State, might not a similar dominant power justly look with an evil eye upon the manufacturers and landholders, and seek to dispossess the former of their mills, and the latter of their estates; or to interfere with, or take from them, the management of their concerns, or regulate the prices at which they shall be allowed to sell their productions to the poor? The appropriation to, and management by the Government, of all the estates, mills, and manufactories in the country, might be advocated on the plea of supplying the poor with cheaper and better food, and more comfortable clothing; and the reduction of profits and of high rents, legislatively enforced, might be proposed as the alternative means of obtaining that result, with as much parallel propriety as is the argument in the Government Railways Bill, viz., that the poor will be provided with cheaper and more comfortable modes of travelling, if the remuneration arising from railway enterprises be curtailed, which are reasons advanced in support of the proposed bill, to justify, in case of non-compliance with its clauses, the seizure by Government of railway property. Strange as the anomaly may seem, the suggestion of this proposed law is, to plunder the proprietors of railways under the pretext of benefiting the public; whilst the operation of the Sugar Duties and Corn Law is to plunder the public for the supposed benefit of the West India planters and of the landowners; in this last instance the effect is *robbing all the poor* of the necessaries of their existence, and plunging them into still deeper and more general poverty, by enhancing the prices for the profit of the affluent; and in the first it will be despoiling the railway proprietors to advantage a few travelling poor by lowering the fares. This infatuated profligacy of principle, which is equalled only by the absurdity of its inconsistency, exists either through the utter ignorance or reckless disregard of the axiom, that "honesty in the affairs of a nation, as well as in individual transactions, is the best policy." Such perverse legislation implies judicial blindness to the fact, that a departure from this sound axiom incurs national guilt; and that the inevitable punishment of want and scarcity, where otherwise plenty would abound, must follow, consequent on the infraction of the divine law, "Thou shalt not steal," the very and only thing which this law is instituted purposely to protect, namely, *the fruits or produce of another man's labour.*

I am, most respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Lawrence Heyworth.

Damaging List of Voters.—As some instances have occurred in which persons have mischievously destroyed the overseers' lists of voters, when exposed at the doors of chapels and churches, we may state, as a caution to such offenders, that the law imposes a fine, not exceeding 40s., upon every person wilfully destroying, effacing, or removing any notice, list, or register, so exposed for the inspection of the inhabitants.—*Leeds Mercury.*

Registered Electors in Ireland.—The gross total number of county electors in Ireland now entitled to vote amounts to 57,169, and the number registered after the passing of the Reform Bill was 65,437. The total number of registered county electors on the 1st of February, 1844, amounted to 67,136, and the total number of registered city and borough electors 50,312, making altogether a grand total of 117,448 electors, which is as nearly as possible 1 7-16ths per cent. in proportion to the population. In Great Britain the proportion of electors to the population is about 5 per cent., or 3 9-16ths per cent. greater than in Ireland.

Town and Country.—The five largest commercial towns in England, viz., the Metropolis, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, and Leeds, with their suburbs, contain within an area of 96,000 acres—or as nearly as possible the area of Rutlandshire—a population equal to the total numbers of the following seventeen purely agricultural counties:—Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Suffolk, Sussex, Berkshire, Buckingham, Cambridge, Cumberland, Hertford, North Riding of Yorkshire, East Riding of Yorkshire, Dorset, Rutland, Hereford, Oxford, Westmorland, and Northampton—with all the country towns within them—counties which occupy an area of more than 10,000,000 of acres, or about a third of the whole extent of England. Further, that the population of the same five towns is equal to that of the whole of Scotland, with its 19,000,000 acres.—*Edinburgh Review.*

Exports and Imports.—The East India Trade.—We have received a parliamentary return of the amount of our import and export trade, with several of the principal colonies of the Crown, with the possessions of the East India Company, the United States of America, and with Mexico and South America, in the year ending January, 1844. The following are some of the principal facts which it exhibits:—The value of the British and Irish goods exported in 1843, to the British West Indies, was £2,882,441; to the United States of America, £5,013,504; to the East India Company's territories and the Island of Ceylon, £6,404,519; to the Mauritius, £258,014; to China, £1,456,180; to the British North American colonies, £1,751,211; to the Island of Cuba, £624,871; and to Mexico and South America (exclusive of the Brazils), £3,286,327. The most remarkable fact shown in the above list, is the wonderful increase in the India and China trades, which, though both of them still comparatively in their infancy (the former having sprung up since 1815, and the latter since 1832), now surpass the trade with the United States, and supply a vent for goods to the value of nearly eight millions sterling a year. For this increased trade the country is chiefly indebted to the East India Committees of Liverpool and Glasgow, which spent years in battling against the commercial monopoly of the East India Company before they could open the vast regions of India and China to the British Empire. Of the exports to India, in 1843, £3,937,414 worth consisted of cotton goods and yarn, and of those to China £871,939 worth. Amongst the imports from the latter country, were 42,779,265 pounds of tea, and from the former 1,099,562 cwts. of sugar.—*Liverpool Times.*

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. Aug. 3	Mon. Aug. 5	Tues. Aug. 6	Wed. Aug. 7	Thurs. Aug. 8	Fri. Aug. 9
Bank Stock	200½	200½	200½	200½	200½	—
3 per Ct. Red.Ann	100⅛	99⅞	100	100⅛	100	—
3 per Ct.Con.Ann.	99⅞	99½	99¾	99¾	99¾	—
3½ per Ct.Red.Ann	103	102⅞	102⅞	102⅞	102⅞	102⅞
3½ perCt.Ann.new	102	101⅞	101⅞	101⅞	101⅞	101¾
Long An. Ex. 1860	12 9-16	—	12 9-16	12 9-16	12 9-16	—
Cons. for Acc.	99⅞	99¾	99¾	99⅞	99¾	99¾
Exc. Bills, pm.	76 8	75 7	75 7	75 7	75 7	—
Ind.Bds.und.1000l	—	95 7	—	94	—	—
India Stock	285	—	—	—	—	—
Belgian	103½	—	103	103½	103	—
Brazilian	84½	83½	84	84½	84	—
Buenos Ayres	35 7	—	—	35 7	—	—
Chilian	104½	105	104	103 5	—	—
Columb.ex.Venes.	13¾	14⅛	13⅜	13¼	13¾	13⅜
Danish	89½	88½	—	89½	-	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	61⅜	61½	61½	61½	61½	61½
Mexican	36¼	36	36	35⅞	35⅞	36
Peruvian	—	21½	—	24 6	--	—
Portug. conv.	44½	43½	43⅞	44	43½	44
Spanish 5 per Ct.	22⅜	22½	22½	22¼	22½	22½
Do. 3 per Cent.	33⅜	33½	33	33	33¼	33½

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Monday, Aug. 5.—The weather in this neighbourhood on Saturday was very boisterous; yesterday and today it has been fine, but it still appears rather unsettled. The supply of English Wheat this morning was much smaller than it has been lately, and it was sold readily at fully last week's rates. Foreign Wheat was held more firmly than last week, but the sales were not extensive. We did not hear of any New Wheat at market. There is no alteration to notice in the value of Barley or Beans; there was rather more inquiry for the latter. Peas were rather cheaper; there were several samples of New. We had again large supplies of Oats from Ireland, in addition to the large arrivals of Foreign we reported on Friday. There was a larger attendance of buyers from the country, and a fair amount of business was done at last week's rates.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk.... Red	42 to 50	White	48	to 54
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire —	42 — 48	—	44	— 51
—— Scotch —	40 — 41	—	44	— 48
—— Irish —	40 — 42	—	44	— 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire		Feed	20	— 21
—— Ditto ...... Ditto .. Short	21 — 22	Polands	22	- 24
—— Scotch .... Feed	22 — 24	Potato	25	— 26
—— Limerick —	21 — 22	Short	22	— 23
—— Cork			19	— 20
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork Black			18	— 19
—— Westport			19	— 20
—— Galway			17	— 19
Barley, Grinding....	28 to 30	Distilling	30	— 32
—— Malting......	32 — 34	Irish	26	— 30
Beans, Mazagan	— — 30	Tick	32	— 34
—— Harrow	35 — 37	Small	—	— 40
—— Old Tick			—	— 40
Peas, White..........	31 to 34	Boilers	35	— 36
—— Maple and Grey			30	— 34
Flour, Best Town-made...... per sack of 280 lbs			46	— 48
—— Norfolk and Suffolk ...... —		—	40	— 42

FOREIGN.

	Free. Per Imperial Quarter.	In Bond
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed	48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.
—— Rostock	47 — 54	
—— Stettin	41 — 52	
—— Hamburgh	41 — 48	
—— Odessa	42 — 46	
—— Ditto .... Polish	47 — 50	
—— Russian .... soft	42 — 46	
—— Ditto.......... hard	40 — 44	
—— Spanish .... Red	45 — 49	
—— Ditto .... White	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding	26 — 29	— — —
Barley, Distilling	30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel	20 — 21	14 — 15
—— Swedish	19 — 20	13 — 14
—— Stralsund	19 — 20	13 — 14
—— Dutch Feed	18 — 19	12 — 23
—— —— Brew	20 — 22	14 — 16
—— —— Polands	— — —	19 — 20
Beans, Egyptian	20 — 31	22 — 23
Peas, White	30 — 34	— — —
—— Ditto Boilers	32 — 35	— — —
Flour, Canada .... per barrel of 196 lbs	27 — 29	— — —
—— United States.. — —	27 — 29	20 — 22
—— Dantzig........ — —	26 — 28	— — —

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from July 29 to Aug. 3, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	6856	332	23	726	493
Scotch	13	—	463	—	—
Irish	—	—	18181	—	—
Foreign	25260	24638	33087	3849	5800

Flour, 4596 sacks, 9661 bars.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending July 30, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	4418	52s. 9d.	Rye	310	37s. 11d.
Barley.. ..	759	36s. 11d.	Beans.. ..	1649	30s. 8d.
Oats	22533	19s. 10d.	Peas	371	33s. 3d.

Friday, Aug. 9.—The supplies of English Wheat since Monday have been short; Foreign continues to arrive in considerable quantities. A good deal of rain fell in the early part of the week, but yesterday and to-day the weather has been fine, and appears more settled. The accounts from the country of the harvest operations being generally delayed by the rain, causes factors to hold more firmly, but there is a very limited amount of business doing. The supplies of Barley this week are not large, but the trade is exceedingly heavy. During the week we have had fair supplies of Irish Oats, but small of Foreign. On Wednesday buyers were induced by the present low prices to take off a large quantity of Foreign, by which the market is much relieved. In some cases an advance of 6d. per quarter was obtained on Wednesday over Monday's prices; and though there is less doing to day, that improvement is maintained. No alteration in Beans and Peas.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 5th of August to the 9th of August, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat	2950	—	11400
Barley	40	280	3640
Oats	650	17390	2530

Flour, 2770 sacks.

A WEEKLY REPORT of the NUMBER of QUARTERS, and the AVERAGE PRICE of CORN and GRAIN, sold in the several Counties of England and Wales (comprising the Two Hundred and Ninety Towns named in the Act of the 5th Vic., cap. 14), which governs Duty.

WEEK ENDED Aug. 3, 1844.

	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Wheat. Aver price	Barley. Qrs. sold.	Barley. Aver price	Oats. Qrs. sold.	Oats. Aver price	Beans. Qrs. sold.	Beans. Aver price
		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.
Weekly Averages..	78491	51 0	3115	34 0	28905	20 3	4641	34 7
Aggregate Averages..	..	54 0		34 4		21 9		37 2
Duty......	..	18 0		6 0		6 0		5 6

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, August 2.

DECLARATION OF INSOLVENCY.

B. J. KREISA, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, tailor.

BANKRUPTS.

J. WILLIS, Spring-street, Portman-square, green grocer. [Burrell and Paterson, White Hart-court, Lombard-street, City.

C. BOND, March, Cambridgeshire, leather seller. [Jenkinson, Cannon-street, City.

A. TREGEAR and T. C. LEWIS, Cheapside, City, piano-forte, print, and music sellers. [Lawrance and Plews, Bucklersbury.

E. WALKER, Newman-street, Oxford-street, auctioneer. [Church, Spital-square.

B. BRIGHT, Wigmore-street, St. Marylebone, licensed victualler. [Shaw, Basing-lane.

E. HERON, South Blyth, Northumberland, shipowner. [Wheldon, North Shields; Crosby and Compton, Church-court, Old Jewry.

J. HERON, South Blyth, Northumberland, shipowner. [Wheldon, North Shields; Crosby and Compton, Church-court, Old Jewry.

J. ANDREW, Maryport, Cumberland, banker. [Tyson, Maryport; Cram, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Messrs. Gregory and Co., Bedford-row.

W. WYRILL, Bradford, Yorkshire, ironmonger. [Lawrence, Old Fish-street; Morris, Bradford; Bond, Leeds.

W. MAY, Liverpool, provision merchant. [Jay, Sergeants'-inn; Brown, Liverpool.

T. KEMP and R. DAVIES, Aston, Warwickshire, builders. [Tarleton, Birmingham.

DIVIDENDS.

Aug. 26. G. Taylor, Moreton-in-the Marsh, Gloucestershire, mercer—Aug. 30. W. Brown and W. Andrews, Leeds, cloth dressers—Aug. 24. G. Thorneycroft, jun., Wolverhampton, iron manufacturer.

CERTIFICATES.

Aug. 23. B. Webb, High-street, Southwark, cheesemonger—Aug. 23. W. Austin, Bell-street, Edgware-road, builder—Aug. 27. C. F. Oppenheim, George-street, Minories, London, shipowner—Aug. 26. W. Payne, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, builder.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

M. ALEXANDER, Edinburgh, commission agent.

TUESDAY, August 6.

Crown-Office, August 6.

MEMBER RETURNED TO SERVE IN THIS PRESENT PARLIAMENT.

Borough of Cirencester.—The Hon. George Augustus Frederick Villiers, in the room of Thomas William Chester Master, Esq., who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

BANKRUPTS.

G. C. SMITH, Kensington-park, builder. [Dampier, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

E. MANLEY, Chapel-street, Westminster, bootmaker. [Turner and Hensman, Basing-lane.

T. TURNER, Sheffield, grocer. [Sudlow and Co., Chancery-lane; Smith and Wightman, Sheffield.

H. J. E. SAFFRAN, Huddersfield, cloth merchant. [Jones, Sise-lane, Bucklersbury; Hesp, Huddersfield; Sykes, Leeds.

W. WYRILL, Bradford, Yorkshire, ironmonger. [Messrs. Lawrence, Old Fish-street, City; Morris, Bradford; Bond, Leeds.

R. JACKSON and R. YALE, Leeds, engineers. [Parkes and Co., Bedford-row; Tyas, Barnsley; Blackburn, Leeds.

J. TREVITT, Wheaton Aston, Staffordshire, butcher. [Corser, Wolverhampton.

T. CARTER, jun., Waltham, Leicestershire, butcher. [Smith, Birmingham.

A. OGDEN, Spotland, Rochdale, Lancashire, sizer. [Appleby, Harpur-street; Grundy, Bury.

R. EDWARDS, Aberdovey, Merionethshire, draper. [Oliver, Old Jewry; Evans, Liverpool.

DIVIDENDS.

Aug. 27. J. Peel, C. Harding, and W. Willock, Fazeley, Staffordshire, cotton spinners—Aug. 27. B. and S. Vanderplank, Saville-row, Burlington-gardens, woollendrapers—Aug. 27. T. Green and J. Vanderplank, Abchurch-lane, bill brokers—Aug. 27. W. B. Edridge, Long-acre, coachmaker—Aug. 27. J. R. de Alzedo, Bank-buildings, City, merchant.

CERTIFICATES.

Aug. 29. J. Carpenter, Rothwell, Northamptonshire, surgeon—Aug. 30. P. J. Papillon, Leeds, wine merchant—Aug. 29. N. Procter, Meanwood, Yorkshire, tanner—Aug. 29. G. Parker, Sheffield, spade manufacturer—Aug 29. J. Mayn, Flushing, Cornwall, merchant—Aug 29. T. Westren, Brushford, Devonshire, maltster—Aug. 29. T. Kearsley and T. Watt, Runcorn, Cheshire, bone merchants—Aug. 27. J. Falkingham, Bradford, Yorkshire, bacon factor—Aug. 27. J. Taylor, Willowholme, Cumberland, miller—Aug. 27. T. Newton, Holbeach, Lincolnshire, cattle dealer—Aug. 27. W. Parson, Southampton, grocer—Aug. 27. J. S. Tolson, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, fancy cloth manufacturer—Aug. 27. C. Nichols, Wakefield, Yorkshire, bookseller—Aug. 27. W. Chamberlain, Peckham, linendraper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

J. RANSON, Perth, glass merchant.

London: Printed by Robert Palmer (of Providence-place, Upper Kennington-lane, Lambeth, in the County of Surrey) and Joseph Clayton (of Number 320, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at their Printing-office, Number 10, Crane-court, in the Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West, in the City of London, and published by Abraham Walter Paulton (of Number 37, Norfolk-street, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at the Office of The League, Number 67, Fleet-street, in the said Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West.—Saturday, August 10, 1844.

[redacted]

THE LEAGUE.

No. 47.] SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1844. [3*d*.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive a copy, weekly, of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and addresses to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND, *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

REGISTER, REGISTER, REGISTER!

Particulars to be attended to up to the 25th of August.

The overseers must, on or before the 31st of July in each year, make out an alphabetical list of all £10 occupiers, within their respective parishes, entitled to a vote for the borough, including such as occupy the adjoining precincts and liberties, if any. They are entitled to have access to the books of assessed taxes, to ascertain whether the claimant is liable for, or has not paid his assessed taxes "*in respect,*" *only,* "*of the premises.*"

They must make a separate similar list of all parishioners, other than freemen and liverymen, qualified to vote in respect of ancient rights.

These lists, signed by the overseers, must be affixed on the doors of every place of worship, established and dissenting, within the parish, on the first two Sundays in August—and copies are to be kept for public inspection, without fee, in the overseers' custody.

Persons omitted from these lists will send claims to be registered to the overseers, on or before the 25th of August.

Persons on the first list may be objected to by any one, whose name is on any list of voters for the borough, serving notice of objection on the overseers, on or before the 25th of August.

DUTIES OF CLAIMANTS AND ELECTORS.—Every person should see for himself that his name is inserted in the list of that class of voters to which he belongs. If he have a twofold qualification, he should see that his name is on both lists. This is of great importance, as the voter may be objected to and lose one qualification, and retain the other and vote for it.

Any person whose qualification consists of a successive occupation of different premises, should be careful to observe that each set of premises is inserted in the list.* He must also be very careful to see that the place for which he claims, and his own place of residence, are very correctly described in these lists. If this should not have been done, he must send in a claim to the overseers, as below, describing all the premises, and also (if he have changed his residence) his new place of abode.

CLAIMS BY PERSONS OMITTED FROM THE LISTS.—Persons omitted from the overseers' lists, should give notice, on or before the 25th of August, to the said overseers, in the following form. If the claim be for a successive occupation of different premises, each of such separate premises must be described:—

To the Overseers of the parish [or township] of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I claim to have my name inserted in the list made by you of persons entitled to vote in the election of a Member [or Members] for the City [or Borough] of ——, and that the particulars of my qualification are stated in the columns below.

Dated the—— day of——, one thousand eight hundred and——

Christian name and surname of the claimant at full length.	Place of abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Street, lane, or other place in the parish [or township], where the property is situate, and number of the houses, if any (when the right depends on property).

(Signed) A.B.

Persons, omitted from the List of Freemen, should give notice to the town clerk in the following form:—

To the Town Clerk of the City [or Borough] of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I claim to have my name inserted in the List made by you of persons entitled as Freemen to vote in the Election of a Member [or Members] to serve in Parliament for the City [or Borough] of ——, and that my qualification is as Freeman of ——, and that I reside in —— Street, in this City [or Borough].

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and ——

(Signed) A.B.

* And of course, also, as a preliminary, in the rate-book relating to each occupation.

Lists of these claims are to be made out and published, in the manner already described, by the overseers, and the claimant should inspect them, and, if incorrectly inserted in any of the essential particulars, he must attend the Revising Barrister's Court, and get them altered. If, notwithstanding of his making his claim, he is omitted from the list of claimants, he upon attending the Revising Barrister's Court, and proving the serving of his claim on the overseers, will be placed on the register.

Notices of claims must be delivered on or before the 25th of August.

OBJECTIONS TO PERSONS ON THE LISTS.—It is of importance that every voter should carefully examine the lists made by the overseers and town-clerk, to ascertain if the name of any person has been inserted who is not entitled to vote. If there be any such, he is to give to the overseers, or to the town-clerk, a notice of objection, in the following form:—

To the Overseers of the Parish [or Township] of (or to the Town Clerk of the City [or Borough] of) ——

I hereby give you notice, that I object to the name of —— being retained in the List of Persons entitled to vote in the Election of a Member [or Members] for the City [or Borough] of——

Dated this — day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and—

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode]

On the list of Voters for the Parish of——

The notice must also be given to the person objected to, as follows:

To Mr. ——

I hereby give you notice, that I object to your name being retained on the list of persons entitled to vote in the Election of Members [or a Member] for the City [or Borough] of——

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and——

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode]

On the list of Voters for the Parish of ——

OBJECTING.—The party having taken the necessary steps to secure his own vote, should also examine the overseers' list of voters, with a view of objecting to the name of any person he finds inserted in the list, and believes to be disqualified; any person whose name is on the list of voters may object to any other name, either in his own or any other parish, within the city or borough. Those who do not possess the franchise themselves can prevent others not entitled from voting, by looking over the lists of voters, and giving the names of any persons they may find improperly inserted to some person whose name is on the list, or to a Registration Society, if there be one.

In all notices of objection, the christian name and surname of the person objected to, exactly as it appears in the list, should be written at full length. The christian name and surname, and place of abode of the objector must also be written at length, or the notice will be void.

If there be more than one list of voters, the notice should specify the list to which the objection refers; and if the list contains two or more persons of the same name, the notice should distinguish the person intended to be objected to.

These notices must be given on or before the 25th of August. Copies of the notices should be kept by the person objecting.

Notices of objection may now be sent by post; but care must be taken to have a duplicate copy of such notice stamped by the postmaster. Such duplicate will be good evidence of the service of the notice. The notice must be posted so that the person objected to may get it on or before the 25th of August, or the objection will fall to the ground.

It is of importance that none but well-founded objections should be made, as the Revising Barrister has now the power, in cases of frivolous objections, of awarding the payment of costs to the amount of not more than twenty shillings in each such case.

The following are the Grounds of Objections.

INCAPACITY.—Peers, except Irish peers being members of the House of Commons. Aliens, unless naturalized, or denizenized, father or grandfather English, or served in the army, navy, or whale fishery. Under twenty-one years of age. Idiots, or lunatics. Officers of Excise, Customs, Stamps, Post-office, Assessed Taxes, if appointed by Assessed Tax Commissioners, or not ceased to hold office twelve months. Conviction of bribery, or any other crime. Receipt of parochial relief within one year previously to the 31st of July.

DISQUALIFICATIONS.—Dead. Premises not of sufficient value, not a house, warehouse, counting-house, shop, or other building. Not occupied twelve months ending the 31st of July, the same or any other premises in the city or borough to qualify. Premises let during any part of the year, and not retained part, or kept by a servant. Bankrupt, insolvent, unless still in occupation. Not rated, or claimed to be rated. Poor's-rate not paid. Window-tax not paid. (These are the only taxes necessary to be paid.) Non-residence within seven miles, from the 31st of January to the 31st of July. Partners where premises do not give £10 a year to each partner, or not in partnership for a year ending the 31st of July, or want of qualification in other respects as above. Landlords who do not occupy a part of the premises. Servants, as secretary or manager, carrying on their employers' business on the premises. Not having occupied the premises described in the list during the whole year, that is, from the 31st of July, 1843. It is not sufficient that the voter previously occupied other premises that make up the year's occupation; if such premises are not described in the list, it is sufficient ground of objection.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE GROUNDS OF OBJECTION TO SCOT AND LOT VOTERS.—1. Not an inhabitant householder on the 31st of July next previous to the time of serving the objection. 2. Not an inhabitant householder on the 7th of June, 1832, and for six months previously. 3. Not having been rated, or not having paid all poor's-rates demanded, on or before those respective periods. 4. Not inhabiting (sleeping) in any part of the city or borough at those respective periods. 5. Not having resided (slept) within seven miles from the 31st of January to the 31st of July in the current year. 6. Name omitted from the register for two successive years.

GROUND OF OBJECTION TO A FREEMAN OR BURGESS.—That he was not duly admitted by the 31st of July; or, if the freedom is in right of birth, that it has not been derived from or through a freeman admitted before the 1st of March, 1831, or admitted since that period in respect of servitude. That he has not resided during the time or within the distance required.

COUNTY REGISTRATION.

The register of voters, and also the lists of claimants for counties, should now be carefully examined, and where there is reason to believe that a party has not a sufficient qualification, or that he is disqualified to vote, a notice of objection should be given on or before the 25th of August, to the overseers, or any one of them, and another should be given to the person objected to, or left at his place of abode, as described in the list. Any person whose name is on the register, may object to any person on the list, or to any claimant. The notice must be signed by the party objecting, and in the following form:—

To the Overseers of the Parish [or Township] of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I object to the name of the person mentioned and described below being retained in the List of Voters for the County of ——, [or for the —— Riding, Parts, or Division of the County of ——, as the case may be].

Christian and Surname of the Voter objected to, as described in the List or Register.	Place of Abode, as described.	Nature of Qualification, as described.	Street, Lane, or other like place, where the qualifying Property is situate, &c., as described in the List or Register.

Dated the —— day of ——, in the year ——

(Signed) A. B. [Place of Abode.]

The following notice must likewise be given to the person objected to:—

To Mr. ——, of —— [as described in the List.]

Take notice, that I object to your name being retained in the [here insert the name of the Parish] List of Voters for the County of ——, [or for the —— Riding, Parts, or Division of the County of ——.]

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and ——.

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode], on the Register of Voters for the Parish of ——

When the person objected to resides out of the parish or township to which the list relates, and the name of the occupying tenant of any portion of the property is stated in the list, the following notice must be given to tenant so named, besides the notice to the person so objected to:—

To Mr. ——, of —— [as described in List.]

Take notice, that I object to the name of A. B. [as described in the list] being retained in the [name of Parish] List of Voters for the County of ——, [or for the —— Riding, Parts, or —— Division of the County of ——.]

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and ——.

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode], on the Register of Voters for the Parish of ——

It is necessary that the notices of objection should specify the place of abode of the objector, and the notices to the voters and tenants, also the parish in which the objector is registered, otherwise they will be void.

Duplicate copies of each notice of objection should be kept by the objector.

Notices of objection may now be sent by post, but care must be taken to have the duplicate copy stamped by the postmaster; the production of such duplicate, in proof of their having been so sent, will be taken by the revising barrister as proof of service.

The principal grounds of objection are—

First, the insufficient value of the property, reference being had to the tenure by which it is held.

Secondly, the insufficiency of the title of the party to the property in respect of which he claims.

Thirdly, that the party has not been in possession during the period required by law.

Fourthly, that he has omitted to set forth any of the particulars required in his notice of claim.

Change of residence, since registration, is a good ground of objection, although the barrister, upon proof of the qualification, will not expunge the name, but correct the place of abode, if supplied at the revision.

Persons who are disqualified to be registered, in respect of personal incapacity, are as follows:—

Women; persons under twenty-one years of age; peers; Irish peers, except members of the House of Commons; aliens, unless made denizens by the King's letters patent, or naturalised by act of Parliament; persons of unsound mind, such as idiots, lunatics; persons convicted of felony, bribery, perjury, or petit larceny; commissioners and officers of excise, customs, stamps, and taxes; all persons in the employ of the Post-office; police magistrates or police officers; and all persons in the Thames and Metropolitan Police in the counties of Hertford, Essex, Kent, Surrey, and Middlesex. All these are legally incapacitated, and may be objected to.

A collector of taxes who is not appointed by the Tax-office, and a *sub*-deputy in the Post-office not appointed by the Postmaster General, are not disqualified.

The receipt of parochial relief will not disqualify a freeholder who claims to vote for a county.

The revising barrister has power to adjudge costs, to be

paid by objectors to persons objected to upon groundless or frivolous objections. The barrister is the sole judge of the nature of the objection, and may make such order as he shall think fit for the payment of the costs of any person in resisting it; such costs not to exceed twenty shillings.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS FOR COUNTIES.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EXAMINATION OF THE LISTS.

Under the Reform Act one *list for each parish, of the old and new claims, was sufficient. The 6 Vic., c. 18, s. 5, directs that lists of all new claims shall be printed; also a copy of the register for the parish then in force; such lists shall be published by placing them on the church and chapel doors on the first and second Sunday in August. (Sec. 22.) It is most important that the lists be printed* separately, *and that the new claims be not inserted in the copy of the register, for this obvious reason: The 40th section requires the revising barrister to correct the list; and if he finds more names in the copy of the register than on the register, he must strike out those names. The effect will be, that, unless a list of the new claims is made out separately, the barrister has no list to revise; and the voter loses his vote, unless he is prepared with a duplicate claim, and is prepared also to prove his qualification in the Revising Barrister's Court, as directed by the 37th section.*

The negligence of overseers (to speak in the mildest terms) is so great, that often three parts of the voters on a parish list stand a chance of being disqualified by the improper way in which the copy of the register *is made. Example—St. Michael-le-Guerne, city of London, in the present year:—*

Joseph Chapman ..	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
John Cowper	Starford-street.	Ditto.	4, Ditto.
Frederick Cowper..	Russell-square.	Ditto.	Ditto.

The 40th section requires the revising barrister to expunge the name where the nature of the qualification shall, in the opinion of the barrister, be insufficiently described for the purpose of being identified. *And it is a very common practice for the vestry clerks, instead of procuring a copy of the register, signed by the clerk of the peace, to copy, year after year, some old list of their own; the result of which is the omission frequently of many names.*

Electors *must not, therefore, and those who are watching the Registration, be content with having claimed, or take the lists as a matter of course as being perfect, but should carefully see that their* new *claims are on the* new-claim list (*separately*), *and not on the copy of the register; and also that those who have claimed years back should see that their names, addresses, and qualifications are properly described on the list for the present year's revision, or the overseers, by their errors, may disfranchise them without their having any notice on the subject, which, if detected, may be rectified on application at the court at the time the list is revised.*

THE LEAGUE AND ITS ADVISERS.

Sundry parties have been seized with a mania for giving counsel to the Anti-Corn-Law League. This is very courteous of them, especially as no advice has been called in, and no fee been tendered. The great Peel principle is thus violated; for we all remember the Tamworth doctrine, that for the physician to prescribe before he is feed, amounts to arrant "quackery." Nor is the League convinced, by such testimony as has been offered, of its own failing health and energy. We believe ourselves to be as vigorous as ever, and moving onwards, with firm and steady pace, to the accomplishment of our object. The volunteer doctors of the League must first demonstrate its disease. The pilots of party should have waited for the signal flag of distress before they put out so hastily, some from a Whig, and others from a Tory port, to assume the guidance of the good ship, and tow her like a wreck out of the reach of storms. We will not, however, be so unthankful to our admonishers as utterly to neglect their counsels. They shall each be heard in turn; and, first, the *Morning Chronicle*, as hoisting, in its professions, the broadest flag of friendliness.

The leading article of the *Chronicle*, on Saturday, the 10th inst., commences with what it terms a frank confession of inability to comprehend the policy of the League "in sending candidates for the mere purpose of experiencing a certain defeat at elections." The Dudley contest only served, as our contemporary thinks, to expose the nakedness of the land, and make apparent the fact, which might not otherwise have been so clear, how "completely in a minority" were the conscientious Free-Traders of that constituency.

Now, if the leaders of the League had any particular apprehension about being "completely in a minority," the Anti-Corn-Law agitation would never have been commenced and continued; nor any other movement for obtaining justice from a predominant class interest. It was the very fact of being in a minority that rendered agitation necessary, and that requires its continuance. To transform an electoral and, through that, a representative minority into a majority is the very end and aim of our exertions. We shall not accomplish that by false appearances. To acquire a fictitious prestige by only fighting when sure of winning may be clever tactics for a faction, but is not the simple course of honest men working out an honest purpose. Our defeats are the seeds of future victory. They excite local discussion. They leave increased knowledge of the subject, more enlightened principle, and stimulated zeal, to germinate in men's minds. They leave the conviction of truth and justice, which, with deference to our counsellor, we hold to be a more efficient thing than "the reputation of power" founded upon the dexterous avoidance of collision.

To ascertain, by actual experiment, the fact, as to such a constituency as that of Dudley, is a portion of the pledge under which the League has laid itself to the public. Its course of operation, distinctly marked out, and not that we remember condemned by the *Chronicle* when promulgated, is to appeal to the constituencies of the kingdom on the Free-Trade question. Into that court the cause was carried, when petitions to Parliament were abandoned. Now, such a town as Dudley, by the occupations of its inhabitants, the amount of its population (which is about 30,000), and the number (600) of its registered electors, is fairly marked out for a voice in the verdict asked for by the League from the electors. We cannot pass it by. We desire not to blink the truth. Is Dudley for trade or for monopoly? Let the world know its answer. The League is bound to put the question. For the character of the reply the Dudley constituency is responsible. That reply may not accord with public opinion; it may have nullified the voices and crushed the wishes of their non-voting neighbours, as expressed on the day of nomination; but that is the business of the Dudley electors. They have their consolation—they have pleased Lord Ward; and we wish them joy of their bargain.

Those who are toiling for truth and justice throughout the country, should see what they have to contend with. The full extent of difficulty and obstacle should be before them. Not only should they be aware of the sixty or seventy close boroughs, completely under aristocratical and monopolist control; as entirely nomination boroughs as any that existed in the days of Gatton and Old Sarum; but they must also be made to perceive the amount of undue influence over the larger constituencies, the wide-spreading malignity of corruption and intimidation, the gross ignorance in some cases, and the base unprincipledness and spontaneous servility in others, of the electoral system; and the ever-disturbing power of party spirit. Instead of forgetting, palliating, or glossing over such elections as those of Dudley, and yet more, of Birmingham and South Lancashire, we would fix the gaze of the public upon them; just as we lead a startled horse up to the object that annoyed him, and walk him round and round, till he recovers the alarm. In these chapters of defeat, Free-Traders find the texts of their work and duties. It has long been understood and proclaimed that our agitation involves an electoral purification, the raising of voters' minds to a better conception of the sacredness of their trust, a diffusion of knowledge and principle amongst those with whom political power is deposited; and who could ever dream of achieving this task without encountering, again and again, the risk of being left at the poll "completely in the minority"? And who would not brave this while the corrective fact remains unquestionable, that we never are so left in a minority at a fair open meeting of the people, whether of a borough or of a county?

The obvious truth is, that the *Chronicle* fears we are damaging the Whigs by these contests. It wants to sink the League into a section of the Whig party, not "inclined to pursue its own particular object, without co-operation with others." But the League *is* so inclined. It exists for that very purpose. A Whig may be "an open enemy of our cause," not less than a Tory. Whether a ministry is to be "turned out of, or maintained in, office on one single question," is no concern of ours. The adoption, by whomsoever the country may be governed, of a distinct principle and policy, in commercial matters, is our object. In causing the defeat, should we chance to cause it, of that curious animal, a monopolist Liberal, we lose no friend. Nor is it true, as the *Chronicle* insinuates, that the League has thrust candidates forward to the injury of those who were partially with us, as opposed to candidates who were entirely against us. Neither at Hastings, nor at Exeter, did the Free-Trade candidate prevent "any other kind of Liberal candidate" from offering himself, and ascertaining his better chance of success, if such chance existed. The field was perfectly open. The Whigs ran away, and we fought. It is rather too much for them now to cry out that their glorious victory was obstructed by our not running away also.

The article on which we are commenting is not very erroneously estimated in the assurance of another of our counsellors, the *Morning Herald*, that "the *Chronicle* backs its friends of the League in a style more hostile than we (to abuse whom meetings have been expressly called,) have ever adopted." When and where these meetings were held is not specified by our venerable contemporary. Of course they have been reported in the journal interested; but that ensures no very large publicity. How large, or how limited, the friends of "the speculation" in office seem averse to letting the world know, as we are not to be favoured in future with the usual stamp returns, indicating the number of stamps bought (whether used or not) by the different newspapers. However, the fact certainly is, as the *Herald* confesses, that the mere "mention" of itself, and "such newspapers" is generally very "productive of merriment in the intelligent audience at Covent-garden," and we may add, in any other intelligent audience throughout the country.

But our most solicitous counsellor is—who would believe it?—the Agricultural Protection Society, "Richmond, President." A circular from this formidable body, with the above august signature, describes the League to be in "a fearful state, and one requiring the greatest skill to remedy." Such kindness, from such a quarter, quite melts us. We must take till next week to show our gratitude. We trust we are not beyond the skill which can grace the Duke's name with a prize for a thoroughbred stallion from the judges of the Royal Agricultural Soicety by a "roarer" to which his steward afterwards confesses ownership.

To return to the *Morning Chronicle*. The writer wishes us to be one with the Whigs, both in our object and in the means adopted for its attainment. That object would then become such as he states it; the practical result to be, "the transferring political power from the aristocratic faction now predominant to more liberal statesmen," *i. e.*, Lord J. Russell and his colleagues. Now, for making this the object of the League, the writer has no better warrant than his own wishes, in defiance of repeated declarations to the contrary. On such ground we should confess the League at fault most grievously. And the admission would establish a charge of unprincipledness and deception against its leaders which the whole history of the agitation rebukes and repels. The writer knows better. He is aware that what he assumes to be our end is only his own. He complains of the "erroneous impression" of the leaders of the League "that they are going to carry all before them, merely by the strength of their own great principle." Why, then, should he affect to try their conduct by his own little principle? Why urge the objection that might equally have been made to Clarkson in his warfare against the slave trade, and to the Parliamentary Reformers anterior to 1829? Why treat the assertion of a principle, as if it were only a trick of party policy? And why misstate some facts, and suppress others, to drive Free-Traders into the ranks of Whiggery by the penalty of being deemed impracticables? A writer who assumes to be so well informed about Hastings and Exeter should also be aware of the mode in which most of the late vacancies have occurred, and of the previous arrangements between the retiring and succeeding parties. The monopolists, as at Devizes, Cirencester, Dudley, &c., have chosen their own opportunity. Yet our "friend" makes the most of defeat, just to substantiate the charge of wrongheadedness if we do not consult the policy of the Whigs. And there is also a practical misrepresentation in his mode of isolating the League from the constituencies in which these gallant though unsuccessful efforts were made. Why, they, these minorities, are the League too, as much as those of us who, being its members, live and vote in London or in Manchester. They profess its principles, aid its funds, and teach its doctrines. Where has the League fought an electoral battle but as the ally of its own members upon the spot? Where has it not left them the initiative? Where has it not deferred to their opinion, when decidedly opposed to putting a candidate in nomination? Is it then for the *Chronicle*, or for any party journal, whether Whig or Tory, to revive the calumny and cant of last October, and talk of "strangers whose homes are in Lancashire?" We thought the citizens of London had abolished that nonsense for ever. The *Chronicle* professes to desire our "complete success." Let it help, then, not by striving to link us to the fallen fortunes of a beaten party, but by advocating principle paramount to all party; and secure of eventual success, not by dexterity and mystification, but by the inevitable though progressive enlightenment and determination of public opinion.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL'S SPEECH AT THE CLOSE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CAMPAIGN.

The pacific interchange of compliments between the leaders of the two great Parliamentary parties at the close of the session was an edifying spectacle, from which many profitable lessons may be deduced. To the Free-Traders it shows the wisdom of the course which they have hitherto pursued in avoiding all combination with party, and refusing to make their cause subservient to any policy connected with a change in the Cabinet. To some extent both the head of the Ministry and the leader of the Opposition adopted the same portion of monopolist cant, and talked of the "peculiar burdens on the land;"

"For some affirm no enemies they are,
But meet just like prize-fighters at a fair:
Who first shake hands before they box,
Then give each other heavy knocks
With all the love and kindness of a brother;
And so 'tis thought that Peel and Russell,
Although they sometimes have a tussle,
In secret understand each other."

At all events, as *Sir Fretful Plagiary* [illegible]

they do agree, their unanimity is wonderful." They both conveniently forgot the repeated challenges that have been given them to point out the nature of these peculiar burdens, and the refusal of the House of Commons to allow of any inquiry into the subject. Mr. Villiers, however, refreshed their memory a little, and we are much mistaken if the rival leaders will not find themselves compelled either to point out these burdens, or to recognise their non-existence early in the next session.

But there is a portion of Lord John Russell's speech which demands very warm approbation, and which suggests reflections that we trust will occupy not only his mind but that of every reflecting man during the Parliamentary recess. The Noble Lord said :—

"There is another topic upon which I wish to say a few words, because I think it must force itself upon our attention, in some shape or other, before a very long period elapses—I mean the condition of the people of England. You cannot help, from day to day and from time to time, observing the state of the people of this country—the inadequate means which the labouring people have to supply their families with the comforts of life, with the extreme labour, which in the manufacturing districts is undergone, and with the discontent which, both in our agricultural counties and our manufacturing districts, is, at intervals, excited; and I think, if we take a general view of this subject, it is impossible not to see whether it be the fault of our Legislature or not, that the labouring classes have not advanced in comfort and welfare in proportion to the other orders of the community. If we compare the condition of this country with what it was a century ago, with what it was in 1740, for instance, it is impossible not to see that, while the higher classes have advanced in luxury, beyond measure—while the means available for the diffusion of comfort, and the enjoyment of life, have prodigiously increased—that while, if we look again at the middle classes, and their means of procuring comfort, of travelling from one place to another, the quickness with which intelligence is conveyed, and the increase in the consumption of foreign articles of luxury, that these classes have made a very great advance—if we look to the labouring classes—if we look to the men who either till the soil or labour in the factories—if we look to the quantity of necessaries which their wages would buy in the middle of the last century, and that which they can buy now—if we go into the details, with which I shall not now trouble the House, but which have been exhibited in the reports of the Commissioners sent forth, some by the late Government, and some by the present—I think we must be convinced that they have not participated, in an equal degree, in the advantages which civilization and improved knowledge have conferred upon us."

In plain terms, his lordship's assertion is, that the industrious have not reaped the benefit of the progress of industry, but that the drones have contrived to secure all the advantages resulting from the labour of the working bees. There can be no doubt about the fact: the labouring classes are doubly sufferers, because our commercial system, as at present constituted, unnaturally lowers the price of what they have to sell, and unnaturally raises the price of what they have to buy. "Labour is cheap and bread is dear." Now, it has been the policy of the English landholders, for many centuries, to keep down the price of labour, and reduce the remuneration of the working man to the lowest possible point; the well-known Statute of Labourers was actually passed to prevent wages from rising beyond a certain amount, and there can be little doubt that one of the principal reasons for the maintenance of the Corn Laws by the monopolists of land, is to secure to the proprietor a disproportionate share of the profits of the soil at the expense of the cultivator. This, indeed, is the only respect in which the Corn Laws have corresponded with the intentions of the projectors; for, while rents have risen three and four-fold, the wages of the farm-labourers have not only been stationary, but have actually retrograded in several localities. Lord John Russell, instead of showing that there were any peculiar burdens on land, has unwittingly let out that land has contrived to shift its burdens on labour, of which he gives conclusive proof when he declares that the comforts and luxuries of the landowning classes have been greatly multiplied, while those of the working and labouring classes have been deteriorated. It is to prevent the progress of this deterioration that the League has been established; its great and leading object has been to secure "a fair day's wages for a fair day's work," by enlarging the field of employment, and producing that competition among employers which gives to the employed the command and the regulation of the labour-market. Lord John Russell himself, but with some hesitation, points to the same remedy :—

"It is not to State charity that we ought to look for the support of the people of England (cries of 'Hear, hear, hear,' and cheers); but it is to enabling them to obtain, by honest labour, that which some of themselves declare to be their object; and there can be no more just object, a fair day's wages for a fair day's work. (Cheers.) In considering the question, I think it will be necessary to revise the whole of the subject which the right hon. gentleman brought before the House, I think, in an imperfect manner, two years ago—I mean the subject of the import duties. (Hear, hear.) I think the right hon. gentleman has, this year, proposed a plan with respect to the currency which tends to bring us back to the principles which obtained before the commencement of the war of 1793. I think it is worth our while to see what were the duties upon the importation of articles of food and other general commodities of consumption. (Hear.) I think, together with an improved and stable currency, those great articles of consumption should be admitted, with as small a duty as can well be laid upon them; and, in regard to what is due to the mitigation of burdens imposed upon the consumers of this country, I think we should likewise consider what is due to the agricultural interest of this country. I think you should consider, with respect to many subjects, whether that unequal taxation which now presses upon us cannot be remedied. I remember, at the commencement of the session, that some expressions I used on this subject were misunderstood by some members of the House, when I declared, that I thought it would not be wise at once to abolish all laws restricting the importation of corn, without taking into consideration the increase of duties and taxes to which the producers of corn had been subjected since the commencement of the present century. I will mention but two of them, One, the very great increase in the county rates, since the beginning of the war of 1793—another, the very large augmentation of the malt-tax. It appears to me that now, when the Government have the leisure of the recess before them, they might very well consider whether some relief might not be given to the agricultural interest—(hear, hear, hear)—and whether, in giving that relief, they might not frame measures more in accordance with those principles of trade which the present Government, as well as the late, uphold."

To these principles Sir Robert Peel gave a general assent; and thus we have it on the authority of the two great leaders of parliamentary parties, that the future administrative movements of the Government, by whatever hands directed, will be towards the establishment of the principles of Free Trade. On the exertions of the League, and on the amount of national support those exertions will rally around the good cause, must depend, at least to a considerable extent, the amount of justice which will be conceded to the industrious classes. The monopolists will cling to their system with desperate tenacity, and the Minister will succumb to their mandates, unless he be assured that he can fall back on the nation. Renewed exertions and fresh combinations of energies are necessary to our final success; we have won a position in advance, and must rally our forces upon the new ground in order to prepare for a fresh campaign.

AN INQUIRY INTO THE EFFECTS OF ENGLISH LEGISLATION UPON AGRICULTURAL WAGES, PROFITS, AND RENT.

By a Barrister.

Chapter I.

1st Period.—From the Emancipation of the Labourer to the first Legislative Interference with the Labour Market in 1349.

In attempting to obtain a correct view of the various stages and fluctuations in the history of agricultural wages in England, the inquirer will, it is apprehended, be aided by bearing in mind that, originally, agricultural labour was not free—that the agricultural labouring population of this country consisted, at least in a considerable proportion, of bondmen, of slaves, whose labour consequently, like that which existed very recently in some of our colonies, was slave labour. The resemblance, indeed, between the two, viz., slave labour recently in our colonies, and slave labour as it existed in England for some centuries after the Conquest, is not merely fanciful and theoretical, but substantial and practical. Formerly, by the English law, both *villeins regardant* (that is, agricultural labourers annexed to the manor or land) and *villeins in gross* (that is, annexed to the person of the lord, and transferable by deed from one owner to another) were considered as real property; consequently, all the incidents of real property attached to them. One or two examples of these feudal incidents, taken from the old law books, will help to convey an idea of their actual condition at that time. Thus even *villeins in gross* were subject to dower—that is, the wife of their owner after the death of her husband was entitled to an estate for life in a third part of them.* And the very limits prescribed by law to the dominion of the tenant for life over the villein, being precisely the same as the limits prescribed to his power over houses, parks, timber, &c., show what was the nature of the dominion of the tenant in fee. As there may at the present day be waste in houses, gardens, parks, fish-ponds, timber, &c., so formerly there might be waste in villeins. Thus :—"If tenant in dower of a manor to which villeins are regardant, manumits the villeins, this is not any waste, because it is not any manumission, but against herself; for he in reversion may seize them after her death. (2 Hen. VI. 11, *Curia.*) But if she had beat the villeins, or constrained them to do other services which they did not before, by which they go out of the seigniory, it is waste." (2 Hen. VI. 11.)†

It was natural that, when in the process of time the manumission of many of these villeins had taken place, and their labour consequently had along with their persons become their own property, they should desire to sell it as dear as possible. It was also natural that their former lords should desire to purchase their labour as cheap as possible. But for this purpose they were not content to seek out the cheapest market for the commodity they wanted, and avail themselves of whatever natural advantages might be thus afforded. But they sought to force a cheap market, and they exercised their legislative power to obtain labour at a price below the natural market price; thereby robbing the labourer of the only property he possessed. In the following inquiry this fact ought never to be lost sight of. It furnishes a key to many of the social evils that have afflicted England for centuries.

There were circumstances in the history of Europe during the period under review which made the legislation above referred to on the subject of the labour market press with particular hardship on the labourers. Among the principal of these were the degradation of the coin by the Government, and, still more, the fall in the real value of the precious metals. The extraordinary rise of the prices of all other commodities thereby produced rendered a corresponding rise in the price of labour absolutely necessary for the subsistence of the labourer. And such a rise would have taken place, if the labourer had been allowed to sell his labour in a free and open market. But positive enactments were framed by the purchasers of labour to prevent the increase of wages, that is, to prevent the sellers of labour from obtaining an equitable price for their property; so that, while the prices of everything else were advancing rapidly, the wages of the labourer were violently kept down nearly to their former level.* These general observations will, it is believed, be borne out by the most minute examination of the details, which we now proceed to give.

The period during which the English agricultural labourer appears to have been best off is that between his emancipation from slavery and the interference of the Legislature with the price of his labour. In the fourteenth century, Sir John Cullum observes, "A harvest-man had 4d. a day, which enabled him in a week to buy a coomb of wheat; but to buy a coomb of wheat, a man must now (1784) work ten or twelve days."† To buy a coomb of wheat how many days must he work now (1844)? On the average rather more than ten or twelve days. Sir J. Cullum thus continues :—"A man had formerly 6d. for mowing an acre of meadow, which, if he worked hard, he might finish in a day, and purchase for himself a bushel of wheat, which must now be earned by five days' labour. 2d. a day for weeding corn, 4d. for threshing a quarter of wheat, and 2d. for other grain, were better wages than those now given, and enabled the laziest lubber to earn more than the most industrious workman can at present." Mr. Hallam, after alluding to the uncertainty of employment, and the frequent dearth which prevailed in those times, comes to the following conclusions :—"But, after every allowance of this kind, I should find it difficult to resist the conclusion, that however the labourer has derived benefit from the cheapness of manufactured commodities, and from many inventions of common utility, he is much inferior in ability to support a family to his ancestors three or four centuries ago. I know not why some have supposed that meat was a luxury seldom obtained by the labourer. Doubtless he could not have procured as much as he pleased; but, from the greater cheapness of cattle as compared with corn, it seems to follow that a more considerable portion of his ordinary diet consisted of animal food than at present. It was remarked by Sir John Fortescue that the English lived far more upon animal diet than their rivals the French; and it was natural to ascribe their superior strength and courage to this cause."‡ Fuel was also cheaper then. There is also another point of superiority belonging to those early times which might not at first sight be supposed—we mean lodging. It might be supposed that the result of so many centuries of progress would, at least, be more healthy and commodious lodging. But the only change has been from wood and wattled houses to brick and stone, with little, if any, improvement in cleanliness, warmth, and ventilation. In Mr. Chadwick's "Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population of Great Britain," a gentleman who had attentively observed the condition of the working classes in the north of Lancashire and the north of Cheshire, states that the general health of the labourers in the north of Lancashire is decidedly inferior. He ascribes the inferiority to the Cheshire people's having been used to wooden cottages, and adds :—"Wood and wattled houses, such as our forefathers built, are the dryest and warmest of all; brick is inferior in both these requisites of a comfortable house; but stone, especially the unhewn stone, as it is necessarily employed for cottages, is the very worst material possible for the purpose. I prefer the Irish mud cottages. The evil arises from two causes: the stone is not impervious

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* Perkins, sec. 372.

† Cited [illegible] Abr. 437.

* See a valuable note on this subject at p. 335 of the article "Corn Laws and Corn Trade," in the "Encyclopædia Britannica," 7th edit.

† "History of Hawsted," p. 258. 2nd edit.

‡ Middle Ages. Ibid. In the bailiff's accounts, quoted by Sir John Cullum, there appears to be an ambiguity. Under date 1359, Sir J. Cullum says :—"Though, from the increased quantity of grass grounds, the consumption of flesh meat was probably increased, yet the poor landholders, who were obliged by their tenures to work for the lord so many days in hay time and harvest, had at this time no other allowance of animal food than two herrings a day each, and some milk from the manor dairy to make them cheese; they had, besides, each man a loaf, of which fifteen made a bushel, and an allowance of drink, not specified."—History of Hawsted, p. 215.

But, if the customary tenants had herrings only, the other labourers seem to have had flesh. In the list of harvest expenses for 1388, we find the following items :—"Meat bought, 10s. 10d.; five sheep from the stock."—"History of Hawsted," p. 220. Sir F. Eden, however ("State of the Poor," vol. 1, p. 15), considers that "a few fish, principally herrings, a loaf of bread, and some beer constituted the meal of the mower and the reaper;" and that the mutton, &c., was provided for the harvest-home, and consequently might be taken as evidence that meat and cheese were considered more as luxuries than the ordinary articles of consumption of the labourer.

to water, especially when the rain is accompanied by high winds; and it sucks up the moisture of the ground, and gives it out into the rooms; but, principally, stone is a good conductor of heat and cold, so that the walls cooled down by the outer air are continually condensing the moisture contained in the warmer air of the cottage, just as the windows steam on a frosty morning; besides, the abstraction of heat in stone houses must be a serious inconvenience. The effect of this condensation must be, and is, to make clothes, bedding, &c., damp whenever they are placed near the wall, and therefore extremely prejudicial to those who wear the clothes or sleep in the beds."*

Here, indeed, we are met with a remark of Sir Frederick Eden, that the price of wheat is "no criterion of the ability of a man to subsist by his labour, unless it can be shown that this grain is wholly and entirely his ordinary food."† He infers, from the "Household Book" of Sir Edward Coke, that, in 1596, rye-bread and oatmeal formed a considerable portion of the diet of servants in great families; and he adds that, in 1626, barley-bread is stated in a grant of a monopoly from King Charles I. to have been the usual food of the ordinary sort of people. But the price of wheat may undoubtedly be considered as a criterion of the ability of a man to subsist by his labour, not only where wheat is wholly his ordinary food, or forms a considerable portion of it, but where, though forming no portion of his ordinary food, it forms a considerable portion of the ordinary food of some not inconsiderable portion of the inhabitants of the same country. For the high price of wheat will drive some from wheat to other sorts of grain, and will consequently raise the price of those other sorts of grain, independently of the same causes (such as the seasons, &c.) producing the same effect on them as on wheat, and consequently making them always bear a certain proportion in the rise and fall of price to wheat. Moreover, we think it is evident from the words of the first chapter of the statute 25 Edward III., stat. 2, 1350-1, that, by the middle of the fourteenth century, wheat formed a considerable portion of the usual food of the agricultural labourers in many (we think we are authorized, from its being the only sort of food specified by the Legislature as a measure of value, to say in a majority) of the counties of England. The words of the statute are these:—"1st, That carters, ploughmen, drivers of the plough, shepherds, swineherds, deies, and all other servants, shall take liveries and wages, accustomed the said twentieth year, or four years before; so that in the country where wheat was wont to be given, they shall take for the bushel ten pence, or wheat at the will of the giver, till it be otherwise ordained."‡ What is apparent from this passage is not only that wheat was at that time an ordinary food, but that it was not unusual to pay the agricultural labourers' wages in kind;§ in other words, that a species of truck system prevailed, but a very different truck system from that which oppresses and robs the labourer, by giving him what he does not want, and cannot exchange for what he does want without sustaining a loss. On the contrary, the system of paying the labourer in the first necessary of life, bread-corn, has some of the same advantages as the plan of guarding against the changes in the value of money, by reserving in college leases part of the annual payment in the shape of a corn-rent.

Of the nature and effects of this mode of paying labourers a very clear and interesting account is contained in the evidence of John Grey, Esq., given before the Committee of the House of Lords on the state of the poor laws, in February, 1831. Speaking of the agricultural labourers in Northumberland, he says:—"The hinds are exempt from the uncertainties of high and low prices, because, although of course their earnings are not of equal value in money when corn is very low, yet the quantum of meal which the grain produces is the same, and when the corn is very high they are exempt from the poverty which would otherwise accompany a money rate of wages. There is another remark which it may be proper to make, that in receiving as wages a quantum of grain (which they get ground at a very cheap rate), besides the temptation of spending money in public-houses when they go to purchase their weekly food, they are saved all the intermediate profits of the meal-dealer and baker; and I apprehend the quantity of grain given to those people, though it may cost the farmer £15 or £16, would probably cost the labourer £20 if he purchased it in small quantities of meal, or in loaves.

"Is it generally in grain or in meal?—Generally in grain.

"In the allowance given to labourers in articles of subsistence, is there a certain quantum given without regard to its price?—There is a certain quantum given, without reference to the price.

"It is the same in Scotland, is it not?—In Scotland they give it in meal; generally it amounts to the same thing, the calculation being the same.

"Is it not better for them to have it in meal, as it saves the expense of grinding it?—The master makes his calculation, and if he incurs the expense, he will give somewhat less; but they generally prefer having it ground among themselves. There is a great competition among the very small mills: a man takes a mill, and buys a horse and cart, and he goes round and collects the grain from those people, and takes it back to them when ground; and the number of those mills keeps them on pretty good terms; they can get it ground according to their own fancy and taste. Of course the grain delivered to the servant is always the best which the farm produces; and that has one salutary effect, that it gives the servant an interest in the working of this grain, and in the preserving it in good condition; and instead of grumbling in bad weather at working extra hours in harvest, they have all an interest in preserving it in good order.

"If the grain is damaged in harvest, are they satisfied with that, such as it is?—I should not say that; but I never heard an instance in which they did not get the very best grain that the farm would produce. I never knew a farmer feel himself called upon to go and purchase better, or that he has done so. I have known where the grain has been sprouted, that they have given a larger quantity to make up for the deficiency, though that is not the bargain.

"If there is any surplus left, does the master take it back?—It is in the option of the servant to make the best he can of it. If a man has only a wife and daughter at home, his grain is greater than he can consume; this stands to his credit at the half-year's end, and it goes to his account at the market price of the day with his master.

"Has he the option to take either the grain or the market price of the grain?—The master is bound to deliver him his grain, but he is not bound to buy it back of him. It often happens that the servants will prefer selling to the miller; but in my own case I am in the habit, and I believe it is a very general thing, if they have any surplus grain, to give them an allowance for it at the end of the half-year."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 132.

Another witness before the same committee, Robert Aglionby Slaney, Esq., M.P., thus further illustrates the effects of payment of wages in corn:—"Do you not think this has been an evil of long standing, that labour has been very ill paid in the south, comparatively to the payment for it in the north?—No. I am of opinion it may be traced distinctly to the period when the price of wheat fluctuated extremely, from the beginning of the French war down to 1815; and I could show that the wheat fluctuated 100 per cent. in one year, then went down 50, and then went up 150. Wages could not fluctuate in the same way as wheat; and the magistrates, from the necessity of the case, in consequence took up this mode of relieving the men. In the south that became permanent; whereas, in the north, they used it only as a transitory measure."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 147.

But, as we shall see presently, we must go much further back than the French war alluded to, for the source of this difference in the recompense of labour. The effects of paying the labourer in money, and in an amount of money *fixed by law*, at a time when the real value of money was sinking rapidly, were felt most strongly in the course of the sixteenth century, and led to a train of consequences of which we have not yet seen the termination. (*To be continued.*)

* Report, pp. 267-8.

† "State of the Poor," vol. i., pp. 560-1.

‡ 25 Edward III., stat. 2, c. 1. Record Commissioners' edit.

§ Sir J. Cullum says ("History of Hawsted," p. 214), "In 1281, a carter had four bushels of siligo (a kind of light and fine wheat,) for six weeks' work of various kinds; and a girl for winnowing corn, and keeping the young heifers, geese, and poultry of the manor, for fourteen weeks, one quarter of the same grain." In Hawsted, in the farm which the lady of the manor held in her own hands, wheat bore to other kinds of grain the following proportions:—"In 1386, the produce was, according to the bailiff's accounts (which were always from Michaelmas to Michaelmas), 60 quarters 5½ bushels of wheat, 54 quarters 4 bushels of barley, 11 quarters 7 bushels of peas, 29 quarters of haras (a horse-corn), and 54 quarters 4 bushels of oats."—"History of Hawsted," p. 214. "In 1397, [illegible] acres were sown with wheat, allowing 2 bushels to an acre; [illegible] acres with barley, allowing 4 bushels to an acre; 25 acres with peas; 25 acres with haras, 62 acres with oats, allowing [illegible] bushels of each to an acre."—*Ibid*, p. 216. "In 1398, the produce of the farm was 69 quarters 2 bushels of wheat, 59 quarters 7 bushels of barley, 23 quarters 3 bushels of peas, [illegible] quarters [illegible] haras, 40 quarters 4 bushels of oats. In 1399, 57 acres were sown with wheat, 24 acres with barley, 22 acres with peas, [illegible] acres with haras, 54½ acres with oats."—*Ibid*, p. 217.

THE EDINBURGH ANTI-CORN-LAW ASSOCIATION.

On the 1st instant a meeting was held, in the hall of the Chamber of Commerce, of the Executive Committee of the Anti-Corn-Law Association, Bailie Gray in the chair, in the absence of Mr. Wigham. The meeting was specially called to consider the correspondence with Mr. Gibson Craig, M.P. for the city. The *Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle* publishes the correspondence, by which it appears that, after repeated attempts on the part of the secretary, Mr. Howison, to bring the honourable member to a distinct avowal of his adherence to the principle of a total and immediate repeal of the Corn Laws, he had written a reply, in which he reserved to himself the right of preferring any modification or compromise which might be proposed. "The Association, in these circumstances," says the *Chronicle*, "sent him a calm remonstrance, written in a very friendly spirit, of date 26th June, in explanation of their real principles, and what they expected from Free-Trade members of Parliament. Its defence of the principles and policy of the Association, in reply to the letter of Mr. Gibson Craig, is unanswerable. He appears to have felt this, for he did not attempt to answer it. After waiting for twenty days, they applied a second time for an answer, but with no better success, the honourable member having resolutely maintained a dogged silence. The members present having fully considered the correspondence, and expressed their opinions regarding the same, the meeting unanimously passed a resolution, in which they regret being obliged to state that the result of the correspondence with Mr. Gibson Craig has not been satisfactory; and they further regret being obliged to express their opinion that the fact of his not having returned any answer to either of the last two letters addressed to him is not respectful to the Committee, who, as is admitted in his letter of 23rd December last, represent a large body of his constituents."

NOTES TAKEN BY A TRAVELLER IN THE SUMMER OF 1844.

No. VI.

Brussels, July 15, 1844.

From the details I have furnished, an involuntary parallel suggests itself between the position of England and Belgium. In both countries a stagnation of several years has been the result of the want of courage or of inclination on the part of the most influential men frankly to adopt a system of fair and free industrial organization, while in both countries public opinion is rapidly progressing to unanimity on this important point. In both countries we have seen, in the present year, the minister arrogating the dangerous privilege of prejudging so solemn a question by the weight which a majority lends him in the legislative assemblies, regardless of the protests raised on the part of the bodies most interested and best informed on the subject. Arbitrary interference with the right of the trader in Belgium, by restrictions on the shipping that he is to use, runs parallel with our arbitrary interference in the concerns of manufacturers, by prescribing the number of hours of labour, and with the use of credit, which it is the merchant's pride that he alone can effectually create, although others may destroy it. The parallel is curiously completed by the attempt of the Belgian Government to raise the duties and introduce an excise on tobacco in the face of a surplus revenue, just as our oppressive duties on sugar, with their differential augmentation on foreign produce, are continued, notwithstanding the increase perceptible in every quarter's returns, and the property-tax. The attempt to impose an excise duty on home-grown tobacco was foiled, as I mentioned in my last, by the instinctive feeling of the landowners. They felt that it would be impolitic to deprive themselves of the chances offered by a valuable crop, which their corn duties do not encourage them to despise.

At Brussels, as in London, the working men in the public offices—the men whose countenance is needed even by the heads of parties—are, with few exceptions, liberal in their views; and amongst these, and the leading members of the commercial and manufacturing ranks, the best society must be sought by those who take interest in other matters than genealogical disquisitions and lamentations over the tendency of the times. In this class the hope of the country rests; and a selection from the most intelligent official men has been formed into a bureau of statistical inquiry, which is independent of ministerial support and influence, and by the names of its members possesses confidence with the public. M. Quetelet, so well known to the scientific world as royal astronomer, is the president. Messrs. Ducpetiaux, Smits, Vischer, and others of known character and acquirements, are his coadjutors. The two first volumes of their transactions are deserving of more than common attention, from the superior tone of the essays they contain; and contrast remarkably in this respect with many of the blue volumes issued as reports of parliamentary inquiries, which, under our present Ministry, are not improving in character. Men of standing in foreign countries have been invited to communicate with this body, and many have accepted the honourable correspondence. It is evident that such a body must eventually prove a mere tool in the hands of a minister, or a means of control invaluable for the nation, but odious, perhaps, to those who are subjected to criticism of so searching a character. That a Minister in Belgium would, however, scarcely venture to suppress such an institution when it possessed the confidence of the public, may be supposed from the means which the constitution affords of giving weight to public opinion, and which are well deserving of attention. Every province has an administrative council, the members of which are not named, as our magistrates are, by the Crown, nor taken, like our grand juries, from a particular class of the inhabitants. The members of these *Conseils Généraux* are elected by the ratepayers, and I have already noticed that the elections of the present year have turned out unfavourably for the Ministry. If the Minister adopts a course of conduct displeasing to the really informed and enlightened class of the nation, the resolutions of these councils give an importance to the wish of the majority that the Chamber cannot treat with contempt. Thus, in addition to every freedom in the right of petition which is sanctioned by law, a means of enforcing the view entertained *out of doors* on the notice of the Legislative Assembly is provided, to which it is evident, from the interest taken in the late elections, resort will often be made. In the large towns the Chambers of Commerce form consultative bodies, to whom projects affecting trade and manufactures are referred, and who have equally on commercial points the means of giving expression to public opinion. Travellers who are desirous of collecting authentic accounts of this interesting country will find themselves in safe hands in the members of these councils. On the other hand, they must treat with considerable distrust the statements and complaints of those friends of the antiquated system, who, finding it not so easy to work in the company of serious and independent men, and seeing that with such mental superiority was the only rank that would be tolerated, have withdrawn to the estates which they possess, and on which they vegetate in hostility to their industrious and intelligent neighbours. The influence of these councils may be expected to be traced as increasing in every successive election of the members of the Chamber; and as the high church and agricultural party was forced to accept the aid of M. Nothomb and his friends, the Cabinet will, under their influence, undoubtedly experience many liberal modifications.

The increase of the population is so rapid that without a corresponding development of the resources of industry, its growth will soon become oppressive. I have already alluded to the great subdivision of the land in Flanders, as a result both of the growing mass of the people and the stagnation of trade and manufactures. M. Heuschling, in a recent statistical treatise, states the augmentation that took place in the population during the two years 1841 and 1842, to amount to 5 per cent. Within the same period the imports increased 10 per cent., but the exports declined equally. It is not unlikely indeed that the latter are underrated in consequence of the great extent to which smuggling is carried on under the encouragement offered by the high tariffs of adjacent lands. During the recent debate in the Chambers on the tobacco duties it was stated that no less than 60,000 dogs were kept on the French frontier, who were trained to carry goods into France. Lace, it may be presumed, cannot possibly be excluded from our consts in

long as it is subjected to a duty. Now, from the increase that has been noticed in the lace manufacture, we are induced to conclude that any increased activity that may within this period be observed is traceable to the encouragement held out by smuggling. And with this unsatisfactory state of the national prospects a party like that now at the head of affairs thinks it possible to carry on the government, on the sole plea that the constant partitioning of the land increases the revenue of the landowner. We see that here this party, by insisting on so erroneous an economical view, is turning the dispute from one regarding general principles into one embittered by all the acrimony of private interest; and those who bring things to this dangerous pass are, forsooth, here as elsewhere called "Conservatives."

The King's visit to Ghent shows, however, that in influential quarters the present state of things is looked upon as too serious to be regarded with apathy. Under all circumstances, a ceremony of general interest in a considerable manufacturing town would be deemed a proper occasion for the Sovereign to testify his sympathy with that important interest. On the present occasion we have seen that King Leopold holds it to be his duty to seek personally to do away with the remnant of ill feeling that lingered at Ghent; and it is expected that he will be successful. But his greatest triumph will be, if, by encouraging free inquiry and discussion, he prepares the minds of his subjects to study and meet the great changes that industry in every country is exposed to; which can only prove innoxious by their being foreseen and provided against, and can only be modified when they arrive unexpectedly by a rapid acquiescence in the required alteration.

The result of prolonged peace will doubtless be to substitute the influence of the general councils and chambers of commerce for the old local corporation feeling which at present, as I have before remarked, is strongest. But this enlarged domestic policy is only attainable under the conviction that those who are most interested in the success of industrial undertakings will be secured from unnecessary interference on the part of ministers and legislators, without which it is clear there is even no security of property.

The view that I have taken will, perhaps, not readily be seized by some readers; but, as in the course of my tour numerous illustrations will force themselves upon our attention, I am content to wait until a larger range of observations present themselves, and shall only remark, that at all times the working classes of high and low degree, to whom nations are indebted for wealth and power, have willingly resigned themselves to the guidance of those who were supposed to have opportunities of taking theoretical and connected views of their pursuits. This confidence has, to say the least, been as often ill as well reposed; and the views of statesmen and divines have as often destroyed as preserved the prosperity of their fellow-citizens. The legislative power delegated to a representative government transfers the responsibility that feudal lords once incurred. A knight of the tribune can do as much mischief as any robber-knight of the olden time, and can endanger confidence quite as much as his predecessor. If our parliamentary protectors wish merchants and manufacturers to work, they must interfere less with the right of free passage on the high roads than they have of late years been inclined to do.

The land of WAES, or of spade husbandry, is the most interesting spot in the north of Europe for the political economist; since, as I before observed, the problem of raising the value of land by concentrating on it a numerous agricultural population is there exemplified. We can return to it after our survey of the state of manufactures and of trade, because the stagnation in those branches of industry accounts for the growing accumulation of small farmers in an agricultural district. A curious traveller will find himself repaid by leaving the line of the railroad at Ghent and passing at leisure through the district that lies between the left bank of the Scheldt and the sea. If his first excursion is along the new canal of Terneuse to Sas de Gand and the coast, he will find that the description of the soil of Flanders given by Mr. Radcliffe is geographically incorrect. Inside the belt of sandy downs that defines the coast a zone of heavy land runs parallel to the sea-line, and to the eastward of Terneuse stretches to the tide-mark. The level of this marsh or polder land is low, and the right of property in it, both in Holland and Belgium, was originally a spade right, which means that he, who by erecting a dam protected it from the waves, became its owner. This belt, which stretches in varying breadth from near Ostend through the Zealand islands, Friesland, Oldenburg, and Hanover to Holstein, is some of the richest land, and at the same time, generally speaking, the best cultivated in Europe. But this land, intersected with the *deeps* and *fleets*, of which I have spoken as having first afforded security (and, consequently, wealth) to the traders, enabled its cultivators to free themselves from the interference of the barons at an early period. Behind their dykes and dams the peasants of the marsh lands—Belgians, Batavians, Frisians, and Ditmarshers—made an early stand for freedom, and, under democratic and patriarchal forms, tolerated a nominal duke or governor, who was in no way allowed to interfere with their customs and rights. Wherever circumstances allowed him to do so, the consequence was assuredly the refusal of the peasants to cultivate a soil that demanded great sacrifices of labour and capital. The early importance of the Earls of Holland and of Flanders may account for the fact that these western polders are less carefully cultivated than those of Holland and Hanover, and on which the heaviest crops and the finest breeds of horses and horned cattle have for centuries been found.

Of course this difference need not be traced to any personal qualities in these rulers; but their political importance involved these earls in the warlike turmoil of their times, in which the interest of the peasant was sacrificed or overlooked, and the success or brilliancy of the c[illegible] was alone considered. Holland did not make the [illegible] that afterwards raised it so high until the estab[illegible]ent of its freedom. In the separation from Belgium, the coast, including the polder land, from Ecluse, at the mouth of the Canal of Bruges, to near Antwerp, was retained by Holland, who thus not only commands all the commercial approaches to Belgium, but is the owner of the greater portion by far of this rich polder land.

Within this rich belt the soil again becomes sandy; and of this sandy ground, partially mixed with peat, the greater part of the soil of East Flanders is composed. Towards the bank of the Scheldt (Escant) clay land gets again abundant, and meadows run along the course of that river, which are watered by its floods. Between these and the polders lies the remarkable tract whose high state of cultivation has been so much admired, and which affords such useful experience. Let us examine it somewhat in detail.

The meadows on the river banks require no manure where sluices are so arranged as to allow of their being watered at pleasure. But this has taken place only on a very limited scale, and is by no means the general rule as in Italy. The winter floods furnish sufficient moisture for the spring crop; and the occasional summer showers, with the heavy dews, are what the farmer depends upon for after-grass. In a good year three tons of hay per acre are usual. In a dry season the owners of irrigated meadows are immense gainers. All crops are here sold standing; and I was told of a landlord to whom the difference between a moist and a dry season was worth more than double his usual receipts. In 1819, when the drought ruined all his neighbours, his grass brought him in £26 per acre standing. The general adoption of sluices, where the level of the water allows of it, would, both in England and in Belgium, form a considerable addition to the wealth of the country. The meadows that are not watered receive manure, and thus share with the light sandy soil of which the Waes country consists the immense quantity of manure that I am about to describe.

For two reasons the Flemish farmer feels himself dependent on manure. It corrects the generally-prevailing damp of the climate, and brings his crops early to maturity; and in the sandy soil of the Waes country there lies no natural principle of fertility. Hence the Flemish proverb—"Poor in stall, poor in all;" and the efforts made to create this indispensable requisite are really curious. According to last statistical returns, East Flanders, on a surface of 740,000 acres, nourishes 140,000 head of horned cattle, or about one to five acres, and 30,000 horses; the latter being in the same proportion with the estimate given by Mr. M'Culloch for England and Wales; whilst the former kind of stock is twofold greater in number in Belgium than is estimated by the same author for England. Sheep, in number 44,700, and pigs, 76,400, testify to the higher value set by the Fleming on the dung of the latter. But this, and the refuse of densely-peopled towns and villages, which is carefully turned to account, does not suffice in a country where two crops at least are extracted from the ground annually, and the land is heavily manured every second year. A regular importation of manure, and of turf-ashes, takes place annually from Holland, where the rich soil of the polders does not bear any artificial stimulus, and the dense population and well-nourished stock furnish dung and refuse in abundance.

One of the most curious objects in Belgium is a magazine on the Upper Scheldt, where these importations are deposited until the farmers send for what they want; and their extent, as well as the routine established in this trade, testify to demand that the dealers can reckon upon. In this manner a most unusual quantity of the richest manure is applied, generally by the aid of the spade, to this light soil; and even where the plough is used the ground is dug up and trenched once in six years. And yet I could not find that a greater return than from 20 to 30 hectolitres per hectare, or from 25 to 35 bushels per acre. But if we consider that this land has for centuries been cultivated in a similar manner—that is to say, with the concentration of an unusual expenditure of labour and manure on small spots—it cannot excite wonder that it should be in a high state of cultivation; it rather demands inquiry why, with no extraordinary returns from the land, rents are so high as we find them, while the cost of cultivation is so great. One reason is, that the Flemish farmer, not being by any especial protection tied down to the cultivation of a particular crop, selects carefully such as are best suited to his ground. Flax, tobacco, madder, hops, carrots, clover, and artificial grasses, are to be found all in the right place, and affording remunerating crops. The produce in rapeseed alone keeps 200 oil-mills in activity, of which 24 are moved by steam power. Brewing and distilling combine with the produce of rich meadows and artificial grasses in supporting the large amount of stock that has been noticed. But the grand occupation, especially of the southern portion of East Flanders, has hitherto been the growth and preparation of the flax, and the working up into linen of such yarn as was not fine enough to be sold at a high price for exportation. The cultivation of flax is perhaps the only excuse that can be alleged for persevering in the practice of spade husbandry in this country, since the care which the finer sorts of flax require, and the high value that they bear in the market, make it profitable to devote manual labour to this description of tillage. It is generally known that the finest flax is the produce of the Riga seed in the second year of its sowing in Belgium. The first year produces comparatively coarse flax, of which the seed is saved; and this seed is what yields, in the following year, the finest flax. Of this, however, no seed can be procured, because it is pulled long before the seed ripens, and the whole treatment is intended to prevent its seeding. By sowing it very thick, the stalk is made slender; and formerly it is said that the stalk was supported by twigs, that prevented it from being laid by the rain. This practice is, however, not general; and, throughout my whole tour, I saw no instance of the practice, by which twigs are laid across the beds for the flax to rest upon.

The high price that the fine flax brings has already been alluded to. The buyer examines the green plant to see whether it is fine or coarse, which is usually determined according to the number of its seed-pods. If, in consequence of its growing thick and long, the stalk has thrown out but few branches, and bears but few pods, it is esteemed fit for the finest yarn. But the highest price obtained in the field is not to be compared with the value of the prepared flax, which demands an unusual share of skill and attention in all the successive manipulations. The water in which it is steeped is the first object of care. Pits are usually formed for this purpose, that are filled from some adjacent stream or canal, and are hired in succession by the small farmers. The water of the Lys, in West Flanders, and of the Durme, in East Flanders, are famous for steeping; but the good quality of the latter has been occasionally ascribed to the brackish water that ascends its bed with the rising tide, an occurrence that is not met with in the Lys. It would appear that attention, and a practical tact in judging when the flax is sufficiently ripe to be drawn from the pit, is more important than the nature of the water. But, before steeping, the finest flax sorted from the coarser sorts. This is done in the pulling, when every blade that has more than four seed-balls is reckoned coarse. Fine flax must have no more than two or three; and one or two, without any side-sprouts, is all that must hang upon the finest.

After the steeping, the second and third qualities are cleaned and hackled, and their value for the spinner again depends very much on the skill with which these operations are performed. But the finest sort is not hackled. When cleaned the fibres are loosened with a kind of brush, and so much attention is paid to the skill of those who are able to dress this quality that a story circulates of a landowner in the Waes country who used in the season to send a woman that he had hired from the southern districts home in his carriage once or twice in a month, to keep her in good humour, by allowing her to visit her relations. The finest flax is of considerable length and brilliancy. This article of trade is important enough to have its own weight, and a pound of cambric yarn weighs but ·11702 kilogrammes, or little more than one-fifth of a lb. avoirdupois. It is divided into 24 saisins. The warp of a piece of cambric is a quarter of one of these pounds, or 6 saisins, and runs nearly 3600 yards. An English lb. weight of this yarn yields, therefore, nearly 75,000 yards in length. The yarn for the finest cambric is, however, spun in France, and I have already alluded to the pains taken to introduce this branch of industry into Belgium, and the little success that has attended the effort. About this result the Belgians, who possess the art of growing and dressing the flax, need be but little concerned. Provided there is sale for this costly manufacture in a constantly extending market, they need care little where it is woven or spun, and there is evidently room for a great extension of the half-manufactured material.

With the exception of this peculiar product, there is nothing else in the agriculture of Flanders that justifies the spade industry. The great subdivision of the soil admits of, and even renders, a vast number of ditches necessary as boundaries, which, being dug very deep, often as much as seven feet below the surface of the field, appear to me to supply the place of our underdrains. Where the soil is at all moist the patches belonging to the same cultivator, that have frequently not more than a few square yards in extent, are divided in the same manner by deep trenches or ditches. The screens, which are innumerable, and are valuable from the firewood their clearings afford, are said to be useful in protecting the young seed from the cutting winds in spring. There cannot, however, but be a loss on the whole from the quantity of land thus sacrificed in ditches, and the dearness of fuel would suggest the advantage of importing coals for the use of the inhabitants. Thus the economical calculation in comparing Scotch with Belgian farming clearly reduces itself to the inquiry whether it is more advantageous to do that by dint of human labour which can be as well or better effected by an investment of capital. The answer must depend upon the employment that can be found for the hands that the capitalist replaces by machinery.

Here we are again upon the old ground. Where freedom of exertion is allowed, and education attended to, people will never be at a loss for employment. All that I wish in the course of this investigation into the state of agriculture in Flanders is to record a protest against the supposition that any system of tillage or any division of land for cultivation can indemnify a country for the neglect or rejection of trade and manufactures; further against the supposition that what is called protection extended to any one branch of industry can indemnify for the mischief done by restrictions in favour of another. When the whole cyclus of restriction is run through, a momentary interval of quiet under a repression of exertion may occur. Land under such circumstances may increase momentarily in value for the owner in consequence of the numbers who resort to it. But the nation in such a case is like a volcano on the eve of an eruption. The repressed elements of power work out in silence until the superincumbent weight is unable longer to restrain them, and the explosion may bring ruin in its train. I may remark that rents are at least 50 per cent. higher now than Mr. Radcliffe states, so that I cannot help regarding Belgium as far advanced on this dangerous path which England has also long trodden. The high value of land which would be a legitimate state if it depended upon the production to any extent of so fine an article as the best flax, or other scarce objects, is unnatural when it depends on the necessity of wasting labour on processes than can be performed by machinery. This is an error of observation, for the slightest calculation in the mode that I have attempted must show that the value of land depends on what is drawn from it, and on the demand for that produce. How this produce is extracted can only indirectly affect its value, and must diminish it if it impoverishes the mass of the people.

The third great branch of manufacture which this remarkable country possesses affords a proof of the inutility of protecting manufactures as remarkable as that which the flax and linen trade presents. Woollen stuffs, that find a sale in all parts of the Continent, are the staple of the southern part of the province of Liege. The romantic little river Vesdre, which joins the Meuse at Liege, is studded along its course out of the bosom of the Ardennes with cloth factories that date from the period of the banishment of the Protestants from France, under the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, by Louis XIV. Although these factories have been long dependent on foreign supplies of the raw material, and their products must compete in markets where they stand on an equality with the productions of the looms of England, France, and Saxony, yet the spirit of industry and perseverance that pervades this portion of the population enables them to triumph over every difficulty; and this manufacture has flourished and increased, while the cotton manufacture has dwindled away. The mixed cotton and wool wares that are now in fashion are made with great success at Verviers, and the taste of the patterns is much admired. For this, more than for any other species of manufacture, Belgium needs a liberal system on the part of her neighbours, and would be most likely to obtain it by setting a good example. It is this branch which forms the difficulty in the tedious negotiations that the Cabinet of Brussels has been carrying on both with France and Prussia. These two countries dread the power in machinery and capital that Belgium possesses. Belgium, again, trembles at the supposed advantages of England. Until the Belgians confess their belief that competition stimulates instead of repressing industry, her neighbours are not likely to embark in the same speculation. The positive good is thus postponed from dread of an imaginary evil. But the

utility of a growing manufacturing interest is most visible in all the country through which this woollen fabrication is scattered. Here we find a division of agricultural holdings, not, indeed, approximating to those of England, but which is a great improvement on the state of Flanders. Farms of from 20 to 50 acres are common, in the centre of which the farm-house stands, as in England and in Lombardy. The mountainous nature of the offsets of the Ardennes prescribe dairy farming in the provinces of Luxembourg and Limburg, in the latter of which the delicate Limburg cheese is made. In this remote and bleak district good farming allows a rent to be paid of 100 francs the hectare, or 35s. per acre; and the proprietors are wise enough to trust to the excited activity of their tenants, and favour the migration of the superfluous population into towns and factories by discouraging the subdivision of farms. The neighbourhood of Limburg, as presenting the converse of the economical problem of Flanders, is equally deserving of the notice of the traveller. The cheese, which is here the farmer's staple production, and which is sought by the luxurious in all countries, from France to St. Petersburg, is made by the simple process of running the new milk while it is warm. No artificial heat is used, and the cheese, after salting and washing, is simply let lie to ripen. This is, again, a product that may be expected to die out under the repression of foreign tariffs and the increase of the population. The district, now laid out in beautiful little dairy farms that wear a character of cheerful romance, is very limited in extent, and the sale of fresh milk and butter affords the farmer a quicker return than cheese. But the high Prussian and French duties have curtailed the gains of the farmers of Limburg before the natural period of the change that may be anticipated has arrived. May the increasing population, if it brings wealth in its train, spare the simple and hospitable manners that still linger amongst these mountain farmers, and form a refreshing change from the egotistic struggles on the grand highway of Europe, from which they are separated but by a short and delightful walk. From Limburg the frontier of Germany is perceptible.

THE FARMERS AND THE CORN LAWS.

To the Editor of the Economist.

DEAR SIR,—The accompanying letter comes from a gentleman who has had many and good opportunities of ascertaining the facts which he mentions. If you think it worth publishing in the *Economist*, it is at your service. —I am, yours truly, C. P. VILLIERS.

"Oxford, August 5, 1844.

"DEAR SIR,—I shall now tell you, in as few words as possible, the result of my own observation and inquiry as to the state of the public mind in this county respecting the repeal of the Corn Laws. You will recollect that it is almost wholly an agricultural county.

"Peel's measure, however intended, has been a great help to the Free-Trade cause here. The farmers were led to expect that, under that measure, corn would average 56s. a quarter. It has not averaged 50s. (*if that*), except at a period when, unfortunately, farmers have little or no corn on hand. Yet that measure was passed as Peel's ultimatum. They see, therefore, that they receive 6s. a quarter *less* under that measure, and are to receive it, than they were promised. Peel may stand by his bill as steadily as he pleases, but the Oxfordshire farmers are quite willing to let it go, if they can get a better one elsewhere.

"Not a farmer in the county but feels that the present system is a bad one. Some of them publicly confessed this to Mr. Cobden when he was here last September. Year after year rent remains the same, poor rates increase, prices diminish. The fall of prices, and the maintenance of rent, force the farmer either to reduce the amount of wages, or to put up with a loss of money. When it comes to this, down fall the labourer's wages. Want ensues; want often creates improvidence and visits to the beer-shop; the workhouse or arson ends all; and the farmer, in the end, has to pay through the nose (as *rates*) a great deal more than the reduction he had made in *wages*. For example, A pays B 12s. a week for farm-labour, on the pledge that Peel's bill would ensure 56s. a quarter. A only gets 50s.; therefore, to save himself (as he is next door to a rack-rent), he reduces the 12s. wages to 8s. He does not get 6s. worth of work out of the labourer, and thus he loses. The labourer cannot support a family on two-thirds of his usual wages, and flies to the beer-shop. Labour so badly paid is neglected; the man and his family come on the parish; and A's rates are increased more than the difference between full wages and low wages, for the same happens to other rate-payers also.

"Now, the farmer knows all this; he attributes it to the right cause—Peel's bill—which may 'pro[illegible]t' the landlord, but injures the tenant-farmer. He sees the remedy. Free Trade? you ask. No; reduced rent. But *that* the landlord will not take.

"The farmers of Oxon are rational, thinking men as a body, well informed and sagacious. They have repeatedly told me that, if rent was reduced to suit prices, they would be for total repeal of the Corn Laws to-morrow. Nay, some have said, 'Rather than have these continual chops and changes of the law, put us out of pain at once—give us the very worst, and abolish all protection.' But *all* say, 'Remove protection, if you will, *so that we have our land at that reasonable rent which will enable us to compete, on fair terms, with the foreigner.*'

"I hope I don't fatigue you, but I am trying to make the case as clear to you as it is to me. Believe me, that if rents were honestly adjusted on the 'live and let live' principle, the Oxfordshire farmers would strongly support the League. But with corn at (and under) 50s., they pay almost as high rents as they did in the time of the war, when corn was 86s. to 120s. a quarter; and who can wonder if self-interest makes them cling to protection, as a drowning man in his desperation grasps at a straw.

"In Oxfordshire, take my word for it, every tenant-farmer would be with the League, if, when *protection* went to the dogs, *rent* were equitably adjusted. The landlords oppose free trade in corn, because, once it is granted, rents MUST tumble down. *Scarcely an estate in the county but is mortgaged.* If a man with an income of £5000 a year from land, pays £2000 out of it as interest on mortgage money, he has £3000 left. But few landlords can get the whole of their rent-roll. Take off £500 for run-away tenants, repairs, allowances for improvements, and other matters. Let rents be equitably adjusted, so as to put the English grain-grower on a level of competition with the foreigner, and instead of £2500 balance a year (with a *nominal* income of £5000, and the strong and almost irresistible temptation to live up to it, rather than incur the accusation of meanness), the landlord will not have half that sum, or £1250, because the diminution would be on the whole rental—upon every acre—while the dead weight of £2000 interest would be an incubus which could not be reduced. Here, then, you have the Oxfordshire landlords disposed—(as it is with them a life-and-death struggle for existence)—you have them disposed to resist, by all means, the doctrines of the League. The tenant-farmers, I verily believe, would be glad of the repeal of all Corn Laws if the reduction of rent came with that repeal; but they are thumbed by the landlords, and dare not openly give in their adhesion to doctrines which, as I *know*, are approved of by the majority of them.

"I am writing of this county as I know it best. But my observations must generally apply to other counties. The landlords, and the landlords only, stand in the gap between the people and cheap bread.

"As for the farm-labourers, they are with you to a man. Repeal the Corn Laws, and they will have food at a cheaper rate. *This* they feel to be worth striving for. But the more sagacious of them know, as well as you or I do, that if those laws be repealed—if rents fall (as fall they *must*) so as to allow the British grain-grower to compete with the foreigner, labour would once more be in demand, and at higher wages too,—because then the farmer could afford to pay them, and it would be his interest to get every ear of corn from the land which he could get without impoverishing it. Be assured, therefore, that the farm-labourer, as well as the tenant-farmer, wishes success to the cause of which you are an advocate.

"I have thus endeavoured to shadow out what I think is the actual state of feeling in this county as regards the great principles advocated by Free-Traders, and conclude by repeating, that if the county of Oxford was polled throughout, eighty out of every hundred would say, equitably adjust the rent, and to the dogs with protection.

"I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

"——— ———."

PEEL'S "PILOT BALLOON."

It was clear, on the evening when Sir Robert Peel, in the course of the debate brought on by Mr. Villiers's motion on the Corn Laws, pledged himself, in plainer terms than is his wont, to stand by the sliding-scale as it is at present constituted, that the country gentlemen were not altogether satisfied. Either there was something in the matter or the manner of the Minister which engendered doubts of his sincerity at the very time when he appeared to be most in earnest; and it is clear, from their organs of the press, that such feelings have been on the increase among them ever since. They have a strong conviction on their minds that their honest leader is busily at work preparing a mine beneath their feet, although it is still a problem to them when and how it may be sprung; and, for our part, we think that there is decidedly room for such doubts when we look at what is going forward at some of the agricultural meetings. Our readers will probably recollect the name of Mr. Christopher, once the too famous Mr. Dundas, of Ipswich, who earned for himself the *soubriquet* of Peel's "Pilot Balloon" immediately after the last election. The circumstances were these. Amongst the loudest of the hustings pledge-givers to stand by the then Corn Laws was this Mr. Christopher. He had even the calm effrontery—*it was* effrontery in a man who derives all his standing in society from having been lucky enough to marry a good fortune—to tell his constituents, that, if Sir Robert Peel dared even to breathe a hint against the Corn Laws, down he should go again into private life without ceremony. Well, this cool gentleman was elected by the farmers, who were taken in by his matchless intrepidity. He was sent to Parliament to watch over the Tory Ministry, and to put it out, like a farthing rushlight, should it ever look treason at the corn monopoly. Not many months, however, elapsed before Mr. Christopher again made his appearance among the rural swains. What, in the meantime, had passed between him and the Premier, what he had said to Sir Robert, and what Sir Robert had said to him, no one knows; but, at all events, he astonished the farmers, at this second meeting, by prophesying of things to come, and assuring them, that they would not be so bad, after all, for the agricultural interest. Hence his name of "the Pilot Balloon," inasmuch as the event, when Parliament again met, amply justified the surmise, launched at the moment by the *Times* newspaper, that Mr. Christopher was commissioned by Sir Robert Peel, who, from the preferments showered upon his family, it is certain, had taken a strong liking to him, and had a very high opinion of his judgment, to prepare the way among the country gentlemen and their tenantry for the changes which he was proposing. But what of all this? Who is Mr. Christopher, that we should so long dwell upon the doings of such a *nil* in public estimation? Only this. When we see a shadow, we fancy that the substance to which it belongs cannot be far off. When we hear the howling of the jackal, we expect that the roaring of the lion will presently begin. Mr. Christopher has again been talking, and in a style which makes us believe that he is again the *avant courier* and "utensil" of his worthy master. He is reported to have made the following ominous remark at the Horncastle agricultural meeting, held last week:—"*Improvements like those which this society promoted had reduced the price of wheat in forty years thirty per cent., leaving as good a profit to the cultivator as at the higher rate.* This was the true way of promoting the welfare of all classes, which hurried and extravagant legislation could never do." This is to be "the ticket," good Mr. "Pilot Balloon," is it? Sir Robert is presently to tell the agriculturists, that the time for a further change is at last arrived; that, judging of the future by the past, and calculating what improvements in agriculture can do by a reference to what they have effected, the British cultivator will be able still, as Mr. Christopher says, with fair profits, to sell his corn at such reduced prices that he needs not fear the competition of foreigners. The wind points in that direction, we feel sure, and, before long, we shall see the great "monster balloon" borne along by the same current in which "the pilot" is now sailing. Mr. Christopher is not a very clever person, but he has just small cunning enough not to commit himself to such things as we have quoted without having somebody at his back to bear him through all scrapes into which his valorous marching in the van of Ministerial tergiversation and treachery might lead him. We cannot say of the parties now before us, that Ulysses spoke, but Minerva prompted. We must rather put it, Christopher found the words, but Peel inspired the thoughts.—*Liverpool Albion.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

HARVEST TIME.—There is, perhaps, scarcely a more anxious time to many and many a throbbing heart than is this said time of harvest. As the manufacturer, and those who are interested in his pursuits, look at the fields, bending with grain and waving with rich golden ears, they find that, between them and the bounty of the blue heavens above, there is the interposition of the dark cloud of monopoly. The farmer is thinking how prices will rise or fall, struggling on, as he is doomed, perhaps, to struggle as hardly as any of the most anxious and toilsome class of the community. The labourer finds what should be his harvest, as well as that of his master, cut away from him by competition. When he would earn a little overplus to meet his cottage rent, he has to compete with the poor Irishman who has come over here to earn the rent of his potato-patch, to carry back rather for his landlord's benefit than his own. The story of the boy at the harvest-home supper, who cried as the tables were being cleared, "There is all that pudding being carried out, and I cannot eat any more!" has now become absolutely a thing of mere fable and story. The landlord is looking about him to see how he can make what he calls his protective laws produce him the greatest profit from nature's common abundance. There is anxiety on every hand; and the interposition of human interests and human laws casts a gloom, blight, and darkness over what should be one of the most gladsome seasons of the year—the most delightful time for all

"Who gather bliss to see their fellows bless'd."

And wherefore is this? Because a great public bounty of nature is transformed into a private and class interest. Thus everything is perverted, and the abundance which should flow freely to all is only a means of unduly filling the coffers of a few.—*Fox's Lectures to the Working Classes.*

THE ANTI-CORN-LAW RIOTS IN 1815.—When my house in Bedford-square was attacked by a mob, supposing that I had supported in Parliament the Corn Bill, upon which I had never uttered a word, or indeed had ever been called upon to form, and therefore never had expressed, an opinion upon it, the fury of the mob was very great. The front windows and door of the house were demolished, some furniture destroyed, and many papers, including some judgments, thrown out of doors. The alarm in the house was excessive. I was obliged to remove my wife and children into the British Museum, and with some difficulty got a corporal and four soldiers through the museum gardens into the house while the mob were in it. I proposed to the corporal that we should proceed out of my study to the great room which adjoins it, and from that into the dining-room; and, the mob being in the hall and a little adjoining room, we should be able to surprise and secure them. He was a Scotchman, and said, "We are not strong enough to keep them in, but with good management we may drive them out. I won't let my men put powder and ball into their muskets, but they shall fix their bayonets, and if you will go with me, and, when we get out of your study into the hall, will give me your orders to charge them with the bayonets, I will, and my men shall obey those orders; but we must make the best appearance we can, and, as there are only four soldiers, they must follow one by one, and we must so manage the matter, that the mob may suppose that there will be no end of them who are coming." Accordingly we so advanced; and the corporal calling out to his soldiers to come, in language tending to make it believed that they were numerous, the mob fled with great precipitation. The front doors being demolished, two soldiers guarded the entrance, crossing their muskets. The mob held a consultation at the top of Keppel-street whether they should attack the house again; but, conceiving the military corps inside to be strong, they gave it up. I brought into the house by their collars two of the mob, and told them that they would be hanged. One of them bid me look to myself, and told me that the people were much more likely to hang me than I was to procure any of them to be hanged. They were sent before a justice of peace; but the soldiers said they would do their duty as soldiers, but they would not be witnesses. The Government sent us some soldiers, and increased their number till they were about fifty; and a very considerable part of that number remained about three weeks in the house, persons in the front of the house from time to time using menacing language and threats, whenever from the streets they saw any person in the house. During all that time I could only leave the house by going through the museum gardens, and into the streets from the museum, attended to Westminster on foot by Townsend of the police, through all the obscure streets and alleys in which we could find a passage. I thank God we got my wife and children safe from their retreat in the museum.—*Life of Lord Eldon.*

MANCHESTER.—No person, however casual a visitor, can for a moment mistake the character of the town. It is essentially a place of business, where pleasure is unknown as a pursuit, and amusements scarcely rank as secondary considerations. Every person who passes you in the street has the look of thought and the step of haste. Few private carriages are to be seen; there is only one street of handsome shops, and that is of modern date; there are some very stately public buildings, but only one of them is dedicated to recreation, the rest are devoted to religion, charity, science, or business. A modern author has started the theory, that, as certain insects assume the colours and marks of the leaves on which they feed, so the citizens of certain towns offer whimsical analo[illegible] to the character of the place in which they dwell. T[illegible] to a considerable extent true, of Manchester. The [illegible] as business-like as the place, and in their character [illegible] for religion, charity, and science is not less conspicuous than the buildings consecrated to these objects are in the town. Were I asked how a stranger could best form a notion of the character of the Manchester manufacturers, I should recommend him to visit the Exchange of Manchester at the period of "high 'change;" that is, about noon on a Tuesday. It is the Parliament of the lords of cotton; their legislative assembly, which enacts laws as [illegible] as those of the Medes and Persians, but, [illegible] other Parliament in the world, very much is done and very

little is said. Nowhere can there be found so practical a comment on the well-known line :—

"Silence that speaks, and eloquence of eyes."

Transactions of immense extent are conducted by nods, winks, shrugs, or brief phrases, compared to which the laconisms of the ancient Spartans were specimens of redundancy and verbosity. There is a kind of vague tradition, or rather remote recollection, that a man was once seen to gossip on the Exchange: it was mentioned in the terms one would use if he saw a saraband danced in St. Peter's, or Harlequin playing his antics at the Old Bailey. For my own part, I felt my loquacious tendencies so chilled by the genius of the place that I deemed myself qualified to become a candidate for La Trappe. The characteristic feature of the assembly is talent and intelligence in high working order; genius and stupidity appear to be equally absent; but, if the average of intellect be not very high, it is evident that not a particle of it remains unemployed.—*Taylor's Tour through the Manufacturing Districts of Lancashire.*

THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.—The islanders are either farmers, sailors, or soldiers. Enjoying a delightful climate, a rich soil, an inexhaustible supply of manure from their rock-bound shore; blessed with mild laws, liberty of the subject, a free press, and extended commerce—privileges which Englishmen dearly cherish—the people have attained a degree of wealth and contentment almost unequalled. These advantages have not been unworthily gained. Descendants of that ancient Norman race who visited England with William the Conqueror, they have ever since continued connected with the Crown of England. King John granted them a jury and their charter some years previous to signing Magna Charta. On eleven occasions they have successfully resisted invasions from France, and on every such occasion the sovereigns of England have granted them some new privilege. Among other institutions connected with these islands, an agricultural society has been of great benefit. It has been formed on the same basis as this society, viz., on a total exclusion of all politics from its meetings and proceedings; and a like result has attended its progress—entire harmony among its members, and a friendly rivalry for good. The improvement of wheat for seed, and the general cultivation of crops, have been among the objects of its attention; but the chief one has been to improve the admirable breed of cattle—admirable for the production of large quantities of rich and yellow butter. The chief defect was in the falling off of the hind-quarters; it has taken nine years of close attention to remedy this defect, and as I have personally kept a record of its progress of improvement, I would urge upon young farmers who seek to improve their stock, not to expect success in less than such a period; at the same time, roundness of barrel, a better handling, and a tendency to fatten when dried off from milk, were points which had been gained without injury to the milking qualities. The cream of the cows of the Channel Islands was so rich and yellow, that in dairy farms where creamer's milk is sold, one such good cow to every three or four ordinary English cows, would be found useful to impart richness to the cream or butter.—*Colonel Le Couteur at the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.*

"IT IS ALWAYS CIRCULATING MONEY."—It is very common to hear acts of unusual extravagance palliated with the phrase, "It's always circulating money," there being a prevalent notion that money does good by being spent, more particularly if any of it goes into the hands of persons engaged in humble occupations. A young man newly come into the enjoyment of his fortune, who impoverishes himself by reckless expenditure on dogs, horses, and other over-costly means of amusement, is never for this reason a very unpopular character: "he is at least circulating money." A few thoughtless men about town meet at their club, and, in a fit of ultra high spirits, resolve to have as good—that is, as expensive—a dinner as the steward can produce; it costs five pounds a head, which is as much as would have given a good meal to a hundred persons, and is, in fact, exactly the cost of the daily dinner of about one thousand poor people in a workhouse. This coarse and unenjoyed—unenjoyed excess, is not of the class of things which the bulk of mankind condemn: "it is always circulating money." At an election, say each candidate spends two thousand pounds in beer to regale the populace; that is, to purchase their favour by gratifying one of their lowest appetites. All sober people see that the beer does harm, in as far as it produces idleness, and interrupts good habits; but the expenditure is never quite regretted: "it is always circulating money." On the other hand, men who husband their means carefully are generally not much liked by the multitude. "They bind up money, and thereby prevent it doing any good. Nobody is ever the better of it, not even themselves." It is really surprising what an amount of error there is here, and that the world should continue in ignorance on a matter of so much importance. There is, in reality, not the least public good in an expenditure of money upon objects foolish and worthless; on the contrary, it is a public evil. In the first place, to suppose that money which is taken due care of is not doing good is a complete fallacy. The accumulated funds of the merest miser—unless in the rare morbid instances where they are kept in a strong box—are as actively serviceable as the coin in a shopman's till, seeing that they are usually employed in bank business, joint-stock companies, the improvement of land, or some other such ways. And all the great operations of concentrated labour which make a country great, are the results of saved capital thus expended. How directly the poor are often interested in the accumulation of such capital, may be very well seen when it is employed in cutting a canal, or building a bridge, or forming a railway, in which operations hosts of workmen are necessarily employed. The savers of money are in fact amongst the greatest benefactors of a country, being those by whom its material, and even, in many instances, its moral interests are chiefly advanced. It is only an ignorant ingratitude which holds them up to ridicule or condemnation.—*Chambers's Journal.*

CUSTOM HOUSE FRAUDS.—Clock faces, the duty upon which is 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, were passed under entry at half the real numbers in the packages or cases, as 500, for instance, instead of 1,000. Foote, a landing-waiter, now dismissed, is accused of having, while on duty at St. Katharine's Docks, "purloined thousands of cigars, distributing them amongst his friends, and amongst the custom-house officers, with great liberality." Another delinquent got into the clutches of one of the fraudulent traders thus:—A bacon-dealer lent Grayson £70, and, having him thus in his power, forthwith made arrangements with him for fraudulent importations through his connivance. A person was despatched to Hamburgh, who sent over a large quantity of the drug, coculus indicus, in 49 packages, purporting to be, all of them flax. In reality seven only were flax; and all were successfully passed as flax, at the duty of 1d. per cwt. on *flax*, instead of 2s. 6d. per pound on the coculus indicus. The loss to the revenue by this little operation was £529. In 1841, barrels of snuff were passed by Grayson and Foote, in league, as barrels of pork. The loss to the revenue may be inferred from the fact that these two worthies received £120 between them from the importers—men, doubtless, claiming for themselves the character of "highly respectable" tradesmen. But Foote and Bulley (another landing-waiter) are said to have netted by a few similar operations, in part of 1842, in warehouses and on quays on the north side of the river, between £500 and £1000. In most of these cases, it was pretty certain that, if the packages had been tested by the "spit," the fraud would have been detected. But the Austrian sentinel, in *Tekeli*, does not more carefully abstain from thrusting his bayonet into the miller's sack which contains the melo-dramatic hero, than the "weighers" seem to have eschewed the notion of passing the spit into bales and packages belonging to their friends. Harris, another officer, admits to have accomplished in six or eight months of 1840, frauds on the revenue to the amount of £500, by passing wines and spirits either short or under improper descriptions of quality—tobacco as marble, and silk as specimens of natural history! He received for his own services £80, and was enabled to carry on this system of deception through the remissness of the landing-surveyors; for in three months he was not visited by one of these functionaries more than twice! In 1841 and 1842, this same adroit gentleman "passed improperly to a large amount, and for ample remuneration, stained paper, damask curtains, silks, and wines, either by aid of the rough-book system, or by omission of entry of small boxes, either large ones or by short entries, or by omitting any examination whatever," of the packages passed.—*Sun.*

IRON MANUFACTURE.—The attention of the ironmasters has been attracted to a process of considerable importance lately introduced into their manufacture. The application of electricity, to supersede several of the expensive processes, has, it is stated, been tried in the Welsh and Derbyshire furnaces with satisfactory results. It appears that the costly fuel and labour required for the purification of the ore from sulphur, phosphorus, and such subtle elments, create its high market value; and these being all electro-negative, have induced the new process, whereby the impure stream of metal, after flowing from the blast, is in its moment of consolidation subjected to a powerful voltaic battery, which so disengages the impure components, that in the process of puddling they are readily extracted. The London blacksmiths, it is stated, have tested this iron after single reheating, and pronounce it equal to the best metal in the market. By the same process an experiment was tried by Dr. Ure, by whom a soft rod of iron was held in contact with a moderate red heat, and that gentleman is understood to have stated that in a few hours the metal was converted into steel. Should these facts prove what they seem, they are calculated to affect most seriously this important branch of our trade.—*Times.*

LANDLORDS AND TENANTS.—The "soft sawder" which landlords are everywhere just now heaping upon their tenants, at agricultural meetings, is enormously amusing. They are the best, the finest fellows in the world, loved, honoured, and respected by their landlords; and loving, honouring, and respecting them in return. And what is the meaning of all this? It just means, neither more nor less, than that the landlords want to beguile their tenants into investing capital in the improvement of their estates, without giving them the security of leases, that they may enjoy the advantages accruing from so doing. Now, one fact is worth ten thousand words, and we will state a fact which will in itself amply testify to the beautiful independence enjoyed by a tenant who only holds his land at the will of the owner of it. A farmer, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, we are assured, not long since, having occasion to insert an advertisement in a newspaper, sent it to a Liberal journal. His independence, or thoughtlessness, for we do not know the politics of the party, was so respected by his loving, affectionate, and all-the-rest-of-it landlord, that, in a very short time, some good-natured friend having informed against him for the heinous misdemeanour, he received a letter from the great man, expressing his serious displeasure at the offence, and forbidding its repetition under any circumstances; and yet the man who is said, for we can hardly believe it, thus insolently to have trampled upon the rights and feelings of his fellow-man, bears the reputation of being one of the best of his "order," being a respectable, *par excellence*, member of the House of Lords, with a son in the Commons, who, as Lord Byron said of the Record, is

"Too good for earth and only fit for heaven."

The story may be true or it may not. We would rather believe the negative. But, if it be correctly told, how is the independence of leaseless tenants likely to be respected by the main body of the landlords when such very excellent people have so small a regard for it? If "such things be done in the green tree, what may not happen in the dry?" But we say again, that we pass on the tale doubtfully, and in the hope that the circulation of it may elicit a prompt and decided contradiction from the party at whom it is levelled.—*Liverpool Albion.*

THE RECIPROCITY ACT AND THE SHIPPING INTEREST.—The following letter from Mr. Brown, the extensive merchant and shipowner (late candidate for South Lancashire) appeared in a recent number of the *Economist*:—"DEAR SIR,—The British shipowners feared that the Reciprocity Act, which passed in 1823, would ruin them; but let us see how the matter stands. In 1820 we had 746,822 tons of shipping cleared out for our colonies, of which we have the monopoly, and for countries totally independent of us, 802,686 tons—viz., 48 per cent. colonial, and 52 per cent. foreign. Now, in 1842, we have increased our tonnage to our colonies to 1,250,937, and to independent states to 2,124,383, which makes those relative trades stand thus:—Colonial, 37 per cent.; foreign, 63 per cent. In the twenty-two years' trial which we have had of the relaxation of our navigation laws, our foreign trade has increased 164 per cent.; but where we have a monopoly, we have gained but 67 per cent. The United States foreign tonnage in 1818, after the war had destroyed a good deal of it, was 854,294 tons; in 1838, up to 1839 (the last returns in my possession), it had further decreased to 822,591. Of course, clearances would decrease in about the same ratio. These statements speak for themselves. Can we suppose that British shipowners do not know their own interest better than to continue building ships if they have, through a period of twenty-two years, been losing money by them? If we had the American returns down to this day, I think that, in the last five years of distress, we should find a further decrease in their shipping. It is impossible to draw any other inference from these figures, but that the relaxation of our navigation laws was unquestionably to our advantage; indeed, I can multiply cases without end, where a relaxation of our commercial code is a decided advantage to every interest in the country. I remain, yours respectfully, WILLIAM BROWN.—Richmond-hill, Liverpool, July 20, 1844."

THE DERBY ARBORETUM.—We visited the arboretum, an enclosure containing many acres, laid out as a landscape garden or shrubbery, and dedicated to the public by an eminent and successful silk manufacturer. The grounds have been thrown into artificial banks and lawns, and planted with many varieties of trees and flowers, and are a beautiful and favourite promenade; and the munificent donor, still in a green old age, is rewarded by the gratitude of his townsmen. A few days before our arrival the citizens celebrated his birthday. How much happier must he be in thus diffusing happiness, and promoting innocent recreation, than in accumulating wealth for heirs to circulate in a round of folly and frivolity.—*Two Months Abroad, by an American.*

FOREIGN CATTLE.—Yesterday our report of the Smithfield market announced the arrival of only 122 head of cattle, with a proportionate supply of sheep and pigs, from the countries which it was once prophesied would gorge all England with an unlimited quantity of cheap food. It now appears that the importation of foreign meat is, to our population, in a ratio of infinitesimal quantity, whilst the quality of such as is imported prevents it from competing with native produce. So much for panics and predictions.—*Times of Wednesday.*

WAR.—What—speaking in quite unofficial language—is the net purport of war? To my own knowledge, for example, there dwell and toil, in the British village of Dumdrudge, usually some five hundred souls. From these, by certain "natural enemies" of the French, there are successively selected during the French war, say thirty able-bodied men. Dumdrudge, at her own expense, has suckled and nursed them; she has, not without difficulty and sorrow, fed them up to manhood, and even trained them to crafts, so that one can weave, another build, another hammer, and the weakest can stand under thirty stone avoirdupois. Nevertheless, amid much weeping and swearing, they are selected; all dressed in red, and shipped away at the public charge, some 2000 miles, or say, only to the south of Spain, and fed there till wanted. And now, to that same spot in the south of Spain, are thirty similar French artisans, from a French Dumdrudge, in like manner wending; till at length, after infinite effort, the parties come into actual juxtaposition, and thirty stand fronting thirty, each with a gun in his hand. Straightway the word "Fire!" is given, and they blow the souls out of one another; and, instead of sixty brisk useful craftsmen, the world has sixty dead carcases, which it has to bury, and anon shed tears for. Had these men any quarrel? Busy as the devil is, not the smallest. They lived far enough apart, were the entirest strangers, nay, in so wide a universe, there was even unconsciously, by commerce, some mutual helpfulness between them. How then? Simpleton! their governors had fallen out; and, instead of shooting one another, had the cunning to make these poor blockheads shoot.—*Carlyle's "Sartor Resartus."*

THE WAGES OF LABOUR.—We know that in this neighbourhood (Belfast) labourers are at this day paid, in several places, no higher sum than seven shillings weekly. This amount is paid, it will be recollected, not in an agricultural district, but in the neighbourhood of a large manufacturing town; and where, we suppose, there is a greater demand for labour than in any other part of Ireland. We are aware that higher wages are frequently given at this season; but we mention merely the sum which has been paid in certain cases that have come to our knowledge; and it is a matter of comparatively little importance for our purpose, whether six or eight shillings weekly are paid, because either the one or the other sum is too small. A class of persons who earn only this amount of wages are almost unapproachable to good influences. Men who are paid by a wretched pittance of this description become either broken-hearted, or have been almost all their days without a heart to break. It is utterly impossible to offer them knowledge, for they have neither time nor taste to learn. The offer of jewellery to a man starving in the wilderness would not be more tantalizing nor less satisfactory. Their physical condition prevents all hope of their intellectual improvement; and the same barrier prevents any system of education from producing an educated people.—*Banner of Ulster.*

LOW WAGES AND CRIME.—Whilst the case of Susan and Mary Smith, the wife and daughter of an agricultural labourer charged with obtaining goods under false pretences, was before Chief Baron Pollock on Tuesday, his lordship very wisely and humanely inquired the means of their natural protector, with the view of ascertaining whether the crime had arisen from poverty, and whether the father had the power, even if he possessed the inclination, of keeping his child out of the reach of temptation, and throwing around her the safeguards of virtue. The reply to the learned Judge's interrogatories is important. Smith is a farm labourer in the employment of Mr. Crofton, of Holywell, the celebrated breeder of short horns, and chairman of the great agricultural county meeting to petition Parliament to sustain the protection afforded to agriculture, especially for the benefit of the agricultural labourer. Smith is a second-rate man, and he has 8s. per week! This is *his* share of protection. His wages, we think, could scarcely be less if the worst fears of Mr. Crofton and his political friends were realized. With this scanty pittance, eked out occasionally by two or three shillings earned by his wife, he has to maintain a family of four. His lordship asked no more. Surely the temptations to vice were strong and many; and certainly a system which does no better than this for the labourer ought not to be sustained, neither ought the nation to be befooled longer by the false pretence that it is designed for his benefit.—*Sunderland Herald.*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, August 14, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received of Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

	£	s.	d.
John Frederick Fixsen, 35, Queen-street, City ..	£5	0	0
Inglis and Wakefield, 2?, Friday-street	5	0	0
J. Unwin, 31, Bucklersbury	1	1	0
Rock and Co.; Walbrook	1	0	0
Wm. Edward Sharpe, 2, Great Knight Rider-street, Doctors' Commons	1	0	0
Samuel Douglas, 6, Little Knight Rider-street, Doctors' Commons	1	0	0
Henry Watts, the Fleece, do. do. ..	0	2	6
James Strand, 11, Water-lane, Blackfriars	0	2	6
Thos. Thorne, 28, Little Carter-lane, Doctors' Commons	0	2	6
A Friend, 9, Sol's-row, Hampstead-road	0	3	6
W. Tucker, 267, Strand	0	5	0
J. R Chabot 8, Prince's-place, Kennington-cross ..	0	5	0
Matthew Ewing, ·3, St. Andrew's-hill	0	5	0
Richard Day Ford, 32, Great Carter-lane, Doctors' Commons	0	2	6
William Day Ford, 32, do., do. ..	0	2	6
A Friend, do., do. ..	0	10	0
Thomas Faver, 1, do., do. ..	0	2	6
Joseph Warboys, Durham Arms, Hackney-road ..	0	5	0
Robert Pearson, Stanton's Wharf, Tooley-street ..	1	0	0
James and James Liddon, 2, Knowles-court, Doctors' Commons	1	1	0
The Workmen in the employ of Messrs. Liddon, being 40 weeks' subscription of 1d. per week ..	1	10	0
John Southg te, Old Change	1	0	0
Thomas Marsden, 36, Queen-street, City	0	10	0
H. S. Hewitt, Heytesbury	1	0	0
Small subscriptions	0	6	0
Thomas Roberts, Market-place, Manchester ..	20	0	0
Thomas Redhead, Higher Nag's Head, Deansgate, Bolton	1	1	0
Liverpool, 25th Remit. — William Blain, Beech Hill, West Derby, near	25	0	0
T G. Blain, West Derby, near	1	1	0
John Blain, do.	1	1	0
Wm. Blain, jun., do.	1	1	0
J. Blain, do.	1	1	0
S. Blain, do.	1	1	0
Staffordshire Potteries, 5th Remit. — Joseph Twigg, Burslem	2	2	0
Thomas Mayer, do.	2	2	0
R. & S Carryer, do.	2	2	0
Joseph Mayer, do.	1	1	0
Furnival and Wear, Tunstall	1	0	0
Samuel Goddard, Burslem	1	0	0
Warrington, 8th Remit. — Sam. Gaskell, Green Bank, Latchford	35	0	0
Mrs. Davis, Lyme-street	0	5	0
Wm. Watson, Scotland-road	0	2	0
Anything	0	5	0
Isaac Barlow, Sankey-street	0	2	6
Hebden Bridge, near Halifax, 5th Remittance. — Bernard Hartley	1	1	0
Mrs. Bernard Hartley	0	10	0
James Hartley	0	5	0
Joseph Hartley	0	5	0
Crossley Hartley	0	5	0
Miss Elizabeth Hartley	0	5	0
Miss Sarah Hartley	0	5	0
Mrs. John Hartley	0	5	0
Misses Ibbottson, Stubbin House	2	2	0
Mr. Newall	1	0	0
George Clegg	1	0	0
Thomas Marshall	0	10	0

LOW FARES ON RAILWAYS.—If any proof were requisite of the advantage of low fares to railway traffic, it has been satisfactorily furnished by the case of the Croydon Railway. Since the reduction in the fares on that line the traffic has increased in a remarkable manner, the amount received for passengers having been greater in the last week than in any week since that ending the 14th of September, 1841, and the number of passengers carried exceeding that of any one week since the Whitsun week in June, 1840, with one exception only, which occurred in the corresponding week of June, 1841. The Croydon fair weeks in every year are, of course, likewise excepted.—*Railway Record.*

COMPARATIVE TRAVELLING ON DIFFERENT RAILWAYS.—In Mr. Laing's paper, appended to the Evidence taken before the Select Committee on Railways, it is stated, "among other remarkable instances of the effects of high fares and limited accommodation in restricting the amount of travelling," that the London and Birmingham Company carry 130 per cent. fewer passengers per train, and 100 per cent. fewer passengers per mile, than the Glasgow and Ayr, and 85 per cent. fewer passengers per train, and 135 fewer per mile, than the Ulster; while the Liverpool and Manchester Railway carries 60 per cent. fewer passengers per train, and 50 per cent. fewer per mile, than the Glasgow and Greenock (although the latter is exposed to a sharp steam-boat competition), and 50,000 passengers fewer per annum than are conveyed on the Newcastle and North Shields line.

HINTS FOR NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS.—Correspondents would save a vast deal of trouble, and themselves much disappointment, occasionally, if they would only attend to the following rules:—I. As your copy must often be cut into many pieces, a sheet written on both sides is a plague and a sorrow, often delaying the article or the paper: write, therefore, only on one side of the paper. II. *Always keep a copy* of your article, unless it be very long. It will be apt to get lost or mislaid among the haystack of an editor's manuscripts if not used immediately, and it is better and safer for you to keep a copy than to rely on the editor to return the original. III. Never send an article to an editor *unfinished*. When he hears or reads that you have scrawled it off hastily, left it full of imperfections, &c., he mentally resolves to put it quietly in the fire the moment you are out of the way. IV. Never carry in an article, other than an advertisement, and demand that the editor read it *at once*, and say whether he will publish it or not. He cannot always spare the time at that moment, and he does not, at any rate, want to tell you that you are incapable of handling your subject, should such be the fact. But send in your manuscript, and give him a reasonable time to consider it. V. Never fall into the serious mistake of imagining that, because a man writes a sorry hand himself, he is partial to that sort of chirography. Remember that he is always writing, and generally at hand to correct any errors in his proofs, while you will not be. Write plainly, if possible; write decipherably, any how, or don't write at all.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the EDITOR *of the* LEAGUE.

DEAR SIR,—Please print this poem, if you think good would come of it. Notice it in no other way. If you don't print it, I shall conclude that you ought not, believing you to understand your own business best.

The measure, I need not tell you, must be scanned as Greek and Latin dactyles are. It does not suit our language well, but its strangeness may, perhaps, cause it to be noticed by two or three great babies, playing on the precipice of national ruin, and they, possibly, may warn two or three more.

If some of your subscribers might think it requires an apology, print this letter with it, and oblige,

Dear Sir, yours very truly,

Houghton Common, EBENEZER ELLIOTT.
near Barnesley, Aug. 10, 1844.

ENGLAND IN 1844.

BY EBENEZER ELLIOTT.

I.

Rascaldom! Parsondom!
Lazy big Beggardom,
Playing the fool!
Helping with less and less
Fast-growing wretchedness!
Catch'd Cayley creakingly,
Young England sneakingly
Shearing calves' wool!

II.

Capital profitless,—
Doing what? Can't you guess?
Eating his teeth!
Married life, dog and cat;
Palac'd thieves, scar'd and fat;
Sorrow and verity
Sobbing, "Prosperity
Dead, lies beneath."

III.

* * * * *

IV.

Young Wodehouse crustily,
Old Wodehouse fustily,
Crying dear wares;
Want, with his tongue of fire,
Seen o'er the famine-spire!
Richmond to hawk his fish,
Knatchbull to beg a dish,
Damn'd—And who cares?

V.

Bread-taxers stealing rates;
John, thinking Church and State's
Hell is broke loose!
Brassface and Timberface
Half-fac'd by Doubleface!
Foul things, with mouths and "legs,"
Scolding o'er broken eggs!
Killing the goose!

VI.

Rushbrooke and Sotheron,
Kept loobies, duller none,
Not telling lies!
Benett's slaves full of cheer,
"Except when bread is dear!"
Benett, to keep it dear,
Talking of cheaper beer—
Juice, and no pies!

VII.

Famine their battle-blade,
Man against man array'd,
Struggling for doom!
Starv'd Erin's Catholic
Mining in Bishoprick!
Brimless hat lacking crown,
Slaving the Saxon down,
Till the end come!

VIII.

Cobden, "our Man of men,"
Doing the work of ten,
Each worth a score;
Bright, in the lion's den,
Champion of honest men,
Lion and dove of peace,
Hampden of love and peace,
Worth fifty more.

IX.

Gunpowder quenching flame;
Jesus a hated name,
Worship a breath;
Stanley sublime as Thom;
Government Peeping Tom;
Hunger, the only power!
Scowling round town and tower,
Darker than Death!

X.

Peel, hardest task'd of all!
Gagg'd, kick'd, and mask'd for all,
Cooking his hash!
Slander'd man, wily man,
Bare back, and empty pan,
Gloomily waiting all
For the great general—
General Crash!

XI.

Trade on her dying bed:
Lifting her languid head,
Smiles, with sad brow:
Land-leeches, damning us,
Cry, "She was bamming us!"
Farmers, in luck again,
Trying to suck again,
Milk a dead cow!

COLERIDGE ON THE CORN QUESTION.—When I wrote a letter upon the scarcity, it was generally said that it was the production of an immense corn-factor, and a letter was addressed to me under that persuasion, beginning "Crafty monopolist."

REVIEW.

A Winter in Italy, in a Series of Letters to a Friend. By Mrs. Ashton Yates. London: Colburn.

Although the classic shores of Italy have been described by so many travellers, that the whole of the country is better known to most readers than their own country, Mrs. Yates is a writer who is sure to tempt many into a new imaginative excursion to scenes of living beauty, tenanted by memories of the mighty dead. To the charms of a cultivated mind, a refined taste, and a playful imagination, she adds the more sterling qualities of warm sympathies, generous feelings, and independent judgment. She is obviously one of those who has adopted Lessing's advice, "think for yourself;" and hence she invests even the most hackneyed subjects with the interest of novelty, compensating for want of freshness in the subject by originality of treatment. There is great vigour of descriptive power in her account of the Coliseum; but we extract rather from the reflective portion, because the passage is clearly a transcript from the images actually mirrored in the mind.

"The Coliseum is likely, as far as we can foresee, to remain in *statu quo* for many a long year. Thither a friar repairs, on a particular day in each week, to preach, exhort, and pray; he passes from one to another of the fourteen altars, followed by the crowd who assemble on such occasions. This is a striking sight. On the exact spot, which gladiators and wild beasts once rendered a hideous scene of lawless passions and of blood, and where tradition relates that early Christians were cast amongst them to expiate the crime of believing in His doctrines who taught 'a more excellent way,' now may be seen thronging crowds listening with rapt attention to the eloquent persuasions of the earnest old man, who inculcates peace and goodwill to all of humankind, as the injunction of that Saviour, who, by his death, set the seal to his precepts, and 'opened for us the joyful gates of resurrection.'

"At one of these meetings, surrounding a particular altar, every person we saw was kneeling. No accessories assuredly could so powerfully aid devotional feelings—not 'the long-drawn aisle'—'the fretted vault'—and 'dim religious light'—as the associations connected with the bare, dilapidated gigantic walls of the Coliseum, open to all the winds, and covered only by the canopy of heaven.'"

Some of the remarks on the differences between the Catholic and Protestant hierarchies are equally new and just.

"What a diversity of tastes are accommodated within the bosom of the church, for which in ours there is no provision! And, therefore, probably arise our different sects; and this it is that gives to us, who belong to the Reformed religion, the character of being divided, whilst the Roman Catholics lay claim to unity from having arrangements made within their own body, to suit many men of many minds. Some amongst us who abjure pomp, turn Quakers; others, who love it, even in holy orders, are candidates for rank and seats amongst our peers; again, those who are stubborn, and will not recognise episcopal authority, are Presbyterians, Independents, &c. &c. whereas, amongst the Roman Catholics, diversity of opinion as to church government, and many other matters, I believe, is really as great (always allowing for agreement as to there being one infallible temporal head of the church); and yet Dominicans, Franciscans, and other denominations, though differing as widely perhaps from their parent-stock as do many of our sectaries from the established religion, are not considered Separatists, because more of human skill is to be found in the construction of the Roman Catholic than in that of the Reformed Church.

"In subordinate points, too, we are surpassed in policy, that is to say, if we shrink from the taunts cast upon us for our apparent divisions. Our churches are kept inviolably for the use of our established clergy; none who has not subscribed to the Thirty-nine Articles can enter the pulpit of any parish church; whereas, in Rome, the churches are thrown open to all zealous preachers, and it is not uncommon to see a poorly clad friar holding forth under the splendid dome of the Jesuits, as well as in many others of the most magnificent churches. What would the Bishop of London's chaplain or secretary say to an itinerant Methodist proposing to preach from his lordship's pulpit? He would assuredly direct him to go by the shortest road to a lunatic asylum."

But, whatever wisdom the Papacy may have shown in its ecclesiastical policy, it is one of the worst civil governments in existence. Monopolies and discriminating duties continue to impoverish the Papal and Neopolitan states, rendering the fertility with which Heaven has blessed their soil worse than useless, productive chiefly of that rankness from which their bright sun extracts the *malaria*—the poisonous wind of death. In every part of Italy Mrs. Yates found physical loveliness and artistic beauty; but in Tuscany alone, the seat of Free Trade, did she witness an approach to human happiness:—

"The Grand Duke of Tuscany is an object of universal attachmant to his subjects, who appear to be a fortunate class of people, treated well, and watched over by a mild, tolerant, and vigilant Government. It puzzles me to say why the papal dominions do not exhibit equal signs of prosperity. The Popes, who are elective sovereigns, have pretty generally enriched their respective families; and the wealth flowing into such constantly new channels might be supposed to become so many conduits for its diffusion over the country at large; which, however, is not fertilized by it, like Tuscany; in the Roman states it remains apparently stagnant, attached to some few great names. I suppose much of the evil lies in the immensely too great proportion of the clerical body, of monks especially, to the rest of the

population, for they are so many consumers of the fruits of the earth, without being producers. The great law of Providence, that man must live by the sweat of his brow, cannot be defeated with impunity; and it must also be taken into consideration that the malaria that prevails in so great a part of the Roman territory, acts with baleful influence on the pursuits of agriculture, as well as on those of general industry."

Monopoly is more blighting than the malaria, freedom of trade more vivifying than the better soil and climate. The Government of Tuscany has left trade to its natural course of unrestricted exchange. It has derived its commercial system from one of the most enlightened statesmen of modern times, the Count Fossombroni. We are indebted to Mr. Macgregor's "Commercial Statistics" for this statesman's eloquent vindication of Free-Trade policy. He asks—

"Whether the whole fortune of a healthy and flourishing state is to be diminished or regulated, in order to meet the infirm and diseased members who represent the interests which demand protection: whether the wise portion of the community are to be sacrificed in order to keep a certain minority in a state of backwardness and ignorance, and whether the standard of grace and beauty is to be lowered to please the ugly and the crippled; or whether it would not be more fitting a wise legislator to seek the general health, and the general instruction, and the general prosperity, by removing every encouragement which prohibitory and restricted laws offer to imperfection and inferiority? Were I a monarch I would choose a province where I could make an experiment on a large and liberal scale. Its inhabitants should trade with whom they pleased, buy and sell of and to whomsoever best suited their interests or their caprices, without a tax or impediment on export or import. Sure I am that in five years such a province would be the most prosperous of my states; its internal traffic and its external commerce would increase together; it would have more articles that others would be willing to purchase, and, as a necessary consequence, would be a buyer of a greater number of commodities than any of its neighbours. Its increased wealth would soon repay the temporary loss of revenue, supposing it had, during the period of probation, been freed from taxation; though this is not a necessary supposition, as the imposts might be levied by a direct tax on property. Calculate the effect of making all labour productive, of restoring to profitable occupations the numerous hands that our fiscal system condemns to inactivity and idleness, or, what is worse, to impeding the very creation and increase of wealth. If thus all the action of labour, capital, and knowledge were freed from the fetters of interference, it would be impossible to calculate the beneficial and immense results. There is no foundation for the two arguments which are usually put forward to justify the protecting system: first, that it encourages national manufactures, and, as a secondary consequence, provides labour for a greater number of hands; by the example of a capital adopting the prohibitory system, while Free Trade existed in the surrounding country, that the wealth of the capital would be speedily absorbed; and a nation must equally waste its wealth by persevering in a restrictive policy, and more rapidly so if other nations liberalized their own. The elevation of prices, without an increased demand for labour, must inevitably destroy capital; and the facts which Tuscany presents are the best justification of this reasoning. Twenty years of Free Trade have led to a vast extension of cultivation, and a great increase of buildings and inhabitants, both in town and country; to the establishment of new manufactories; to an enormous development of the growth of silk (a branch whose total destruction was foretold by the enemies of Free Trade); a very considerable augmentation in the consumption of both the necessaries and the luxuries of life, with all the enjoyments attached to them, a general rise of wages, and a universal sentiment of growing prosperity."

This independence of agriculture has been equally advantageous to the proprietor and the farmer. It has led to a great improvement in the moral relations between landlord and tenant. Mrs. Yates informs us:—

"We remarked some excellent, handsome, and quite modern houses, in the midst of these Italian highlands, many miles distant from Florence, from which it would appear that at least temporary residence on their estates is becoming more frequent than it was formerly amongst the great landed proprietors of Tuscany. We were told by an English gentleman, of large landed property, who has been settled in the neighbourhood of Florence for twenty years, that the most happy intercourse invariably subsists between the landlord and tenant, when a Fattore is not employed to oppress and pillage the one, and cheat and deceive the other. The arrangement between them is that they divide the fruits of the soil. He said that many of his acquaintances who used to employ Fattori or agents, now manage and superintend their own estates, and have thereby benefited themselves and their tenants so obviously, that the laudable practice is becoming more general than formerly."

An incident which occurred during Mrs. Yates's visit to the Foscari Palace at Venice has too great a hold on our feelings to be passed over. We shall conclude by extracting it, for it would be painful to record the emotions it suggests: and we are sure that our readers will sympathise too deeply with the narrative to desire any comment.

"We looked, *en passant*, into several rooms that are let to the poorest kind of tradespeople and artists, and were fast retreating, when our cicerone said there was a remarkable room that we had not seen. He opened a door, and we entered. All round it, in deep recesses, are half-length terra-cotta figures, representing certain members of the Foscari family. These could not, I suppose, be torn away without demolition, or they would not be left as they are, like mourners in their desolate house. Our guide also threw open another door of a large apartment, at the further end of which I saw some decorations on the wall that caught my attention. Near to it was a small uncurtained bed, which I concluded belonged to one of the many persons who, apparently for want of a better, sought refuge in the decayed mansion. The cicerone now said, 'La Comtessa Foscari.'

"I asked, 'Where?' and pointing to a picture on a chair, which I supposed him to refer to, I said, 'That is a Madonna.'

"The valet-de-place, who had accompanied us, in rather an audible manner, whispered 'That lady before you is la comtessa.'

"A feeble old woman, whom I had not till then observed, bowed significantly, as importing that *she* was the person alluded to. I made my very deepest curtsey, feeling awed by her poverty in a way that pomp or pageantry could not have effected. She offered me one of the few chairs, desiring me to sit near her. There was no sofa, nor any article besides the bed having comfort for its object. On hearing her speak, even a few words, no one could doubt that she is of gentle blood. Scanty, and almost tattered as was her dress, she had an air of dignity and grace that is not always found to accompany satins and velvets. A small table stood near with some books.

"I was endeavouring to collect my ideas, so as to say a few words, when another ancient lady of similar appearance entered; the countess said, 'That is my sister, the Countess Inasio; she is a widow, but I was never married.'

"This led to my saying the most *mal-a-propos* thing I could have stammered out (an unfortunate propensity that influences me on all critical occasions). I expressed a hope, notwithstanding her celibacy (single blessedness I could not call it), that there was some male heir of her illustrious house. She mournfully shook her head, implying thereby as much as Lord Burleigh in the play ever did by any such movement on his part; she said,

"I have a cousin, but our fallen fortunes constrain him to earn his bread; he is an actor of the drama, and I understand a good performer: he is called by another name, one that belonged to some of our connexions; he does right not to debase that of Foscari."

Western Barbary, its Wild Tribes and Savage Animals. By J. H. Drummond Hay, Esq. London: Murray. Third notice.

Mr. Hay creditably exerted himself to obtain some information respecting the fate of the enterprising Davidson, and the account which he gives of the circumstances that led to the murder of that enterprising traveller are full of instruction:—

"Davidson brought with him a letter of recommendation from his Majesty William IV. to the Sultan of Morocco,* stating that the object of his travels was purely scientific. The delivery of this letter to the Sultan was in itself an unwise measure, for it stamped the bearer as an agent of the British Government; and consequently Davidson was looked upon with a jealous and suspicious eye by the Moorish court. The Sultan of Morocco little knows or cares about scientific pursuits. It would never enter into the mind of a Moor, not even the most enlightened, that any man would expose his life by travelling through the wild tracts of West Barbary, or attempt to penetrate into the land of deserts and death, solely for the love of travel and science. Gain, the Moor would argue, must be his object, and for this alone, would he conclude, the Englishman was travelling in countries where he exposed his life.

"To a like course of reasoning among the wealthy merchants of Fas and Tâfilelt may the death of the unfortunate traveller be attributed. These traders, and others of the principal towns of Morocco, have long held in their hands the monopoly of the trade of Northern Africa, consisting in gold-dust, ivory, ostrich feathers, &c. With what eyes must they then have viewed the man whom they considered the emissary of a great commercial nation, with whom these goods have long been an object of traffic! The natural inference of these Moors would be, this man is going into the interior to enter into an arrangement with agents there for sending the productions of the country to some more direct port of export than those of Morocco; and if he succeed in this object, he will destroy our trade.

"Impressed with views such as these, and callous in the commission of crime, it is easy to suppose that these traders would have endeavoured to prevent, either by fair means or foul, the return of such a traveller to his own country, as his success might ensure their ruin."

The following is the most correct account of the details of the murder:—

"Mr. Davidson and party were first met by some of the tribes of Howbet and Ait Atta, who took from him some money, and allowed the party to proceed. The party reached Swekeya, where they rested, to wait for the caravan to come up. On the third day, a party of fifteen or more of the tribe of El Harib arrived at the resting-place, and, after the usual salutations, inquired of Mohamed El Abd to show him the watering-place, who, leaving his musket behind, and the rest of the Harib sitting down, accompanied him over the sand-hills; and, when out of sight, hearing a report of a musket, Mohamed El Abd asked what had been done, when the Harib replied his party had shot the Christian. He complained bitterly, and said he would rather they had murdered him. It is stated that, when Mohamed El Abd went away, one of the Harib pretended to examine his gun, and seized the opportunity to take aim, and shot Mr. Davidson, who was sitting on the ground a short distance from the party, who immediately began to plunder and seize everything belonging to Mr. Davidson, allowing Mohamed El Abd to keep possession of what property belonged to him, obliging him first to make oath on the Koran that the caravan was not met by the Harib, but had gone on Timbuctoo, with which Abú, the companion of Mr. Davidson, travelled.

"In another account it is stated that when the Harib shot Davidson, they proceeded to plunder his baggage, tearing and destroying all his *books and papers*.

"From these statements it evidently appears that the Harib had other views than mere plunder, for those who made the first attack were satisfied with robbing the travellers; but the Harib, unprovoked by any resistance, murdered the unfortunate Christian, and then destroyed *all his books and papers*, whilst they allowed '*Mohamed El Abd to keep possession of what property belonged to him*;' and I have little doubt that those who hired these ruffians had given them especial instructions not only to make away with the traveller, but to destroy all his papers, which they would fear might contain information likely to be injurious to their trade, should they reach the Nazarenes. This opinion is confirmed by the fact that most of his other property has been recovered; and very lately I had the melancholy satisfaction of receiving, through the kindness of the brother of the lamented traveller, a small silver pedometer which I had lent him."

We have extracted from Mr. Hay's work the passages which appeared the most likely to illustrate the social condition of a country to which a considerable share of public attention has been recently directed, in consequence of the alleged design of the French Government to extend its dominion over that part of Northern Africa, and the asserted interest of England to prevent any such attempt at occupation. War has often been declared between nations from trifling causes, but a war between England and France for the possession of Morocco would be about the most absurd of which history contains any record. In the first place, if any enemy was anxious to weaken the French power, he could devise no means more efficacious for the purpose than inducing the French people to prosecute schemes of conquest in Northern Africa. Algeria is only maintained at the annual expenditure of 10,000 lives of French soldiers, and an immense expenditure of money, all of which does not appear in the estimates. The empire of [illegible] and Morocco occupies a surface rather larger than Spain, and contains about seven millions of inhabitants; the greater part of the young men are trained from infancy to the use of the musket; they are excellent marksmen, capable of enduring great fatigue, implacable in their revengeful passions, and patient as the North American Indian in watching a favourable moment for bringing down their destined victim. A Moorish army would not perhaps be very formidable to the disciplined troops of Europe, if we may judge from the following description of their tactics given by an able writer in the *United Service* journal:—

"Their general plan of attack is that of riding up till within a couple of hundred yards of the enemy, when they level muskets, fire, wheel round their horses, and gallop away at full speed; after which, when beyond shot-range, they reload and return to the charge with loud yells. If the enemy gives way or exhibits signs of fear, they venture to push forwards; but if attacked, man to man, with the sabre, we may safely consider their resistance as likely to be very short, since they are obliged to hold both bridle and gun in one hand, if they use the sword with the other. The latter they avoid to the last moment, preferring to rely on the swiftness of the attack and retreat, and on a dexterous use of the musket. We are here speaking of the Moors; but the Berber tactics are, after the first fire, to rush in pell-mell among the enemy, with bayonets fixed to their long guns, which they manage with impetuosity and bravery, placing their dependence rather on steel than powder."

There can be little doubt that the attacks of the Moorish cavalry on the serried lines of European infantry would have the same result as the furious charges of the Beys on Napoleon's squares at the battle of the Pyramids: they would be swept down by the volleys of musketry, and the very fanaticism of their bravery would only add to the certainty of their destruction. But victory in the battle-field is a very different thing from the conquest of the country; the able writer, from whom we have quoted, justly says:—

"Should a powerful enemy succeed in occupying the plains of the country, with their towns and cities, it is still very far from completing the conquest of Morocco; and even to maintain such occupation it would require that the conquerors should be absolute in the maritime supremacy of the Mediterranean; a point which France can have no hope of ever attaining. Under this military cantonment, the fastnesses and elevated table-lands of the extensive Atlas range must remain independent *sine die*; for they teem with an unsubdued race, in command of difficult passes untraversed as yet but by themselves, and where even the footsteps of the stranger would be instantly traced by their keenness and sagacity. Full of fire, strength, and courage, they are suspicious, cruel, and implacable; and not at all remarkable for sparing those who fall into their clutches. They already view in Ab-del-Kader—who is descended from one of the most ancient of the Arabian families—the gallant defender of their faith, and the heroic chief of the holy war, in which light the present contest with the French is universally regarded. A cry against them has broken forth throughout North Africa, and given birth to a feeling which will interfere with colonization. Fanatically attached to the rights of their soil, their religion, and their race, the Amazirghis—whose very name signifies noble and free—live in a state of almost independence, under the administration of their Omzargh, Amzgar, and Amucran, elders and lords who are hereditary, and ever ready to lead. Their scheiks are also active and intelligent in warlike affairs, as, indeed, they are expected to be: 'The want of courage in a chief,' saith one of the proverbs, 'is the standard of revolt.' They are at once very inclined and well calculated for hostilities, as the rulers of Morocco have frequently found; for the mutual jealousies of the mountain chiefs seem to be the only causes which preserve to those rulers the shadow of authority over the tribes."

When the Spanish armies were scattered like chaff

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* "Davidson was sent from Gibraltar to Tangier in his Majesty's brig-of-war Jaseur, and was landed under a salute of eleven guns, as bearer of a royal letter. This mark of honour was thought, by those who had conferred it on the worthy traveller, to be rendering him a service by raising his importance in the eyes of the Moors; but I remember feeling, as I heard the roar of the cannon echoed back by the hills—over which he was so soon to pass, never to return—that these were the death-guns of the gallant traveller."

to the winds of heaven, Napoleon was just as far from the subjugation of the Spanish peninsula as when he first formed his treacherous plans in Bayonne. The guerillas in the various mountain ranges that divide the provinces of Spain were far more formidable than the followers of Cuesta, Ballesteros, or even Romana: every rock was a fortress, every valley a magazine, and every defile an ambuscade. The peasant ploughing in the field had his musket hidden in the furrow; if a straggling Frenchman passed by, he was shot down before he could suspect danger, and his body was buried before he was missed by his comrades. Sentries on advanced posts were picked off; convoys intercepted and detachments destroyed. Such a mode of warfare had all the waste of life belonging to the most sanguinary campaign, and not one particle of the compensating glory. But to this same destructive warfare the French have exposed themselves in Algiers, and there is scarcely a part of France where there are not wives widowed and mothers bereaven who curse the ambition which led their rulers to occupy Algeria. It has been justly said:—

> "Extended empire, like expanded gold,
> Exchanges solid strength for feeble splendour;"

but the splendour in this instance has not been attained: all that France has yet gained by the expenditure of blood and treasure in Northern Africa, is the occupation [illegible]o much ground as is within range of her batteries [illegible]d her sentries, and not one inch beyond. Were the English the real enemies of the French they would hound them on to the invasion of Morocco; [illegible]re they would find scores of Abd-el-Kaders in [illegible] heads of the wild tribes of the Atlas.

But if France should persevere in this insanity we are told that England ought to interfere. We should be glad to learn the why or wherefore. It is said that Gibraltar principally derives its supplies from Morocco;—be it so,—if Morocco were at this moment a province of France, its produce would be sent to the best market in spite of all the fiscal regulations of the conquerors. The smuggler would soon set at nought the statutes and edicts which a mixture of hatred and folly could alone dictate. It is notorious that in the very height of the war England drew large supplies of corn from France; and are we to be told that the French could maintain a more vigilant blockade of the coast of Barbary than they were able to establish on their own shores?

But it is said that the war-party in France is ambitious of turning the Mediterranean into a French lake? Supposing that the whole French nation adopted the same wild project, we might laugh at the delusion so long as we are convinced of its utter impracticability. There are other nations besides England and France which would claim a potential voice in the closing of that sea. An Irish youth was once anxious to wed a lady of fortune; he spoke to his uncle on the subject, who coolly said:—"This is all very well! but have you got consent?" "O yes, Sir, partly I have." "Partly, boy! what do you mean by partly?" "Why, Sir, I have got my own consent." Now, Young France may have its own consent to seizing on the commerce of the Mediterrenean; but this only carries the hot-headed youth just so far, and no farther, as the Irishman had advanced in his courtship.

The true check to the progress of the real or supposed designs of France is equitable commerce between England and the southern nations of Europe. Each wants the other's produce; and mutual exchange on equal terms will bind them in bonds of amity far stronger and more enduring than all the parchments that have been tied with red tape during the last five centuries of diplomacy. It has unfortunately pleased a noisy party in France to enact the part of a froward child, and quarrel about every trifle which can afford the least ground for question; while England takes the more dignified character of a man of sense, who smiles at the whimsical pranks of the discontented urchin. None of the bystanders misinterpret this forbearance; and as yet the vaunting declamations of Young France have no other merit than that of being supremely ridiculous: they have, indeed, become tiresome to the great body of the French themselves. This dignified attitude it is the true policy of England to preserve; the French may amuse themselves by sacrificing hecatombs of their soldiers, or by warring against women and children in Tahiti; but neither Morocco nor the whole of Polynesia would be an equivalent to either nation for the consequences of a war between the two countries which are intrusted with the destinies of civilization and humanity.

FREE TRADE WITH ALL THE WORLD.—The following appears in the "Annual Register" for 1783:—"June 4. Count d'Adhemar, the French Ambassador, notified a proposal to the British Ministry on the part of his court, in conjunction with other European powers, mutually to abolish exclusive trade, and to leave it reciprocally open to every nation. In consequence of this extraordinary proposal, a courier was despatched to Petersburgh, and the Ministry there declined returning an answer, or in any manner discussing the subject, until the sentiments of the Czarina should be known."

AGRICULTURE.

THE CAPACITY OF BRITISH HUSBANDRY.

The question into which all our most intelligent farmers are inquiring is, "what our soil is capable of producing under favourable circumstances, and at what cost?" And in the investigations they are instituting for the solution of this question they, day by day, find the falsehoods and fallacies of the monopolists disperse like mists before the sun. And none do more to dissipate the delusion of "protection" than the supporters of the Corn Laws themselves, whenever they can be pinned down to specific statements, to which it must be confessed they have a remarkable aversion. Of this the most recent instance which has come under our observation is a tract published by "the Agricultural Protection Society," entitled "An Answer from R. Baker, of Writtle, to Earl Ducie;" and a more inconclusive answer it has not often been our fortune to meet with. In fact, we don't know that we could place any tract—for on a fly-leaf it contains Earl Ducie's statement—in the hands of a farmer which would carry more decisive evidence of the inherent weakness of protectionist reasoning.

Mr. Baker begins his "answer" after the most approved protectionist plan, by assuming that to be true which it is their business to prove if they can, and by asserting that to be false which it is their part to contradict if they are able; and then to argue from *such* premises *so* established as if they were incontrovertible axioms. This may do very well at "protection" meetings, where no adverse voice is permitted to be heard; but if the monopolists fancy that by such means they can satisfy the public of anything but the thorough rottenness of the system they uphold, they will find themselves most egregiously mistaken.

Accordingly, Mr. Baker begins by saying, "As the misstatement made by him [Earl Ducie] in reference to the capability of the British farmers to compete with the foreign producer is *apparently to those only who are competent, from their practical experience,* to judge rightly on the question," he feels it a duty "to show how unfairly and incorrectly those calculations have been deduced." Here Mr. Baker presupposes "misstatements," and assumes the existence of "unfair and incorrect calculations." Let us see how he proceeds to make good his assumptions. And he begins by attempting to create a mystification after this fashion, saying "I *hope* to be enabled to point out an error which is palpable, not only in this, but in all those calculations which are founded exclusively on the growth of wheat; for as the main—if not the whole—farm operations tend to the production of the wheat crop, and thus enter indirectly into its production, it is almost impossible to deduce a fair calculation of the expenses incurred in producing any given quantity of wheat, without entering into a wide field of calculation, extending over the course of cropping during those years when such land is not producing wheat." Now, if this means anything, and we are not at all certain that it has any meaning, it is that a system of preparation so expensive may be adopted that the wheat crop will not repay its cost. And let it be recollected that the worst farming is, in proportion to the produce, the most expensive farming. Lord Ducie's statement went to show that where sufficient capital was employed, and the land had been thoroughly improved by draining, subsoiling, and so forth, and with fields laid out in convenient divisions and a good homestead, wheat might be profitably grown every other year. And how does Mr. Baker meet that statement? Why, by the most jejune and empty *ipse dixitism* we have met with. He says, in substance, I have taken farms and valued much land in Essex, and *I can't grow wheat so cheaply* as it is stated to be grown on Whitfield Farm;—that an average produce of forty bushels per acre—though Earl Ducie only assumed an average of thirty-three bushels—will not "obtain credence with one practical agriculturist in the kingdom," for we don't grow so much in Essex! And then he makes an imaginary statement of the cost of cultivating 120 acres of land in Essex, founded on his own practice, which shows a result far less beneficial to the occupier than Lord Ducie's statement. It matters not that it has been proved to demonstration at Whitfield that wheat may be grown in alternate years, for Mr. Baker says, We can't grow it oftener than once in four years in Essex. Then as to the quantity of seed, he meets his lordship's *fact*, that he produces a very large crop of wheat from five and three quarters pecks of seed to the acre, with the single argument, "The quantity sown in Essex is double that amount"!!! Then he goes with much pains into minute details to show that he, the redoubtable Mr. Baker, produces smaller crops than Earl Ducie at greater cost, and that on land naturally more fertile. We do not doubt the fact, and we believe that Mr. Baker and such as he will never make their land produce all it is capable of producing, and that at the lowest cost, until they are relieved from their delusive reliance on protection. This is why the great object of Earl Ducie to demonstrate by showing what has been done at Whitfield by permanent improvements, ample capital, and careful cultivation. To all of which Mr. Baker, under the shadow of the "Central Protection Society," replies with a shake of the head, and an oracular "We don't do so much in Essex." We know they don't, and with Earl Ducie we say the Corn Law is their great obstacle.

But there is one remarkable omission in Mr. Baker's statement of his own farming: he has not told us what amount of capital to the acre he employs. Had he done so we could have given a pretty accurate estimate of the results of his farming, and could have easily explained why his crops are less and his expenses higher than on Whitfield Farm.

When once a farm is got into a high state of cultivation, it is managed at actually less expense than when it is let down and brought up again after the fashion Mr. Baker seems to think perfection. Mr. Baker states that the land he occupies is "of a deep loamy staple, well adapted to the growth of wheat, and easily cultivated;" yet on such land his average produce of wheat does not "exceed, upon a series of years, twenty-eight bushels" to the acre. To attain this he employs—we might have said misemploys—"about six able-bodied men to each 100 acres, with one boy, and five cart-horses." That statement is quite enough to render Mr. Baker's authority, with good farmers, exceedingly small, for we could not easily select a more complete example of misapplication of means than that he adduces as the perfection of Essex farming. We have reason to know, however, that such a statement is a libel upon the best farmers in Essex, and that they cultivate their land with far more advantageous results. We shall not speculate on the causes of the protectionist champion's inferior husbandry, whether he has got more land than he has capital to cultivate properly, or whether he adheres to a system which looks for high prices to countervail a low produce, but we have the facts from his own pen which serve to write him down an inferior farmer. There is only one other point made by Mr. Baker worth notice, which is, that he asserts that Whitfield Farm consists "principally of old grass land just brought into cultivation, which is capable of producing wheat and grain crops for several years in succession, until the mass of accumulated vegetable matter has become exhausted." This is a misrepresentation; grain crops are not produced in succession, but the great principle of the Whitfield system is, that a green crop shall always alternate with the grain crop; and from the second report of the Whitfield Farm, made in 1842, it appears that the old arable land is equally productive with that which has been more recently converted from pasture. Thus Mr. Morton says, "on *an old arable field* in 1841 we had of Shirreff's wheat forty-five bushels an acre." This completely snatches that straw from the grasp of the sinking protectionist.

A MONOPOLIST MISTAKE.

With that singular infelicity by which most of the monopolists' efforts in defence of their wrong are characterized, the *Herts County Press*, a monopolist paper, lately thought fit to attack Mr. Chas. H. Lattimore for his efforts to diffuse Free-Trade knowledge in his own locality; and, of all things in the world, charged him with "screwing" down the wages of his labourers. That such a ground of attack was selected proves the absolute ignorance of the Pro-Corn-Law writer, for the charge is the very reverse of true. Indeed, if the Pro-Corn-Law advocate had taken the trouble to inquire in Hertford market-place, he would have found that there are few better farmers in the county than Mr. Lattimore; and a little additional inquiry would have led the organ of the Herts monopolists to a knowledge of the fact, that a good farmer invariably treats his labourers well. The attack has, however, drawn from Mr. Lattimore the following letter, addressed to the *County Press*, which shows how farmers *who are not afraid of free trade in corn and foreign competition* manage their farms:—

> "*To the Editor of the County Press.*
>
> "SIR,—My attention having been called to a paragraph in your paper of the 20th of July instant, headed, 'Free Trade Humbug,' in which you assert 'that it is pretty generally known in the parish of Wheathamsted, that few farmers exercise a larger share of pomposity over, or put the *screw* on the labourers more tightly than Mr. Lattimore, and that a working man asked what he paid his labourers?' Not knowing the source whence you derive your information, and not wishing to be misrepresented, and not having heard any such question proposed at the St. Alban's meeting, I beg to answer the question you have put into the mouth of a working man. And I request you will do me the justice to insert in your next publication the following authenticated statement relative to this most ill-founded insinuation. If you are sincere in wishing to increase the remuneration of agricultural labour, I beg you will call the attention of the *practical and intelligent farmers*, who are leading members of the 'Protection Society,' to this statement, and by their verdict I am content to abide.
>
> Your obedient servant,
>
> "Bride-hall, Aug. 6, 1844." "C. H. LATTIMORE."

Total amount of land in the occupation of Mr. C. H. Lattimore :—

	A.	R.	P.
	646	2	28
Namely, Arable	562	2	14
Grass	48	2	37
Gorse, Wood, and Waste	35	1	17
	646	2	28

Expenditure upon the above quantity of land, *solely* for agricultural purposes, during the last *three* years, the accounts being made up to Michaelmas, 1843 :—

From Michaelmas, 1840, to Michaelmas, 1843, including labour, wages, beer, smith's, wheelwright's, carpenter's bills, &c.	£4053	5	6½
Average for each year, for last *three* years	£1351	1	10

"We, the undersigned farmers, having duly and carefully examined the books and bills from whence the above accounts are extracted, vouch for their truth and correctness; and, from personal knowledge, we beg to state that no farmer in this neighbourhood employs so many labourers upon a similar extent of land, nor pays *higher wages* than Mr. Lattimore. No one is more respected by the labourers, nor looked up to by them. It is well known to us that 21 labourers, now in his employ, have been in his and his father's service the following terms, viz., 1 for 23½ years, 4 for 14 years, 1 for 13 years, 4 for 10 years, 2 for 9½ years, 3 for 9 years, 2 for 8 years, 2 for 7 years, 1 for 5½ years, 1 for 4 years. It appears that Mr. Lattimore adopts the system of piecework (whenever practicable), whereby the skill and energy of the labourer are encouraged and rewarded; and we find that labourers in his employ have thereby been enabled to earn upwards of 12s. and 13s. per week throughout the winter. The lowest rate of weekly wages (*per day work*) is, for able-bodied labourers, 9s. per week with beer, equal to 10s. per week; threshers, 10s. with beer, equal to 11s. per week; shepherds and others, from 13s. to 15s. per week. In conclusion, we find that the land occupied by Mr. Lattimore is held as tenant-at-will, part of which he is now leaving. Notwithstanding, *if an equal quantity of labour was generally employed, there would not be sufficient labourers in this locality;* and yet, during the winter of 1842, more than 100 were destitute of employment in Wheathamsted parish. At that time Mr. Lattimore proved before a vestry that he employed eight men upon every 100 acres of arable land he held in that parish, winter and summer, and yet he took a portion of the unemployed hands. In confirmation of these facts, witness our hands, August 5, 1844.

"WM. HAWKINS, farmer, Kimpton.

"ED. BRUTON, sen., ditto, Wheathamsted."

We shall recur to this subject next week, which is one of great importance and closely connected with the corn-monopoly; for, as we have repeatedly said, one grand effect of the Corn Law is to divert the fund properly applicable to the payment of the labourers into the landlords' pockets AS RENT.

THE SLEEPERS ARE WAKING.

The following paragraph, extracted from a local newspaper, shows that the landlords are arousing from their thirty years' sleep under the cold shade of legislative protection :—

"At the last annual rent audit of Lord Hill, at Hawkstone, Shropshire, his lordship, through his agent, George Gill, Esq., stated that the *time had now arrived when it was absolutely necessary to render every possible assistance to the farmer.* With this view of attending to their welfare, *he had offered his tenants a lease for eleven years*, at a reduction of from seven to ten per cent., which would give them an opportunity of improving the cultivation of their farms, *and of reaping the benefit of those improvements;* and further added, that if at any period they found the system of granting leases was not beneficial to the full extent they calculated upon, he would at once cancel their leases, and receive them as yearly tenants as heretofore. *This announcement was received with loud applause by his lordship's tenants.—Provincial paper.*

Such an announcement is in many respects satisfactory. It proves that the owners of land have at length got a glimpse of the only means by which they can "render assistance to the farmer;" which is simply by abstaining from doing him active injury. But the paragraph contains several indications that his lordship and his agent are as yet only half awakened. For in the first place the term of *eleven* years is too short to enable a tenant to profit as he ought from extensive improvements. The farms having been in the hands of yearly tenants, as a matter of course, require a considerable preliminary outlay to bring them into a good state of cultivation. We know first-rate farmers who say this cannot be done in less than nine years. And we believe that, with the ordinary means and appliances of farmers, the first seven years of a lease must be regarded as a period of continuous outlay. We are satisfied that nothing less than terms of twenty-one years will induce farmers in general to adopt the best system of cultivation, and enable them to "reap the benefit of their improvements." Then a mere lease is not enough; it must be a rational lease, one which leaves the tenant full liberty to farm in the best manner. It must be weeded of that mass of absurd restrictions which even the best leases at present in use contain. There must be no reservation of game or timber, no prohibitions against grubbing up hedgerows, and laying out the farm in convenient fields and divisions. The nonsensical prejudices in favour of old pasture land must be abandoned, and proper buildings must be erected by the landlords, or proportionate allowances made to the tenants, to enable them to put the homestead in a state fit for the occupation of a good farmer. Now, the offer to grant leases for only eleven years necessarily excludes these reasonable provisions; and therefore, though Lord Hill's tenants applauded the announcement of his lordship's intention to grant such leases, we venture to predict that their farming will be but little improved by the concession, and possibly but few leases will be accepted, or, if accepted, retained. And the very circumstance that his lordship offers to cancel the leases if, after a trial, his tenants prefer a yearly tenancy, shows that Lord Hill has no intention of surrendering the useless semi-feudal customs which prevail in the management of landed property, and of giving to his tenants that full and absolute possession and control over their farms, which are indispensable to good farming. It is something, however, to find landowners admitting they must grant leases; and let us tell them that they will soon discover that, if they mean to uphold anything like their present rentals, they must grant NATIONAL LEASES.

THE LABOURER'S COMMENT ON MONOPOLY.

In the last week's *Wiltshire Independent* a letter appears, signed by "*A Labourer of Christian Malford*," which gives another most direct and practical contradiction to Mr. John Benett's monstrous misstatements as to the condition of the Wiltshire peasantry. Nobody can believe this originates in ignorance on the part of the monopolist senator, inasmuch as he professes to be a practical agriculturist, and a resident country gentleman; to what, then, must such gross misrepresentations be attributed? This is the most recent contradiction :—

"As Mr. Benett, M.P. for South Wilts, lately stated at an agricultural meeting that the poor of Wiltshire were always employed regularly at the rate of 8s. and 9s. per week, and that they were well fed and well clothed, and as I know by experience that that statement is false, I will, if you will be so kind as to allow me to occupy a small space in your valuable paper, prove that it is so; *and I will tell what I earned for thirty-nine weeks, ending the 10th of June*, 1844, to maintain as large a family as almost any poor man has; the number of my family is eight. *All of those thirty-nine weeks we wanted 7s. a week for bread, not having any potatoes a third part of the time, so that if I had been receiving 8s. a week during all that time it would not have been enough to buy bread and firing.* And now, Sir, I will tell you the exact amount of what I did earn during those thirty-nine weeks—*it was £5 19s. 8d., which is not quite 3s. 1d. a week!* This report is almost enough to make you stagger to believe it, but it is no less strange than true; and I can say for a truth, if it had not been for a little land which I rent of the Honourable the Earl of Carnarvon, and the Rev. Mr. Law, and a few good friends amongst my neighbours, *my family and myself must have died from starvation; it was not much better as it was.* NOW, I WILL ASK THE HON. GENTLEMAN IF HE THINKS HE IS JUSTIFIED IN STATING SUCH THINGS AT PUBLIC MEETINGS?"

Let the Devizes monopolists rebut that statement if they can.

But the truth seems to be, that these very falsehoods, intended to uphold monopoly, form one of the very means by which its speedy abolition will be accomplished, for in the same paper we find, from the letter of "*A Tradesman of Hillmarton*," that—

"The people of North Wilts having made an inquiry into the cause of their distress, are about to address the Commons of England and Ireland on the subject, by petitioning them *to remove all restrictions on trade and commerce. The Brinkworth meeting petition has already received* 1500 *signatures, and will, in a few days, be forwarded to Parliament—with at least* 2000! There is now but one opinion prevailing in the vale of North Wilts, and that is that *the removal of all restrictions on trade and commerce is the only means of raising the condition of the working classes;* and in order to realize that object, they are about to form a society for promoting the principles of Free Trade, and for sending lecturers into every town and village in the country, in order to spread those principles."

This sort of thing will soon bring these monopolist squires to their senses.

A ROARER IN MORE SENSES THAN ONE.

We have all heard how the Duke of Richmond roared as president of the "Central Protection Society;" and all who have deemed that nearly-forgotten society worth a thought may have remarked how gentle and sucking-dove-like that roar has become of late. It does so happen that the noble Duke became tame about the same period that one of his younger brothers—detrimentals, as those unfortunate dependents have been designated by some fashionable novelist; encumbrances, as they are unquestionably deemed by the hereditary possessors of titles and estates—accepted a seat at the Treasury Board. Of course, there was no connexion between the two events, but the coincidence is odd, and people will talk. Now, though the Duke of Richmond has ceased to roar in his own person, he appears to have sent a deputy to roar for him at the late agricultural meeting at Southampton, in the person of a black thorough-bred stallion. We cannot do better than let the *Times* tell the story for us in its own racy way :—

"THE DUKE AND THE ROARER.—At the Agricultural Society's meeting, at Southampton, the Duke of Richmond *won a prize of £15 for a stallion; an t, after it was all over, it was found out that the animal did not belong to the Duke at all, but to a Mr. Rushbridger, his steward.* Nor was this the only 'mistake' they made. Besides complimenting their president elect by giving him a prize for what turned out to be another man's horse, they also awarded one to the Hon. Mr. Nugent for a heifer, which heifer, *although it was deliberately sent in according to the printed specification, turned out, after the prize had been given, to be eleven days too old!* So, as the Duke of Buckingham had a heifer which has been 'commended' by the judges, they transferred Mr. Nugent's prize to his grace, thus clearly giving him a taste of the honour also. The two prizes were thus made to serve for four people. Very curious 'mistakes' these, particularly when they happen with vice-presidents and presidents elect. *It is said that the animal for which the complaisant judges awarded the £15 prize to their president elect, is nothing more nor less than a 'roarer.'* Though their judgment could not detect a roarer from a sound-winded horse, their instinct told them the difference between a duke and a common exhibitor. But how came the 'thorough-bred stallion' thus to be put off from one to the other? Of course, Mr. Rushbridger would not dare, of his own unencouraged assurance, to pass off his horse in the name of so very duke-ish a duke as his Grace of Richmond. How, then, did it happen? Was his Grace ashamed of his 'roarer?' Did Mr. Rushbridger—with that alacrity of patient pannier-bearing and contented cropping of thistles *of which the Duke so much boasts in his tenants*—rush in to save Richmond, Lennox, and D'Aubigny from the titters and sneers of the whole horse-loving, that is to say, the whole civilized world? This Mr. Rushbridger is not unknown to fame for much of his amiable assistance to the Duke."—*Times.*

Now, it does seem odd that the Duke should have sent his servant's horse to the show as a specimen of one of the best horses adapted for breeding purposes, and that such horse should prove to be unsound in a way peculiarly objectionable to breeders of horses. There is, perhaps, no defect more certainly hereditary in horses than that peculiar construction of the windpipe which renders them likely to become roarers. Then, was the Duke aware of the defect? His Grace is a horse-racing man, one who profits by the rent of gambling-booths at Goodwood races; and recent exposures of the doings on the turf render it difficult for any man to touch racing matters without the suspicion of dishonour. Again, when did the Duke discover the infirmity of his own title to the prize horse? Was it before or after the horse was found out to be a roarer? It is certain that at the Pavilion dinner on the 25th of July, the Duke took to himself all the credit and glory which the ownership of the best thorough-bred stallion shown at the meeting could confer upon him.

Farmers are apt to say they have no chance in competing at cattle shows with gentlemen, and the present incident is not likely to restore their confidence. We have far more serious regret for the way in which this "mistake" will affect the judges in the opinion of the public, than for the effect the strange complication may have upon the Duke's reputation. That any man should give a prize for a horse which is a roarer, when the animal is intended for breeding stock, betrays, to say the least, carelessness. The defect is one easily detected—unless the turf men have means of hiding it for a brief period, which, however, we do not believe to be the case—and forms a complete bar to the usefulness of the animal for breeding purposes. And when this mistake has been made in favour of the ducal president elect of the society, the censorious will be doubly inclined to censure.

We confess that we have always observed with considerable regret prizes offered by the society for thorough-bred horses. They are not strictly agricultural stock, and we do not wish to see the practices of the turf—vide the Running Rein and the Bloodstone cases—introduced into the cattle-yard and the sheep-fold.

The Duke of Richmond, however, seems not a bit disconcerted by the Southampton occurrence, for at the recent exhibition of the Highland Agricultural Society, at Glasgow, he said :—"You know well that we require in agriculture *honourable emulation*, and you are aware that I am one of those who to-day *fortunately* gained two premiums. It *was a long time*, though, *before I got to that honourable position.* I had to work my way through as an unsuccessful candidate on many former occasions." And certainly the Duke has a curious method of "working his way through" to success, by the aid of Mr. Rushbridger and the black roarer. At all events it seems the Duke has now attained the summit of his ambition, though some ill-natured people might say that he has had the luck of another *distinguished* personage as well as his own in reaching that position.

WHITFIELD EXAMPLE FARM.

The following account of this farm has been sent to us by a correspondent, who, if we may judge from the tone of his letter, expected more of a sight—more of the pomp and circumstance of an agricultural show—than a farm merely cultivated with a single view to the greatest and most profitable production :—

"Whitfield *Example Farm*, Gloucestershire, on Lord Ducie's estate, has been much spoken and written of. It contains about 240 acres of cleared land, formerly under pasture; much under water, and destroyed with hedge-row trees; the whole of which were grubbed up and sold for £3400. Then the whole farm was *thoroughly* drained with stone and tile, and subsoiled with the Deanston plough; good roads made; all old fences demolished; the whole limed at the rate of 120 bushels per acre, and laid out without divisions into 24 fields of 10 acres each; a good house and offices, with a steam-power thrashing machine, erected, and the whole put under a rotation of crops—in turnips, wheat, clover; wheat, roots; in turnips, carrots, potatoes, or *mangel* wurzel.

"This season, then under crop, 12 fields, or 120 acres wheat

"	"	2	"	20	"	carrots
"	"	2	"	20	"	mangel
"	"	2	"	20	"	turnips
"	"	2	"	20	"	potatoes
"	"	4	"	40	"	clover
		24		240		

"The wheat is all good, and should average about 40 bushels per acre; it is all drilled, some at 6, 9, 12, 15, and 18 inches apart, and sown respectively with 8, 7, 6, 1 and 3 PECKS of seed. The nine inches apart is considered the most productive, although, had the season been finer, the fifteen or eighteen would have probably outdone it. The whole has been twice hoed, and not a weed is to be seen in it. Seeds have also been sown, but they have not appeared. The carrots, white Belgian, are not very regular; the mangel is patchy and inferior; the turnips sown, but not appearing; potatoes very poor, partly ploughed down; clover *fine*, and feeding off with sheep, with a full supply to horses and cattle within doors. The general management good, but not so very *extraordinary* as has been represented. The improvements were conducted by Mr. Morton, a Fifeshire man, who, with his two sons, have now taken a lease of the farm, on certain conditions, from Lord Ducie. It was formerly rated for the poor-rates at 7s. per pound at £86, and it is supposed now to pay £600. The outlay has been very great, but the proprietor says he has *been paid* as a landlord, and now will be recompensed fully by the advanced rent. The improvements have been six or eight years in progress. The tenant disapproves of frequent liming, or, indeed, of any liming at all, and thinks that, by this rotation, and using *all* his straw and roots on the farm, *he will be able to keep it in order without any extraneous aid—not even guano.* This seems problematical to the writer, who has travelled thirty six miles (seventy-two out and home) to see this far-famed Example Farm, and is now waiting the coach to take him up; and returns on the whole satisfied—but no more—neither amused nor delighted *beyond measure;* there is not sufficient variety of management or stock to his taste, *although certainly the wheat and clover crops are good for any year, and extraordinary for the present.* He went thus far for the edification and amusement of his careful and kind correspondent and manager."

Now, here we have one half of a farm, consisting of land naturally poor, yearly under a crop of wheat, the other half being under root and green crops; and the occupier of the farm intends to maintain its fertility without extraneous aid; and an observer, who seems inclined to damn with faint praise, is obliged to say that "the wheat and clover crops are good for any year, and extraordinary for the present." The reader must recollect that this was written before the rains of June, which so materially improved the grain crops, had fallen.

ANOTHER GAME-LAW MURDER.

We have this week to record another of those appalling illustrations of the demoralization and crime caused by the game laws amongst our rural population, of which scarcely a week passes without producing an instance. In a sequestered spot called Halmerend, near Newcastle, in Staffordshire, on the estate of Sir Thomas F. Boughey, a young man named Cooper, who was an assistant to his father, Sir Thos. Boughey's gamekeeper, was deliberately shot as he was entering his father's cottage on Sunday evening.

The poor fellow never spoke, and died in his father's arms within ten minutes after the shot was fired. No person was seen to leave the spot, but, by means of his

footsteps and the peculiar marks made by his shoes, the murderer was traced, and has been apprehended, and he proves to be a man named Downing, *a notorious poacher, who had been four times sent to Stafford goal for poaching, upon informations laid by the father of the deceased.* Two of the convictions have occurred in the present year; and the delinquent's last imprisonment, which had been for three months, *was completed on Saturday, August the 3rd, on which day he returned home.* Another man, *also a poacher*, has been apprehended on suspicion of having been present and aiding in the murder. Here, then, three human lives will probably be sacrificed to that monstrous caprice which endeavours to keep a stock of wild animals in a cultivated country, and amidst a population in a state of great destitution. What deepens this tragedy is the circumstance that the place where this fearful crime was committed is only about a mile and a half from the spot where a policeman named Beech was last year murdered by poachers while attending a gamekeeper. We do not understand from the report whether both murders occurred on the same estate; but how Sir Thomas Boughey can justify to his own conscience the crime—for in the actual condition of this country it is virtually criminal—of game-preserving, which has produced in this district such lamentable results, passeth our comprehension.

Nor is there anything peculiar to this district in the operation of the game laws and game-preserving, for we find in the same daily paper in which the report of the apprehension of poor Cooper's suspected murderers appears, there is the trial at Wells in Somersetshire of two men apprehended for being in a game preserve at night, armed for the purpose of taking game. Though the prisoners were plainly proved to have been in the wood, and

"The learned judge summed up, telling the jury that there were two questions for them to determine—first, the identity of the prisoners with the party who had been seen in the preserve; and next, that they were there for the purpose of taking game; *the identity of the party was clearly proved; and what object could men have in a preserve at eleven o'clock at night but to take game?*—the jury, after a few minutes' consultation, *returned their verdict, Not guilty.*"

Here we have the same state of things which leads to such murderous conflicts, though in this instance no actual bloodshed occurred. The jury seem to have been influenced by the now almost universal abhorrence of game-preserving and its consequential crimes, for they unquestionably acquitted the accused in spite of the evidence, and a strong charge for conviction by the judge. This is a symptom of public dissatisfaction our squires should not overlook.

Another case occurred at the Lancaster assizes, where a man, detected in poaching at night, was found guilty of shooting at the gamekeeper, who, in this case, was only wounded in the leg. And yet, in the face of these things, our game-preserving legislators have just passed a new game law, giving more stringent powers, and inflicting more severe penalties for the *preservation of game* than were before in existence.

EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE.—Employment in agriculture is restricted, because property in land is a monopoly, and because in addition to that there is a further monopoly in what the land produces. Improved systems of agriculture, like improved systems of manufacture, would find employment for a far larger number of labourers than farmers have at present engaged. But, so long as there is no security of tenure, men will not invest capital in permanently improving their lands; and the withholding of such investment is in fact a withholding of the employment which the capital would give to the labourers. Even where there are leases, they are encumbered with a multitude of clauses and conditions which seem perversely designed to put a stop to all improvements. The great body of the landlords act as if they had entered into a confederacy to prevent the farmers from rising to a condition of wealth and independence which might confer political freedom; and though they thus in no slight degree injure themselves, they are willing to sacrifice positive good in order to maintain relative superiority. The farmer is prevented from adopting those modes of culture which would give employment to most labourers. His landlord's game is deemed of more importance than his own crops.—*Hull Advertiser.*

CORN, &c., MARKETS IN IRELAND.—A measure has been recently introduced into Parliament (for the purpose only of being printed and circulated during the recess) by Mr. A. Stafford O'Brien, the Earl of Hillsborough, Mr. Morgan J. O'Connell, and the Hon. Mr. Vesey, entitled "A bill for the establishment and regulation of markets for the sale of corn and other agricultural produce in the cities and towns of Ireland." The number of clauses is 68. The preamble states that the sale and weighing of corn and other agricultural produce in Ireland are not sufficiently regulated by legal enactments, and that it would tend materially to the advantage of the several persons interested in buying and selling therein, and to the improvement of the quality of the grain brought to market by the farmer, to have one uniform system of dealing established under the authority of law. The bill then goes on to provide various and multitudinous enactments to meet the exigencies of the case.—*Times.*

GAMEKEEPERS AND THE GAME LAWS.—A bulky return of all inquests held by the coroners of England and Wales since the year 1833 upon the bodies of gamekeepers, and the number of persons convicted of offences against the game laws during the year 1843, &c., has been printed by order of the House of Commons—having been moved for by Mr. Mainwaring and Mr. Bright. A summary being given of the latter branch of the return, we are enabled to state, for the information of our readers, that the gross total number of culprits convicted of such offences, in the various counties of England during the year 1843 amounted to 4102, of whom 144 were convicted at the assizes, and 4258 at petty and quarter sessions. In Wales 127 were convicted—viz., 8 at the assizes, and 119 at quarter and petty sessions. It follows, therefore, that the grand total number of convictions both in England and Wales, during the past year, amounted to 4529, of whom as many as 4377 were convicted at courts of quarter and petty sessions.—*Times.*

Dr. Hunter says:—"If other causes have slain its thousands, scarcity of nutritious food alone has slain its tens of thousands. My experience justifies and warrants me in affirming, that where the people have not sufficient nourishment, there typhus fever manifests itself with all the horrors of a depopulating plague. Witness Ireland!"

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"R. C." will find that he has been anticipated.

"A Constant Reader."—The matter has not escaped notice.

"A. M."—The lines are rather defective, but we shall see if they will bear mending.

"Osor oppressionis."—The argument is perfect, but would be greatly improved by being condensed.

"A Free-Trader of Southwark."—What he desires is in the course of being accomplished.

At the request of "A Friend," we extract the following authenticated and affecting case of distress from the *Oxford Chronicle*, as an illustration of the protection which the Corn Laws afford to the agricultural labourer:—

"Headington, July 31, 1844.

"SIR,—The subjoined statement was made to me by the mother of four children, who, with the father, are living in the open air night and day, at Baldon. I do not ask you to insert it for the purpose of exposing any individual to censure, but that one fact more may be brought to light illustrative of the sufferings by which the poor of our country are alienated from the upper classes. There may be another side to Mary Claydon's statement, but I can vouch for its substantial truth. I have known this family for some length of time, and am not aware that their distress can be traced to any of the customary immoral causes. If Claydon's troubles were limited to the difficulty of feeding and clothing six persons on twopence each per day, I should not call your notice to what is so general; but here is a man whose only crime is poverty, and who is willing to give a part of his pittance for rent, compelled to see his wife and children exposed to the vicissitudes of weather by day and night, for three weeks, whilst the horses and dogs of his wealthier neighbours repose in comfort that he may well envy; and three cottages are actually untenanted in the parish, but belonging to a non-resident, are not obtainable. To burn property is a crime both useless and wicked; but that which injures the bodies of human beings, as our poor are injured by insufficiency of food and studied efforts to drive out the surplus population from each parish by making them houseless, is a crime, call it by what name you please, as much more heinous as human beings are superior to goods and chattels.

"Yours obediently, "HENRY LEAKE."

"MARY CLAYDON'S STATEMENT, JULY 26, 1844.

"We went into the union at Abingdon the day after Christmas-day. We went in because we had no work. My husband was earning 8s. a week before he went into the union. We stayed there ten weeks and three days. When we came out we came home to Baldon, but they would not find us any place to be in, so we rented a little place in Abingdon. My husband went backwards and forwards from Abingdon to Baldon to work. We got behind in our rent, because my husband was ill one fortnight; and one week he had no work; the farmer, whose turn it was to take him, said he had nothing for him to do; that week I pawned my husband's coat and my gown and shawl; I got 3s. 6d. on them; and we lived on it that week. I have been without bread two or three days together; and my children the same; I had none to give them. I got three weeks back in my rent; and left two chairs, one table, and a basket of crockery with the woman till I had got the money to pay. My husband has bad health, and can't earn so much as other men when he is in work. I left Abingdon for Baldon to go to look after a woman that was ill; and lived with her. When she got better she wished me to go out. I left her cottage three weeks come Monday morning. There is only one room in the cottage, and no window nor chimney; it is wattled up with flakes and mud; there is a great hole in the wall to let the smoke out; the minister said it was too thick for us to be twelve of us in one room; there were six of one family and six of the other. When we went out we slept three nights under some trees without anything round us; then my husband cut some boughs off the trees; and now he has made it better with some bits of carpet that the minister gave us. My youngest child is ten months old. We have all been wet through to the skin three times. On Wednesday morning the constable came and pulled our tent down; and said he did not dare to let us stay in the open air. I went to Squire Peers; he seemed sorry for us, but said he could do nothing for us. I asked the constable to put us in a house, but he said he couldn't. There are three cottages empty in Baldon. All of them belong to Sir Henry Willoughby; they don't dare let us have one of them without Sir Henry's leave; and they are looking for his coming down. We have slept out now three weeks on Monday. The neighbours are very kind, and leave their cloaks with us of a night when they come out of the field.

"We have only one rug and one sheet, and three old pieces of sacking of our own to cover us with. My husband has been ill this week and has only done two days work, but is gone to Clifton to reap to-day.

"I have heard the above read over, and it is all true.

"MARY CLAYDON'S mark ⋈."

"G. I."—The shipping interest is so obviously injured by restriction of commerce, which is so obviously a restriction of freights, that it is not necessary to say a word on the subject; but this is no excuse for shipowners demanding protection in turn: that would be in effect to say, since Peter has robbed us, we ought to plunder Paul.

"A Friend to the Farmer."—The question has been already discussed in this paper.

"J. M." will soon find the matter thoroughly investigated.

"W. B." is thanked.

We have received from Dr. Gardner a proposal for establishing a College of Chemistry, and sincerely hope that the project may be carried into execution. The applications of chemical science, not only to arts and manufactures but also to agriculture, are so numerous and important, that the cultivation of the study has become identified with the progress of national prosperity.

The following lines have been sent us by an unknown correspondent:—

MONOPOLY THE BANE OF ENGLAND.

Ah! England! happy England once,
Home of the brave and free;
The fostering soil of human rights,
And glorious liberty.

Thy rugged hills were Freedom's shrines,
Where oft thy sons of yore,
When Europe slept in slavish chains,
Have worshipp'd in their gore.

Tho' stainless still thy banner waves,
Unmatch'd thy battle-brand,
Oppression on thy myriad sons
Hath laid his crushing hand.

And, tho' thou wieldest as of yore
The sceptre of the sea,
Yet gone the shield of England's heart,
A happy peasantry.

Such *once* were thine; for, as they met
At sainted holyday,
Tho' oft as coarse in speech as sport,
Joy's sunshine still had they.

Tho' rude their cots, yet health robust
And pleased content were there;
For plenty, as 't had nursed their youth,
'T would bless their silvery hair.

But *now*, where once a joyous crowd,
They came at closing eve:
With famished look and tatter'd garb
Their children meet to grieve.

They meet from furnace, loom, and forge,
From labour's countless spheres;
Youth, manhood, age, beneath the thrall
Of life-imbittering fears.

Of fears not such as bondsmen feel,
Who, cowering, toil and pant;
But of ill-requited industry,
Of indigence and want.

No longer villains—they attend
No haughty lordling's call;
No boors nor serfs, yet bonds and chains
Are on the limbs of all.

Oppressive laws and grievous wrongs
The deeps of strife have stirr'd;
Revenge incites despairing hope,
And plaints and threats are heard.

And yet those plaints are all of *one*,
One despot-welded chain,
That pride and sateless avarice forged,
To guard unholy gain.

Needst thou be told its length or links,
Or name? Monopoly.
Ah! no, it circles every limb,
Damps every energy.

Vainly to 'scape its tyrant thrall,
Trade waves her nerveless wing;
Vigour, and enterprise, and skill,
In vain their succours bring.

Vain is the pale mechanic's toil—
Vain, vain the peasant's sweat;
Its shackles upon industry
Are too, too firmly set.

'Tis strange that those who toil the most,
Should be the scantiest fed;—
Stranger! that ever *tax* were laid
Upon the labourer's bread.

'Tis strange that sweat of industry,
Should pamper idleness;—
Stranger! that England's boasted law
Should Englishmen oppress.

Ah, pity 'tis so foul a blot
Our statute book should stain:
Yet more, ah! more, that we so long
Should wear the galling chain.

We have received the letter of "C.," and are reluctantly compelled to decline to publish it on account of its length.

An "Honorary Secretary" is informed that the commodity he mentions (which for some reason he does not wish to have specifically named) is an "unenumerated article," and we quote that portion of the Customs Act which will apply to it:—"Goods, wares, and merchandise, being either in part or wholly manufactured, and not being enumerated or described, nor otherwise charged with duty, and not prohibited to be imported into or used in Great Britain or Ireland, for every £100 value £20 duty;" and the duty is the same whether from foreign countries or from British possessions.

"A Leaguer" suggests to us the insertion of the following closing paragraphs of an able letter from the Rev. Godolphin Osborne, which appeared in the *Times* of Wednesday:—"From all that was said on the bringing in of the late amendments of the poor law, one was led to suppose that the Home-office was groaning in a sort of philanthropic travail; what has been the issue? That monstrous stretch of charity which allows a widow relief where her husband has died, and where, perhaps, they have lived together for years, instead of forcing her into the distant union to which she may belong, was carried by a majority of one! The cause of the poor, though it was well known that it would be advocated by a prelate of our Church, and one of the ablest men of the day, could not find in the House of Lords an audience exceeding twenty! London excitement had begun to flag; lady patronesses were packing up; the country beckoned our legislators to rally over the sheds of rams and bulls of matchless symmetry, to partake of the festivities of Goodwood, to prepare for the slaughter of the grouse; who could expect peers or commoners to remain in town to be bored with a poor-law bill?

"When Lord J. Russell, a few nights since, brought before the country some features in the present condition of the labouring classes, the Minister, in his usual style, talked of the increase of population as tending in all countries to produce the evils alluded to. This is Malthus again—the old story of 'Nature's mighty feast having no vacant cover (for the poor man)—she tells him to be gone.' Now, Sir, only yesterday was read in all our churches a prayer, composed by order of the Privy Council, in which I find these words—'O merciful and Heavenly Father, by whose gracious gift mankind is increased.' Perhaps Sir Robert reads 'Princekind' for 'mankind.' I am satisfied that so deep-seated and well-founded is the loyalty of the people of this country, so sincere their respect for the Sovereign and her Consort, that let princes and princesses become as numerous as they may, at this nation's mighty banquet they will ever find each a fitting cover and a hearty welcome; and I have yet to learn that we are so blinded by avarice to our duty as Christians, as to rest content that the masses should grovel in misery, want, and ignorance, because their increase may threaten to encroach somewhat on our daily enjoyments. He who marks the fall of a sparrow is not unmindful of the cry of the poorest hovel-born babe on earth. He knows the poor man's wants; He marks the use of the rich man's abundance; let us not tempt His wrath by complaints of the increase of our kind within a few hours of our solemn assertion that that increase is His gracious gift. Though the friends of the poor must be disheartened by the conduct of some from whom more sympathy might have been expected, and in whom it would have been most valuable, still we have plenty of encouragement to persevere; the cause progresses; it has the marks of God's blessing; evils once stoutly denied are now admitted; great efforts are being made to remedy them. Let us hope and act, regardless of what names we may be called, what motives may be imputed to us. Ready to meet our opponents, let us also be prompt to seek the friendly co-operation of all men, of every degree, of every party."

"A Subscriber" who is desirous to know the proportions employed in agriculture, and in manufactures and trade, is requested to refer to Nos. 35, 39, and 43 of the LEAGUE, where he will find ample information in detail on this subject: as, however, the question is an important one, we will here give a summary:—

	England per cent.	Scotland per cent.
Agricultural occupations ..	7·40 ..	8·16
Trade, manufactures, &c. ..	29·56 ..	30·46
Independent	2·81 ..	2·21
Almspeople	0·90 ..	0·67
Others not described	0·42 ..	0·26
Residue: women and children	58·91 ..	58·24
	100·00	100·00

"Subscriber" will also find this subject very fully discussed in an able speech of Mr. Plint, recently delivered at Scarborough, entitled, "The interests of Agriculture and Manufactures identical."

"D."—Yes.

"T. S.," Manchester, is informed that he is not bound to pay one farthing of any taxes or rates whatsoever to entitle him to be registered, except the poor's rate and assessed taxes; and that, if the overseers have presumed to leave him off the list of voters for non-payment of any *other* rates or taxes, they may be fined £5 by the revising barrister. Let "T. S." give in a claim to be registered. All information will be given at our Manchester offices.

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ous quarter's copies of the LEAGUE forwarded by post on the days of publication. Subscriptions for the paper may also be left with J. Gadsby, Newall's-buildings, Manchester; and the LEAGUE may be had by order of any news-agent in town or country. Subscribers who receive coloured envelopes on their papers must bear in mind that their subscriptions are due.

POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, August* 17, 1844.

To judge by the savage tone of an article in the *Morning Herald* of yesterday, upon the Northampton meeting, there must have been very sanguine expectations of a triumph over Free Trade at that meeting, by the combined forces of Toryism and O'Connor Chartism. Only the smart of grievous disappointment could indite so much bitterness, or go to such an extent of falsification. The old calumny of the League fomenting the disturbances of 1842 is revived. It is presumed that people forget how it fared with Feargus O'Connor in the attempt, to which such ample latitude was afforded by the Attorney-General, to render his defence the means of producing some show of evidence for this imputation. There was "ample scope and verge enough;" and never was failure more complete. Another circumstance should make the monopolists chary of reverting to this stale falsehood. The public has of late become fully aware of the means of detection possessed by the Government at the time; we need only whisper the words "Post-office." Those three syllables are full security for the unimpeachableness of the manufacturers, and for the knowledge of the *Herald's* masters, that the pen of their scribe transgresses all bounds, not merely of probability, but of plausible mendacity. The manufacturers have passed the ordeal.

As to the Northamption meeting, the fact that there was a meeting is about the only fact in the *Morning Herald's* account of the matter. The notorious combination of the Tories and O'Connorites is denied. The vote of the Tories for the resolution in favour of the Charter is denied. The invitation to Messrs. Cobden and Bright, signed by 1200 persons, including a large body of agriculturists, is denied, by the use of such language as "impertinent intrusion." The choice of the chairman by the Chartists is kept out of sight; and he is transformed from a friend of that body into an unfair antagonist. And not only the triumphant result for Free Trade, but even the fact of a division is first denied, and then the opposite assumption argued upon, or rather made the text of more vituperation. Hard driven, indeed, must a cause be which leads its advocates so deep into the mire, and induces such total forgetfulness of the common decencies of falsification.

The appropriate moral towards which all this tends, with our veracious and religious cotemporary, is a threat of riot and incendiarism against the manufacturing capitalists. "Their inflammatory tactics will, by a just retribution, be turned against them." "Let them beware, lest, in bearing the brand of discord through the country, a stray spark should ensure their own destruction." We leave the wickedness of such intimations to condemn itself. Happily they indicate the will only; not the power. We exhibit the *Morning Herald* to the public as the Spartans used to exhibit an intoxicated slave to their children. Perhaps some of the sucking advocates of monopoly may be impressed thereby, from contrast, with the becomingness of truth and decency.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

BOMBARDMENT OF TANGIERS.—(Second Edition of the *Morning Chronicle*.)—The following appears in the *Journal des Débats* of Thursday morning:—"Paris, August 15. We are assured that the Government received last night the following important news from the coast of Africa. The answer to the ultimatum sent to the Emperor of Morocco by the Prince-Admiral, commanding the French fleet, not having appeared satisfactory, his Royal Highness the Prince of Joinville had commenced his fire against the advanced works which protect the place of Tangiers. The works had been destroyed. The European quarter of the town had been spared. The English consul, Mr. Drummond Hay, had found refuge on board the ship of the French admiral. We can add to the above that the bombardment commenced on the 6th, at seven o'clock in the evening. The telegraphic despatch which announces this fact was intercepted by the bad weather, but it appears as if Mr. Hay had been in some danger, as the despatch says—'Mr. Hay was saved.' The outer works were completely destroyed, and the bombardment of the town was still going on when the accounts came away."

ABDICATION OF MEHEMET ALI.—The following official communication reached the French Government on Tuesday last:—"Alexandria, July 27. His Highness the Viceroy has just abruptly left Alexandria, declaring that he renounces, for ever, Egypt and public affairs, and that he retires to Mecca. Ibrahim is at Alexandria, which city is quiet."

The abdication of Mehemet Ali has created great astonishment in Paris, and some apprehension appears to be entertained that the event will lead to new difficulties in Eastern affairs, although it may not occasion any immediate outbreak in Egypt. The presence of Ibrahim Pacha at Alexandria was considered fortunate, as it ensured public tranquillity. Nothing certain appears to be known of the motives which could have led Mehemet Ali to relinquish public life, but it is supposed that his object is to see the arrangement for the hereditary transmission of Egypt in his family peaceably carried into effect during his lifetime.—*Morning Chronicle.*

The promptitude with which a fleet of ships of the line was prepared at Toulon and sent out to sea, has attracted attention in France. The telegraphic despatch ordering four ships of the line to prepare for sea at once, and to set sail with all possible speed, arrived at Toulon in the afternoon of the 7th, and on the following afternoon at three o'clock, the Ocean, three-decker, bearing the flag of Admiral Parseval Descenes, the Inflexible, the Marengo, and the Neptune, had actually hoisted their anchors and set sail for Tunis. Another ship of war, the Alger, which has recently returned from the Levant, has also been ordered to return to her post without delay.

The Opposition journals continue their agitation on the subject of Tahiti. The *Siècle*, however, hints that the recal of M. d'Aubigny has already been decided on; and that it will be justified on the grounds, first, that he has by one of his decrees implicitly re-established confiscation, which is abolished by the charter; and, secondly, that Captain Bruat had, in one of his despatches, partly disavowed the conduct of his subordinate.

COMMERCIAL TREATY.—According to the *Presse*, the French and Belgian Governments have entered into new commercial arrangements for a mutual reduction of duty on certain articles of import. The following are said to be the proposed modifications:—France is willing to lower the duty on raw hides, imported from Belgium and of Belgian origin, from 1f. 20c. per 100 kilogrammes to 50c. per 100 kilogrammes. On dry hides the duty will be lowered from 5f. to 2f. 50c. The present duty on rough marble is 2f. 70c.; it will be reduced to 1f. The duty on hops would be lowered from 65f. 50c. to 45f. And the duty on pit coal will be also lowered from 10c. per 100 kilogrammes to 5c. per 100 kilogrammes. Belgium, which has hitherto exacted a duty of 83c. on French pit coal, will reduce it to 5c. The manufacturers of Ghent having to complain of the opposition they meet with in the printed cottons of England, the Belgian Government has resolved to raise by 50 per cent. the duties exacted at present on English printed cottons at their frontiers. It offers to France to except it from the ordinance upon that subject, and, as far as regards France alone, to maintain the present duties. Lastly, the resolution of the 14th of July, 1843, which raised the duties on woollen thread and cloths, and upon fancy articles and artificial flowers, will be withdrawn, as far as the provisions regard France; or, in other words, the resolution will hold good in regard to all other countries, but will be withdrawn as regards France.

The French Minister of Commerce has published the returns of the corn trade of France during the first six months of 1844, from which it appears that the imports have been—wheat, 943,109 metrical quintals; other grain, 73,408; flour, 5871. The exports:—wheat, 44,040 metrical quintals; other grain, 36,700; flour, 35,229; and the quantity lying in the Government bonding stores, on the 1st of July last, was—wheat, 145,928 metrical quintals; other grain, 13,527; and flour, 20,812.

PRESENTS TO THE QUEEN FROM LOUIS PHILIPPE.—The Sèvres, Gobelins, and Beauvais royal manufactories, says the *Constitutionnel*, and several private artists and manufacturers, have received large and splendid orders from the civil list, destined, it is believed, for presents from the King during his visit to England.

A frightful accident occurred on Thursday, the 8th inst., at Montmartre, by the falling in of one of the quarries. One man was killed on the spot, another died before reaching the hospital, and three others were seriously injured, amongst whom is M. Richer, the proprietor of the quarry.

SPAIN.—The *Augsburg Gazette* of the 6th instant publishes a letter from the frontiers of Italy of the 31st ult., which would appear to indicate that M. Castillo, the Spanish agent, sent to arrange the religious differences that had arisen between Spain and the Holy See, was not likely to succeed in his mission. He had hitherto vainly solicited an audience of the Pope, and had been told that no reconciliation was possible, unless the nomination of the bishops was accorded to the court of Rome.

BERLIN, Aug. 1.—Accounts from Poland confirm the statement relative to the very rigorous measures adopted on the frontiers. A special order of Prince Paskewistch says—"The evil (in the smuggling) must be cut up by the roots, and especially the system of bribing be put an end to. That it is resolved to effect the object, though it is well known what obstacles are to be overcome." In addition to the frontiers inspector, a new officer has been created, that of a comptroller-general of the frontiers, with very extensive powers, and various inferior officers. He is constantly moving from place to place, and has authority to remove at his discretion the Russian officers on the frontier to other stations, or entirely dismiss them.

The *Augsburg Gazette* says that the Emperor of Russia has addressed an energetic note to the Porte, complaining that the Turkish Government allowed the sale of arms to the Circassians, through agents established at Constantinople.

The German papers state that the Governments of Austria and Prussia have made a convention, whereby, in case of any renewal of disturbances by the workmen on the frontiers of the two kingdoms, the armed forces of the two Sovereigns are reciprocally to obey the calls of the magistrates of the other country in re-establishing tranquillity.

THE CORN TRADE.—BERLIN, August 5.—We have very serious accounts from East Prussia respecting the overflowing of the Vistula and the Nogat. The harvest also begins to be looked forward to with apprehension in our neighbourhood, for the torrents of rain never cease, and the winter corn which has been cut is threatened with destruction. At the same time the price of grain continues very low, for much exportation to England cannot be anticipated, as there is the prospect of a good harvest in that country.

The inhabitants of Storkow, of which the regicide Tschesch had once been the burgomaster, have forwarded a congratulatory address to the King of Prussia, in which they state that he was known there as an artful and dangerous man, that the town had considerably suffered from his administration, and that everybody carefully avoided coming in contact with him.

According to a late census, it appears that there are 80,000 labourers employed in the mines of Prussia. The annual revenue arising from them amounts to about £5,000,000.

The *Cologne Gazette* quotes letters from Prague of the 28th ult., mentioning that the spirit of disorder was extending to the workmen of the manufactories in which no machines were used, and whose owners were Christians.

The accounts received from Poland give most deplorable descriptions of the damage done by the inundations of the Vistula and other rivers. The *Elbing Gazette* of of July 29 says that there had been incessant rain for more than six weeks, and the damage already done was immense. The account from Kirlin says, that the Vistula had risen to a greater height than at any time during the last hundred years. It is impossible to say how many thousand villages may be inundated by the mighty river in its long course from Cracow to Dantsic. Above and below Calos 100 towns and villages are as in a sea, and the inhabitants have been forced to take refuge on the roofs, and in trees on some neighbouring hills.—*Hamburgh papers*, Aug. 9.

The *Revue de Paris* announces the conversion to Catholicism of M. Chretian Snell, former consul of Switzerland in Rome. The new convert is sixty-seven, and had for his godfather the Count de Mombello, ambassador of Sardinia in Rome.

REVENUE OF HOLLAND.—The Hague, Aug. 12.—The official accounts of the revenue in the first six months of 1844 is now published, compared with that in the first six months of 1843. It was in 1843, 25,688,877fl.; ditto, 1844, 25,373,504fl. Less in 1844, 315,373fl. The diminution is chiefly in the duties on importation and exportation, amounting to 221,484fl., and in the taxes on registration stamps, 546,059fl. The diminution in the import duties is chiefly owing to the circumstance that a smaller quantity of foreign corn was disposed of for home consumption. With respect to the stamp, &c., duties, they are only 70,000fl. less than in the first six months of 1842. In the excise there is an increase of nearly half a million in 1844.

Accounts from Athens, of the 21st of July, state, that, in the course of the elections, forty lives had been lost, It was supposed that the Government would be in a minority of fifteen or twenty.

A letter from St. Petersburgh, of the 27th ult., given in the *Journal de Francfort*, states that the rains which have fallen almost incessantly during the last month have done considerable damage to the harvest. The crops throughout the whole empire had been very promising, but since the month of May there appeared in some districts of the Transcaucasian provinces, and in the Crimea, swarms of locusts, which did much injury both to the meadows and to the corn-fields.

Accounts from Constantinople to the 17th ult. state, that information had been received of the defeat of the Russians by the Circassians in Daghestan.

The *Journal of the Two Sicilies*, of the 27th ult., publishes the second judgment of the military court, sitting at Cocenza, which was pronounced on the 24th. This sentence includes the foreign refugees who embarked in Calabria on the 16th of June last. Seventeen have been condemned to death. The King ordered the sentence to be put in execution regarding the most guilty parties; consequently nine were executed on the 28th. Fifteen executions have how taken place on account of the Calabrian revolt, several of whom belonged to the higher ranks in society. Three were Venetian noblemen. The two brothers, Bandeira and Moro, were lieutenants in the Austrian navy; M. Nardi was an advocate from Modena; and Ricciotti was an officer in the army, who had distinguished himself in the Peninsular war.

UNITED STATES.—The royal mail steam-ship Britannia arrived off the Rock at a quarter past eight on Tuesday morning. Her dates are New York, the 30th ult.; Boston, the 1st inst. Some fresh arrests had taken place at Philadelphia; but the city remained tranquil. Governor Ford, of Illinois, had applied to the United States Government for 500 troops to be stationed in the neighbourhood of Nauvoo, to prevent any fresh conflicts between the Mormons and their opponents. The *Boston Times* publishes an official statement from the President of the branch of the Mormonites in that city, from which it appears that Samuel H. Smith, the oldest member of the family now living, and a brother of the murdered prophet, will take the office of his brother Hiram, as patriarch in the Church, according to the ancient custom of God's people. The electioneering was proceeding as actively as ever; and the general impression was, that Henry Clay would be elected, although the democrats were working hard for his opponent, Polke. A destructive conflagration took place on the 25th ult. at Brooklyn, New York, by which property was consumed to the amount of 120,000 dollars, and twenty-six houses wholly or partially destroyed.

HAVANNAH.—At the time of the last advices the health of the city was good; the insurrectionary excitement had considerably subsided; and the negroes, particularly on the plantations, were peaceable, and the whole island seemed to be in a state of quiet. The investigations into the origin and objects of the late conspiracy among the blacks to get possession of the island, have been published. The council, after noticing the history of the events, proceeded to pronounce the sentence of the law. Thirteen of the principal leaders were condemned to death, and shot; 36 were sentenced to transportation, and imprisonment for ten years and under.

HAYTI.—There has been another revolution. A negro chief, bearing the familiar name of Santa Anna, though himself unknown to fame, was appointed president on the 10th of July.

The accounts from Mexico state that the requisition of the President for 30,000 troops and 4,000,000 dollars, had been granted after some tardy but warm discussion in the Congress.

EXECUTION OF THE SALADIN PIRATES.—Four of these men, having been convicted of piracy and murder, were executed on the 29th ult. They at first pleaded not guilty, but afterwards altered their plea. Two of them made written confessions, in which they both denied all participation in the murder of Captain Fielding's son, and one of them in that of Captain Fielding also. The remaining two of the six prisoners were acquitted, partly from the testimony in their favour given by those who were convicted.

The Cape of Good Hope papers received on Thursday extend to the 2nd of June, but they give very little interesting intelligence. The missionaries are said to have exercised much influence upon the natives from the Namacqualand district to the interior, and it seems to be believed that, if properly carried out, commercial inter-

course could be established with them, and the soil made profitable and productive.

By advices from Dominica to the 23rd of June, we learn that the insurrection had been quelled, and the operation of martial law suspended. The Governor had issued a proclamation of amnesty to all, with the exception of the ringleaders, 90 of whom had been retained in prison to undergo the decision of the laws, several hundreds having been discharged under the admonitory advice of the Governor. The islands had been overwhelmed with rains and floods, with great damage to the roads, &c. A singular discovery had been made in taking a census of the Island of Trinidad, being that of "two encampments of the aboriginal Indians of the island, belonging to a race perfectly distinct from any hitherto known."

The crops throughout Canada are represented to be abundant.

DOMESTIC.

The bulletins issued this week announce that her Majesty and the infant prince are going on as well as possible.——A public meeting of the inhabitants of Manchester and Salford and their vicinities took place on Thursday, the 8th inst., in the Town-hall, for the purpose of taking the necessary preliminary steps towards the purchase of land for public parks, playgrounds, baths, &c. The meeting was numerously and respectably attended. The donations were of the most liberal kind, nearly £11,000 being subscribed in the room. Among the most munificent donations were the following:—Lord Francis Egerton, £1000; Sir B. Haywood, £1000; Mark Philips, Esq., M.P., £1000; ditto, for the firm, £500; Sir T. Potter, £500; James Kershaw, Esq., ex-Mayor, £500; Alex. Key, Esq., Mayor, £200.——At the Wesleyan Conference, recently held at Birmingham, it was announced that the late Rev. H. Moore, the surviving executor of John Wesley, had bequeathed to the Conference the pocket Bible used by the founder of Methodism in field-preaching, and presented to him by Mr. Wesley.——The average cost, or price paid, for *land* and "*compensation*" of the railways in England, up to the present time, is £3000 per mile! The land and compensation of the Lancaster and Carlisle will be *under* £1000 per mile. So much for the change of feeling towards railways in the landed gentry.—*Railway Record.*——The national tribute to the memory of Scotland's great poet took place, at Ayr, on the banks of the Doon, on Tuesday week. It was attended by persons from all parts of Scotland, and by not a few from England. There was a procession in the morning, and a dinner in the afternoon, in a grand pavilion erected for the occasion. The Earl of Eglinton presided, and was assisted by Professor Wilson, as croupier. Amongst the individuals present were R. Burns, Esq., the eldest son of the poet, Colonel Burns, his second, and Major Burns, his youngest son. The whole of the proceedings were well conducted, and passed off in a manner satisfactory to all concerned.——In the splendid establishment of Messrs. Horrocks and Co., of Preston, there are upwards of 1500 power-looms now at work, which have during the last year turned off nine million yards of cloth! The lineal measurement of the cloth is 5113 miles and 120 yards, and, being 42 inches wide, would cover more than 2169 statute acres!——The Bishop of Exeter has sentenced the Rev. James Frederick Todd, vicar of Liskeard, to be suspended from his clerical functions for fourteen days, and to the costs of a suit instituted against him, for omitting to repeat the words, "as our hope in this our brother doth," in the office of the burial of the dead, whilst reading it over the remains of Benjamin Hart Lyne.——The *Times*, in a recent article, designated Mr. Pritchard the *late* Consul at Tahiti. Mr. Pritchard, of Birmingham, has since stated, in a letter to the *Times*, that his brother still holds his commission.——Several of the Irish counties have established clubs for the purpose of attending to the registration of Repealers at the quarter sessions.——Lieut. Jeays, her Majesty's ship Albion, having been suspended, attempted to commit suicide on the passage from Dublin to Cork. Providentially, however, the attempt was not successful, and he is now in hospital at Hawlbowline, and likely to do well.——On Saturday Mr. G. J. Mills, Deputy Coroner for West Middlesex, held an inquest at the Duke of York, Queen-street, Edgware-road, on the body of Harriett Jones, aged 44, a widow, late resident at the above street. Verdict, "That deceased hanged herself from extreme poverty."——On Saturday week, a man named George Woodhead sold his wife by public auction in the butter and poultry market, Leeds. The woman, who is aged 22, was brought into the market-place with a rope round her neck; and the husband, who officiated as auctioneer, then put her up and "*knocked her down*" for 5s. to a collier named Idle. The affair had been previously arranged between the parties. The husband was threatened with rough treatment by the spectators, and was soon after arrested and compelled to find security for good behaviour. The woman, who had contracted a second marriage with Idle, will be tried for bigamy.——The first anniversary of La Société Française de Bienfaisance, which was established somewhat more than two years ago, for the purpose of relieving as much as possible the wants of poor French subjects in London, was celebrated on Thursday evening at the London Coffee-house, when about 150 gentlemen of rank and standing, both in the literary and commercial world, sat down to an admirable dinner prepared by Mr. Lovegrove.——Mr. Villiers has placed a notice on the order book of the House of Commons, that he will next session move for a select committee to inquire into the influence of the price of provisions on the employment and wages of the labouring classes.——The annual great cattle show of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland commenced on Wednesday, the 7th instant, in the great commercial capital of the west, Glasgow.——Thursday, the 8th inst., Catherine Brien and Bridget Langan were executed in front of Roscommon gaol. There were not less than 7000 persons present, and of these one-half, at least, were women. Catherine Brien on her way to the chapel laughed, and saluted those she met on her way to the execution room, and appeared in good health and spirits; she protested that she had neither hand, act, nor part in the murder, but did not deny that she knew of it. Bridget Langan, who appeared rather weak and depressed, admitted her guilt, and stated that she murdered her brother-in-law.——The act for the abolition of imprisonment for debt, which received the royal assent on Friday, the 9th inst., by commission, came into operation on Saturday, when a number of debtors who had been imprisoned in the different metropolitan prisons for debts under £20 were liberated.——On Saturday Thomas Williamson, one of the most expert begging-letter writers in the Metropolis, and from whom Horsford, one of the officers of the Mendicity Society, has taken upwards of 100 ready-manufactured tales of woe, addressed to the "wealthy and the benevolent," which were headed with most attractive titles, such as "Dreadful Affliction," "Calamitous Loss from Fire," "Afflicting Reverse of Fortune," "Unparalleled Distress," and "Horrid and Melancholy Shipwreck," &c., was brought up before Mr. Traill, at Union-hall, charged with obtaining a sum of money under false pretences from Mr. Charles Payne Miller, Lambeth, by pretending that he was a broken-down tradesman, and that his father had met with a great calamity, and had broken his leg, by which means his family, which were once in opulent circumstances, and well known to the trade, were plunged into the severest distress. The case having been fully proved, the prisoner was sentenced to three months' hard labour in the House of Correction. So extensive were the operations of the prisoner, that he had a circular prepared to suit all classes of society, and he generally reaped an abundant harvest. The prisoner has supported himself by these means for the last ten years, and at times lived in the greatest style and extravagance. The contributions of the prisoner and his associates which they reaped from various persons are known to have averaged more than £500 per annum for the last six years.——The Tipperary papers report a horrid murder committed on the person of a stone-mason named Grenvill, near the village of Shinrone. The murderers are supposed to be the brothers of a girl named Cahill, with whom deceased had had an improper intimacy, which led to the birth of a child, which he refused to support, and, it is said, otherwise treated her with cruel neglect.——On Wednesday, the 7th inst., a shepherd named Blunt was stung to death in the village of Haddenham, by a hive of bees which fastened upon him while he was endeavouring to drive them from a horse which they had attacked.——The docks at Hull are excessively crowded, and many vessels are lying out in the roads. The greatest activity prevails at all the quays and wharfs.——The trustees of the poor of the parish of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, have just offered a reward of twenty guineas for the apprehension of twenty heads of families who have deserted their wives and children, thus leaving nearly one hundred individuals chargeable to that parish.——In England there are 1075 cotton factories, employing 183,243 hands; in Scotland 159 factories and 32,580 hands; in Ireland 28 factories and 4011 hands.—*Glasgow National.*——The union of Pitmen still continues, but the arrival of new hands and those who are leaving the union are fast filling up the places of those declining to work. A large meeting of pitmen took place in the neighbourhood of Pittington on Friday last, when they again declared their determination to continue the strike.——The Low Moor Iron Works were never busier than now in providing instruments of death and destruction. Daily, and during almost every hour of the day, waggons and carts are engaged in conveying heavy artillery and shot to the railway station at Brighouse or the canal station at Bradford.—*Leeds Mercury.*——Patrick Larkin, a letter-carrier at the General Post-office, was brought up at Bow-street on Tuesday, charged with stealing several letters which had been received at the General Post-office. From the evidence of the inspector of water-closets, the prisoner was seen to go into a water-closet and take from his pocket a quantity of letters, which he opened, taking out the contents, bills, cheques, the total of which amounted to about £700, &c, which he cast into the water. Other evidence was adduced, from which it appeared that some of the letters were addressed to Messrs. Glyn, Halifax, and Co., and Messrs. Barclay and Co., the bankers. The prisoner was remanded.——The Chancellor of the Exchequer has intimated that it is the intention of Government in future not to furnish a return of the stamps issued to each individual paper, but to give the aggregate of those used by all of them.——The bill for legalizing Art-Unions having passed both Houses of Parliament, the general meeting of subscribers for the distribution of the funds was on Tuesday held in the Theatre Royal, Drury-lane. The Duke of Cambridge presided, and the distribution of prizes took place.——Lord Powerscourt, formerly member for Bath, died on Sunday morning last of consumption at the Crown Hotel, Rochester. The deceased was 29 years of age.——A train left Dover on Sunday, at 6 p.m., composed of four first-class, six second-class, and 30 third-class carriages, in all 40 carriages, which were quite full. It contained at least 1400 people. The greater portion of these were, of course, those who had availed themselves of the excursion tickets.——Mr. Lewis Duval, the eminent conveyancer, died suddenly on Sunday evening last at his residence, Bayswater. Death was caused by the rupture of one of the principal bloodvessels of the heart.——The traffic on the London and Birmingham Railway for the week ending Saturday last produced the enormous sum of £22,067 16s. 5d., of which no less than £17,890 were derived from passengers alone. This is the largest amount ever taken in the same space of time upon any railway in the world. It is at the rate of £185 per mile.——Intelligence reached Ipswich on Monday, the 12th inst., of the total wreck of a schooner called the Whim, with all hands on board, consisting of the captain, mate, two seamen, and a boy.——On the night of Friday last, while a fishing-boat belonging to Thurso was riding at her nets in Murkle Bay, a large whale came up to the side of the boat, and lifted his head over the gunwale. One of the crew, who was at the time sitting lighting his pipe, was considerably injured. Fortunately another boat was speedily rowed to their assistance, otherwise the men would, in all probability, have perished. The mast and four oars were broken, and the boat had to be towed ashore. There were immense shoals of whales in the bay that night.—*John o' Groat Journal.*——On Saturday last a young man named James Ashworth was accidentally caught by a fly-wheel in the fulling-mill of Mr. Rawstron, in Rossendale, and was so frightfully crushed that when he was extricated he was found to be quite dead.——Prince William of Prussia, the Prince Royal of that kingdom, arrived on Wednesday at Woolwich in the Princess Alice steamer from Ostend.——A public funeral was given at Manchester on Monday last to the remains of Dr. Dalton. The mayor and corporation joined with the scientific friends of the late doctor in giving this public testimonial to his worth, and no less than 100 private carriages, including that of the corporation, and the various societies in the town, formed a part of the procession to the Ardwick Cemetery, where his remains were interred. The shops and warehouses in the line of road to the place of interment were closed, manifesting a marked desire to pay every respect to the philosopher's memory.——The great influx of vessels into the port of Glouce[illegible] has somewhat subsided, still the basin is nearly full [illegible] present moment, and large arrivals are said to be expected. The activity at the docks has not diminished, and, as the warehouses there are quite full, every available building is being secured by the merchants. The quantity of wheat in the bonded stores is estimated at 40,000 quarters, and duty at 17s. a quarter was paid a few days since on 7000 quarters.——The usual weekly meeting of the Repeal Association took place on Monday. Mr. D. O'Connell, jun., stated that his father and the other prisoners continued to enjoy excellent health and spirits. He also stated that his father disapproved of Mr. Sheil's recent attempt to induce the Government to mitigate the term of imprisonment. The rent for the week exceeded £900.——The *Stafford Mercury* reports at much length the particulars of the murder of a young man, named William Cooper, son of Thomas Cooper, the gamekeeper of Sir T. Fletcher Boughey. The young man was fired at on the night of the 27th of July, as he was just entering his residence at Halmerend, two miles from Audley. The shot took effect in his breast, and proved almost instantaneously fatal. Some poachers are in custody on suspicion of being concerned in the murder.——Dr. Pusey preached, on Sunday last, in the church of Ilfracombe, on behalf of the National Schools, the first sermon he has delivered since his academical suspension, preached by the express permission of the bishop of the diocese (Exeter), given at the confirmation lately held by him there.——On Monday the friends of the Printers' Pension Society took an excursion per railway to Anerley-gardens, on behalf of the funds of this laudable institution. The company were highly respectable; and, notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, enjoyed themselves to the fullest extent.——At Queen-square, on Monday, in the case of a recruit who refused to take the oath of allegiance, Mr. Burrell stated that the act of Parliament gave magistrates the power of discharging persons who had hastily enlisted, if they had not taken the oath of allegiance, and made application to him to be released from the obligations into which they had entered within four days from the date of their enlisting. The magistrate refused to detain the recruit.——On Monday afternoon there was a last sale for the season at Monument-yard, of 5000 pineapples from the Bahamas. The fruit was of excellent quality, and the prices averaged from 1s. 6d. to 5s. each.——On Monday an inquest was held before Mr. Higgs, at the Coach and Horses, Avery-row, as to the death of Miss Elizabeth Allen, aged twenty, a pupil of Madame Levy, of Grosvenor-street, the fashionable milliner. Mr. Robert Druett, of No. 6, Brutton-street, surgeon, in the course of his evidence stated, "that he had no doubt the stooping posture and tight-laced stays had brought on congestion of the vessels of the head, which no doubt was the cause of death. He had measured her corset, which was one foot eleven inches round, and on her body it would not meet in the smallest part by two inches." Verdict, "Died by the visitation of God."——Reports from various parts of Ireland represent the crops as exhibiting the most promising appearance. Notwithstanding very heavy falls of rain in many parts of the country, no damage had been done to the crops. Reaping had commenced, and become general in many districts.——Father Mathew is pursuing his benevolent labours in Cork county. On Sunday last he preached a charity sermon at the town of Newmarket, after which he administered the pledge to about 2000 persons.——Mr. Smith, who was wounded by the the Hon. W. R. Touchet, has been pronounced out of danger, the pistol-ball having been extracted, bringing with it a portion of the lumber vertebræ. He is not, however, in a state to be removed, and the offender has been remanded for another fortnight.——One of the gamekeepers upon the Downton Castle estate found a hawk's nest, and shot one of the old ones, but could not take the other in the same way. He then tried to entrap it by placing one of its young ones in a hole in a brake, and setting a trap in the only entrance to the young one, which was tried thrice. It was nearly a week before he could accomplish his purpose, and in that short time the hawk brought fifteen young pheasants and one young partridge to its offspring.—*Hereford Times.*——At Swansea and other places the lists of parliamentary voters have been torn down or removed from the church and chapel doors, and, in one or two instances, the parties have been convicted and fined. The penalty for this offence is £2.——The West India merchants residing in Bristol have unanimously agreed to a resolution thanking Mr. P. W. S. Miles, member for that city, for his parliamentary exertions on their behalf.——The Artesian well at Southampton has been completely successful. The water rises to within forty feet of the surface, and, by the aid of powerful steam-engines, no less than 55,000 gallons a day are poured into the town.——The secretary of the London City Mission has lately received £100 from a party signing himself "One desirous to put away every possible obstacle to innocence and holiness by way of restitution for any undue gains during an ardent pursuit of business."——Messrs. T. and H. Smith, of Edinburgh, have discovered an antidote for prussic acid, the fundamental feature of which is the presentation of *oxidized iron* to the deadly acid.——From a daily report of the estimated number of bathers in the Serpentine River, London, it appears that they exceeded 270,000 during the last and the present month; and that, during this period, thirty-one cases have been rescued, and fifteen taken to the receiving-house, where they were successfully restored from apparent death.——The National Society's special fund for the establishment of schools in the manufacturing and mining districts has now reached £152,246.——The *Dublin Evening Post* states, on the authority of its London correspondent, that the Queen is certainly to visit Ireland early next summer.——Sir John Guest, Bart., M.P., has lately received an order from Russia for 50,000 tons of iron, for the purpose of being employed in the construction of railways.—On Wednesday a numerous meeting of the London Missionary Society took place at Exeter-hall, for the purpose of expressing the sympathy of the society with their missionaries and missionary churches at Otaheite, as also with the Queen and natives of that island. The chair was taken by Frederick Smith, Esq. Several speeches were made and resolutions passed condemnatory of the conduct of the French; and a hope was expressed that the French would abandon their protectorate, and restore the island to its original independence.——The adjourned

case of O'Connell v. the Queen, in error, will be taken into further consideration on Monday, the 2nd of September, when judgment will be pronounced.——On Monday last ten of the leading Quakers and Dissenters of Bridport were summoned to appear before the borough magistrates, to answer the complaint of the churchwardens for their refusal to pay the church-rates demanded of them. On their continued refusal to pay, distress warrants were ordered for their recovery.——A Roman Catholic cathedral, on a larger and more magnificent scale than any built in England since the Reformation, has been recently erected in Nottingham, and will be opened on Wednesday the 28th inst.——The number of deaths in the Metropolis during the week ending Saturday, the 10th instant, amounted to 934; the weekly average of the last five summers having been 900, and of the last five years 946. The number of males that died during the last week was 473, and of females 461. Under 15 years of age, 535 died; from 15 and under 60 years, 310; and from 60 upwards, 151.——On Wednesday evening the Court of Directors of the East India Company gave a grand entertainment to celebrate the return of Sir Robert Sale and Sir William Nott to their native land. The latter was unable from indisposition to be present. Among the ladies present were Lady Sale and her daughter Mrs. Sturt. Most of her Majesty's Ministers attended.——The following return of the average yearly number of vessels of commerce, belonging to different nations, which touch at Tahiti, is from a quarter on which implicit reliance as to its accuracy may be placed. It will also show that France has less interest of a commercial kind in Tahiti than any other civilized state:—English merchant vessels, 80; American ditto, 110; French, 20. —*Globe.*——We understand that Mr. Benbow, the newly-elected M.P. for Dudley, has given the "munificent donation" of *fifty pounds*, to be divided amongst all the charities in the town.—*Worcester Herald.*——A horrid murder was committed at High Eighton, Durham, on Saturday last. A young man, named Robson, while with a companion watching a potato field belonging to a Mrs. Mitcalfe which has suffered much depredation, was shot through the heart by some person unknown.——On Monday morning the 15th instant, a little before nine o'clock, one of the most serious explosions took place at the canal pit of Messrs. Blundell and Sons, Mesnes, Wigan, that has occurred in the neighbourhood for a considerable number of years past, and which has been attended with the loss of the lives of Thomas Worthington and a boy named Michael Ashcroft. An inquest was held, and a verdict of "Accidental death" returned, with a deodand upon the boiler and other apparatus, of £60. —The guardians of the Ennis Union have appointed a Protestant chaplain, at a salary of £25 per annum, to administer spiritual consolation to *one* Protestant pauper. —Game in Hampshire is unusually abundant this season.——The national show of cattle, and exhibition of agricultural implements and articles of Irish manufacture, founded by the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland, commenced at Dublin on Wednesday, in the Coburg Gardens, eight acres of which were set apart for the purpose. A great number of the nobility and gentry, and several eminent agriculturists from England, attended. —A convict, named Thomas Bentley, under sentence of transportation, committed suicide on Thurday last, in Millbank Prison, by hanging himself.——Jane Miller, the wife of a cotton operative, residing in Bradshaw-street, Hulme, Manchester, was found, on Wednesday, barbarously murdered at her own and husband's residence. There is little doubt that the horrid deed has been perpetrated by a dissolute operative of the name of Evans, and that his object was to rob the premises.——A considerable number of appointments will be placed at the disposal of the Government, in consequence of the new act establishing the borough of Manchester as a place for the housing of goods under the bonding system for home consumption. —The execution of the murderer Weeks took place at Bodmin on Tuesday, at noon, at the county gaol. The unhappy man was reported several times to have died since the passing of the sentence dooming him to his miserable fate, and chiefly in a state of unconsciousness the time has glided away with him from that period to his final hour.——The yarn market continues in a very healthy state, and some descriptions, which are relatively scarce, command rather higher prices. In goods there has not been quite so much doing as during the two or three previous weeks, and 40-inch shirtings have been, in some cases, sold at a small reduction on previous rates; but other descriptions of cloth, though not in such extensive demand as before, are perfectly firm in price.—*Manchester Guardian*, Wednesday.——By the new convention between the British and Belgian Post-offices, the postage of letters between England and Belgium is reduced to 1s. for the whole distance; of which sum Belgium will take 5d., and England 7d. This is a reduction of more than half of the present rate. The pre-payment will be optional.——From a balance-sheet of the public income and expenditure just published for the past year, it appears that the former was £52,547,508, and the latter £50,777,427, showing an excess of income over expenditure of £1,770,080.——Mr. Micklethwaite, of Wakefield, manufacturer, gave all the men and children employed in his factory and colliery a trip to Hull, by railway, on Monday last.——The grand sum total of the expenses incurred in printing all parliamentary papers, bills, and documents, during the session of 1842, amounted to £37,885 19s. 8d.——Fourteen out of eighteen persons who were gathering sea-weed at Jersey, last week, perished during a gale.

WHITEHAVEN.—In consequence of the universally great interest which was excited on Wednesday evening, the 30th ult., at the Temperance Hall, Mr. Falvey, the gifted Anti-Corn-Law advocate, gave a second lecture on Monday evening last, at the theatre, to a numerous and highly respectable audience, who listened to him with the most marked attention throughout. Ralph Forster, Esq., presided.—*Whitehaven Herald.*

INCOME AND RESOURCES OF MOROCCO.—A work by Don Serafin Calderon, giving a considerable amount of statistical information relative to the empire of Morocco, has lately appeared in Madrid. At the present moment public attention is so anxiously directed to that country, that any information relating to it will be read with interest. The annual revenues of the empire are stated to amount to 2,000,000 piastres, and the expenses not to exceed 990,000 piastres. This excess of more than a million of piastres goes to swell the amount of treasure deposited in Meguinez, or, as it otherwise called "*Metsul Mel*," that is, the House of Treasure. This fund is stated to belong rather to the Emperor himself than to the public money. The annual expenses of the land and sea forces are put down as only 68,000 piastres. The comparative smallness of this sum is explained by the fact that a great portion of the army is formed of free and irregular troops, and paid, not out of the imperial, but out of different local revenues. The active army is stated to amount at present to about 16,000 men. Of these about one half are blacks, and there are about 2000 artillerymen in the empire. The maritime forces of Morocco, once so powerful, have dwindled down to three brigs and some gunboats, which are stationed at the mouths of the principal rivers along the coast. The number of officers and men employed in the maritime department does not exceed 1500. The riches of the pachas of the different provinces, principally amassed by extortion and the most despotic exercise of power, are described to be considerable.

FOREIGN CORN.—The *Gazette* of Friday night, the 9th inst., shows that the arrivals and clearances of wheat continue very large. In the week the imports amount to 83,769 quarters, of which upwards of 20,000 quarters are from Canada, and the large quantity of 225,944 quarters have paid duty. The duties received for corn in the week amount to £176,142. The duty will now rapidly rise to 20s., and it is supposed that a large quantity will pay the present duty of 18s. The prices are rapidly falling. The average for the week, which includes sales only up to Saturday, the 27th July, has fallen to 51s.; and next week's average will be much lower, as the great fall took place in the week from that day to August 3. The *Gazette*, even up to that date, contains returns as low as 43s., and several at 46s. per quarter; one return (Chester) is as high as 61s.

STATE OF AGRICULTURE ABOUT BRADFORD.—Within a very short distance of Bradford we observed the other day six or seven entrances to fields in which cows were grazing made up with cobble stones instead of gates; and in one instance we saw the herdsman pull one of these old-fashioned gates to pieces to let the cows out! This fact is surely worth mentioning at some of the agricultural meetings.—*Bradford Observer.*

HOW TO ARRIVE AT TRUTH.—Every one must at once see, that a simple and sincere desire to arrive at the truth, without any predilection in favour of any opinion whatever, and without any other disturbing feeling of affection or dislike, or hope or fear, is the moral state of mind most favourable to the success of inquiry. If a man is possessed with a desire to find a given opinion true, or to confirm himself in a doctrine which he already entertains, he will, in all probability, pay a partial attention to the arguments and evidence in its favour, to the neglect of opposite considerations; but if he is free from all wishes of this kind, if he has no predilection to gratify, if his desires are directed solely to the attainment of correct views, he will naturally search for information wherever it is likely to present itself; he will be without motive for partiality, and susceptible of the full force of evidence.—*Essays on the Pursuit of Truth.*

DIGNITY OF LABOUR.—I have faith in labour, and I see the goodness of God in placing us in a world where labour alone can keep us alive. I would not change, if I could, our subjection to physical laws, our exposure to hunger and cold, and the necessity of constant conflicts with the material world. I would not, if I could, so temper the elements that they should infuse into us only grateful sensations, that they should make vegetation so exuberant as to anticipate every want, and the minerals so ductile as to offer no resistance to our strength or skill. Such a world would make a contemptible race. Man owes his growth, his energy, chiefly to that striving of the will, that conflict with difficulty, which we call *effort*. Easy, pleasant work does not make robust minds, does not give men such a consciousness of their powers, does not train to endurance, to perseverance, to steady force of will—that force without which all other acquisitions avail nothing.—*Channing.*

LABOUR A CONSOLER.—There is a perennial nobleness, and even sacredness, in work. Were he ever so benighted, forgetful of his high calling, there is always hope in a man that actually and earnestly works; in idleness alone is there perpetual despair. Doubt, desire, sorrow, remorse, indignation, despair itself—all these, like hell-dogs, lie beleaguering the soul of the poor day-worker as of every man; but he bends himself with free valour against his task, and all these are stifled—all these shrink murmuring far off into their caves.—*Thomas Carlyle.*

FREE AND SLAVE LABOUR.—A statement before us gives the production of coffee throughout the world in the year 1843, and from which it appears that, in Brazil, the quantity was 170,000,000 lbs.; in Java, 140,000,000 lbs.; in Cuba, 45,000,000 lbs.; in St. Domingo, 38,000,000 lbs.; in Porto Rico and La Guayra, 36,000,000 lbs.; in the British West Indies, 10,000,000 lbs.; in Ceylon, 7,000,000 lbs.; in the East Indies and Mocha, 6,000,000 lbs.; in the French colonies, 4,000,000 lbs.; and in the Dutch West Indies, 3,000,000 lbs.; making the grand total 459,000,000 lbs. It is worthy of remark, that of this immense quantity we can scarcely estimate above 59,000,000 lbs. as being the produce of free labour; a striking proof of the fetters which we must impose upon our foreign trade, if we do not temper our valour with something like discretion in the just crusade against slavery.—*Globe.*

BLACKS IN OFFICE.—The Chief Justice of Dominica, Glanville, is a mulatto; Sharp, the Attorney-General for Barbadoes, is a mulatto; Garroway, Judge of the Court of Appeals in Barbadoes, is a mulatto; the Governor of Nevis is a mulatto; thirty-two editors of newspapers in the British West India colonies are negroes and mulattoes; twenty-one magistrates are mulattoes; in all the Legislative Councils and Houses of Representatives there are no less than seventy-two mulattoes and two negroes making laws for their former masters—the whites. Two-thirds of the army or garrison in those colonies are already composed of African soldiers, commanded by white officers. The Church is also abundantly supplied with black and mulatto clergymen; the jurymen are almost wholly composed of negroes and mulattoes.—*Da Costa's "Facts for the People."*

MANUFACTURE OF WATCHES AT GENEVA.—The manufacture of watches, musical boxes, and jewellery, is that to which Geneva owes its present prosperity. Upwards of fifty workshops devoted to watchmaking, and seventy to the jeweller's trade, are kept in constant employment; and it has been calculated that in good years 75,000 ounces of gold, 5000 marks of silver, and precious stones to the value of a million of francs are used in them. One hundred thousand watches are said to be now annually manufactured in Geneva.

MACHINERY.—By the New Factory Act, which will come into operation on the 1st of October next, it is enacted that every fly wheel directly connected with the steam engine, water wheel, or other mechanical power, whether in the engine house or not, and every part of a steam engine and water wheel, and every hoist or teagle, near to which children or young persons are liable to pass or be employed, and every shaft, whether upright, oblique, or horizontal, and every wheel, drum, or pulley, by which the motion of the first moving power is communicated to any machine appertaining to the manufacturing processes, shall be securely fenced; and every wheel race not otherwise secured shall be fenced close to the edge of the wheel race.

INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY ACT.—Among the most important provisions in the new act to amend the law of insolvency, bankruptcy, and expcution, are those by which arrest upon final process upon any judgment obtained in any of her Majesty's superior courts, or in any county court, court of requests, or other inferior court, in any action for the recovery of any debt wherein the sum recovered shall not exceed the sum of £20, exclusive of the costs recovered by such judgment, is abolished; and persons now in execution upon any such judgment—that is, where the debt recovered does not exceed £20 exclusive of costs—may, by application to a judge of one of her Majesty's superior courts of law at Westminster, or to the court in which the judgment was obtained, be forthwith discharged out of custody as to such execution, by an order of such judge or court.—*Sun.*

THE WORKING MAN'S FRIENDS.—Little indeed is attempted to ameliorate the condition of the labourer; on the other hand, the manufacturers are becoming daily more anxious after the welfare of the artisan—a project to provide for them walks, parks, and playgrounds, at Manchester, at a cost of £50,000, has met with the support and approbation of all the leading men in that town, and £10,000 was subscribed in one day to carry the plan into effect. Ten thousand pounds, in a few hours, and by a few individuals!—a larger sum than would be subscribed by the agriculturists of any half dozen counties in England. This is sufficient to show that, whilst discontent and disaffection are fomenting amongst one class, in another the wealthy and the influential are doing all in their power to check it—to procure for those under them plenty, and to promote their happiness and comfort.—*Worcester Chronicle.*

REGISTRATION.—The number of borough electors for the township of Bradford on the overseers' list is 1174, and of county electors 771.

HALIFAX POLLING DISTRICT.—The Tories have made 40 new claims, and the Liberals 110. There are 3 at present doubtful, but giving the Tories the benefit of them, it leaves a preponderance of 67 to the Liberals. The above return is exclusive of the townships of Elland-cum-Greetland, Fixby, and Rastrick, in which, too, there will be, on the whole, a gain to the Liberal cause.—*Leeds Mercury.*

PRICE OF BARLEY IN 1734-5.—In the diary of William Medley, of Flinton (in Holderness), gentleman, is the following curious entry:—"April 4 and 5, 1734. I did sow 5 lands over Pithill with one quarter and four bushels of barley, spared about half a peck, and I had 113 stacks of barley and rakings of them all, besides which I had 15 quarters and three bushels. I sold my barley to Nicholas Foster, of Hull, at 14s. a quarter, Jan. 3, 1734-5."

A BAD HARVEST AND THE SLIDING SCALE.—Another great injustice, worked by the sliding scale, is, that a bad harvest is as expensive to the farmer as a good harvest, and the sliding scale throws the whole loss of a bad harvest on the farmer. In all other trades the cost of production varies with the quantity produced. Thus, two pairs of shoes cost the shoemaker twice as much as one. The farmer, however, pays quite as much, or nearly so, when his farm produces fifty quarters only as when it produces a hundred. To get his fair rate of profit, therefore, he must charge as much for the fifty quarters as for the hundred, and this he would naturally do; but the sliding scale steps in and says, "If you cannot produce cheap corn, you must, at least, sell it cheap; if the harvest be a bad one, you must bear the loss yourself; the price of your corn must be no higher than if it had been a good one." The sliding scale cannot survive a bad harvest.—*Baring Kemp on the Science of Trade.*

FREE-TRADE AND WAR.—Viewed in relation to war, the adoption of Free Trade thus becomes a question of vast magnitude. Bind the masses of the nations of the world together by the ties of mutual interest, and legislators and kings will find it both difficult and dangerous to commence the murderous conflicts which insatiable ambition or offended pride may urge them to undertake. To contend for peace on the ground of self-interest, some persons may believe, is a low consideration; but then people often comprehend what has relation to their interests, though they may not comprehend that which has relation to their duty; and after all, what does such an argument amount to, but that people's duty and interest invariably coincide. —*Bolton Free Press.*

WHERE IS THE OVER-PRODUCTION NOW?—The production of cotton cloth was never so large as at present, and yet the nonsensical cry about over-production has entirely ceased. This shows clearly that it was a deficient consumption, and not over-production, that ought to have been complained of.—*Struggle.*

HEALTH OF TOWNS.—Lord Normanby stated in his speech on this subject, that Mr. Chadwick had ascertained that upwards of 50,000 persons perished annually from diseases which could be removed by better sanatory regulations. It is also stated in the report issued by the commission of inquiry, that in fifty towns, whose population amounted to 2,051,709 in 1841, 21,000 deaths had occurred annually, caused by maladies induced from neglect of sanatory laws!

In the form of substantial food, Mr. Chadwick states, the transported thief receives in a week 330 oz.; the convicted thief, 231; the suspected thief, 181; the soldier, 168; the able-bodied pauper, 151; and the independent labourer, 122.

The present Parliament has this month completed its third year, and during that period there have been no fewer than 131 fresh elections, occasioned by deaths, resignations, elections to offices, &c.

WAR PRICES.

(From the Economist.)

There has always appeared to us to be a great fallacy involved in the notion so prevalent that high prices necessarily and naturally arise from the country being in a state of war. We are disposed to think that, in the absence of any other good cause for high prices, the tendency would rather be to lower prices. It is quite true that, from the end of the last century, for some years prices rapidly rose, but there were then many reasons in operation independent of war. The discovery of the steam engine began only at that time to produce a marked effect on the productive power of the country, which induced a more rapid increase of population than at any former period—a consequent increase in the demand for the productions of the soil, and of the value of property. Then, again, during the early part of the present century, the advance in the value of property and of prices was more nominal than real, in consequence of the depreciation in the value of the currency from 1800 to 1815. In 1800 the price of gold was at par, £3 17s. 10½d, per oz., but in 1814 it had risen to £5 4s. per oz.—showing a depreciation in our currency of more than 25 per cent.; and immediately after the peace it rapidly sunk, until, in 1817, it was only £4.—showing a depreciation of little more than 2½ per cent., long before Peel's bill of 1819 compelled a return to cash payments. There is much, therefore, in this element alone to account for the rapid rise of prices from 1800 to 1814, during the war, and for the sudden fall from 1815 to 1817. Another reason for unusually high prices during those years, was the frequent recurrence of bad harvests. Apart from all other disturbing causes, we believe it is capable of proof that the value of property has advanced much faster during the late years of peace than it did during the war. In a recent article on the progress of the value of the real property of the country, we showed that the annual income derived therefrom had increased from 1815 to 1843 upwards of £30,000,000, or 62 per cent.

Now, when it is considered that the value of property must in a great measure depend on the productive power and income of the country, it cannot but be that any material portion of that income, being withdrawn to other countries for the purpose of maintaining troops, or spent at home in the numerous unproductive ways which war necessarily entails, must not only lessen the aggregate value of the property of the country, but must also limit the expenditure at home, the amount of which has much to do in fixing prices. At first sight it may appear that a government might, by borrowing the funds required to conduct a war—at least for a time—sustain an expenditure and induce a consumption greater than would otherwise have taken place; but it must be borne in mind, that if such fund was borrowed in the country, it would be a withdrawal of so much capital from other employment or from that seeking other employment; that a corresponding check to production and industry would thus be given, and to that extent cause a contraction in the power of purchase and demand for commodities. The only conceivable way in which the expenditure of a war—and then only such part as might be spent at home—could increase the value of property, or really enhance prices, would be, if the fund were derived from another independent source.

A war could not fail to interrupt our foreign trade; an interruption to that could not fail to lessen the demand for labour in the manufacturing districts; and, with a lessened employment, the home consumption of every article, both of foreign and home products, must necessarily be lowered; but more particularly the latter. It is possible, nay probable, that with the interruption of trade the supply of foreign products would fall off proportionably to the diminished demand, and that prices would not be materially lowered; but we think it clear, beyond doubt, that the prices of products, wholly or very mainly produced at home, would rather fall. The home-producer would therefore be called upon to pay higher for the products of foreign countries which he required, while he would receive less for what he himself produced. We believe there are no classes that would, as this country is now constituted, suffer more from an interruption to peace than the agricultural classes. It would indeed be singular, if the lavish waste of labour and treasure attendant on war had any other than an injurious tendency on the wealth and condition of the productive classes of a country. The common notion attached to *war prices* is a dangerous and delusive dream.

Burn's Commercial Glance.—It appears by *Burn's Glance*, for the first six months of 1844, that the total quantity of cotton yarn exported in the first six months of 1843 was 62,301,964 lbs., and total export during the same period of this year was only 55,044,134 lbs., showing a decrease on the six months of 7,257,830 lbs. The principal sources of this decrease seem to be in the exports to the Hanse towns, Mecklinburg, Oldenburg, &c. (in which the exports have decreased from upwards of 21½ millions to 14 million pounds); to Holland (from 9,520,000 lbs. to 6,970,000 lbs.); to Naples and Sicily (from 3,800,000 lbs. to about 2 million pounds); to Sweden and Norway (from 1,800,000 lbs. to 770,000 lbs.); and to Sardinia, Tuscany, &c. (from 2,400,000 lbs. to 1,600,000 lbs). On the other hand, there is a considerable increase of exports to Belgium (from 31,000 lbs. to 1,848,000 lbs.); to Portugal, Madeira, the Azores, and Cape Verd (from 3,674,000 lbs. to 5,518,000 lbs.) The total increase on exports of plain calicoes, as compared with the first six months of 1843, is 23,404,050 yards, and of printed and dyed calicoes, 6,785,249 yards.

The Newspaper Press.—The number of newspapers published in the United Kingdom, in the year 1843, the returns of which can be obtained with the greatest accuracy through the Stamp-office, was 447. The stamps consumed by them in that year were 60,592,001. Their proportions are as follows:—

1843.	
79 London newspapers	31,692,062
212 English provincial	17,058,056
8 Welsh	339,500
69 Scotch	5,027,589
79 Irish	6,474,794
447	60,592,001

State of Trade.—We do not remember at any time greater activity in the principal branches of manufactures than there exists at present, except when that activity has been of a speculative and feverish character. Throughout Yorkshire and Lancashire, in the cotton, woollen, worsted, flax, linen, silk, cutlery, and machine-making businesses, trade is lively, and we believe all hands are employed. The poor-rates are, of course, exceedingly relieved. We may state as a specimen, that in the Huddersfield Union the number of out-door paupers relieved was as follows:—

In the quarter ending June 24, 1843	..	12,229
Do. do. 1844	..	6,083
Diminution ..	..	6,146

or more than *one-half*.

If we should be blessed with a good harvest, there is every prospect of another year of prosperity. And here we have another proof of the connexion between prosperity and *cheap food*. At present there is the prospect of an abundant harvest.—*Leeds Mercury.*

Land in Guernsey.—Nothing surprised the farmers who attended the Agricultural Show at Southampton so much as being informed by the Guernsey farmers that they paid £5, £7, and £9 an acre for their land. In this county, for instance, where there are tens of thousands of acres let for 10s., including down land, per acre, the Sussex farmer could not comprehend how land in Guernsey could obtain such very high rents. But it was easily explained. In Guernsey there are no Corn Laws, and, secondly, the land is let on long leases and on equitable terms.—*Brighton Herald.*

Leith.—Foreign Wheat.—As stated in our last paper, upwards of £11,000 of duty was cleared at the Custom-house in two days upon wheat alone. This arose from an anticipated rise of duty, which has since taken place—namely, from 17s. to 18s. per quarter. We observe that a similar panic, but, of course, to a greater extent, took place at Hull, Liverpool, and London. At the first-named port, 1600 quarters were cleared at the 17s. duty, but previous to the rise at Liverpool the quantity entered for consumption on Wednesday and Thursday last amounted to 100,000 quarters. In London the duty rose on Thursday to 18s., previous to which 49,000 out of about 150,000 quarters were cleared at the 17s. duty. From the present position of the averages, the duty is likely to advance a step, and that in four or five weeks it will have risen to the *maximum* point; but whether holders under bond will enter for consumption before the next rise occurs will depend greatly on the weather. During the last two days about 2000 quarters of foreign grain have arrived at this port.—*Caledonian Mercury.*

Prospects of the Guano Trade.—As guano is likely to come into general use as an available and profitable manure, an idea may be formed of the quantity ultimately required. There are, for instance, in England and Wales, 25,000,000 acres of land under cultivation, and almost 16,000,000 in Ireland and Scotland. Supposing, however, that guano be applied ultimately to only one-twelfth of this quantity, what a trade would thus be created! Taking it for granted that an acre will require about two hundred weight and a half, 600,000 tons annually would be required; while the import of this quantity would employ some 1200 vessels, of 500 tons burden each!—*Liverpool Journal.*

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. Aug. 10	Mon. Aug. 12	Tues. Aug. 13	Wed. Aug. 14	Thurs. Aug. 15	Fri. Aug. 16
Bank Stock.....	—	200½	200½	200	199¾	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	100	99¾	100	100	99¾	99½
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	99½	99½	99⅝	99⅝	99½	98¾
3½ per Ct. Red. Ann	102⅝	102½	102¼	102⅜	102⅜	102⅜
3½ per Ct. Ann. new	101¾	101½	101¾	101½	101½	101½
Long An. Ex. 1860	12 7-16	12½	12 9-16	12 9-16	12 5-16	—
Cons. for Acc. ..	99⅝	99½	99¾	99½	99½	98¾
Exc. Bills, pm...	75 7	74 6	72 5	72 5	73 5	—
Ind. Bds. und. 1000l	94	96	—	93 6	—	—
India Stock	283	284	283	284	282½	—
Belgian	103 4	103¾	—	103 4	—	—
Brazilian	84½	84½	84	84½	84¾	—
Buenos Ayres....	34 6	34 6	34 6	34 6	34½	—
Chilian.....	103 5	103 5	103 5	103 5	—	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	13½	13⅝	13¾	13¾	13¾	13¾
Danish	89	89½	89½	89½	—	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	101½	101½	101½	101⅜	101½	101
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	61⅜	61½	61½	61⅜	61½	61¾
Mexican	36	36	36	35¾	35⅝	35¾
Peruvian	24 5	24 5	24½	24 5	24	—
Portug. conv. ..	43⅜	44	44	44½	44½	44½
Spanish 5 per Ct.	22½	22½	22½	22⅜	22⅜	22⅜
Do. 3 per Cent...	33	33	33	33½	33½	33½

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Monday, Aug. 12.—There was a short supply of English Wheat this morning, which, together with the heavy showers which have fallen last night and this morning, enabled factors to obtain an advance of 1s. to 2s. from this day week; there were a few samples of new Wheat, which sold at 52s. to 56s. There was more inquiry for Foreign Wheat, and a fair amount of business was done at a similar improvement. Barley met a slow sale at last week's rates. The supply of Beans and Peas was short, and last week's prices were readily obtained. We had about half a dozen cargoes of Irish Oats, and two of Foreign, fresh up since Friday; the improvement which we noticed on Friday, of 6d. from the prices of this day week, was fully maintained. S. H. Lucas and Son.

BRITISH.

		Per Imperial Quarter.	
Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk....	Red 42 to 50	White 48	to 54
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire	— 42 — 48	— 44	— 51
—— Scotch	— 40 — 44	— 44	— 48
—— Irish	— 40 — 42	— 44	— 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire.....		Feed 20	— 21
—— Ditto ..... Ditto ..	Short 21 — 22	Polands 22	— 24
—— Scotch	Feed 22 — 24	Potato 25	— 26
—— Limerick	— 21 — 22	Short 22	— 23
—— Cork		19	— 20
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork Black		18	— 19
—— Westport		19	— 20
—— Galway		17	— 19
Barley, Grinding .... 28 to 30		Distilling 30	— 32
—— Malting ..... 32 — 34		Irish 26	— 30
Beans, Mazagan .... — — 30		Tick 32	— 34
—— Harrow ..... 35 — 37		Small..... —	— 40
—— Old Tick		—	— 40
Peas, White.....31 to 34		Boilers 35	— 36
—— Maple and Grey		30	— 34
Flour, Best Town-made.....	per sack of 280 lbs....	45	— 48
—— Norfolk and Suffolk	— —	40	— 42

FOREIGN.

	Per Imperial Quarter.	FREE.	IN BOND
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed	48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.	
—— Rostock	47 — 54		
—— Stettin	44 — 52		
—— Hamburgh	42 — 48		
—— Odessa	42 — 46		
—— Ditto ..... Polish	47 — 50		
—— Russian ..... soft	42 — 46		
—— Ditto..... hard	40 — 44		
—— Spanish ..... Red	45 — 49		
—— Ditto ..... White.....	50 — 54		
Barley, Grinding	26 — 29	—	— —
Barley, Distilling.....	30 — 32	—	— —
Oats, Archangel.....	20 — 21	14	— 15
—— Swedish	19 — 20	13	— 14
—— Stralsund	19 — 20	13	— 14
—— Dutch Feed.....	18 — 19	12	— 13
—— —— Brew.....	20 — 22	14	— 16
—— —— Polands	— — —	19	— 20
Beans, Egyptian.....	30 — 31	22	— 23
Peas, White.....	30 — 34	—	— —
—— Ditto Boilers	32 — 35	—	— —
Flour, Canada ..... per barrel of 196 lbs	27 — 29	—	— —
—— United States.. — —	27 — 29	20	— 22
—— Dantzig..... — —	26 — 28	—	— —

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Aug. 5 to Aug. 10, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	2994	35	115	518	670
Scotch	124	13	523	50	—
Irish.....	—	282	19462	—	—
Foreign	11445	5178	2563	6036	648

Flour, 3443 sacks, 45 bars.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending Aug. 6, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	4332	50s. 5d.	Rye	160	38s. 4d.
Barley.. ..	506	38s. 6d.	Beans.. ..	893	31s. 1d.
Oats	24037	19s. 8d.	Peas	421	33s. 10d.

Friday, Aug. 16.—The supplies of English grain this week are small, of Foreign large, and of Irish Oats moderate. On Tuesday and Wednesday we had rain from morning to night, with very short intervals; it rained again yesterday for some hours, but to-day the weather is fine. Wheat is held firmly at higher rates, and millers are compelled to give 1s. to 2s. advance on Monday's prices. Importers of Foreign Barley are holding in expectation of an advance, and there is but little offering of the recent large arrivals. The sales made are at the same prices as on Monday. There is rather an increased inquiry for Beans, and Monday's prices are fully maintained. No alteration in Peas. Oats are held firmly for an advance, and though the favourable change in the weather has checked the disposition to buy, which was apparent on Wednesday, the sales made are at 6d. over Monday's rates. The duty on Beans rose to 6s. 6d. yesterday. S. H. Lucas and Son.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 12th of August to the 16th of August, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat.....	1810	—	18010
Barley.....	200	—	14590
Oats.....	620	10440	13690

Flour, 3720 sacks.

A WEEKLY REPORT of the NUMBER of QUARTERS, and the AVERAGE PRICE of CORN and GRAIN, sold in the several Counties of England and Wales (comprising the Two Hundred and Ninety Towns named in the Act of the 5th Vic., cap. 14), which governs Duty.

WEEK ENDED Aug. 10, 1844.

	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Wheat. Aver price	Barley. Qrs. sold.	Barley. Aver price	Oats. Qrs. sold.	Oats. Aver price	Beans. Qrs. sold.	Beans. Aver price
		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.
Weekly Averages..	62105	48 10	2638	34 6	29877	20 1	4379	35 0
Aggregate Averages..	..	52 10		34 5		21 4		36 8
Duty.....	..	18 0		4 0		6 0		6 6

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, August 9.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

F. KENNEDY, New Bond-street, stationer.

BANKRUPTS.

J. YEARDLEY, W. YEARDLEY, and [illegible] YEARDLEY, Ecclesfield, Yorkshire, flax spinners. [Williamson and Co., Gray's-inn; Leeman and Clark, York; Bond, Leeds.

J. ELSE and W. DIXON, Kingston-upon-Hull, millers. [Tilson and Co., Coleman-street; Wells, Hull; Horsfall and Harrison, Leeds.

H. J. DIXON and J. DIXON, Kidderminster, carpet manufacturers. [Brinton, Kidderminster.

J. INNES, Cheltenham, ironmonger. [Styles, Cheltenham.

DIVIDEND.

Sept. 6. W. Jones, Llanrwst, Denbighshire, druggist.

CERTIFICATES.

Aug. 30. W. Burton, King-street, Soho, upholsterer—Sept 3. J. Levet, Sohom, Cambridgeshire, carpenter—Aug. 30. J. S. Christophers, East India-chambers, Leadenhall-street, merchant.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

R. JOHNSTON, Glasgow, rag merchant—S. HAY, Glasgow, farmer.

TUESDAY, August 13.

Crown-Office, August 13.

MEMBER RETURNED TO SERVE IN THIS PRESENT PARLIAMENT.

Borough of Dudley.—John Benbow, of No. 26, Mecklenburgh-square, in the county of Middlesex, Esq., in the room of Thomas Hawkes, Esq., who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

E. RILEY, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, grocer.

BANKRUPTS.

C. J. BANISTER, Derby, linendraper. [Bott, Birmingham.

J. ROTHERY, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, clothier. [Cumming, King-street, Cheapside; Brooks and Freeman, Huddersfield; Sykes, Leeds.

H. A. RODGERS, Sheffield, newsmen. [Reece, Furnival's-inn; Scholefield, Leeds.

T. SLATER, Burnley, Lancashire, pawnbroker. [Cragg and Jeyes, Harpur-street, Red Lion-square; Alcock and Dixon, Burnley.

J. MICHAEL, North Shields, general dealer. [Spyer, Broad-street-buildings; Cooper, Somerton; Messrs. Tinley, North Shields.

B. O'BEIRNE, Bath, wine merchant. [Short, Bristol; Messrs. Harrison, Walbrook.

DIVIDENDS.

Sept. 4. J. Barwise, Pall-mall, house decorator—Sept. 4. A. Thompson, Southampton, grocer—Sept. 4. W. Cheesman, J. Hodson, and J. O. Cheesman, Brighton, chinamen—Sept. 10. B. Baker, Liverpool, marble mason—Sept. 5. J. Frost, Bristol, baker—Sept. 4. G. Hawkins, Bristol, mason—Sept. 6. W. F. Geach, Pontypool, Monmouthshire, corn merchant.

CERTIFICATES.

Sept. 4. A. Thompson, Southampton, grocer—Sept. 11. J. W. Robey, Upper John street, Fitzroy-square, builder—Sept. 6. F. Roberts, Handley, Cheshire, butcher—Sept. 5. J. Quinn, Liverpool, painter—Sept. 5. G. Hocknell, Stone, Staffordshire, innkeeper—Sept. 3. G. Rothery, Wakefield, currier—Sept. 3. T. C. Lancefield, Augustus-square, Regent's-park, builder—Sept. 3. W. Smith, Strand, printer—Sept. 3. J. Pledge, Vauxhall-street, Lambeth, bricklayer—Sept. 3. J. H. Roby, Manchester, coffee-house keeper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. BROWNING, Kilmarnock, auctioneer—G. M'LEOD and J. ANDERSON, Glasgow, warehousemen—W. C. JOHNSTONE, Dunkeld, surgeon.

London: Printed by Robert Palmer (of Providence-place, Upper Kennington-lane, Lambeth, in the County of Surrey) and Joseph [illegible] (of Number 330, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at their [illegible] office, Number 10, Crane-court, in the Parish of St. Dunstan [illegible] in the City of London, and published by Abraham [illegible] (of Number 22, Norfolk-street, Strand, in the County of [illegible]) at the Office of The League, Number 67, Fleet-street, in the said Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West.—Saturday, August 17, 1844.

[redacted]

THE LEAGUE.

No. 48.] SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1844. [3*d*.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive a copy, weekly, of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and* addresses *to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to THE LEAGUE FUND, *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

REGISTER, REGISTER, REGISTER!

Particulars to be attended to up to the 25th of August.

The overseers must, on or before the 31st of July in each year, make out an alphabetical list of all £10 occupiers, within their respective parishes, entitled to a vote for the borough, including such as occupy the adjoining precincts and liberties, if any. They are entitled to have access to the books of assessed taxes, to ascertain whether the claimant is liable for, or has not paid his assessed taxes "*in respect*," *only*, "*of the premises*."

They must make a separate similar list of all parishioners, other than freemen and liverymen, qualified to vote in respect of ancient rights.

These lists, signed by the overseers, must be affixed on the doors of every place of worship, established and dissenting, within the parish, on the first two Sundays in August—and copies are to be kept for public inspection, without fee, in the overseers' custody.

Persons omitted from these lists will send claims to be registered to the overseers, on or before the 25th of August.

Persons on the first list may be objected to by any one, whose name is on any list of voters for the borough, serving notice of objection on the overseers, on or before the 25th of August.

DUTIES OF CLAIMANTS AND ELECTORS.—Every person should see for himself that his name is inserted in the list of that class of voters to which he belongs. If he have a twofold qualification, he should see that his name is on both lists. This is of great importance, as the voter may be objected to and lose one qualification, and retain the other and vote for it.

Any person whose qualification consists of a successive occupation of different premises, should be careful to observe that each set of premises is inserted in the list.* He must also be very careful to see that the place for which he claims, and his own place of residence, are very correctly described in these lists. If this should not have been done, he must send in a claim to the overseers, as below, describing all the premises, and also (if he have changed his residence) his new place of abode.

CLAIMS BY PERSONS OMITTED FROM THE LISTS.—Persons omitted from the overseers' lists, should give notice, on or before the 25th of August, to the said overseers, in the following form. If the claim be for a successive occupation of different premises, each of such separate premises must be described:—

To the Overseers of the parish [or township] of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I claim to have my name inserted in the list made by you of persons entitled to vote in the election of a Member [or Members] for the City [or Borough] of ——, and that the particulars of my qualification are stated in the columns below.

Dated the——day of——, one thousand eight hundred and——

Christian name and surname of the claimant at full length.	Place of abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Street, lane, or other place in the parish [or township], where the property is situate, and number of the houses, if any (when the right depends on property).

(Signed) A.B.

Persons, omitted from the List of Freemen, should give notice to the town clerk in the following form:—

To the Town Clerk of the City [or Borough] of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I claim to have my name inserted in the List made by you of persons entitled as Freemen to vote in the Election of a Member [or Members] to serve in Parliament for the City [or Borough] of ——, and that my qualification is as Freeman of ——, and that I reside in —— Street, in this City [or Borough].

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and ——

(Signed) A.B.

* And of course, also, as a preliminary, in the rate-book relating to each occupation.

Lists of these claims are to be made out and published, in the manner already described, by the overseers, and the claimant should inspect them, and, if incorrectly inserted in any of the essential particulars, he must attend the Revising Barrister's Court, and get them altered. If, notwithstanding of his making his claim, he is omitted from the list of claimants, he upon attending the Revising Barrister's Court, and proving the serving of his claim on the overseers, will be placed on the register.

Notices of claims must be delivered on or before the 25th of August.

OBJECTIONS TO PERSONS ON THE LISTS.—It is of importance that every voter should carefully examine the lists made by the overseers and town-clerk, to ascertain if the name of any person has been inserted who is not entitled to vote. If there be any such, he is to give to the overseers, or to the town-clerk, a notice of objection, in the following form:—

To the Overseers of the Parish [or Township] of (or to the Town Clerk of the City [or Borough] of) ——

I hereby give you notice, that I object to the name of —— being retained in the List of Persons entitled to vote in the Election of a Member [or Members] for the City [or Borough] of——

Dated this — day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and —

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode]

On the list of Voters for the Parish of——

The notice must also be given to the person objected to, as follows:

To Mr. ——

I hereby give you notice, that I object to your name being retained on the list of persons entitled to vote in the Election of Members [or a Member] for the City [or Borough] of——

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and ——

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode]

On the list of Voters for the Parish of ——

OBJECTING.—The party having taken the necessary steps to secure his own vote, should also examine the overseers' list of voters, with a view of objecting to the name of any person he finds inserted in the list, and believes to be disqualified; any person whose name is on the list of voters may object to any other name, either in his own or any other parish, within the city or borough. Those who do not possess the franchise themselves can prevent others not entitled from voting, by looking over the lists of voters, and giving the names of any persons they may find improperly inserted to some person whose name is on the list, or to a Registration Society, if there be one.

In all notices of objection, the christian name and sirname of the person objected to, exactly as it appears in the list, should be written at full length. The christian name and sirname, and place of abode of the objector must also be written at length, or the notice will be void.

If there be more than one list of voters, the notice should specify the list to which the objection refers; and if the list contains two or more persons of the same name, the notice should distinguish the person intended to be objected to.

These notices must be given on or before the 25th of August. Copies of the notices should be kept by the person objecting.

Notices of objection may now be sent by post; but care must be taken to have a duplicate copy of such notice stamped by the postmaster. Such duplicate will be good evidence of the service of the notice. The notice must be posted so that the person objected to may get it on or before the 25th of August, or the objection will fall to the ground.

It is of importance that none but well-founded objections should be made, as the Revising Barrister has now the power, in cases of frivolous objections, of awarding the payment of costs to the amount of not more than twenty shillings in each such case.

The following are the Grounds of Objections.

INCAPACITY.—Peers, except Irish peers being members of the House of Commons. Aliens, unless naturalized, or denizenized, father or grandfather English, or served in the army, navy, or whale fishery. Under twenty-one years of age. Idiots, or lunatics. Officers of Excise, Customs, Stamps, Post-office, Assessed Taxes, if appointed by Assessed Tax Commissioners, or not ceased to hold office twelve months. Conviction of bribery, or any other crime. Receipt of parochial relief within one year previously to the 31st of July.

DISQUALIFICATIONS.—Dead. Premises not of sufficient value, not a house, warehouse, counting-house, shop, or other building. Not occupied twelve months ending the 31st of July, the same or any other premises in the city or borough to qualify. Premises let during any part of the year, and not retained part, or kept by a servant. Bankrupt, insolvent, unless still in occupation. Not rated, or claimed to be rated. Poor's-rate not paid. Window-tax not paid. (These are the only taxes necessary to be paid.) Non-residence within seven miles, from the 31st of January to the 31st of July. Partners where premises do not give £10 a year to each partner, or not in partnership for a year ending the 31st of July, or want of qualification in other respects as above. Landlords who do not occupy a part of the premises. Servants, as secretary or manager, carrying on their employers' business on the premises. Not having occupied the premises described in the list during the whole year, that is, from the 31st of July, 1843. It is not sufficient that the voter previously occupied other premises that make up the year's occupation; if such premises are not described in the list, it is sufficient ground of objection.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE GROUNDS OF OBJECTION TO SCOT AND LOT VOTERS.—1. Not an inhabitant householder on the 31st of July next previous to the time of serving the objection. 2. Not an inhabitant householder on the 7th of June, 1832, and for six months previously. 3. Not having been rated, or not having paid all poor's-rates demanded, on or before those respective periods. 4. Not inhabiting (sleeping) in any part of the city or borough at those respective periods. 5. Not having resided (slept) within seven miles from the 31st of January to the 31st of July in the current year. 6. Name omitted from the register for two successive years.

GROUND OF OBJECTION TO A FREEMAN OR BURGESS.—That he was not duly admitted by the 31st of July; or, if the freedom is in right of birth, that it has not been derived from or through a freeman admitted before the 1st of March, 1831, or admitted since that period in respect of servitude. That he has not resided during the time or within the distance required.

COUNTY REGISTRATION.

The register of voters, and also the lists of claimants for counties, should now be carefully examined, and where there is reason to believe that a party has not a sufficient qualification, or that he is disqualified to vote, a notice of objection should be given on or before the 25th of August, to the overseers, or any one of them, and another should be given to the person objected to, or left at his place of abode, as described in the list. Any person whose name is on the register, may object to any person on the list, or to any claimant. The notice must be signed by the party objecting, and in the following form:—

To the Overseers of the Parish [or Township] of ——

I hereby give you notice, that I object to the name of the person mentioned and described below being retained in the List of Voters for the County of ——, [or for the —— Riding, Parts, or Division of the County of ——, as the case may be].

Christian and Surname of the Voter objected to, as described in the List or Register.	Place of Abode, as described.	Nature of Qualification, as described.	Street, Lane, or other] like place, where the qualifying Property is situate, &c., as described in the List or Register.

Dated the —— day of ——, in the year ——

(Signed) A. B. [Place of Abode.]

The following notice must likewise be given to the person objected to:—

To Mr. ——, of —— [as described in the List.]

Take notice, that I object to your name being retained in the [here insert the name of the Parish] List of Voters for the County of ——, [or for the —— Riding, Parts, or Division of the County of ——.]

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and ——.

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode], on the Register of Voters for the Parish of ——

When the person objected to resides out of the parish or township to which the list relates, and the name of the occupying tenant of any portion of the property is stated in the list, the following notice must be given to tenant so named, besides the notice to the person so objected to:—

To Mr. ——, of —— [as described in List.]

Take notice, that I object to the name of A. B. [as described in the list] being retained in the [name of Parish] List of Voters for the County of ——, [or for the —— Riding, Parts, or —— Division of the County of ——.]

Dated this —— day of ——, one thousand eight hundred and ——.

(Signed) A. B., of [Place of Abode], on the Register of Voters for the Parish of ——

It is necessary that the notices of objection should specify the place of abode of the objector, and the notices to the voters and tenants, also the parish in which the objector is registered, otherwise they will be void.

Duplicate copies of each notice of objection should be kept by the objector.

Notices of objection may now be sent by post, but care must be taken to have the duplicate copy stamped by the postmaster; the production of such duplicate, in proof of their having been so sent, will be taken by the revising barrister as proof of service.

The principal grounds of objection are—

First, the insufficient value of the property, reference being had to the tenure by which it is held.

Secondly, the insufficiency of the title of the party to the property in respect of which he claims.

Thirdly, that the party has not been in possession during the period required by law.

Fourthly, that he has omitted to set forth any of the particulars required in his notice of claim.

Change of residence, since registration, is a good ground of objection, although the barrister, upon proof of the qualification, will not expunge the name, but correct the place of abode, if supplied at the revision.

Persons who are disqualified to be registered, in respect of personal incapacity, are as follows:—

Women; persons under twenty-one years of age; peers; Irish peers, except members of the House of Commons; aliens, unless made denizens by the King's letters patent, or naturalised by act of Parliament; persons of unsound mind, such as idiots, lunatics; persons convicted of felony, bribery, perjury, or petit larceny; commissioners and officers of excise, customs, stamps, and taxes; all persons in the employ of the Post-office; police magistrates or police officers; and all persons in the Thames and Metropolitan Police in the counties of Hertford, Essex, Kent, Surrey, and Middlesex. All these are legally incapacitated, and may be objected to.

A collector of taxes who is not appointed by the Tax-office, and a *sub*-deputy in the Post-office not appointed by the Postmaster General, are not disqualified.

The receipt of parochial relief will not disqualify a freeholder who claims to vote for a county.

The revising barrister has power to adjudge costs, to be

paid by objectors to persons objected to upon groundless or frivolous objections. The barrister is the sole judge of the nature of the objection, and may make such order as he shall think fit for the payment of the costs of any person in resisting it; such costs not to exceed twenty shillings.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS FOR COUNTIES.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EXAMINATION OF THE LISTS.

Under the Reform Act one *list for each parish, of the old and new claims, was sufficient. The 6 Vic., c. 18, s. 5, directs that lists of all* new *claims shall be printed; also a copy of the register for the parish then in force; such lists shall be published by placing them on the church and chapel doors on the first and second Sunday in August. (Sec. 22.) It is most important that the lists be printed* separately, *and that the new claims be not inserted in the copy of the register, for this obvious reason: The 40th section requires the revising barrister to correct the list; and if he finds more names in the copy of the register than on the register, he must strike out those names. The effect will be, that, unless a list of the new claims is made out separately, the barrister has no list to revise; and the voter loses his vote, unless he is prepared with a duplicate claim, and is prepared also to prove his qualification in the Revising Barrister's Court, as directed by the 37th section.*

The negligence of overseers (to speak in the mildest terms) is so great, that often three parts of the voters on a parish list stand a chance of being disqualified by the improper way in which the copy of the register *is made. Example—St. Michael-le-Guerne, city of London, in the present year:—*

Joseph Chapman ..	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
John Cowper	Starford-street.	Ditto.	4, Ditto.
Frederick Cowper ..	Russell-square.	Ditto.	Ditto.

The 40th section requires the revising barrister to expunge the name where the nature of the qualification shall, in the opinion of the barrister, be insufficiently discribed for the purpose of being identified. *And it is a very common practice for the vestry clerks, instead of procuring a copy of the register, signed by the clerk of the peace, to copy, year after year, some old list of their own, the result of which is the omission frequently of many names.*

Electors *must not, therefore, and those who are watching the Registration, be content with having claimed, or take the lists as a matter of course as being perfect, but should carefully see that their* new *claims are on the* new-claim list (*separately*), *and not on the copy of the register; and also that those who have claimed years back should see that their names, addresses, and qualifications are property discribed on the list for the present year's revision, or the overseers, by their errors, may disfranchise them without their having any notice on the subject, which, if detected, may be rectified on application at the court at the time the list is revised.*

THE ANTI-LEAGUE CIRCULAR.

Mindful of its responsibilities, and complacent in its achievements, the Agricultural Protection Society has issued a circular to its members, for the purpose, as certified by "Richmond, President," of "stating our progress in the country, and the proceedings connected with us in the present session of Parliament." The preparation of such address was directed by the general committee on the 9th of July, and it was produced by the "publication committee" in about a month afterwards. The labour of signing it devolved upon Mr. Augustus Stafford O'Brien, and may account for his not being able to attend the call of his constituents to the Northampton meeting, to join the other Conservatives of the county in the minority which supported Mr. Feargus O'Connor and his Chartist resolution. *Non omnia possumus omnes*, even though the cause be that of monopoly, and the means an unprincipled combination.

With that disregard of truth which experience has now taught us confidently to anticipate in the publications of the Protection Society, the circular commences by a claim of admiration for the "remarkable popular movement" in which itself and its affiliated clubs originated. We are told that the tenant-farmers came forward spontaneously "at one and the same moment, through the length and breadth of the land," inviting and receiving both "the aid of the labourer," and "that of the landlord." The accordance of this assertion with fact may be tested by any one's recollection of the numbers who attended the various local meetings, and the class of persons who got them together and conducted their proceedings. The "aid of the landlord" was "received" before it was invited; and stewards, land-agents, and auctioneers were the media of its communication. As to that of the labourers, we know not to what the phrase can possibly refer, unless it be an acknowledgment of the services of the Suffolk peasantry in their practical interpretation of the principle of artificial scarcity, advocated by the society.

The services rendered by the society are enumerated with the emphasis which their importance appears to the actors to require. They are three in number.

First, as to the wool duties. We were not aware that the removal, or permission of the removal, of these duties, was one of the objects of the Agricultural Protection Society. Neither, we dare say, did the members, or the founders, imagine any such thing. The tone of congratulation took us by surprise. It shows that there are ways of satisfying the landlords, which may not be found impracticable on other questions; eventually, perhaps, on that of the Corn Law itself. But we must quote the words of the circular; for, like other matters in it, the statement would seem incredible in our own:—

"Suffice it to say, we found some of our ablest and most zealous supporters considered the abolition of the wool duties likely to be beneficial to the agriculturist; while others thought that, at worst, it would not be felt by him: we found great difference of opinion on this subject among our friends in the country, and the general committee therefore decided not to interfere, each country society remaining perfectly free to follow the course that might seem best to it."

And so, concludes this most self-approving committee, "on the first question brought forward by Government, we have shown our moderation." May they have many more opportunities of the same kind. It is a grand thing to form such an association, to show its leaders differing in opinion, doing nothing, and taking credit for moderation.

Feat the second:—

"With respect to the Bank Charter Bill, our only concern with it was in reference to those clauses which we feared might cripple country banks in their means of affording *accommodation to the farmer at particular seasons*; and the danger of this appeared to the general committee sufficiently imminent to justify their sending round to every country society a resolution on that subject, accompanied by a form of petition for such as chose to adopt it. The result has fully justified this step. Modifications have been obtained in the bill, acknowledged by all to be great improvements, and satisfactory, with some exceptions, to the whole body of country bankers."

On this achievement the committee bestows a higher laudation on itself. "We have shown—our strength." The world was not much amazed at the Herculean exhibition. It had already passed into oblivion, and would have remained there but for the timely rescue of the circular. In dragging forth the mighty deed, for its meed of applause, the committee has superadded an indication of the motive. For *whose* advantage is it that the farmer should have "accommodation" from his banker, "at particular occasions?" What are those "occasions" other than a gentle periphrasis for rent-day? The farmer borrows, the banker lends, the landlord receives. And how, when the day of payment comes? Promise him a new Corn Law, and let him borrow again; or else, sell him up. Truly the Protection Society has, by its own account, shown something more than its "power." The display of its principle is at least as striking. We hope it is relished by the tenantry. This is the one thing done; and for which, they are told, they came forward as one man. It must have been as the one man who made a rod for his own back. We shall next hear of a general movement of the sheep for sharper shears.

There is yet a third adventure to be chronicled:—

"With regard to matters brought under discussion by individual members of either House, you will remember that a motion was submitted to the House of Commons for an address to the Queen, 'representing that it is desirable to obtain authentic information upon all matters connected with the agriculture of the United Kingdom;' and although the agricultural members and the Government felt bound to resist this proposal in the form in which it was brought forward, yet, far from opposing the principle, we cordially acquiesced in it; and we believe that the more inquiry is made into our requirements, our difficulties, and our burdens, the better; provided always that such information be accurate, and the mode of obtaining it not inquisitorial."

The landlords thought information on agricultural difficulties and burdens desirable, and so they resisted its production. They thought inaccurate statements bad, and so they opposed an address for "authentic information." They agreed in "the principle," and so they voted against the motion. They are for answers without questions, and acutely distinguish between making inquiry and making inquisition; taking care that there shall be neither the one nor the other. They have taken extraordinary means to evince their desire for light by the prompt use of the extinguisher; and they intend to cant on all the same, after having negatived the best mode for testing their assertions. There is something in this boast. We question whether any other associate body is capable of equal effrontery.

The remainder of the circular, more than one-half its length, relates not to itself but to us. The committee has kindly undertaken to record what we have been "unable to do." It announces our failures, especially in "meetings;" it complains that Free Trade members of Parliament did not come out on the Poor-Law Amendment Bill; it boasts of numerous converts from our ranks to faith in the blessings of monopoly; it is especially severe on the wish it imputes to the enemies of the Corn Law "to avoid its discussion altogether;" and it asserts that "the Free-Trade minority was smaller than last year," taking advantage of the literal truth of one vote less, and suppressing the fact of the annual diminution by fifty votes at a time of the monopolist majority. And it does *not* mention Mr. Cayley's tract, with its detected falsifications of Adam Smith, which we take to be really the greatest work of this puissant body.

However, if the members of the Agricultural Protection Society are satisfied, so are we. The getters-up of the body are exposing themselves thoroughly. They are yet in the ascendant; but it will be a strange phenomenon should they continue so, while they take pains to demonstrate how poor is their capacity and how sordid their purposes. They say of us, "the League has overdone everything; the country has been smothered by its tracts, and deafened by its harangues; not to say fleeced by its importunate promises." This is their amiable way of describing the unanswerableness of our publications, our unprecedented meetings, and the zeal of our subscribers. We leave them to the full enjoyment of the contrast presented in their own experience.

GENUINE AND MOCK PHILANTHROPY.

There can be no character more exalted or more truly noble than that of the genuine philanthropist, the man who honestly exerts himself to do good in his generation, and is sincerely anxious to leave the world better than he found it. "The beloved disciple" has made philanthropy the test of religion, for he asks, "If a man love not his brother, whom he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he hath not seen?" It was to his philanthropic acts that our Saviour himself appealed to prove the truth of his mission, when he was questioned on the subject by the disciples of John the Baptist,—"Go, and tell John what you both hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, and the lepers are cleansed." And the herald angels who proclaimed the advent of the Messiah declared philanthropy to be the very essence of Christianity, by coupling "Glory to God in the Highest" with "peace on earth, good will towards men." This declaration may also be regarded as the definition of true philanthropy: it consists in the promotion of peace and good will. On the other hand, the very essence of class legislation is, to set one part of society against the other, and create malevolent feeling between the favoured and the injured. Every ascendancy is an injustice, and every monopoly is a legalised robbery. The man who professes to be a philanthropist, while he advocates class legislation, and maintains monopoly, must either be too incorrigibly stupid to comprehend the nature of the most simple facts, or a downright hypocrite.

The Corn Laws are notoriously an injustice; various excuses have been devised to palliate the wrong, but no man ever ventured to deny that they are in themselves a gross violation of equity, being a tax levied on all consumers of food for the benefit of a few producers of food. As bread is most abundantly consumed by the poor and the working classes, it is obvious that the pressure of the tax falls upon them with its most grievous severity. Poverty is abridged of its miserable morsel to pamper the luxuries of a Richmond or a Buckingham; the lords of Stowe and Goodwood levy blackmail on the earnings of the labourer and the alms of the beggar. Thus the monopolists of corn aggravate the miseries of poverty, and add to the toils of labour; misery, oppression, famine itself, are deemed of too little consequence to be set against their paltry gains, for paltry they are, after all, the landlords being far from obtaining all that the nation loses. It is the bread-taxer who keeps factories open for a longer period than is consistent with the health of the young operative; it is the bread-taxer who compels the wretched sempstresses of London to toil day and night for a miserable pittance inadequate to the support of nature; it is the bread-taxer who has reduced the agricultural labourers of England to a far worse fare than the paupers of the workhouse, or the felons of the prison. And yet there are bread-taxers who lay claim to humanity! Nay, they set themselves up as apostles of philanthropy, and at their periodical meetings in Exeter Hall affect to be exceedingly generous at the expense of other people. With the unhallowed gains extorted from the misery and sufferings of the poor in their pockets, they ascend the platform and give vent to long orations of sentimental sympathy, fit to melt the hearts of a whole generation of boarding-schools. It is scarcely possible to understand how the amazing grossness of such inconsistency can escape their cognizance; and yet it is still more difficult to understand the powers of face which would be requisite to support the presence of an audience if they possessed such a consciousness.

It is painful to find a nobleman like Lord Ashley, who aims at obtaining a reputation for exalted benevolence, giving his support to as inhuman a system as ever disgraced any land; for what can be more inhuman than to lay a tax upon the food of the poor to enhance the wealth of the rich? The adhesion of his lordship to the iniquitous Corn Laws throws suspicion on all his efforts in favour of humanity. The words of charity from the mouth of a bread-taxer are like the merciful speeches in which the tyrants of antiquity were so profuse. Tiberius always prefaced his most sanguinary deeds with an oration in favour of benevolence; and if Dionysius of Sicily had been estimated by his words instead of

his actions, his government would have passed for the most paternal that ever existed.

It is impossible that a bread-taxer should be a genuine philanthropist in the true sense of the word; the terms are not merely inconsistent, but absolutely contradictory: a slaveowner may almost as justly lay claims to humanity. How is it possible that a man can honestly feel sympathy for distress, who is himself the author of misery in every family where a child cries for bread? Lord Ashley does not come before the public with clean hands, there is a foul spot where the tax he levies on the poor man's loaf has fallen; he must wipe it out, ere he can be pledged to the sacred cause of humanity.

We have made these remarks more in sorrow than in anger; we believe that Lord Ashley is not conscious of the grievous wrong he insists on perpetuating; we trust that the time for thought and reflection afforded him by the recess will convince him of his error, and lead him to a more consistent and honourable course.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL AND "SPECIAL BURDENS."

The last discussion of the session arose in consequence of a speech delivered by Lord John Russell on the condition and prospects of the country. In that speech the noble member for the city of London returned to the question of "special burdens" on the land. In the debate on Mr. Villiers's motion, Sir Robert Peel confined his "special burden" complaint to the single "burden" of maintaining the poor; but the noble lord has discovered two other "burdens," the county rate and the malt duty, which, in his opinion, entitle the agriculturists, that is, the landowners, to peculiar consideration on the part of the Legislature. It is pleasant to find the question of protection to agriculture, or, to speak more correctly, of protection to rent, placed on some ground which can be understood and fairly grappled with; and we feel grateful to our opponents when they show us their points of defence.

From the importance attached to the question of county rates, one would be led to imagine that this impost was one of a very heavy and grievous character; and that, although raised from the land, it was appropriated to objects in which proprietors of the soil had no interest, and that over its expenditure these ill-used individuals had no control. Now, what are the facts of this case of suffering and injustice inflicted on the owners of the soil? The county rate is a burden laid upon all land and buildings, and is, for the most part, expended in the maintenance of roads and bridges, and in the prosecution of various classes of offenders against the laws. The amount of the rate is fixed by the magistrates in each county, and in their hands is the control of its expenditure. The magistrates are generally landowners, and, if there be any want of economy and care in the disbursement of the amount collected, they are wholly responsible for it. The entire amount of county rate collected in 1842 for England and Wales, was but £703,526, England paying £666,977, and Wales £36,549; and this sum was levied on land and buildings spread over more than thirty-seven millions of acres, averaging not more than 4½d. per acre, and being not more than 3¼d. in the pound on the annual value of the property assessed. But in what counties is it that the county rate appears as a very large item of expenditure? Middlesex pays not less than £87,715; the West Riding of Yorkshire, £49,592; Lancashire, £41,328; Surrey, £32,543, that part of the Metropolis on the south of the Thames causing Surrey to stand so high on the list. The amount paid in 1842 in these four counties was £211,178, or very nearly one-third of the amount paid by the whole of England. Lancashire alone paid £41,328, whilst the whole of Wales paid but £36,549. From this it is clear that this "special burden" is not *special* at all, but general, and shared in by the towns and the manufacturing as well as by the agricultural districts; and unless it be assumed that land ought to pay no taxes, and that owners of land are a class of so sacred a character as to be entitled altogether to exemption from taxes and all other inflictions to which mankind in general are subjected, we know not how any sane man can regard the county rate as any ground for the existence of the Corn Law as a means of compensation to the class of landowners. In the discussion of the question of the food monopoly, there have been adduced many reasons for its continuance—some fraudulent, and others simply ridiculous; and this of the burden of the county rate is about the most absurd of all. What is the value of land without roads and bridges, and who are so much interested in the punishment of offenders as the owners of property? How many instances are there in every county, of the value of land being prodigiously increased by the forming of roads and the opening of new markets for the produce of the land? To dwell upon these points would be to assume a want of common capacity on the part of our readers; and we confess we cannot persuade ourselves that Lord John Russell was in earnest when he ventured to speak of the burden of county rates as one entitling the landowners to tax the food of a whole nation and to inflict the evils of famine upon multitudes of their fellow-countrymen. The landowners would do well to inquire if county rates are not greatly increased by the "burden" of prosecuting and punishing a class of offenders who are made so by laws enacted by landowners to provide sport and amusement for themselves and their friends. How much of the county rate in Norfolk, Suffolk, Buckingham, and other agricultural counties, is expended in maintaining a police force to act as gamekeepers, and in punishing poachers? The landowners and magistrates in those counties can give some interesting particulars on this point; and, if they had a particle of decent shame about them, they would be the very last to have this question brought before the public eye. But suppose we grant that the county rate is a "special burden" on the land, how far is it repaid by the Corn Law? The county rate of 1842 amounted to 4½d. per acre in England and Wales. To compensate the landowners for this grievous burden, how much should the Corn Law give them in return? The tax of 4½d. per acre surely cannot require a protecting duty of 20s. per quarter on the importation of foreign wheat, nor yet of a fixed duty of 8s. as proposed by the late Government in 1841, nor even a "moderate fixed duty" of any amount above 1½d. per quarter, supposing each acre to produce equal to three quarters of grain. Let it be remembered how small the whole sum of this "burden" is—that it is paid on buildings and manufactories as well as on land—that it is levied by the county magistrates, generally proprietors of land, and that it is expended entirely by them—that it is applied chiefly to the maintenance of roads and bridges, without which land would be almost valueless, and to the prosecution and punishment of offenders against the laws made for the security of property, and largely on account of offences against the game laws made by landowners to provide amusement for landowners—that it only amounts to 4½d. per acre throughout England and Wales;—let all this be remembered, and then imagine the amount of credulity the man must be blessed with, who believes this "burden" to require a Corn Law to compensate for it; or the assurance or ignorance of a statesman who can bring forward this "burden" as a ground for the continuance of a tax upon the chief article of human subsistence. It is indeed amazing with how much coolness these pretences are put forward, as if the owners of land were the only men who became acquainted with tax-gatherers. The £700,000 collected in county rate is about as much as the tax levied on cotton, the raw material of our most important manufacture. For the county rate the landowner gets roads, bridges, security for property, value to land; for the cotton tax, what do those engaged in the cotton trade receive? They have this tax laid upon them, not to provide roads, and bridges, and markets, but to go to the general taxation of the country, and to hang upon them as a dead weight in the fierce competition they meet with in every market in the world. To what a wretched condition are our landed proprietors reduced when they can stoop so low as to ask for the perpetuation of a bread tax on grounds so contemptible as this.

Of the malt duty we have little to say, except that we deem it in itself an unwise impost, interfering with the carrying on of an extensive department of trade, and we would willingly see it abolished. But as a ground for maintaining a tax on bread, it is not less foolish than that based on the payment of county rates. The landowners have made a law to tax malt, by which beer is made dearer to the consumer; the demand for barley is thus, to some extent, lessened, and in this way the tax is injurious to the landowners; but as respects *price*, it is only injurious to the beer-drinker. The landowner has no pity for the consumer; it is not for him he wishes the tax repealed; but he has great compassion for his own class; he proposes, therefore, to tax the beer-drinker's bread to repay himself for the injury he suffers from having taxed the beer-drinker's beer. If the landowners don't like the malt tax, let them abolish it; but in the name of all that is just, don't ask the people to give up the consumption of bread because they have already been put upon short allowance of beer.

From our hearts we pity any man of ordinary intelligence who steps forward to defend the Corn Law. The fraud is so glaring and so wicked that no man can stand in its defence without damage to his character and his influence; and that Lord John Russell should volunteer as its champion is a wonderful and a sorrowful passage in the history of one of the most distinguished families in the ranks of the British peerage.

The Stadt duties treaty was signed in London on the 22nd of July, by the Earl of Aberdeen and Mr. Gladstone on the part of her Britannic Majesty, and by Count Kielmansegge and the Sieur Hupeden on the part of Hanover.

AN INQUIRY INTO THE EFFECTS OF ENGLISH LEGISLATION UPON AGRICULTURAL WAGES, PROFITS, AND RENT.

By a Barrister.

Chapter II.

Second Period—From the first legislative interference with the Labour-market to the passing of the Poor Law of 1601.

The first interference of the Government with wages that appears in the statute-book was by the ordinance made in 1349 (23 Edward III.), commonly called the Statute of Labourers. The preamble of this ordinance alleges that, because "a great part of the people, and especially of workmen and servants, late died of the pestilence, many seeing the necessity of masters, and great scarcity of servants, will not serve unless they may receive excessive wages, and some rather willing to beg in idleness, than by labour to get their living." As to the alleged effects of the pestilence, we think it highly probable that they were exaggerated, and that, if the "workmen and servants" above mentioned had been allowed to tell their own story, they would have made the pestilence a somewhat less prominent feature of the case; for we are to bear in mind that the recital in the statute is purely the masters' statement of the case; and that this was but the commencement of a long series of statutes to lower wages, on occasions when no shadow of a pestilence could be produced as a ground of interference. One cannot help being struck with the similarity between the complaint of refusal to work unless at "excessive wages," made by the great landholders of England in 1350, and that made by the West India planters at the present time. In both cases we see, on the one side, a labouring population just emerged from slavery, and naturally desirous to make the most of their newly-acquired property, viz., their labour; on the other, a body of employers who, having been accustomed to employ slave-labour, and not having learned to entertain a very precise idea of the difference between "slave" and "servant," cannot understand that the latter should possess an equal right to take his property into open market and sell it for the highest price he can *fairly* get for it, that they have to do the same with the produce of their manors and lands.

After the above recital, the ordinance directs that every person, able in body, under the age of sixty years, not having of his own whereon he may live, being required, shall be bound to serve him that doth require him at certain accustomed rates of wages (which rates of wages are further specified in the statute passed two years after 25 Edward III., stat. 2), or else committed to the gaol, until he find surety to serve.

By cap. 6, of this ordinance butchers, fishmongers, regraters, hostelers, brewers, bakers, pulters, and all other sellers of all manner of victual, are bound to sell the same victual for a reasonable price, under the penalty of paying the double of the same that he so received, to the party damnified, or, in default of him, to any other that will pursue in this behalf. It does not appear that any provision was made that the cattle, corn, and other produce of the lands of those who professed themselves thus zealous to have "victuals sold at reasonable prices," should be sold at reasonable prices to the butchers, bakers, and other sellers of victuals.

By the statute 25 Edward III., stat. 2. (1350-1), further provisions were made for regulating, in other words, for keeping down wages and placing other restraints upon labourers in husbandry. In the first chapter of this statute we find the following scale of wages:—

"Wages in time of haymaking 1d. a day.

A mower of meadows, for the acre	.. ..	5d.
" " or by the day	.. ..	5d.
Reapers of corn, in 1st week of August	.. ..	2d.
" " 2nd do.	.. ..	3d.
And so till the end of August.		

And less in the country where less was wont to be given, without meat or drink, or other courtesie to be demanded, given, or taken."

Notwithstanding this statute, however, we find that in 1387, at Hawsted in Suffolk, the wages of a reaper were 4d.* a day, when wheat was sold for 4s. a quarter; oats for 2s.; a cow for 4s.; an ox for 13s. 6d.; a boar for 1s. 8d.; a capon for 4d.; a goose for 6d.; a hen for 2d.† Consequently, at this time a reaper could earn a quarter of wheat by 12 days' labour, or 2⅔ pecks of wheat by one day's labour.‡

The statute 12 Richard II. (1388) is an important one in these "annals of the poor," of which we are here attempting an outline—annals which, if they had justice

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* At this time Sir J. Cullum shows ("History of Hawsted," pp. 212, 213), that the average rent of land was 4d. an acre, or, 1-13th of the gross produce. The Rev. Edmund Dawson, a witness examined before the committee of the House of Lords on the Poor Laws, in 1831, states, that the pay in America of some labourers who had emigrated from his parish, in Lincolnshire, "is a tenth part of the quantity of the produce that they thrash out."—"Minutes of Evidence," p. 199.

† "History of Hawsted," pp. 217, 218. Fleta reckons 4s. the average price of a quarter of wheat in his time, (Edward I.), l. ii., c. 84.

‡ Mr. Malthus, in his "Principles of Political Economy" (ch. iv., p. 261), concludes "that the great fall in the real wages of labour which took place in the 16th century, must have been occasioned mainly by the great and unusual elevation which they had previously attained, and not by the discovery of the American mines and the consequent fall in the value of money." In arriving at which conclusion he makes two assumptions: 1. That wages, though high during the last half of the 15th century, were not so previously. 2. That the labour-market was left free and undisturbed. In philosophizing, the difficulty is not to draw correct conclusions from correct premisses, but to obtain correct premisses.

done them, would be by no means so "short and simple" as poets and romancers have led their readers to imagine. By the third chapter of this statute, the former statutes respecting artificers, labourers, servants, and victuallers were confirmed; and it was ordained that the said labourers be "duly justified (*duement justicez*) by the justices of the peace, as well at the suit of the King as of the party," and "*that a pair of stocks be in every town to justify (justifier) the same servants and labourers;*" that is, if they sought to obtain the fair market price for their labour, instead of working at the price arbitrarily offered by the purchasers of labour, they were to be set in the stocks, a mode of "justifying" them with a witness. It was further ordained by the same statute, that "no servant, nor labourer, be he man or woman, shall depart at the end of his term out of the hundred, rape, or wapentake where he is dwelling to serve or dwell elsewhere, or by colour to go from thence in pilgrimage, unless he bring a letter patent containing the cause of his going, and the time of his return, if he ought to return, under the King's seal."

Chapter 4 of the same statute contains a similar complaint to that made, as above stated, about fifty years before, that servants and labourers would not serve and labour without "outrageous and excessive hire, and much more than had been given to such servants and labourers in any time past." But this time a pestilence is not assigned as the "*dignus vindice nodus*," as the cause for the interference of the Legislature with the labour market. But this time the landholding legislators candidly confess that the cause for their stepping in is, that on account of the market price of labour, their tenant-farmers cannot pay their rents;* in other words, that their rents are above the market price; but that, in order *to keep* them above it, they are determined to force the wages of the labourers below it. That they succeeded ultimately in their object, subsequent events sufficiently made manifest.†

Mr. Ricardo, indeed, has said,‡ "If, as the wages of labour fall, the profits of stock rise, and they be together always of the same value, no fall of wages can raise rent, for it will neither diminish the portion nor the value of the portion of the produce which will be allotted to the farmer and labourer together, and therefore will not leave a larger portion nor a larger value for the landlord." Mr. Ricardo then goes on at some length to expand this proposition, but the expansion merely amounts to repeating it in somewhat different words; it adds nothing towards the demonstration of its truth, which rests solely on the hypothesis that "the wages of labour and the profits of stock are together always of the same value;" that their sum is an invariable or constant quantity; an hypothesis which, like many others that have been put forth as theories, or even as established and incontrovertible truths, by political economists, has far more affinity to that class of false hypotheses respecting the form of the planetary orbits (as that the heavenly bodies moved in circles, &c.) than to the hypothesis of Newton respecting the earth's orbit, which he *verified* by the most minute and exact application of the test of experiment and fact.

There is evidence to show that in England, in the thirteenth century, the rent did not amount to much more than one-*thirteenth* of the gross produce.§ In the early part of the sixteenth century, according to the evidence of Tusser, an experienced practical farmer, rent was one-tenth of the gross produce; he divides the produce into ten equal parts, of which he sets aside the first for rent, the second for seed, the third for tithes, &c.* According to the returns made to the Board of Agriculture, the average proportion towards the end of the eighteenth century was about one-fifth. It appears from a minute analysis of the distribution of the produce to be at the present time about one-third: it is somewhat under that in England, and somewhat above it in Scotland:† but one-third may be taken as a near approximation.

The case, then, stands thus:—The proportions at one time in England allotted to the farmer and labourer on the one side, and the landlord on the other, were 12-13ths to the farmer and labourer, and 1-13th to the landlord; or say 11-12ths to the farmer and labourer, and 1-12th to the landlord. They are now 8-12ths to the farmer and labourer, and 4-12ths to the landlord. At the former time the labourer could earn two pecks of wheat by a day's labour; he cannot now earn one peck of wheat in the same time. What has become of the other peck? Has it gone to profits or to rents? Surely it has not gone to profits; but it must have gone either to profits or to rents. It could not become a vanishing quantity, being, (if even it did not represent an arithmetical relation, a ratio or proportion only) still produced more than twofold from the land which then produced it. The proportion of the landlord is four times larger than it was then; the proportions of the farmer and labourer are proportionally smaller; say formerly,

Landlord	1-12th
Farmer	7-12ths
Labourer	4-12ths
	12-12ths

Now,

Landlord	4-12ths
Farmer	6-12ths
Labourer	2-12ths
	12-12ths

"But no," says Mr. Ricardo; "the loss to the labourer must have gone to the farmer, not to the landlord." According, then, to Mr. Ricardo's theory, the account must stand thus:—

Landlord	1-12th
Farmer	9-12ths
Labourer	2-12ths
	12-12ths

If Mr. Ricardo's theory be true, then, we must have observed facts incorrectly, and, instead of rents rising and profits falling for these last 200 years in England, the reverse must have taken place—rents must have been falling and profits rising.

We have stated above that, in 1387 (at least, in Suffolk), the price of wheat was 4s. a quarter; but in 1390, according to the Windsor tables, the price of the quarter of wheat was 14s. 5d.; a rise which must, no doubt, have been caused by a particularly bad season. This great sudden rise in the price of bread was followed by a very important enactment, that, namely, which first empowered the justices of the peace to interfere with wages. The eighth chapter of the statute 13th Richard II., stat. 1, contains the following clause, which we copy *verbatim* from the Record Commissioners' Edition of the Statutes:—"Forasmuch as a man cannot put the price of corn and other victuals in certainty it is accorded and assented that the justices of peace in every county, in their sessions to be holden betwixt the feast of Easter and St. Michael, shall make proclamation by their discretion, according to the dearth of victuals, how much every mason, carpenter, tiler, and other craftsmen, workmen, and other labourers by the day, as well in harvest as in other times of the year, after their degree, shall take by the day with meat and drink, or without meat and drink, between the two [sessions] beforesaid, notwithstanding the statutes thereof heretofore made, and that every man obey to such proclamations from time to time as a thing done by statute."

A few years afterwards the Commons petitioned the King, though without success, that the old law which protected villeins after residence in towns of a year and a day, should be repealed; and that villeins should not be allowed to put their children to school, in order to advance them by the church.

The above statutes were re-enacted, with some amendments, in 1427 and 1429 (by the 6 Hen. VI., c. 3, and the 8 Hen. VI., c. 8). By the statute 23 Hen. VI., c. 12 (1444), the wages of all the common descriptions of labourers were expressly fixed; and on comparing this act with the 12 Rich. II., c. 4 (1388), we find a somewhat higher scale of wages for agricultural labourers fixed in the last made statute, in which the wages by the day were—

A mower, with meat and drink	4d.
Do., without do.	6d.
A reaper, carter, with meat and drink	3d.
Do., without do.	5d.
A woman, and other labourer, with meat and drink	2½d.
Do., do., without do.	4d.

But, taking into consideration the degradation of the coin and other circumstances, it is difficult to say that this rise of wages denoted a corresponding improvement in the condition of the agricultural labourer during that interval.

In 1495* the statute 11 Hen. VII., c. 22, was passed for regulating, that is, keeping down wages at very nearly the same point at which they had been fixed by the act of 1444. By this statute an agricultural labourer was allowed for daily wages from Easter till Michaelmas (except in harvest) with diet, 2d., without diet, 4d.

In harvest, a mower, with diet	4d.
Do., do., without do.	6d.
Do., a reaper, with diet	3d.
Do., do., without do.	5d.
Do., a carter, with diet	3d.
Do., do, without do.	5d.
Do., a woman and other labourers, with diet	2½d.
Do., do. do, without do.	4½d.

Taking the average price of wheat at that period at 6s. 8d. (the price at which exportation was allowed by the statute 15 Hen. VI., c. 2), we find that the reaper was not quite so well off as in 1387, when he had 4d. a day, wheat being 4s. a quarter. But still a labourer with 4d. a day when wheat was 6s. 8d. a quarter, could earn a quarter of wheat by twenty days' labour; and a reaper with 5d. a day, could earn a quarter of wheat by sixteen days' labour, or he could earn two pecks a day.†

Upon this statute Sir Frederic Eden makes the following important observation:—"From comparing the wages appointed by this statute to be given to servants in husbandry with those before recited under the year 1444, it will appear that, notwithstanding the increase of the price of the necessaries of life and the increase of the demand for labour, which seems to have taken place between that year and 1496‡ (11 Hen. VII.), very little alteration had taken place in the price of labour."§

A similar act was passed in 1514 (16 Hen. VIII., c. 3), in which the wages of the agricultural labourer are precisely the same as in the statute of 1495, that is, a common labourer, except in harvest, with diet 2d, without diet 4d.

In harvest, a mower, with diet	4d.
Do., do., without do.	6d.
Do., a reaper, with diet	3d.
Do., do., without do.	5d.
Do., a carter, with diet	3d.
Do., do., without do.	5d.

We see, then, that the Legislature had interfered to keep the price of agricultural labour for about a century at exactly the same level, while the price of provisions and of other commodities had been rising all that time, and was now beginning to rise at a much more rapid rate than ever. There is abundant evidence to show, that in the course of the sixteenth century an extraordinary rise took place in the money prices, not only of food, but of all other commodities. This circumstance, being unattended with a rise of wages, which, as we have seen, were forcibly kept down by act of Parliament to their former level, necessarily produced much distress among the labouring population, and gave further employment to the makers of laws, in order to prevent that distress from being dangerous to them. It appears that a considerable portion of the labouring population preferred begging to working for wages, which were rendered by law inadequate to supply them with the necessaries of life. But their legislators were resolved that they should work for what terms *they* chose; and accordingly they enacted‖ that the head offi-

* The words of the statute in the original Norman French are, "*siq pr. chierte des ditz laborers & s'vantz les husbandes & tretenantz ne poent paier lour rentes.*" The word "*chierte*" means "dearness"—("Kelham's Norman Dictionary")—the same as the modern word "*cherté.*" In the translation (Rec. Comm. edit.) the word "*chierte*" is rendered "scarcity." And though it be true that from the English word "dear" comes "dearth" or scarcity, as well as "dearness" or high price, and also that "*cherté des vivres*" is sometimes translated "dearth, scarcity, want of provisions;" in short, that "scarcity" and "high price" may almost be considered convertible terms; yet we object to the word "scarcity" here as a misleading term, tending to produce confusion of ideas, by applying the exploded hobgoblin fallacy against forestalling and engrossing to the poor labourers seeking to obtain the market price for their labour.

† By chapter 5 of the same statute it is ordained that all persons who had been employed in any labour or service of husbandry till the age of twelve, should from thenceforth abide at the same labour, and be incapable of being put to any mystery or handicraft; and by chap. 6, that no servant in husbandry, or labourer, shall wear any sword, buckler, or dagger.

‡ "Principles of Political Economy and Taxation," p. 568, 1st ed.; p. 516, 2nd ed.

§ This statement may appear so startling that I shall make a somewhat long extract from Sir John Cullum's most valuable "History of Hawsted," compiled with great care from very minute accounts, to show the grounds of it. "In the year 1281, the prices of various kinds of grain, the produce of this village, were as follows: of wheat, about the conversion of St. Paul (January 25), from 4s. 3d. to 4s. 5d. a quarter; in Lent, 4s. 6d., afterwards, 4s. 8d.; of siligo, from 2s. 8d. to 2s. 10d.; of barley, 3s. 6½d.; of new pease, from 2s. 9½d. to 2s. 11½d.; of old pease, 2s. 4½d.; of draget, 2s. 8d.; of oats, from 2s. 2d. to 2s. 4d. This was a year of moderate plenty, and therefore may be considered as the standard of the prices of grain about this period. Supposing then 4s. 6d. to be about the mean price of a quarter of wheat, and 4d. a year's rent of an acre of land [he had said in the preceding page 'they paid from almost 7d. to less than a farthing an acre a year. Some of those who paid the very low rents probably performed some service in husbandry for their landlord in lieu of money; and some of the small sums were, perhaps, of the nature of quit-rents. However, we may not probably be far from the truth, if we lay their lands in general at 4d. an acre'], the disproportion between the produce of the land and its rent is almost incredible; for, if (as I suspect) an acre produced, in general, only 1½ quarter,(*a*) it would, if the ground was cropped only two years together, give the husbandman thirteen times the rent of his land (one year with another), a profit, which the best farmers, in the present state of improved agriculture, can rarely, I believe, reach."—"History of Hawsted," pp. 212, 213.

(*a*) "The learned author of 'Fleta,' who wrote about this period, and who, in his treatise of law, has not disdained inserting several particulars relative to rural economy, informs us, that if an acre of wheat yield only three times the seed sown, the farmer will be a loser, unless corn should sell dear. His calculation is this: three ploughings, 1s. 6d.; harrowing, 1d.; two bushels of seed, 1s.; weeding, ½d.; reaping, 5d.; carrying, 1d.; in all, 3s. 1½d.: which is 1½d. more than the value of six bushels." L. ii., c. 82.

* Thomas Tusser, who had been educated at Eton and Trinity-hall, Cambridge, lived many years as a farmer in Suffolk and Norfolk. He afterwards removed to London; where he published the first edition of his work, under the title of "One Hundred Points of Good Husbandry," in 1557.—Note in "Cullum's History of Hawsted," p. 238.

† The following is the account of the distribution of the gross produce of two farms, the first in Kent, the second in Scotland.

A farm in Kent: gross produce, £920.

Consumed in seed, and by horses	£141	5	4
Farm-servants (produce and wages) ..	169	0	0
Blacksmith, carpenter, &c.	25	0	0
Interest of capital, wear and tear of horses and implements	70	6	0
Repairing houses, fences, county and parochial taxes	29	10	0
Tithe	48	0	0
Rent	284	10	0
Tenant-farmer for services, in produce and money	152	8	8
	£920	0	0

A farm in Scotland: gross produce £1632 7s. 6d.

Consumed in seed, and by horses ..	£392	8	5
Ditto, produce and money-wages for servants	298	9	3
Blacksmith, farrier, and carpenter ..	29	12	4
Manure	57	10	0
Miscellaneous expenses	37	18	6
Wear and tear of horses and implements, and interest of capital	117	11	8
Repairs of buildings, fences, and local taxes	24	14	6
Rent	542	0	0
Tenant-farmer for services, in rent of dwelling-house, produce, and money together	132	2	8
	£1632	7	6

In the above case the rent is not quite one-third of the gross produce; but in the following case, given in evidence before the committee on agricultural distress, April 22, 1836, the rent is rather more than a third of the gross produce. Mr. Howden gave a statement to show the quantity and value of the produce of his farms of Lawhead and Traprain, in the parishes of Whitekirk and Prestonkirk, Haddingtonshire, and likewise the expense of cultivation, the amount of rent, and the residue that remained to himself for the three years 1832, 1833, and 1834, of which the following is the average for one year:—

Total value of produce, £3202 15s. 4d.

Expenses of cultivation	1830	8	7
Rent	1124	7	1
To tenant (exclusive of £50, the interest of capital in horses and implements charged in expenses), for interest of capital, superintendence, &c.	247	19	8
	£3202	15	4

* Record Commissioners' Edition of the Statutes. The common editions make it 1494. Sir F. Eden calls it 1496.

† In his lectures on wages (lecture I, p. 2), Mr. Senior, taking the average (qy., harvest?) wages of the labourer at 4½d, says that the labourer in the reign of Henry VII. earned two pecks of wheat a day. This shows that the statement in the text is rather below than above the real state of the case, and therefore not liable to the charge of exaggeration.

‡ 1495. Record Commissioners' edition of the Statutes.

§ State of the Poor, i., 74.

‖ 22 Henry VIII., c. 12 (1531), and 27 Henry, c. 25 (1536).

cers of every city, shire, town, and parish, to which sturdy vagabonds should repair, should compel the said sturdy vagabonds and valiant beggars to be kept to continual labour in such wise as they may get their own living by the continual labour of their own hands. And they further directed that a sturdy beggar should be whipped the first time, his right ear cropped the second time, and if he again offend, be sent to the next gaol till the quarter sessions, and there be indicted for wandering, loitering, and idleness; and if convicted, suffer execution of death as a felon and an enemy of the commonwealth.

It has, indeed, been sometimes supposed that it was the dissolution of the religious houses (by the statutes 27 Henry VIII., c. 28; and 31 Henry VIII., c. 13) that led to all this vagrancy and mendicancy, and to the compulsory provision for the poor which followed; and the ground assigned for this supposition is, that a great distribution of alms was daily made by those houses. But, as Mr. Reeves has observed in his elaborate and valuable "History of the English Law,"* one of the principal enactments of Henry VIII. on the subject both of the aged and impotent poor, and of vagabonds and beggars, "being whole and mighty in body," viz., the statute 22 Henry VIII., c. 12 (1530), was passed before that event, and was in many respects a continuance, though with increased severity and more specific provisions, of the policy of the statute 12 Richard II., c. 3. Sir Frederic Eden has also expressed an opinion to the same effect:—"I very much doubt," says he, "whether the monasteries, generally and greatly, troubled themselves with relieving poor that did not immediately belong to their own demesnes. The same sort of charity was usually practised by the great nobility on their estates. *The truth is, that the abbeys were more burthened with the rich than the poor.* Sheriffs and other great men often travelled from abbey to abbey and from house to, house with great retinues, and not unfrequently, at their departure, extorted considerable presents from the abbot."† And here it is not unimportant to remark the length of the interval, viz., from 1388 to 1530, during which there does not appear to have been any legislation respecting the maintenance of vagrants and beggars.‡ During that period of 142 years the wages of labour were not altogether inadequate to the maintenance of the labourer. But a glance at Sir Frederic Eden's table of prices will show that, even in the early part of the sixteenth century, a very considerable rise had begun to take place in the price of provisions, though not so great as that which took place towards the close of that century; this will appear by the following extracts from that table:—

Table showing the Rise in the Price of Provisions, &c., during the Sixteenth Century.

Yr.	Price of Provisions.	£	s.	d.	Price of other Commodities.	£	s.	d.	Price of Labour.
1494	Wheat	0	4	0					
1495	Do.	0	3	4					4d. the day, by
1496	Do.	0	4	4	1475. Wool				stat. 11 H. VII.,
1497	Do.	1	0	0	the stone	0	4	0	c. 22 (1495)
"	Oats	0	2	0					
1498	Wheat	0	4	0					
1499	Do.	0	6	0					
"	Do.	0	4	0					
1500	Do.	0	3	4					
"	A wether	0	1	8					
"	An ox	0	11	8					
"	A lamb	0	0	6					1506. A labourer
1480	A pig	0	0	4	1511. Coals				three days, 1s.
1508	Do.	0	0	5	the chal.	0	4	2	
1528	Wheat	1	6	8					
"	An ox	1	6	8					
"	A wether unclipp'd	0	2	8					1545. A sexton for one day's work,
"	A pig	0	1	1					5d.
1543	Wheat	1	0	0					
"	Oats	0	3	4					1589. Ditcher, the
"	Beans	0	6	8					day, 4d.
1544	Wheat	1	5	4					1590. Hedger, the
1545	Do.	0	18	8					day, 4d.
1548	Do.	0	6	8					" Labourer in
"	Rye	0	5	0					in garden, do., 3d.
"	Barley	0	5	0					
1549	Best fat ox	2	5	0					
"	A middling do.	1	18	0					1593. Agricultural labourer, from 1st
"	An inferior do.	1	8	0	1581. Wool the tod	1	0	0	of March to Feast of All Saints, 5d.
"	Best fat wether	0	4	4	Do. do.	1	2	0	a day
"	Do. shorn	0	3	0	1590. Coals the chal.	0	9	0	" A reaper in harvest, 5d. a day.
"	An inferior do. shorn	0	2	4					Rate of Yorkshire justices

But, if the rise of prices was considerable in the early part of the sixteenth century, in the latter half of it, and particularly towards its close, the rise was unprecedented. Thus the contemporary author quoted by Sir Frederic Eden,§ Mr. Hume,‖ and other writers, says that in 1581 it required £200 a year to keep as good a house as might have been kept sixteen years before for 200 marks, or £133 6s. 8d. He says, "I have seen a cap for 13d. as good as I can get now for 2s. 6d. Now a pair of shoes costs 12d., yet in my time I have bought a better for 5d." And he adds a little after, "Cannot your neighbour remember that, within these thirty years, I could buy the best pig or goose that I could lay my hand on for 4d., which now costeth 12d.; a good capon for 3d. or 4d., a chicken for 1d., a hen for 2d., which now costeth me double and triple the money. It is likewise in greater ware, as beef and mutton." A corresponding rise had taken place in the price of wheat. During the twelve years from 1551 to 1562 (both inclusive), with the exception of 1557, when the average was 17s. 8½d., the price of the quarter of wheat was 8s. But in 1574 it was £2; and in 1587 it was £3. 4s., a rise which cannot be attributed entirely to the seasons. Bishop Latimer, in his sermons, ascribes it to landlords raising their rents, and his words seem to preclude the supposition of extraordinarily bad seasons. His words are, "to much commeth this monsterous and portentuous dearth made by man, notwithstanding God doth send us plentifully the fruites of the earth mercifully, contrary to our desertes, notwithstanding to much, which these rich men have, causeth such dearth, that poore men (which live of their labour) cannot with the sweate of their face have a lyving, all kinde of victuals is so deare, pigges, geese, capons, chickens, egges, &c.; these things, with other, are so unreasonable enhaunsed."*

In the often quoted passage, in which Bishop Latimer describes his father's mode of living about the beginning of the sixteenth century, he says:—"My father was a yeoman, and had no lands of his own,† only he had a farm of £3 or £4 by the year, at the uttermost; and hereupon he tilled so much as kept half a dozen men:" and after describing all that he did "of the said farm," in the way of provision for his children, hospitality to his neighbours, and alms to the poor, he adds:—"Where (whereas) he that now hath it, payeth £16 by the year or more, and is not able to do anything for his prince, for himself, nor for his children, or give a cup of drink to the poor."‡ And in another sermon, preached before Edward VI., in 1549, he says:—"That herebefore went for 20 or 40 pound by year (which is an honest portion to be had *gratis* in one lordship of another man's sweat and labour), now is it let for L. or C. pound by year."§ And Harrison, while he complains of the wretchedness of the working people, bears testimony to the same effect:—"In my time," he says, "peradventure 4 pounds of old rent be improved to 40, 50, or even 100 pounds."‖ And notwithstanding this great increase of rent, Harrison describes the condition of farmers as much improved, which is at variance with the account of Latimer.

The true state of the case seems to be this. The great change in the value of money, caused partly by the degradation of the coin, and partly by the fall in the real value of the precious metals, in consequence of the discovery of the American mines, was followed by a corresponding rise of the prices of all other commodities, except that which was the source of the value of all those commodities—labour. The wages of labour, instead of being allowed to rise to their natural level like other things, were violently kept down almost to their former level, that is to the level at which they were when other things were about half or a third of the price to which they had now risen. In Sir F. Eden's table of prices we find the following prices of labour:—1589, ditcher, the day, 4d.; a man cutting furze, one day, 4d. 1590, hedger, the day, 4d.; mason's man, ditto. 4d.; labourer in garden, ditto, 3d.; in which year we find coals the chaldron rose from 4s. to 9s.; a sheep, 6s. 4d.; a wether, 6s. 8d.; and in 1589, a fat cow, £3; a milch cow, £1 13s. 4d.; a swine, 8s.; a wether, 6s. 8d. It appears from the rate of wages made by the justices of the East Riding of Yorkshire in 1593, that the wages of an agricultural labourer were limited to 5d. a day, without meat and drink, from the 1st of March to the Feast of All Saints; and even for harvest wages, though a mower of grass or corn was to have, without meat and drink, 10d., a shearer or binder of corn (*i. e.*, a reaper,) was not to have, without meat and drink, more than 5d. So that, while everything else had been rising in price at such an unprecedented rate, the price of labour had been kept stationary for nearly two centuries. The author of the article on the Corn Laws and Corn Trade in the "Encyclopædia Britannica" supposes that at that time the prices of corn nearly corresponded with the rates at which exportation was allowed by the statute 35 Eliz., c. 7, that is, wheat probably averaged 20s. a quarter, rye 13s. 4d., and barley 12s. Sir Frederic Eden's tables of prices give—

		£	s.	d.
1590	Wheat	1	1	0
1591	ditto	0	18	0
1592	ditto	0	18	0
1593	ditto	0	12	0
1594	ditto	2	8	0
1595	ditto	2	4	0

It appears from this, that 1593 was an unusually cheap year. But even taking the price of 12s., which is so much below the average, an agricultural labourer even in harvest could not in that year earn a quarter of wheat by less than 28 4-5th days' labour; or, taking the price of 20s., by less than 48 days' labour. Whereas, we have seen that in 1494 he could earn a quarter of wheat by 16 days' labour; and in 1387 he could earn a quarter of wheat by 12 days' labour. His condition, consequently, was worse in 1593 than in 1387 in the proportion of 12 to 48, or of 1 to 4.

(*To be continued.*)

* "History of English Law," vol. iv., p. 225.
† "State of the Poor," vol. i., p. 95.
‡ Reeves's "History of English Law," vol. iii., p. 171; vol. iv., p. 225.
§ "State of the Poor," vol. i., p. 119.
‖ "History of England," Appendix iii.

* Sermons, 31: cited Eden i., 99.

† This shows that the term "yeoman" was popularly applied, without the condition stated by Sir Thomas Smith to be requisite to make a yeoman, viz.: being able to spend of his *own* free land, in yearly revenue to the sum of forty shillings.—*Commonwealth of England*, book i., ch. 23,

‡ Latimer's Sermons, p. 32.

§ Cited Eden, i., 120.

‖ Descript. of Engl. 186.

REPUBLICANISM AND FREE TRADE.

(From the *Economist*.)

The Free-Trade party in England are often blamed by persons professing to be their friends, and who no doubt are so, for not being something else than what they are. It is said that they have no chance of carrying the point on which their hearts are set, except by a complete democratising of the British constitution; so that, independently of the *right* of the matter, which is very much insisted on, it is represented as a matter of *policy*, and indeed of *necessity*, that an extension of the suffrage to all male inhabitants twenty-one years of age should be carried, before any reasonable hope can be entertained of trade being made free. We have said that we believe those parties to be friends of Free Trade. Many of them undoubtedly are so; and we do not choose to take notice of such men as F. O'Connor, who, we fear, are not very earnest or very honest in any of their opinions. If they are the friends of our opinions, then do not let them suppose that we are inimical to theirs. Some of us, they cannot but know, are quite the contrary. But we have never ceased to protest, and never shall, against the unfairness of perpetually thrusting another, not an antagonistic, movement in our way. Taking it for granted, for the present, that the doctrines of Free Trade are, as they have been authoritatively called, the doctrines of common sense, is there so absolute a guarantee that, under a different form or manner of government from our present, they would be reduced to practice, that we must needs forthwith give ourselves up to agitate for that change in the first place, hoping for the good which we desire thereafter? This is what we have never been able to see. Neither experience nor observation gives such warrant. Assuredly the case of the United States of America, which ought to be some guide in the circumstances, is not encouraging.

The United States are a young country, in which it might be supposed there would be no such accumulation of "vested interests" as there are in older countries. As to there being "special burdens" on any class of their community, where all classes are equally represented, the idea is absurd. Whatever would be for the good of all, it might be thought, would be the peremptory law of such a country, if of any. There, if anywhere, the idea of supporting one class of the community by a tax upon the rest ought to be scouted. But is it so? It is not. The protection given in this country to owners of the soil by a tax on the importation of food from abroad, which gives them an undue political importance, and, along with other enactments, saves them from bearing their legitimate share of the expenses of the State, besides needlessly distressing the poor—that protection is in substance given to the manufacturers of America, who have found means to cause the Legislature of their country to exclude, except on payment of large duties, all the great articles of clothing, machinery, and manufactures of every sort, which they themselves are employed in making. As the consequence of these Corn Laws of ours is to prevent the American landowner from obtaining in this country a better price for some of his provisions than he obtains at home, and to prevent us from obtaining the means of living more easily than we do at present, so the consequence of the present United States tariff is to prevent the people of that country from having cotton and woollen goods, paper, cutlery, types, machines, &c. &c., as cheap as they might, and to prevent the manufacturers of all those articles in this country from obtaining so many additional, and, we should hope, profitable customers. We say nothing, for the present, of the wretched policy which each country pursues towards the other, in excluding what each respectively could send to the other, and refusing to take what the other could spare, forgetting that, while they may hurt each each other by doing so, they hurt themselves infinitely more; but, we ask, for whom is this voluntary sacrifice made by these nations? Why, a handful of their own communities, whom, we maintain, it would be infinitely better policy to bribe into acquiescence with just views, by twenty times the proved amount of their temporary loss, by the adoption of a natural and abiding system of legislation.

Now, if we were asked at this moment to say whether the prospects of Free Trade were brighter in monarchical England or in democratic America, we should hesitate how to answer. The impending question of the Presidency in the latter country will be settled with not an inconsiderable view of the two candidates' opinions on the subject, and it is already reckoned next to certain that he who is less friendly to Free Trade than the other will be chosen. We say nothing of Mr. Clay's real claims to the support and gratitude of his countrymen. We believe them to be great and many. But on this point, if he is not himself deceived (which we can hardly think possible), he finds it necessary, in order to ensure his success, to succumb to interested clamour and groundless fear, which is not very encouraging to us in this country who look to republican government for an ultimate salvation from commercial ruin. It will be in the recollection of many of our readers, no doubt, that some months ago we made favourable mention of the *Republic*, New York paper, then recently established, avowedly for the purpose of spreading Free-Trade doctrines throughout the Union. For the sake of the principles which it advocated, we felt an interest in the paper. We quoted from it, and so far recommended it to the notice of our English readers. Well, the *Republic*, foreseeing seemingly which side was to win, in the meantime, in the race for the Presidency, and naturally not liking to be on the losing side, has *ratted*. Its "flag henceforth bears inscribed upon its folds the name of Clay"—not a matter of great importance, perhaps, on the other side of the Atlantic, and certainly of none whatever on this. But we shall extract part of the leader in the *Republic* which first announced its downfall—a downfall from principle to the service and slavery of party—to show how very like the cant of our protectionists is the cant of American patriots of the same sort. The writer is comparing the merits of the two candidates for the Presidency, in respect of their economical views, and thus holds forth:—

"On the subject of the tariff, we can ask for nothing more explicit and satisfactory than the repeated declarations of Mr. Clay. With him we believe that there is a safe middle course between a high protective tariff and absolute Free Trade. With him we believe that the principle of a tariff for revenue, with discriminations for protection, affords the only true basis for an equitable adjustment of the question. With him we believe that the existing tariff has operated most beneficially—that it has

raised the prostrate credit of the country, restored prosperity, and infused new life and vigour through every branch of domestic labour. With him we also believe that should this tariff be found to depart in any one item from the principle laid down, it should be modified until its conformity can no longer be questioned.

"On the other hand, what are the views of Mr. Polk? If we may infer anything from the complexion of his past speeches and votes in Congress, he aims at the utter subversion of the whole protective policy. Carry out his avowed designs, and every workshop in the country would bear evidence of the desolation and blight which would have come over all our industrial pursuits. 'My own opinion is that wool should be duty free,' says Mr. Polk. ('Congressional Debates,' vol ix., p. 1194.) Hear that, farmers and cattle-dealers! 'Distribution and a protective tariff—measures which I consider ruinous to the interests of the country, and especially of the planting states—I have steadily and at all times opposed,' says Mr. Polk. (Speech before the people of Madison, Co. Ten., April 3, 1843.) Hear that, mechanics and manufactures, artisans and day-labourers! Will you be subjected to the competition of the half-starved, over-worked labourer of England? The candidate of the *Locofocos* does not propose taking from you your life; he would merely take the means by which you live."

"The competition of the half-starved, over-worked labourer of England." Blot out that word *England*, and insert Poland or Russia, and the words are in stereotyped use by our Harewoods in Yorkshire, our Richmonds in Sussex, and other great "provision dealers" among us in every county, in order to frighten that same class, so piteously depicted by the American, from competing with others in their turn. And sure enough the cry does its work but too well abroad and at home. Mankind—sent into different lands and climates, with different capacities, by the kind providence of God, with the express view of their supplying each other's wants—are misled everywhere by ignorant and interested clamour, and are taught to look upon one another as mutually inimical, instead of ministers to each other's wants, which they are, or were at least, designed to be.

From all this we conclude that Free Trade is not necessarily attached to *republican* government, but to *enlightened* government. Then, again, we apprehend every country has as enlightened a government as it deserves, or is fit for, at the time; if it deserved any better it would not be long in having it. So, without disparaging any movement set on foot to extend the power of the governed—for that movement will succeed precisely to the extent that it deserves to do so, and to *that* extent we wish it success very heartily—we shall continue, turning neither to the right nor to the left, to aid in that movement, and in that only, which will give to the industry, not of Englishmen only, not of Americans only, but of MEN throughout the wide world, the chance of suiting itself where it can—which will allow the hungry to be fed, and the naked clothed, where best they may—which will allow the industrious everywhere to work, and to be *paid* for their work, and punish the idle and ignorant, as they *deserve* to be punished—which, in fine, as it proceeds onwards to its accomplishment, will be the true leveller of all artificial distinctions between man and man, and suffer only to remain those which God and Nature have ordained.

COMMERCIAL PROSPERITY.

(From the *Morning Chronicle.*)

Commercial prosperity is always an attractive theme to masses of our countrymen; and it is matter for no little congratulation that we can now speak upon this topic with a confidence somewhat more assured than it was possible to feel about the same period last year. At that time, public anxiety was painfully manifested in an anxious desire to ascertain what were really our prospects; and some remarks which we then made, indicative of confidence in the return of a better state of things, were regarded rather as partisan admissions of an inevitable fact than as cheerful acknowledgments of a truth, deeply interesting to every one, whatever might be the colour or the shade of his political opinions.

A year has now gone by; another autumn has come, characterised by all those seasonal vicissitudes which are watched with such feverish anxiety both in Capel-court and Mark-lane; but in weighing the prospects of commerce against those of the season, we can easily see that certainty and confidence combined have "kicked the beam." Every thing, so far as business is concerned, has a cheerful aspect. Good harvests have done the work which was predicted of them. Steady, moderate prices have disengaged capital; that capital has given employment to labour, and labour being employed has again employed capital. The increasing demand thus goes on, like a spreading circle in the water; increased consumption augments the revenue; that, again, augments confidence; a spirit of enterprise takes the place of jealous suspicion or supine indifference; and so on we go, sailing on a full tide of prosperity, until some sudden check brings us to a stand-still, and reminds us that, in such a country as this, commercial legislation has made commercial prosperity as fickle and uncertain a thing as our uncertain climate.

The latter is proverbially uncertain; and the two last years have afforded striking verifications of it. The spring of 1843 was remarkable for a long continuance of wet weather; that of 1844 for a still longer period of dry. And, during several years past, we have been kept through the months of July and August in painful suspense as to the probabilities of a fine season for gathering in the crops. In 1842 and 1843 the sudden coming in of fine weather, lasting the whole, or at least the greater portion, of the autumn, was more like a *coup de théâtre* than the ordinary operations of the seasons, even under our changeful sky; and though we cannot speak so confidently as to the results of the present fall of the year, appearances are pretty much in favour of our obtaining weather fine enough to enable the crops on the ground to be gathered in tolerable condition.

But is not this a most humiliating and painful condition for a great commercial nation to be placed in? We are made dependent on a week, more or less, of wet or dry weather for consequences affecting the happiness or the misery of thousands, and even the very safety of the country itself! However surely we may be recovering from the state of misery into which several years of bad harvests and commercial disasters had plunged us, our progress has been exceedingly slow, and the slightest accident would check it. Two weeks more of wet weather would have ruined us last year; and the shock to our commerce, just rising from its state of long-continued depression, might have proved fatal to greater and even more important matters. This year we have so far recovered that even a whole autumnal season of wet weather would have been less fatal, though undoubtedly very disastrous in its effects. Yet we have no occasion to congratulate ourselves upon entire escape. Fickle as is our climate, the meteorologists have deduced certain rules from experience; and one of these is, that a very dry spring usually precedes a wet autumn. Without exactly relying on such empirical conclusions as these, we are not without apprehension as to the certainty of fine weather to secure the entire crop on the ground, nor are we altogether confident that, though it may be what is called a fair average, it will exceed it when all circumstances are taken into consideration.

Yet, on fluctuating circumstances like these, our vast, our varied, our enormous commerce is dependent—dependent, be it remembered, not on the variable character of our seasons, or on the greater or less quantity of rain which in spring or autumn may fall in Great Britain, but on the *legislation* by which a few cloudy or sunshiny days become vital elements, at a particular period, in the determination of our prosperity or our adversity. The recent wet weather has demonstrated that the sliding scale of 1842 has the main inherent defect of its predecessor. Particular circumstances cause it to bring in more revenue to the Exchequer, but this is mainly owing to the fragment of a "fixed duty" craftily embedded in it, as well as to the operation of the still more crafty Canadian Corn Act, a piece of as one-sided and dishonest legislation as can well be imagined. Otherwise we find the sliding scale of 1842 as much the "parent of uncertainty" as ever; and this "uncertainty" would produce its natural fruit, in "scarcity and dearness," were they not prevented by a power which acts of Parliament cannot control, however much legislators may endeavour to coerce it to their purposes.

The busy activity which now prevails throughout the various manufacturing districts may cause a temporary forgetfulness of evils which exist only in the past or the future. But this period of diminished political excitement will not outlast the first slight interruption of commercial prosperity. The least check will throw all classes back with redoubled force into the movement for Free Trade.

FREE TRADE AND THE SHIPPING INTEREST.

The following letter on the above important subject is from the pen of Mr. Brown, of Liverpool:—

"Richmond-hill, Liverpool, July 29, 1844.

"MY DEAR SIR,—It was not my intention that the letter which I have written to our mutual friend, Mr. Johnson, on the 20th instant, which was the substance of a previous conversation with him, and shown to you, should find its way to the press; but, as you seemed to fear there might be some error in my figures, I thought it prudent to submit it to the Editor of the *Economist* (one of the best papers published for statistical facts), to be sure of their accuracy, as they in part were derived from his statements, intending, if I found them as I believed them to be, and as they are, quite true, again to bring them under your notice and that of my other ship-owning friends, from whom I expected the same frank answer as from Mr. Johnson—'Those statements are unanswerable.' But the editor seems to have misunderstood my wishes, and published my letter, and he has further stated how we stand in competition with the ships of those countries trading with us under our Reciprocity Act, which gives the most triumphant answer to those who think that we are the sufferers by the relaxation of our navigation laws. You will see at once that we are very great gainers, and you will probably recollect that in 1820 the Prussian Minister gave this Government to understand that they must place countervailing tonnage duties on British ships entering their ports, unless we removed them from Prussian vessels entering ours, and that our Government made use of every argument they could to retain the advantages we possessed, but found, unless we gave way, we must commence a war of tariffs with them, and with the certainty of injuring, if not annihilating, the direct shipping intercourse between us.

"From the statement I now enclose, you will see that there is no question but that our Government acted with sound discretion in meeting the wishes of Prussia; for under a perfect freedom of intercourse between the two countries, or with corresponding countervailing duties, it does not deprive either country of any advantages they may have in being able to build and sail their vessels cheaper than the other. If the advantage is on their side, we have no means of counteracting it; if on ours, neither have they; and any attempt to countervail may be met by the other side retaliating. Under these circumstances the shipowners, not only for their own interest, but for the benefit of their country, ought to stand in the first rank as Free-Traders. The freer our intercourse the more extended our commerce, and the more ships will be wanted. Nor do all the advantages of a more extended intercourse with other nations rest with the shipowners alone, for the larger our imports the more equivalents foreigners must take from us, directly or indirectly; therefore the document to which you called my attention, in the *Mail* of the 20th instant, gives an incorrect view of our present position with respect to the shipping interest. The returns are not brought down late enough, and there is nothing to show the extent of our indirect exports to other countries. If Government prohibit imports, or try to keep them out by high duties, the smuggler interposes, and, to a certain extent, forces a trade; and the public, in many cases, from the highest to the lowest, sympathise with him, if they think our laws unjust or too stringent. At this moment a large smuggling trade is carried on between France and England, on which you can effect regular insurance. Fortunately the unwise Methuen treaty, which has kept us in trammels to Portugal for more than a century, is at an end, and that enables us to extend a more liberal policy to other wine-growing countries, and which has already benefited us much. It is well known that our miscalled protective policy forced the German League into existence; and, if you will refer to Mr. Addington's correspondence with Mr. Canning, you will find the same cause produced the same desire in the United States to do without us; and look at our position at this moment with the Brazils. My fears are, if we persist in these war-in-disguise measures, this trial of skill, who can do each other most harm, we shall find every day we have less hold on these markets. In 1805, 1806, and 1807, about one-third of our exports were to the United States; and, although their population is trebled, our exports are now little more than one-half of what they then were, and not one-seventh of our whole exports. Monopoly interests are, unfortunately, at present too strong, both in England and the United States, to the injury of both countries; but I trust and hope that, ere long, these subjects will be better understood, and that we will not embarrass ourselves with any more commercial treaties, but steadily pursue our own interest, without reference to the folly of other nations.

"I am opposed to all retaliatory measures: the greater the amount of imports the better. Let us buy as cheaply as we can: I am quite sure that equivalents, to the benefit of our industrial classes, must be taken from us through one channel or another.

"I am afraid you will think my letter too long; but the vital importance of the subject to all of us must be my excuse.

"I remain, yours truly,

"WM. BROWN.

"Robert S. Henderson, Esq."

THE LEAGUE.

The leading weekly organ of the Anti-Corn-Law League has an article entitled, "The League and its Advisers"—which will be found in another column of the *Sun* of this day—wherein the *Chronicle* and one or two other journals are taken to task for having presumed to offer advice unsolicited to this great national confederacy, and represented it as being in a declining state of health. "The League is not convinced," says our weekly contemporary, "by such testimony as has been offered, of its own failing strength and energy. We believe ourselves to be as vigorous as ever, and moving onwards with firm and steady pace to the accomplishment of our object." The League is right. It is as vigorous as ever, and the great principle which it espouses is as influential as ever, if not more so. True, we have no more weekly Covent-garden meetings, but the good spirit is still actively at work; and addresses, tracts, and lectures are everywhere contributing to enlighten the public mind. Were the object which the League professes to have in view a mere Utopian theory, like Mr. Owen's social system, it might possibly, when once the novelty was at an end, sink into insignificance; but the principles which it advocates are practical and business-like, and every way fitted to meet the exigencies of the day; consequently there is no more likelihood of its declining in public estimation, than there is of Sir R. Peel becoming a member of Mr. O'Connell's Repeal Association, or of Sir J. Graham holding in his hand a private letter of M. Mazzini, without a wish to open it. In truth, the League is, to all intents and purposes, a national confederacy. It gives expression to the one great want of this unrivalled commercial country. It walks side by side with the age, of whose wishes it is the recognised interpreter; and it is repudiated, and its vast moral influence denied, by none but the selfish, ignorant, short-sighted partisans of monopoly—an anti-national class, whose power is rapidly on the decrease, and whose theories must ere long be gathered to the extinct crotchets of other days. Already has the League been acknowledged by a potent adversary to be a "great fact," and never, whilst England continues to be the first commercial country in the world, can it cease to be otherwise. We can scarcely imagine any concurrence of public events but such as must tend to keep it steadily on the increase, for it represents the principle of common sense—a principle which, from its very nature, is as indestructible as the air we breathe—as the soul that informs us. But it is objected to the League, forsooth, that it will not enlist under the banners of Whiggery—will not accept of Lord John Russell as a Commander-in-Chief—but will pursue an independent course of action, irrespective of Whig and Tory parties! And why should it not be so? Why should it allow either a Russell or a Peel to clap a muzzle on its mouth—to dictate to it how it shall vote—how far it shall go—what it shall say, and what it shall not say, in Parliament? Its great excellence in the public eye is its independence—its entire freedom of thought and action; and were it once to forfeit this by an injudicious submission to either of the two contending political parties, from that moment it would cease to be a Power in the country. The duty of the League is so obvious that is impossible to misapprehend or misintrepret it. It has nothing to do with Whigs or Tories, but is bound to keep solely in view the great—the paramount question of Free Trade. To this momentous consideration every other must be held subordinate; and that statesman—no matter to what party he belongs—must be deemed most worthy of the support of the League who will do the most to emancipate commerce from the galling shackles with which she has so long been manacled.—*Sun of Monday.*

THE TORY PRESS AND THE "LEAGUE."

(From the *Manchester Guardian.*)

A fortnight ago, the *Morning Herald* announced to its readers, for the twentieth time since the alteration of the sliding scale, that, beyond all doubt, the Anti-Corn-Law League was now at last fairly put down by the successful working of Sir Robert Peel's Free-Trade policy; and the whole of the Ministerial journals throughout the kingdom re-echoed the welcome intelligence with the most unbounded demonstrations of joy. For several days, hardly a Tory newspaper appeared in which the farmers were not congratulated on their signal escape from so dangerous an enemy; and no small amount of gratitude was said to be due from them to the Premier, for his indefatigable exertions in their behalf. All at once, however, it seems to have been found out by some of the more astute persons at the head of affairs, that, if the Anti-Corn-Law League is to be considered as defunct, the discontented agriculturists may possibly begin to agitate the question themselves, after a fashion almost as unpleasant as that adopted by Messrs. Cobden and Bright. It was foreseen that landlords would very soon be asked, at this critical season, how farmers can be expected to pay their rents, when wheat is nearly 10s. per quarter below what they expected to obtain under Sir Robert Peel's Corn Bill. Week after week have they been assured by eloquent orators at agricultural protection meetings, that, "though Free Trade were not to reduce the average price of wheat more than 8s. a quarter, all that would [illegible]

be annihilated;" so that no one can feel surprised at their expecting a considerable reduction of rent, when wheat has fallen 10s. below what the "farmers' friends" call "a remunerating price." Last year, in the week ending August 12th, the average price of wheat was 61s. 2d. per quarter: this year, in the corresponding week of August, the average price of wheat, as we learn from the *London Gazette*, is only 48s. 10d. Last year the averages *rose* 13s. a quarter during the two months immediately preceding harvest: this year the averages have, within the same period, *fallen* 7s. a quarter; and, should the weather become favourable, we have no doubt that prices will be considerably lower than they are at present. With such facts staring them in the face, it is rather too bad that the farmers, many of whom have been ruined by these fluctuations, should be called upon to express their thankfulness to Sir Robert Peel for his alteration of the sliding scale.

Seeing, then, that it would be exceedingly dangerous, during the parliamentary recess, to let the farmers begin to discuss the policy of their "friends" in the Cabinet, it has been deemed advisable to provide some other exciting topic, which may prevent them from disturbing Ministers in their present retirement from the fatiguing duties of office. With this view, the *Morning Herald* has been induced, "by particular desire," no doubt, to resuscitate the Anti-Corn-Law League once more; and accordingly we find, from an article on Friday, that, so far from the "League" having quietly expired, it is still considered by the *Herald* as a very dangerous association, against which all well-disposed persons ought to agitate unceasingly. Of course, the sensible portion of the agriculturists will not fail to comprehend the secret springs by which this sudden change in the tactics of the Ministerial press has been produced, and must heartily despise such contemptible manœuvring.

In the article in the *Herald* to which we refer, the agriculturists are much lauded for having "refused to carry a retaliatory warfare into the much-exposed camp of the manufacturers," which is probably quite just as regards the farmers, but not so with relation to that portion of the landowners who have taken the Dukes of Buckingham and Richmond as their leaders. That party and their organs have all along endeavoured to sow dissension between the manufacturing operatives and their employers, for the obvious purpose of diverting attention from the Corn-Law question; and, at a time when trade was depressed and employment scarce, they and their fellow-agitators of the Chartist press were tolerably successful. Now, however, when provisions are cheap, the demand for hands increasing, and wages, in some instances, thirty per cent. higher than they were twelve months ago, it would be utterly impossible for Richard Oastler and Feargus O'Connor, though backed by all the influence which the *Standard* and the *Morning Herald* can give them, to obtain the same power over the working classes which they had a few years ago. Of all this altered state of things the *Herald* appears to be entirely ignorant, or it would never have wound up its article on the League by the following appeal to the fears of the manufacturers:—

"Armed as orators like Messrs. O'Connor and M'Grath now are, with the convincing facts and powerful arguments collected and circulated by the friends of protection and the press, they are more than equal to the Cobdens and the Brights, in popular debate on the question; whilst by the *tu-quoque* style in which they retort on the League manufacturers the charges of ill-treatment of their operatives which the former make against the agriculturists, they cannot fail to excite feelings of rancour and animosity which must be pregnant with the worst and most dangerous consequences. Over such men the League can exercise no restraint; and they may depend upon it that their inflammatory tactics will, by a just retribution be turned against them. Well do they know, that the manufacturing Leaguers are reposing on a charged mine: let them beware, lest, in bearing the brand of discord through the country, a stray spark should ensure their own destruction."

The obvious moral of all this is, that the Ministerial organ is afraid lest Mr. Cobden and his friends should take advantage of the present favourable opportunity for discussing the merits of the sliding scale in the agricultural districts; and therefore it tries to frighten them by a threat that the formidable artillery of "Messrs. O'Connor and M'Grath," armed with all the incendiary arguments furnished by the Tory press, is ready to be let loose upon the manufacturing population. The only feelings which such threats as these could possibly excite among the friends of Free Trade, are those of contempt for the men who make use of them. As for the farmers, to whom the *Herald* ought more especially to direct its attention, we hardly think they will again allow their attention to be diverted from the rent question, as it was last autumn, by any such devices. Killing the League one day in order to please them, and then reviving it next day more formidable than ever in order to frighten them, is rather too much even for tenants-at-will to swallow.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Political Economy of Young England.—There are some moral philosophers who set down one large class of mankind as rogues and another as fools. There live, move, and have their being not a few, certainly, who belong to each of those classes; but being rather of the eclectic school ourselves, we are led to think that there are not a few who may be set down as half-and-half in this respect. To what particular class of all the three those gentlemen known as Young England belong we are at a loss positively to say. Sometimes we have thought they had something better than any of the attributes here indicated about them; and what follows, supposing the gentlemen named to be really in earnest, must go some way to redeem the party from being thought to harbour any deep design against the welfare of the state, though this is brought about rather at the expense of what judgment they have heretofore been thought to have. In the debate on Friday night last week, in the House of Commons, when things were drawing to a close,—"Mr. Cochrane said the right hon. baronet (Sir R. Peel) had made one omission in his speech, inasmuch as he had not held out to them any hope of any further alteration in the poor law. He regretted also that they knew not whether anything more was intended to be done with reference to the allotment system, which had been found to work so beneficially in Scotland. He would take the opportunity of stating that it had been his intention to bring in a *bill to regulate the wages of labour, which he believed would be of great importance to the working classes*, but he was compelled to defer it till the next session."—*So reported in all the Morning papers.* "A bill to regulate the wages of labour" to be sure! And why not another to regulate the number of coats a man must wear, the number and sort of buttons he shall have on it, &c. &c. Have the bills to regulate the price of food been so successful that that system of legislation must needs be extended? What wouldst thou think, O Mr. Cochrane, of letting bread come down to its natural price instead of attempting to raise wages, which are beyond the reach of legislation? The mountain will not come to Mahomet—the alternative is notorious.—"Would be of very great importance to the working classes." Very! "But he was compelled to defer it till next session." What a pity!!!—*Economist.*

Bolton and its Factories.—If we next enlarge the radius of our visit, and pass from town to town of the "cotton district," we shall have the means more and more of appreciating the extent to which the system is carried. Say that we proceed north-westward, to Bolton, a distance of about ten miles. Here we come to a town which, in connexion with the history of the cotton manufacture, is second only to Manchester, and in some respects even takes precedence of it. Bolton was once the centre of the cotton district as Manchester now is, and was noted for its textile fabrics many centuries ago. Leland, writing in 1552, says:—"Bolton upon Moore Market stondith most by cottons, and coarse yarne. Divers villages in the Moors about Bolton doe make cottons." It is now known, however, that the goods which obtained the name of "cottons" in those times were really a kind of woollen, and that the first undoubted evidence we have of the real cotton manufacture in England dates back to the year 1661 only, just above two centuries ago. Bolton, in bygone times, had its warehouses, where dealers were wont to come from all the surrounding towns—a system which has been superseded by the concentration of the wholesale dealings at Manchester; but Bolton still holds its rank as one of the most important towns of the series. There were in 1838 more than seventy cotton factories in Bolton parish, and there are more than twenty large bleachgrounds within five miles of Bolton. There is a pleasant walk of three or four miles northward from Bolton, which we will notice because it enables us to show that some of the factories, situated out of the dense mass at Manchester, are more favourably circumstanced than many readers are apt to suppose. In walking all the road from Bolton to Turton, which is a thoroughly open and country district, we arrive at a spot where a gentle range of hills separates the road from a valley through which a small river flows. On one of these eminences is a pretty church, recently built; and just beyond it is a small village of cottages, mostly new, almost wholly occupied by persons employed in a neighbouring cotton factory. The factory is in the valley just spoken of, and the house of one of the proprietors is on a gentle eminence between it and the village. There is a school house or room, supported partly by the proprietors of the factory; and there are chapels in the village for the principal denominations of Christian sects. The factory is bounded on every side by green fields, and, being situated on the banks of the little stream, receives its motive power from thence by means of a magnificent water-wheel, sixty feet in diameter, the largest, or nearly the largest, in the kingdom. The employers and the employed live near each other, and all are located in a spot where there are as many green fields and as much blue sky, as pure rivulets and as pure air, as if no such place as a factory were near. * * * * * * * Bolton and Bury, besides their present rank as manufacturing towns, have contributed their full share, and more than their share, to the inventions by which the manufacture has been enabled to attain its present vast extent. It was to John Kay, of Bury, that the weavers are indebted for the "fly-shuttle," by which the weft-thread is thrown across the warp with much more facility than by the old method. It was to his son, Robert Kay, also of Bury, that we owe an ingenious contrivance by which three or four different coloured threads can be used in weaving with great facility. It was Whitehead, of Bury, who introduced the plan of "piecening," by which much time is saved in spinning cotton. It was a Bolton barber, Richard Arkwright, who was mainly instrumental in placing the manufacture in its present position, and the wealth of whose son has recently so astonished the world. It was Crompton, of Bolton, who invented the "spinning mule," and whose house is still shown near that town [at "Hall i'th' Wood," Tong], in which he used to work secretly in his garret, until inquisitive persons, by mounting ladders to look in at his window, discovered the secret of his machine, and robbed him of the fruit. It was also in this immediate neighbourhood that Hargreaves, the inventor of the "spinning-jenny," endeavoured to introduce his machine, and experienced the fate which so often attends inventors, viz., persecution.—*The Textile Manufactures of Great Britain, by George Dodd.*

Reports of the Factory Inspectors.—The half-yearly Reports of the Factory Inspectors give evidence throughout of great activity in every branch of manufactures except flax-spinning. Mr. Horner says on the 1st of May:—"The cotton-trade is in a state of great activity; new mills are building, others long unoccupied have been taken by new tenants; and in some places it is difficult to find workers. There is also a much more prosperous state in the woollen mills. It is otherwise in the flax-spinning mills; there we have great complaints of bad trade; some are working less than twelve hours a day, and some are entirely stopped." And again on the 12th of July he says:—"There is great activity in the factories, especially in the cotton mills. In many places large additions have been made, both of buildings and machinery, to existing mills; and several entirely new mills have been built, and are now in progress. I not only do not hear of any persons being out of employment, but that in some places hands are scarce. One mill-occupier, who employs a large number of hand-loom weavers, has stated that he is paying them fully 30 per cent. more than he did twelve months ago, and that this advance is general for most descriptions of work." Mr. Saunders says in his report of the 10th April:—"The state of trade continues much as at the period of my last report, except that there has been more activity in the woollen branch." Mr. Stuart says, writing on the 1st April:—"The cotton factories in this country are, with the most trifling exceptions, all at work, and for the period authorized by law for the employment of young persons, but not one new cotton factory, either at Glasgow or in this district, so far as I have observed or can learn, is in course of being erected." Mr. Howell, on the 30th June, reports:—"In the quarter just ended the greatest activity has prevailed in the several branches of manufacture." The activity of trade has tempted a considerable number of mill-owners to work beyond the legal hours. Mr. Saunders reports a satisfactory progress in the voluntary adoption of the half-time system at Halifax. He also states that the factory children in the two schools for them at Bradford have increased from 677 to 745. Mr. Stuart bears a very striking testimony to the healthiness of working in *woollen* mills, and quotes a medical testimony to the effect that it had *cured* a young man, a son of the chief magistrate of Selkirk, and that "children employed in these works are more healthy than other children who are kept at home without following any employment."—*Leeds Mercury.*

Mehemet Ali.—The Pacha of Egypt is altogether an extraordinary character. He is well versed in the politics of Europe, and far too strong for the diplomacy of the Porte. History shows of what diversified and illimitable productiveness Egypt is capable under a wise legislative development. We leave our readers to augur future results, when we state that the Pacha contrived to possess himself of the last and greatest improvements of our manufacturing industry. He employed steam-engines and presses; he established colleges and schools of mutual instruction. He founded his own cannon; made his own gunpowder; and, not long since, imported 100,000 stand of arms from Birmingham into Egypt. He promoted steam communication; purchased steam vessels, and commenced the Suez Railroad. He enjoyed the advantage of selecting from all the superb inventions of modern engineers, French and English. If this country be admitted to have been raised to its great commercial eminence by the great mechanics of the last century,—Arkwright, Bolton, Watt, and others,—Egypt, through Mehemet Ali, comes in for a large share of the advantage. She was of old the granary of the world, as well as the *entrepôt of East Indian produce*; she is about to become so again; and it is with a soil of the richest and cheapest abundance in the production of grain that she begins her career as a manufacturing nation, at a time when the exclusion of corn is producing a baneful operation on our manufacturers. The progress she has made through the Pacha indicates what may be expected for the future. Triple the quantity of cotton was last year imported into Liverpool from Egypt. It would thus be curious, if the growth and manufacture of cottons, which, in old times, in conjunction with her granaries, enabled an Egyptian King, if we are to believe Herodotus, to collect private treasures to the amount of the English National Debt, should again supply one of the staple commodities of Egypt. Mehemet's last act was like Napoleon, to visit the commenced canal at Suez, and predict that its possessor would one day hold the keys of the commerce and governorship of the world.—*Cambridge Advertiser.*

Food and Wages.—It is worthy of remark that the statement in the letters we published lately from Australia, namely, that labour was very dear in that colony, and food very cheap, furnishes another proof of the fallacy of that doctrine of the monopolists that the cry for low-priced food is merely an indication of the manufacturer's desire to pay only low wages, and that the one must necessarily lead to the other. The people are no longer to be deceived by such a fallacy, nor by the reference, in support of it, to the wretched state of Polish serfs surrounded by cheap food. It is clearly seen, wherever civilization and personal independence prevail, to such an extent that skilled labour is called into action for the supply of the comforts and elegancies of life, that, instead of low price of food tending to reduce wages, it has precisely and necessarily a contrary effect. That which raises wages is an unusual demand for labour; and that which causes the unusual demand for labour is the cheapness of food, caused by its abundance, whether it be produced on our own soil or imported from other countries. This we have frequently shown, but it is worth reiteration, and ought to be impressed upon the operative classes. The moment the first want of a family, which is food, is supplied, any surplus of wages remaining in hand is devoted to the secondary wants, clothing and shelter; when these are obtained, a third circle of wants claim attention, such as furniture, &c.; beyond these are education, luxuries, &c. The demand for the second and third series of wants sets the mills in motion, and raises a clatter in the artisans' workshops. The fact is, the people become immediately busy in supplying each other with a thousand things which, when food is dear, cannot be had at all—while with cheap provisions the people are enabled to become the people's best customers. An intelligent friend puts the case as to the present manufacturing prosperity in this way:—

A few years ago

The people received, in low wages	£100
Cost of their dear food	70
Leaving for clothing, &c. &c.	—30

Consequence—dull times.

Present Date.

The people are receiving in higher wages, and for more hands	£150
Cost of cheaper food to more people	60
Leaving now, for clothing, &c.	—90

Consequence—brisk trade.

The latter amount being thrice the former, fully explains why it is that we have now a period of prosperity; and it must be borne in mind that it is not owing to there being a new gown or two seen in a village church—a rare sight, even in dear bread times, compared with the evidences of expenditure among the masses of the more active population of our great towns. The mistake has long been seen through, that it is necessary to favour the landed interest by a system of protection and high prices for farm produce, in order that "lords and ladies gay" may be better customers to the industrious classes. It is found that the wear and tear of clothing in rural districts is always trifling; that even farmers and farm-labourers are not the recipients of the excess in the price of food; that dear corn and high rents may indeed increase the number of unproductive servants, swelling the retinues of our aristocracy, and that a few favoured tradesmen may be benefited by splendid expenditure; but the prosperity of *all* classes (the agricultural included,) will be best promoted by a policy which shall ensure to the whole people cheap provisions, leaving them the power of being good customers to each other for all the comforts which render life something more than a mere existence.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, August 21, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

		£	s.	d.
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	George Robinson, surgeon, High-street ..	3	0	0
	A Friend	1	1	0
	Thomas Allanson, Northumberland-street ..	0	10	6
	P. Barratt	0	0	3
Newcastle-on-Tyne, 7th Remit.	Samuel Donkin, farmer, Bywell, Northumberland	1	1	0
	No Monopoly in Corn or Steam Navigation	2	2	0
	John Allen, Felling, near Gateshead ..	1	0	0
	John Ings, Quayside	1	1	0
	A Free Trader	0	5	0
	A Friend to Free Trade in the North-road	5	0	0
	J. H. Ball, Herne Hill, Camberwell	2	2	0
	Anonymous	2	2	0
	George and Joseph Deane, King William-street, City	2	0	0
	J. Duncan and Co., Watling-street	2	0	0
	Henry Wood, Red Lion-court, do.	2	0	0
	B. D. Cousins, 18, Duke-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields	2	0	0
	George Hayward, Queenhithe	1	0	0
	Henry L. Keeling, Monument-yard	1	0	0
	R. and J. Sykes, Bread-street-hill	1	0	0
	Thomas Jones, 6, King's Bench-walk, Temple ..	1	1	0
	R. and G. Fagg, Bell and Crown, Holborn (2nd subscription)	1	0	0
	T. S., jun.	1	1	0
	William Lowe, 84, Holborn-hill (2nd subscription) ..	1	0	0
	John Maw Darton, 58, do.	1	0	0
	James Simpson, 53, Skinner-street, Snow-hill ..	1	1	0
	John Simpson, do., do. ..	1	1	0
	John Thurston, Catherine-street, Strand	1	0	0
	F. Stokes, 175, Strand	1	0	0
	William Walker, 5, Farringdon-street	1	0	0
	G. Neal, 7, Fleet-lane	1	0	0
	William Banks, 90, Holborn-hill	0	2	6
	An Opposer of Monopoly	0	10	0
	J. W. Sherriff, 41, Bow-lane	0	10	6
	James Baxter, 8, do.	0	2	6
	W. Murley, Bow Churchyard	0	2	6
	Mr. Seaton, Tower Royal	0	2	6
	Aetle, Brothers, Cloak-lane	0	10	0
	Thomas Norman, Peerless-row, City-road	0	2	6
	John Taylor, 199, Thames-street	0	2	6
	Thomas Allman, 42, Holborn-hill	0	10	0
	Samuel Barnard, 38, do.	0	5	0
	Saml. and H. Pryor, 43, do.	0	10	0
	William Routledge, 30, Bridge-road, Lambeth ..	0	6	6
	W. May, Bread-street	0	10	0
	W. Rankin, 94, Cheapside	0	5	0
	W. R. Bailey, 34, Friday-street	0	2	6
	George H. and James Spencer, 5, Pilgrim-street, Ludgate-hill	0	10	0
	Wm. Hy. Main, 34, Water-lane, Blackfriars	0	5	0
	Wm. Harrop, 3, Skinner-street, Snow-hill	0	10	0
	John Chappell, 56, do., do.	0	10	0
	Pontifex, Jacklin, and Pontifex, 55, Shoe-lane ..	0	10	0
	R. L. Jenks, Bread-street	0	5	0
	Ormerod Taylor, 17, Darlington-place, Southwark-bridge-road	0	2	6
	Henry Taylor, 10, St. George's-row, Southwark ..	0	2	6
	Thomas Moore, Grove-place, Brompton	0	10	0
	William Snoswell, 1, Farringdon-street	0	2	6
	George Pyner Adnum, 32, do.	0	2	6
	Ebenezer Greig, 27, do.	0	5	0
	Richard Crossley, 147, Holborn	0	2	6
	G. Stanbury, 4, Dean-street, Fetter-lane	0	5	0
	A Friend, Castle-street, Holborn	0	2	6
	J. Maddock, Fleet-lane	0	2	6
	W. Hampson, Old Bailey	1	1	0
	R. Kinder, Green Arbour-court, do.	1	1	0
	Henry Beckwith, 58, Skinner-street, Snowhill ..	1	0	0
	Mr. Rowe, 32, Alfred-street, Bedford square	1	0	0
	Edward Edwards, 33, Lawrence-lane (1st monthly subscription)	0	2	6
	J. Brydie, 4, Farringdon-street	0	2	6
	George Hayne, 20, Long-lane, Smithfield	0	5	0
	James Cowley, 48, do., do.	0	2	6
	Mr. Madden, 56, do., do.	0	2	6
	G. Whitford, Smithfield-bars	0	5	0
	Joseph Turner, 1, Farringdon-street	0	2	6
	John Sharpe, Farringdon Works, Farringdon-street	0	5	0
	R. G. Paget, West Smithfield	1	0	0
	Walter Kerr, 3, Peter's-court, St. Martin's-lane ..	0	5	0
	Edward Mitchell, 18, Cloth-fair	0	2	6
	William Burchett, 31, Holborn-hill	0	5	0
	Samuel Ellis, 48, Skinner-street, Snow-hill	0	5	0
	J. Vincent, Little St. Thomas Apostle	0	4	0
	George Smith, 24, Duke-street, Smithfield	0	2	6
	Joseph Norris, Middle-street, Cloth-fair	0	2	6
	Mr. Williams, West Smithfield	0	5	0
	Thomas Gill, do.	0	5	0
	Small subscriptions	1	16	6

ERRATUM.

In LEAGUE No. 46, *for* James Rider, White Hill-lane, Bristol, *read* James Rider, Mitchell-lane, Bristol.

SUGAR DUTIES.—The effect of the reduction of the sugar duties is at once apparent, viz., a reduction in price equivalent to the difference between the present differential duties, and the former difference in price, of foreign and colonial sugar in bond—corrected by the tendency of the alteration to raise prices. Now, as this former difference in price was 17s., and the present preferential duty is 10s. 6d., the price should have fallen 6s. 6d. per cwt.; but as British demand is one-third of that of the whole of Europe, it is evident that prices generally must be affected by that contingency—hence the effect of the measure is to reduce prices 4s. 4d. per cwt. This circumstance must also be borne in mind by dealers when operating.—*London Commercial Record.*

WOOL.—The rearing of sheep is becoming quite extensive in Illinois. At St. Louis, on the 29th ult., 30 bales of wool were received from the prairies of Illinois. The *Washington Reporter* states:—"The wool-clip of this country has been large, and the market unusually brisk for some weeks past; never have we witnessed greater excitement on the part of both the buyers and sellers. The crop of this county alone for the present season will reach at least 800,000 pounds, and may possibly exceed that amount. The whole of the crop has been readily taken up by purchasers in the county and Pittsburg, at an advance of from 35 to 40 per cent. over the prices of last year."—*American paper.*

POLITICAL ECONOMY, AS TAUGHT BY THE *POST* ON THE "LANKASTER"-*IAN* PLAN.

Within a village once their dwelt
A shopman, who by retail dealt
In various kinds of useful stuff,
As bread, tobacco, sugar, snuff;
And, sad to tell, this luckless wight,
The simple truth I merely write,
One day was dragg'd before the great
Catchbull the justice, who in state,
With knitted brows and pompous air,
Sat in the magisterial-chair.
Now, when the case had been preferred,
And facts both pro and con were heard,
Then Catchbull, having cleared his throat
With deep a-hem! portentous note!
Said, "Fellow, what is this I hear?
The case against you seems quite clear;
Your scales are false—nay, there's the lead;
And thus, in weighing out your bread,
You've wronged the poor. Unfeeling wretch!
When widows lone have come to fetch
A scanty bit with hard-earned pelf,
You've kept a portion for yourself.
From hungry orphans, wasted, pale,
Unmindful of their piteous wail,
You've kept a morsel 'neath your claw,
To stuff your own insatiate maw.
Speak, sirrah! say what vain pretence
You now can urge in your defence."
The court was silent, every eye
Turned to the culprit, whose reply
Ran thus: "If I have been to blame,
Others must share my guilt and shame;
Your worship's conduct I have sought
To copy strictly as I ought;
You're deeply versed in learned lore,
At Oxford studied; and, what's more,
A senator, and justice too;
Whom should I copy if not you?"
The squire replied, with low'ring brow,
"Why, fellow, what is this? How now!
'Tis certain you're of sense bereft,
Would you accuse me here of—theft?"
"Attend, your worship, I'll unfold
The simple truth—its briefly told:
A while ago, as fate decreed,
To visit London I had need,
And my ambition 'twas, when there,
To see the House of Commons, where
'Tis said that justice sits in state,
And wisdom guides the stern debate.
I saw the Speaker in his chair,
With flowing wig and sapient air;
And also well remember that
Your worship on his right hand sat:
I heard a member, much the same
As you now do, with force declaim
Against restricting people's bread:
You heard—but hooted all he said.
Like you, he spoke of widows' tears—
You answered in 'ironic cheers;'
He told of orphans and their woe—
You cried out lustily, 'Oh, oh!'
Of hungry artisans he told,
And urged their claims in language bold;
And then the House, to my surprise,
Gave utterance to all kinds of noise;
And to the life you mimicked sounds
We hear from donkeys, geese, and hounds.
The speech being ended you began,
And in effect your words thus ran:—
'That men should be allowed to eat
Exactly that amount of wheat
Which they by honest toil could earn
(For honest toil a fair return),
Was truly in the *abstract* right,
This you at once conceded—quite;
But then it was not always tact,
On abstract honest rules to act:
In *theory* they were well enough,
To *practise* them was silly stuff;
Besides, from our past laws 'twas seen,
From immemorial time t'had been
A constant custom with the state
On other rules to legislate,
And for your part you felt quite sure
'Twould fare but badly with the poor,
If 'twere allowed t'increase the store
Of food from any foreign shore.'
Your worship, when I heard all this,
I thought it might not be amiss
To practise in my own small sphere
The doctrines by the 'House' held dear;
For if 'twere true as there declared,
More food would by each one be shared,
Provided you, by 'law of land,'
Reduced the total stock on hand,
Why, then, I thought the rule would hold
In every single loaf I sold:
And thus, th' amount of bread reduced
Into each family introduced,
Each separate member would have more
Than he had luck to get before.
My wife, its true, protested strong;
She spoke of justice—said twas wrong.
I, like your worship, met her flat
With crowing, barking, and all that;
But could not, like your worship, bray,
(You've quite a natural gift that way.)
Indeed, at once to end my tale,
Like you, I've used a 'sliding scale;'
And with—your worship, 'tis most true,
Precisely the same motive too."

DEMOLITION OF MANUFACTORIES.—According to the *Standard*:—"England would be as great and powerful, and all useful Englishmen would be as rich as they are, though one ruin should engulph all the manufacturing towns and districts of Great Britain." According to the *Northern Star*:—"Large cities are the curses of civilization! God made the country; man made the towns. Oh, for some Titus to pass a ploughshare over them! Oh, for some Cincinnatus to lead us back to nature and the plough!"

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following letter has been addressed by a highly respectable and influential merchant in the City, to Mr. Villiers:—

TO THE HON. C. P. VILLIERS, M.P., &c. &c.

August 7, 1844.

DEAR SIR,—In conformity with your request I take leave to address to you the following lines, which contain my ideas on *Free Trade*, and an outline of the statistical information which I have carefully gathered through the medium of my numerous and influential friends in the different parts of Germany, which have led me to believe that our commerce with that extensive country, which, with its dependencies, contains about *seventy millions* of inhabitants, would greatly and advantageously be increased if in this country the restrictive import duties on German produce were abolished. Our trade with the German states is at present more extensive than is generally supposed or known; but a glance at the statistical returns made to our Parliament, as well as to the statistical bureaus of the different states in Germany, will easily show that about 1-5th of our whole exports are shipped to Germany, and had that trade not been burdened by our Legislature with almost annihilating fetters and encumbrances, the same would have amounted to more than at present do our exports to all parts of the world.

We annually ship to Germany a considerable quantity of manufactured goods, which, with the exception of cotton twist, are principally disposed of in those north-western parts of Germany which have not yet joined the Prussian Customs Union, and which contain only about three millions and a half of inhabitants out of the seventy millions. The total amount of our annual exports to that country is, in round numbers, about £8,000,000 sterling, 3-8ths of which, or about £3,000,000, are for cotton twist and yarns, which mostly go into Prussia and the other states that form the Prussian Customs Union; and of the other £5,000,000 sterling, at least, £4,000,000 are consumed in the north-western parts of Germany above alluded to, which is considerably more than £1 per head. It is beyond a doubt that those countries would consume double the quantity of our manufactures if Great Britain would allow them to do so by accepting in pay the produce of their soil; and the remaining parts of Germany, containing sixty millions, the inhabitants of Austria, Prussia, and the other states that form the Prussian Customs Union, where, in consequence of the illiberal import duties imposed by Great Britain on German produce, British manufactures are almost excluded from their territory,—as soon as we opened our ports to receive the produce of their soil, they would in return be willing to purchase and consume a considerable quantity.

Many thousands of English merchants reside in the north-western part of Germany—in Hamburg alone more than 2000—for the purpose of either disposing of British goods or of buying German produce. All this numerous and wealthy body are favourable to the establishment of Free Trade between England and Germany, but hitherto no opportunity has been offered to them even to give their opinion on that subject; for it is a very difficult matter for single individuals to communicate their ideas about it to their brethren in the mother country; this difficulty would, however, cease to exist if an association for such a purpose was formed abroad, where all those interested in the commerce between the two great nations—the British and the German—could meet together and give their opinions, to be reported periodically to the main body at home.

I therefore consider that it would be productive of much good if the Anti-Corn-Law League would establish in Germany branch associations, which should have their principal seat in Hamburg, to be known under one designation, namely, the *British Free-Trade Association*, with branches of it to be established in all the principal seaport towns on the North Sea and Baltic.

The expenses attending such an undertaking would, even in the first instance, *not* be considerable, but after a little time it would more than support itself. It would be a great assistance to the Anti-Corn-Law League in this country, in furnishing it from week to week with such treasure of knowledge and experience as even the most daring monopolist would not venture to dispute.

The formation of such associations in the different parts of Germany is perfectly legal; they would, therefore, not only be secure against any opposition on the part of the respective Governments, but would most probably enjoy the sincerest patronage of the mercantile community, as well as of the landed aristocracy of the German states. I have some time since corresponded with several influential noblemen in the north of Germany, and Prussia, who were fellow-collegians of mine when I was a student at the University of Königsberg, and I have the promise of their utmost support. If, therefore, you would lay my present letter before the Council of the Anti-Corn-Law League, and it should meet with their approval, I shall be very happy to render all the assistance in my power in establishing the branches in Germany, where my personal acquaintance with many of the most important German and English merchants in the north of Germany, my intimacy with influential noblemen and landowners there, as well as my knowledge of the localities and of the German language, would prove of considerable assistance.

I have the honour to remain
Your most obedient and humble servant, —

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

PETER PLAYFAIR IN FRANCE.—No. VII.

Dunkirk, August 16, 1844.

Dunkirk, or Dunkerque, is the first large town in French Flanders on quitting Belgium. It is a seaport town, with upwards of 20,000 inhabitants, much superior in appearance to the towns of Calais, or Ostend. The streets are broad and well paved, the houses high, and the shops large and well stocked. Formerly the greater part of the commerce of Flanders and the north of France was transacted at Dunkirk; but Ostend, Boulogne, and Calais now share with Dunkirk, both the export and the import trade. The port of Dunkirk, however, is still used by a great number of vessels, chiefly employed in the coasting and Channel trade, and in the fisheries. The land about Dunkirk is in a high state of cultivation, and affords evidence of what the elaborate Flemish system is capable of effecting even with inferior soils. A[illegible]

coast the land is generally a light sandy loam; towards St. Omer it was originally all marsh, but is now reclaimed, and divided into fields and meadows by water, instead of hedges or other fences. The canals in this direction, form the roads, ditches the lanes, and barges and boats the waggons and carts, which convey produce to the market. The crops in general look well throughout the district; a good deal of the grain is cut but not carried, and the produce is generally satisfactory. The horse-bean is largely cultivated in this district, but more for the fatting of pigs, than as food for horses. The manner of harvesting the bean is, to pull them up by the roots, bind into sheaves, and then stack. The women are commonly employed in this and in all kinds of light field labour. They manage and harvest the flax and the cress, from the stalks of which they make brooms, after threshing out the seed for oil. The women also do the turnip-hoeing, and bind up the sheaves of corn as they are cut by the labourer, who almost invariably uses the scythe instead of the sickle for this purpose. The wages of the women average from 7½d. to 10d. per day at this season. The dress is coarser than that worn by our labourers' wives, consisting of a blue woollen petticoat or skirt, with a cotton body reaching to the waist and frilled round. The men wear coarse and stout woollen clothes, with a blouse or smock of blue cotton; but it is very rare in either sex to see the torn or ragged clothes which characterize so large a portion of those who earn their daily bread in England. The wages of the labourer at the present time average from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 8d. per diem.

The gardens and orchards in this part of the country are very numerous. In the latter there is a quantity of very fine fruit, and much care is evidently bestowed upon its cultivation. The *pippin d'or*, or golden pippin, is the finest apple; and the *cuisse-dame*, and the *poire de la pucelle*, are the finest varieties of the pear, and grow here in great abundance. The poppy is also largely cultivated for medicinal purposes. The women harvest the poppy by tying up in bundles, when dry, and afterwards stacking. The seed is collected in a piece of sackcloth spread out in the field, and the heads of two bundles are knocked together, and necessarily a good deal battered in the process. The seeds of the flax, which is much grown here, are threshed out with a solid piece of thick board fastened on to a handle; with this slab they beat the flax about on a barn-floor, or on some board or canvas laid down for the purpose in the fields, if the wind is not too high. Red clover is much grown, along with wheat and barley, for feeding sheep, and for dry fodder; and oats and vetches are sown together for the same purpose. They are cut just as the seed of each begins to get hard, and are stacked like hay when sufficiently dry.

Wednesday and Saturday are the market days in Dunkirk. The market begins at daybreak, and is well supplied with vegetables and fruit, poultry and eggs. Cauliflowers and large cabbages were quoted at 24 sous, or 1s. per dozen; gherkins, 1½d. per hundred; new potatoes, 6d. per 10 kilos, or 20 English pounds; fowls from 10d. to 15d.; ducks, 2s. 6d. per pair; turkies, half-a-crown each; pigeons, 5d. each; eggs, 36 a shilling. The samples of wheat were fine; and the business of the corn market was entirely conducted by the women. I afterwards met upon the road many of the farmers' wives and daughters going home with stocks of clothes, crockery ware, and other articles, some of them riding what is vulgarly called *a-straddle*, others in more feminine posture, but each in the position which convenience dictated; nor did the posture appear to excite the slightest attention from passers-by. The country is very open and unenclosed; and the farm-houses, instead of being distributed over the land as in England, are frequently collected into little hamlets or villages. The farm-houses are generally built in one fashion, with their gable-ends and backs fronting the road. The stable, cart-house, and barns are usually continuations of the same building; the walls, sometimes of stone, sometimes of brick, and quite as frequently of *pisè*, or rammed mud, and generally covered with a neat thatch. The interior of the farm-house in France is by no means so comfortable as the same description of building in England: the floor sometimes of wood, but more generally of brick, or earth; the furniture a few wooden chairs and deal table. The farms in this part of France are generally small, and the farmer is frequently proprietor of the land, and his own labourer. The farmer and his family rarely eat more than two meals a day, but both are substantial. Breakfast, consisting of soup, potatoes, meat, and milk. Dinner, with soup, rye-bread, vegetables, meat, and beer or wine. And it is remarkable that an able-bodied man is rarely seen begging. There are beggars to be seen in every village, but they invariably consist of afflicted persons, including the lame, the halt, and the blind. Even age is scarcely admitted as a plea for charity, unless it is so considerable as to prevent the applicant from labouring. Would to God that there were no able-bodied paupers in our own country!

Calais, August 20, 1844.

Calais is a town of great interest to the English traveller, from the circumstance of its having been so long in the possession of the English, and its having served for so great a period to admit the English armies into France during the chivalrous wars of the middle ages. There are now two towns, the Upper Town and the Lower Town, but the greater part of the population in the latter are English lacemakers, from Nottingham and its neighbourhood. Unable, from the high price of provisions, of house rent and taxes, to earn a living in England, they have carried the valuable fabric in which they excel, and the admirable machinery they employ, to a country where the necessaries of life are cheaper, where house rent is low, and taxes almost unknown, or, at least, unfelt, from being levied in an indirect way, and upon luxuries rather than necessaries. I do not speak of the municipal duties, but of state taxes, because the former are so small as not to be felt in estimating their amount. The Upper Town, which is enclosed by fortified walls, and is considered a fortress of the second class, contains about 9000 inhabitants. The Lower Town, which is of recent origin, is not fortified, and contains about 3000 inhabitants, more than 2000 of whom are English, engaged in the bobbin-net and lace trade. The wages of the English workmen, here, average from 35s. to 45s. per week; and if the workman is sober, industrious, and expert, he can earn more, and rarely, with proper economy, fails to make a provision for his family in the country of his adoption, which he could not hope to accomplish in that of his birth. That the trade is a profitable one, though not at this moment so brisk as formerly, is proved by the fact that steam-engines and factories continue to multiply, and that stock rarely remains on hand. The French Chambers have also just voted a sum of twenty millions of francs, for the construction of a railroad to Lille and Paris, which is to be completed in two years. The principal traffic from the coast to Paris is the passenger traffic; and large quantities of fish are also conveyed from Calais to the capital. To England the exports chiefly consist of fruit and eggs. Fifty-five millions of eggs are exported annually from this port to England.

The annual fair at Calais, which continues fifteen days, terminated last week. There is scarcely any perceptible difference between the fairs in France and our own country; and if a deaf man unacquainted with the two countries could have walked through the fair at Calais one day, and the fair at Camberwell another, he would not have known from anything he saw that he was in another country or among a different race of men. Perhaps the chief distinction is in the general order and decorum of the people in France, and the absence of all drunkenness. The amusements also terminate at an earlier hour, everybody returning to their homes at ten o'clock. A circumstance, creditable to the general honesty and propriety of the people was, that the keepers of the shows frequently waited till after the conclusion of the entertainment before receiving the admission money, and that no attempt was made to rush by, or evade its payment. One game* at the fair which deserves to be exposed for its brutality, and which seems strangely at variance with the characteristic humanity of the people, is to tie a cock with string to a stake, and pelt him at the distance of fifty yards with large stones. The owner of the bird receives a sous for every three stones that are thrown. If the stone strikes the bird and kills him, he belongs to the person throwing the stone; if he is not hit, or only slightly wounded, others take the place of the thrower until some marksman more successful than his competitors, succeeds in striking the wretched bird, and depriving him of life. I believe the authorities have endeavoured to put down this brutal game, but without success, so difficult is it to put an end to any national sport or amusement handed down from generation to generation, among a people. The French, as a nation, are highly susceptible to ridicule; let your contemporary, *Punch*, take cognizance of the case, and rescue the Gallic cock from the indignity and cruelty to which he is exposed, at the hands of "Young France." P. P.

Peel's Boast.—Sir Robert has been legislating since 1841: he boasts that the country is in a much better state as to its commerce and social condition,—which is true; but we cannot tell how much of the returning prosperity is the mere alternation of bad and good epochs, which has been seen in the history of the country with such fortuitous regularity. The same agencies exist that produced the distress and dangers of 1841; far larger causes than mismanagement of joint-stock banks were then at work, and those causes remain untouched, to be called into operation again. With all the fruitfulness of the session, what has it done to provide for the additional thousand people that every day in the year adds to the number of those that must be fed? Nothing. Peel's legislation has occurred in a brighter time, but it gives no guarantee that the future may not find us as unprepared for storms as in 1841,—unless the armed Chelsea pensioners are to be accounted adequate provision for such emergency.—*Spectator.*

England.—If true to herself, England might have been, and possibly still may be, a perfect garden—the centre of arts, wealth, and civilization—her land not permanently depressed by the repeal of the Corn Laws, but applied to new uses, cut up into small fields under the highest cultivation, into market and cottage gardens, yielding, under skilful culture, twice the returns now rendered. Her people, in a climate most favourable to the development of the human form, and the production of a noble race, busily employed in all the arts of life, using their boundless fields of coal and minerals in aid of the arts, and to minister to the necessities of distant lands, covering the sea with ships, bearing to her the produce, the materials, and the fabrics to which those lands are best adapted, and which alone they can offer in exchange. I would picture fourfold the population which now exists, living under equal laws, educated, contented and happy, drawing their bread, like Holland in her palmy days, from all the granaries of the earth, and bearing, with ease, the burdens which now press heavily on the lesser number.—*Two Months Abroad.*

Pay your Gamekeepers.—What is sport to country gentlemen, is death, it seems, or at least destruction, to the farmers. The *Brighton Herald*, of August 3, contains the following paragraph:—"We are glad to see that the Game Laws have excited a very general and strong feeling against them in all parts of the country. It is seen that the supply of hares is kept up, not for the landlord's *sport*, but for his *profit*—the hares being fed at the expense of the tenant-farmer. Five hares, it is well known, consume as much food as a sheep, and we know of an instance in this county where the damage done to one piece of wheat only is estimated at between £40 and £50." Hence, it would seem that game conducts itself pretty much like vermin. But "*Fiat justitia ruat cœlum*," a phrase which we translate for the benefit of country gentlemen, because it is to them we would address ourselves—"Do justice, though at the sacrifice of rent." Whatever your game may eat up, do not let it eat up your tenants. Game must be preserved, we know. True, Poaching must coexist with its preservation. The peasantry must consequently be demoralised, gamekeepers every now and then shot, a man or two hanged occasionally, and hundreds imprisoned and transported. All this is very lamentable; but it cannot be helped; and the man who would sacrifice the pleasures of the field to the welfare and happiness of his fellow-men, is unworthy the name of a British squire. But, good gentlemen, behave as such—Pay for the keep of your game—allow for it at your audits—why do you not actually sell the animals which your farmers feed? But perhaps you are right. Then why not, at once, turn your horses, cattle, swine, poultry, into your tenants' fields? You are the law-makers; pass an act for the abolition of pounds—all but your own. At least be consistent; at present you are doing both things and persons by halves.—*Punch.*

* The game of throwing at the cock is mentioned in Strutt's "Sports and Pastimes" as a favourite old English game. Happily, we are in advance of our neighbours in this instance; it has now ceased to be an English sport.—P. P.

REVIEW.

Knight's Weekly Volume. *Mind amongst the Spindles.* London: Charles Knight.

It was our earnest wish to have kept pace with Mr. Knight in our notices of his valuable series, because it promises to be a cheap library of instruction for the working classes, placed within their reach by the lowness of its price, and adapted to their use by its judicious selection of subjects. We wished every week to point out to manufacturers the fresh facilities afforded them for contributing to the intellectual recreation and improvement of those whom they employ at a cost too trifling to be felt; and we were not less eager to direct the attention of our operative readers to the ease with which they may procure all the advantages of a library for themselves and their children. We have selected one of these works for special notice on account of its peculiar interest to our operative readers. "Mind amongst the Spindles" is a selection from the "Lowell Offering," a work composed entirely of contributions from the factory girls of Lowell, and which at once refutes the absurd calumny, so studiously circulated from various corrupt and interested motives, that factory occupations have a tendency to deteriorate the moral and intellectual condition of the operatives. We cannot better introduce the work than by quoting a most interesting and valuable letter addressed by Miss Martineau to the editor, Mr. Knight.

"Tynemouth, May 20, 1844.

"My dear Friend,—Your interest in this Lowell book can scarcely equal mine, for I have seen the factory girls in their Lyceum, and have gone over the cotton-mills at Waltham, and made myself familiar on the spot with factory life in New England; so that in reading the 'Offering,' I saw again in my memory the street of houses built by the earnings of the girls, the church, which is their property, and the girls themselves trooping to the mill, with their healthy countenances, and their neat dress and quiet manners, resembling those of the tradesman class of our country.

"My visit to Lowell was merely for one day, in company with Mr. Emerson's party,—he (the pride and boast of New England as an author and philosopher) being engaged by the Lowell factory people to lecture to them, in a winter course of historical biography. Of course the lectures were delivered in the evening after the mills were closed. The girls were then working seventy hours a week, yet, as I looked at the large audience (and I attended more to them than to the lecture) I saw no sign of weariness among any of them. There they sat, row behind row, in their own Lyceum—a large hall, wainscoted with mahogany, the platform carpeted, well lighted, provided with a handsome table, desk, and seat, and adorned with portraits of a few worthies; and as they thus sat listening to their lecturer, all wakeful and interested, all well dressed and lady-like, I could not but feel my heart swell at the thought of what such a sight would be with us.

"The difference is not in rank, for these young people were all daughters of parents who earn their bread with their own hands. It is not in the amount of wages, however usual that supposition is, for they were then earning from one to three dollars a week, besides their food; the children one dollar (4s. 3d.), the second-rate workers two dollars, and the best three: the cost of their dress and necessary comforts being much above what the same class expend in this country. It is not in the amount of toil; for, as I have said, they worked seventy clear hours per week. The difference was in their superior culture. Their minds are kept fresh, and strong, and free, by knowledge and power of thought; and this is the reason why they are not worn and depressed under their labours. They begin with a poorer chance of health than our people; for the health of the New England women generally is not good, owing to circumstances of climate and other influences; but among the 3800 women and girls in the Lowell mills when I was there, the average of health was not lower than elsewhere; and the disease which was most mischievous was the same that proves most fatal over the whole country—consumption; while there were no complaints peculiar to mill life.

"At Waltham, where I saw the mills, and conversed with the people, I had an opportunity of observing the invigorating effects of mind in a life of labour. Twice the wages and half the toil would not have made the girls I saw happy and healthy, without that cultivation of mind which afforded them perpetual support, entertainment, and motive for activity. They were not highly educated, but they had pleasure in books and lectures, in correspondence with home; and had their minds so open to fresh ideas, as to be drawn off from thoughts of themselves and their own concerns. When at work they were amused with thinking over the last book they had read, or with planning the account they should write home of the last Sunday's sermon, or with singing over to themselves the song they meant to practise in the evening; and when evening came, nothing was heard of tired limbs and eagerness for bed; but, if it was summer, they sallied out, the moment tea was over, for a walk, and, if it was winter, to the lecture-room or to the ball-room for a dance, or they got an hour's practice at the piano, or wrote home, or shut themselves up with a new book. It was during the hours of work in the mill that the papers in the 'Offering' were meditated, and it was after work in the evenings that they were penned.

"There is, however, in the case of these girls, a stronger support, a more elastic spring of vigour and cheerfulness than even an active and cultivated understanding. The institution of factory labour has brought ease of heart to many, and to many occasion for noble and generous deeds. The ease of heart is given to those who were before suffering in silent poverty, from the deficiency of profitable employment for women, which is even greater in America than with us. It used to be understood there that all women were maintained by the men of their families; but the young men of New England are apt to troop off into the West, to settle in new lands, leaving sisters at home. Some few return to fetch a wife, but the greater number do not, and thus a vast over-pro-

portion of young women remains; and to a multitude of these the opening of factories was a most welcome event, affording means of honourable maintenance, in exchange for pining poverty at home.

"As for the noble deeds, it makes one's heart glow to stand in these mills and hear of the domestic history of some who are working before one's eyes, unconscious of being observed or of being the object of any admiration. If one of the sons of a New England farmer shows a love for books and thought, the ambition of an affectionate sister is roused, and she thinks of the glory and honour to the whole family, and the blessing to him, if he could have a college education. She ponders this till she tells her parents, some day, of her wish to go to Lowell, and earn the means of sending her brother to college. The desire is yet more urgent if the brother has a pious mind and a wish to enter the ministry. Many a clergyman in America has been prepared for his function by the devoted industry of sisters; and many a scholar and professional man dates his elevation in social rank and usefulness from his sister's, or even some affectionate aunt's entrance upon mill life for his sake. Many girls perceiving anxiety in their fathers' faces on account of the farm being encumbered, and age coming on without release from the debt, have gone to Lowell and worked till the mortgage was paid off and the little family property free. Such motives may well lighten and sweeten labour; and to such girls labour is light and sweet.

"Some, who have no such calls, unite the surplus of their earnings to build dwellings for their own residence, six, eight, or twelve living together, with the widowed mother or elderly aunt of one of them to keep house for, and give countenance to the party. I saw a whole street of houses so built and owned at Waltham; pretty frame houses, with the broad piazza and the green Venetian blinds, that give such an air of coolness and pleasantness to American villages and country abodes. There is the large airy eating-room, with a few prints hung up, the piano at one end, and the united libraries of the girls, forming a good-looking array of books, the rocking-chairs universal in America, the stove adorned in summer with flowers, and the long dining-table in the middle. The chambers do not answer to our English ideas of comfort. There is there a strange absence of the wish for privacy; and more girls are accommodated in one room than we should see any reason for in such comfortable and pretty houses.

"In the mills the girls have quite the appearance of ladies. They sally forth in the morning with their umbrellas in threatening weather, their calashes to keep their hair neat, gowns of print or gingham, with a perfect fit, worked collars or pelerines, and waistbands of ribbon. For Sundays and social evenings they have their silk gowns and neat gloves and shoes. Yet through proper economy—the economy of educated and thoughtful people—they are able to lay by for such purposes as I have mentioned above. The deposits in the Lowell Savings' Bank were, in 1834, upwards of 114,000 dollars, the number of operatives being 5000, of whom 3800 were women and girls.

"I thank you for calling my attention back to this subject. It is one I have pleasure in recurring to. There is nothing in America which necessitates the prosperity of manufactures as of agriculture, and there is nothing of good in their factory system which may not be emulated elsewhere—equalled elsewhere, when the people employed are so educated as to have the command of themselves and of their lot in life, which is always and everywhere controlled by mind, far more than by outward circumstances. I am, very truly yours,

"H. MARTINEAU."

We have read the contributions of these factory girls, and we find them above the average of contributions to our "Keepsakes" and "Books of Beauty," in composition and style, while they are immeasurably superior in intellectual power and moral purpose. As a specimen of the poetry of a factory girl, we quote the following beautiful lines:—

"THE TOMB OF WASHINGTON.

'He sleeps there in the midst of the very simplicities of Nature.'

"There let him sleep, in Nature's arms,
Her well-beloved, her chosen child—
There 'mid the living, quiet charms
Of that sequestered wild.
He would have chosen such a spot,
'T was fit that they should lay him there,
Away from all the haunts of care;
The world disturbs him not.—
He sleeps full sweet in his retreat—
The place is consecrated ground,
It is not meet unhallowed feet
Should tread that sacred mound.

"He lies in pomp—not of display—
No useless trappings grace his bier,
Nor idle words—they may not say
What treasures cluster here.
The pomp of nature, wild and free,
Adorns our hero's lowly bed,
And gently bends above his head
The weeping laurel tree.
In glory's day he shunned display,
And ye may not bedeck him now,
But Nature may, in her own way,
Hang garlands round his brow.

"He lies in pomp, not sculptured stone,
Nor chiseled marble—vain pretence—
The glory of his deeds alone
Is his magnificence.
His country's love the meed he won,
He bore it with him down to death,
Unsullied e'en by slander's breath—
His country's sire and son.
Her hopes and fears, her smiles and tears,
Were each his own.—He gave his land
His earliest cares, his choicest years,
And led her conquering band.

"He lies in pomp—not pomp of war—
He fought, but fought not for renown;
He triumphed, yet the victor's star
Adorned no regal crown.
His honour was his country's weal;
From off her neck the yoke he tore—
It was enough, he asked no more;
His generous heart could feel
No low desire for king's attire;—
With brother, friend, and country blest,
He could aspire to honours higher
Than kingly crown or crest.

"He lies in pomp—his burial-place
Than sculptured stone is richer far;
For in the heart's deep love we trace
His name, a golden star.
Wherever patriotism breathes,
His memory is devoutly shrined
In every pure and gifted mind;
And history, with wreaths
Of deathless fame, entwines that name,
Which evermore, beneath all skies,
Like vestal flame, shall live the same,
For virtue never dies.

"There let him rest—'tis a sweet spot;
Simplicity becomes the great—
But Vernon's son is not forgot,
Though sleeping not in state.
There, wrapped in his own dignity,
His presence makes it hallowed ground,
And Nature throws her charms around,
And o'er him smiles the sky.
There let him rest—the noblest, best;
The labours of his life all done—
There let him rest, the spot is blessed—
The grave of WASHINGTON.

"ADELAIDE."

Among the prose sketches we were most struck with the "Visits to the Shakers," one of the most interesting of the many new sects that have sprung up in America. We extract the account of the first visit:—

"Sometime in the summer of 18—, I paid a visit to one of the Shaker villages in the State of New York. Previously to this, many times and oft had I (when tired of the noise and contention of the world, its erroneous opinions, and its wrong practices) longed for some retreat, where, with a few chosen friends, I could enjoy the present, forget the past, and be free from all anxiety respecting any future portion of time. And often had I pictured, in imagination, a state of happy society, where one common interest prevailed—where kindness and brotherly love were manifested in all of the every-day affairs of life—where liberty and equality would live, not in name, but in very deed—where idleness in no shape whatever would be tolerated—and where vice of every description would be banished, and neatness, with order, would be manifested in all things.

"Actually to witness such a state of society was a happiness which I never expected. I thought it to be only a thing among the airy castles which it has ever been my delight to build. But with this unostentatious and truly kind-hearted people, the Shakers, I found it; and the reality, in beauty and harmony, exceeded even the picturings of imagination.

"No unprejudiced mind could, for a single moment, resist the conviction that this singular people, with regard to their worldly possessions, lived in strict conformity to the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. There were men in this society who had added to the common stock thousands and tens of thousands of dollars; they nevertheless laboured, dressed, and esteemed themselves as no better, and fared in all respects like those who had never owned, neither added to the society, any worldly goods whatever. The cheerfulness with which they bore one another's burdens made even the temporal calamities, so unavoidable among the inhabitants of the earth, to be felt but lightly.

"This society numbered something like six hundred persons, who in many respects were differently educated, and who were of course in possesion of a variety of prejudices, and were of contrary dispositions and habits. Conversing with one of their elders respecting them, he said, 'You may say that these were rude materials of which to compose a church, and speak truly: but here (though strange it may seem) they are worked into a building, with no sound of axe or hammer. And, however discordant they were in a state of nature, the square and the plumb-line have been applied to them, and they now admirably fit the places which they were designed to fill. Here the idle become industrious, the prodigal contracts habits of frugality, the parsimonious become generous and liberal, the intemperate quit the tavern and the grog-shop, the debauchee forsakes the haunts of dissipation and infamy, the swearer leaves off his habits of profanity, the liar is changed into a person of truth, the thief becomes an honest man, and the sloven becomes neat and clean.'

"The whole deportment of this truly singular people, together with the order and neatness which I witnessed in their houses, shops, and gardens, to all of which I had free access for the five days which I remained with them, together with the conversations which I held with many of the people of both sexes, confirmed the words of the Elder. Truly, thought I, there is not another spot in the wide earth where I could be so happy as I could be here, provided the religious faith and devotional exercises of the Shakers were agreeable to my own views. Although I could not see the utility of their manner of worship, I felt not at all disposed to question that it answered the end for which spiritual worship was designed, and as such is accepted by our heavenly Father. That the Shakers have a love for the Gospel exceeding that which is exhibited by professing Christians in general, cannot be doubted by any one who is acquainted with them. For on no other principle could large families, to the number of fifty or sixty, live together like brethren and sisters. And a number of these families could not, on any other principles save those of the Gospel, form a society, and live in peace and harmony, bound together by no other bond than that of brotherly love, and take of each other's property, from day to day, and from year to year, using it indiscriminately, as every one hath need, each willing that his brother should use his property, as he uses it himself, and all this without an equivalent.

"Many think that a united interest in all things temporal is contrary to reason. But in what other light, save that of common and united interest, could the words of Christ's prophecy or promise be fulfilled? According to the testimony of Mark, Christ said, 'There is no man who hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake and the Gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions, and in the world to come eternal life.' Not only in fact, but in theory, is an hundredfold of private interest out of the question. For a believer who forsook all things could not possess an hundredfold of all things only on the principle in which he could possess *all that* which his brethren possessed, while they also possessed the same in a united capacity.

"In whatever light it may appear to others, to me it appears beautiful indeed, to see a just and an impartial equality reign, so that the rich and the poor may share an equal privilege, and have all their wants supplied. That the Shakers are in reality what they profess to be, I doubt not. Neither do I doubt that many, very many lessons of wisdom might be learned of them, by those who profess to be wiser. And to all who wish to know if 'any good thing can come out of Nazareth,' I would say, you had better 'go and see.'"

Now, we should be glad to be informed of any industrial occupation in which the young persons employed have given such evidence of cultivated mind as the factory girls of Lowell? This volume is a decisive refutation of the calumnies which, under the pretence of a hollow philanthropy, have been vented upon the wives and daughters of the operatives of Lancashire. We claim for the population of our mills and factories as high a moral position as is held by any other class in the country. Undoubtedly there are evils connected with the factory system in this country, but these evils have arisen not from anything inherent in the system itself, but from the want of legislative foresight in not providing room for the development of such a powerful novelty in a land already crowded to the utmost with ancient customs and institutions. It is not very long since Manchester and Salford were, in the eye of the law, nothing better than villages; but the factory system must not bear the blame either of the folly which persisted in treating a metropolis as a village, or the many evils that have resulted from such an absurdity. It is within the memory even of the young, when the education or non-education of the persons employed in the mills was viewed with perfect indifference by the Government; the factory system, therefore, must not be blamed for the evils which have arisen from the culpable negligence of our political rulers.

The factory system is a modern creation; history throws no light on its nature, for it has scarcely begun to recognise its existence; the philosophy of the schools supplies very imperfect help for estimating its results, because an innovating power of such immense force could never have been anticipated. The steam-engine had no precedent, the spinning-jenny is without ancestry, the mule and the power-loom entered on no prepared heritage: they sprang into sudden existence, like Minerva from the brain of Jupiter, passing so rapidly through their stage of infancy, that they had taken their position in the world and firmly established themselves before there was time to prepare a place for their reception. These potent novelties also made their appearance in a land already crowded with institutions: the force and rapidity with which they developed themselves dislocated all the existing machinery of society, disturbed its very framework, and must necessarily produce, as they have produced, a considerable amount of confusion and suffering until the difficult task of re-adjustment is completed. A giant forcing his way into a densely-wedged crowd extends pain and disturbance to its remotest extremity: the individuals he pushes aside push others in their turn, though none know the cause of pressure save those with whom the intruder is immediately in contact; and thus, also, the factory system causes its presence to be felt in districts where no manufactures are established; all classes are pressed to make room for the stranger, and all are interested in knowing something of what is thus forced upon their acquaintance. Antecedent to any inquiry it would be well to recognise the factory system as what statesmen call *un fait accompli*; it exists, and must continue to exist; it is not practicable, even if it were desirable, to get rid of it; millions of human beings depend upon the factories for their daily bread. Were their heads sufficiently bold and their hearts sufficiently hard to propose their extermination, where are the hands by which the sanguinary decree could be executed?

It would be absurd to speak of factories as mere abstractions, and consider them apart from the manufacturing population. That population is a stern reality, and cannot be neglected with impunity. As a stranger passes through the masses of human beings which have been accumulated round the mills and print-works in Manchester and the neighbouring towns, he cannot contemplate these "crowded hives" without feelings of anxiety and apprehension almost amounting to dismay. The population, like the system to which it belongs, is NEW; but it is hourly increasing in breadth and strength. It is an aggregate of masses, our conceptions of which clothe themselves in terms that express something portentous and fearful. We speak not of them, indeed, as of sudden convulsions, tempestuous seas, or furious hurricanes, but as of the slow rising and gradual swelling of an ocean, which must, at some future and no distant time, bear all the elements of society aloft upon its

bosom, and float them—heaven knows whither. There are mighty energies slumbering in those masses. Had our ancestors witnessed the assemblage of such a multitude as is poured forth every evening from the mills of Union-street, magistrates would have assembled, special constables would have been sworn, the riot act read, the military called out, and most probably some fatal collision would have taken place. The crowd now scarcely attracts the notice of a passing policeman, but it is, nevertheless, a crowd, and therefore susceptible of the passions which may animate a multitude.

The legislation for the factories has been conducted too much in a spirit of class-jealousy; the lawgivers have made the factory population, both masters and men, an exceptional case, and established between them an authorized interference which would not be endured in any other branch of British industry. The worst result of such interference is, that it leads men to look to the Government for that which they can only acquire by and through themselves. In all the movements in which the operatives have been induced to take a part, *their* object has been an increase of wages; in strikes this is directly avowed; but even in such agitations as those raised to put an end to juvenile labour, and to restrict the hours of work, the real purpose of the operatives who joined in both demands was to obtain a higher rate of payment for their day's work. The example of Lowell shows that well-paid operatives in factory employment are capable of the highest moral and intellectual attainment; and we quite agree with the operatives, that the increase of their physical comforts is essential to their social advancement. But greater wages are to be obtained only by greater amount of employment, and an increase of employment can only come from an increase of trade. It is because commerce is restricted that industry is insufficiently remunerated; and it is the insufficient remuneration of industry that has prevented the operatives of Lancashire from assuming so high a position in the intellectual world as their brethren and sisters in the United States.

Vitality of Seed.—Flowers are made the type of what is fading: but the moralist does not look deep enough—the seed of the flower is for ever reproduced, and, as we so often see, retains its vitality for ages. A pea taken from a vase found in an Egyptian sarcophagus, and supposed to be 2844 years old, has germinated in the garden of Mr. Grimstone at Highgate, and there are now nineteen pods on it. The flower of the pea was white, but of a peculiar form. So, if these nineteen pod-fuls were cooked, the Englishman of the nineteenth century would eat with his lamb peas *one* generation later than the peas that fed the Egyptian in the days of hieroglyphics!—*Spectator.*

Effects of the Game Laws.—It appears by a Parliamentary return, ordered on the motion of Mr. Bright, that no less than 4529 persons were *convicted* in England and Wales, during the year 1843, of offences against the Game Laws! No doubt, a much greater number were tried. It is a serious question for the moralist and the patriot, whether laws which make it criminal to take wild animals, and thereby consign thousands every year to the contamination of a prison, ought not to be entirely abolished.—*Leeds Mercury.*

The Game Laws of Germany.—In the journal of a traveller in Germany, published in the *Dublin Evening Post*, the well-informed writer thus speaks of the Game Laws of Germany, as they existed before the French Revolution:—"Of all the grievances, however, of which the German people complained, the Game Laws were the most afflicting and oppressive. Taxation might be, and, I dare say, was burdensome, considering the number and the poverty of the German princes; tithes may have been onerous, though I do not recollect having read any complaints on this score; and the rents, in some cases, may have been imposed and exacted in the fashion of Mr. Shee, of Kilkenny; but the crying, the general, the monster grievance, which, like the rod of the Hebrew priest, appears to have swallowed up all minor plagues, was the Game Code of Germany. The people were necessarily discontented, but they had no one to advise or direct them. They had no leader—no press—no public courts of justice. They were left to the tender mercies of the gamekeepers, and to the *laws*, if such they may be called, of the Manor or Baronial Courts. In a word, they were the helpless victims of their lords and masters—not the Russian serf at Tamboff or Moscow more so. The French Revolution excited these people, as it did every other in Europe, and although many a hard battle was fought between French Flanders and the Rhine, it is a fact, which may not be disputed, that the Republicans were welcomed as deliverers by the Germans. They had not, nor could they have any, loyalty to their princes—these they knew only as collectors of taxes and conscripts—they hated their landlords as the most odious oppressors—and, after a hot and protracted struggle, their country—to the entire satisfaction of the mass of the people—became, not feudatories of France, but a portion of the French empire. They changed masters, and though there were heavy contributions levied, and severe conscriptions made, by the Republicans as well as by the Imperialists, subsequently, yet the lot was common. France herself suffered as much as the Rhenish Provinces, and the latter, perhaps, less than under their old lords. But the change began by the Republicans was an immediate blessing—one that could be felt and enjoyed forthwith. *The Game Laws were repealed*—feudal services were abolished—there was a mad equality proclaimed, which, doubtless, from its suddenness here, as was the case in France, produced, at first, much calamity, and was the parent of many crimes. But the small clamours proceeding from these sources were speedily lost by the movement of great masses of men, and in the thunder of mighty battles.

AGRICULTURE.

WAGES REDUCED TO MAKE UP RENTS.

In a letter written to Mr. Villiers, by an Oxfordshire agriculturist, published in the last number of this paper, giving an account of the state of the public mind in that county respecting the repeal of the Corn Laws, these remarkable passages occur. The writer says:—"The tenant-farmers, I verily believe, would be glad of the repeal of all Corn Laws, if the reduction of rent came with that repeal; but they are thumbed by the landlords, and dare not openly give in their adhesion to doctrines which, as *I know*, are approved by the majority of them." And he adds:—"The landlords, and the landlords only, stand in the gap between the people and cheap bread." And further on he says:—"As for the farm-labourers, they are with you to a man. The more sagacious of them know that if those laws be repealed—*if rents fall so as to allow the British grain-grower to compete with the foreigner, labour would be more in demand*, and at higher wages too; *because then the farmer could afford to pay them, and it would be his interest to get every ear of corn from the land which he could get without impoverishing it.*" What a chapter in the history of the Corn Laws do these passages point at; and it shall be our business, by a few practical illustrations, to develop more completely the way in which, by the operation of the Corn Laws, the landlord's rent is made to sweep away the funds properly destined for payment of the labourers. Nor have we far to go for a striking illustrative instance. Our readers will recollect the statement made by Mr. C. H. Lattimore (which was published in our last week's number) of the amount of his annual expenditure in farm-labour, in answer to an attack made upon him by the monopolist local paper. From that statement it appears that upon 646 acres of land, certainly not worth more upon an average than about 22s. an acre,—and worth that only by reason of his high cultivation—he expends yearly in labour the sum of £1351, or very nearly *two rents*. It is by such means that this gentleman has brought his land into a state of productiveness unequalled in the neighbourhood; and whilst he has diffused great benefits amongst the farm-labourers, he has farmed with advantage to himself. Now, in order to see what is the ordinary proportion which in the county of Herts the labour-fund should bear to the rent, we referred to the speech made by Mr. Edward Roberts, of King's-Walden, in that county, who, at the "Protection meeting" at St. Alban's, when moving a Pro-Corn-Law resolution, said "*three rents* ought to be made from land, viz., one for the landlord, *one for the labourers*, and one for the tenant." But, in fact, not one-third of the farmers throughout England annually expend so large a sum in labour as the amount of their rent. If they did so, the distress which has lately occurred in the rural districts could not have existed; and if, like Mr. Lattimore, farmers in general were to expend two rents in labour, we entirely agree with the farmers who have verified his statement that—"*there would not be a sufficient number of labourers in the locality.*" In general farmers employ much less labour than it would be for their interest to employ.

This, however, is not the fault of the farmers, for they are fully aware of the advantages which would accrue to themselves by the employment of more labourers; but they are the victims of a vicious artificial system which is based upon the Corn Laws.

The following considerations will make that fact perfectly obvious. Under the actual state of husbandry, which for thirty years past has been "protected" to the uttermost, the average produce of wheat is about 24 bushels to the acre; and it has been loudly proclaimed by the protectionists that it is only when farmers can obtain the act-of-Parliament price—now fixed at 56s. a quarter—they are able to make the three rents deemed requisite for their own remuneration and for the employment of the labourers. But let us ask any man practically acquainted with the present state of the English tenant-farmers, whether in two cases out of three nearer one-half than one-third of their whole saleable produce has not for the last ten years, upon an average, gone to their landlords as rent? That such is the case whenever the market price of corn falls below the act-of-Parliament price, is admitted on all hands.

Now, about 24 bushels of wheat per acre may be grown upon most of the tillage farms in England with very moderate capital, perhaps seldom exceeding £5 per acre, and by a system which requires no great supply of manual labour. Little skill or enterprise is requisite for such farming: the class of farmers willing to engage in husbandry with such appliances is a numerous one, and their competition with each other induces them to engage to pay *a rent which often requires a full half of their whole saleable produce.* Here we find the rent absorbs nearly the whole of the fund out of which the labourers should have been paid.

But even in the instances in which the farmers do actually expend in labour sums equal to their rents, which certainly do not exceed one-third of the English farmers, they cannot thereby farm in the most profitable way. Instead of three rents the farmers ought to make five, of which the landlord should receive one, two should be expended in labour, and two should form the farmer's remuneration; and such was, in fact, the old-fashioned calculation, before artificially-enhanced prices and yearly holdings had converted the farmer into a condition little better than that of a mere bailiff to the landlord; a servant with a farmer's risks without the certainty of receiving even a bailiff's wages.

Now, according to the showing of the monopolists, the farmers ought to sell produce to the amount of three rents, and one of such rents ought to be applied in payment of wages and labour. But as in truth not more than one farmer in three does sell produce sufficient to amount to three rents; and, as *the rent* is a fixed sum which must be paid at all events, the difference between the actual and the estimated money-produce must fall upon the farmers and the labourers; and as the latter form the most helpless of the two classes, they always bear the brunt of the miscalculation.

Whenever prices fall,—and under the artificial system created by the Corn Laws they always tend to fall much below the rates upon which rents have been estimated,—whenever crops fail, whenever losses of cattle and live stock are sustained, the expected three rents cannot be received by the farmer from the sale of his produce. Who then suffers? Not the landlord; for if the farm has produced only enough to pay one rent the whole must go to him, even if the farmer himself and his family shall be compelled to take refuge in the workhouse the next day. The law of distress has provided for that. The obligation to pay rent remains as immutable as the law of the Medes and Persians; or at most petty abatements of five, ten, or fifteen per cent. are made, and even these are so remarkable as to form material for eulogistic paragraphs in the local newspapers. The deficiency must, therefore, come out of the capital of the farmer and the bellies of the agricultural labourers. The former, perhaps, becomes insolvent, but the latter are literally starved. Yet the landlord rides secure amidst the turmoil and misery which surround him, and which are in fact of his making, and loudly calls upon his struggling tenantry to support him *in maintaining a law to keep up rents!!* All this has been completely exemplified during the present season, when in many districts the whole of the crops have failed, and the distress among the labourers in husbandry has been most appalling, while not a few farmers have been obliged to succumb under their burdens; but does any one imagine the rents will not be paid?

Possibly, in some instances, there may not have been enough grown upon the land to pay the rent, especially where there may be a year's rent due; but the farmer's stock, his implements, his household goods, all, all may be sacrificed at the hammer, *to make up the rent.*

And let us take the one-third of the tenant-farmers who are believed in ordinary seasons to make three rents, and to employ one of those rents in disbursements for labour, how are they and their labourers affected by the restrictive system?

They are yearly tenants; they are at the beck and call of the landlord and his steward on all political occasions; they are overridden by game, and are under the thumb of the gamekeeper; their rents are calculated upon a scale of prices considerably higher than they actually obtain upon an average of years; they are bound to obsolete customs, and inferior methods of cultivation, unable to grub up a hedgerow or remove a stick of timber, while their proved loss from hedgerows and timber-trees is often from 5s. to 8s. an acre in each year; and lastly, though men of some capital, they often want, perhaps, an additional £1000 or £1500, to give them complete command over their business, and enable them to turn it to the best advantage. Here, as in the case of the poorer farmers, all accidental losses, whether from falling prices, failing crops, or any other cause, must eventually light upon the labourers, for the rent is a fixed point, and, though for a brief period the farmer may go on paying rent out of his capital, that instantly tells upon the labourer.

These are the men who, amongst the farmers, are the great sticklers for protection, because they have engaged to pay rents calculated upon a scale of prices promised by the Corn Laws, and they know that, with their actual system of culture and their present average crops, they cannot pay their present rents and make a living, should the prices become permanently reduced some fifteen or twenty per cent. lower than the act-of-Parliament scale.

Mr. Robert Baker, of Writtle, in Essex, on whose published statement we commented last week, seems to be an average example of this class. They are most of them men capable of better things, and, if relieved from the shackles of "protection," would take their places in the front rank of British farmers. Let the corn trade be free, when wheat would probably range about 47s. a quarter, and we should

find these farmers entering into reasonable calculations, and insisting either upon large reductions of rent or upon long and rational leases. In ninety-nine cases out of every hundred the landlords would —*indeed, must*—prefer the alternative of granting leases. Then agriculture would assume a new aspect. The farmer, with a term certain of twenty-one years before him—and no shorter term is worth a farmer's acceptance—at a definite rent, from which he would have no right, at any time or under any circumstances, to expect an abatement, would exert all his skill and energy to increase his produce, which he might then safely do without the risk of having his rent raised at a month's notice. To increase his produce he must employ more labour, he would expend additional capital,—and his lease would form an ample security for any reasonable addition he might require to borrow,—and, instead of three rents, he would certainly not be satisfied with less than four, or probably five. Of these the landlord would have his one stipulated rent, while a sum equal to two rents would be expended in labour, and the remaining two would do no more than form a reasonable remuneration for the skill and the industry and the capital of the farmer. Let any monopolist who can judge rationally of the events which are passing around him, and of the actual circumstances of agriculture, deny that this would be the practical operation of a free trade in corn; and let our readers contrast the present state of agricultural distress and uncertainty with the more happy state of things which would result from untrammelling husbandry. Above all, let him observe narrowly how the Corn Laws, passed to keep up the rent of the landlord and to retain the tenant-farmer in a state of vassallage, rob the agricultural labourer of both his fair day's work and his fair day's wages.

GAME-PRESERVING *versus* FARMING!

Every day brings forth fresh evidence of the injury inflicted upon farmers by game, and of the enormous deterioration of husbandry which is caused in this country through game-preserving. The correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, writing from Norfolk and Suffolk, remarks on the slovenly practice which prevails in those counties of "leaving from twelve to fifteen inches of straw on the ground when reaping," and which he thus explains:—

"Another reason, and a very common one, for leaving such a length of stubble, at so great a loss to the straw yard, as is commonly left here, is, *that the farmer is bound, under penalties, so to do for the protection of the game.* Two or three weeks ago I had occasion to allude to an estate on the borders of Suffolk and Essex. It was mentioned as that of a '*noble lord*,' and I stated, on the authority of some of the tenants, that though they had leases, and though the land was moderately rented, *the leases were so full of stringent covenants that they could not use any enterprise or capital in cultivating in a new style.* The leases were said to be like 'gridirons,' and I remarked at the time that those tenants were bound, though not intentionally by the noble lord, yet in reality by the practical operation of his covenants, not to advance in agricultural science one step during the whole duration of the lease.

"I find the same nobleman has an estate in Norfolk; and *here I perceive the tenants are bound by their leases not to mow their corn crops*—not because mowing despoils much grain, and, by the subsequent rakings which it renders necessary, spoils all the grain to some extent with earth and flints—spoils the bread and the health of the eaters of bread too, because these minute flints are ground with the wheat; the nobleman in question does not forbid, on pain of heavy fines, the use of the scythe in mowing the corn crops for any such reasons. *On pain of heavy fines he forbids the use of the scythe or any other instrument which cuts lower than twelve inches - any instrument or style of reaping which does not leave a sufficient length of straw to shelter the game.*"

And this "nobleman" is no other than the newly-made aristocrat and monopolist Lord Ashburton, whilom Alexander Baring a Free-Trader!!!

But game-preserving is the rule in Norfolk, for

"His neighbour, Sir Holyoake Goodricke, has his estates overrun with game in like manner. But, in truth, *all Norfolk and Suffolk, with but limited exceptions, are swarming with game.* And more, *the farmers are grumbling like a distant volcano;* and beyond all question they have a right to grumble."

And the Norfolk farmers seem to have had the sense to look in the right direction for "protection to British agriculture," inasmuch as—

"A few months ago there was an attempt made in a district of country not far from Norwich, to get up a society for the protection of agriculture; in other words, a society for the maintenance of the Corn Laws. *It did not succeed.* The farmers said, *so long as they could not get protection from evils which actually, palpably, and notoriously oppressed them and vexed them, and kept them poor—the swarms of game—there was no need for them wasting their energies, their time, and their money in defending themselves from the imaginary, and, at most, prospective evils of Free Trade.*"

And landowning monopolists will find that their protection societies will afford the farmers an opportunity of comparing notes, and bring some of their grievances before the public. But it seems game-preserving is profitable, for—

"There are many preservers of game in Norfolk *who do not preserve it for their own sport. Many of them take a rent for it from sportsmen.* They thus *get a rent for their land;* and, after the game has been fed by the farmer, THEY GET ANOTHER RENT FOR THE GAME."

Moreover it is fashionable; thus we find,

"There is a lady, not far from Norwich, a great preserver of game. She does so simply because it is fashionable and aristocratic to do so. *One of her tenants having complained of the destruction done to his crops, the lady was so indignant that he should have dared to complain, that she ordered all the tops of his ditches and sides of his fields to be sown with furze, for the better protection of the game.* He might, of course, leave his farm, but would leave the bread of his family also if he did so."

Now, farmers are only induced to submit to these things from the intense competition for farms, which is the consequence of the restrictive system. The reporter, referring to this point, says:—

"And when any grievance is felt by the farmers, as in the case of game, they are afraid to speak of it—they endure it in silence. A farm of 500 acres was to let this year in this part of the country, *and 85 different persons made offers for it!*"

The following account of an incident relative to game is only to be equalled by the stories we hear of the capricious despotism exercised by the absolute tyrants of the East. Yet we could adduce hundreds of instances of the same kind, which would show that the picture is not overcharged:—

"There is a farm a few miles westward where I have been, which is dreadfully overrun with game. On ten acres of barley *there is not one-third of a crop left.* On another piece of twenty acres the crop is injured, at the least, to *two coombs an acre* (one quarter); so is the wheat, *and so will the turnips be before winter is over.* Last winter the turnips were very much injured, and the tenant mustered courage enough to go to his landlord to complain. The landlord listened to the end of the statement, and then replied:—

"'If your crops are so much injured as you say, you must go to Mr. G— and complain. You know his property is close beside you, and *the hares are his hares, not mine; you must go to Mr. G—, and get damages from him.*'

"Accordingly, the tenant set off one morning to catch Mr. G— at breakfast before he went out. He sent in his name and asked the favour of an interview. It was granted. And, on his entrance, Mr. G— said, 'Well, Mr. So-and-So, what do you want with me?'

"'Why, Sir, I have come over to speak to you about the hares; they have ate up half my turnips, or, which is as bad, have bit them so that the frost has spoiled them. And they destroyed a great deal of my barley, and wheat, and clover, and everything this year; I am really almost eaten up with them.'

"'But, my good friend,' replied Mr. G—, 'why not go to your landlord. *He preserves the game, and it is he who should recompense you?*'

"'But, Sir,' said the farmer, 'I have been to him, and he sent me to you; he says they are your hares.'

"'Does he say so? Then, if they are my hares, I tell you what to do; go and kill every one of them, and sell them, or eat them, or give them to any body you like. Never let one of my hares live a day on your farm if you can kill it.'

"Hearing this, the farmer went home, and, though he had some slight misgivings, he called to mind that his landlord said they were Mr. G—'s hares, and that Mr. G— said if they were he might kill them. *He tried the experiment; but he had hardly begun, when his landlord's gamekeeper interfered.* Next day the landlord sent to him to say that if he had forgotten that on taking the farm *he had covenanted to preserve the game, not to destroy it, he had probably forgotten that he was a tenant at all. If so, he had better prepare to leave the farm.*

"The unhappy farmer was glad to apologise, let the hares alone, and hold his tongue. *He is eaten up this year as he was last, and expects to have a greater struggle to pay his rent;* for though corn is scarce on his farm, partly through the drought and partly through the game, it is plentiful in the country at large, and prices will be moderate. He knows that, by hook or by crook, he must pay the rent. If he did not he must leave the farm; *and if he left it, from fifty to a hundred persons* would be competing for it; while he would have to compete for another at the same rate."

It will, therefore, not surprise the reader to find that "the game question is at present exciting a warm interest in the eastern counties." Now, there is no hope, no chance of emancipation for the tenant-farmer from this state of vassallage, but in a free trade in corn, which would compel the landowners to choose whether they will have game or rent. It is certain that but for the Corn Law, its frauds, and its delusions, they could not have both. There is no man who has such a direct and immediate interest in abolishing the Corn Laws as the tenant-farmer. The Game Law, for instance, amongst other oppressions he endures, is entirely dependent upon the semi-feudalism which monopoly upholds.

FREE TRADE FROM A FARMER.

To those who, like ourselves, have noted from week to week the state of opinion amongst the farmers upon the question of Free Trade, nothing is more remarkable than the constant increase of clear and defined knowledge of the subject which has been gathering during the last twelve months. Last autumn doubt and confusion were the feelings most commonly expressed by farmers in relation to the foreign trade in corn; now there is not a district without its knot of first-rate farmers who wisely repudiate protection, and denounce the delusive system by which the industrious tenant-farmer has been robbed for the past thirty years. Amongst the latest instances of the progress of the best agriculturists in sound views, is an excellent letter from an "Oxfordshire Farmer," which has appeared in the *Banbury Guardian*, a few extracts from which we shall be able to take.

This intelligent agriculturist begins by telling his fellow-husbandmen that they must discard all the absurd notions which prevail at protection meetings about the "wicked machinations" of the League; and asks them how the statement so obtrusively urged by the protectionists, "That of the whole annual value of manufactured goods, about three-fourths are sold at home, and only one-fourth to foreigners," is reconcileable with the supposition that the manufacturing capitalists who support the League "would go about wilfully to destroy their best market?" He urges them to throw aside all such passionate nonsense as the monopolists would have them believe, "and to make the question a simple matter of opinion." He then says:—

"The first and chief objection I have to notice is, that 'by repeal much land would be thrown out of cultivation, farmers would be ruined, and labourers unemployed.' Now, as to the first of these alleged evils resulting from repeal, it will be readily admitted, as a matter of course, that this will rest entirely at the option of the proprietor, who might cultivate his land if he thought fit, or could let it to others, but will refuse to do so only when the expense of cultivation shall exceed the value of the produce; and when is such a contingency likely to occur?"

And he proceeds to show that, even if the proprietors of the land were so absurd (which, however, it is clear their mortgagees wont permit), there would be plenty of people ready to take up the cultivation of the worst land in the country for their own subsistence. But in truth the pretence that any land will be thrown out of cultivation by Free Trade is a pure fiction, which deserves only about the same amount of serious refutation as would be due to the story of "Jack the Giant-killer," or the "Forty Thieves."

The "Oxfordshire Farmer" then says:—

"But I do not anticipate such a state of things as the result of a free trade in corn. It is not my wish to deal largely in statistics, but I believe that, according to the opinions or rather information acquired by persons competent to judge in this matter, foreign wheat cannot be imported into this country at a profit, after paying all necessary expenses, under some £10 or £11 per load: of course I do not pledge myself to accuracy in this statement, but merely observe that authentic sources of information are open to all who wish to be informed upon the subject. Whatever may be the price, one thing is clear: *that an increased demand upon foreigners for corn, through the abolition of the present duty, will tend to increase the price abroad,* so that, unless they grow more than they do at present, they can no longer afford to sell it at the present rate. But, you will say, 'they will bring fresh land under the plough, of which they possess abundance.' True: but this cannot be done unless more capital and labour be called into action, and *unless they have a superabundance of either now unemployed, which is hardly to be supposed, this can only take place by withdrawing them from other profitable sources of employment;* perhaps from their own manufactures, in which case the advantage to our trade is obvious. Besides, we may reasonably suppose that the whole of the corn now destined for English consumption is grown upon land the most favourable, in point of situation, for transit, &c., and consequently every additional quarter of corn for our market will be produced under more unfavourable circumstances, *and, of course, will cost more in coming to market.* In a word, the idea that land, in an advanced state of cultivation, lying in the midst of a great consuming population, possessing every advantage in the economy of cultivation which long experience and scientific skill have hitherto suggested, with other advantages, is unable in the disposal of its produce to compete with land far distant, as yet uncultivated, comparatively deprived of those means of communication and carriage, without which the most fertile land is almost valueless; and, above all, destitute in a great measure of capital and labour which are indispensable to its profitable cultivation, *is one which I should have supposed could never have existed for a moment in the minds of reasonable men, did I not know, from experience, that long habit tends to reconcile us to* MANY ABSURDITIES BOTH IN OUR MODES OF THINKING AND ACTING."

This is true, and nothing but the habit of walking hoodwinked at the bidding of the squires could have induced farmers to believe the many absurdities which make up the protectionist's political creed. The writer then deals with the alleged exclusive burdens on land, and says, *if such exist,* the right way is to equalize them with the burdens of other interests. He then proceeds—

"This brings me to the consideration of the second objection you make to repeal: 'that it would ruin the farmer.'

"Now, gentlemen, you must be well aware, upon a little consideration, that these exclusive burdens, *if such there be, bear upon landed proprietors and not upon occupiers, because, as you well know, every prudent man, in taking land, settles in his mind what rent he can afford to give after deducting the whole outgoings in the shape of taxes or other expenses, and therefore, if at all, they must be felt in the rent.* But, I ask you, what has protection done for you hitherto? During some thirty years of continued protection, you have been ever and anon complaining of distress. You have not *thriven* under protection. Other classes have advanced without it, and you are confessedly in a worse condition than your neighbours. How is this? You have placed your trust in laws which have deceived you; *you have paid, and continue to pay high rents, in expectation of prices which no law can establish.* Who, then, has profited by the Corn Law? *Landlords have obtained high rents and farmers niggardly profits.* Be assured that the profits of farming will never permanently rise above those of other trades or professions, because the farmer is simply a capitalist, and competition will not fail to reduce his profits to a level with others in the market, be protection what it may. Your prosperity as tenant-farmers, then, would seem to depend not upon Corn Laws, but upon the demand for capital in the market: when that demand is great by means of a thriving trade, the interest of money will rise, and capital, instead of pressing heavily upon agriculture for employment, will find other modes of investment, *and thus the pressure of competition upon farmers will be partly removed;* when, on the contrary, trade declines, the ordinary outlets of capital are shut up, the rate of interest is lowered, the price of funds rises on account of the greater security of that mode of investment, and the competition for land is greatly increased, thus accounting for the fact, strange indeed, but too well-known to farmers of late, that, in cases where tenants are leaving their farms from inability to pay their present rents, some ten and twenty competitors are commonly found to bid an equal or perhaps increased amount of rent for the same. *Landlords, on the other hand, are not injured by these circumstances, but rather, perhaps, benefit by them, since increased competition for land, of course, tends to increase their rents, and lower prices of commodities enable them to live more cheaply.* So much for the indignant denial, on the part of landlords, of the assertion that the Corn-Law question is one of rent, and *so much for their own assumption that landlord's and tenant's interests are identical.*"

We know that farmers now, pretty generally, understand that the Pro-Corn-Law outcry is simply a question of rent! He then adds:—

"It remains now to consider the other evil alleged to be the effect of repeal: injury to the labourer."

And he shows that it is most necessary to raise rather than lower the standard of comfort, education, and morality amongst the class of agricultural labourers, and that for that purpose steady employment, at fair wages, is requisite, and—

"The question is: will the labouring class obtain better wages and employment by repeal of these laws than they now do? for it is evident that the advantages of education above noticed depend in a great degree upon this circumstance. Now, what is their condition at present? I have lived among the rural population during the whole of my life, and, so far as my observation extends, *can assert, without fear of contradiction, that labourers with families have difficulty enough to to obtain a sufficiency of the necessaries of life when in full employment, and that the unmarried labourer, who alone has it in his power to save money, has discovered a most satisfactory way of disposing of his earnings in the beer-shop.* This state of things I believe to be attributable, in a great measure, to that most impolitic of laws, especially in its mode of application, the old poor law; but, whatever be the cause, no one can fail to perceive the probable failure of any liberal system of education attempted under such circumstances. The question then is: what difference in this respect may be expected to result from repeal of the Corn Laws? *My proposition is, that we should greatly increase the trade of the country.*"

And the very necessity for improved agriculture, which must result from moderate prices, would give direct and immediate employment to the agricultural population to an extent people not practically acquainted with rural affairs have little idea of.

THE FOREIGN CORN TRADE.

The farmers and dealers in corn are gradually becoming convinced of the fact, broadly stated by Mr. Huskisson nearly twenty years ago, that "monopoly is not at all times profit." Thus we find in an agricultural paper the following statement respecting the state of the corn market some eight or ten days since, which shows how certainly the restrictive system entails loss upon all connected with the trade in grain:—

"The foreign importations of all grain for some time past have had a powerful effect upon prices, *as duties have been paid to an extent that never could have been anticipated.* Notwithstanding *the heavy losses that must affect various parties from* the great depreciation in value, large cargoes of wheat, barley, and oats continue to press upon the market, *and are in many instances sold at a very considerable sacrifice.* The quantities of English wheat, even up to the present period, continue much

lower than there was reason to expect; and, as many of the millers have themselves been importers of foreign, they do not evince much disposition to purchase under present circumstances. *The impression also being with many that something like 46s. per quarter will be the maximum price for good wheat before long*, entirely damps the ardour of buyers, and renders trade generally as dull as it well can be."

Here we find those who have made speculative importations of corn have sustained "heavy losses," while the market price of English wheat is expected to fall to 45s. a quarter "before long." And with a fortnight of fine weather, so that the present crops of wheat can be well housed, we have no doubt that expectation will be realized. Here we find the farmer, whose landlord and whose landlord's law have promised him 56s. a quarter, in a fair way to receive some 11s. a quarter less than that sum as his "maximum" price. Now, what injury would a free-trade in corn do him? On turning to the "latest intelligence" of last Monday's *Mark-lane Express*, we find that at Amsterdam, where the trade in corn is open, "old coloured Polish wheat was last week at about 46s. 6d. a quarter;" and the London average price was 48s. 4d. per quarter. It is quite plain that about 46s. a quarter is the present natural price of wheat in the open European market, and that the British market price (there being the prospect of a productive harvest) varies from the natural price in a very minute degree. The consumers are thus, for a moment, exempted from the operation of the Corn Law, as, through the accident of a fine wheat season, they will obtain bread and corn at prices not very wide of the prices which might be expected to rule under an unrestricted trade.

But how stands the case with the farmer? He calculated on receiving 56s. a quarter, and has entered into engagements upon that footing. How do his monopolist "protectors" propose to make good the difference to him? They merely leave him to his fate. The farmer, therefore, must sustain a loss upon his wheat crop, *in consequence of the Corn Laws*, while his beans, peas, and oats having failed him, he must maintain his live stock, if he can avoid the necessity of selling them to pay his rent, at an actual loss, because the Corn Laws prevent him from importing cheap foreign grain for cattle food. On this topic see what a correspondent of the *Mark-lane Express*—and one, too, who abuses, though evidently without understanding the objects of, the League—says:—

"I maintain that the seasons and the elements speak to us in language strong, and not to be misunderstood, that we should not henceforth trust in the precarious and expensive turnip crop for a winter supply of food for stock, *but that we should, to aid it, have free access to foreign markets for the more common productions, such as corn of all descriptions, by which our stock here would be infinitely increased in quantity and quality, and our land improved in condition;* this improved condition counterbalancing the depression of price which might occur from a free trade in corn."

And then, after proposing, in terms not remarkably intelligible, to place "equal protective duties on all the productions of the land, *except corn and wool*," meaning, we suppose, on meat and cattle, which experience has shown to run no risk of depreciation from foreign competition, and after roundly and ignorantly abusing the League, he says:—

"The operation of the *Corn Laws has been like that of a two-edged sword, wounding the two great interests of the state with equal severity, the commercial and the agricultural;* by the reduction of the tariff duties, Sir Robert Peel blunted that edge of the sword which cut the commercial, whilst it gave a keener power to that side which wounded the agricultural interest; yet on Mr. Villiers's motion on the Corn Laws, and the debate that ensued, Sir Robert exclaimed, 'I have protected agriculture so far, and to that extent I will abide,' that is, so far as the sliding scale goes. Brother farmers, I ask you, where do you find evidences of the protection of which Sir Robert boasts? *Do you find them in your pockets?—in the deteriorating condition of your farms, for which you are so ignorantly and incessantly upbraided, and which you well know is not your fault, but your misfortune*, not in accordance with your will, but the inevitable result of the system of Government regarding your affairs, which you cannot help?"

Now, this does not impress one with the clearness of the writer's views, but it is plain that he has got a glimpse of the truth, that so far from a free trade in corn injuring the farmer, that it will be of at least as much benefit to him as it will be to the other classes of the community; and let every farmer try to look into the condition of his own business, and try to answer the following questions of this writer:—

"*Where, then, do we find the fruits of this 'protection' boasted of in Parliament? Echo only answers*, 'WHERE?' Have we not then been misled by a 'Will-o'-the-Wisp,' and fixed in a quagmire to our very chins?"

What if the "Central Protection Society" should employ some of its superabundant leisure in resolving the doubts of this writer. They may be assured that these doubts and difficulties prevail extensively amongst farmers, upon whom the protectionist squires reckon as their bounden thralls. Then mark how trade has revived with the return of moderate prices of food, and yet how its fate stands trembling upon the changes and chances of the prospects of the harvest. Again we refer to the *Mark-lane Express*, and we find

"The state of trade in all the ports of England, Scotland, and Ireland, *is most satisfactory*. The river Thames is literally crowded with merchant vessels, British and foreign. At Liverpool, Goole, Hull, &c., the docks are crowded. It is worth notice that in the last week guano, worth £59,000 to £60,000, was imported into Liverpool alone. At Hull, remarks a contemporary, 'the state of trade in the river reminds the inhabitants of olden times;' it is literally crowded with vessels, inasmuch that people can cross it by passing from one sloop to another. At the same time the docks are excessively crowded, and many vessels are lying out in the roads. The greatest activity prevails at all the quays and wharfs. The Custom-house receipts of Dublin have largely increased this year. *The wool fairs in all parts of the country that have lately been held are represented to have been well attended, and the fleece bought at* HIGHER PRICES. A remarkable degree of animation prevails in all the trading manufacturing districts. Upon this point the trade circulars that have reached the City are unanimous. *The state of the weather has, however, been watched with much anxiety during the past week. A failure in the amount of the yield would, it is feared,* TEND MATERIALLY TO CHECK THE SALES OF GOODS FOR HOME CONSUMPTION, *which have recently been more satisfactory than for years past.*"

And again the same authority says:—

"The extreme fineness of the weather that has prevailed for the last few days has had a most beneficial effect upon the wholesale and retail trades of the metropolis. 'Goods (to use the language of a partner of a large city firm) have moved off like lightning;' and, *with a full harvest, most certainly there will be a large and beneficial 'fall' trade done.*"

And these anticipations of a beneficial autumn trade are entirely founded upon the prospect of a moderate price of corn. That it cannot arise from the flourishing state of agriculture is clear, for seldom has there been such a general depression amongst farmers, and never within living memory have the agricultural labourers been in such a state of penury and destitution. Rents must this year be, in a great measure, paid out of the farmers' capitals; and it is certain that the consumptive demand of farmers and farm-labourers must, for the ensuing year, be considerably below an average. The hopeful prospects of the "home trade" then do not arise from agricultural prosperity, or the operation of the Corn Laws, for nature's bounties have suspended the Corn Laws in favour of the consumers of bread; and the agricultural classes, in spite of their alleged "protection," are in a state of grievous distress. We believe, by next Christmas, not a few farmers will discover and proclaim, that the Corn Law is indeed "a two-edged sword, wounding the two great interests of the state, the commercial and the agricultural, with equal severity"!!!

DRUNKENNESS.—Returns moved for by Mr. Hume show that the *maximum* amount of persons taken into custody for drunkenness, by the metropolitan police, is to be found in the years 1831, 1832, and 1833, and the *minimum* in 1843. In 1831 they were, males and females, 31,353; 1832, 32,636; 1833, 29,880. In 1843 the number of persons taken into custody for drunkenness fell to 10,890, which, taking the census of 1841, say 2,068,107, was in the proportion of little more than ½ in every 100. In the city of London also the same gratifying result is shown. In 1840 the numbers were 5113. In 1843 the numbers were 2595, which, taking the official estimated population at 125,273, was in the ratio of 2¼ to every 100.

GABOON.—Reference was made in the House of Commons last week to the proceedings of the French at Gaboon, on the coast of Africa; and Sir Robert Peel spoke slightingly of the complaints made by British merchants. The facts appear to be these:—For upwards of a century British subjects have had factories there, and for upwards of thirty years the place has been considered a British possession; its ebony, beeswax, and tortoiseshell being admitted by our customs at the differential duties allowed to such articles if imported from British colonies. The British flag has been hoisted there for many years, and it was still flying on the 5th of April last. In March arrived Baron Daurican in a French war-ship; and he tried to obtain King Glass's signature to a treaty of session, but his Majesty declined to relinquish his sovereignty. M. Amoroux, the master of a French merchant-ship, undertook to procure the required autograph. He landed with a bottle of rum, sought the monarch, and returned with the treaty signed. Next morning, being sober, Glass disavowed the treaty; and, backed by his chiefs and subjects, he has appealed for aid against French aggression.—*Spectator.*

THE FARMER'S TRUE FRIEND.—The practical agriculturist has much reason to be grateful to the League. Prior to the serious agitation of the Corn-Law question, farmers seem to have thought that they had done their best. Improvements in every other department of industry were ever and anon introduced; but in husbandry there was, generally speaking, a dead halt, and the idea appeared to prevail that all that man could do for the amelioration of the soil had been done already. The landlords were contented to pocket their rack-rents, and gave not a momentary consideration to the amount of toil and anxiety which it cost the tenants to raise them. Now, in consequence of the agitation of the League, dukes, lords, and squires are compelled to give their countenance to agricultural societies; lecturers are employed to demonstrate the importance of applying the principles of chemistry to bring out the capabilities of the soil; new manures are introduced; those formerly in use more skilfully turned to account, and a new era in agriculture seems to have commenced. Had the monopolists not been frightened and aroused out of their drowsiness by the efforts of the League, we should have heard nothing of these improvements, or at least little, for a long time to come. Even as things are, those farmers only can be materially benefited who have leases of considerable length. The tenants-at-will are as completely shut out from the opportunity of improvement as ever.—*Berwick Advertiser.*

PERFECTION OF ENGLISH LABOUR.—An American, landing in Liverpool, is at once struck with the amount of labour everwhere expended; the docks, and the public buildings, and the lofty and magnificent warehouses astonish him by the substantial and permanent character of their structure. The railways, likewise, with their deep excavations, their bridges of solid masonry, their splendid viaducts, their immense tunnels, extending in some cases more than two miles in length, and their depôts and station-houses covering acres of ground with their iron pillars, and their roofs, also of iron, exhibiting a sort of tracery or network of the strongest as well as the most beautiful description, indicate a most profuse expenditure of labour, and are evidently made to endure. He is still more overpowered with amazement when, coming to London, he passes up and down the river Thames, and contemplates the several great bridges, two of which are of iron and three of stone, spanning this great thoroughfare of commerce with their beautiful arches, and made as if, as far as human presumption can go, they would bid defiance to the decay and ravages of time. If to this he adds (as, indeed, how could he help doing it?) a visit to the Thames Tunnel—a secure, a dry, a brilliant, and even a gay passage under the bed of the stream, where the tides of the ocean daily roll their waves, and the mighty barks of commerce and war float in all their majesty and pride over his head, exhibiting the perfection of engineering, and a strength of construction and finish which leaves not a doubt of its security and endurance—he perceives an expense of labour which disclaims all the limited calculations of a young and comparatively poor country. He remarks a thoroughness of workmanship which is most admirable, and which indicates a boldness and bravery of enterprise, taking into its calculations not merely years but centuries to come. We have in America a common saying with respect to many things which we undertake, that "this will do for the present," which does not seem to me to be known in England; and we have a variety of cheap, insubstantial, slight-of-hand ways of doing many things, sometimes vulgarly denominated "make shifts to do," which we ascribe to what we call Yankee cleverness, of which certainly no signs are to be seen here.—*Colman's Agricultural Report.*

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The reply to the question from a "Free-Trader" on the subject of vaccination is - No.

The lines of "Sarissa" express a beautiful and pious sentiment, but they are not sufficiently correct.

"Monopoly's Boon" is a gift that we respectfully decline.

"T. M. Mackay" is informed that the accounts of the income and expenditure on Earl Ducie's farms have been published by Ridgway; the last report is up to July, 1842, and appears in a supplement to Morton on Soils.

"The Spirit of 1815" is too fanciful for our columns.

"G. W. Wallis's" letter is too long for insertion.

An esteemed friend at Manchester directs attention to the following lines from Pope:—

"The time shall come when, free as seas or wind,
Unbounded Thames shall flow for all mankind,
Whole nations enter with each swelling tide,
And seas but join the regions they divide;
Earth's distant ends our glory shall behold,
And the new world launch forth to seek the old.
Then ships of uncouth form shall stem the tide,
And feather'd people crowd on every side;
And naked youths and painted chiefs admire
Our speech, our colour, and our strange attire.
O stretch thy reign, fair Peace! from shore to shore,
Till conquest cease, and slavery be no more;
Till the freed Indians in their native groves
Reap their own fruits, and woo their sable loves;
Peru once more a race of kings behold,
And other Mexicos be roof'd with gold.
Exiled by thee from earth to deepest hell,
In brazen bonds, shall barbarous Discord dwell;
Gigantic Pride, pale Terror, gloomy Care,
And mad Ambition, shall attend her there:
There purple Vengeance, bathed in gore, retires,
Her weapons blunted, and extinct her fires;
There hated Envy her own snakes shall feel,
And Persecution mourn her broken wheel;
There Faction roar, Rebellion bite her chain,
And gasping Furies thirst for blood in vain."

The letter of "A Shropshire Farmer," and other communications, deferred.

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

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POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, August 24, 1844.*

The harvest is rapidly advancing; and, notwithstanding the interruptions which some rainy days have given, we believe and trust that the result will be an abundant produce. Abundant, that is, as compared with average results and ordinary expectation; abundant, in the absolute sense, as a supply for the wants of the whole population, no British harvest can be. Our landowning lawmakers, in their warfare upon the importation of food, laid themselves under an implied obligation to furnish a sufficiency of food themselves, at a cost within the reach of the great mass of the people. That obligation they have never fulfilled. The pretence that they would do so has been often repeated. We had only, it was argued, to pay a monopoly price for a while, and cultivation would be so stimulated that all should be fed, and our independence of other countries be secured. To that consummation we are no nearer than at the beginning. It is one of the many Corn-Law promises by which producer and consumer have been alike cajoled. Indeed, were we to arrive at such a point, Corn-Law policy would require that it should be receded from, in order to obtain the profitable results for which such laws are enacted. To keep up high rents, through high prices, there must, in that event, be a restriction upon the growth of grain, or its wanton destruction afterwards.

Should this harvest, like that of two years ago, be thought worthy of an especial form of religious thanksgiving, we trust that the deviation from the established forms which was then made will not be repeated. We refer to the omission of "cheapness" as a reason for gratitude to Providence. The instance was a very gross one, of making sacred things bow to secular. But the cheapness *will* come whenever the plenty comes. Heaven send them both to such an extent as may prolong the activity of trade, and alleviate the still embittered sufferings of poverty!

Successions of very good harvests, or of very bad, alike tend, though in different ways, to bring on the termination of the monopolist system. It will be, we trust, by the former, which, though it must involve considerable suffering, yet does not induce the fearful wretchedness that the other never fails to inflict upon millions. Our present legislation has not only to apprehend the assaults of the League, it is in warfare with the course of nature. The physical constitution of things threatens it in one direction; as the moral tendencies of our being, the universal principles of justice and benevolence, denounce it in the other. It will pass away like one of those pestiferous anomalies, in even the temporary existence of which after ages believe with difficulty.

The present is necessarily a time of comparative quiescence. Nature and the farmer, giving and getting in the harvest, are working for the League. We accept their co-operation, and await our time for renewed exertion. Monopoly knows this, and vainly attempts to persuade itself that repose is death, instead of the revival of energy, and the precursor of success.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

ATTACK ON TANGIER.—The following are some of the particulars of the bombardment of Tangier, furnished in the official report to the French Minister of Marine:—It was on Tuesday, the 6th inst., about half-past eight o'clock in the morning, that the squadron under the orders of the Prince, at anchor under the walls of Tangier, opened its fire with shouts of "Long live the King." In one hour the fire of the place was extinguished, the batteries were dismantled, and the guns dismounted. On our side the loss was not considerable. Notwithstanding the difficulty of the ground, the squadron took its position in a most successful manner. The ship Suffren, commanded by the Prince, anchored in six fathoms and a half, with a rocky bottom, and the position nearest the enemy's batteries was that chosen by the admiral. The fire, which commenced at half-past eight, was not entirely discontinued until towards eleven o'clock. It continued during this time with order which did not exclude for one moment that steadiness and precision necessary for taking good aim. It was to the accuracy of the firing, as much as to the position chosen by the Prince, that the rapid success is to be attributed. The example given by the Suffren was followed by each of the ships of the squadron. Everywhere on this occasion did officers, seamen, and soldiers, rival each other in ardour and steadiness. The resistance was much more vigorous than was generally imagined; several of the guns on the ramparts did not cease their fire until they were destroyed by our shot. Mr. Hay arrived during the action in the Vesuvius, coming from Mogador. In the evening he waited on his Royal Highness the Prince de Joinville, who had an interview with him. The Spanish division, a British man-of-war and frigate, some Sardinian ships, as well as some Swedish and American ships, were present at this brilliant exploit.

Accounts which have been published in the *Times*, professing to be written by British officers who witnessed the attack, state that the town has not suffered so much damage as was thought at first. These accounts also speak in disparaging terms of the naval tactics exhibited by the French squadron on the occasion.

PARIS.—The *Constitutionnel* states, that active preparations were making in Paris for the intended journey of King Louis Philippe to England.

POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL.—In consequence of the continued refusal of the students to be examined by a gentleman to whose appointment they objected, and the disorder which has thence ensued, the school has been dissolved. The officers of the school are to preserve their titles and emoluments, and an ulterior ordinance is to regulate the reorganization of the school. This is spoken of as a bold step on the part of the Government, the school being dear to the affections of the Parisians.

The new Game-Law Bill, notwithstanding its severity, continues to be infringed. A man was recently apprehended in the Forest of Bondy in the act of placing snares. The same day another individual was taken up for firing at small birds on the Boulevard Mont Parnasse. A man was also discovered in the act of introducing into Paris three quails and two partridges. All these birds were sent to the Hotel Dieu to be given to the convalescent patients.

Speaking of the late meeting at Exeter-hall on the subject of Otaheite, the *Journal des Débats* says—"The speeches will give an idea of the incredible intolerance to which the religious passions of a portion of the English people carry them. In reading these furious sallies against Papism and scarlet Babylon, we might imagine ourselves transported to another age. We doubt, however, whether the effect of these demonstrations will be such as is expected from them." Almost all the other Paris papers contain articles commenting on the meeting in a similar spirit.

PRICES OF WHEAT AND BREAD IN PARIS.—The highest price of white wheat of the first quality in Paris is 29f. per 1½ hectolitre, which is equivalent to 44s. 3d. per quarter; and the highest quotation of white wheat of the first quality in the London market being 56s. per quarter, it follows that wheat is 26½ per cent. dearer in London than in Paris. The highest quotation of flour of the first quality in Paris is 40f. 10c. per 100 kilogrammes, which is equal to 40s. 1d. per sack of 280lbs. English; and the highest quotation for town-made flour in the London market being 45s. per sack, it follows that flour is 12½ per cent. dearer in London than in Paris. The price of bread of the first quality in Paris is 35 cents per kilogramme, which is equal to nearly 6d. per loaf of 4lbs. English; and the price of bread in London at the shops of the full-priced bakers being 8½d. per 4lb. loaf, it follows *that bread is 41½ per cent. dearer in London than in Paris.—Times.*

Madrid journals of the 14th instant announce the arrival from Paris of a naval officer, Lieutenant de Plas, who had travelled with great despatch, and brought despatches for the Duke de Glucksberg and the Prince de Joinville. The Duke was to start without delay for Cadiz and embark for Morocco, as Chargé d'Affaires at the Court of the Emperor. It was said that he had full powers to conclude a treaty of peace. This looks well, and is probably the result of the advice given by the most able general in the French army, Marshal Soult, who knows well the uncertainty and horrors of war.

SPAIN.—Madrid journals of the 13th contain the long-talked of decree for suspending the sale of church lands. It is given in the *Gazette* in these words:—"Art. 1. The sale of the property of the secular clergy and of religious communities shall be suspended until the Government, in accordance with the Cortes, shall determine on the most suitable course to be pursued. Art. 2. The revenues of the said lands are to be appropriated to the support of the secular clergy and of the religious communities. Art. 3. The Minister of Finance is charged with the execution of the above decree." This decree has caused great dissatisfaction among all classes. Original purchasers begin to fear for their property, and even the clergy receive the boon with a bad grace, as it deprives them of the administration of the property. The elections are going on in favour of the Government.

At Tarragona, on the 10th inst., the following serious accident happened. The Palinure, French brig of war, coming into the harbour, fired a salute, which was returned by the citadel, in doing which a spark caught a barrel of gunpowder, placed imprudently too near, and an explosion took place, by which five artillerymen were killed, and seventeen more or less seriously wounded.

BERLIN, August 14.—Letters from Vienna say that, during the visit of our King, there will be conferences on the riots of the weavers in Bohemia and Silesia, and that very important measures may probably be carried into effect in common by these two powers, and that, perhaps, a cordon may be drawn between Bohemia and Silesia.

BERLIN.—The general exhibition of the produce of national industry in the States of Germany was opened at Berlin on the 15th inst. At the first, the catalogue contained only 1913 members, but was expected to be shortly increased to 3000. In the 1913 Prussia reckons 1315, but as yet only 21 of the States of the Confederation have contributed.

HAMBURGH, August 15.—The number of ships that passed the Sound in July, 1844, was,

From the North Sea	903
" Baltic	1542
	2445

Of these the English were,

From the North Sea	289
" Baltic	373
	662

BELGIUM.—The continuance of the unfavourable weather does considerable injury to the corn, which is still standing. In the district of Nivelles, for instance, the wheat is not got in, and begins to sprout. In several parts on the banks of the Seine measures have been taken to guard against the effects of inundation.

The *Moniteur* contains a long report of Mr. Nothomb on the population of Belgium in 1841 and 1842, from which it appears that it was estimated for the latter year at 4,172,706 inhabitants. The Minister, however, is of opinion that the statement is one-tenth below the truth, and that a new census is absolutely necessary.

BOIS LE DUC, Aug. 19.—The water is rising in an alarming manner, and unless it speedily falls we shall have a terrible inundation. It wants only 16 inches to reach the level of the dike round the town. This morning an express has come from the Groenendyk, and we hear that a detachment of 100 Lancers has been sent to prevent the people from wantonly cutting through the dike.

ITALY.—A letter from Bologna of the 13th inst. states, that 15 persons (merchants, proprietors, physicians, and lawyers), implicated in the revolt of 1843, but who had not formed part of the armed bands, had been removed to Rome, to be tried by the Sacra Consulta tribunal.

Letters from Turin of the 10th inst. state, that a few days before the Duke of Genoa, the second son of the King of Sardinia, while riding in the neighbourhood of his chateau of Raconige, was stopped by banditti. The Prince told them who he was, which, however, did not prevent the robbers carrying away his purse, watch, and some jewels. Most of the young men in the Legations went into mourning on hearing of the fate of the brothers Bandiera and their companions.

TURKEY.—Letters from Constantinople of the 27th ult. state, that the cordiality which had hitherto prevailed between the English and French ambassadors at the Ottoman court had been of late somewhat impaired, and that they now opposed each other in almost every question under negotiation.

A letter from Constantinople of the 27th ult. says—"On the evening of the 19th we had a tremendous fire, which made a great hole in the town of Beglos Bey, on the Bosphorus. Besides numerous other buildings, houses, and shops, about fifty splendid mansions, the residences of persons of distinction, were reduced to ashes. The palace at which the Sultan was then residing being closely menaced, great exertions were made by the soldiery collected there to prevent the flames from spreading, and one officer and two or three men perished. The Sultan has since removed to Chiraghan."

CIRCASSIA.—The war in Circassia, which has now continued so many years, does not appear yet to be about to terminate in the conquest of the country. On the contrary, the Russians have experienced a fresh defeat at Perdigorok, near Kouban. Another fact has been announced, which, if confirmed, would be still more serious—the capture of Derbend fortress, with its cannon and ammunition, by Schamyl, a species of warlike prophet, who has for several years governed and led to battle the Lesghis, the Koubitchis, and the other Mussulman tribes of Daghestan. He is the Abd-el-Kader of those countries.

WEST INDIES.—ARRIVAL OF THE WEST INDIA MAILS.—The Dee, Royal Mail Company's steam-ship, with the usual West India mails, arrived at Southampton on Monday evening at six o'clock, after a fine passage of nineteen days from St. Thomas's. She brings 228 ounces of gold dust, 1000 dollars, 342 ounces of silver, and a number of passengers. The dates of departure of the Dee, are—from Jamaica, July 24; Demerara, July 20; Trinidad, July 21; Barbadoes, July 24; Grenada, July 26; St. Thomas's, July 31; and Fayal, August 13. In most of the places the Sugar Duties Bill was a topic of bitter complaint. The Jamaica papers, however, say that one cheering feature in the aspect of colonial affairs was the zeal and energy with which the resident planters had been pushing forward improvements in agriculture. The preparation and manuring of the land, the planting and clearing of canes, and a variety of other matters, were now performed much more economically and effectually on the most extensive plantations. Nor were these improvements confined to the sugar estates. On the coffee properties guano manure was being tried, and, as far as the appearance of the trees enabled one to judge, with every chance of success. The advices from the country generally were to the effect that the rains have been abundant. A fire had occurred on St. Toolie's estate, in Clarendon. The estate had just finished crop, and the sugar on the premises was destroyed. The reduction of postage throughout the island had taken place, and the working of the altered plan gave considerable satisfaction. The House of Assembly had been further prorogued to the 20th of August next. The yellow fever, accompanied by the black vomit, had made its appearance in the island, and the cases already occurring were fatal.

At Trinidad the new tariff would not come into operation before the beginning of October next; and it is stated that, notwithstanding the increase alluded to, the scale of duties at Trinidad is much lower than those of the other colonies. The announcement of the consent of her Majesty's Government to the immediate introduction of English criminal law and trial by jury had been received with much satisfaction by the colonists.

The weather in Demerara, Barbadoes, and the other principal islands is described as favourable for the crops, though in certain districts there are the usual complaints of the effects of the dry or the wet, as the case may be.

CUBA.—The Jamaica *Morning Journal* of the 24th July, says:—"In Cuba we are told the system of terror, thoroughly established and kept up by the tyrant who rules the destinies of that island, with his orders for the departure of all free people of colour, keeps all in a ferment. By the last steamer to Vera Cruz upwards of 100 departed. The Captain-General appears to pay no attention to the remonstrances of the British Consul, who, some parties think is not as determined, as he ought to be. We hope Government will pay particular attention to what is transpiring in this island, and will be especially careful of the rights of her subjects, which the Don has been trampling under foot without any compunction or hesitancy whatever."

EXECUTION OF TWENTY PERSONS AT HAVANNAH.—All is apparently tranquil here, but it is the tranquillity of terror, which the severe but necessary measures of government have inspired. What dreadful scenes have we not witnessed here these last few months! what arrests and frightful developments! what condemnations, and horrid deaths! But the bloody drama seems approaching its close; the curtain has just fallen on the execution of the chief conspirator, Placido, who met his fate with an heroic calmness that produced a universal impression of regret. Nothing was positively known of the decision of the council concerning him, till it was rumoured a few days since that he would proceed, along with others, to the "chapel" for the condemned. On the appointed day for the execution a great crowd was assembled, and Placido was seen walking along with singular composure under circumstances so gloomy, smoking a cigar, and saluting with graceful ease his numerous acquaintances. Are you aware what the punishment of the "chapel" means? It is worse a thousand times than the death of which it is the sure precursor. The unfortunate criminals are conducted into a chapel hung in black, and dimly lighted. Priests are there to chant in sepulchral voice the service of the dead, and the coffins of the trembling victims are arrayed in cruel relief before their eyes. Here they are kept for twenty-four hours, and are led hence to execution. Can anything be more awful? and what a disgusting aggravation of the horror of the coming death! Placido emerged from the chapel cool and undismayed, whilst the others were nearly or entirely overcome by the agonies they had already undergone. The chief conspirator held a crucifix in his hand, and recited in a loud voice a beautiful prayer in verse, which thrilled upon the hearts of the attentive masses which lined the road he passed. On arriving at the fatal spot he sat down on a bench with his back turned, as ordered, to the military, and rapid preparations were made for his death. It was well known that, in some affecting poem written by Placido in prison, he had said it would be useless to seek to kill him by shooting his body, that they must strike his heart to make it cease its throbbings. And now the dread hour had arrived—at the last moment he arose, and said "*adios mondo!*" (adieu, world), and sat calmly down. The word was given, and five balls entered his body. Amid the murmurs of the horror-struck spectators, he got up and turned his head upon the shrinking soldiers, his face wearing an expression of superhuman courage, "Will no one have pity on me?" he said. "Here! (pointing to his heart) fire here!" At that instant two balls pierced his breast, and he fell dead whilst his words still echoed in our ears. Nineteen were shot at the time with Placido, of which I send you a list. They all died miserably, and I spare you the sickening details.

DOMESTIC.

The locksmiths of Walsall, Wolverhampton, Willenhall, and neighbourhood, numbering about 300 persons, have turned out for an advance of 5 per cent. on their wages.——The receipts of twenty railway companies for the last four weeks are, in the aggregate, greater by upwards of £50,000 than those of the corresponding period of last year.——The Earl of Galloway has forwarded the sum of 100 guineas in aid of the fund of the Hospital for Consumption and Disease of the Chest, at Brompton.——Her Majesty's steamer Stromboli, under the command of the Hon. Edward Plunkett, when on her passage from Cork to the Shannon, on Wednesday week, struck on a reef of rocks which lies in the mouth of Bantry Bay, on the coast of Kerry. To all appearance she is greatly damaged; and up to the last accounts it was found impossible to remove her from her position.——Saturday morning last, at eight o'clock, the extreme sentence of the law was carried into effect at the Stafford county gaol, on William Beards, who was found guilty at the late assizes of the murder of Elizabeth Griffiths, at the village of Wednesbury, on Saturday, the 16th of last March.——During the last few days, says the *Times* of Monday, disclosures of the most extraordinary character have been made in the letter-carriers' office of the General Post-office, from the discovery by the authorities of a most extensive collusion on the part of several letter-carriers employed in the delivery of letters in the western district of the metropolis, who, it appears, have been for some time in the habit of opening letters directed to noblemen, gentlemen, and others connected with the sporting world, with the view, as far as we can learn, of disposing of such information for some pecuniary consideration, or betting themselves upon the strength of it. A most rigid inquiry into the whole circumstances of the case is instituted daily.——Returns of the amount of horse-power ordered for her Majesty's steam-vessels, between the 1st of April, 1839, and the 31st of August, 1841, and of the amount ordered between the 1st of September, 1841, and the 1st of July, 1844, have been moved for by Mr. Sidney Herbert, M.P., the Secretary of the Admiralty. The amount of horse-power ordered for her Majesty's steam-vessels in the first-mentioned period was 4496, the number of vessels 18, and the tonnage thereof 16,581. In the second period the horse-power was 11,261, the number of vessels 30, and the tonnage thereof 26,892.——The Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland concluded its great annual meeting at Dublin by a banquet given on the 15th inst. at the Theatre Royal in that city: an immense assemblage of the nobility and gentry were present. Some reflections made on the Repeal party by the Earl of Erne, Vice-president, in the course of a speech in which he defended Irish landlords, led to the withdrawal of Mr. Smith O'Brien and others from the theatre; and subsequently, on a remonstrance addressed by the former to the council of the society, his lordship expressed his regret at having made any observations of a political tendency.——It is

rumoured that a large number of Calvinistic Methodists, one thousand at least, from Carnarvon and Anglesey, are preparing to emigrate to the United States, with a view to forming a community on the banks of the Mississippi. —*Chester Chronicle.*——The Central Criminal Court commenced its 10th sittings during the present mayoralty on Monday last, before the Recorder, Mr. Alderman Gibbs, the Sheriffs, &c. The Recorder in the course of his address stated that the calendar contained no less than 330 cases for trial, and he was much afraid that that number would be considerably augmented before the grand jury concluded their labours.——Her Majesty's cutter Prince Albert, Lieutenant Brown, R.N., commander, brought into Kingstown harbour, near Dublin, the foreign smuggling lugger Cyrus, of Flushing, with a crew of 12 men and a cargo of 175 bales of leaf tobacco, which it is supposed she was expected to land in the neighbourhood of Belfast.——A young lady of the name of Cussen, resident in Limerick, was, last week, while walking with her aunt in the suburbs of that city, forcibly seized upon by an armed party and carried off in a car, in spite of her screams and an attempt to rescue her. Miss Cussen is supposed to have a handsome fortune, which may account for the abduction.——The act of last session which abolishes imprisonment for debts under £20 will have a salutary effect in limiting the operations of those usurious companies called loan societies, of which there are at present upwards of 150 in various parts of the metropolis. The great majority of the loans do not exceed £20; and as the act gives no remedy against the person of the borrower, the societies will have to proceed, in case of default, against the goods of the surety, a process at once uncertain, expensive, and tedious. ——The strike of the pitmen in the counties of Northumberland and Durham is now at an end, the whole of the collieries, with very unimportant exceptions, having engaged all the workmen they require on the terms and conditions offered by the coalowners previous to the 5th of April, when the strike commenced.——Patrick Larkin, who stood remanded from the previous Monday on a charge of stealing, at the General Post-office, a number of bills of exchange, &c., of the value of £782 7s. 6d., was brought up on Wednesday at Bow-street before Mr. Hall for further examination; and, after a lengthened investigation, was fully committed to take his trial.——The Great Western steamer sailed from Liverpool on Saturday with about 140 passengers and a full cargo of light goods.——The poor of Preston, to the number of 1000, were treated with a gratuitous trip to Fleetwood, on Monday week. The arrangements were made by the Temperance Excursion Committee, and tickets were sold at the rate of forty for 20s. to benevolent individuals who were anxious to give a treat to those who were unable to treat themselves. This is an example well worthy of imitation.——An inquest was held on Tuesday evening at the workhouse of the West London Union, West-street, Smithfield, before Mr. Joseph Payne, the deputy coroner, on the body of Michael Wright, aged 54, a law writer. It appeared in evidence that the deceased had not for nearly the past three years left his apartment, that he had no bed to lie upon, nor change of linen, and that in consequence his person was very filthy, as was also his room; he subsisted almost exclusively upon bread and milk. His death was attributed to disease of the lungs, probably accelerated by bad diet.——Joseph Stadman Madison, recently appointed superintendent of police at Dundee, has been arrested in that town on a charge of felony. The accused, it appears, was selected for that office out of nearly forty candidates; his personal appearance and the weight of his testimonials having secured his election. The charge it is said is for embezzlement.——On Sunday morning last, some children who were amusing themselves in a field of Mr. Pitcher, of Northfleet, close by the mail-coach road, discovered on the edge of a chalk cliff, at the verge of the field, a man tied by the neck to a small thorn tree, and leaning back quite dead. The deceased is about fifty-five years of age. There is little doubt that he committed suicide.——Up to Saturday nearly 120 persons availed themselves of the privilege given by Lord Brougham's Bill for the Amendment of the Bankruptcy and Insolvent Laws and for the Abolition of Imprisonment for Debt under £20, the majority of whom had been incarcerated for debts considerably under that sum.——A tribute has been set on foot in the Isle of Man, to commemorate the valuable services rendered by Dr. Bowring, M.P., in procuring, during the recent session, the removal of various fiscal restrictions which were felt to be a grievance to the inhabitants.——Captain Warner has addressed a letter to the newspapers, in which he says:—"If the Government will anchor a line-of-battle ship at the back of the Goodwin Sands, out of the ship-track, so that no harm may happen to passing vessels, I will, from on board another ship, destroy her at a distance of five miles. I am willing to take on board the vessel in which I operate, General Sir George Murray, Captain Lord Viscount Ingestre, R.N., Captain Dickinson, R.N., and Captain Henderson, R.N., who shall have every opportunity of inspecting my mode of operation, and satisfying themselves that on this occasion I use a projectile. The kind liberality of my friends enables me to exhibit this experiment without asking the Government for a shilling towards it. If I fail, I am to receive nothing but ridicule; of which I have received quite enough to satisfy any reasonable man already. But previously I require a guarantee from her Majesty's Government for its purchase of my secret for £300,000, in the event of my destroying the ship and satisfying the four above-named officers of the feasibility and practicability of my plans."——The Repeal Association held its weekly meeting at the Conciliation Hall, Dublin, on Monday. Several large sums of money from the United States and British North America were handed in. Mr. D. O'Connell, jun., read the weekly report from the prisoners. Among other announcements made on behalf of his father, he stated that it was the intention of Mr. O'Connell himself, upon the 30th of May, 1845, to institute a pledge for the non-consumption of exciseable articles in Ireland, and also a pledge for the non-use of any articles not of Irish manufacture. The amount of the rent for the week was stated to be £1125.——On Monday evening, at half-past nine o'clock, a special train of 42 carriages, containing 1075 passengers, started from the station at Euston-square to Liverpool, the fare to and from Liverpool being £1 10s. each. The passengers may return at the end of seven or ten days, and will have the opportunity of visiting several interesting places in Lancashire, as well as in England and Scotland, the fare to Glasgow being reduced to 5s.——On Sunday afternoon Mr. Robert Owen left London to proceed to America on a visit to his family, residing in New Harmony, Indiana. His friends and disciples assembled in St. James's-park in numbers amounting to some thousands, and accompanied him on his way as far as Vauxhall-bridge, where Mr. Owen bade them farewell.——At the last Wells assizes a most notorious character named George Culliford, of Ilchester, was tried on four indictments, three for burglary and one for sacrilege, and transported for the term of his natural life, having only been liberated from gaol about five days, during which period he committed all these offences.——In the cotton-manufacturing districts of Scotland, the number of children employed between 9 and 13 years of age, have decreased from the beginning of 1842 to the 1st of April last, from 546 to 403—a diminution of 143 children of those ages.——During the last week two rich and valuable veins of copper ore have been fallen in with by the workmen employed at Cockleybeck.——From official documents it appears that a considerable decrease has lately taken place in the number of prisoners confined in the borough prison of Liverpool. The average number is now only 540, whilst twelve or eighteen months ago the number was 680. This decrease is mainly to be attributed to the great revival of trade which has taken place in Liverpool.——It is currently stated that arrangements are being made to secure the return of all the state prisoners as members of the Town Council at the ensuing municipal elections.—*Dublin Monitor.*——A letter in the *Kelso Mail* states, that Mr. Melrose, of Hawick, Roxburghshire, has invented a piecing-machine to be used in woollen manufactures, by means of which two children will be able to do the work which at present requires ten. ——On Friday, the 16th inst., a fire was discovered to have broken out in a straw stack on the premises of Mr. Samuel Wm. Bacon, of Bull's-bridge Farm, Hempstead, contiguous to a barn and extensive outbuildings, but, from the prompt and energetic assistance of the labourers and others present, was speedily extinguished.——At the Liverpool assizes, Mr. Aldis, formerly an artist, but now a clergyman, obtained a verdict against an attorney of the name of Gardiner, for negligence. Damages £300.——Octavius Clarke, the son of a late highly distinguished divine, was, on Wednesday last, fully committed at Worship-street, charged with committing numerous depredations in the houses of gentlemen connected with his family, and with whom he had been on terms of intimate friendship.——Prince Albert will complete his 26th year on Monday next.——It appears by a parliamentary return that the total amount of the land-tax in England and Wales in the year ended 25th March, 1843, was £1,858,924 6s. 1½d. The proportion redeemed amounts to £724,463 19s. 2¾d., the unredeemed to £1,134,460 6s. 10½d. The accounts to the 25th March, 1844, are not yet completed.——A fire took place at Richmond on Tuesday morning, which destroyed property valued at £4000.——The Sphinx steamer, which arrived in the river from Havre on Monday night, had nearly 700 packages of plums on board, about twenty of the baskets containing common plums, the remainder consisting entirely of greengages, quite ripe and in good condition.——In pursuance of directions from the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, the collectors and comptrollers at the several ports of the kingdom have been ordered to make a return of the Spanish vessels at their respective ports; and also to specify if there are any, and if so what, local charges or dues at their several ports applicable to Spanish ships over and above such as are paid upon British.——Accounts from various districts in the kingdom state that, notwithstanding some heavy rains, the crops exhibit a fine appearance, and that there is every prospect of an abundant harvest.——An accident occurred at the Dewsnup coal-pits, Dukinfield, near Ashton-under-Lyne, on Thursday week, which proved fatal to a young lad, named Henry Rowbottom, aged 17 years. The deceased was killed while engaged at work at the bottom of the pit, by the falling of a piece of coal on his head.——Great numbers of Irish reapers arrived in Glasgow last week. One of the Londonderry steamers brought over 1500 at a trip. The Fire King had a cargo of 1000, and the other Belfast steamers, we understand, were also crowded. In addition to these, a number were brought to the city by the Ayrshire railway. In all, not fewer than 10,000 Irish reapers passed through this city for the Lothians, &c., last week. ——At the Central Criminal Court, on Wednesday, Mr. James C. Belaney, surgeon, was tried for the murder of his wife at Stepney, and acquitted.——On Saturday night last, two railway sub-contractors, of the name of M'Cormick, uncle and nephew, both Irishmen, and the employers of about 200 of their countrymen in the formation of a road between Blane-toll and Gartmore, near Glasgow, while in a state of intoxication committed a violent outrage on the toll-keeper of Kepcullock, into whose house they forced an entrance, and then violently assaulted him, he having refused to supply them with any more liquor. They were subsequently arrested by a number of constables; but their hands having been left unmanacled, the elder seized a pickaxe, with which he struck an excise-officer a deadly blow, which felled him to the ground, and left him almost lifeless. They both then fled, but were subsequently arrested and lodged in Stirling gaol.——On Sunday morning last, during divine service at Emanuel Church, Camberwell, and whilst earnestly joining with the congregation in singing the 1st verse of the 41st Psalm, the Rev. J. T. P. Wyche, M.A., curate of Cranfield, Beds, was seized with a fit of apoplexy. He was immediately taken to the porch of the church, and there bled, and subsequently conveyed to the residence of his father, where soon afterwards he expired, in the 37th year of his age.——The consecration of a monastery, in Leicestershire, dedicated to St. Bernard, and intended for the use of a number of Cistercian monks, who have hitherto inhabited temporary buildings in Charnwood Forest, took place on Tuesday last, the ceremony being performed by Dr. Wiseman, Dr. Walsh, and Dr. Morris.——"For some weeks past," says the *Dublin Evening Post*, "there has been a gradual diminution of the military force congregated in Ireland at the period of the state trials. We mentioned, on Saturday, that two regiments, the 60th Rifles, and the 61st Foot, were under orders at Cove, awaiting the arrival of transports to embark for India. Those transports have arrived; but an order has been forwarded from the Horse Guards suspending the departure of both regiments."——A destructive fire broke out in a range of stabling within the yard of the Great Western Railway station at Maidenhead, in the middle of the day, on Tuesday last, which it is strongly feared was not occasioned by merely accidental means. The flames, when first discovered, burst forth with inconceivable rapidity, and within less than half an hour afterwards the whole building, which was composed of wood covered with slate, was a heap of burning ruins. There were 12 horses in the stable at the time, eight of which were fortunately rescued, after considerable difficulty, without sustaining any damage. Three horses, which obstinately resisted every effort to extricate them, were literally burnt almost to a cinder.——The Earl of Rosse has completed the polishing of the speculum of his leviathan telescope; it is expected that this magnificent instrument will soon be in full working order.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURES.—The *Providence Journal*, in noticing the general prosperity of business throughout the country, takes occasion to remark on the rapid extension of the cotton manufacture. One individual near Providence, had received an order for no less than 100,000 new spindles for a factory in Rhode Island. Preparations were making for the erection of a new mill on Fall River; and in New Hampshire a similar spirit of enterprise had been manifested in favour of this branch of industry.

INTERNAL COMMERCE.—Internal commerce suffers because industry, producing too much in comparison with the small remuneration which it affords to labour, and agriculture not producing enough, the nation finds itself composed of producers who cannot sell, and famished consumers who cannot buy. The want of an equilibrium of position compels the Government here, as in England, to seek even in China some thousands of consumers in the presence of millions of Frenchmen or Englishmen, who are destitute of everything, and who, if they could purchase suitable food and clothing, would create a commercial movement much more considerable than the most advantageous treaties.—*Extinction du Paupérisme, par Louis Bonaparte.*

THE BLESSINGS OF PEACE.—The following paragraph is from the speech addressed by the King of the French to the manufacturers, who recently assembled in the Hall of the Marshals, to receive the recompenses awarded to them by the jury:—"It is by peace, by internal tranquillity, that the arts can flourish, that industry can prosper—and France increase in wealth, in happiness, and in glory—in that peaceable glory that costs neither sacrifice nor tears to anybody. On that account have my endeavours constantly tended to preserve my country from the scourge of war; for I have always maintained as a principle that a nation should never engage in war, unless it was incumbent on it to defend the honour and independence of the country and its real interests; but, when that imperious necessity does not exist, one should resist those vain illusions which, under specious appearances, too often induce states and nations to incur the uncertain and dangerous chances of war, and sacrifice to fears or hopes equally chimerical the real blessings of peace—blessings which are for the country the best guarantee of public prosperity, as they are for the families that of their repose and domestic happiness."

THE LABOURER'S QUESTION.—We have always treated the Corn Laws as *the labourer's question*, for upon the working classes chiefly the burden falls. With this conviction we have laboured incessantly for their repeal. We know that if masters cannot make sales, or if their sales are made without profit, there is nothing to fall upon but the men's wages; and we know that if food be dear, their wages are inadequate to provide for their families. On the other hand, if trade be good and profits large, it is soon known, and such are the additional mills erected, that more wages are obliged to be given in order to secure hands; and if, in connexion with good wages, the operatives also get cheap food, the advantage must be obvious. These advantages would enable many men to keep their wives and children at home, and, thus lessening the supply of hands, they would be able to counteract every unreasonable attempt to pull down their wages. We pronounce the repeal of the Corn Laws as emphatically *the poor man's question*, and, as such, we should advocate it if every factory master was on the other side, and the League itself dissolved.—*Preston Guardian.*

THE LEAGUE.—The kindness of a friend procured me admission to the great establishment of the League at Manchester, where I had the satisfaction of seeing and hearing much that surprised and interested me. George Wilson and other well-known leaders of the League, who were assembled in the committee-room, received me as a stranger, with much kindness and hospitality, readily answering all my questions, and making me acquainted with the details of their operations. I could not help asking myself whether in Germany men, who attacked with such talent and energy the fundamental laws of the state, would not have been long ago shut up in some gloomy prison as conspirators and traitors, instead of being permitted to carry on their operations thus freely and boldly in the broad light of day; and, secondly, whether in Germany such men would ever have ventured to admit a stranger into all their secrets with such frank and open cordiality.—*England and Wales, by J. G. Kohl.*

CHEAP FOOD AND MANUFACTURING PROSPERITY.—A Hull paper observes, that the state of the river reminds the inhabitants of olden times. It is so crowded with vessels that people can cross it by passing from one sloop to another. At the same time the docks are quite full. In many districts in Yorkshire and Lancashire, the poor-rates have been very much relieved. In Huddersfield, for the quarter ending June 24, in the present year, out-door relief has been granted to only one-half the number to whom it was found necessary to dispense it in the corresponding quarter of 1843. The connexion is evident between cheap food and manufacturing prosperity. It is in our power to ensure the one, and every day furnishes fresh proofs that the other would inevitably follow it.—*Manchester Guardian.*

SUNDAY AMUSEMENTS IN THE SLAVE STATES.—(From a New York paper.)—We copy the following advertisement from a New Orleans paper:—"Bull Fight.—A fight between a ferocious bull and a number of dogs will take place this day, Sunday, at five o'clock p.m., on the other side of the river, at Algiers, opposite Canal-street. After the bull-fight, a fight will take place between a bear and some dogs. The whole to conclude with a combat between an ass and several dogs. Admittance—boxes, 50 cents; pit, 30 cents. Amateurs bringing dogs to practise in the fight will be admitted gratis. Doors open at half-past three o'clock. The spectacle will be repeated every Sunday, weather permitting.—PEPE LLULLA."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

(From the *Morning Chronicle*.)

We have received from the committee for diffusing information on the state and prospects of South Australia, a mass of statistical and commercial detail relative to that colony, some of the leading features of which we are induced to condense, in the hope that they may prove useful both to merchants and intended emigrants.

In 1843 the population of South Australia was	17,000
The acres under cultivation	28,693
The value of imports	£93,143
The value of exports	62,645
The value of grain and flour imported	3,509
The value of ditto exported	9,280
Value of oil and whalebone	12,981
Quantity of wool	854,815 lbs.
Its value	32,055
The ordinary revenue	25,694
Colonial expenditure	30,911
Manufactories, including flour mills and breweries	45
Schools	47

In 1843, the exports were chiefly colonial produce or manufactures. Previously to that year, however, they consisted, in a great measure, of imported goods re-exported. The value of the wool, in these tables, has been estimated at 9d. per lb., and the average weight of fleeces at 2½ lbs. It is stated, however, that some of the wool brought much higher prices, and that the average realized was 13d. per lb.

With respect to land, we may mention that upwards of 300,000 acres beyond those selected have been surveyed, and are now ready for purchase. Quarterly sales by auction take place in the colony; and during the intermediate periods the lands not sold are ready for purchasers. At the second quarterly sales in February last the demand was brisk. About 617 acres were sold, reaching £2354 1s. Persons purchasing land here from the Colonial and Emigration Commissioners have the privilege of securing a free passage out to four adult labourers for every £100 so expended.

The quantity of grain grown seems to be steadily increasing. The returns for 1843 show an increase in the number of acres under wheat cultivation of 9000, and of those bearing barley of 600. The surplus produce of wheat in 1843 has been reckoned at 200,000 bushels.

The return of flocks and herds for 1843 offers the following results:—Sheep, 402,187; cattle, 30,018; horses, 1693; pigs, 6354; and goats, 2680. At Rivoli Bay, a district within South Australia, but not included in the above estimate, the number of sheep was computed to be 15,000, cattle 100, the horses 10, and the population 50.

Several lead and copper mines have been discovered, some of them not far from Adelaide, and they are stated to promise a large yield of these useful metals.

The imports for 1843, valued at £93,000, show a considerable decline from the value of those of the previous year. The exports were estimated at £66,160 17s. 2d., exhibiting a considerable increase on the value of those of 1842. Were it not for the moderate valuation at 9d. per lb. of the wool exported in 1843, it is thought that the sum total of the exports for that year would have very nearly equalled that of the imports.

A number of mills, particularly for grinding corn, have lately been erected, and by the last returns number 16. The price of grinding is 1s. per bushel.

The results of the meteorological observations for five years show that during that period no calendar month has passed in South Australia without rain having fallen; that the average number of days on which rain has fallen was 100 per annum, and that the average number of inches was 20.

There are two banks of deposit and issue and one savings' bank. The number of depositors in the latter is 57, and the total amount of deposits on the 4th of March, 1844, was £559 12s. 6d., giving £9 16s. 5d. as the average rate of deposits per head.

The following are the latest quotations of the prices of provisions:—Bread, 4d. to 5d. per 4 lb. loaf; flour, 7s. to 9s. per 100 lbs.; biscuit, 10s. to 14s. per cwt.; beef and mutton, 2½d. to 3d. per lb.; lamb, 2½d. to 3½d.; veal and pork, 6d. to 7d.; tea, 2s. to 3s. 6d.; coffee, 8d.; sugar, 2d. to 3½d.; raisins, 6d. to 7d.; currants, 10d.; butter (fresh), 9d. to 1s.; salt, 8d.; cheese, 4d. to 8d.; new milk, 3d. per quart; skimmed, 1½d. per quart; eggs, 1s. per dozen; potatoes, 6s. to 8s. per cwt.; cabbages, 1d. each; onions, 1d. per bunch; melons, 2s. 6d. per cwt. Other vegetables, fruits, poultry, and dairy produce very moderate.

The following are the latest quotations of the rates of labour:—for joiners, carpenters, and others, 4s. to 4s. 6d. per day; smiths, and all descriptions of iron work, 4s. to 4s. 6d. per day; bricklayers, stonemasons, and cutters, 3s. 6d. to 4s. per day; day labourers, 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per day; farm servants, with rations, 10s. to 12s. per week; reapers, 10s. to 12s. per acre; reapers, with rations, 3s. 4d. to 5s. per day; threshing wheat and gleaning, 6d. to 8d. per bushel; barley, 4d. to 6d. per bushel. The common ration list of the colony is—tea, a quarter of a lb.; sugar, 2 lbs.; flour, 12 lbs.; meat, 10½ lbs. per week.

Steam Navigation.—A paper has been printed and circulated in the City, showing the progress of private enterprise in Ocean steam navigation, the facts in which, being presented to the eye at one glance, are interesting, though in an isolated form they have always been accessible. The line of steam communication between England and America was established in 1838 by the Great Western steam-ship, and maintained by that vessel, the British Queen, and the unfortunate President till 1842, without the support of Government, or any contract for conveying the mails. The line to Halifax and Boston was established by Mr. Cunard, on obtaining a Government contract of £57,000 per annum to convey the mails 186,300 miles. The line to the West Indies was established in 1842 by parties who, in 1840, took a contract for £240,000 per annum to convey the mails 684,816 miles. The line to Malta and Alexandria was established in 1840-1 by the Peninsula Company, who took a contract for £31,000 per annum to convey the mails 72,000 miles. The line between Calcutta and Suez was established in 1842 by the India Steam Company of Calcutta, but no assistance has been granted by Government for the mails. The line between Calcutta and Suez in 1843 and 1844 was (and is now) occupied by the Peninsula Company's vessels, with a grant of £20,000 per annum for five years from the Indian Government, on condition of their performing 38,080 miles in the first year, 57,120 miles in the second, and 114,200 in the third.—*Times*.

Increase of Manufacturing Employment in Derby.—In a report of Mr. R. J. Saunders, one of the factory inspectors, for the quarter ending 31st March last, we find the following passage:—"In March, 1843, some mill-occupiers complained they could not get a sufficient supply of hands. The numbers at that time employed in 12 silk mills of Derby were 1552 adults, 759 young persons, and 698 children, making a total of 3009. In March, 1844, four mills, which had been closed for some time, were at work in addition to the others; and the total numbers employed were 2186 adults, 1079 young persons, and 1064 children, making a total of 4329—the increase in one year having been 634 adults, 320 young persons, and 366 children, making a total of 1320 persons. This increased employment has been, I believe, almost entirely owing to the manufacture of a fancy trimming article called gimp. I am told that a great portion of this labour has been supplied by families who had been induced to remove into Derby in consequence of such demand. Some of the silk-throwsters in Derby complain now, as they did in 1843, that they have a difficulty in obtaining a supply of hands. This I conceive to be in a great measure accounted for by the fact that each mill-occupier wishes to get experienced hands, who of course are scarce, and must remain so especially during the time of an increasing demand for them. I am well convinced there are still in Derby many children whose labour will be made available if the demand continues or is increased, and this I think established by reference simply to two details to which I will briefly advert. Of 1064 children now employed, there are only 366 boys, and the remaining 694 are all girls. The latter are preferred in mills, because they are more easily controlled than boys, and will generally do more and better work than them. Again, of the 1064 children under 13, the numbers between 11 and 13 are 633, and those under 11 only 431. As it will be still open to the silk-throwster to employ children as young as 8, it must be evident that a much larger supply of children under 11 can be obtained than are now employed; and these will gradually be taken up if all under 13 are limited to half-days, and the parents find the children so employed receive as sound and useful an education as others who attend school twice a day, and are not employed at all."

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. Aug. 17	Mon. Aug. 19	Tues. Aug. 20	Wed. Aug. 21	Thurs. Aug. 22	Fri. Aug. 23
Bank Stock	199½	199½	199	199½	199	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	99⅛	99⅛	99⅛	99⅛	99⅛	99⅛
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	99	98¾	98½	98½	98¾	98¾
3½ per Ct. Red. Ann	102½	102½	102	102½	102½	102½
3½ per Ct. Ann. new	101½	101⅜	101	101	101½	101½
Long An. Ex. 1860	12 9-16	12 7-16	12 9-16	12½	12 9-16	—
Cons. for Acc.	99	98¾	98½	98⅝	98¾	98¾
Exc. Bills, pm.	73 5	73	73 4	71 4	71 3	—
Ind. Bds. und. 1000*l*	94	—	—	94	—	—
India Stock	282½	282	282½	282	—	—
Belgian Bonds	103⅝	103½	103⅝	102¾	103⅛	—
Brazilian Bonds	84¾	84⅝	84½	85	85	—
Buenos Ayres	34 6	35	34 6	34 6	34 6	—
Chilian	103 5	103 5	103 5	103 5	103 5	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜	13⅜
Danish	89⅛	89⅛	89⅛	89⅛	89⅛	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	101	100¾	100⅝	100⅝	101¾	100¾
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	61⅛	61⅜	61⅜	61⅜	61½	61⅜
Mexican	35¾	35½	35⅝	35½	35⅝	35¾
Peruvian	23 5	23 5	23 5	23 5	23 5	—
Portug. conv.	44⅛	44	44	44½	44	44⅛
Spanish 5 per Ct.	22¾	22½	22⅜	22⅛	22⅛	22⅜
Do. 3 per Cent.	33½	33⅜	33	33	33⅛	33½

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Monday, Aug. 19.—The supply of English Wheat this morning was short, about 1000 qrs. of it were new. Large quantities of Foreign Wheat, Barley, and Oats continue to arrive; among the last are two cargoes from Archangel. The supplies of Irish Oats are moderate. Since Thursday the weather has been almost uninterruptedly fine, and the improvement in prices reported by us on Wednesday and Friday, caused by the bad weather in the early part of last week, could not be maintained at our market this day. We have therefore to report the prices of English and Foreign Wheat, Barley, and Oats as on this day week. There was more inquiry for Beans, and rather better prices were obtained. Peas, both White and Maple, fully maintain last week's rates.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk	Red 42 to 50	White 48	to 54
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire	— 42 — 48	— 44	— 51
—— Scotch	— 40 — 44	— 44	— 48
—— Irish	— 40 — 42	— 44	— 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire		Feed 20	— 21
—— Ditto Ditto	Short 21 — 22	Polands 22	— 24
—— Scotch	Feed 22 — 24	Potato 25	— 26
—— Limerick	— 21 — 22	Short 22	— 23
—— Cork		19	— 20
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork		Black 18	— 19
—— Westport		19	— 20
—— Galway		17	— 19
Barley, Grinding	28 to 30	Distilling 30	— 32
—— Malting	32 — 34	Irish 26	— 30
Beans, Mazagan	— — 30	Tick 32	— 34
—— Harrow	35 — 37	Small —	— 40
—— Old Tick		—	— 40
Peas, White	31 to 34	Boilers 35	— 36
—— Maple and Grey		30	— 34
Flour, Best Town-made	per sack of 280 lbs	46	— 48
—— Norfolk and Suffolk	— —	40	— 42

FOREIGN.

Per Imperial Quarter.

		FREE.	IN BOND
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed		48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.
—— Rostock		47 — 54	
—— Stettin		44 — 52	
—— Hamburgh		42 — 48	
—— Odessa		42 — 46	
—— Ditto	Polish	47 — 50	
—— Russian	soft	42 — 46	
—— Ditto	hard	40 — 44	
—— Spanish	Red	45 — 49	
—— Ditto	White	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding		26 — 39	— — —
Barley, Distilling		30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel		20 — 21	14 — 15
—— Swedish		19 — 20	13 — 14
—— Stralsund		19 — 20	13 — 14
—— Dutch Feed		18 — 19	12 — 23
—— —— Brew		20 — 22	14 — 16
—— —— Polands		— — —	19 — 20
Beans, Egyptian		20 — 31	22 — 23
Peas, White		30 — 34	— — —
—— Ditto Boilers		32 — 35	— — —
Flour, Canada	per barrel of 196 lbs	27 — 29	— — —
—— United States	— —	27 — 29	20 — 22
—— Dantzig	— —	26 — 28	— — —

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Aug. 12 to Aug. 17, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	2765	280	385	546	347
Scotch	—	68	453	—	—
Irish	—	—	11258	—	—
Foreign	22626	18542	22999	1506	5182

Flour, 5839 sacks, 112 barrs.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending Aug. 13, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat	4189	48s. 4d.	Rye	247	37s. 5d.
Barley	847	38s. 2d.	Beans	61	30s. 1d.
Oats	15908	19s. 3d.	Peas	328	34s. 10d.

Friday, Aug. 23.—The arrivals of Foreign Wheat, Barley, and Oats continue large; but of all which English grain and of Irish Oats moderate. There is rather an improved demand for Wheat at Monday's rates. Foreign Barley is still held in expectation of a lower duty, and buyers of all descriptions are compelled to give fully Monday's rates. The Oat trade is not brisk, but the little business doing is at Monday's prices. There are not many Beans offering, and all descriptions sell readily at former rates. No alteration in Peas. The duty on Wheat advanced yesterday to 19s. The weather during the week has been uninterrupted ly fine.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 19th of August to the 23rd of August, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat	2250	—	9140
Barley	20	—	13490
Oats	1760	5510	18580

Flour, 3580 sacks.

A WEEKLY REPORT of the NUMBER of QUARTERS, and the AVERAGE PRICE of CORN and GRAIN, sold in the several Counties of England and Wales (comprising the Two Hundred and Ninety Towns named in the Act of the 5th Vic., cap. 14), which governs Duty.

WEEK ENDED Aug. 17, 1844.

	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Wheat. Aver price	Barley. Qrs. sold.	Barley. Aver price	Oats. Qrs. sold.	Oats. Aver price	Beans. Qrs. sold.	Beans. Aver price
		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.
Weekly Averages	66010	49 1	3683	34 6	22409	20 0	4448	35 7
Aggregate Averages	..	51 9		34 5		20 10		36 3
Duty	..	19 0		4 0		6 0		6 6

Stock of Corn in Bond, July 5, 1844.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.	Flour.
In London	128294	39197	17741	—	21381	3235	49909
Unit. King.	549225	72839	60236	2221	76057	40612	192105

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, August 16.

BANKRUPTS.

W. LAW, Reading, draper. [Moger, Paternoster-row.

H. C. YORK, Cheltenham-place, Westminster-road, lodging house keeper. [Hubbard, Queen-street-place, Southwark-bridge.

F. COCK, Lambeth-walk, painter. [Marsden, Cloak-lane.

H. C. WALTON, Liverpool, surgeon. [Chester and Co., Liverpool; Tyrer, Liverpool.

J. C. WHITE and G. H. WHITE, Bath, music sellers. [English, Bath.

J. TAYLOR, Deritend, Warwickshire, licensed victualler. [Capper, Birmingham.

J. SHORE, Rochdale, Lancashire, flannel manufacturer. [Heaton, Rochdale; Wilson, Manchester; Chester and Co., Staples-inn.

H. WEST, Burgh, Lincolnshire, grocer. [Overdale and Co., Bedford-row; Ingolby and Son, Louth; Blackburn, Leeds.

G. S. RUTHERFORD and S. RUSSELL, Sheffield, Britannia metal manufacturers. [Duncan, Featherstone-buildings; Unwin, Sheffield; Blackburn, Leeds.

DIVIDENDS.

Sept. 10. R. Evans and Co., Barge-yard, Bucklersbury, East India merchants—Sept. 10. W. Carpenter, Chippenham, Wilts, innkeeper—Sept. 13. E. Gibson, Kendal, Westmoreland, builder—Oct. 3. R. Hentig, Kingston-upon-Hull, merchant.

CERTIFICATES.

Sept. 11. J. Hodge, Drury-lane, licensed victualler—Sept. 10. B. W. Blake, City-road, merchant—Sept. 7. F. Margetts, Oxford, wine merchant—Sept. 10. F. Stokes, London-wall, importer and French warehouseman—Sept. 6. J. Cuttell, Holmfirth, Yorkshire, clothier—Sept. 6. R. Baxter, Sheffield, merchant—Sept. 6. J. B. Lord and M. Coghlan, Meltham, Yorkshire.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

R. CRAWFORD, Douries, Greenock, farmer.

TUESDAY, August 20.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. B. L. FARRANT, Maidstone, agricultural machine maker.

BANKRUPTS.

G. F. GILES, Bedford-street, Covent-garden, carver and gilder. [Cox, Sise-lane, Bucklersbury.

T. ROBERTS, Blackman-street, Southwark, linendraper. [Messrs. Sole, Aldermanbury.

E. M. GOOD, Rye-lane, Peckham, farmer.

J. MANIGLIER, Oxford-street, watchmaker. [Willoughby and Jaquet, Clifford's-inn.

G. PURT, Upper Thames-street, ale merchant. [Beanlands, Cook's-court, Carey-street.

E. EDWARDS, City-road, draper. [Turner and Hensman, Basing-lane.

W. FULLER, Cliffe, Sussex, currier. [Walthew, Furnival's-inn.

W. BRITTON, Borrowby, Yorkshire, linen cloth manufacturer. [Maples and Co., Frederick's-place, Old Jewry; Arrowsmith and Co., Thirsk; Payne and Co., Leeds.

J. GREGG, Birmingham, blacksmith. [Smith, Walsall; Collis, Birmingham.

DIVIDENDS.

Sept. 13. G. Strawbridge, Bristol, builder—Sept. 19. E. Brass, Taunton, grocer—Sept. 19. W. Langmead, Teignmouth, Devonshire, banker—Sept. 12. J. Wilson, Bolton, Lancashire, timber dealer.

CERTIFICATES.

Sept. 11. W. Dethick, Temple-street, Whitefriars, lime merchant—Sept. 13. P. Tansler, St. John-street, West Smithfield, straw plait dealer—Sept. 11. H. W. Collinson, Stamford-street, hat maker—Sept. 11. W. Golding, Glemsford, Suffolk, inkeeper—Sept. 11. J. F. Wood, Oxford, surgeon—Sept. 10. J. W. Mardall, New Shoreham, Sussex, insurance broker—Sept. 11. A. Portway, Braintree, Essex, tea dealer—Sept. 11. E. Tegwell, Wood-street, Cheapside, warehouseman—Sept. 17. T. W. Younghusband, Upper Belgrave-place, bitumen manufacturer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

J. HAMILTON, Old Cumnock, grocer.

London: Printed by Robert Palmer (of Providence-place, Upper Kennington-lane, Lambeth, in the County of Surrey) and Joseph Clayton (of Number 320, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at their office, Number 10, Crane-court, in the Parish of St. Dunstan, in the City of London; and published by Abraham [illegible] (of Number 32, Norfolk-street, Strand, in the [illegible] the Office of The League, Number 67, Fleet-street, in the Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West.—Saturday, August 24, 1844.

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THE LEAGUE.

No. 49.] SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1844. [3*d.*

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive a copy, weekly, of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and* addresses *to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND, *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR COUNTIES.

POLLING PLACES MAY BE ALTERED.

Voters residing at one part of a county, and claiming to vote for property in another, may vote near their place of residence, by claiming in the form A or B.

An elector residing in the Strand, London, claiming for a freehold house, or any other qualification, at Uxbridge, had formerly to go to Uxbridge to poll: he can now poll at Westminster. Or an elector residing in South Lancashire, or any other county, having a freehold at Uxbridge, or in any other district in the county, may vote in London, thereby saving a journey from London to Uxbridge, or other district, and back.

This is a most important alteration in the law, and the claim may be made by the Free-Trade agents attending the court, a friend, or the tenant, *if he can speak to the claimant's handwriting.** The barrister will write the place he desires to poll at against his name; but he will not be allowed to vote anywhere else. His name will then be printed at the end of the register in the proper list.

Form A.

County of Middlesex, to wit.

I, ———, whose name appears in the list of voters of the above parish, and whose place of abode, as stated in the said list, is not within the said county, claim to vote at the polling place at ———, in the said county.

(Signed) A. B. [Place of Abode.]

Form B.

County of Middlesex, to wit.

I, ———, whose name appears in the list of voters of the above parish, and whose place of abode, as stated in the said list, is not within the said county, claim to vote at the polling place at ———, in the said county.

(Signed) A. B. [Place of Abode.]

POLLING PLACES.—Brentford, Enfield, King's-cross, City of Westminster, City of London, Hammersmith, Hampstead, Bedfont, Edgware, Uxbridge, Mile-end, Bethnal-green.

COUNTY AND BOROUGH REGISTRATION.

From to-morrow, the 1st, to Sunday, the 15th of September, is the time for the publication of the lists of persons objected to in counties, and also of the lists of claimants and of persons objected to in cities and boroughs. Overseers and town clerks are required by law to keep copies of the said lists, and also of the notices of objection, to be perused by *any person*, without the payment of any fee, at any time between the hours of ten o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon of any day, except Sunday, during the first fourteen days of September. They must also deliver copies of the lists to *any person* requiring the same on payment of a price after the following rate, which is copied from the schedule annexed to the new Registration Act:—

For any list or copy of a list containing any number of persons' names

	s.	d.
Not exceeding 100	0	6
Exceeding 100, and not exceeding 200	1	0
" 200, " 300	1	6
" 300, " 400	2	0
" 400 and upwards	2	6

Every Free-Trade elector should now examine these lists—claimants in boroughs to see that their names are properly inserted, and electors generally to ascertain whether they have been objected to in either borough or county. Free-Traders who may be objected to should apply to the local committees, or to such other persons as may be engaged in the management of the registration, for such advice and assistance as they may stand in need of, as to the best mode of defending their votes before the revising barrister.

Any county voter residing out of the polling district in which his qualification is situate is at liberty to make his claim before the revising barrister to vote at the polling place of the district wherein his said place of abode may be situate, provided such place of abode is in the same county or division of a county. The revision of the lists may commence on or after the 16th of September.

All advice and assistance will be given by application at the London Registration Offices of the League, 68, Cheapside, or the League Office, Newall's-buildings, Market-street, Manchester.

* The form signed in the presence of the party producing it before the barrister is sufficient.

WELL-MEANING BENEVOLENCE.

The events of the past year, and the fearful distress of the agricultural labouring classes, have aroused a sentiment of benevolence amongst all right-thinking persons, and especially amongst a considerable section of the landed proprietors. This has shown itself in various ways. Everywhere when squires do congregate they earnestly appeal to their tenants on behalf of the rural labourers. Though somewhat inactive in their own persons in promoting the improvement of the labouring class, they join unanimously in offering lip service to the labourer. This is something to begin with. It is, at all events, an admission that there is something wrong in the system under which farming-labourers have sunk to their present depressed and degraded state. We have now the satisfaction of knowing that the misery which surrounds their halls, and the destitution of the once "lusty peasantry" abiding on their own estates, are no longer things unknown or unacknowledged by the squirearchy of England. Others again, more active practitioners, imagine the national disease is to be cured by "small allotments of land." They are delighted that a few roods of land, let at the ordinary rate and well cultivated with the spade, will save the labourer from starvation, and—though of course such considerations never enter the minds of the advocates of allotments to labourers—*keep him off the poor's rate.*

If small allotments be the specific for rural destitution, as some landed philanthropists seem to suppose, there can be no question that it is to them a very comfortable remedy, which, without any direct sacrifice of rent, may guard their rentals from indirect reduction under the operation of a heavy poor's rate. No one can avoid admiring the combination of dove-like simplicity and serpentine astuteness which this plan presents. Hereafter we shall have occasion to show that a reliance upon small allotments of land for permanently improving the condition of the labouring classes is a pure illusion; but it is a plan which cannot do *much* harm, and may afford temporary alleviation to many industrious peasants. At least it is an admission of past error in the method by which our landowners—who are the Legislature and the Government—have hitherto endeavoured, if they have endeavoured, to protect the interests of the sons of labour who till their fields. Admission of wrong is the first step towards right.

Again; another section of the benevolent, such as those who in July last, at some genteel place of meeting in some fashionable street (we forget the precise locality) formed "*a society for the improvement of the condition of the labouring classes,*" imagine they have hit upon the sovereign remedy. Provident funds created by the poor paying a penny a week; loan funds from which the labourer may borrow a sum to be repaid by *convenient* instalments; co-operative stores; joint-stock cottages, and so forth, are amongst the means by which this society is to better the condition of the labouring classes. Like other benevolent plans, the society seems to overlook the fact that it happens that in large districts constantly, and in all rural districts occasionally, the labourers can't spare even "a penny a week" towards a provident fund, and, though they would often be glad to apply to the loan fund, they will never find it "convenient," nay possible, to repay the loan. We have been led to make these remarks by a circular addressed by Sir Henry Bunbury to the landowners of Suffolk, which we met with in the *Morning Herald.* The purpose of the writer is to form a local society in Suffolk for the improvement of the condition of the labouring classes, upon the plan of the London society, and in order to effect it he says:—

"It is clearly advisable that *in all our proceedings and discussions we should avoid as much as possible all topics which have come to be matter of dispute, either on political or on religious grounds.* We should have, I conceive, *to deal simply, but broadly, with this great problem*—how can the condition of the labourer and his family be rendered such as to enable us to say hereafter, with pride and confidence, 'the state of the working classes in West Suffolk is generally that of decent comfort, their moral feelings are sound, and the public peace and property are secure'?"

Here upon the threshold we meet with an infallible symptom of the inherent defects of the plan. The "great problem" of how the condition of the rural labouring classes is to be improved is to be dealt with "simply but broadly"; that is, that not a whisper is to be heard which can alarm the most sensitive protectionist squire, or ruffle the complacency of the most bigoted political partisan. Why, this is the play of "Hamlet" with the part of *Hamlet* left out. Those who would go to see such a piece may be very excellent and, for aught we know, very sensible persons, but they can be no admirers of the genius of Shakspere. So ladies and gentlemen who form a society upon the principles laid down by Sir Henry Bunbury may have very kindly sentiments towards the poor, but assuredly they have not enough of the nerve and muscle of mind or energy of purpose sufficient to effect any real improvement in the condition of the labouring classes. We say distinctly, no society really proposing to amend the state of the rural classes *can* avoid the discussion of the most acrimoniously debated question of the day—the Corn-Law question; and any attempt to blink such a discussion at once renders the society, to say the least, useless.

The first questions which would arise in such a society would be, "Why are our farming labourers so destitute, why is their employment so irregular, and why are their wages so low?" The answer, and the only answer, must be, "Our farmers are badly off, their farms are not so well cultivated as they ought to be, prices have fallen below the rates they expected to receive for their produce, and rent and other burdens are pressing them sorely." Here we have the question "simply but broadly" stated, but what is the next stage of the "discussion?" Is it not the obvious question, "Why have all these things happened to the farmers?" And how is that question to be resolved without discussing the policy and operation of the Corn Laws?

It would be sheer nonsense for any lisping lordling or landed twaddler to talk about penny provident societies, clothing clubs, loan societies, or small allotments, for there would not be an old lady in the meeting who would not at once detect and despise the insufficiency of the proposed remedies. For the improvement of the condition of the agricultural labourers one thing is necessary, and that, and that only is sufficient for the purpose, which is to make the average agricultural practices of the country conform to average agricultural knowledge amongst our farmers. This is no very recondite scheme. It asks no high degree of scientific knowledge. It implies no necessity for consulting Liebig or importing guano, though both may be usefully done. It is simply to allow even our plainest and least advanced farmers the opportunity of doing the best they can.

But to this remedy, this really simple though effectual remedy, the total and immediate abrogation of all restrictions on the trade in grain is a condition precedent. Until this be done, there is no hope or help for the rural labourer. Unfetter the farmer, let him have the power to pursue his own interest in employing the labourer, and the most benevolent promoter of these societies will find that plain farmer Dobson, in merely trying to make the most he can of his farm, will do more in a year to "improve the condition of the labouring classes" than all the sentimental philanthropists who have ever assembled in charitable societies would effect in a quarter of a century.

There is one way, however, in which the landowners may assist to improve the condition of the peasantry *without* forming societies, with all the array of presidents, committee-men, bankers, and travelling secretaries. They may on their own estates build upon each farm three or four roomy and substantial cottages for every one hundred acres of arable land, laying to each cottage a moderate-sized garden, and let these tenements to their tenants as part of the farm. Possibly this might be somewhat more expensive than subscriptions to the London and local societies for "improving the condition of the labouring classes;" but until the landowners have done this and other acts of analogous character upon their own estates, the public will give them very little credit for benevolence in forming claptrap societies to benefit the agricultural labourers.

PUBLIC PLEASURE GROUNDS IN MANCHESTER.

While the League in its collective capacity has been labouring to achieve the great measure of political justice for which it was instituted, the liberation of industry from the shackles imposed upon it by monopoly, its leading members have taken an active part in many other schemes of social improvement, and particularly in providing places of recreation for the operatives of Manchester. Whatever tends to elevate the working

classes, to improve their physical condition, and to develop their intellectual faculties, must necessarily command the approbation and support of Free-Traders; for it was only through their depressed condition that the monopolists were enabled to fix upon them the odious burden of the Corn Laws. Well has Elliott described "that perfidious barque," which he declares was

"Built in th' eclipse of Britain's mind,
And rigged with curses dark."

It is an essential part of the mission of the League to dispel the darkness which has overshadowed the mind of the British people, and its members feel themselves bound to aid every exertion by which the health both of body and of mind may be promoted. They have not practised the cheap liberality which can be excessively generous at the expense of other people; they have not sought to purchase a popular character for philanthropy out of other men's pockets; they made no vaunting professions, but they did what was much better, they paid down large subscriptions. At the first meeting held in Manchester, on the 8th of this month, £7000 were subscribed on the spot, and of this sum £4500 were contributed by Free-Traders and subscribers to the League. We give a list of the names and the sums:—

Mark Philips, Esq., M.P.	£1000	Subscribers to the League.
John Brooks, Esq.	500	
W. Neild, Esq.	500	
J. and R. Philips and Co.	500	
Sir Thomas Potter	500	
James Heywood, Esq.	300	
The Mayor of Manchester	200	
Sir Benjamin Heywood	1000	

Though not a subscriber to the League, Sir Benjamin Heywood is an avowed Free-Trader, and may therefore be fairly included in this list. Though these facts are sufficiently notorious, the *Morning Post*, in a recent article, ventured to insinuate that the effort to obtain public walks and gardens for the people of Manchester did not originate in any sympathy felt by the master manufacturers for the operatives in their employment, and to hint further that this was a movement rather hostile to the League. It declared:—

"We cannot well expect to find amongst our manufacturers that lively interest for the welfare and happiness of his working people that usually forms so pleasing a feature in our English landlord's character. To look for this is to look for what we have no reason to expect to find."

It is not very prudent in the *Post* to provoke such comparisons; the agricultural reports give a very sad account of the "lively interest" which English landlords take in the "welfare and happiness" of the agricultural labourer. The cottages of the "working people" in Dorsetshire and Devonshire are fearful evidences of the kind of care which the owners of land bestow on the tillers of the soil. Even in the vicinity of Manchester circumstances have occurred which would furnish a very edifying commentary on the paternal interest felt by the owners of land in "the welfare and happiness of the working people." It became necessary in that town to form a society for the protection of footpaths, which the owners of land attempted to close against the operatives. Similar attempts were made elsewhere, and were denounced by Ebenezer Elliott in the memorable lines,

"Wolves with the hearts of devils!
They steal our footpaths too!
The poor man's walk they take away,
The solace of his only day,
Where now unseen the flowers are blowing,
And all unheard the stream is flowing!
What worse could devils do?"

The *Post* should have more prudence than to make a comparison where facts are so easily ascertained; where the stopping of footpaths and the enclosure of commons are just as notorious on one side as the subscriptions for opening public parks and gardens on the other. There is no place in the world where greater public spirit and more benevolent anxiety have been manifested for every kind of moral and social improvement than in Manchester; there is no class of men which has done more for increasing the physical welfare and the mental culture of the persons they employ than the master manufacturers of Lancashire. Systematically maligned and vituperated, in order that some popular pretext might be obtained for fettering their exertions and restricting their commerce, they have answered these calumnies not by words but by actions. Where they have had an opportunity of directing their attention to the dwellings of the operatives—which, of course, is impossible in large towns—they have taken every precaution to ensure health, cleanliness, and decency. Would the *Post* challenge a comparison between the cottages of the manufacturing operatives and the hovels of the agricultural labourers? Most assuredly Lord Ashley would not venture on such a challenge, when, within view of his own park, there is accumulated a far greater amount of misery and demoralization than is to be found in the whole of the manufacturing districts of Lancashire.

The princely liberality of the subscriptions given for the formation of public walks and gardens in Manchester excites admiration, but not surprise. It is in perfect accordance with that unselfish desire to promote all objects of public utility, which is preeminently the characteristic of the northern manufacturers. The League itself is a proof of their enlightened benevolence; the men of Manchester set the example of forming an association to obtain a great act of national justice, of which they could only share the benefit in common with the rest of the community. They seek the repeal of the Corn Laws, not because the removal of that iniquitous tax will confer any peculiar advantage on the cotton trade, but because it will increase the prosperity of every trade in the country. To the accusations of selfishness so freely urged by those who derive their materials of invective from their inward consciousness, they have nobly responded by fresh examples of disinterested benevolence. We have given the list of the Free-Traders who have subscribed to promote the physical health and moral recreation of the manufacturing operatives; will the *Post* favour us with a parallel list of the monopolists who have made similar exertions to elevate the agricultural peasantry? We shall be glad to make room for it in our columns.

THE MONOPOLIST PRESS AND THE LEAGUE.

Francis I., in his Italian wars, took into his pay several bands of mercenaries, a step of which he ever afterwards repented, for these undisciplined and unscrupulous marauders demoralized the French troops, disgusted all the Italians who were disposed to favour the French cause, but did very little injury to the enemy. The journals which claim to be the organs of the present Government are as likely to damage their masters as any mercenaries that ever existed; their Siamese twinship does not give them the unity which constitutes strength, for the *Mourning Herald* still keeps its distinctive character for effete twaddle, and the *Standard* has not lost the rashness which induced its editor to denounce the Duke of Wellington as ambitious of usurping the dictatorship of the empire, and of having instituted the new police as a special army for the purpose. This accusation, put forth under the Hebrew signature *Ebed-Melek-Melek*, which signifieth "the servant of the King of the king," is a very fair sample of the insane denunciations in which the *Standard* is accustomed to indulge. Looking upon its ravings as a case for medicine rather than argument, we turn from *Ebed-Melek-Melek* to poor neglected Grandmamma, who, after having chronicled some dozen times the total extinction of the League, has recently discovered that the League not only preserves its vitality, but is about to pursue a career very likely to annoy the shattered nerves of the sensitive old lady.

The *Mourning Herald* has become aware of a very ominous fact: it has discovered that the sliding scale has not fulfilled the promises which were made to the farmers, and it is filled with fear at the thought of members of the League appearing in the agricultural districts and exposing to the farmers and farm-labourers the grossness of the deception which has been practised upon them, and the magnitude of the wrong of which they have been the victims. The new sliding scale has confessedly rendered the price of corn even more variable than it was under the old; it has doubled that uncertainty which has rendered all farming operations games of desperate hazard; it has given a hollow pretext for maintaining exorbitant rents; but it has not produced anything like a steady price for provisions. The *Mourning Herald* laments the probability of farmers making the discovery that wheat does not bring the promised price per quarter, while no reduction can be obtained in the rents stipulated for on the faith of that promise; and to prevent this disagreeable truth from being made known, it very gravely assures the members of the League, that, if they attempt to enlighten the farmers, the monopolists will, in their turn, renew their alliance with the Chartists, and raise an agitation against employers in the manufacturing districts.

Let us at once exculpate the Government from any participation in the incendiary designs thus avowed by its organ. It is one of the misfortunes attendant on the vacillating course pursued by the present Ministers that they cannot obtain any support from the more respectable portion of the public press; and that every journal possessing the slightest claims to character or consistency has been compelled to protest against the repeated derelictions of principle which has marked their whole course of administration. The Ministers are as unfortunate in the support of the *Mourning Herald* as they are in that of Lord Brougham, and we feel sincere compassion for them when we see them so often committed and perplexed by the vagaries of the one and the other. It is to be hoped that, by pursuing a more honest and direct course, the Government may entitle itself to the support of more reputable organs.

This threat of Chartist agitation against the manufacturers which the *Mourning Herald* has ventured to make is after all but an empty piece of rhodomontade. There may be members of the Cabinet who would not scruple to use such aid at an election, and perhaps Lord Wharncliffe might be able to give some advice as to the means of managing such agency; but the complete defeat of O'Connor at Northampton, even when the chairman was appointed by his own partisans, must have convinced the sane portion of the monopolists that Feargus no longer possesses the powers of deluding the multitude with which he was once credited. We commend, however, the suggestion of the *Mourning Herald* to the consideration of those manufacturers who have hitherto held themselves apart from the League: it is eminently characteristic of the feelings with which monopolists regard their order.

Feargus O'Connor and his co-agitators might be able to obtain listeners and followers in a season of commercial distress, when employment was scanty and wages were low; but now, when the mills are in full work, and wages from 20 to 30 per cent. higher than they were twelve months ago, his power of exciting a revolt against the manufacturing employers is reduced to the lowest point, and the attempt if made would end in his complete discomfiture. The League has nothing to dread from such a monopolist manœuvre; on the contrary, the adoption of such tactics by the monopolists would be a decided advantage to the cause of Free Trade.

The *Mourning Herald* bewails the appeal of the League to the citizens of London for subscriptions to the National Fund: it asserts that "the majority of the most enlightened merchants of the City believe that the proposals and speculations of the Anti-Corn-Law League for a free trade in corn are founded in error," forgetting that these proposals and speculations are founded in principles enunciated by the Ministers themselves, and stated as strongly by Sir Robert Peel and Sir James Graham as ever they have been by Mr. Bright or Mr. Cobden. It may save the *Mourning Herald* some perplexity to learn that the Council of the League had resolved not to canvass London for subscriptions until the collection in the country had been nearly completed. The appeal to "the richest community in the world" has not been, as the *Herald* asserts, "made over and over again"; it is made now at the most convenient season, and the *Mourning Herald* shall have early information of the response.

But the most important admission made by our adversaries is, that that the delusion of the farmer can no longer be maintained, and that the cause of Free Trade is acquiring not merely strength but preponderance in the agricultural districts. It was predicted that the revolving cycle of years would bring before them the convincing argument of low prices and high rents. The time has come, and the farmers feel the effect, and are not wholly ignorant of the cause. Another proof is added to the many already aggregated to establish the impious iniquity of the Corn Laws: they have rendered the bounteous harvest bestowed by the benignity of Providence an object of fear and aversion to the agriculturist; they have shown that monopoly can only prosper through national misery; that, to ensure success for its iniquitous system, it must trade in starvation and speculate in famine.

Their deeds say "fraud is justice!"
Will God such fraud forgive?
What rights have they whose law of wrong
Denies our right to live?

It calls the sun a libel,
The sky an evil scroll;
Turns truth to falsehood, and unseals
The charter of the soul.

Sun-written name of Mercy!
Hast thou their guilt forgiven?
Then Justice! thy sun-written name
Is but a blot in heaven.

GAME.—There has not been known for very many years past so much game as has been already noticed in the different districts of Hampshire. In the various walks of the New Forest, more especially throughout the fir plantations of Denny, Iron-hill, the Nodes, and Ashurst, black game is most abundant, which circumstance may be attributed to the very favourable state of the late breeding season, as well as to the great profusion of whortle-berries produced this year, upon which production the young poults of the *tetrao genus* chiefly feed. *Hares and pheasants in the above royal preserve are proportionably numerous.* Should his Royal Highness Prince Albert make any stay in the Isle of Wight this season, it is generally believed that it is his intention to make the New Forest the principal scene of his sporting operations. In the more open and champaign districts, particularly around Andover, the coveys appear remarkably strong, and probably partridges were seldom known to have proved more numerous in those parts than they are observed to be this year. The landrail (or, as the farmers style it in this quarter, the corncrake), which is a migratory summer visitant, is unusually plentiful at present, and a few coveys of quails have been repeatedly of late trodden upon on the slopes of the uplands. *On the whole the most encouraging prospects are held out to* the sportsman this season throughout every part of this fine sporting country.—*Salisbury Journal.*—[All very well this for Prince Albert and other sportsmen, but what say the farmers? Besides, there is a great deal of private property in the New Forest on which the game causes great devastation.]

AN INQUIRY INTO THE EFFECTS OF ENGLISH LEGISLATION UPON AGRICULTURAL WAGES, PROFITS, AND RENT.

By A Barrister.

(Continued from page 773.)

The inadequacy of the wages thus fixed by law to meet the rise in the money price, not only of food, but of all other commodities, which was a necessary consequence of the extraordinary depreciation in the value of money, is proved by the number and severity of the statutes passed during the sixteenth century with the professed object of repressing vagrancy. We have already noticed the cruel enactments of the 27 Hen. VIII., c. 25 (1536). It would seem, however, that the very severity of that act prevented its execution. The 1 Edward VI., c. 3 (1547), which repeals all former statutes for the punishment of vagabonds and sturdy beggars, recites that, "partly by foolish pity and mercy of them which should have seen the said godly laws executed, partly by the perverse nature and long-accustomed idleness of the persons given to loitering, the said godly statutes have had small effect, and idle and vagabond persons, being unprofitable members or rather enemies of the commonwealth, have been suffered to remain and increase, and yet so do;" and, as a milder punishment, enacts, that an able-bodied poor person who does not apply himself to some honest labour, or offer to serve even for meat and drink, if nothing more is to be obtained, shall be taken for a vagabond, branded with a hot iron on the breast with the letter V, and adjudged a slave for two years to any person who shall demand him, "to have and to hold the said slave, to him, his executors or assigns, for the space of two years;" and the said slave is to be fed on bread and water and refuse meat, and caused to work by beating, chaining, or otherwise. If he run away within that period, he is to be branded on the cheek with the letter S, and adjudged a slave for life; if he run away again, he is to suffer death as a felon. If no man demand such loiterer, he is to be sent to the place where he says he was born, there to be kept in chains or otherwise, at the highways or common work, or from man to man, as the slave of the corporation or inhabitants of the city, town, or village in which he was born; and the said city, town, or village shall see the said slave set to work, and not live idly, upon pain, for every three working days that the slave live idly by their default, that a city forfeit £5, a borough 40s., and a town or village 20s., half to the King and half to the informer. If it appear that he was not born in the place of which he described himself as a native, he was to be branded on the face, and be a slave for life. There is a clause of corresponding severity applied to children; and there is a clause empowering the master to let, sell, or give the service of such slave or child, "after such like sort and manner as he may do of any other his moveable goods or chattels." There is also a clause empowering the master of any slave "to put a ring of iron about his neck, arm, or his leg, for more knowledge and surety of the keeping of him."

This statute had a very short existence, for it was repealed by the 3 and 4 Edward VI., c. 16 (1550), and the 22 Henry VIII., c. 12, was revived. The 5 and 6 Edward VI., c. 2 (1551), "to the intent that valiant beggars, idle and loitering persons, may be avoided, and the impotent, feeble, and lame provided for, which are poor in very deed," confirms the 22 Henry VIII., c. 12, and 3 and 4 Edward VI., c. 16, and commands that they shall be put in execution. The same enactments, with the same preamble, are repeated by the 2 and 3 Philip and Mary, c. 5 (1555).

The state of extreme distress to which the labouring population was thus reduced by act of Parliament is distinctly acknowledged by the preamble of the statute 5 Elizabeth, cap. 4 (1562), which sets forth "that the wages and allowances, limited and rated in many of the said statutes, are in divers places too small, and not answerable to this time, respecting the advancement of prices of all things belonging to the said servants and labourers; the said laws cannot conveniently, without the great grief and burden of the poor labourer and hired man, be put in good and due execution." And to provide a remedy, so as to "banish idleness, advance husbandry, and yield unto the hired persons, both in the time of scarcity and in the time of plenty, a convenient proportion of wages," the 15th section of the said statute 5 Elizabeth, cap. 4, enacts "that the justices of peace of every shire, &c., shall yearly, at every general sessions first to be holden after Easter, assemble themselves together, and calling unto them such discreet and grave persons of the said county as they shall think meet, and, conferring together respecting the plenty or scarcity of the time, and other circumstances necessarily to be considered, shall have authority, within the limits of their respective commissions, to limit, rate, and appoint the wages, as well of such and so many of the said artificers, handicraftsmen, husbandmen, or any other labourer, servant, or workman, whose wages in time past hath been by any law or statute rated and appointed; as also the wages of all other labourers, artificers, workmen, or apprentices of husbandry, which have not been rated; as they, the same justices, mayors, or head officers within their several commissions or liberties shall think meet by their discretions to be rated, limited, or appointed by the year, or by the day, week, month, or otherwise, with meat and drink, or without meat and drink; and what wages every workman or labourer shall take by the great for mowing, reaping, or threshing of corn and grain, or for mowing or making of hay, or for ditching, paving, railing, or hedging by the rod, perch, lugg, yard, pole, rope, or foot; and for any other kind of reasonable labour or service."

Chapter III.

Third Period—From the Passing of the Poor Law of 1601 to the last Direct Interference of the Law with the Agricultural Labour-market in 1725.

Having brought things to this pass, the Legislature set about to devise a remedy. Instead of leaving off their most oppressive and impertinent interference with the labour-market, they bethought them of still keeping down the price of labour by the whip, the stocks, the branding-iron, and the halter; and, as the labourer with a family could not subsist on the wages allowed him by the justices, it was now proposed to make up the difference in the shape of alms to be provided by a compulsory contribution, called a poor-rate,* the effect of which would be this. Part of the poor-rate being levied on persons who were neither employers of labour nor receivers of rent,† the farmers, having consequently to pay less in wages, could afford to pay more in rent. This system, indeed, had been going on to a certain extent for a considerable period, and it will help to account for the enormous rise of rents to which we have adverted above. But the system was rendered secure and permanent by the Poor Law of 1601, the famous statute 43 Eliz., c. 2.‡

In 1610 the wages allowed by the justices in the county of Rutland to men employed in agricultural work were as follows:—

	With Meat.	Without Meat.
	d.	d.
A mower by the day	5 ..	10
A man reaper	4 ..	8
A woman reaper	3 ..	6
A man haymaker	4 ..	8
A woman haymaker	2 ..	5
A follower of scythes	3 ..	6
A raker of barley and peas ..	3 ..	6
A hedger	4 ..	8
A ditcher	4 ..	8
Every other labourer not before set down (harvest excepted) shall have from Easter till Michaelmas	3 ..	7
And afterwards every such labourer shall have from Michaelmas to Easter	2 ..	6§

Upon this Sir Frederic Eden makes the following observation:—"In these rates of wages the justices seem to have calculated that half the day's earnings were equivalent to diet for one day: in modern times, however, a much greater proportion of the daily pay of a labourer is appropriated to the purchase of the single article of bread."||

But it is to be borne in mind, in the apportionment of the day's earnings, that the labourer's family are to be fed, as well as himself; and if a larger proportion than half were devoted to the labourer himself, it is not easy to see how his wife and children could subsist at all. Accordingly, we find the following returns from Bootle, in Cumberland, to the question issued by the Poor-Law Commissioners of Inquiry, in 1832, as to the amount of wages:—"Summer, about 2s. a day if they victualled themselves; about 1s. if they do not. Winter, wages about 1s. 10d. a day if they find themselves, and about 10d. if they do not."¶ And Sir Francis Doyle, in his report to the Poor-Law Commissioners on the employment of women and children in agriculture, dated the 1st of March, 1843, makes the following observations on the mode of paying wages which prevails in the East Riding of Yorkshire:—"The labourers are fed in the farm-houses, and have a certain proportion of wages deducted to pay for their meat; this proportion (1s. a day), if we take wages at 13s. a week, which was as high as they were in January, amounts to 6-13ths of the man's entire income from work; so that, setting aside her husband's food, half and a fraction of his earnings is all that a woman has with which to confront the rest of life: her food, that of her children, the rent of the cottage, fuel, schooling, medical attendance, have all to be provided for out of a sum only just larger than what is retained for the bare meat and drink of an individual labourer. The farmers like this system, either because they profit by it, or because they have a notion, which I believe to be unfounded, that men work better in proportion as they are heavily fed. The men like it, because no doubt they get a better dinner than would otherwise fall to their share; but upon the women and children it must, and I am assured it does, operate for evil. To use the words of a man whom I asked about it at Malton, 'Poor things, they cannot live well; I defy them.'"—P. 295.

The average price of the Winchester quarter of middling wheat in Windsor market from 1606 to 1625 (both years inclusive), was £1 14s. 1 8-9d.;* so that, at this time (1610), it would take a reaper, with wages of 8d. a day, 51 days' labour to earn a quarter of wheat; consequently he was worse off than in 1593, when he could earn a quarter of wheat by 48 days' labour; and very much worse off than in 1387, when he could earn it by 12 days' labour. Or, in other words, he could now (that is in 1610) earn by a week's labour only 60 pints of wheat, whereas, in 1387, by a week's labour, he could earn 256 pints of wheat; in 1495, 192 pints; in 1514, 147 pints; in 1545, 68 pints; in 1593, 64 pints; as appears by a table which we have drawn up for the purpose of showing the real return which the labourer has received for his labour in different periods.†

The author of a work intituled "A Discourse touching Provision for the Poor," published in 1683, and attributed to Lord Chief Justice Hale, computes the necessary expense of a labourer's family, consisting of six persons, the father, mother, and four children, at 10s. a week, or £26 a year. And he says they might probably get so much if employed, if two of the children, as well as their mother, were able to contribute something by their work to the family income; but if they cannot earn this by their labour, they must make it up, he supposes, either by begging or stealing;‡ which shows it was the least sum for which he considered the necessary quantity of food could be obtained for six persons. "In 1688," observes Adam Smith, "Mr. Gregory King, whose skill in political arithmetic is so much extolled by Dr. Davenant, computed the ordinary income of labourers and out-servants to be £15 a year to a family, which he supposed to consist, one with another, of three and a half persons. His calculation, therefore, though different in appearance, corresponds very nearly at bottom with that of Judge Hale. Both suppose the weekly expense of such families to be about 20d. a head."§

According to the Table of Averages quoted above, the average price of the Winchester quarter of middling wheat in Windsor market from 1666 to 1685 was £1 16s. 7 1-9d.; and from 1686 to 1705, £1 16s. 3 1-9d. Consequently at this time (*i.e.*, 1683), the labourer and his family could earn 146 pints of wheat by a week's labour, which would be equivalent to 15s. 4d. a week in 1842, the average price of wheat being 56s. the quarter. It is necessary here, however, to guard against confusion in comparing this rate of wages with the preceding rate of which we have spoken, and carefully to bear in mind that here the earnings of the labourer himself, his wife, and two of his children are lumped together; whereas, in the former cases mentioned, the earnings of the labourer alone were considered. This will reduce the weekly earnings much nearer to the scale of 1610 and of 1725, which we are about to give.

We have seen how the legislative interference with wages led to the poor laws. The law which compelled every parish to maintain its own poor, naturally led to disputes between parishes about what constituted a claim for maintenance against any given parish, and then to further legislative interference in the shape of the statute 13 and 14 Car. II., c. 12|| (1662). This statute, after reciting that "the necessity, number, and continual increase of the poor, not only within the cities of London and Westminster, but also throughout the whole kingdom of England and dominion of Wales, are very great, and exceedingly burdensome; and that, by reason of some defects in the law, poor people are not restrained from going from one parish to another, and, therefore, do endeavour to settle themselves in those parishes where there is the best stock, the largest commons or wastes to build cottages, and the most woods for them to burn and destroy; and when they have consumed it, then to another parish, and at last become rogues and vagabonds, to the great discouragement of parishes to provide stocks, where it is liable to be devoured by strangers;" enacts, "That it shall be lawful upon complaint made by the churchwardens or overseers of the poor of any parish, to any justice of peace within forty days after any such person or persons coming so to settle as aforesaid in any tenement under the yearly value of £10, for any two justices of the peace, whereof one to be of the quorum of the division where any person or persons that are likely to be chargeable to the parish shall come to inhabit, by their warrant to remove and convey such person or persons to such parish where he or they were last legally settled, either as a native, householder, sojourner, apprentice, or servant, for the space of forty days at the least, unless he or they give sufficient security for the discharge of the said parish, to be allowed by the said justices."

The effect of this law was, by confining generally the labourer's market for his labour within the bounds of his own parish, to add still further to the disadvantages under which the laws already in existence respecting wages compelled him to sell his labour. "To remove a man," says Adam Smith, "who has committed no misdemean-

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* Sir F. Eden says ("State of the Poor," i., 133), "It seems very probable (although history is silent on the subject) that the injudicious provisions of former statutes, which obliged a man to accept wages which, in times of scarcity, could not possibly maintain him, may, among other causes, have greatly contributed to the increasing wants of the people, and the consequent establishment of the poor's rate." And the author of the article on the Corn Laws in the "Encyclopædia Britannica" (note, p. 336) points to the same cause of the institution of poor-rates.

† The statute says, "by taxation of every inhabitant, parson, vicar, and other," placing the clergy in the front of the battle. The Poor Law, from first to last, has been most oppressive on them; and its inherent evils have been aggravated towards them by such contrivances, for instance, as the labour-rate.

‡ In an article on "The Principles and Progress of the Poor Law Amendment Act," published in the "Edinburgh Review," and republished, "with Notes and Additions," in 1837, by the publishers to the Poor-Law Commissioners, it is stated that "the chief objects of the statute of Elizabeth were to make the able-bodied who were indolent and turbulent conform to habits of industry." The able-bodied who were well paid were neither indolent nor turbulent. They never are. The real object was as stated in the text.

§ Eden, vol. iii., Appendix, p. xcvi.

|| "State of the Poor," vol. i., p. 143.

¶ Appendix (B. 1), part I., p. 165 a.

* See the Table of Averages published in Smith's "Three Tracts on the Corn Trade," second edition, p. 109; and quoted in Eden, vol. iii., Appendix, p. lxxix.

† See this table, at p. *infra*.

‡ See Smith's "Wealth of Nations," b. i., ch. 8.

§ Ibid.

|| 14 Car. II., c. 12, in the Record Commissioner's edition of the Statutes.

our, from the parish where he chooses to reside, is an evident violation of natural liberty and justice..... There is scarce a poor man in England of forty years of age, I will venture to say, who has not in some part of his life felt himself most cruelly oppressed by this ill-contrived law of settlement."*

Since Adam Smith wrote, the law has been rendered somewhat less oppressive by the statute 35 Geo. III., c. 101 (1795), which enacts that no poor person shall be removed until he shall become actually chargeable. "A change," say the Poor-Law Commissioners in their Report of 1834, "so imperiously demanded, not only by expediency, but by justice, that it is difficult to conceive how the arbitrary enactment of the 13 and 14 Car. II. could have been tolerated so long."† It appears, however, by the evidence collected by the Poor-Law Commissioners, that at the time of passing the new poor law the evils inflicted on the labourer in the way of obstructing the circulation of labour, and consequently limiting the market for it, were by no means removed. And the last Report (the ninth annual report) of the Poor-Law Commissioners (1843) shows that those evils, though they may be a little diminished, are by no means removed even now.‡

By an order and declaration,§ passed by the justices of the peace in quarter sessions for the county of Lancaster in 1725, it was ordered that—

	s.	d.
The best husbandry labourer, from the midst of March to the midst of September, shall take, by the day, without meat and drink, not above	1	0
Nor with meat and drink, above	0	6
And the ordinary sort of husbandry labourers shall take, by the day, without meat and drink, not above	0	10
Nor with meat and drink, above	0	5
The best husbandry labourer, from the midst of September to the midst of March, shall take, by the day, without meat and drink, not above	0	10
Nor with meat and drink, above	0	5
And the ordinary sort of husbandry labourers shall take, by the day, without meat and drink, not above	0	9
Nor with meat and drink, above	0	4
Shearers.		
No man shall take for his wages, by the day, without meat and drink, above	1	0
Nor with meat and drink, above	0	6
No woman shall take for her wages, by the day, without meat and drink, above	0	10
Nor with meat and drink, above	0	6

According to the table above quoted, the average price of the Winchester quarter of middling wheat from 1706 to the end of 1725, was 35s. 4 2-9d., consequently at this time (1725), the labourer could earn 86 pints of wheat by a week's labour, which would be equivalent to about 8s. 3d. a week at the present time, the average price of wheat being about 56s. the quarter.

The above scale is particularly deserving of attention as being one of the last attempts of the justices to keep down agricultural wages by their authority. Henceforth, if the labour-market was acted upon by disturbing forces, we must look for them elsewhere than in the statutes made *expressly* to regulate, that is, to keep down wages.

However, though the labour statutes now ceased to operate directly, their effects still continued to be felt in the direct operation of the laws to which they had given rise, and still more of the principles of action, the opinions or mode of thinking upon which those laws were founded, and which were soon to produce other laws calculated to exercise a still greater influence on the labour-market and the condition of the labourer.

Chapter IV.

Fourth Period—From the last direct Interference of the Justices with the Labour-market about 1725, *to the Passing of the Corn-Law of* 1791.

According to the already quoted table published by Mr. Charles Smith, in his "Three Tracts on the Corn Trade,"‖ and quoted by Sir Frederic Eden,¶ who continues thence from 1765 to 1795, the average price of the Winchester quarter of middling wheat was:—

		£	s.	d.
From 1595 to 1605	(both years inclusive)	1	12	10 7-9ths.
— 1606 to 1625	Ditto	1	14	1 8-9ths.
— 1626 to 1645	Ditto	1	19	10
— 1646 to 1665	Ditto	2	5	4 5-9ths.
— 1666 to 1685	Ditto	1	16	7 1-9th.
— 1686 to 1705	Ditto	1	16	3 1-9th.
— 1706 to 1725	Ditto	1	15	4 2 9ths.
— 1726 to 1745	Ditto	1	9	10 4-9ths.
— 1746 to 1764	Ditto	1	11	8 4-9ths.
— 1765 to 1775	Ditto	2	5	3 6-9ths.
— 1776 to 1795	Ditto	2	4	1 4-9ths.

It appears from this table that within forty years of the end of the eighteenth century, the price of wheat was very nearly the same as it was towards the end of the sixteenth century, while, as appears from what has been already stated, the money price of labour had about doubled. According to Arthur Young,** the price of agricultural labour for sixty-six years, ending in 1766, was 12d. per day. In the fifty years ending 1765, there were only five deficient harvests; and the average price for the whole half century following 1715, ranged at 34s. 11d.;* for the ten years ending 1751, during which the crops were above an average, the average price of wheat by the Eton tables, for wheat of better than average quality, was only 29s. 2½d. the quarter.† We have seen that in 1725 the wages of a reaper in harvest were fixed by the Lancashire justices at 1s. a day, without meat. If we take the harvest wages at 9s. the week, towards the end of the period during which the average price of wheat was 29s. 2½d. the quarter, we shall find that about the middle of the eighteenth century, the labourer could earn 157 pints of wheat by a week's labour, in harvest: or rather more than a peck and a half by a day's labour (equal to about 17s. a week at the present time). But in the reign of Henry VII. he could earn two pecks; and in the reign of Richard II., he could earn two and three-quarters, or nearly three pecks, by one day's labour (equal to about 30s. a week at the present time).

We have taken the harvest wages in order to have the means of comparison with the earlier periods in which the harvest wages appear to be the wages that can now be best ascertained. And we have added 6d. a day, or one-half, for the harvest wages to the 12d. a day stated by Arthur Young, as above observed, to be the average price of agricultural labour for 66 years ending in 1766, which is probably rather more than the average addition made in harvest. Notwithstanding this, however, we see that the labourer's power of purchasing the first necessary of life, obtained in exchange for his labour, though considerably greater than it had been for the preceding two centuries, was but about equal to what it was about two centuries and a quarter before, considerably less than it was two centuries and a half, and still more considerably less than it was three centuries and a half before.

But though, if the foregoing evidence can be relied on, not so well off in regard to the quantity of the commodities received in exchange for his labour as he was some three centuries before, the agricultural labourer was in a better condition at the period of which we now speak (1766) than he had been for a long time previously, or than he has been since. This improvement in the condition of the labouring population has been remarked by various writers; though it seems to have been generally overlooked that the evidence only proves an improvement with reference to more recent times, while, if we carry our view back to a remoter period, we cannot draw the same conclusions.

Adam Smith gives it as his opinion that the real recompense of labour, the real quantity of the necessaries and conveniences of life which it can procure to the labourer, increased during the first three quarters of the eighteenth century, or at least down to 1765, "perhaps in a still greater proportion than its money price."‡ For not only had grain become somewhat cheaper, but many other things, such as potatoes and all sorts of garden stuff, clothing, and many pieces of household furniture, had become a great deal cheaper. And this improvement on the whole had taken place, notwithstanding that soap, salt, candles, leather, and fermented liquors had become a good deal dearer, chiefly from the taxes which had been laid upon them.

It appears from the evidence already adduced, that by the middle of the fourteenth century wheat formed a considerable portion of the usual food of the agricultural labourers in many of the counties of England. It has been commonly supposed and asserted that one natural consequence of the increase of wages at the time of which we are now treating was the resort to a superior diet. The author of the "Three Tracts on the Corn Trade," writing in 1765, says, "It is certain that bread made of wheat is become much more generally the food of the common people since 1689 than it was before that time." What, at least, is certain, is that in the year 1764 more than half of the people of England lived on bread made of wheat. But as an erroneous impression appears to prevail on this subject in authoritative quarters,§ it may be useful to examine the subject with some minuteness.

It appears from the account of the first workhouses, that in 1725, when that account was published, wheaten bread was used in many of these establishments in the southern counties. In the second edition of Mr. Charles Smith's "Three Tracts on the Corn Trade and Corn Laws," published in 1766, the writer, after stating that some, who had considered this matter with great attention, and were better informed in regard thereto than most inquirers, were inclined to think that, in the year 1764, one-half of the people could not be supposed to feed on such bread, thus proceeds:—"In order, therefore, to get at all possible certainty in this matter no pains have been spared; and from a consideration of the several sorts of grain with which the London market is supplied from, and sends to, the distant parts of the kingdom, after many inquiries made of, and conversations held with, many who travel into, and have lived, or live, in several of the distant counties, particularly the labouring people, who are best acquainted with the bread they eat, and calculating the number of mouths from the number of houses, there is reason to think that more than half the people do live on such bread." The following abstract is then given of the result:—

"The kingdom, with Wales, is divided into six parts, taking those counties which lie most contiguous, as may be seen in the map.

Part the First contains:—

1. London, with Middlesex and Southwark,	8. Buckingham,
2. Essex,	9. Hertford,
3. Kent,	10. Bedford,
4. Surrey,	11. Cambridge,
5. Sussex,	12. Huntingdon,
6. Hants,	13. Suffolk,
7. Berkshire,	14. Norfolk.

Part the Second contains:—

15. Wilts,	18. Devon,
16. Somerset,	19. Cornwall.
17. Dorset,	

Part the Third contains:—

20. Monmouth,	26. Northampton,
21. Gloucester,	27. Salop,
22. Oxford,	28. Stafford,
23. Hereford,	29. Leicester,
24. Worcester,	30. Rutland.
25. Warwick,	

Part the Fourth contains:—

31. Chester,	34. Lincoln,
32. Derby,	35. Lancaster.
33. Nottingham,	

Part the Fifth contains:—

36. York,	39. Cumberland,
37. Westmoreland,	40. Northumberland.
38. Durham,	

Part the Sixth contains:—

Six counties in South, and six counties in North Wales.

The Accounts of each Part stand as follows:—

Parts.	Number of houses	Number of souls, six to each.	What number in the whole eat			
			Wheat.	Barley.	Rye.	Oats.
1	348,187	2,089,122	1,866,405	36,741	185,976	—
2	150 689	904,134	682,815	221,319	—	—
3	170,746	1,024,476	691,258	159,136	156,237	17,845
4	123,025	738,150	200,339	128,621	118,795	290,395
5	148,760	892,560	283,996	37,196	285,382	285,986
6	45,075	270,450	29,344	127,585	113,521	—
	986,482	5,918,892	3,754,157	710,598	859 911	594,226

Say the whole number is 6,000,000, and that of those who eat

Wheat is	3,750,000
Barley	739,000
Rye	888,000
Oats	623,000
Total	6,000,000*

From 1765 to 1775 there was a very frequent recurrence of unfavourable years. Mr. Tooke is at some pains to show that the whole interval from 1765 to 1775 was marked "by dearths of equal, if not greater severity, on the continent of Europe."† It might be inferred from this that the great increase in the prices of grain in this country was caused solely by the seasons, and that the duty on wheat, which was prohibitory by the statute of 1670‡ till the price exceeded 53s. 4d. per quarter, was during that period inoperative. Now, the average price per quarter, during those ten years, of middling wheat in the Windsor market was 51s. 3¾d.; while during the same ten years the average export price per quarter of wheat at Dantzig, as shown by the Consul's Returns made to Parliament in 1826, was 30s. 10d.§ However, as the average price at Windsor of the ten years preceding 1765 was 39s. 3¾d., and at Dantzig 22s. 11d., the rise in price at Dantzig was quite as great as the rise in price at Windsor. But, even though the proportions may be nearly the same, it is important to observe how much lower the Dantzig level is than the Windsor, which is a proof that the then Corn Law had the effect of considerably raising prices in this country. And even though it be true that the same kind of weather may prevail at the same time throughout a great part of Europe, it does not by any means follow that the same sort of weather will prevail at the same time over the whole earth, or even over a very considerable portion of it.

Arthur Young‖ states, as the general result of the information obtained by him in his extensive agricultural tours in 1767, 1768, and 1770, that the mean rate of wages for the whole year was 7s. 4½d. per week. "Taking an average of the five years from 1766 to 1770 inclusive, the price of the quarter of wheat was 47s. 8d., or nearly 48s., which would be 6s. the bushel, and 1s. 6d. the peck. At these prices of labour and wheat, the earnings of the labourer would be somewhat under five-sixths of a peck. Now, in 1763, and for thirty years before, his wages had been 7s.¶ a week; and the average price of wheat in the five years ending in 1763 being 33s. 1½d., his daily earnings would be equal to very nearly a peck of wheat.** And if the price of wheat be taken at the average of

* "Wealth of Nations," book i., ch. 10.
† Report, p. 154.
‡ See the Ninth Annual Report, p. 33, *et seq.* § 83, *et. seq.*
§ Eden, vol. iii., Append. cvi., from the "Ann. of Agric.," xxv., 305.
‖ Page 105, 2nd edition. London, 1766.
¶ "State of the Poor," vol. iii., Append. lxxix. Sir Frederic Eden has, in several places, quoted whole pages of Mr. C. Smith's tract, without marking them as quotations, further than by a reference to the "Three Tracts on the Corn Trade." The plan adopted by Mr. C. Smith, and usually followed since by writers on corn, for reducing the Windsor measure of the best wheat to the Winchester measure of middling wheat, is to deduct one-ninth for the difference of the bushel above the statute measure, and then one-ninth more for the difference of quality. This allowance, indeed, for the difference of quality, Mr. Tooke says he conceives is more than is warranted.—"Hist. of Prices," vol. i., p. 28.
** As cited in Tooke's "Hist. of Prices," vol. i., p. 55.

* Tooke's "History of Prices," vol. i., p. 30.
† Ib., p. 48.
‡ "Wealth of Nations," b. i., ch. 8.
§ In a note to his "Reports on the Employment of Women and Children in Agriculture" (p. 18), Mr. Austin says:—"Barley bread, universally eaten by the labourers at the close of last century in the greater part of these counties (Wilts, Dorset, Devon, and Somerset), has everywhere given place to wheaten bread."

* "Three Tracts on the Corn Trade and Corn Laws," pp. 182-186. Second edition. London, 1766.
† "Hist. of Prices," vol. i., pp. 73, 74.
‡ 22 Car. II., c. 13.
§ No. 83 of Parliamentary Papers for 1827.
‖ "Annals of Agriculture," No. 271, p. 235; also Tooke's "Hist. of Prices," vol. i., p. 65; and Malthus's "Political Economy," p. 279.
¶ Arthur Young's "Progressive Value of Money," p. 79; cited Tooke's "Hist. of Prices," vol. i., p. 68.
** Or from 1884 to 1842, when wheat averaged 58s. 3d., equal to 1s. 9d.; and his weekly earnings 10s. 9d.

twenty years preceding 1755, it would appear that he then earned somewhat upwards of a peck."*

By the Corn Law of 1773,† the following scale of duties was fixed, to come into operation on the 1st of January, 1774. Whenever the price of middling British wheat, at ports of importation, was at or above 48s. per quarter, a duty of only 6d. per quarter was to be taken on all foreign wheat imported during the continuance of that price. When the price was at or above 44s., exportation and the bounty together were to cease; and the carrying of British grain coastwise ceased also. But under this act the bounty, by which the corn-growers had formerly profited, never came into operation; and, alleging that the act had rendered England dependent upon other countries for the supply of corn, they made a new Corn Law in 1791; and yet, as appears from the Consul's Returns, the average export price per quarter of wheat at Dantzig, during the period between 1774 and 1791, was 28s. 7d.

By the Corn Law of 1791 it was enacted, that after November 15, 1791, the bounty of 5s. per quarter should be paid when wheat was under 44s.; and the scale of import duties was

For wheat under 50s. per quarter	24s. 3d.
,, at 50s., but under 54s.	2s. 6d.
,, at or above 54s. ..	0s. 6d.

The duty of 24s. 3d., so long as the price of wheat was under 50s., was equivalent to a prohibition.

(*To be continued.*)

WAR.

(From the *Spectator*.)

Nobody sees a battle. The common soldier fires away amidst a smoke-mist, or hurries on to the charge in a crowd which hides everything from him. The officer is too anxious about the performance of what he is specially charged with to mind what others are doing. The commander cannot be present everywhere, and see every wood, watercourse, or ravine, in which his orders are carried into execution: he learns from reports how the work goes on. It is well; for a battle is one of those jobs which men do without daring to look upon. Over miles of country, at every field-fence, in every gorge of a valley or entry into a wood, there is murder committing—wholesale, continuous, reciprocal murder. The human form—God's image—is mutilated, deformed, lacerated, in every possible way, and with every variety of torture. The wounded are jolted off in carts to the rear, their bared nerves crushed into maddening pain at every stone or rut; or the flight and pursuit trample over them, leaving them to writhe and roar without assistance—and fever, and thirst, the most enduring of painful sensations, possess them entirely. Thirst, too, has seized upon the yet able-bodied soldier, who, with bloodshot eyes and tongue lolling out, plies his trade—blaspheming, killing with savage delight, callous when the brains of his best-loved comrade are spattered over him. The battle-field is, if possible, a more painful object of contemplation than the combatants. They are in their vocation, earning their bread—what will not men do for a shilling a day? But their work is carried on amid the fields, gardens, and homesteads of men unused to war. They who are able have fled before the coming storm, and left their homes, with all that habit and happy associations have made precious, to bear its brunt. The poor, the aged, the sick, are left in the hurry, to be killed by stray shots, or beaten down as the charge and counter-charge go over them. The ripening grain is trampled down; the garden is trodden into a black mud; the fruit-trees, bending beneath their luscious load, are shattered by the cannon shot. Churches and private dwellings are used as fortresses, and ruined in the conflict. Barns and stack-yards catch fire, and the conflagration spreads on all sides. At night the steed is stabled beside the altar, and the weary homicides of the day complete the wrecking of houses to make their lairs for slumber. The fires of the bivouac complete what the fires kindled by the battle have left unconsumed. The surviving soldiers march on to act the same scenes over again elsewhere; and the remnant of the scattered inhabitants return to find the mangled bodies of those they had loved, amid the blackened ruins of their homes—to mourn with more agonizing grief over the missing, of whose fate they are uncertain—to feel themselves bankrupts of the world's stores, and look from their children to the desolate fields and garners, and think of famine and pestilence engendered by the rotting bodies of the half-buried myriads of slain. The soldier marches on and on inflicting and suffering as before. War is a continuance of battles—an epidemic striding from place to place, more horrible than the typhus, pestilence, or cholera, which not unfrequently follow in its train. The siege is an aggravation of the battle. The peaceful inhabitants of the beleaguered town are cooped up, and cannot fly the place of conflict. The mutual injuries inflicted by assailant and assailed are aggravated, their wrath is more frenzied: then come the storm and the capture, and the riot and lustful excesses of the victor soldiery, striving to quench the drunkenness of blood in the drunkenness of wine. The eccentric movements of war—the marching and countermarching—often repeat the blow on districts slowly recovering from the first. Between destruction and the wasteful consumption of the soldiery, poverty pervades the land. Hopeless of the future, hardened by the scenes of which he is a daily witness, perhaps goaded by revenge, the peasant becomes a plunderer and an assassin. The horrible cruelties perpetrated by Spanish peasants on the French soldiers who fell into their power were the necessary consequences of war. The families of the upper classes are dispersed; the discipline of the family circle is removed; a habit of living in the day for the day—of drowning the thoughts of the morrow in transient and illicit pleasure—is engendered. The waste and desolation which a battle spreads over the battle-field is as nothing when compared with the moral blight which war diffuses through all ranks of society, in the country which is the scene of war.

* Tooke, Ibid. † 13th Geo. III., c. 43.

THE PAST SESSION.

(From *Tait's Magazine*.)

The past session, however barren of large legislative reforms, has, in one most important respect, been useful and beneficial beyond any other on record, viz., in bringing us better acquainted with the physical, moral, and social condition and wants of the most numerous and neglected classes of the community. This species of useful knowledge—the most useful of all knowledge—has been diffused of late with extraordinary zeal and success. The one-sided philanthropy of Lord Ashley and his friends has long since fixed the public gaze—now more intently than ever—on the conditions of life in the manufacturing districts, and carried the light of Government inquiry and inspection into the factories and dwellings of Lancashire and the West Riding—a service which the manufacturers have most amply repaid, by disclosures of the state of things in those once vaunted paradises of rural felicity and innocence, the cottage homes of the English peasantry. Between the two, we are in a fair way (by due sifting) of being put in possession of a body of facts of supreme importance and value, alike to the moralist, the economist, and the legislator. The peasantry, meanwhile, have been speaking for themselves, with such voice as they have. In Wiltshire, we have been startled and cheered by the novel spectacle of public meetings of farm-labourers (four within two months), assembling by the thousand, to discuss their grievances, and petition for Free Trade as a remedy; blundering a little, some of them, as might be expected, on the subject of thrashing-machines; but, on the whole, speaking of their rights and wrongs with a manly simplicity and good sense that might shame, if shame were in them, the twaddling ignorance and sordid selfishness of their landlord protectors. And in the eastern counties, we have had, for many successive weeks, those terrible signal-fires of distress, in which misery, oppression, and famine, proclaim to wealth and power their desperate determination to get themselves attended to. Whatever other questions may have slept during the past six months, the Condition-of-England question has not; it has made rapid progress, forced itself more and more pressingly on public attention, and found its way at length (not until the last night of the session, however,) to the lips even of so cautious and cool a statesman as Lord John Russell.

The true remedy—*i. e.*, the proximate remedy—for the industrial diseases of society,—the thing to be done first, and the doing of which will render all other things clearer,—is gradually making its own way with the public, and even with the Legislature. A striking characteristic of the past session is the greatly increased interest and importance assigned to fiscal and commercial questions. The whole parliamentary politics of the year have turned on points of political economy. Economical questions have twice effected a break-up of parties; on economical questions, a strong Ministry has twice been all but overthrown, and has owed its eventual safety to being a little more in the right than its confederated assailants. With an extremely small amount of that "useful and beneficial legislation" of which the Minister so pleasantly boasts, there has been a very large amount of most useful and beneficial discussion; and the one and the other have tended alike in the direction of economical truth and justice. There has been much moving of the straw, though not so much as yet to dislodge the vermin. Such speeches as that of Mr. Cobden, on the 12th of March, on his motion for inquiry into the effects of the Corn Law on the interests of farmers and agricultural labourers, and those of Mr. Milner Gibson and Mr. Bright, in the "incendiary" debate of the 19th of July, are a seed which, though cast on the stoniest and thorniest of soils, cannot be long without its fruit. In the disclosures thus forced on the public notice, of the actual condition of the protected classes, monopoly loses its last hold on popular gullibility. And with all this, the shabby, tricky monopolist Ministry has gone on doing its part towards undermining the frauds on which its power is based. It were an easy task—only it is not worth even the little trouble it would cost—to compile from this year's Hansard, as from last year's, a tolerable body of Free-Trade doctrine, enunciated by official lips. It may be enough to note, that the Home Secretary has told the working classes, that the Corn Law is the reason why they cannot have a ten-hours' law; and the landlords, that the whole protective system together is a "*house of cards*," which a touch may bring down about their ears.

State of the Poor.—There are many who, easy and supine, seem to think that the poor now are not worse off than at other times when no complaints were made, but they may rest assured it is not so; it is no political cry, no agitation of a faction, no hyperbole of a demagogue, that is gone up in these our days from the suffering poor. It is pure physical distress, grinding poverty, want of food and clothing, that call upon all to be up and doing, and to check the tide of pauperism that is spreading over the land. Something should, ought, and must be done to raise the poor labourer from the state in which he now lives—his miserable wages affording him hardly enough to keep body and soul together, and for the future nothing to hope or look for—no means of laying up a store for an evil day, for sickness, or old age. This cannot be permitted to endure; we must strive in our own immediate spheres to put an end to it. It is the first lesson of all religion, in which all parties are agreed—feed the hungry, clothe the naked, relieve those who are in distress; these are the first commands of the Gospel, and without attending to these it is vain to profess attachment to the others.—*Sherborne Journal.*

NOTES TAKEN BY A TRAVELLER IN THE SUMMER OF 1844.

No. VII.

Aix-la-Chapelle, July 20, 1844.

My arrival in Belgium was contemporaneous with a change in the legislative enactments that regulated the foreign commerce of the country, from which I augured no good. Scarcely have I reached the German frontier when the first fruits of this lamentable policy show themselves. The King of Prussia has issued a proclamation imposing a differential duty of fifty per cent. on all iron imported into Prussia from Belgium, to be levied until the Belgians retract the differential duties imposed on foreign vessels. Here we have the nominal representatives of the people in one country and a despotic Monarch in the other playing a diplomatic game with the dearest interests of trading nations. If this sudden measure of reprisal on the part of Prussia leads to the desired change in Belgium, what self-complacent remarks we shall hear on the wisdom of the diplomacy of Berlin, and on the care taken of the interests of Prussian shipowners! What mischief in the meantime may result to manufacturers in Prussia from the sudden stopping up of a source of supply, or to mercantile houses in both countries that have running accounts depending on the existing laws, it would of course be too vulgar for starred and ribboned ministers to inquire. This place is, however, admirably adapted to afford us a survey of the working of such legislation on the class most immediately interested, but the effects of which can be traced to all the other classes of the community.

The mining interest in Belgium is one in which the gains of the landowner and of the manufacturer are as easily identified as in the linen production. The high lands through which the Sambre and the Meuse have eaten their way form a rich girdle crossing the southern provinces of Belgium from Mons to Liege, as valuable for the minerals they contain to the inhabitants as they are pleasing in picturesque effect to the traveller. They contain beds of iron and coal in juxtaposition as favourably situated as many places for working as our beds in Wales and in the Forest of Dean. After the separation of Belgium from Holland some relaxation was allowed in the strict police that mining operations on the Continent are subjected to; and mines were opened without an official sanction on the part of the Government. The impulse which the extension of the railroads gave to the iron trade in 1835 and 1836 was sensibly felt here as one of the first places on which there is a run whenever the supply of iron is short. The miners, considering themselves in a better situation than before, in consequence of the inclination of the Government to relax the internal restrictions, entered into large speculations, and joint-stock companies were formed to erect new works, while old ones were extended. The following table shows the nature and extent of the crisis which Belgium went through in consequence of the mining speculations of 1836:—

	1836.	1837.	1838.
Number of all kinds of mines worked	1,326	1,378	740
Labourers employed	4,804	5,237	2,975
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Quantity of iron ore exported	630,955	685,573	334,838
" lead " ..	543	240	374
" zinc " ..	9,360	16,869	17,721
" alum schistus ..	7,086	5,335	4,028

Thus the iron mines fell off in 1838 in their production more than one-half, and half of the labourers were dismissed. The coal mines, on the other hand, have prospered:—

COAL MINES.

	1836.	1837.	1838.
Number worked by individuals	318	345	389
Number worked by joint-stock companies	153	210	271
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Production	3,052,131	3,228,797	3,260,271

Out of subscribed capitals, amounting to 770,255,690 francs, belonging to joint-stock companies that existed in 1838, it appears that 46,918,000f. were raised for mining and foundery speculations. This sum is equivalent to £1,800,000, an immense sum for so small a territory as Belgium, and one that it was hard to expose to the various chances by which industrial undertakings are now beset. Prussia was the first to take alarm at the extension of the production of iron in Belgium. The year 1837 saw a new tariff for the states of the Zollverein published, which limited the Belgian market at the moment that it was overstocked. With all their efforts to cheapen processes, this branch of industry has never recovered the blow it then received; and the recent additions to the duties levied in Germany will occasion more destruction of property. Belgium has thus serious reason to complain of the commercial policy of Prussia, and the summary justice inflicted by the new Berlin ordinance is indicative of a contempt that is scarcely politic. The measure cannot well be adopted by the other states of the Zollverein without the consent of their Chambers; and, as all are deeply engaged in railroad speculations, they will not like to see impediments thrown in the way of their progress.

For the commercial policy of Europe generally, some advantage may be anticipated from the dispute, since the King of Prussia's reprisal policy, if generally acted upon, would soon bring about a complete interruption of international communication, a climax that would infallibly lead to something more immediately interesting to crowned heads and their ministers than the solution of a theoretical question of political economy.

The comparative prosperity of the coalmines in Belgium arises from the great demand for fuel on the side of France, and the disposition the French Government has shown to encourage the importation from Belgium rather than from England. Without Sir R. Peel's export duty, it is probable that all the factories in Belgium within reach of sea vessels would have drawn their coals from England, while the Belgian coals would have gone from Mons and Charleroi to France. Our duty has been of the greatest service to the collieries on the Sambre and Meuse, which are daily extending their works. Here we have another instance of arbitrary interference with the natural play of trade, that, if left free, finds innumerable

modes compensating those irregularities which arise from natural causes.

The position of the Belgian speculator in any branch of industry may be estimated from all these facts. Where the jealousy of England, France, Holland, and Prussia leaves him a market, his own Government in all probability will interfere to protect him or to share his profits, and in both cases does irreparable mischief. For the phantom of a commercial fleet, which the Minister is now desirous to create, the whole mining interest in the country is paralysed until the Chambers meet again; while, in the interval, new lines of trade will have been struck out in Prussia, and thus the mischief will prove irreparable.

I am especially anxious to show that this legislative and despotic interference in the mercantile intercourse between different lands can, in so small a country as Belgium, be immediately followed in its effects upon the different industrial interests. In large countries the clews that connect the various interests together are soon lost sight of, and the resources of individuals in money and other stock are less speedily exhausted. It is not every country that can bear to lose a whole West India capital, and then to vote a compensation for what was the effect of a monopoly—continuing the monopoly that occasioned the evil all the while; nor can any branch of industry that is essential as a safety-valve to keep the rapidly increasing population distributed be dispensed with, when others are being overstocked without a prospect of relief.

Another point on which I was anxious to establish a clear view is, that a continued repartition of the soil, even amongst the most skilful cultivators, affords no indemnification for the natural source of profit that every land possesses in its trade; but that any repression in trade is immediately felt by the agriculturist in equal measure with the manufacturer. From this last position results the important conclusion that no meddling is so dangerous to all interests as that which pretends to regulate matters of trade. Hence the present disposition in all European countries to direct the course of trade, is an assumption of power that is most unconstitutional, and, in an age when the means of subsistence are matter of difficulty amongst dense populations, actually equals the arbitrary right to dispose of life and property, to protect the subject against which constitutional guarantees were in most countries established. The connexion can be so clearly traced in Belgium, as to leave no doubt that the very considerable degree of misery that reigns in the country evidently is caused by the commercial legislation of the Government of that or of neighbouring countries. Let us now inquire whether the experience of Germany leads to the same conclusions.

The inquiry has become one to which intense interest now attaches, since the same posts which brought the news of the increased duties on foreign iron as agreed to by the states of the Zollverein inform us that a large manufacturing district in Prussia has just witnessed a fearfully distressing tumult, in which blood has not been sparingly shed. The revolt has spread to Bohemia, and has even assumed a more serious character on the Austrian side of the mountains.

In what I have said respecting the effects of stagnation of trade in Belgium, and the insufficiency of the agricultural resources of the country to supply the deficiency which it occasions, the official statements fully bear me out. In the year 1839, the number of persons relieved by authority amounted in the mining districts of Hainault to 1 in 5 of the population; in Liege and Namur to 1 in 9; in West Flanders to 1 in 5; and in East Flanders to 1 in 7 of the inhabitants. 587,095 individuals, or 1-7th of the entire population, received in that year charitable relief. M. Ducpetiaux, who quotes the table in his essay on the increase of pauper distress, adds that in 1842 the number relieved was much greater. In the place of 96,880 individuals relieved in East Flanders in 1839, 111,734 received aid in 1842. In Antwerp the number rose from 38,004 to 45,542. In Liege, instead of 43,4[illegible] paupers in 1839, 62,202 appeared in 1842. What is to be the end of this rapid progress? Who is at length to provide for those who are debarred the means of supporting themselves?

The oldest member of the Chamber, M. Angillis, a few days before his death, pronounced these memorable words:—"The Flemings, as they are called, or the men of Flanders, as they once called themselves at the courts of their own sovereigns, make no demand of alms. Our unfortunate workmen who are without bread do not seek alms. They seek work, by means of which to earn a subsistence for their families." These are the words that now resound through every country of central Europe, for in all there is great and growing distress, both manufacturing and agricultural. They are the solemn protest recorded before Heaven against those egotistic measures which, in spite of their repeated failure, are still forced upon the unresisting majority of every country, with a view to enrich a few monopolists.

The cause of the pressure in the manufacturing districts of Prussia is not dissimilar to that which distresses Belgium. The linen weavers of Silesia have long suffered from the exclusion of their wares from the Russian markets, which they at one time supplied. The increase of the cotton manufacture afforded some indemnification for this loss, but latterly that has been stationary; while the rivality of England has grown more formidable from day to day. Instead of furnishing large quantities of goods to the rich countries, Hungary and Poland, that lay so near them, the Silesians see their wares excluded from those markets which the Bohemians are unable to supply. If to this natural and touching demand for international trade, the answer is eternally to be restrictions and more restrictions, the end of all is easy to foresee, and the responsibility, as well as the quarters in which it will be visited, can be predicted with some certainty.

The most recent accounts from Bohemia are heart-rending. The military have repressed the riots that extended through the large towns between the Silesian mountains and Prague, all of which were the seats of manufacturing industry. The Austrian papers are of course not allowed to give details, but report swells the number of the killed under the fire of the soldiers to more than the victims on the Prussian side of the mountains.

The character of these riots is no less deplorable than their tragic result. In England, and even in Belgium, the destruction of machinery has long ceased. When the working classes recently desired to force the factories to raise their wages, they stopped the work, but spared the machinery to which they knew they were to be indebted for their living. In Silesia and Bohemia the present excesses (for they are not yet at an end,) are accompanied by a fearful destruction of property, which must prove a serious blow to the manufacturing interests in those districts. This points to a second evil—neglect of education, which is held up in all the accounts of the state of those districts as a crying grievance, and is not denied in official quarters.

I have said that Aix-la-Chapelle is a good place from which to overlook the movement of the grand industrial stream; and, before going into the details of any particular district, let us see whether we can seize any characteristic trait that pervades many, or all of them, and which will aid us in our further researches.

In the first place, it must strike every one inquiring into the state of manufactures in Germany, that none are found situated at the mouths of rivers, or near the sea-coast. The manufacturing district in Silesia is near the source of the great river Oder, which along all its navigable course belongs to Prussia. Frankfort-on-the-Oder, at which two great fairs are annually held, and which lies about halfway between Breslaw and the sea, is not a manufacturing town. Stettin, at the mouth of the river, is not so either. On the Elbe the manufacturing district is not near Magdeburg, or in the closest proximity to Hamburg; but in the province of Saxony, much higher up the river, and in the kingdom of Saxony, some hundreds of miles distant from the port. The nearest manufacturing district to the sea, measured by water communication, is that of Elberfeld and Solingen, on the Rhine, near Dusseldorf. Absolutely the nearest since the Belgian railroads have been completed, is this of Aix-la-Chapelle, which is a continuation of the districts of Verviers and Liege. At the time that Elberfeld first became a seat of manufactures, the Rhine mouth was inaccessible for the Germans, being monopolized by the Dutch; and the value which this trafficking nation set upon their exclusive possession of this river is best indicated by the efforts which they made to close the Scheldt against the trade of the world.

The origin, therefore, of manufactures on the Continent is to be traced to the period when, from the bad state of the communications in some states, and the complex political relations in others, particular districts were deprived of the foreign supplies that the more accessible parts of the Continent obtained by means of trade. In speaking thus of manufactures, I refer to the combination of resources that allowed of a division of labour, or the stage which preceded the introduction of machinery, and which does not date much before the commencement of the last century. Some intelligent princes,—such as the Electors Palatine, the Electors of Saxony, the Kings of Prussia,—perceiving the source of wealth which these industrial calculations opened to their subjects, gave direct encouragement in addition to this species of natural protection offered by the impediments alluded to. Under the Electors Palatine, Dusseldorf was at the same time a seat of the arts and refinements of high civilization, and its court was the encourager of the manufacturers of Elberfeld. The Princes of Berg and the Kings of Prussia, as Lords of Cleves and Juliers, encouraged the spirit of manufacturing industry brought by the French Protestant emigrants, who settled in the country, from Verviers to Aix-la-Chapelle. The silk manufacture died out there for want of supplies of the raw material. Woollens, and various kinds of linen and cotton wares, throve and increased in importance.

The connexion with Poland made Dresden for a long period a flourishing capital, and opened a market for the manufactures, which there, too, grew up under the cherishing aid of their remoteness from the sea. Silesia, in like manner, shut in by mountains, although traversed by a river that is even now scarcely navigable, became both on the Prussian and Austrian side a manufacturing centre.

Bohemia, where industry had been awakened by the Princes of the House of Luxemburg, retained the habits and traditions of trade through all the distress of the religious wars. These habits and traditions are an inestimable fund of wealth and civilization to a people, and the wisest princes of Germany have been ever solicitous to preserve and increase this legacy of former times.

The revolution introduced into manufactures by machinery anticipated in these parts of Europe the improvement in the communications that ought to have brought the interior of Germany into closer connexion with the other parts of Europe. The resources of the whole of central Europe having been squandered by Napoleon on his warlike expeditions, the enfeebled state of both Germany and France after the peace was unequal to the task of at once creating roads and water communications, and several years of serious exertion were requisite before these great levers of civilization could be furnished to the people. The Prussian and Austrian Governments deserve all praise for their efforts to create good roads, and they have been wonderfully successful. Lines of roads of such immense extent as that stretching from Aix-la-Chapelle, on the Belgian frontier, to Tilsit, on the Baltic, the whole of which is on Prussian ground; or from Magdeburg, on the Elbe, to Oppelu, in Upper Silesia, could not be made without some lapse of time, and, in the interval, the circumstances that had called forth the agglomerations of manufacturers in certain districts continued. The master manufacturers in these parts being desirous of imitating the proceedings of other countries, and feeling the rivalry of strangers even in their seclusion, had introduced machinery; and both in Prussia and Saxony an attempt was made to transform the hand factories into machine factories, and cotton became an object of general consumption. As a necessary consequence, the population accumulated under the comparatively high wages which the circumstances allowed the manufacturers to offer; and the profits in the commencement were dazzling both to the speculators and to their Governments.

But with every new line of road that was opened the security in which these manufacturing experiments were made was invaded, and competition accompanied every facilitation of the importation of raw material and of the exportation of manufactured products.

A cautious Government, under such novel circumstances, ought to have abstained from interfering in a matter in which the cleverest statesmen saw no alternative but to sacrifice the interests of the consuming classes to those of the producers. Interference was, however, the fashion, and England, which was looked to as the pattern of a manufacturing country, was hastily presumed to be also a good and safe guide in commercial legislation. It was not perceived that the absence of competition generally, and the extent of our colonial empire, allowed us a wide field that we could move in without much apparent impediment from our ridiculous restrictions. It was still less perceived that these restrictions must inevitably fall before competition abroad, and even before the wants of an increasing population at home. It was hastily concluded that to these restrictions we owed our prosperity, and accordingly they were assumed to be wise and politic. Protecting duties were adopted on a moderate scale in Prussia, in 1818, and would by this time have either become useless, or would have stifled her manufactures, if another great measure had not accompanied their introduction.

They would have become a dead letter in practice if, by persevering in attempts to supply a limited market, the Prussian manufacturers had been driven by internal competition to study and adopt the most improved and the most economical processes. But there was a greater chance that the efforts of the manufacturers would relax before the competition of the smuggler on a frontier line of 5000 miles, a large portion of which consisted of sea-coast.

Both dangers were averted by the consolidation of the majority of the Germanic states into a commercial league, which is known under its German title of Zollverein.

The immediate results of this union have been to diminish many facilities for smuggling, while the home market for the manufacturer was extended. Thus the manufactures have remained in the spots in which they were first tried, instead of shifting, as they would probably have done under the pressure of competition from abroad, to more convenient places. At the same time the manufacturers, released in some measure from the active competition of England, have chiefly resorted to new processes only in consequence of the growing internal competition, and until lately produced neither so good nor so cheap articles as we can.

This, I think, will be found to be the true key to the present condition of the German manufactures. From the seats in which they are placed they do not offer elements for an extension under advantageous circumstances, and a change in their position must soon result from the pressure of internal competition, which will bring things round to the point to which foreign competition would, in the first instance, have led, without the expensive experiment, to which the country has been put, of restrictions on trade.

In addition to the pressure of this internal competition, and the rapid progress of our improvements, chemical and mechanical, the new element is now superadded of rapidly increasing pauperism; and if every country in Europe desires to escape periodical scenes of riot, destruction of property, and bloodshed, such as some of our towns, Lyons, Ghent, Silesia, and Bohemia, have within ten years witnessed, the field of industrial enterprise must be widened; there must be more and cheaper production every where, which will then every where find more and readier consumption.

The experience of the Rhenish district of the Prussian manufactures fully confirms the view I have taken. As long as the communication along the Rhine was imperfect, and the Dutch imposed difficulties in the way of the communication with the sea, the manufactures of the duchies of Berg, Cleves, Juliers, and the palatinate flourished. The silk-weavers had the choice of the silk which took this road from Italy to the Low Countries and to England. The clothiers had their choice of the wool that wandered by the same route. The delays, official formalities, and the expense of carriage up the Rhine, precluded competition from England. Until after the peace but one road, and that a very hilly one, connected Aix-la-Chapelle with Belgium. During the reign of Napoleon, the difficulties in the way of communicating with the sea were increased; but the land supplies also diminished in consequence of the interruption of trade by the constant military expeditions. Still this district on both sides of the Rhine increased in importance, if not in prosperity, as a manufacturing seat, and some of the first machinery was erected in it.

Within a few years the change which this district has experienced has been such as to defy all calculation. The substitution of steam tugs upon the Lower Rhine, for the strings of horses that formerly aided the navigation, was effected by the Dutch Government to evade the responsibility of keeping up the towing-path, to which it was bound by the treaty of Vienna. The steam navigation has rapidly improved, and the competition of rival companies has reduced freights to a minimum. Finally, in consequence of the completion of the railroad from Antwerp to the Rhine, the Dutch Government has all but abolished its transit duties. So that with the establishment of two new modes of access to the North Sea, a number of impediments to safe and rapid communication have been removed. Elberfeld is within two days' sail of Rotterdam, and Aix-la-Chapelle is on the high road, within a morning's drive of Antwerp.

That such changes should materially interfere with the manufacturer's speculations, which were made under different circumstances, must be apparent. But that the manufacturer has a right to be indemnified at the expense not only of the consumer's pocket, but to the endangering of the morals of the people and of the security of the throne, is assuming more than can be assented to. On the same showing the innkeepers, postmasters, dealers, and tradesmen of all kinds, whose interests are affected by the change, have the same right to claim an indemnification for the change daily effected in the value of their property.

But, while the impossibility of long continuing this false commercial policy is evident, the very inconvenience occasioned by the daily changes to which trade is subject ought not only to urge governments to the utmost activity in opening new fields for the disposal of manufactured wares, but should make them doubly cautious in imposing any restrictions likely to prevent a district from retrieving the profits that such changes endanger. Belgium has courted the change in the means of communication as a source of wealth. Prussia has gone half way to meet her in the same expectation.

Not only, therefore, is a restrictive commercial policy in these countries absurdly inconsistent, but it is not feasible, and the only result obtained from it is depriving all classes of the so necessary extension of trade. But in Prussia the inconsistency is even more absurd than in Belgium, since it militates against the very principle of the Zollverein—the step that is the most deserving of admiration that the recent history of Europe has to show. The commercial union of Germany is based upon the assumption that free unimpeded intercourse is the richest source

of prosperity to nations. The duties imposed on foreign yarns are a subsidiary part of the project, and form, in fact, a disturbing element that is justified only by fiscal necessity.

By the establishment of the Zollverein the energies of 20 millions of enlightened and industrious human beings have been allowed unrestrained play, and a surprising increase of prosperity has been the result. But the system of frontier duties has impeded rather than forwarded this pleasing result. The high rate adopted by Prussia occasioned a delay of fifteen years in the extension of the League to its present boundaries. These duties still keep Hanover, Oldenburg, Mecklenburg, and the Hanse Towns from joining it; why, we shall have ample occasion to convince ourselves in the sequel.

OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

(From the *Morning Chronicle*.)

The long-expected abstract of the answers and returns obtained in 1841, relative to the occupations of the people, has at length appeared, and a more important publication has rarely issued from the press. It places beyond the possibility of further doubt or cavil a mass of facts respecting the condition of the population, which must in no no very long time settle the question of Free Trade. We can at present only advert briefly to one or two of the results which appear on the face of the returns.

In the first place, it is ascertained that between the years 1831 and 1841 the amount of employment afforded by the agriculture of Great Britain remained nearly stationary, notwithstanding the enormous increase in the population. The multitude of additional hands has been obliged to find work in other departments. The total male population of Great Britain, twenty years of age and upwards, was, in 1831, 3,199,984; and in 1841, 3,829,668, showing an increase in ten years of about 630,000 adult males. Hardly one of these additional men has been able to find employment in agriculture. The agricultural occupiers and labourers were, in 1831, 980,750, and in 1841, only 961,585. Allowing here for a correction pointed out by the enumerators, it still appears, that at the end of the decennial period there was either no increase, or a very small one, in the number of adult males employed in agriculture. Look, however, to the numbers employed in commerce, trade, and manufactures. In 1831 they were 1,278,283, and in 1841 they amounted to 1,682,044, showing that those branches of industry had found employment for more than 400,000 additional persons of the class before mentioned. The preface to the abstract contains the following observations:—

"In columns 28 and 29 are given proportional tables of the two great classes of occupations, viz., agricultural and commercial (or trade and manufactures). In the former are included all farmers, graziers, nurserymen, &c., together with the whole number of persons returned as agricultural labourers; in the latter, all shopkeepers and manufacturers, with those working under them; while from both classes are excluded those returned as domestic servants or general labourers, together with all professional persons. It will be seen that for all England *trade and manufacture include rather more than double the numbers included under the head of agriculture.*

"The altered proportion which the agricultural bears to the commercial classes for Great Britain generally will at first, perhaps, excite surprise. The proportions which the agricultural, the commercial, and the miscellaneous classes bore to each other were, in

	Agricultural.	Commercial.	Miscellaneous.
1811	35	44	21
1821	33	46	21
1831	28	42	30

while they were respectively in

1841	22	46	32

"It should be noticed that these comparative statements refer in the three first decennial periods to families, but upon the present occasion to individuals. The latter mode gives a more accurate view of the amount of employment afforded in each division of labour; but inasmuch as there are rather more of the younger branches of a family employed in trade and manufactures than in agriculture, it may have slightly augmented the difference here exhibited. The other facts shown by these returns are, however, so much in accordance with these results as to confirm their accuracy."

Thus, the agricultural class comprises less than one-fourth of the people, and it is stationary in point of numbers, while the other sections of the population are rapidly increasing from year to year. Can anything more clearly demonstrate the folly of legislation which checks the development of the only kind of industry which is found to be capable of expanding with the multiplication of labourers? Is this to go on for ever? The foundation of that vast system of manufactures and commerce by which so many millions are maintained, is the interchange of manufactured goods for raw products. The great check upon our prosperity is the increasing difficulty of obtaining those raw products. With respect to the essential article of food, we deliberately enhance the difficulty for the sake, professedly, of this agricultural class, which is every year losing some portion of its relative importance. Is it possible, when the numbers on the one side and on the other are now authoritatively stated, that this grievous injustice can be suffered to continue? The injustice would be palpable, even if all those engaged in agriculture could be said to benefit by what is called agricultural protection; but when we know that they, like every other class, are interested in having the chief article of consumption abundant, we can hardly use language strong enough to condemn the nefarious policy which so openly sacrifices the many to the few.

The returns give what has probably never been given before, an accurate statement of the number of persons employed in various branches of manufacture. Those employed in the cotton manufacture are classed thus:—

Males, 20 years and upwards ..	.. 128,112
Ditto, under 20	.. 59,171
Females, 20 years and upwards	.. 104,470
Ditto, under 20	.. 75,809
Total..	.. 377,562

We extract also the total number engaged in each of the following manufactures:—

Hose..	5[illegible],965
Lace	35,347
Wool and worsted	167,2[illegible]
Silk	69,773
Flax and linen	86,218

The total number of persons engaged in the manufacture of textile fabrics in Great Britain is stated to be 800,246.

Of those employed in mines, there are in

Coal mines..	118,[illegible]
Copper ditto	15,407
Lead ditto	11,419
Iron ditto	10,9[illegible]
Tin ditto	6,101

The total of persons employed in mines is 193,825.

Of persons employed in the manufacture and working of metals, there are, besides the miners, in

Iron	32,497
Copper	2,126
Lead	1,993
Tin	1,320

There are employed in

Pottery and glass..	32,289
Gloves	9,225
Engines and machines	16,550

In considering the number of persons supported by any particular manufacture, it is to be remembered that the numbers given are of actual workers, and not of those who, as wives, children, &c., are supported by the labour of others. The total number of persons whose occupations were ascertained in Great Britain, was 7,846,569, leaving 10,997,865 as the "residue" of the population, which must be taken to consist of persons dependent on the former. Therefore, to the number given under each employment we must add another number bearing to it the proportion of about 11 to 8, in order to ascertain the entire number of individuals whom that branch of industry supports.

To estimate with perfect correctness the value of the conclusions contained in these returns, it would be desirable to advert to the plan upon which the information was collected, but this topic we must reserve for another occasion.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Public Parks, &c.—A numerously attended meeting of the Public Park Committee took place in the Town-hall on Thursday the 22nd inst.; James Atherton, Esq., in the chair. Amongst the subscriptions announced was the munificent sum of £1000 from Jones, Loyd, and Co. The committee resolved to organise an auxiliary committee, for the general canvass of the town; and also to avail themselves of the co-operation of the operatives' committee, which has also commenced its labours. The committee have issued an able address, from which we make the following extracts:—"One of the largest and most influential meetings ever convened in Manchester, having unanimously resolved that the formation of parks, public walks, or open spaces for exercise and active sports, in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, should be at once undertaken, as a means of contributing greatly to the health, rational enjoyment, kindly intercourse, and good morals of all classes of our industrious population, the committee appointed for carrying this resolution into effect are anxious, before a general canvass of the town is set on foot, to call public attention to the strong and urgent claims which the important object in view puts forward to general sympathy and support. Subscriptions have been already entered into, and large sums have been spontaneously contributed by various wealthy and influential individuals, for the furtherance of the excellent object in view. The committee venture to hope that the example which has been so nobly set will be followed in a similar spirit of generosity; that every one who has the means will contribute his quota towards the social and moral improvement of his fellow-townsmen; and that the result will be the raising of a sum proportionate to the wealth, and worthy of the well-known liberality of the town of Manchester, and such as will enable the committee, with as little delay as possible, to proceed in a work which is calculated, in an eminent degree, to increase the comforts and happiness of the great masses of the people. The committee deem it unnecessary to add more. They make this *public* appeal in behalf of a great *public* good; and they look with anxiety—but with confidence—to the issue. They feel assured that the rich will acknowledge the responsibilities which attach to wealth, and recognise the imperative duty of employing their worldly substance to promote the general happiness."—*Manchester Guardian.*

Travers Testimonial.—We stated a few weeks ago the proceedings at the Hall of Commerce, at a meeting of merchants, bankers, and traders, assembled for the purpose of doing honour to the memory of the late John Travers, Esq., the qualities of whose heart and intellect had gained for him the warmest affection and highest respect of all who knew him. It was upon that occasion referred to a committee to consider of and report to a future meeting the best and most lasting mode of testifying the sense entertained by all of his worth, so that posterity, by contemplating his many public and private virtues, may be led to imitate his example. Subsequently a meeting took place, Sir George Larpent, Bart., in the chair, when it was resolved unanimously that the most suitable and most lasting testimonial to perpetuate the name and worth of Mr. Travers would be to found a scholarship in connexion with the City of London School, to be given to the boy whose merits and character, upon a strict examination, should be deemed the most worthy, and that such boy should be called the Travers Scholar, and proceed either to the University College, or King's College, London, as the parent or guardian of such boy might determine. A great number of the highest names in the City appear in the subscription list, as might be expected from the exalted merit of the individual whose virtues it is intended to commemorate.—*Sun.*

A School Exhibition Gained by a Factory Boy.—Mr. Saunders, the factory inspector for Yorkshire, in his report for the quarter ending the 30th June last, says: "That the education of factory children, where sufficient attention is paid to the subject, may be efficiently conducted, has been proved during the last quarter, by a factory worker having been the successful candidate for an exhibition to the York Training School, which was open to the competition of all National School children in Leeds. A second factory boy also offered himself was favourably noticed by the examiners. The boy, Edwin Spencer, now between fourteen and fifteen years old, who has gained the exhibition, has worked in a factory since he was ten years old; and the only instruction he obtained during that time, was as a regular half-time attendant at the National School at Leeds, established almost expressly for factory children. Messrs. Hilton and Atkinson, in whose employment he has been (for the sake partly of reward, and partly to stimulate all to exert themselves), permit four children, after they have attained the age of thirteen, to continue as half-timers, but in the receipt of the same wages as if employed full time, on condition that they continue their attendance at school. Had these boys been obliged to work twelve hours from the time they became thirteen, it would, of course, have been impossible for them to have undergone the same stiff examination to which they were subject on this occasion. The success of Edwin Spencer, there is no doubt, will excite others to greater attention and regularity, and will, I am convinced, prove of great service to many. The principle of giving this premium to a limited number of well-conducted boys has been adopted by other mill-occupiers; and the expenses in each case will doubtless be in part repaid, by the better conduct of the whole number of children employed."

The Crops—The Corn Law.—Should the crops this season fulfil the expectations generally entertained, there will be plenty in our native land for man and beast: there will be, as the consequence of that abundance, work and wages for the people. When food is cheap wages rise, when it is dear they fall. Such is the action of our laws. We are thus in a new position. The sufferings which have been felt with so crushing a severity for several years past will be alleviated if not removed; and the people, well fed and clothed, may cease to complain in terms bordering on insurgency; because the every-day pressure and penury have been removed by the bounty of nature. But assuredly the principles of Free-Trade legislation have undergone no change, and suffered no defeat. If Free Trade be right when the people groan under poverty, it remains right though the wealth of Crœsus become the portion of every pauper. It can never become true and fair—if it ever was false and unjust—that we should be precluded from the export of our superfluities, be they corn, or linens, or yarns. In spite of the most oppressive enactments of any legislature, a skilful and an industrious people, such as the inhabitants of these islands are universally acknowledged to be, will force up their livelihood when not warred against and overthrown by concurrent adversities. But years of dearth will come which are too strong for their arm when cramped by the shackles of the enemy; and in these years their cry comes up to the ear that is never shut, and is even heard but disregarded by their fellow-men who, set over them by Heaven for good, deal wrongfully by the trust. Against such seasons a paternal government would have shielded its people, but against such seasons there is yet no provision but the iron-bound Corn Law, lessening the bread of the poor, enhancing its cost, and forbidding the labourer to give his time for his food because it is a stranger that would make the exchange. Would it not be better even for the monopolist class to be relieved of a large portion of the poor's rates, by permitting the employed to labour for any one who would employ and pay them?—*Dundee Advertiser.*

Rules for Newspaper Correspondents.—Supposing you wish to contribute to a public charity, send your money to the editor of a newspaper. He must acknowledge the receipt of it, and so you get your name and benevolence advertised in the best part of the paper for nothing. 2. Another good method, if you are fond of appearing before the public, is to request the editor to state that "the Richard Jones, who, in our police report of yesterday, was sentenced to Bridewell for shoplifting, is not the Mr. Richard Jones, the respected chiropodist, of Sackville-street." 3. If you are writing to a political newspaper, never mind about writing on the two sides of the paper, as, depend upon it, it will be a recommendation in your favour if the editor sees you can write well on *both sides.* 4. You need not be particular about writing legibly, as it stands to reason, if the editor cannot read your letter, that you will be spared the mortification of reading in the next day's notices to correspondents, that "Philo Justitiæ is an ass." 5. It is usual, in sending a statement which impugns the character of another person, to send your name and address with it; but, as in matters of libel this is a very troublesome as well as a very expensive plan, it is better to send any body else's card rather than your own. By this means you avoid publicity, and have the double gratification of annoying two persons at once. 6. Inserting your death one day, and contradicting it the next, is another very cheap plan of advertising in a newspaper. Besides, you have the advantage of learning in your lifetime what your friends think of you after your death. This plan will, however, only answer once. 7. It is better, perhaps, not to send any poetry to a newspaper. We never recollect an instance of the *Times* inserting "A Sonnet to a Sow," or "Lines to my Mary." 8. Be careful of quotations, especially in a foreign language. If an editor knows his own language well, it is as much as you have a right to expect of him. 9. Never send anything to a newspaper "to be continued," unless it is a legacy or a dozen of port. 10. Never trouble yourself in calling to see the editor of a newspaper. It is a strange circumstance, but you might call a hundred times and always find him "out."—*Punch.*

The Cost of War.—Thursday, a return, procured by Mr. Leader, the member for Westminster, was printed, showing the charges incurred on account of the Canadas in respect of the Army, Navy, Ordnance, and Commissariat in each of the years 1835 to 1843 inclusive, and the amounts granted by Parliament from the year 1837 to the year 1843 inclusive, in consequence of the insurrection in Canada. It appears that, for the year ending March, 1836, the total charges of the army, navy, ordnance, and commissariat in the Canadas amounted to £165,834, and in the year ending March, 1843, it was £806,607. The largest sum was in 1839, when the charges were £1,629,070. The special grants by Parliament on account of the insurrection in Canada amount, from 1838 to 1843, to the sum of £2,096,046. The largest sum in one year was in 1839, £1,000,000.

Steam.—Talk about your northern steam-boats, said a Mississippi fireman the other day, "you haint had a biler burst for five years. Don't require no sprunk to navigate them waters, any fool can do it; but it takes a man, stranger, to ride one of these here alligator boats head on to a sawyer, high pressure and the valve soldered down, 600 passengers on board, and every soul endangered."—*Halifax paper.*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, August 28, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

	£	s.	d.
James Smith, 59 and 59, South Audley-street ..	£20	0	0
Frederick Harrison and Co., Bow Church-yard ..	15	15	0
H. G. Robinson, 6, Half-moon-street, Piccadilly ..	5	5	0
John Hackblock, Denmark-hill, Camberwell ..	5	5	0
Two Friends	5	0	0
A Friend to Free Trade	5	0	0
Charles Spiers, 10, Spital-square	2	0	0
Henry Baker, 79, Mark-lane	2	0	0
Smith and Co., Oak-wharf, City-road	1	1	0
John Sykes, 5, Red-cross-street, Cripplegate ..	1	1	0
Richard Surridge, 31, Newgate-street (3rd subscrip.)	1	1	0
Mr. Werne, 152, Cheapside	1	1	0
A. Penny, 12, Newcastle-wharf, City-road Basin	1	1	0
Daniel Dunn, 9, King's-row, New-road, Pentonville	1	1	0
Andrew Drybrough, 8, Basing-lane (2nd subscrip.)	1	1	0
H. Bateman, 25, Sun-street, Bishopsgate	1	1	0
Murphy and Moore, 116, Holborn	1	1	0
William Graham, 115, St. John-street, Clerkenwell	1	1	0
William Tabor, 158, Fenchurch-street	1	1	0
Thomas Kilby and Co., 136, do.	1	1	0
Thomas Young, 29, Mark-lane	1	1	0
J. F. Christy, Stangate Glass Works, Lambeth ..	1	0	0
D. Davies, 82, York-place, Waterloo-road ..	1	0	0
Charles Swinstead, 15, Ludgate-hill	1	0	0
Beaufoy and Co., South Lambeth	1	0	0
William Stephen, 124, Wood-street	1	0	0
Mr. Langdon, 135, Cheapside	1	0	0
Allan and Co., 158, do.	1	0	0
G. A. Stagg, 2, Leicester-square	1	1	0
W. G. Mantle, 2, do.	1	1	0
John Silverlock, Custom-house-quay	1	0	0
Benjamin Dobell, 25, Gracechurch-street	1	0	0
Henry Compton, 37, Fenchurch-street	1	0	0
Robert John Philip Jacquet, 21, Clare-court, Blackmoor-street, Clare-market	1	0	0
Joseph Procter, 197, Bishopsgate-street Without ..	1	0	0
Percy Procter, do.	1	0	0
Long and Edwards, 65, Mark-lane	1	0	0
H. and S.	1	0	0
William Farn, 14, Newcastle-street, Strand	1	0	0
Edward Osman, 56, Bow-lane	1	0	0
Alfred Kingsford, Dover	1	0	0
Frederick Cox, 100, Newgate-street	1	0	0
George Frederick Minton, 67, do.	1	0	0
Thomas Pollock, 129, Fenchurch-street	1	0	0
George Wm. Edwards, 65, Mark-lane	1	0	0
A Friend, A. B.	1	0	0
J. A. Novello, 9, Craven-hill, Bayswater	1	0	0
William Parnell, 39, Clement's-lane	1	0	0
Dennis Chandler, 25, Mark-lane (2nd subscription)..	1	0	0
Charles Donaldson, 123, Fenchurch-street	1	0	0
Richard Willis, 14, Smith-street, Northampton-sq.	1	0	0
John Banner, 16, Webb's County-terrace, New Kent-road	1	0	0
David Gilruth, 19, Giltspur-street	0	10	0
Dennis Sullivan, 9, Little Knight Rider-street, Doctors'-commons	0	10	0
Samuel Dutton, 31, Ludgate-hill	0	10	0
Two Young Free-Traders, St. Luke's	0	10	0
Wm. Gritten, 6, Bull Head-court, Newgate-street ..	0	10	0
Joseph Shepherd, 9, President-st. East, Goswell-rd.	0	10	0
Mr. Holmes 91, Watling-street	0	10	0
John R. Moreland, 18, Old-street, St. Luke's ..	0	10	0
James Smith, 57, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square ..	0	5	0
D. Theobald, 11, Chapel-street East, May-fair ..	0	5	0
Joseph Hobbs, 14, do, do.	0	5	0
Thomas Stone, 20, Chiswell-street, Finsbury ..	0	5	0
Wm. Fredk. Anderson, 32, Featherstone-st., City-rd.	0	5	0
William Henry Lewis, 34, Ludgate-street	0	5	0
Thomas Whiting, 8, Warwick-square, Newgate-st.	0	5	0
James Medwin, 23, Gracechurch-street	0	5	0
John Raftrey, 27, St. John-street, Clerkenwell ..	0	5	0
S. Gates, 37, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields	0	5	0
Mr. Hooper, 18, King-square, Goswell-road ..	0	5	0
Richard Proctor, 79, St. John-street, Clerkenwell ..	0	5	0
Robert Smith, 13, Gutter-lane	0	5	0
George Gray, 35, Ivy-lane, Newgate-street	0	5	0
Samuel Sandall, 50, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square	0	5	0
Jacob Mansell, 3, Chapel-place North, South Audley-street	0	5	0
Mr. Collins, 28, Castle-street, Holborn	0	5	0
Wellington Williams, 35, Gutter-lane	0	5	0
A Friend	0	5	0
Henry Legge, 143, Old-street, St. Luke's	0	5	0
Thomas Hanson, 5 Wharf, Wenlock-basin, City-road	0	5	0
John Richardson, 10, Billiter-street	0	5	0
John Neville, 129, Fenchurch-street	0	5	0
James Thomas, 57, Bath-street, City-road	0	2	6
George Croucher, 12, New-Court, Farringdon street	0	2	6
Charles Woolnough, 55, Old Bailey	0	2	6
Thomas Hiles, 22, Warwick-square, Newgate street	0	2	6
James Whitehouse, Featherstone-street, City-road..	0	2	6
J. Bennett, 40, Fenchurch-street	0	2	6
C. N.	0	2	6
Richard Heald, 24, Old Change	0	2	6
R. N.	0	2	6
R. Wallis, 6, President-street East, Goswell-road ..	0	2	6
James Hall, 17, do., do. ..	0	2	6
Mr. James, 4, Mark-lane	0	2	6
Thomas Nixey, 80, St. John-street, Clerkenwell ..	0	2	6
B. Stradley, 3, Ship Tavern-passage, Leadenhall-market	0	2	6
Henry Atkinson, 22, Featherstone-street, City-road	0	2	6
Rees Rees, 36, Banner-street, St. Luke's	0	2	6
J. R. Larkin, 36, Green-walk, Blackfriars-road ..	0	2	6
James M'Neir, 7, South-street, Grosvenor-square ..	0	2	6
Mr. Farquharson, Old-street, St. Luke's	0	2	6
William Reynolds, 24, do., do.	0	2	6
Isaac Isaacs, 8, Cullum-street, Fenchurch-street ..	0	2	6
C. Cornish, 83, Fenchurch-street	0	2	6
Mrs. Hawkshee, 79, Bunhill-row, St Luke's ..	0	3	0
Printers in the employ of Mr. Cousins, Duke-street, Lincoln's-inn fields	0	4	6
James Key, 9, Warwick-square	0	5	0
William Williams, druggist, Coleford, Gloucestershire	0	2	6
B. Provis, do., do.	0	2	6
Charles Hough, do. do.	0	2	6
Wm. Jones and Son, Cleversend's-green, Glo'stersh.	0	2	0
Thomas Beachim, 5, Gilbert's-passage, Clare-market	0	10	0
T. C. Denton, High-street, Peckham	0	2	6
Robert Stead, 3, George-street, Borough-rd., Southwk.	0	2	6
Joseph Dick, 3, Skinner-street, Snow-hill ..	0	5	0
Henry Sheppard, 10, President-st. West, Goswell-rd.	0	2	6
John Tasker, 105, St. John-street, Clerkenwell ..	0	2	6
Edward Thompson, 82, do., do.	0	2	6
John Cragg, 8, Northampton-square	0	5	0
E. Boulter, 5, do.	0	2	6
Henry Wilkinson, 1, Prujean-square, Old Bailey ..	0	2	6
Small subscriptions	1	7	6
Balance of subscription from Middleton, Lancashire	0	7	0
Thomas Whitworth, 11, Cannon-street, Manchester	0	10	0
Saml. Evans, Ottery St. Mary, Honiton, Devonshire	1	0	0
Thomas Wroe, bricksetter } Bury, Lancashire Abraham Wood, White Boar Inn } Bury, Lancashire	1	0	0
The Workmen of Messrs. Sigfield and Wolfenden, Lower Mosley-street, Manchester, 1st division .. .. £3 1 10 Do., do., 2nd division 1 0 8 } £4	2	6	
W. Royston, Barnsley	0	10	0
Thomas Gregory, Shelf, near Halifax	2	0	0

VITALITY OF ERROR.

In the *Spectator* of last week is an article on "The Vitality of Seeds":—

> "Flowers are made the type of what is fading: but the moralist does not look deep enough—the seed of the flower is for ever reproduced, and, as we so often see, retains its vitality for ages. A pea taken from a vase found in an Egyptian sarcophagus, and supposed to be 2844 years old, has germinated in the garden of Mr. Grimstone at Highgate, and there are now nineteen pods on it."

Remarkable as the above statement may appear, there are nevertheless phenomena to be observed in the political world quite as astounding. In certain well-known journals are to be seen, almost daily, articles which belong not to the present day, but which bear strong internal evidence of belonging to remote antiquity. Doctrines which flourished in the darker periods of man's history, but which the diffusion of intelligence has for centuries consigned to the sarcophagus of oblivion, are found germinating at the present time in soil especially adapted for such productions—the offices of the *Post* and *Herald*. There can be no doubt as to the antiquity of the articles to which we refer. The barbarous character of the notions they contain, their utter inapplicability in a state of advanced intelligence and civilization, and the crudeness with which they are set forth, incontestably prove that they belong to dark, very dark ages.

In the metropolis are several museums, containing doubtless many wonderful relics of antiquity, and which are properly resorted to by the lovers of the antique. But we should say to those who are curious in such matters, "Are you really desirous to be brought in contact, as it were, with bygone times, visit the establishments in Shoe-lane and Wellington-street."

The *Times* of the 23rd inst. declares that our venerable contemporary of Shoe-lane is a goose. Probably the *Times* may not be very far wide of the truth in this statement; at least we may safely affirm that we see no evidence to the contrary in the columns of the *Herald* itself. If, however, our contemporary belong to that particular species of the feathered tribe, he certainly is not one of the present generation. The most probable conjecture is, that he came into the world about the same time as the venerable pea now germinating in Mr. Grimstone's garden, and the extraordinary fact of his existing in this age of intellect can only be accounted for on the supposition that he must have remained, during the intervening ages, in a state of torpor in the trunk of some tree. Some accident, not yet explained, having liberated him in the present day, he stalks forth a sort of feathered Rip Van Winkle, mumbling and gibbering the long-exploded inanities of bygone days. The *Spectator* adds:—

> "If these nineteen podfuls were cooked, the Englishman of the nineteenth century would eat peas *one* generation later than the peas that fed the Egyptian in the days of hieroglyphics!"

We should say that a most appropriate dish to serve up with these ancient vegetables would be a leader from our antiquated contemporary. Those who had stomachs for such a repast would then have (assuming the *Times* to be right) a hash of goose to their green peas.

EMPLOYMENT IN NORFOLK.

A JOURNEY TO WORSTEAD AND NORTH WALSHAM.

(From the Correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*.)

In whatever part of Norfolk there has been an incendiary fire, I always find a complaint made, as I found in Suffolk, that "there are so many bad characters about, no farmer can be safe, let him be the best master that ever had a farm." It is generally urged to me that the men employed on the farms are not likely to commit such acts. Near Wymondham there had been fires, eight miles south from Norwich. One gentleman whose premises had been burned, Mr. Neave, a tenant of Lord Wodehouse, was mentioned to me as one of the best of masters. I visited his farm, and, judging from the style of cultivation I saw there, I have no hesitation in saying that he is one of the best of farmers. Added to this is the fact, that he keeps up the good olden custom of having his workmen collected together three or four times a year to a domestic festival.

In short, Mr. Neave is an employer highly respected, yet his premises were burned by an incendiary. It was alleged in the *Times* that this was done because he was a poor-law guardian. From what I could hear, after repeated inquiries, I am enabled to say at once, and without reserve, that there is not the least cause for ever suspecting that his premises were fired by any person who had been aggrieved by the administration of the poor law. But other parties are suspected, indeed they are known, though not legally proved, to be guilty.

In Wymondham town and parish there is a large, loose, and very dangerous population. They were at one time well employed in spinning and weaving; now they do little more, one-half of them, than follow the professions of poaching and thieving. To such as them it is not of the least moment that Mr. Neave is a good employer, a good man, and a good friend. He cannot employ them; but he has fields of corn, folds of sheep, and barns from which they can steal. If they should be hunted away, they may do other mischief.

I am sorry to hear that within these last few weeks several farmers who use threshing machinery have had threatening letters. Such letters are kept secret, and I have no wish to provoke much discussion about them. But, in passing, I just remark that such letters are continually being sent; all of them complaining about the machinery, most of them threatening destruction to the new crops if the use of threshing mills is persisted in this winter.

Now, it is curious to trace the complaints of different working people, who are surrounded by different circumstances. In Norwich, among the weavers, I heard nothing so frequently alleged against the master manufacturers there, and particularly against the deceased Mr. Willett, at whose funeral they behaved so ill, as this—that because the masters could get work done at Wymondham cheaper than in Norwich, they sent the yarn out to Wymondham to be weaved. I said to some Norwich weavers whom I saw at the funeral, and who were discussing the questions of work and wages, that I supposed the yarn would not have been sent to Wymondham unless there had been weavers there, and that they would not have taken the work to do unless they had needed employment; to which some half dozen angry voices replied, "But what business had he to send the work out of Norwich? Has a Norwich weaver not a right to get work from a Norwich master in preference to a Wymondham weaver?"—"Why," I replied, "there is only the distance of a few miles between the places; and I suspect they were Norwich masters who first made the Wymondham people weavers."

"That is what we complain of," said they; "when work was more plentiful, and wages higher, they brought every one from the farms they could get to be weavers; men, women, boys, everybody. Now, what we say is, that the farmers should take all these back again, and keep them. We say no weaver who does not live in Norwich has any right to get our work out of Norwich, until all our own hands are full at higher wages."

On the other hand, the Wymondham labourers complain that the weavers of that place go to the farmers offering to work for under wages. The farmers complain of having to pay such exorbitant poor rates to maintain them in the workhouse, and so forth; and that they are liable to so many depredations committed upon them by those who form this superabundant population.

So it comes once more to this. How shall we provide profitable employment?—for to be permanent the employment must be profitable; and if it is not permanent, it is not a remedy. How shall we provide it?

That much might be done through the culture of flax, I have no doubt. But to cultivate and manufacture flax in Norfolk, there is the improved machinery of the north to compete with; and it must be worked in such a way as to ensure a profit. But the Flax Society which came into existence, the memory of which was to endure, according to the prophecy of Mr. Warnes, its founder, when "the inscription was effaced from the tablet, and the splendid monument fell into decay!"—this splendid society, which came into existence one year, and which decayed and died the next, proposed to redeem the fortunes of Norfolk by setting the distaff, and spindles, and looms agoing, of 200 years ago!

In short, the Iowa Indians cannot be so ignorant of England, English manufactures, and of the most elementary principles of trade and political economy, now that they have been a whole month in Britain, than were the founders and patrons of the Norfolk Flax Society, though five or six were members of the English Legislature, and the others were magistrates, clergymen, farmers, and land-agents, all born and bred, and practising their arts of living in England.

Having been informed that while the society existed they had engaged Mr. Demann, a Belgian gentleman, and a few operatives from Belgium, to introduce the art of dressing the flax; and that now Mr. Demann, since the society's dissolution, had the work carried on as his own speculation, I resolved on paying him a visit.

I went by way of a village called Worstead, which is remarkable as the place where the woollen yarn called worsted was first made. This was some time about the reign of Henry I. I found Worstead a pleasant village, containing about 900 inhabitants. It has a very fine church, bespeaking by its ampleness and elegance the melancholy fact that the parish had seen better days. There is much good land about it. The best crop of wheat, standing in the stook, which I have seen in Norfolk, stood in two fields south-east of the village. But, good as the soil and crops are at Worstead, as in other places, there is an unemployed population.

I had stood in the village of Kersey, in Suffolk, and had looked upon the *mere*, or miry brook, which gave the name of *Kerseymere* to the well-known cloth of that name; and I had been in the next parish of Linsey, where *Linsey Woolsey* was first made in England. But the feelings with which I looked on those places were but moderate compared with the deep reverence with which I looked on the village of Worstead, and on the churchyard where lay the dust of those ancient civilizers of the human race—the olden manufacturers.

Worstead! What other name of place, or name of article, what household word, ever became so universal, penetrated so completely into every fireside circle, as this same word? And yet such is the decay of the trade that once made that place the law-giver in the art of spinning to six centuries, and half the civilized world, that many of the people living in it, and nearly all living around it, know not a word of its history. I saw nothing but rich ripe crops of wheat, and heard nothing but murmurs for the want of trade, and employment, and wages.

Such is at present the condition of Worstead, the mother of stockings and of stocking yarn.

Having left that village, I got across some sand hills, which on their tops have a coating of heath in bright red bloom, and, at the distance of three miles from Worstead, came to North Walsham, a market-town of larger dimension than one would expect to find who never knew even its name until seeing it on the map, or on the milestones. Like Worstead and many other villages and towns in the eastern counties, North Walsham is more remarkable for what it has been, than what it is now; unless we reckon it remarkable now for having a population three times more extensive than the employment from which they seek a livelihood. I suppose 3000 is about the amount of its population.

A mile beyond the town, at a cluster of old buildings called the workhouse, and which had been the parish workhouse before the time of the unions, I found the flax factory, which had been instituted by the society, and which is now carried on by Mr. Demann.

It being harvest time, many of the hands had gone away to work for the farmers, and therefore little was doing at the flax. There were altogether seven or eight persons working at it within and without. At other times there are forty or fifty. The most of the spinning is, however,

done in Yorkshire, there being no machinery at Walsham, save the old one-handed wheel.

Mr. and Mrs. Demann, I found, had been in Ireland with the Irish Flax Society before coming here. They seemed very willing to show all the processes of the flax manufacture, and proposed that I should go first to the brook where the flax was steeping in the water. This was nearly a mile off; but, guided by Mr. Demann's son, a smart lad of about twelve years old, I was soon on the ground where the steeping process was going on. A stack like a small rick of hay was built up of the sheaves of the flax straw. The round seeds which branch out on all sides had been taken off by the farmers from whom the straw was purchased. A Belgian was sorting out the sheaves, loosing them, and picking out the best from the worst, and then binding up each quality by itself. The best was that which had grown tall and straight, with fewest branches, and which had not been so tall and straight as to fall down and be damaged, as we see grain and straw sometimes when too strong, or when very wet weather comes on.

The water had a channel eight or ten feet wide and about as deep. Several hundred sheaves were laid in this, and logs of timber put on the top of them to keep them below. The water being stemmed, the channel seemed choke full. The water was clear on entering the flax; on leaving, it was black and greasy. I subsequently asked Mr. Demann if he thought that water would be of use as a manure for the land, and he said there was no doubt of it. He said if he had land near he would use it; but none of the farmers had yet tried it.

I now went with a farmer, who joined us here, and who had an acre of flax growing in a field near by; and here Mr. Demann also joined us. The flax I had seen steeping and preparing to be steeped was last year's crop, and was longer in the straw than any of this year's crop. It is said the seed will be very good this year, but all the fibre will be of less than usual value from its shortness. The long drought in early summer was the cause of this; and the abundant rains since have caused new branches and new blooms to shoot out.

I was desirous of knowing how the English labourers got on in learning from the Belgians; and this farmer told me that they made a poor hand of the work. He did not expect that for many years to come the English labourers would be good at it; not until the boys of this day grew up to be men. He told me what, however, I did not need to be told, that they are exceedingly stubborn, and unwilling to learn anything that is new, if it does not go entirely with their own inclinations. And it seems they have no love nor good wishes for the flax culture.

Some of the flax being pulled for me, and kindly offered as a specimen to take to London on my return, one of the Belgians was tying it in separate parcels for me, with three or four plies of its own straw, the farmer drew my attention to him, and said, "That is one thing our labourers cannot do, indeed they *will* not do it; it hurts their fingers too much. There is no getting them to do that kind of work."

We next went to a grass field, several acres of which were covered with the flax, spread thinly and evenly out, to bleach. Some men were now engaged in tying this up, to set it up in sheaves on its end for the night. Next day it would be opened out and laid down again to bleach; and so on for ten, or fifteen, or twenty days, according to the weather. This flax had undergone the process of steeping for nearly the same period of days, yet there was much oil left in it. Where it lay the grass grew rapidly; and the marked difference in the grass where the flax was most seldom laid and most frequently laid was very remarkable. Mr. Demann rented the field, and then he allowed a farmer to have the grass, who, as it grew rapidly, sent sheep and cattle to it in such numbers as to eat it quickly down. They relished the grass, and thrived on it well.

The next process with the flax was to beat it with a broad wooden mallet. After that it was scutched. Scutching seems to be the most laborious work connected with it. The men are paid for that by so much per stone, and, according to their application, earn from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 6d. a day. They take a parcel of the flax which nearly fills both hands; holding with both hands by the one end, they strike it against the sharp edges of wooden boards, set into an upright frame. At this work much dust is thrown about, and much strength is wasted. The scutching breaks the straws lengthways, into innumerable fine fibres, almost finer than the naked eye can detect.

Much refuse falls out at this process. It lies about like heaps of chaff. Mr. Demann says it makes excellent manure.

Heckling is the next process. A number of stiff wires stand out, with sharp points, from a firmly fixed block of wood, six or eight inches each. The flax is taken by handfuls and drawn across these, and is combed by this process and laid even. It is then ready to be spun.

True Greatness.—Greatness of character is a communicable attribute; I should say, singularly communicable. It has nothing exclusive in its nature. It cannot be the monopoly of an individual, for it is the enlarged and generous action of faculties and affections which enter into and constitute all minds. I mean reason, conscience, and love, so that its elements exist in all. It is not a peculiar or exclusive knowledge, which can be shut up in one or a few understandings; but the comprehension of great and universal truths, which are the proper objects of every rational being. It is not a devotion to peculiar, exclusive objects, but the adoption of public interests, the consecration of the mind to the cause of virtue and happiness in the creation, that is, to the very cause which all intelligent beings are bound to espouse. Greatness is not a secret, solitary principle, working by itself and refusing participation, but frank and open-hearted, so large in its views, so liberal in its feelings, so expansive in its purposes, so beneficent in its labours, as naturally and necessarily to attract sympathy and co-operation. It is selfishness that repels men; and true greatness has not a stronger characteristic than its freedom from every selfish taint. So far from being imprisoned in private interests, it covets nothing which it may not impart. So far from being absorbed in its own distinctions, it discerns nothing so quickly and joyfully as the capacities and pledges of greatness in others, and counts no labour so noble as to call forth noble sentiments, and the consciousness of a Divine Power, in less improved minds.—*Channing.*

REVIEW.

England and Wales. By J. G. Kohl. (Foreign Library, No. 19.) London: Chapman and Hall.

It is as advantageous for nations as for individuals occasionally "to see themselves as others see them," and to learn the opinions formed of their habits and institutions by impartial and intelligent foreigners. Mr. Kohl is a fearless critic, an acute observer and a shrewd judge of the elements of national character; there is no foreigner who has succeeded so well in seizing the characteristic features of everything which he undertakes to describe; and this artistic skill, combined with a patient investigation of statistical facts, renders even his slightest sketches equally interesting and valuable. We are a little pressed for space this week, but we must nevertheless gratify ourselves and our readers by quoting Mr. Kohl's graphic description of the League:—

"Manchester is the centre of the Anti-Corn-Law, as Birmingham is of the Universal-Suffrage, agitation. At Manchester are held the general meetings of the Anti-Corn-Law League, and here it is that the committee of the League constantly sits. The kindness of a friend procured me admission to the great establishment of the League at Manchester, where I had the satisfaction of seeing and hearing much that surprised and interested me. George Wilson and other well-known leaders of the League, who were assembled in the committee-room, received me as a stranger, with much kindness and hospitality, readily answering all my questions, and making me acquainted with the details of their operations. I could not help asking myself whether in Germany, men, who attacked, with such talent and energy, the fundamental laws of the state, would not have been long ago shut up in some gloomy prison as conspirators and traitors, instead of being permitted to carry on their operations thus freely and boldly in the broad light of day; and, secondly, whether in Germany, such men would ever have ventured to admit a stranger into all their secrets with such frank and open cordiality.

"I was astonished to observe how the Leaguers, all private persons, mostly merchants, manufacturers, and men of letters, conducted political business, like statesmen and ministers. A talent for public business seems an innate faculty in the English. Whilst I was in the committee-room, immense numbers of letters were brought in, opened, read, and answered, without a moment's delay. These letters, pouring in from all parts of the United Kingdom, were of the most various contents, some trivial, some important, but all connected with the objects of the party. Some brought news of the movements of eminent Leaguers or of their opponents, for the eye of the League is ever fixed upon the doings both of friend and enemy. Others contained pecuniary contributions from well-wishers of the cause, for each of whom the president immediately dictated an appropriate letter of thanks. Other letters related anecdotes, showing the progress of the cause, and the gradual defection of the farmers, the most resolute supporters of Peel.

"The League has now, by means of local associations in all parts of the kingdom, extended its operation and influence over the whole country, and attained an astonishing national importance. Its festivals, Anti-Corn-Law bazaars, Anti-Corn-Law banquets, and others of like nature, appear like great national anniversaries. Besides the acknowledged members of the League, there are numbers of important men who work with them and for them in secret. Every person who contributes £50 to the League Fund has a seat and voice in their council. They have committees of working men for the more thorough dissemination of their doctrines among the lower classes, and committees of ladies to procure the co-operation of women. They have lecturers, who are perpetually traversing the country to fan the flames of agitation in the minds of the people. These lecturers often hold conferences and disputations with lecturers of the opposite party, and not unfrequently drive them in disgrace from the field. It is also the business of the travelling lecturers to keep a vigilant watch on every movement of the enemy, and acquaint the League with every circumstance likely to affect its interests. The Leaguers write direct letters to the Queen, the Duke of Wellington, Sir Robert Peel, and other distinguished people, to whom, as well as to the foreign ambassadors, they send copies of those journals containing the most faithful accounts of their proceedings. Sometimes they send personal deputations to distinguished opponents, in order to tell them disagreeable truths to their faces. Nor do the Leaguers neglect the potent instrumentality of that hundred-armed Briareus, the press. Not only do they spread their opinions through the medium of those journals favourable to them; they issue many periodicals of their own, which are exclusively devoted to the interests of the League. These contain, of course, full reports of all meetings, proceedings, and lectures against the Corn Laws; extracts from Anti-Corn-Law publications, repeating, for the thousandth time, that monopoly is contrary to the order of nature, and that the League seeks only to restore the just order of Providence; original articles, headed "Signs of the Times," "Anti-Corn-Law Agitation in London," "Progress of the good work," &c. &c.; and last, not least, poems, entitled, "Lays of the League," advocating in various ways the cause of Free Trade, and satirising their opponents generally with more lengthiness than wit. Nor does the Anti-Corn-Law party omit to avail itself of the agency of those cheap little pamphlets called "Tracts," which are such favourite party-weapons in England. With these tiny dissertations, seldom costing more than twopence or threepence, and generally written by some well-known Anti-Corn-Law leader, such as Cobden or Bright, the League are perpetually attacking the public as with a bombardment of small shot. I saw three or four dozen of such publications announced at the same time by one bookseller, Mr. Gadsby. Still tinier weapons, however, are the Anti-Corn-Law wafers, consisting of short mottos, couplets, and aphorisms of every class, grave and gay, serious and satirical, witty and unmeaning; but all bearing on the one point of Monopoly and Free Trade. These are sometimes taken from the Bible, sometimes from the works of celebrated writers and orators, sometimes from the speeches and publications of the Leaguers themselves, and sometimes are produced by the inventive ingenuity of the editor. Eighteen sheets of these wafers are sold in a pretty cover for one shilling, and each sheet contains forty mottos. Astonishing indeed is the profuse expenditure of labour, ingenuity, wit, and talent, and likewise of stupidity, folly, and dulness, with which, in this wonderful England, the smallest party operations are carried on! Even in children's books do both the Leaguers and Anti-Leaguers carry on their warfare, thus early sowing the seeds of party spirit in the minds of future generations.

"All the publications of the League are not only written, but printed, bound, and published at the League-rooms, in Market-street, Manchester. I went through the various rooms where these operations were carried on, until I came at last to the great League depôt, where books, pamphlets, letters, newspapers, speeches, reports, tracts, and wafers, were all piled in neat packets of every possible size and appearance, like the packets of muslin and calico in the great warehouses of Manchester. Beyond this was a refreshment room, in which tea was offered us by several hospitable ladies, with whom we engaged in conversation for a little while."

We were much interested by some of Mr. Kohl's remarks on the Potteries, equally distinguished for good taste and good sense. There is probably no branch of English manufacture which would derive more profit from Free Trade than that of earthenware; and nothing can be more suicidal than the conduct of those manufacturers who continue to support the cause of monopoly:—

"In Hanley I saw a large magazine of earthenware, with which I was much better pleased than with the porcelain show-rooms that I had just before visited. English earthenware is, in fact, one of the finest and most complete articles in the world; and if all other things were equally perfect, this would be a world of perfection indeed. We know little of English earthenware in Germany beyond teapots and milk-jugs, partly because we are content to put up with things of an inferior quality, and partly because many of the articles in common use in England have not yet become matters of necessity to us. It would be difficult to enumerate all the articles here manufactured of clay. There are tea and coffee services of all imaginable sizes and kinds, ornamented in the most varied manner, and yet always with good taste. Then there are endless varieties of vessels, large and small, pitchers, jugs, dishes, bowls, basins, and every kind of apparatus for washing, and for bathing the feet and the different parts of the body, articles with which an English sleeping-room is usually so richly furnished, and of which the uninitiated stranger is often at a loss to divine the use. All these things in England are not only handsomely ornamented, but are also made large. The English complain, and not without reason, of the diminutive size of most of the apparatus of our bed-rooms.

"We must not forget the neat vessels made for the English dairies, nor the wine-coolers, the butter-coolers, and the water-coolers. The latter, admirably suited to the purpose they are intended for, are chiefly made for the East and West Indies. I was told that the clay used for these cooling vessels was not to be found in any part of England, except in the vicinity of the Potteries. An article, not at all known to us, but for which there has lately been a very great demand in England, is known by the name of 'tesselated tiles.' These are small, thin tiles, elegantly formed, either square or six-sided, and are used for paving halls, and particularly for churches, where they are used at present in astonishing quantities. They are of a red colour, ornamented with yellow or black designs. The floors of almost all the new churches in England are paved with them. Sometimes the designs on the several tiles are made to correspond, and in that case large pictures may be represented, or the tiles may be made to imitate the pattern of a rich carpet. A floor thus paved might not inaptly be said to be covered with a stone carpet. It forms really a very elegant species of mosaic, and is unquestionably the least expensive that has yet been invented.

"In some of the workshops I was much interested by the simplicity of the manner in which the little wreaths of flowers and other ornaments were fastened to the articles they were intended for. These little ornaments, often of a different colour from the vessels to which they are about to be attached, are, of course, moulded apart. They are then taken up quite dry, and laid loosely on the places to which it is meant they should adhere. A workman then comes, and with a pencil, filled apparently with water, moistens the parts, and places the ornaments in the desired position. This moisture, quickly imbibed by the clay, makes the parts adhere firmly, and all this is done with astonishing rapidity; but everything is done twice as fast in England as it is with us, for in no other country is the principle so well understood, that to save time is to save money.

"The copper-plate printing, in one of these large establishments, is also carried on upon an astonishing scale. Many thousand copies are often taken from one plate; and for this purpose a remarkably thin paper is used, that the ink of the engraving may be the more readily transferred to the clay, and that the paper may all the more easily be rubbed off. The paper-makers form no unimportant class of the population of the Potteries.

"All these things I saw with great convenience in the enormous warehouses of Mr. Copeland and Mr. Minton, probably the two greatest manufacturers of crockery in the world, for they told me that each of them had from 800 to 900 persons in his employment.

"If we compare the common earthenware of England with that of the French and Germans, or of any other nation, it appears not only excellent in quality, but also highly ornamental and unsurpassably beautiful. The common French and German earthenware is comparatively ugly, coarse, and misshapen. On the other hand, English porcelain, as I have already remarked, particularly those articles in which beauty and elegance are the main points aimed at, are far behind those of the Continent. I believe there is something characteristic of the English in this. In articles of ordinary use the English seem better than we to know how to combine excellence of quality with outward elegance and beauty, whereas in those articles in which grace and beauty alone are to be kept in view, the English are never equally successful. Their tools, their furniture, their machines, their knives and scissors, their bread, and their joints of meat, are not only excellent, vigorous, and nutritious, but also beautifully formed,

and not to be at all surpassed; whereas their pictures, their sculptures, their pastries, and their cakes, and in short every thing in which fancy takes precedence of usefulness, are far behind ours in excellence. Look, not merely at the earthenware of the French, but at their tools, and their implements of gardening and agriculture. They are all strikingly rude, and little suited to the purposes they are intended for. Even the common bread in France is inferior to that used in England. On the other hand, how much loftier flights of fancy are displayed by the French in works of art.

"M'Culloch estimates the value of the earthenware and china annually manufactured in England at £2,300,000. Of this, the Potteries alone furnish to the amount of about £1,600,000. Spackman calculates that the earthenware, china, and glass, together amount annually to £4,991,126, or about five millions, of which, in 1840, four millions were consumed, and about one million exported. Of earthenware of all sorts, exclusive of glass, the exports are somewhat over half a million; and if we deduct this from £3,300,000, about £1,900,000 will remain to represent the amount of crockery consumed by the English themselves. The rise and fall in the exports of earthenware (exclusive of glass), during a period of seven years, are shown in the following table:—

1834	£493,382	1838	£651,844
1835	520,421	1839	771,173
1836	837,774	1840	574,600
1837	563,237		

"From these fluctuations, however, no distinct conclusions are to be drawn respecting the real prosperity of the manufacture, for sometimes over-production has led English merchants, as they themselves express it, 'to force a market,' by sending abroad large quantities of goods on speculation, to be sold for what they will bring, in the hope that people will accustom themselves to the new merchandise, and afterwards become regular customers for it."

Here we must pause, at least for the present; but we hope to have an opportunity of returning to this pleasant volume.

Collections in Popular Literature. The Lord and the Vassal—Smeaton and Lighthouses—Sir Joseph Banks and the Royal Society—Linnæus and Botany—Cuvier and Zoology—The Useful Arts employed in Food, Clothing, and Dwelling-houses—Chronicles of the Seasons—Reynard the Fox—Peter Wilkins—Van-ti—Norah Toole—The History of the French Revolution. London: J. W. Parker.

Among the many creditable attempts which have been made to supply sound literature at a cheap rate to the middle and operative classes, there is none deserving of higher praise than the Collections in Popular Literature, whether we regard the wisdom of the plan, or the excellence of the execution. The publishers have not cramped themselves by fixing a definite size for the volumes, nor have they placed before the authors the temptation of hurrying their works so as to be ready for a particular day, by making the series periodical. On looking over the six divisions of the collections, as described in the prospectus, we are much pleased to find that there is an avoidance of collision with the established literature of the country, and with the series of weekly and monthly volumes issued by Knight and Murray. The publishers of the Collections have struck out an original path for themselves, and have pursued it with a steadiness well meriting the success which they have already obtained. Their volumes are level to the capacity of youth, without being below the appreciation of mature age; they are instructive to the less educated, and not devoid of interest for the learned. In the division of popular science and art four volumes have appeared: three devoted to explaining the application of the useful arts to the sustenance and comfort of mankind in their food, clothing, and dwelling-houses, and one entitled "The Writing-desk," which illustrates many curious and important facts in experimental science. These works adhere strictly to scientific accuracy, and at the same time are free from the technicalities which so frequently render similar publications dry and repulsive.

Among the tales, "The Merchant and Friar," by Sir Francis, is the most remarkable, and the most valuable. The merchant is Marco Polo, and the friar Roger Bacon. Under their guise the learned author has given most curious and accurate pictures of the middle ages, and of the manners, customs, political institutions, and social condition of England under the Plantagenets. The reprints of "Peter Wilkins" and "Reynard the Fox" deserve a word of commendation. Without materially altering the original features, those passages have been removed which were likely to offend the fastidious delicacy of the nineteenth century.

"The Chronicles of the Seasons," in two volumes, are the nearest approach that has yet been made to White's "Selbourne" in close observation of nature, and in a sympathy with the changes which the seasons produce in animal and vegetable life. We should have been glad to have learned the precise locality in which these observations were made, not merely because there is an additional pleasure derived from "a local habitation and a name," but also because much interest attaches to marking the differences which slight changes of place produce both in the animal and vegetable economy. The geology of London, for instance, is a subject full of curious interest, and the real history of its ornithology would fully equal in exciting narrative George Sand's whimsical "Biography of a Parisian Sparrow."

Miss Rowan's "History of the French Revolution" belongs to the class of works which naturalists term monographs, and is, on the whole, a very creditable performance. The fair writer has, however, fallen into one great error on system. She states "the faults of the people are more insisted upon than those of the rulers, because it is written for the former, not for the latter." Now, there is nothing more likely to warp the judgment than this writing of history for certain specified classes; it is almost certain to lead to that suppression of truth which is equivalent to the suggestion of falsehood; and we fear that Miss Rowan, however unintentionally, has been more than once, in the course of this little volume, led astray by her erroneous system.

There never was a people on the face of the earth guilty of an unprovoked insurrection. Agitators and demagogues are the creatures and not the creators of popular excitement. Long before Mirabeau thundered, or Hébert preached assassination, the worst doctrines of the worst revolution were emphatically taught by a royal lecturer:—

"The expenses of the King and his abandoned mistress were enormous, and the deficiency of the year (in 1770) amounted to 74 millions. A national bankruptcy ensued; and the people were grievously oppressed by the injustice and dishonesty which were practised by the Government to raise money.

"The middle class, with its flourishing commerce, supported this enormous burden; but it was not so with the people, who, besides the shackles placed upon industry, and the numberless charges which took from them the produce of their labour, had also to suffer from continual scarcities of food, brought on by the most infamous manœuvres. Freedom of internal commerce in grain, decreed in 1754, had been revoked during the seven years' war; but in 1764 the economists had caused it to be re-established, and even had obtained liberty for exportation. Then a secret society was formed (in which the King himself held shares for ten millions of francs), which bought up all the corn, and exported it, thus causing the price to rise enormously, and then reimported the same grain with immense profits. The public clamour became so great that in 1770 the minister was obliged to forbid the free circulation of grain, but the *pacte de famine* was not destroyed. The buying up continued in the interior. The King openly jobbed in the prices of corn, boasting to everybody of the infernal lucre which he made out of his suffering subjects. The society did not bring into the market the grain so iniquitously bought up till the latest moment, when either the people must have revolted or have died of hunger. No one dared to expose this abominable *pacte*, which had accomplices everywhere, even in the Parliaments. Writers were forbidden, under pain of death, to speak of the finances, and the least complaint was stifled in the dungeons of the Bastille. The people, on the other hand, pushed to the extremity of misery, conceived the most atrocious hatred against the Government, the nobles, and the wealthy—hatred which was one day to turn into frightful vengeance."

The personal character of Louis XVI., however free from reproach, was not entitled to much respect: the people saw him permit excesses, and, so far as they were concerned, this was the same in effect as if he had committed them:—

"They saw but the profuse magnificence of the King's and the Princes' households, greater even than that of the superb Louis XIV., carried on at the expense of 86 millions per annum, besides 18 millions paid out in pensions. They saw the enormous debts of the Comte d'Artois, payments of which were constantly being made from the public purse; the destructively luxurious tastes of the Queen, which had to be gratified; and the costly presents which were lavished on the courtiers; while they, the people, were suffering every kind of privation, and the time was gone by when they had regarded even the brilliant faults of the court with a kind of stupid admiration."

It is generally slurred over by those who write "the faults of the people," that the revolt of the agricultural peasantry was far more terrific than any of the insurrections in the towns. These peasants were not instigated by demagogues, nor stimulated by a licentious press; they had no opportunity of hearing the one, and they could not read the other. But what was their conduct? Let us hear Miss Rowan describe it, noticing at the same time the error into which she has been led by her system in the passage which we have italicized:—

"The peasantry commenced a new Jacquerie against their landlords, they laid waste their property, and burnt down their houses, *taking good care that the archives, containing title-deeds, &c., should not escape the flames, which circumstance seems to prove that the peasantry had among them advisers better versed in the knowledge of law than they themselves.* They refused to pay their taxes, and in many cases committed the most outrageous cruelties against their masters, cruelties which we would willingly pass over in silence, were it not necessary to show what are the acts of a people who have set law at defiance, and what is the retribution that a false system brings upon itself.

"One gentleman, the owner of a chateau, was suspended in a well for an hour and a half, while his persecutors were deliberating upon what should be his mode of death. Another, the Chevalier d'Ambli, was dragged naked through the village, and buried in a dungheap, after his eyebrows and hair had been plucked out by the roots, the mob dancing round him all the while. In Normandy, a gentleman afflicted with the palsy was thrown into the fire, and only escaped with the loss of his hands. A gentleman's steward was tortured and burnt until his feet were consumed, to make him give up his master's title-deeds. But it did not rest alone on whom these savages exercised their fury. In Franche-Comté, Madame de Batilly was almost torn to pieces, and was forced to resign all claims to her property while an axe was held suspended over her head. The Countess of Montessu was dragged with her husband from their carriage into the middle of the road, a pistol was held at her breast for three hours, and she was finally thrown into a pond.

"Matrons, with their daughters, were seen flying from their burning houses in the middle of the night, with nothing but their night clothes on, too happy if the loss of their property was the only thing they had to bewail.

"Churches, churchmen, and church property, were as little spared as nobles and their chateaux; and the people, not content with hating the clergy, openly proclaimed their hatred of religion not alone in their deeds but in words."

Really, Miss Rowan must have formed a strange notion of the French peasantry, if she supposes that the peasants required persons learned in the law to inform them that feudal privileges were based on royal grants and charters, and that it was, therefore, their obvious interest to destroy such memorials. It is quite true that, by so doing, they violated human law; but these feudal grants and privileges were violations of divine law. The true lesson to be learned from such events is, that, in the moral as in the physical world, "Reaction is precisely equal to action, and contrary thereto."

We need not pursue this subject further. With the single exception which we have taken against Miss Rowan's system, we are disposed to rate her historical powers as of a very high order. She exhibits much generous feeling and warm sympathy; her judgments, when not warped by her system, are generally impartial; and she is mistress of a translucent style, through which the meaning shines with a beautiful clearness not very common amongst modern writers.

Guide to the Madeiras, Azores, West Indies, Mexico, &c. By J. Osborne, Esq. London: Simpkin and Marshall.

This is one of the most complete guide-books with which we are acquainted. It contains all the information which can be available to a traveller, and is not encumbered with the multitudinous and useless details introduced into Murray's guide-books, merely to swell their size and enhance their price. Mr. Osborne's style is simple and unaffected; but he exhibits, in more than one passage, vivid powers of description, and considerable skill in producing picturesque effects.

Sequential System of Musical Notation. By Arthur Wallbridge. London: Simpkin and Marshall.

The author proposes a new and simple system of writing music, which admits of greater accuracy than that at present in use, and may be read with at least equal facility.

Importance of Cheap Bread.—M. Mélier investigates with a philosophic spirit that important medico-political question, the influence of a varying state of the price of provisions on general disease and mortality. The statistical documents he has collected, and the tables into which his figures are thrown, bear out the following inferences:—1. The mortality of a country is influenced by the price of corn and bread. 2. This influence was extremely marred formerly, and is less so at present. 3. The diminution of this influence has been gradual, and various causes have contributed to this result. 4. The cultivation of the potato is one of the chief of these. 5. The question is one of morality as well as of hygiene, for it is demonstrated that crime increases with the dearness of provisions. It is inferible too, the author considers, from his inquiries, that, in a well organized state of society, provisions tend constantly to increase in abundance. This tendency is more marked than that of the population to increase—"a powerful argument against the theory of Malthus."—*British and Foreign Review.*

Effects of a Corn Law on Public Health.—It is not for the medical practitioner to meddle with party politics; but as he knows more of the poor than any one else, so is he better informed on the evils of destitution and the blessings of abundance than any other member of the body politic. He knows that disease follows want as the shadow follows the substance; and that health is no less inseparably connected with cheap, abundant, and wholesome food. He were therefore no true priest of Esculapius who should fail, upon every occasion that offered, to lift up his voice, and urge upon legislators the necessity of removing all restrictions upon commerce in articles of human sustenance. The soil of England is not now extensive enough to grow food for its inhabitants, whether in grain or in cattle: shall they continue to be half fed, and made obnoxious to disease, as they are under the present system of our corn and provision laws, or shall they be suffered to barter the products of their industry for the food they want, in the market of the world! These are the questions; and surely there is but one possible answer to them. It is as one of the guardians of the public health, not as a politician, that I speak here. It may seem matter of indifference to the layman whether a labourer shall have 12 or 14 ounces of hydro-carbonaceous matter in the shape of food each day for the supply of his corporeal wants; but the physiologist knows that the steam-engine will no more do the work represented by 14lbs. of fuel with 12lbs. than will the animal or human body do the work of 14 ounces of food with one ounce less than that quantity. The labour enforced with a single grain of food less than the effort required, that [illegible] supplied by the living solids, and a [illegible] continued, the solids shrink, [illegible] organised, and disease and death [illegible] *Dr. Willis.*

AGRICULTURE.

PRICES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

We observe that Mr. Baker, of Essex, and the other leaders of the protectionist party, are claiming the support of the farmers on a novel ground. "It is true," say they, "that we cannot guarantee you (the tenant-farmers) 56s. a quarter for your corn; true that the price for Huntingdonshire averaged only 43s. 6d. a quarter last week, in spite of the forty editions of Mr. Game Day's pamphlet, whilst Essex, Kent, and Oxfordshire fared but little better; all this is true, but *what would the prices have sunk to had there been no Corn Law?* Are not the foreigners actually paying the 18s. duty, and still competing with the English grower?" This is the argument which is now industriously put forth by the farmers' friends, and which we call upon the Free-Traders everywhere to prepare themselves to answer.

It is true that a certain portion of the foreign corn in bond has been entered for consumption at a duty of 18s., and even 19s. per quarter. It is equally true that many thousands of quarters were in one year taken out of bond and thrown into the river. In both cases the object was the same: to escape the risk of greater loss from keeping the wheat in the bonded warehouse without the prospect of a sale. And it would be just as fair to assert that it is profitable for the foreigner to send his corn here to be cast into the Thames, because such a transaction has occurred, as to allege that wheat can be sent from abroad to pay 18s. a quarter duty, because certain individuals liberated their grain from bond at that rate last week. It is a well-known fact that the foreign corn so imported has brought heavy losses upon its owners. It is notorious that it is not profitable to bring wheat from abroad to pay 18s. duty. If any man be bold enough to assert the contrary, let him try the experiment.

The point to which we would direct the attention of the farmers at the present moment is this: there are two descriptions of prices for foreign corn, the *real* and the *nominal* price. The real price is that at which the foreigners supply us when we are allowed by our law to buy from them for our consumption. When corn is lying in bond, with our sliding scale up at a prohibitive point, and no prospect of a market, then the prices are merely *nominal*. The question frequently asked, under such circumstances, by the unfortunate holder is, "how much had I better consent to lose, to escape the risk of still heavier sacrifices?"

It is undoubtedly of importance to the farmer to ascertain what the *real* price of foreign wheat would be under a Free Trade. It is of no consequence to him what the *nominal* price now is, because corn never enters regularly, and in large quantities, into consumption at the nominal price. We are able, by referring to the parliamentary returns of the prices of wheat at Dantzic and in England, during a period of continuous importation for consumption in this country, to form a fair estimate of the price at which foreign corn can be regularly purchased.

In the return ordered by the House of Commons, 3rd May, 1841, we are furnished with the weekly prices of wheat at Dantzic, and in England, for a series of years, embracing periods of high and low prices. We will first give the prices during four cheap years, when the duty under the old law was prohibitory:—

	Price per Imp. qr. at Dantzic.	English *Gazette* price, same time.
1835. 1st week in Jan.	19s. 0d. to 29s. 0d. ..	39s. 2d.
1836. — —	17s. 10d. to 25s. 11d. ..	35s. 4d.
1837. — —	27s. 4d. to 40s. 0d. ..	57s. 2d.
1838. — —	20s. 11d. to 27s. 3d. ..	50s. 9d.

During the above period the duty ranged from 28s. to 50s. a quarter, and precluded any regular or profitable importation for consumption. Whatever purchases were made were speculative, for the purpose of storing up with the view to a deficient harvest, and with the risk of loss for warehousing and other expenses.

It will be seen that, in the first week of January, 1838, the price of wheat at Dantzic ranged from 20s. 11d. to 27s. 3d.; but as the English *Gazette* price for the same time was 50s. 9d., and the duty on foreign corn 35s. a quarter, the price at Dantzic was merely nominal, so far as England was concerned. But we now come to a period of real prices. In the summer of this same year, 1838, alarm began to be felt for the English harvest. The consequence was that prices rose here, and the following extract from the same Parliamentary return will show how instantaneously the Dantzic market felt the effects of an effective demand from England:—

	Price per Impl. qr. at Dantzic.	English *Gazette* price, same time.
1838, 1st week July,	34s. 10d. to 43s. 1d. ..	65s. 11d.
— — Aug.	37s. 2d. to 45s. 11d. ..	67s. 9d.
— — Sept.	49s. 6d. to 51s. 4d. ..	68s. 0d.
— — Oct.	40s. 8d. to 49s. 7d. ..	62s. 9d.
— — Nov.	47s. 10d. to 58s. 0d. ..	67s. 3d.
— — Dec.	49s. 2d. to 63s. 3d. ..	73s. 2d.

In the interval between January and December of 1838, the prices of wheat in Dantzic was more than doubled, in consequence of the *demand for actual consumption* in England. In the three years, during which this demand continued, the following quantities of wheat were imported from Prussia, of which Dantzic is the principal port:—

Wheat imported from Prussia.

1838	....	550,626 quarters.
1839	....	740,206 "
1840	....	800,508 "

The same Parliamentary return from which we have already quoted gives the prices per quarter for every week during the whole of this period. Mr. Baker and the other "farmers' friends" are fond of asserting that they could, once upon a time, import foreign wheat at 25s. a quarter, forgetting to add that it would have been a speculation for the bonded warehouse, with a chance of having to throw the purchase, or so much of it as escaped the rats, into the river, to avoid the payment of duty. But we recommend Mr. Baker and his monopolist patron, Lord Ashburton, who, to his shame, has condescended to like fallacies, to study the prices of foreign wheat during the above three years of continuous *demand for consumption* in England, and they will find that, during all that period, *the price of wheat at Dantzic averaged more than* 40s., and the price at which it sold in England alongside the English grain was upwards of 60s.

With the present abundant harvest in England, and the duty fixed at 20s. for perhaps a year to come, the prices of Wheat at Dantzic will become nominal again, and may sink probably to 20s. or 25s. a quarter. But we hope the farmers, who will be selling their wheat at 40s., and paying rents at 56s., will not suffer Mr. Baker to divert them from the true scent, by his solemn predictions of what the price *might* be without a Corn Law.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE FARMERS!

Whenever a grievance affecting a large class of the community begins to attract a large share of public attention, if the maintenance of that grievance is not beneficial to our landlord legislators it is speedily redressed; but when the grievance is one of the special pets of the squires, we are sure to find the Government of the day coming forward with some make-belief remedy; some sham measure of amendment to divert attention from the wrong. Now, amongst the many burdens and impediments of agriculture, which, in exposing the shallow pretence that the Corn Laws have benefited the farmers, we have brought to light, there is none more universally denounced than the game laws. We may fairly take credit to ourselves for having made this noxious law and its wasteful and demoralizing effects, next to the question of Free Trade, the most prominent topic of domestic discussion. And it is because the game laws form appendices to the Corn Law that they have fallen within our province. Monopolist squires and protection societies tell the public that the British farmer cannot compete with the foreign grower of grain because he is so heavily taxed, or because his land is inferior in fertility, and so forth; but we, knowing something of the details of rural life and of the system on which landed property is managed, tell the public that the game, the wild animals, kept by the landowners for their own amusement, or for their own *profit at their tenants' expense*, destroy yearly more corn than would be imported if the trade in corn were as free as air. This gives us the right, and renders it our duty to inquire into the policy, the principle, and the operation of the game laws. We have done so; we have been ably seconded by the provincial, and, of late, by the metropolitan press; and we have met with a hearty response from the whole body of tenant-farmers. There is not a farmer in England who does not regard the game laws as a curse to the rural districts, rendering in many good farming impossible, and everywhere forming a nursery for criminals. But, next to high rents, there is nothing about which the landowners are so watchfully jealous as their game and the game laws; and we were therefore not surprised to meet with the following evidence, that some "artful dodge" is to be attempted upon the subject, which is to be found in this authorised announcement by the Government paper, the *Morning Herald*. Says Grandmamma:—

"It may save both the *Chronicle* and the *Times* an infinite deal of declamatory writing as to the origin, effects, and defects of our game laws, to be told that the *Home Office has for some time past been making very extensive inquiries on the subject*; and that there is every reason to believe that another session of Parliament will not pass without *a complete revision of those laws*. We may also add, that since Sir James Graham has been at the head of the Home Department, the evidence on which convictions and committals for poaching have been founded, has, *in every case of alleged severity, been required by him from the convicting and committing magistrates*; and that in not a few cases the term of imprisonment has been shortened, or the immediate release of the convict been ordered by the Home Secretary. *On every account it is, then, most desirable that the administration of the game laws during the approaching autumn and winter should temper mercy with justice*, and a broad distinction be taken, by magistrates, between poachers from necessity and poachers from idleness and confirmed vicious habits."

Now, this is sufficiently significant, and must be anything but pleasant to game-preservers, for though the Home Secretary has, probably, no intention of seriously interfering with their power to do mischief, they may be assured that the public, now completely aroused on the question, will not be deluded by a sham measure. Sir James Graham's "complete revision" is only intended to burk the inquiry threatened by Mr. Bright's motion for a committee on the game laws. Let the public understand that nothing but a total abrogation of all game laws will meet the necessity of the case; anything short of that must be a delusion. In the meantime we will endeavour to assist the "Home Office," by collecting a few of the scattered facts which weekly come to light in connexion with this subject. First, let us extract a passage or two from a letter addressed by a farmer, to the farmers of "Oxon, Bucks, and Berks," on the "*Destruction of crops by game*," which has been just published in the *Oxford Chronicle*. He says:—

"The mischief done by game is too severely felt by nine farmers out of every ten, to make it necessary to say a word upon the subject here; but if we take the quantity of land under cultivation in England to be twenty-five millions of acres (which is nearly one million below the mark), and assume that the depredations committed by game amount in value to one bushel of wheat per acre—*[illegible], with wheat at 56s. per quarter, to £8,750,000 annually, a sum that would pay the whole poor-rate of the country, the amount of which never exceeded the sum of £[illegible].* So much for the direct loss sustained by you from the preservation of game. But this is not all: *I need not inform you to what extent the preservation of game interferes with your management of growing crops.* Take the present year:—hay is generally light throughout the country, and is expected to reach £7 to £7 10s. per ton. *It might be advantageous for many of you to have a crop of winter tares. Now, show me a farmer, where game is strictly preserved, who dare grow such a crop, and I will point out an instance of moral courage rarely to be met with.*"

Now, our readers will remember that the loss here assumed is considerably less than that stated by the *Herts County Press*, a monopolist journal. But the pecuniary loss from game, grievous as it is, is not the most grievous evil inflicted upon the farmer by game-preserving:—

"If the loss incurred as above be correct (*and it is within the mark*), in a pecuniary point of view—what, let me ask, is the loss in a moral point of view? If one thing more than another is calculated to destroy that good feeling between a tenant-farmer and his landlord which ought to exist, *it is the fact of the former walking through his growing corn of an evening, and putting up large quantities of game, while perambulating his fields.* But his feelings at this are outraged but a trifle to what they are when, repeating his visit the next morning, he finds that this game has damaged his corn, *not to the extent of what they have eaten only, but, to a much larger extent, by what they have destroyed.* In the course of his walk he finds large patches of land, with the corn cut through, and the upper part of the stem lying on the ground, as if the only object of these four-footed depredators was to clear a road for themselves. *To such an extent was this done upon a farm we lately walked over, that upon our stating the loss to be full a bushel per acre, the occupier replied he would gladly compound for* TWO BUSHELS PER ACRE, and even under those circumstances would be a considerable gainer."

And he refers for further corroboration to a letter from a Suffolk farmer, who said:—

"Many a respectable proprietor and occupier of land has to deplore his contiguity to the estates of our game-preserving landlords, and many an industrious tenant of theirs to rue the day he entered upon his tenancy. A farmer and neighbour of mine assures me that, last year, off twenty-four acres of barley which he sowed, he did not reap ten coombs; and that £200 per annum would not cover the loss which game occasioned to his crops. Another remarked that game might frequently be seen of an evening by hundreds, feeding upon his land; and were he to shoot one he could not tell the consequence. It was distressing, he said, to be obliged quietly to witness the destruction of his property."

Such is the evidence of men who feel the grievance. We all remember the admirable speech made upon this subject by Sir Harry Verney at the late Buckinghamshire quarter sessions, when, to the confusion of the game-preserving squires, he showed that one wing of a new gaol now being built in that county *was required solely for poachers*. That speech has not proved fruitless, for already have the more active and intelligent of the Bucks farmers been "agitating" the question. This we had learned from private sources; and in the *Aylesbury News* of last week we find a correspondence between Sir H. Verney and some gentlemen who are moving in the matter. Dr. Lee, also, a county magistrate, thus writes:—

"The undersigned persons take leave to express to Sir Harry Verney that they have derived much satisfaction from the perusal of his speech, made on the 4th of July, at the quarter sessions at Aylesbury, *on the question of the game laws, and the committal to prison of poachers, as applicable to the county expenditure and the erection of a new gaol*; and they respectfully request that Sir Harry Verney, Bart., will have the kindness to favour them with his company at Aylesbury, *to explain to them fully his opinion on the game laws, and the manner in which they can best co-operate with him for their total repeal or amelioration.*

(Signed) "J. LEE, Hartwell.
[And other gentlemen.]

"Aylesbury, July 20, 1844."

Sir Harry Verney declined the invitation for the following reasons:—

"In order that the attempt to relieve the ratepayers and farmers from a burden and injury, which you agree with me in thinking to be unjustly imposed on them, may be successful, it must be made by men of all parties; and, however well attended and unanimous the meeting that you propose might be, still, if it wanted the concurrence of persons holding different opinions on political subjects, it would have the air of a party effort; and I feel a strong objection to risk doing injury to a good cause by converting it, even in appearance, into one of political partisanship. Further, I take the liberty to state that I think the sanction and co-operation of the magistrates would aid very materially in inducing the Government to propose a measure on the subject; and I entertain the hope that those who, by giving their time and attention to the affairs of the country, do the inhabitants important service, will confer on them an additional benefit, and obtain another claim to their gratitude, *by representing in forcible terms the vast amount of injury caused by the preservation of game in very great abundance.* I am confident, gentlemen, that the subject *is one of the utmost importance to the welfare of all classes amongst us, and I intend to give notice at the adjourned sessions of a motion with reference to it.*"

Though we suspect Sir Harry will be much disappointed in his hope of co-operation on the part of many of his brother magistrates, his cautious yet decided way of dealing with the subject will tend rather to stimulate than check the activity of those who addressed him. In Buckinghamshire, then, an active opposition to the food-destroying game laws has been fairly established.

Let us now turn to the west of England; and from the columns of the *Wiltshire Independent* we present our readers with the following advertisement:—

"NOTICE.—It being *intended strictly to preserve the game on the several lands and estates of* Erlestoke, Edington, Baynton, Tinhead Hossery, Tinhead Rumsey, East Coulston, Great Chiverell, Little Chiverell, Marston, Urchfont, Wedhampton, Eastcott, Bratton, Potterne, and Worton, the property of the trustees of George Watson Taylor, Esq., *and now in our respective occupations, all qualified persons are requested to refrain from sporting thereon, and all unqualified persons found trespassing will be prosecuted.*—Dated the 13th of August, 1844.

"Jonathan Grant, Mary Haines, Wm. Grant, Wm. White, Edward Burbage, Charles Scammell, John Scammell, Jos. Whittaker, Humphrey White, George White, Milard Geo. White, William Taylor, James Price, Gracious Ashley, James Bristow, Hugh [illegible], Wm. Chapman, William Cooper, James Watts, John Crook Foster, Wm.

Price, John Howell, Mark Butler, Jonathan Humphries Wm. Potter, Stephen Bathard, Samuel Mitchell, Richard Oram, George Coleman, James Butcher, Richard Coleman, Moses Butcher, James Potter, Thomas Staples, Edward Price, Rebecca Butcher, Job Rose, Richard Newman, Richard Newman, Joseph Tanner, William Butler, John Snook, Harry Snook, Jacob Newman, John Dowse, John Munday, Thomas Weeks, Robert Dean, John Dowse, Henry Bishop, John D. Giddings, James New, James Lyne, Robert Hale, William Willis, Mary Tinker, Robert Weeks, Roger Matthews, James Darnford, Thomas Smith, James Few, Benjamin Harding."

Here we have sixty-two farmers performing an act of vassallage most abhorrent to their feelings, and most injurious to them in a pecuniary view. The history of that notice is this: Mr. Watson Taylor is abroad, his estates are in the hands of trustees for his creditors, and the mansion of Erlestoke, with enumerated manors, is let to Sir John Cam Hobhouse, who is an ardent game-preserver, and as he rents the landlord's right to "strictly preserve the game" at the tenants' expense, he requires the tenants to be called upon to give the notice we have extracted. These tenants are, no doubt, bound by the agreements under which they hold their lands to give such notices; and, probably, when they took their farms they had some confidence in their landlord's regard for his own interest, and believed that the stock of game would be moderate. They most likely never imagined the possibility of Mr. Watson Taylor's estates falling into the hands of trustees for creditors, and gave full rents for their farms. The reader can easily understand what must be their present position!

As a pendant to the above, we give the following extract from a monopolist journal, which might be almost taken as a satire upon the game laws; though no doubt it is all meant in sober seriousness.

"FREE WARREN.—The privileges called *the right of free warren and free chase exclusively prevailed some centuries ago, but they are now exercised over very few of the manors of England; of this number Highclere is one.* The title of the Earl of Carnarvon to the right of free warren and free chase in that manor was recently the subject of litigation in the Court of Exchequer, and *judgment went in his lordship's favour.* On the 9th inst., three days after the decision of the court, it was understood that the noble Earl would return to Highclere; and, in a manner somewhat analogous to the ancient celebrations of these franchises, an immense multitude of *his tenantry and of the neighbouring gentry assembled on the verge of the manor, near the Winchester-road, to give his lordship a cordial welcome after a legal victory, which is considered of* GREAT LOCAL IMPORTANCE, *and which had occasioned much excitement in that part of the country.* There were of course the usual accompaniments of musical bands, gay banners, a lengthened procession, gratifying addresses, and thankful acknowledgments; but this scene was adorned, enlivened, and elevated in its tone by the merited popularity which the Earl and Countess enjoy, and by the *sentiments of unalloyed pleasure with which the inhabitants of the surrounding districts viewed this restoration to the Herbert family of franchises as rare as they are honourable, and almost as ancient as the line of Herbert itself."—Farmers' Journal.*

Does the reader know what the "right of free chase and free warren," the "restoration of which to the Herbert family" gives such "unalloyed pleasure to the inhabitants of the surrounding districts" really is? It is neither more nor less than the *exclusive right* to keep and kill game of all kinds *over the lands of other proprietors!!* Of course Lord Carnarvon is a game-preserver, or he would not have attempted to enforce the feudal and nearly obsolete "right;" and the effect of his "legal victory" is to give him not merely the power of devouring by the mouths of his game the crops of his own tenants, but of rendering it impossible for any other landowner within the wide district over which this "right of free warren and free chase" extends, from having his land well farmed, or obtaining the fair rent of his land. We have no hesitation in saying, that the establishment of such a feudal "right" is a public calamity, and that the landowner who, in the present day, would seek to enforce it, ought to be visited with the strongest marks of public indignation.

"MUTUAL-CONFIDENCE" TENURES.

The warmest advocates of the Corn Laws will admit that one effect of those laws has been to cause the disuse of leases, and, coupled with such admission, we shall probably hear a rhetorical account of the high-toned and mutual confidence which is alleged to exist between English landlords and their tenants serving as a substitute for leases. This picture would of course be drawn by the landlords. Let us hear, however, what the farmers say upon the subject. In the last week's *Mark-lane Express* a letter is printed which, though there addressed to the editor, was obviously written as a private letter to a brother farmer. It is dated from Kent, on the 18th of August inst., and speaks of the state of the crops in a great part of East Kent. The writer is a farmer writing to a farmer, and, in speaking incidentally of a mutual friend, is led into some of the most graphic and practical remarks upon "mutual-confidence" tenures we have met with. After describing the state of the crops of the district, he says:—

"I dined with ——— at ———; was much pleased with his situation and crops; he has some fine brown wheats; had the seed last year out of Essex; the best set in the ear I ever saw; never before saw more than five set, many of these were six; it stands well, and is a very heavy crop; his crops all good except potatoes; of these he is a large grower; they must tell badly; *hope he has a lease; fear not; do not like farming so expensively as he does without;* IT IS VERY DANGEROUS; he may lose his landlord to-morrow, who has no family, when it might be sold; the purchaser or next owner might be a different person, or might want it himself. *You may have excellent landlords, but you farm in fear, and dread to make outlays that are anything like a permanent benefit (depend on it this is a great drawback to the improvement to land, and produce to the country).*"

In these few sentences how instantaneously all the high-flown nonsense of "mutual confidence" is scattered to the winds! The "hope he has a lease" is the expression which instantly rises to the husbandman's lips whenever he observes a tenant-farmer making considerable outlays upon his farm. An instance of this occurred recently under our own observation. A person who had taken a farm in notoriously bad condition, and situated in an ill-farmed district, was in a field by the roadside superintending some improvements, when a humble farmer, who had lived all his life in the neighbourhood, passed by, and, having observed attentively for some time what was going on, addressed the new tenant, and nearly the first words he utterred were, "You are laying out a good deal of money here; I hope to God you have got a lease."

This man, like the correspondent of the *Mark-lane Express*, had learned by experience the real value of a "confidence" tenure. But to return. The writer says:—

"We have most excellent landlords who do not grant leases; can there be better than Sir B. B. and Mr. F.? You seldom hear of change of tenants here; the first has no child; *death with him, or the sale of the last estates (it is said they are all for sale) might place the tenants on these extensive estates very differently;* might they not be placed in the same position as an adjoining estate at the last change of heir, on which W. and I were tenants? *might they not then, like our then new landlord, find it difficult to find a surveyor in this county who sufficiently knew the value of his estates, so sends one out of another,* who, never having been in this before, of course must be a better judge? *At all events, he has found (what I suppose was wanted) the extreme value, proved by almost the whole of this extensive tenantry having left, and some of the farms having exchanged hands several times since.* Let us take the one you left yourself as a sample."

Here we have farmers writing in friendly confidence to each other, and the tale is somewhat different to that they too often allow the landlords to tell in their names when they have been whipped up to a protection meeting. This is the present state of the farm from which it seems the person to whom the letter was addressed was driven by the abrupt termination of the "confidence" tenure:—

"*In ten years this has had three tenants; one year out of it occupied by themselves,* HIGH RENT HUNTING, *and is now again to let. What is the consequence?—ruin to every succeeding fool who takes it*—RUIN TO THE ESTATE. Ride round it, and look at it: worse crops on it than anywhere; look at lands under different occupancy, intersected with it: on the one you will see good crops, good management; on the other the reverse, with bow weeds, docks, thistles, cinkle, &c. &c., beautifully rearing their heads above the miserable crops. Truly this estate, *which years back had the credit of being so highly cultivated,* ought now to take the high title of the garden of Kent; why not? Can you find another so fully flowered? *It must be a pride, indeed, to the landlord, to witness it, to know that he takes so much from it in the shape of rent, that the tenants have nothing left to pay for hoeing and picking these pretty things out.* 'No, dare to do it—dare to improve your farms, so that your crops and diligence, with the assistance of your now poor unemployed labourer, overpower these pretty things, which so adorn my property—dare to show improvements of this sort, and thus fill your barns and rick-yards—dare to load my lands with heavy flocks of sheep, your waggons back with artificial or town manure, or oilcake, &c., it is not my pleasure to have profits made on my land by such-like means as these—dare do these things, and I will send my agent—I will administer to you a peppercorn which shall warm you up, and make you bring forth more rent.' This may seem a curious story to some, *but you and I, and others, who, to our and their sorrow, have been connected, know it is most true.*"

Ay, and farmers in general know it to be true, and day by day they are becoming more and more ready to speak out upon the subject. And hear how this greedy landlord has *benefitted* himself:—

"What's the consequence? We who really know the value of these estates, *know that they have decreased in value in these few years at least a fourth*—that the actual produce from them is proportionably decreased—that it has removed a most respectable tenantry—that the farms, *from a high state of cultivation, are run out, as frequent change of tenantry always will do*—that it requires a great outlay of capital to put them in the same state as they were when this change of system and tenantry was commenced upon—that, in addition to the ruin brought upon many an industrious tenant's head, the evil must eventually fall upon the landlord, as it is doing by the farms successively falling into his hands—that the best remedy for it is to fall back to the old system on this estate for a term of years, at a fair and just rental, not running the term out by two or three years, before a fresh arrangement is made, as, if this is done, it causes the occupier, in fear, to take out the improvement to some extent, consequently decrease its value."

Again, he shows the disadvantage to landlords of even short leases, for he says:—

"*How much landlords stand in their own light, by letting the terms run out!* Will they never see that the occupier will, and can, better afford to give the full value when he has his land up to the mark, and in regular rotation, *than when in the last years he has broke from it, and been running it?* By these, men of capital and industry would be induced to take them; the tenants would then be respectable, the landlord respected, the poor labourers again happily employed, instead of cursing and damning them, as now, for not doing so—*not seeing it is the landlord, who is not only having more than his right, but is depriving them of theirs, by taking, in addition to a fair rent,* THAT WHICH SHOULD AND WOULD BE EXPENDED ON THEM BY WAY OF LABOUR."

Have we not often said all this? And it will not be long, now farmers have begun to write and talk to each other in this style, before the monopolists' high-rent law must must go by the board.

It is unquestionably as much for the landlord's interest as the tenant's that a lease should never be granted for a shorter term than 21 years, for, as the writer above quoted says, the regular rotation will constantly be broken up, and the tenant will be "running his land" during the last years of his lease. But, with a lease of twenty-one years, the tenant will have either made up his mind to quit some years before its termination, and the landlord will have an opportunity of seeking a good successor, or the farm—as is most likely—will be deemed by the tenant so much a family property, that he will be glad to renew the lease on fair terms for the benefit of some relative or connexion.

It has been proposed that in leases for long terms there should be certain periodical advances of rent; say, for instance, in a 21 years' lease that, after the first seven years, the rent should increase five or ten per cent., and so at the end of the first fourteen years; and we have no doubt that such arrangements might often be most beneficial to both landlords and tenants. But then there is the old obstacle to all improvements in connexion with landed property in this country, who will enter into such arrangements—landlords or tenants—until the question of the Corn Laws is settled? and can it be ever settled except by a total repeal?

THE PRICE OF BREAD AND THE PRICE OF CORN.

There has been of late in the papers various denunciations of the bakers for not having lowered their prices in proportion to the fall in the price of wheat. The following is an instance of the sort:—

"The abominable charge of 7½d. for what is called a quartern loaf, but is really only a 4lb. loaf, made by the bakers of Buckingham, will, it is hoped, induce bakers from the neighbouring towns to send bread into that town. We have no doubt that a large quantity would be sold if at a proper price. The quotation in the market of last Saturday is only £2 10s. 4d. per quarter, and it is now even lower than that."—*Aylesbury News.*

Nothing but competition will set this right; but it must be remembered that it is only just declining by the last ten days of fine weather that wheat will for some months be at a permanently low price; and until that had become obvious, the bakers could scarcely be expected to make the reduction of price in bread which the market value of wheat requires. This is one of the secondary ways in which the Corn Law, by increasing the fluctuations in the price of corn, and by preventing retail dealers from steadily competing with each other, operates against the consumer without giving the grower any corresponding benefit.

ONE OF THE "PROTECTED."

The following report of a charge made against a farmer of having set his own premises on fire shows, at all events, that the landlords feel their tenants' position to be at present not exactly a bed of roses. The landlord's evidence, as given before the magistrates, marks the sort of dictatorial way in which tenant-farmers are interfered with by their landlords:—

"A FARMER CHARGED WITH INCENDIARISM.—At Castle Hedingham petty sessions, on Monday, Mr. Thomas Chinery, a respectable farmer of Belchamp St. Paul, was brought up, in custody of the police, charged on suspicion of setting fire to farming buildings, in his occupation, the property of S. M. Raymond, Esq., on the evening of July 3. Mr. Raymond deposed as follows:—The prisoner is in the occupation of a farm called 'New Barns,' my property. On Wednesday evening, July 3, between nine and ten o'clock, I was alarmed by a person named William Stammers, coming to my house, and stating that Chinery's barn was on fire, meaning the prisoner's. On going out of my house I saw the sparks coming towards my farming buildings at home; I set some person to protect them. I called my son, and went immediately to the fire, which is about a quarter of a mile off; when I arrived the premises, which consisted of barn and buildings, were burnt down; after being at the fire a little time, I saw prisoner, *when I said, this comes of your having so much haulm in the yard* (having seen prisoner about fourteen days before the fire, *and objected to so much haulm being in the yard in stacks and walls, on account of the prevalence of fires.*)"

Now, this "wall of haulm" is a sorry mode of forming a yard for the farmer's stock, and which ought to have been rendered unnecessary by the landlord having had a proper fence or wall put up. The examination of the squire and some farm-servants then proceeded, and the circumstances of suspicion against the accused seemed to be, that he came to the fire through a gap in an adjoining field, and had stated that he first saw the fire when two miles off, but which the witnesses thought impossible from the early period at which he arrived after the fire broke out. He was, however, eventually discharged, and we are told:—

"The case excited the greatest interest in the neighbourhood, and the hearing lasted upwards of four hours. The room was crowded nearly to suffocation, *principally by farmers of the neighbourhood, amongst whom the greatest sympathy seemed to exist on behalf of the prisoner,* who had been incarcerated several days in the police station. *On the acquittal of the prisoner great applause was manifested.*"

The following passage from the report of the landlord's evidence will indicate something as to the existing relations between landlords and tenants. After the scolding about the "haulm" before mentioned:—

"Prisoner replied, as any other farmer would have done, 'Had it been wet weather it would have all been made into manure before this time.' I asked him if he had suspicion of any person having caused the fire? He replied, 'No.' By By Mr. Gooch: Did you go up to him or he come to you?—Mr. R.: I spoke to him first. I had given him notice to quit next Michaelmas, as he did not pay his rent regularly; about a fortnight after the notice was served he paid me his rent, and left the notice to quit at my house, saying, 'he did not know what it meant,' and there was an end of it, as I did not want to turn him out if he paid his rent. On the Monday following Mr. Blunden came over and valued the damage, when I said to him (prisoner), 'Have you quarrelled with any one?' He replied, 'No.' *I then told him it would have been much better for him to have sold his wheat, and paid his rent, and then it would not have been burnt.* By Mr. Gooch: When was the rent due?—Mr. R.: He had not paid the Michaelmas rent when the notice was served. By the Bench: The Lady-day rent was not paid till after the fire."

THE NEW TARIFF.—The imports of live stock under the new tariff during the past week have consisted of 60 oxen and cows from Germany and Holland, and 30 ditto from Spain, in the quality of which no improvement can be noticed. The above, added to the previous arrivals for the present year, form the following totals:—London, 1000 head; Liverpool, 80; Hull, 270; Southampton, 155; total, 1505.—*Globe.*

ENGLAND AND IRELAND.—Between two such countries as England and Ireland there must always be a reciprocity of wants; the produce of the soil and the productions of skill are ever exchangeable. Commerce stimulates industry; industry reacts on speculation. Putting out of the question the thousands of Irish who are employed in England, how many get employment in Ireland from English speculation? And yet a multitude of people in Ireland cry out for a domestic Parliament, to "protect Irish commerce and manufactures," *i. e.*, to prohibit English goods, and to create an artificial market at home. Was ever such infatuation heard of? Beginning their legislative career with a people on whose poverty they are perpetually declaiming, they would in the course of a few years reduce them to the most desperate and helpless indigence; and then they would discover that it is not by acts of Parliament or protective systems, but by energy, industry, order, patience, and submission, that the arts are fostered and public wealth increased.—*Times.*

TO FARMERS.—At the end of August, 1843, I planted in my garden thirty-two grains of wheat, at six inches distance, an inch and a half deep; the seed was of the first-rate quality. This seed produced this year thirty-two plants, having from 10 to 28 stems and ears each; the average number of ears was 16; the average weight of each plant 1¾ ounce. An acre of land would contain, at six inches distance, 174,240 plants; the produce 304,940 oz., or nearly 19,600 lbs., 320 bushels, or 40 quarters per acre. The expense of dibbling would be more than saved by the diminished quantity of seed required. I do not mean to state that such a result would be obtained upon a large scale; but I think it is worthy of trial, when we know that the average produce is only 2½ quarters per acre, and that it is possible to grow 40: it will be allowed that there is ample scope for improvement. Try a breadth in your fields an inch and a half deep: put one grain, and *one only*, in each hole—plant it at six or eight inches distant—be sure to plant good seed—get as much produce as you can, but go for 40 quarters per acre.—*Correspondent.*

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We must decline the publication of "W. Thoms's" letter, having already intimated our wish not to enter into any controversy upon the subject of which it treats.

"M., a Free-Trader, Leicester," is not disqualified even if he were a foreigner, unless he also be an *alien*. Even although he were born abroad, yet if his father, or grandfather by the father's side, was a subject of the Sovereign of Great Britain, he would not be an alien, and would, therefore, not be personally disqualified. There is no way of meeting the objection but by appearing before the revising barrister, and swearing to his nativity or parentage, or sending some witness in his place who can swear of his own knowledge to all the circumstances. M. can get costs, not exceeding 20s., by award of revising barrister if the objection turns out to be frivolous.

"A Subscriber and constant Reader, Liverpool," has asked from us a legal opinion upon a point not connected with our proper business, or with the registration; nevertheless we like to do the best to oblige all our friends. The *tenant* is liable in payment of the property tax almost in the express terms of the covenant. Had he been taken bound to meet all taxes "in respect of the *premises*" merely, he would have escaped; but then the tenant agrees to pay not only taxes upon the premises, but "upon the *yearly rent* hereby reserved, *or on the said A. B.* in respect of the same." The lease is so worded that we could almost suspect the landlord to be a Tory, and to have had private information that Peel was contemplating the introduction of an income-tax even before he acquired office.

"L." is informed that two or more *dwellings*, if they are separate and distinct, not entering into each other, cannot be joined to make up one vote. But if all the dwellings are under one roof, and in one and the same house, then the principal lessee, by keeping the exclusive possession of the key of the common street-door, reduces his tenants to the condition of lodgers, and would be entitled himself to qualify for the whole.

"F. W.," Truro, is informed that all the claimant has to do is to prove that he has occupied, and been rated for twelve months prior to the 31st of July. Let him exhibit the receipts for rent and rates in evidence. He does not need to say a word about the lease or its stipulations, that being a matter entirely betwixt the landlord and himself. It is altogether *jus tertii* for any objector to raise that point. Besides, that the landlord has granted receipts in the son's name is conclusive evidence, under his own hand, that he has recognised his tenancy.

"L. La Roche" is informed that, by 6 and 7 Will. IV., cap. 96, every rate-payer is entitled to take copies of, or make extracts from, the rate-book at business hours, without payment of any fee whatever; and every *inhabitant*, although not a rate-payer, can inspect and make extracts from the rate-book, on payment of a fee of 1s. (17 Geo. II., cap. 3, secs. 3 and 4). Mr. La Roche may get any rate-payer, therefore, to examine the book gratis, or he may inspect it himself for 1s. We beg also to inform Mr. La Roche, in answer to his other inquiry, that the numbers who polled at the last Durham election were—for Mr. Bright, 488; for Mr. Purvis, 110.

We have great pleasure in complying with the request of the Secretary of the Peace Society, by inserting the following

"MEMORIAL OF THE LONDON PEACE SOCIETY ON THE AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO, HAYTI, AND TAHITI.

"To the Right Honourable Sir Robert Peel, Bart., First Lord of the Treasury; the Right Honourable the Earl of Aberdeen, Secretary of State for the Foreign Department; and the other Right Honourable Members of her Majesty's Government:

"THE MEMORIAL OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE LONDON PEACE SOCIETY,

"SHOWETH.—That your memorialists are fully persuaded that war is repugnant to the spirit and principles of the Christian religion, subversive of the true interests of mankind, and as unnecessary as it is unavailing as a mode of settling international differences.

That whilst your memorialists regard with peculiar satisfaction the continuance of peace among the nations of Europe, they are deeply and painfully affected by the hostilities which at the present time prevail in some other parts of the globe; especially in the empire of Morocco, the island of Hayti in the West Indies, and the island of Tahiti in the Southern Pacific.

"That your memorialists, as the committee of a society whose sole object is the promotion of permanent and universal peace, abstain from expressing any opinion on the political questions supposed to be at issue in these various regions; but they venture respectfully and earnestly to press upon the Right Honourable Members of her Majesty's Government the importance of employing (as your memorialists thankfully acknowledge that they have often and successfully done) their best efforts by argument and persuasion, founded on principles of true reason and policy, as well as on benevolent and religious considerations, to put a speedy termination to these distressing circumstances, with a full regard to strict justice to all the parties who are variously concerned in them.

"And your memorialists venture further to express their earnest desire and hope that the entire proceedings of her Majesty's Government may be such as shall promote a peaceable spirit and conduct among all classes of British subjects; and minister no just ground of offence, either to the great and mighty nations of Europe, or to any of those states which, in some respects, may be esteemed more feeble and less important, but whose natural rights are equally sacred and inviolable and dear to themselves; and whose very weakness, in a political point of view, claims for them the sympathy, and moral assistance, and protection of the more powerful nations of the world, and especially of *Great Britain*.

"And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

"N.B.—A similar memorial was sent at the same time to his Majesty, the King of the French; both of which have been favourably received, and duly acknowledged."

Our friends of the Peace Society may see in these disputes a clear proof that Free Trade is the only bond of union by which the amity of nations can be secured. It is from a spirit of monopoly that countries are invaded and occupied; their productions might be obtained more honestly and more cheaply by fair commerce; but so long as the delusions of monopoly retain their hold on the selfishness of individuals and of nations, will aggression have a tendency to provoke resistance, and short-sighted avarice to prefer plunder to payment.

"J. P."—"Putting on the screw" means refusing to discount bills, or advance money on securities, and practically amounts to a diminution of the quantity of money in circulation. A piece of gold is as much an exchangeable commodity as a hat or a piece of cloth, and its value in the market, like that of any other commodity, will be determined by the amount of demand and supply. A foreigner will take gold for his produce if he wants the gold more than he does our manufactures; and he will take the manufactures if he wants them more than the gold. When the foreigner, however, takes gold, he in fact buys it when he gives his produce in exchange; and the price he pays for the gold will be its marketable value. The fallacy against which "J. P." has to contend is, that money [illegible] has some occult and inherent value, independent of its marketable value; he practically refutes the fallacy every day of his life: when he buys a coat he parts with his gold to the shopkeeper because cloth is more valuable to him than the gold, and the shopkeeper may be as well said to buy the gold as to sell the cloth. "J. P." will find the entire question clearly and simply investigated in a cheap little work called "Easy Lessons in Money Matters," written by his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin.

"C. F."—We shall make use of the information forwarded.

We have been earnestly requested to insert the following extract from No. 83 of the "Westminster Review," in reference to Mr. Disraeli's statement, that commercial restraint originated with the Whigs:—

"WHIGS AND TORIES.—The word Tory is derived from the Irish *toraighim*—to pursue for plunder. (Lingard's Hist., xi., 135.) The first Tories were Irish outlaws, such as we should now call Whiteboys, or Ribbonmen. The term appears to have been first imported from Ireland, during the civil wars of Charles I., when it was applied to the Cavaliers; subsequently to all the adherents of the House of Stuart. The word 'Whig' is an ancient Scotch term, signifying sour whey; a nickname given to the Covenanters, and afterwards to their political friends. At the Hanoverian accession there were three parties in the country. Catholics, friendly to James, and hence called *Jacobites*; Protestants friendly to the House of Stuart, offensively called *Tories*; and Protestants, opposed to the House of Stuart, and favourable to the popular rights which James had violated; these were called, in retaliation, by their opponents, *Whigs*. The latter of course came into power upon the landing of the Prince of Orange; but the Whigs were not an anti-church party; they were partly borne into office by the bishops whom James had sent to the Tower. The revolution of 1688 was an anti-Catholic, and to a great extent an anti-sectarian movement. The most unpopular act of James, in resisting which the bishops took the lead, was his declaration in favour of liberty of conscience; his object being to free the Catholics from the civil disabilities under which they laboured. To effect this it was of course necessary to proclaim a general indulgence for dissent, although there could be no doubt of his disposition to crush the Dissenters, if his own party had prevailed. The Whigs restored the Test Acts to put down Popery; and the Tories would have done the same. Sectarianism had nothing to do with Whig or Tory distinctions. It arose out of the spirit of free inquiry and earnestness in religion, which were the characteristics of the age; influences strong enough to govern state policy, rather than to be controlled by it. The political system which followed the accession of the House of Hanover was the result, not of 'Whiggism,' but of a natural and unavoidable compromise between the antagonistic principles of Parliament and prerogative; and it is trifling with history to throw the blame of 'commercial restraint' upon the Whigs. Legislative interference with freedom of industry is of the earliest antiquity. The first protective Corn Law was passed in 1463. Thus was the 3 Edward IV., c. 2, prohibiting the importation of wheat when the price did not exceed 6s. 8d. per quarter. In subsequent reigns laws were passed to make food cheap, by levying duties upon the exportation of corn—a popular object, but only 'commercial restraint' in another form. At the revolution of 1688 these duties were changed by William into bounties upon exportation, to make wheat dear. But this was not Whig craft, but King craft, for its object was to conciliate the great Tory landowners, who continued secretly opposed to the new dynasty."

The lines to her Majesty are very good, but they may be misrepresented, and we therefore reluctantly omit them.

"T. O."—The letter is referred to our agricultural editor, as also that of the "Shropshire Farmer."

"W. B."—His case is one of great hardship, but the publication of it would lead to no good result.

"R. J."—Dymond is not forgotten.

"Humanitas."—When we can find an opportunity.

"A Leaguer of Rochdale."—The sentiments are excellent, whoever may have written them; we must not, however, be too strict in criticising a lady's writings.

"G. W. W." is thanked for his interesting communication, though it discusses topics not suited to our columns.

"J. H."—Baron Alderson's jests are too serious matters for us to meddle with.

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

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POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, August* 31, 1844.

The activity of the Free-Traders in the registration courts has excited the surprise and rage of the monopolist press. At the very moment when the *Morning Herald* had announced the defeat of the League, and declared that the condition of its offices in Fleet-street bore the visible signs of its dissolution, it was rather provoking to discover that the League not only retained its vitality, but had brought its forces to bear on the weakest part of the hostile line, and had already carried some important posts by storm. Our attention must now be directed to "the battle of the constituencies," which will be fought in the registration courts; and we must not relax our exertions until the revising barristers have concluded their labours. Electors must regard the franchise as a solemn trust committed to them by their country, the responsibility of which they cannot shake off without being guilty of a gross breach of duty. In the period of apathy which preceded the last election, the monopolists were permitted to play so many tricks with the constituencies, that they may be said in many instances to have framed the electoral lists at their pleasure. Thanks to the exertions of the League, this apathy has been dispelled, Free-Traders have been roused from their lethargy, and many of the frauds of registration practised by the monopolists have been detected, and will be exposed. We have been much amused by the alternate scoldings and threats that this course of operations has drawn from the *Morning Herald*.

Each day a different face it wears,
Now in a fury, now in tears,
Now scolding, now in sorrow.
All it has said 'twill soon unsay;
Bellows "the League is dead" to-day,
And roars "it lives" to-morrow.

The rage of the monopolists is the most signal proof of the wisdom of the tactics which the Free-Traders have adopted. We exhort them steadily to persevere until their position in the electoral lists shall be as strong as that of their principles in the public opinion of the country.

THE REGISTRATION.

THE LEAGUERS AND REGISTRATION.—The course adopted by the Anti-Corn-Law League with regard to the registration of voters for the borough of Manchester, as well as for South Lancashire, is perhaps the most extraordinary ever attempted by any confederacy. At the last exhibition in Covent-garden Theatre, Mr. George Wilson informed his audience that the League was not yet extinct, and that they had turned their attention to the registration courts. When the statement of Mr. Wilson reached Manchester through the medium of the *Morning Herald*, few people understood the full extent of his meaning; but the course now adopted has explained, and thrown some light upon the ambiguity of that part of his oration. Saturday last being the last day for serving notices of objections, the two previous days presented such a scene of bustle and confusion at the Post-office as was never, perhaps, before experienced in this town. Parties were seen wending their way from Newall's-buildings to the Post-office with large parcels of letters, which upon inquiry turned out to be notices of objections that were to be served by the letter-carriers on most of the Conservative voters for the borough and South Lancashire. Many of these objections are of a most frivolous and vexatious character. It is said that upwards of 7000 have been served by the Leaguers, and that it is their intention to contest them every one.—*Morning Herald.* [Thanking our venerable contemporary for this and other unequivocal falsifications of his oft-repeated assertions that the League was well nigh defunct, we may just say that his fears have multiplied somewhat the extent of the League's objections to voters; and, passing over the fact that his informant could know nothing of the quality of objections he had never seen, time will show, not however to the satisfaction of our *mourning* contemporary, to what extent such objections are good and valid.]

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—In this division of the county the objections made by the Free-Traders are 257; those by the monopolists, 128. For the borough there has been an increase in the list of voters this year, as made out by the overseers, in consequence of their having placed on the list all persons assessed above a certain sum; this has caused many objections to be made on both sides. The objections made in the borough are, by Free-Traders, 54; by the monopolists, 53. New claims by Free-Traders, 11; by monopolists, 1.

ROCHDALE.—The objections against county voters in this district are more numerous than they have ever been since the passing of the Reform Bill. Whole shoals arrived on Saturday through the medium of the Post-office, which made the letter-carriers very busy on that day. It is supposed that, out of the 1400 persons who vote at Rochdale, one-half of them are objected to. The Tories have had their own game returned upon them with a vengeance. In the borough there are rather more than 40 objected to.

EXETER.—One of our wise contemporaries, the other day, employed his time in writing a sort of lament, in his way, over the League; wishing most potently that it were dead, and saying nearly as much in plain words. This (Monday) morning they have found the League alive and kicking, for the Free-Traders have served 600 objections on their opponents, such objections as we believe cannot be parried; so that when the next contest arises the League will be prepared to back their men with a good majority.—*Devonshire Chronicle.*

THE PEOPLE AND THEIR RULERS.—Machiavel finds virtue to be so essentially necessary to the establishment and preservation of liberty, that he thinks it impossible for a corrupted people to set up a good government, or for a tyranny to be introduced if they be virtuous; and makes this conclusion, "that, where the body of the people is not corrupted, tumults and disorders do not hurt; and, where it is corrupted, good laws do no good."—*Sydney on Government.*

FOREIGN WHEAT.—In consequence of the contemplated rise of duty upon foreign wheat, last week there was an immense deal done previous to Saturday, in the clearing off stocks. The duty during the last average was 18s. per quarter, and by the Saturday's return it rose to 19s. On the Friday one house paid £2000 of duties; altogether, during the week ending Friday, foreign wheat, amounting to £7923 of duty was cleared at the Custom-house.—*Edinburgh paper.*

THE SUGAR TAX.—We find from parliamentary returns, that the quantity of sugar entered for home consumption in 1830, was 4,273,945 cwts.; while in 1840, the year immediately preceding the last census, we find, instead of an increase corresponding to that of the population, an entry of only 3,764,710 instead of 5,000,000 cwts.; which would have been about the proper quantity according to that mode of calculation. We should, however, in estimating what ought to be the increase, not merely look at the increased numbers, but at the changed habits of the people: we must bear in mind the much greater taste for tea, coffee, and cocoa—articles to which (with increased consumption of sugar which they would naturally involve)—we must ultimately look to supply the deficiency in the revenue from spirits. When we find, then, that tea, coffee, and cocoa not only keep up their proportion to the population, but are consumed in a ratio nearly double that which would arise from such a cause, it becomes as clear as noonday, that nothing but the increase of price, occasioned by an artificial limitation of supply, has prevented the consumption of sugar being near upon 6,000,000 cwts. instead of under four. It should not be forgotten that we are dealing with an article which even now furnishes, in each year, a revenue equal to that of the whole customs' revenue of any one quarter; and in which every contraction of the natural demand, and impediment to the natural supply, must also very seriously affect the consumption of its attendant comforts, tea, coffee, and cocoa. If it be wished to promote the present temperance movement, and make up the consequent loss in the revenue from spirits, by encouraging a taste for the "cups which cheer but not inebriate," this can only be done by enlarging the supply, and thus moderating the price of that which is required to make these cups palatable. At present the tea-tables of the people at large furnish about a fifth of the whole of this great empire's revenue: let but the demand take its natural course, and the supplies flow in through their natural channels, and we should see that proportion insensibly and easily, but not the less certainly, raised to a fourth, and, at the same time, additional comfort presiding at this most domestic of meals.—*Edinburgh Review.*

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE AND MOROCCO.—The following telegraphic despatch, announcing another conflict between the French and the Moors, has been received at Paris:—

"Marseilles, Aug. 22, five P.M.

"The Governor-General of Algeria to the Minister of War.

"'Bivouac of Kondiat Abderrahman, 14th.

"'Having marched upon the Morocco army, which became daily more strong and menacing to Algeria, I came up with it at two leagues in front of its camp. It assumed the offensive with 20,000 horse, at the moment the heads of our columns were crossing the Isly. We were surrounded on all sides. We gained a most complete victory. Our infantry, which stood most firmly, and a little lot of our cavalry, fought with the utmost bravery. They successively captured all the camps, which covered a space of upwards of a league in extent. Eleven pieces of artillery, 16 stand of colours, 1000 to 1200 tents, among which was that of the Emperor's son, his parasol, the insignia of his command, all his personal baggage, a considerable quantity of warlike stores, and an immense booty, remained in our power. The enemy left about 800 killed on the field of battle. Our losses, although severe, are light when we consider the importance of the battle, which we will call the battle of Isly.'"

The *Semaphore de Marseilles* of the 21st instant, and the *Sud*, the Ministerial journal of that city, announce that a telegraphic despatch was received on the preceding day, at Toulon, ordering the immediate embarkation of 20,000 men for Algeria. These troops are intended to replace those sent to reinforce the army of Marshal Bugeaud, on the frontier of Morocco.

MOGADORE.—Mogadore was attacked and destroyed by the French on the 15th inst. The following is the Prince de Joinville's despatch to the Minister of Marine:—

"Mogadore, Aug. 17.

"On the 15th we attacked Mogadore. After having destroyed (*écrasé*) the town and its batteries, we took possession of the island and of the port. Sixty-eight men, including seven officers, were killed or wounded. I am busied in establishing the garrison of the island. I have placed the port in a state of blockade."

The *Journal des Débats* thus describes Mogadore:—"Situate on a peninsula, and surrounded by a plain of shifting sands, Mogadore is quite a new town, founded by the Emperor Muley Mahomed in 1760, in order to have a commercial port on the nearest maritime point to the city of Morocco. Mogadore is forty-eight leagues from the capital. The population of Mogadore does not amount to more than 14,000 inhabitants. There are not more than fifteen Europeans. It is the most commercial port of all Morocco. The commerce of Mogadore has been extremely flourishing. It has exported to Lisbon, Cadiz, Marseilles, Gibraltar, and even to New York, large quantities of corn and wool, gum, almonds, olive oil, figs, wax, leather, kid-skins, aniseed, orange-peel, and various kinds of medicinal drugs. The imports consist of bar iron and steel cutlery, and iron ware of every description, woollen and cotton stuffs, silk handkerchiefs, gold and silver trinkets, pearl, amber, or coral necklaces, looking-glasses, sugar, and spice."

The announcement of the destruction of this town, and the occupation of the island, caused a fluctuation in the French funds.

The *Constitutionnel* says, "The King's journey to England is postponed. Orders, it is said, have been despatched to the ports to delay the preparations. The period at present named for the embarkation is Oct. 17."

"We have forwarded to Dublin," says the *Univers*, a French Catholic journal, "the numerous addresses which have reached us from the different parts of France, together with those signed by the Catholics of Paris, expressive of their sympathy for the illustrious prisoner of Richmond (Mr. O'Connell). A respectable clergyman, called by private affairs to the capital of Ireland, kindly offered to take charge of them, and to hand to Mr. O'Connell this testimonial of admiration of Catholic France."

SPAIN.—It is said that the quarrel between Spain and Morocco has been definitively settled, the Emperor having given ample satisfaction for the alleged offence with which he had been charged.

MEHEMET ALI.—ALEXANDRIA, August 7.—The Viceroy has abandoned his previous resolution to abdicate, nor will he persist in his intention of making the pilgrimage to Mecca. His return to Alexandria from Cairo is expected every moment.

TRIESTE, Aug. 18.—A letter from Alexandria, of the 6th of this month, gives the following particulars:—

"Several governors of the provinces and district magistrates (Scheck Beleh) have made representations, both in Cairo and Alexandria, of the miserable condition of the Fellahs; and the Consul of Cairo reported to Ibrahim Pacha, at Alexandria,—First, that the Fellahs in all the villages were in the most wretched condition. Second—That the public works for which the people were not paid, and received no food, have increased their misery in the most frightful manner, and have caused emigration. Third—That the land cannot be cultivated, and the harvest be got in, if the Fellahs are driven from village to village, and we are to pay penalties, &c. Fourth—That the governors and sheiks are no longer able to check the evil, and, therefore, require that a report be made to the Viceroy, and that the debt of 75,000 francs, due by the villages, shall be remitted them."

THE CORN TRADE.—FRANKFORT, August 18.—The changeable and rainy weather which we have had for some time has revived, in some measure, the hopes of the speculators for a rise in the price of corn. They give out that the wheat has suffered great injury in several districts, and that, though a great quantity has been housed, the quality is by no means so good as was expected. These reports, however, are not confirmed by the assurance of intelligent farmers in the principal corn districts, which have been received; here they rather expect a further decline in the prices.

BERLIN.—Recent accounts from Berlin announce a general strike among the workmen in the extensive calico-printing works of that city, comprising a body of from 2500 to 3000 men, for an augmentation of wages; but which, it appears, the owners were not inclined to grant. "One of the principal masters," says the Hamburgh correspondent of a London journal, "Mr. Loire, a very wealthy and at the same time a very liberal and benevolent man, informed me a little while ago, that recently he has been keeping his men employed more from a motive to see them earning their bread than with any prospect of the slightest profit; and the difference of sale of his goods at the last Frankfort fair amounted to nearly 60,000 thalers less than on a former occasion."

The Prussian Government, in order to avoid as far as possible the accidents upon the railroads, has founded a school at Berlin for teaching the art of directing and managing locomotives; and an ordonnance has been issued that, from and after the 1st of January, 1846, no person shall be employed as drivers of locomotives on the railways of the kingdom but those who have been taught in this school, and obtained a certificate of their capacity.

The *Hamburgh Correspondent* states that the King of Hanover has concluded a treaty of navigation for ten years with the city of Lubeck.

The *Westphalian Mercury* states that several Sisters of Charity have lately arrived at Berlin, having been conducted to the frontiers of Prussia from their convent at Wilna, in Russia, which has been suppressed. They are young women of education and good families, and will return to their principal convent in France.

SWITZERLAND.—An article published by the *Basle Gazette*, of the 11th inst., would indicate that the Valais was on the point of being invaded by volunteers from the neighbouring cantons. "Enlistments to that effect," it says, "were making on a large scale in the districts of Aigle, and on other different points along the lake. At Ouchy two hogsheads full of ball-cartridges were embarked for Lower Valais, and concealed in a small tower near the lake. Muskets, purchased at St. Etienne, were also forwarded to the same destination. It was reported that the Valais intended to separate from Switzerland and unite with Piedmont."

THE CAUCASUS.—RUSSIAN FRONTIERS, August 9.—Extremely unfavourable accounts have been received at St. Petersburgh respecting the operations in the Caucasus; but nobody ventures to speak of them. It may, however, be taken for certain, that at the end of May, and in the beginning of June, the Russians lost in the combats with the Circassians nearly 10,000 men, some important fortresses, several small forts, a number of cannon, and some very important positions. Besides this, many tribes, hitherto neuter, have joined the mountaineers. It is reported that the latter have since obtained further advantages. There is no doubt that the Emperor will go to the Caucasus as soon as the uncertainty respecting the illness of his daughter shall be ended.—*Elberfeld Journal.*

FROM HAYTI.—By the brig Osceola, Captain Sylvester, from St. Domingo, July 16, we learn that General Santana, with 700 men, came before that city on the 13th of July, and on the 15th the gates were opened to him, and he took possession without bloodshed. He was proclaimed President of the Spanish part of St. Domingo the same day. The negroes had sued to him for peace, which had been granted. A French man-of-war steamer had been off that place for some time, and sailed six days previous for Aux Cayes. The British frigate Inconstant had also sailed for the same port.—*New York paper.*

BOKHARA.—A letter received from the Rev. Dr. Wolff, announces that he is still detained a prisoner by the King of Bokhara. This letter also states that Colonel Stoddart was reported to be still alive.

UNITED STATES.—LIVERPOOL, Friday Morning.—The British and North American Royal Mail steamer Caledonia, Captain Lott, has just arrived, bringing New York dates to the 16th, and Halifax to the 18th instant. There is little doing in the cotton trade in this or any of the southern markets. A few bales of the new crop have reached market, but some little time must elapse before the receipts will be large enough to create much activity of business. The remnants of the old crop are slowly coming in, and by the 1st of September the receipts may be increased a few thousand bales; but we hardly believe the yield will exceed 2,025,000 bales. Estimates as to the extent of the growing crop are plenty enough. It is rather early in the season to make calculations as to the quantity produced, but there is every indication that the yield will be greater than ever before realized. Annexed is a comparative statement of the quantity of flour and wheat exported from Cleveland during July, 1843 and 1844:—

	1843. Bls. Flour.	1843. Bu. Wheat.	1844. Bls Flour.	1844. Bu. Wht.
United States ports,	104,245	185,530	70,193	68 396.
Canadian do.,	469	12,536	20,414	34,333
	104,714	198,066	90,607	102,729

Here is a great falling off to the seaboard, and a large increase to Canada, and, therefore, to England. Accounts from all parts of the Canadas represent the grain crop as good.

By the overheating of the boilers of the Marietta steamer, on her passage down the Arkansas River, on the 25th ult., an explosion took place. About 15 persons were dreadfully scalded, and others jumped in the water and reached the shore in safety.

DOMESTIC.

Meetings of the different branches of the workpeople employed in cotton factories have been held from time to time, during the last few weeks, preparatory to giving notice for an advance of wages, such a course having been attended with success in some parts of Lancashire.——Between eight and nine o'clock on Thursday evening, the 22nd inst., a fire broke out on the Lambfair Farm, at Handford-hall, near Ipswich, by which a straw stack was totally consumed. There is reason to suspect that the fire was the act of an incendiary.——Captain Elliott, of the 4th Dragoons, stationed at Athlone, and his son, aged about 15, were accidentally drowned in the river Shannon on Monday night week. They had gone down the river in a small sailing boat, but no one could tell how the accident occurred by which they lost their lives. The boat was discovered to have sunk, her mast being a few feet above water, and their bodies at a little distance from it.——Mr. O'Connell has received an address of condolence signed by several English Catholic noblemen and gentlemen.——Several Irish papers announce that it is her Majesty's intention to visit Ireland early in September, when it is expected she will release Mr. O'Connell and his brother captives.——On Monday last 138 human beings, or twenty-three families, allowing six to each, were cast houseless and friendless from their dwellings, wanderers on the world's bleak common. On that day the sheriff, Mr. E. Foley, with an escort of police and bailiffs, proceeded to the lands of Ballyharahan and Glenmore, the property of Mr. Arthur Ussher Kelly, of Ballyeaghamore, in this county, to take possession of these lands under *habere* for one year's rent, due last September. After the sheriff turned the unfortunate people from their houses, it was a truly heartrending sight to behold them, with their families assembling in groups, lighting fires by the ditchside to boil a few potatoes to satisfy the cravings of nature. The greater number of these houseless wanderers have since had their lodgings on the cold ground.—*Waterford Chronicle.*——A coal-pit accident, attended with loss of life, occurred at the pit belonging to Messrs. Curle and Dunglinson, at Dearham, near Maryport, on Saturday morning last. Two men and three boys, who were in the act of descending, were not more than three feet from the top when the rope broke, and the whole were precipitated to the bottom of the shaft, a depth of fully fifty yards. Two of the unfortunate sufferers breathed once or twice after they were taken up, but the others had died instantaneously.——On Friday, the 23rd inst., Mark Sherwood underwent the extreme penalty of the law for the murder of his wife, on a drop erected on the Town-moor, Newcastle, within the circle of the racecourse. The prisoner made a confession of his guilt, but denied that the act was premeditated.——A new system of detective police, under the superintendence of a lieutenant of the royal navy, has just been established by the commissioners of customs, and their duties will be confined to the tracing out of frauds committed by this branch of the revenue, and will also co-operate, when occasion may require, with the officers of excise.——Patrick Larkin, letter-carrier, has been convicted at the Central Criminal Court of stealing a letter containing valuable securities, and sentenced to transportation for life.——In the past week, the arrivals in the port of Liverpool of guano are estimated to be of the value of £45,000.——Miss Cassen, of Limerick, whose abduction was lately reported, has been restored to her friends. She was traced by a constable to a hotel at Gort, where she herself had taken occasion to reveal the facts to the innkeeper. The abductor has absconded.——A model farm has been established at Berry Pomeroy, on the estate of the Duke of Somerset.——The general subscription fund for the approaching meeting of the British Association has already reached a sum exceeding £900. It is exclusively appropriated for covering the expenses at York, in which city the annual meeting is to take place on the 26th of next month.——The *Sun* of Tuesday reports the death of a respectable young female, named Sarah Anne Johnson, which occurred the preceding week at the house of a Mr. Stainsbury, 27, Charlotte-street West, White Conduit-fields, and was caused by disease induced by extreme destitution. The deceased, with her elder sister, both persons of superior education, had some time back set up a school in the house in which she died; but the school failed, and they were unable not only to pay their rent, 4s. per week, but even to provide themselves with the necessaries of life. This so preyed upon both the mind and body of the deceased that she fell into rapid consumption, accompanied by partial insanity, which eventually terminated in her death. The unhappy survivor has since received some temporary relief from a few benevolent persons to whom her case was made known.——The Honourable Mr. Bouverie, M.P. for Kilmarnock, has been on a visit to his constituents, whom he has publicly addressed, and to whom his parliamentary conduct, it appears, has afforded much satisfaction.——The American Quaker beehive-maker, who keeps his hat on before the Queen, and calls her Majesty "friend," arrived at Windsor Castle on Saturday last, with five additional hives, beautifully constructed in the shape of castles, for his Royal Highness Prince Albert.——Dr. Lambe, now in his 80th year, states that he has lived on a purely vegetable diet since 1804, and has brought up a large family on the same plan with success.—*Medical Times.*——The murrain is making alarming havoc among the cattle of the several parishes of Aberdaron, Bryncroes, Llanengan, and Lleyn in this county. It is of so malignant a nature that every animal attacked dies almost instantaneously. Some pestiferous distemper, of the like nature, makes a shocking devastation among the swine.—*Carnarvon Herald.*——We understand that, in consequence of the great losses lately sustained, the premium on the insurance of farming property has just been increased by some of the leading fire-offices.——The Stromboli steam sloop is fitting with all possible despatch at Devonport, for the purpose of taking out shot and shells to Gibraltar, for the use of the Miditerranean squadron.——"Day by day," says the *Hull Packet*, "we have the most indisputable evidences of the prosperity of the port. During the week the whole of the dock, as well as the Old Harbour (the river Hull), has been literally crammed with vessels, many of them of a very superior class. On Monday and Tuesday the blue flag was again hoisted at the pier, to intimate to captains in the roads of the Humber that there was not disposable space for their vessels in the docks." So much for the revival of trade and commerce induced by two abundant harvests, and the prospect of a third. A bountiful Providence has thus temporally repealed the Corn Laws.——On Monday the price of bread fell generally in the metropolis one halfpenny per quartern loaf on account of the abundant harvest. The general price is now 7d., although at many of the bakers it is 6d.——Prince Albert entered his 26th year on Monday. The Prince's birthday was celebrated with the customary festivities.——Mr. Higgs, on Friday, held an inquest at the George, George-court, Strand, on the body of Joseph [illegible], tailor, of George-court, Strand, aged 53, who hanged himself on Thursday, while in a state of insanity, produced by calamities that rarely fall to the lot of one man. It was stated that he had been affected in his mind ever since the decease of his wife, who was accidentally burnt to death in St. Martin's workhouse about nine months ago. The day after that one of his sons, who was on board the Marine School ship, at Blackwall, fell from the mast head, and was killed on the spot. But a week or two following he sent another son with some work to Regent-street, and while he was on his way [illegible] run over by a cab, and carried [illegible] dead. A [illegible] fell down the steps in George-court, and fractured its skull, from the effects of which it ultimately expired. There are seven children now living, several of whom have lately been suffering from rheumatic [illegible] the dampness of the house in which [illegible] *Cork Examiner* states that [illegible] been turned off lands," [illegible]——Mr. [illegible], a [illegible] champ St. Paul, was brought up at [illegible]

[illegible] last week, [illegible] of the [illegible], charged on suspicion of setting fire to farming buildings, in his occupation, the property of S. M. Raymond, Esq., on the evening of July 3. After an examination of some length the prisoner was discharged for want of sufficient evidence.——An inquest was held on Friday, the 23rd inst., and closed on Monday, on the body of Eliza Kendall, aged 19, who drowned herself in the Surrey Canal. It appeared that the deceased and her sister Jane, who at the same time also had attempted suicide, together with their father and others of their family, had suffered extreme destitution. The father stated that "they worked at slop shirts, but earned a very scanty pittance. They could not do enough to gain a proper subsistence, the price being so very low, FIVE FARTHINGS only given for making up some. *They had been much in want*, but when he was in work they fared better. He generally earned 8s. a week when in employment. His daughters *had at times fasted for twenty-four hours.*" The jury returned a verdict, "That the deceased committed suicide whilst labouring under a fit of insanity; and the jury cannot but deprecate the cruel practice of the slop-sellers in London, of employing young females at needlework at so low a rate of wages as to preclude the possibility of a subsistence."——On Wednesday, the 21st inst., the foundation of a monument to the memory of Muir, Palmer, Skirving, Gerrald, and Margarot, the political martyrs, was laid in the Old Calton Burying-ground in Edinburgh, by Mr. Hume, the member for Montrose.——Since the termination of the pitmen's strike freights have advanced so much at Sunderland that ships are now receiving £9 10s. per ton freight for Hamburgh, and vessels are difficult to be got even at that rate; while, two or three weeks ago, vessels were freighted for the same place at £7 to £7 5s.——The cheap Sunday excursion train on the London and Brighton Railway, on Sunday last, having no less than 78 carriages, containing 2123 passengers, left London-bridge in the morning for Brighton and returned in the evening.——After the 1st November next the new act applicable to Savings' Banks will come into operation. The trustees, according to their discretion, may fix one of the following rates of interest to be paid to depositors after that day, viz., £3 0s. 10d., £2 18s. 4d., £2 15s.——The ceremony of presenting a new pair of colours to the 49th Regiment took place at Winchester on Tuesday, when the colours were "consecrated" by the Bishop of Winchester, and presented by Lady Pakenham to the troops.——The Repeal Association held its weekly meeting at the Conciliation Hall, Dublin, on Monday. The attendance was less numerous than heretofore. A letter was read from Mr. Smith O'Brien, in which he expressed himself opposed to the adoption at present of any pledge against exciseable articles, save one against intoxicating liquors, until the union shall be repealed, and against pledging the repealers to do more than give a preference to Irish manufactures. Mr. O'Connell was announced to be in good health. The rent for the week was £634 13s. 3d.——The examination at the General Post Office of the parties implicated in the cases of letter-opening has concluded, and it has been fully established by evidence and their own admissions, that the letters of Lord G. Bentinck and other "sporting" gentlemen were opened, and the information obtained communicated to parties who were willing to pay for it, by which means no inconsiderable sums were realized.——Thomas Wyer, a brewer at the Boat Inn, Kidderminster, and who has numbered upwards of threescore and four years, has drunk for 35 years one gallon of ale per day, and spent 9d. per week in tobacco. The total amount he has thus expended is—for ale, £1277; for tobacco, £67. In all, £1344.—*Worcestershire Chronicle.*——The Duke of Norfolk has promised, on the expiration of a few leases, to give up 50 acres of his land for a pleasure-ground, for the recreation of the people of Sheffield. In Birmingham the town-council has opened a communication with Government, for the purpose of obtaining a grant towards providing public walks, which in Birmingham, with its 220,000 inhabitants, are felt to be imperatively needed.——The health of Edinburgh among the poorer classes is better at the present time than it has been for many years past. It appears, also, that employment is much more general—a state of matters which the harvest will, of course, still further increase. From the combined influence of these two causes, the number of applications to the Destitute Sick Society during the quarter that has just passed is fewer than has been known for many previous years.—*Caledonian Mercury.*——Tuesday letters were received at the principal insurance-offices in the City, detailing the particulars of two dreadful fires which occurred on Sunday in the village of Winsham, situate near Chard, in Devonshire, and which terminated in the complete demolition of no fewer than 30 houses.——Tuesday morning, shortly after 10 o'clock, a fire broke out upon the premises, No. 15, Maynard-street, St. Giles's, near High-street, occupied by Messrs. Bridge and Co., cork-cutters, as a burning-house for cork, and a general storehouse of unmanufactured stock, the whole of which, from its inflammable nature, with the lofts and back premises, were destroyed. The same evening another destructive fire, and which was not subdued until a great deal of property had been consumed, broke out upon the premises belonging to Mr. Logie, potato merchant, situate on Cock-hill, Ratcliff.——An importation of New Zealand wool, the first, we believe, which has reached this country, arrived within the last few days, and realised from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 7d. per pound. It is to be hoped that this is the beginning of an extensive trade in wool, an article which New Zealand is in so many respects so well suited to afford.——Mr. Lalor, of Cascade, secretary to the Galway Farming Society, county of Kilkenny, has addressed a letter to the *Dublin Evening Post*, giving a very favourable report of the crops in that part of the country, particularly the turnip and potato crops.——Thursday morning early, a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Watling, Mount-row, Lambeth, and, before it was extinguished, destroyed a considerable amount of property. Mr. Watling is insured.——An engine-boiler explosion took place on Sunday night last at the colliery known by the name of the Deep Pit, and in the occupation of the Sheffield Coal Company. The explosion, which was terrific, was the work of a number of misguided men who had turned out with the other pitmen some months ago, and took this means to prevent some of their companions from returning to work in the pit. They introduced under the boiler a cask of gunpowder, which ignited before they quitted the place. One man named Boden was dreadfully injured, and is not expected to survive; the others suffered more or less. The boiler was totally [illegible].——Lord [illegible], who [illegible] the temporary [illegible] of [illegible], died this week at [illegible] Lodge, Hampshire, in the [illegible] year of his age.——Sir William Follett, it is stated, has considerably improved in health since his stay on the Continent.——The number of deaths in the metropolis for the week ending Saturday, the 24th instant, amounted to 936, of which 485 were males and 451 females.——For the last few days excellent American beef and pork have been selling in this town (Douglas) at 6d. per pound. This is one of the many benefits of Free Trade.—*Mona's Herald.*——The students of the "People's College," Sheffield, are 200 in number; and many of them, working men, translate Latin, Greek, and modern languages with great facility. One student, who, when he entered the college, did not know the meaning of the word mathematics, can now demonstrate a long and difficult problem.——One of the woolsorters' societies in Bradford have taken a lease of a small farm of eight acres, in the neighbourhood, which they intend to convert into a pretty Eden-spot, for their own amusement (and interest, if possible) and that of the public generally. The idea of renting the land was suggested during the late depression of trade in the town, and the land was intended as a field on which the society might employ its members when out of regular work.—*Manchester Guardian.*——The whole of the jenny spinners in Stockport signified their intention, on Saturday last, of leaving their employ at the end of this week, if an advance of ½d. per lb. (about ten per cent.) be not granted them.——The official statement, just out, of the duty paid upon tea in the different ports of the United Kingdom, during the present year to the 5th instant, shows the quantity to have been 23,000,824 lbs., and in the corresponding period of last year, 22,722,594 lbs., being a slightly increased consumption.——By an account just issued, it appears that the balance of unclaimed prize money is £16,715 10s. 0½d.——On Thursday morning there was a meeting of the twelve judges of England at the residence of the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, to consider privately their views and opinions upon the writ of error brought by Mr. O'Connell and others in the House of Lords.——The Dutch steamer Batavier arrived at the St. Katharine Steam-wharf on Wednesday morning early, in perfect safety, with a fair complement of passengers, and a full cargo, comprising a quantity of fruit, cattle, &c.——The christening of the infant Prince is understood to be fixed to take place on the 6th of September, at Windsor Castle.——The public-house known as the Ship and Blue-coat Boy, in the Walworth-road, was burnt down on Thursday morning.——Bartholomew fair commences next Tuesday, but not the slightest interest is taken in its annual return, even by the licensed victuallers of Smithfield, who formerly derived so considerable an advantage from it.——Prince Albert has consented to become a member of the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland.——Sir William Heygate, Bart., Chamberlain of the city of London, died on Wednesday, at Roecliffe, Leicestershire, in the 63rd year of his age. The deceased baronet was only elected to the chamberlainship about fifteen months since.——On Wednesday last the foundation-stone of a monument to the Earl of Durham was laid at Newcastle amidst an immense concourse of spectators.——All the provincial papers give most favourable accounts of the prospect of the harvest. The weather every where is most propitious.

CORN HARVEST.—It is a gladdening sight to stand upon some eminence and behold the yellow hues of harvest amid the dark relief of hedges and trees, to see the shocks standing thickly in a land of peace, the partly-reaped fields—and the clear, cloudless sky, shedding over all its lustre. There is a solemn splendour, a mellowness and maturity of beauty thrown over the landscape. The wheat crops shine on the hills and slopes, as Wordsworth expresses it, "like golden shields cast down from the sun." For the lovers of solitary rambles, for all who desire to feel the pleasures of a thankful heart, and to participate in the happiness of the simple and the lowly, now is the time to stroll abroad. They will find beauty and enjoyment spread abundantly before them. They will find the mowers sweeping down the crops of pale barley, every spiked ear of which so lately looking up bravely at the sun, is now bent downwards in a modest and graceful curve, as if abashed at its ardent and incessant gaze. They will find them cutting down the rustling oats, each followed by an attendant rustic, who gathers the swath into sheaves, from the tender green of the young clover, which, commonly sown with oats, to constitute the future crop, is now showing itself luxuriantly. But it is in the wheat-field that all the jollity and gladness, and picturesqueness of harvest are concentrated. Wheat is more particularly the food of man. Barley affords him a wholesome, but much abused potation; the oat is welcome to the homely board of the hardy mountaineers; but wheat is especially, and everywhere, the "staff of life." To reap and gather it in, every creature of the hamlet is assembled. The farmer is in the field, like a rural king amid his people—the labourer, old or young, is there to collect what he has sown with toil, and watched in its growth with pride; the dame has left her wheel and her shady cottage, and, with sleeve-defended arms, scorns to do less than the best of them; the blooming damsel is there, adding her sunny beauty to that of universal nature; the boy cuts down the stalks which overtop his head; children glean amongst the shocks; and even the unwalkable infant, sits propt with sheaves, and plays with the stubble, and

"With all its twined flowers."

Such groups are often seen in the wheat-field as deserve the immortality of the pencil.—*Howitt's Book of the Seasons.*

WHAT MAKE POACHERS?—What make poachers? Game laws—ay, and Corn Laws, which prevent thousands from earning a sufficient subsistence by the hardest labour. Surely laws which are as certain to produce crime as the hardest frost is to produce ice, are not very creditable to our legislators. But from game laws spring poaching, and conflicts, and murders, and the destruction of large quantities of human food; from Corn Laws spring scarcity, and want, and famine, and starvation. Game laws are expressly enacted for the preservation of the birds of heaven and the wandering animals of the earth—the common property of all; Corn Laws are expressly enacted—at least they directly tend—to annoy, and starve, and madden the poor man; to fire his heart with discontent, and revenge, and hatred of his rulers. Let the game laws and Corn Laws be always taken in at one survey, and let them be looked at thus:—Game laws, that hares and partridges may be fed and [illegible]; Corn Laws, that men and women may be starved and destroyed—the authors of both laws, the English aristocracy.—*Bradford Observer.*

PRAYER FOR DAILY BREAD.—The following is an extract from a prayer offered up at the funeral of Dr. Dalton, by the Rev. Jas. Bradley, registrar of the cemetery in which the doctor is buried:—"May the time hasten when men will find out the true method of so distributing thy bountiful provision for human subsistence and comfort, even for this life, among each other, that the poorest, living a life of usefulness, may have in [illegible] all things necessary to the comfort of that life."

IMPORTATION OF CORN.—The Commissioners of Customs having requested the opinions of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade on a doubt which is entertained whether, under the third section of the act 5th and 6th Victoria, chap. 92, there is any limitation of time for the delivery of wheat from the *vessel*, their lordships have directed Mr. Macgregor to acquaint the board that they are of opinion that the limitation of time applies to the third section. Copies of this order have been furnished, by order of the Board of Customs, to the collectors and controllers of the several ports of the kingdom, for their information and government.

ENGLISH RECIPROCITY.—England charging one hundred per cent. duty on Chinese teas, and requiring of China a duty of only sixpence a yard on English broadcloth! England charging both specific and *ad valorem* duties amounting in the aggregate to one hundred per cent. on wooden ware, one thousand per cent. on tobacco, and virtually prohibiting American flour, lumber, fish, and other staples, and meanwhile complaining and protesting against revenue duties levied on British manufactures, which compete with our own. The duty of this book in England exceeds the cost of the work as it comes from the press in Boston.—*Two Months Abroad, by an American.*

TRADE OF AMERICA.—Statistics of the trade of the United States for the three quarters ending June 30, 1843, compared with the same period in the two previous years of 1841 and 1842, show that the exports had gradually diminished in value from 106,382,232 dollars to 77,793,783 dollars. Agricultural products, including cotton and tobacco, and manufactures, appear to constitute the chief items of decline; and the great depreciation in the price of cotton seems really to be one of the most remarkable features in the statement, since it is proved that though from 54,330,341 dollars, the item returned in 1841, there had been a decrease to 49,119,805 dollars in 1844, the quantity of the staple exported in that year exceeded by 262,000 dollars the quantity exported in 1841. The total exports of cotton for the three years were as follows:—530,204,100lbs. in 1841; 587,717,047lbs. in 1842; and 792,297,106lbs. in 1843.

THE HONEST WAY OF DOING BUSINESS.—The sedate Turk is a man of few words, and seldom utters more than is strictly necessary. He sets his goods before you, names their price, and leaves you to do as you please about buying. You need not think of offering him a lower bidding, he will not bate a para, and the only reply he will make, will be to take back the article in question, and return it to its place.—*Library of Travel.*

PROBABLE DURATION OF THE SUPPLY OF COAL IN GREAT BRITAIN.—Although the present known coal fields of Great Britain contain, perhaps, sufficient coal to supply her wants for 2000 or 3000 years to come, it is a very erroneous basis of calculation to assume that the whole is at our disposal. Under the present system, in the finest description of coal of the northern field, there is, even in its extraction, a loss of 86½ per cent. The views of theoretical geologists, without allowing for waste, would lead to the most incorrect practical conclusions; while Conybeare, Lardner, and others, would make our coal resources sufficient for 1500 or 2000 years, Professor Sedgwick and Dr. Buckland, allowing for loss in working, calculated from practical experience, are convinced that 400 years will leave little more than the name of our best seams. Of forty-five feet of coal in a section of all the coal strata, in one of the best pits of the Tyne, not thirty feet are workable. In the north, coal cannot be extracted at a profit, if less than two feet eight inches. In the western part of Wall's End, the Bensham seam is considered unworkable at two feet ten inches, though there are times when it is worked at twenty inches. The thinnest seam worked in Yorkshire is thirteen inches, in North Lancashire twenty inches, in the Northumberland and Durham districts two feet six inches, and in St. Lawrence two feet nine inches. Most of the thin seams above are worked for local consumption, and cannot bear the expense of transit and competition for manufacturing and commercial purposes. Already the Tyne portion of the northern coal field begins to feel the difficulties of exhaustion in the finer description of coal; and that of the Wear and Tees (less worked than it) has the advantage, in commercial competition, of from 9 to 10 per cent. in price.—*Mining Journal.*

LEASES ESSENTIAL TO AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENTS.—Many tenants have not the requisite means to become improvers under any circumstances; and the unwillingness of landlords to grant leases of considerable duration, which unfortunately prevails throughout England, will prevent their obtaining tenants able and willing to invest the proper amount of capital in farming. The late Earl of Leicester and the present Earls Spencer, Ducie, and Radnor form, however, noble exceptions. This aversion to leases must be overcome, before any great and general agricultural improvement can take place. It has been said that a lease is binding on the landlord only, for if a tenant is unable to pay his rent and perform his covenants, the owner is but too anxious to get rid of him, which is true as regards the class of farmers before alluded to; but landlords, if prices should become steady, instead of looking to the man who might offer the most rent, would think more of the ultimate result of having persons of capital upon their estates, and in this way would really receive better and more certain incomes than they do at present. Such however has been the fluctuation of prices of late years, that really good tenants are as much averse to leases as landlords; they do not like being bound to terms calculated upon prices which they can never be certain of obtaining for two years together. If the rents offered can only be given when corn is at the artificial price promised by the Corn Laws, we cannot blame tenants who hold off from leases; but, while such a state of things exists, the capital necessary for extensive and permanent agricultural improvements will not in general be forthcoming.—*British and Foreign Review.*

THE SLIDING SCALE AND STEADY PRICES.

(From the *Economist.*)

The *Morning Herald*, in remarking upon an article which had appeared in the *Chronicle*, says—

"*All that a wise and prudent legislation can do, is so to adjust the markets by a sliding scale, as far as possible, as to obtain an equable rate of price. This, we boldly maintain, is admirably done by the present law.* If the *Chronicle* denies this, we invite it to publish the averages for the last twenty-four months, *i. e.*, ever since the present law came into force, and to adduce, *if it can, twenty-four months of more equable and steady prices* which have occurred within the last forty years."

Such hap-hazard statements, made with the air of authority and confidence in which this journal is so prone to indulge, and *boldly to maintain*, equally to the discredit and injury of itself and the Government it professes to serve, should not, when affecting such important subjects, be left unnoticed; for these are questions requiring an intimate knowledge of the subject, and a laborious investigation into facts, which few are disposed to undertake, to test the truth of such assertions; and, therefore, such empty vaunting and boasting are too apt to pass current for truth, if not contradicted and corrected.

We will, therefore, as the *Government organ* invites, "publish the averages during the last twenty-four months (or rather twenty-eight months), *i. e.*, ever since the present law came into force," and we will see if it differs materially from the late repudiated law—repudiated chiefly on account of its tendency to create fluctuations; and how far it is needful to travel back into the *forty years* so generously proposed by the *Herald*, to find a match for "*the equable and steady prices*" under the law of 1842. That law came into operation on the 29th of April, 1842, and the following have been the average prices, in the first week of each month since (*see Parliamentary Paper, No. 7, Session* 1843, *and London Gazette*):—

AVERAGE PRICE OF WHEAT:—

FIRST YEAR. *In the week ending*	s.	d.	SECOND YEAR. *In the week ending*	s.	d.
1842.—6th May	60s.	8d.	1843.—6th May	47s.	0d.
3rd June	63	6	2nd June	47	9
2nd July	64	3	7th July	49	8
6th August	61	0	4th August	57	7
3rd September	52	9	1st September	56	8
1st October	53	0	6th October	49	5
5th November	48	3	3rd November	50	5
3rd December	48	3	1st December	51	0
1843.—7th January	46	10	1844.—4th January	49	10
3rd February	49	3	1st February	52	6
3rd March	48	6	7th March	56	2
6th April	46	2	4th April	56	5

THIRD YEAR. *In the week ending*

1844.—2nd May	55s.	6d.
6th June	55	6
3rd July	55	10
6th August	51	0
16th August	48	10

After such unqualified boasting on the part of the Government organ, our readers will not be a little surprised to see so considerable a fluctuation as these figures denote:—

In the first year the highest price is .. 64s. 3d.
In the first year the lowest price is .. 46s. 2d.

Difference in nine months...... 18s. 1d. or 28 per cent.

In the second year the highest price is 57s. 7d.
In the second year the lowest price is 47s 0d.

Difference .. .. 10s. 7d. or 17½ per cent.

In the small part of the third year expired, the price has fallen 7s. in less than six weeks, being 12 per cent.

We will not trespass far into the limit of forty years to discover not only entire single years, but a whole period of twenty-eight months, which will bear a favourable comparison with the above exhibition of the prices under the present law:—

In 1837 the highest price was .. .. 60s. 1d.
In 1837 the lowest price was .. .. 51s. 7d.
Difference.. .. .. .. 8s. 6d.

In 1835 the highest price was .. .. 43s. 2d.
In 1835 the lowest price was .. .. 36s. 9d.
Difference.. .. .. .. 6s. 5d.

In 1834 the highest price was .. .. 49s. 2d.
In 1834 the lowest price was .. .. 41s. 11d.
Difference.. .. .. .. 7s. 3d.

In 1833 the highest price was .. .. 56s. 5d.
In 1833 the lowest price was .. .. 49s. 8d.
Difference.. .. .. .. 6s. 9d.

And for twenty-eight consecutive months from September, 1831, to January, 1834, the price in the first week of each month was (*see Parliamentary Paper, No.* 24, *Session* 1839)—

FIRST YEAR.	s.	d.	SECOND YEAR.	s.	d.
1831.—7th October	61s.	0d.	1832.—5th October	54	7
4th November	61	3	2nd November	53	3
2nd December	61	8	7th December	54	7
1832.—6th January	59	1	1833.—4th January	52	6
3rd February	59	11	1st February	53	3
2nd March	58	2	1st March	52	2
6th April	59	6	5th April	53	10
4th May	62	1	3rd May	53	5
1st June	61	0	7th June	52	10
6th July	63	2	5th July	54	7
3rd August	63	5	2nd August	56	5
7th September	56	0	6th September	51	1

THIRD YEAR.

1833.—4th October	52s.	10d.
1st November	51	7
6th December	49	8
1834.—3rd January	49	2

Making a comparison in this case, in the same way as we have done for the last twenty-eight months, we find that—

In the first year the highest price was 64s. 5d.
In the first year the lowest price was 56s. 0d.

Difference .. .. .. 5s. 5d. or 8¾ per cent.

In the second year the highest price was 56s. 5d.
In the second year the lowest price was 51s. 1d.

Difference .. .. .. 5s. 4d. or 9½ per cent.

And in the remaining four months the difference between the highest and the lowest was then only 3s. 8d. per quarter. The comparison is thus:—

	Under the new law, the *Herald's* boast.	Under the late law.
In the first year the fluctuation was	28 per cent.	8¾ per cent.
In the second year	17½ per cent.	9½ per cent.
In the last four months	12 per cent.	7½ per cent.

What, then, becomes of the boast of the steadiness of prices during the last two years under the new law, when we show that the fluctuations were much less in 5 years out of the last 10 under the late law; and that, for the whole period of twenty-eight months that have elapsed under the present law, the fluctuations have been on an average more than double what they were during a similar period from 1831 to 1834, under the law which Sir Robert Peel repealed in order to substitute the present one, chiefly and mainly on the ground of its tendency to create fluctuations and unsteadiness. But would we, therefore, infer that the charge against the late law was unfounded? By no means. The periods to which we have been referring were years of fair weather and good crops, and during a great part of which the effects of the Corn Laws were in temporary suspension, as far as regarded the consumer and the commercial classes. But though the late sliding scale showed its inherent evils in so mitigated a form under the favourable circumstances and fine weather of the time alluded to, no sooner had we one bad harvest in 1838 than we find the fluctuations within the year upwards of 50 *per cent.*, and within a period of little more than two years upwards of 100 *per cent.*

Now the three harvests, including the present one, since the new law came into operation, must unquestionably be considered as equal, if not superior, to any three consecutive harvests during the last twenty years; and the comparison that we have made has therefore been under the most favourable circumstances for "*equable and steady prices.*" If, then, we have found that, with the most favourable circumstances under which it could be tried, the new law, in the new state of the country, with its increased numbers, makes so poor a comparison with the late law, which, as soon as events and weather become untoward, committed such havoc in the haunts of commerce and industry—brought the Bank of England to the brink of suspension, and the public Exchequer to a state of exhaustion and deficiency—what have we not to fear, of similar consequences in a highly aggravated form, when the present favourable combination of circumstances shall have passed, and instead thereof we shall suffer from such harvests as those of 1838, 1839, and 1840?

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. Aug. 24	Mon. Aug. 26	Tues. Aug. 27	Wed. Aug. 28	Thurs. Aug. 29	Fri. Aug. 30
Bank Stock......	199½	199½	199½	199½	199½	—
3 per Ct. Red.Ann	99½	99¼	99¼	99½	99½	99
3 per Ct.Con.Ann.	98¾	99	99	98¾	98¾	98½
3½ per Ct.Red.Ann	102½	102½	102½	102½	102	—
3½ perCt.Ann.new	101⅝	101⅝	101⅝	101⅝	101⅜	—
Long An. Ex. 1860	12 9-16	12 9-16	12 9-16	12 9-16	12 7-16	—
Cons. for Acc. ..	98¾	99	99⅛	—	98¾	98½
Exc. Bills, pm. ..	73 5	73 5	74 7	75 7	74 6	—
Ind.Bds.und.1000*l*	—	95	95	—	95	—
India Stock	282	282	282	281	281½	—
Belgian Bonds ..	103½	—	103½	103½	102½	—
Brasilian Bonds..	85	84	84	85	85	—
Buenos Ayres....	34 6	34 6	34 6	34 6	34 6	—
Chilian..........	103 5	103 5	103 5	104	103 5	—
Columb.ex.Venez.	13⅛	13⅛	13⅛	13⅛	13⅛	13⅛
Danish	89½	89	—	89½	89	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	100½	100¾	100½	100⅝	100⅝	100⅝
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	61⅛	61⅛	61⅛	61⅛	61⅛	61⅛
Mexican	35⅛	35⅛	35⅛	35⅛	35⅛	35⅛
Peruvian	23 5	23 5	23 5	23 5	23 5	—
Portug. conv. ..	44	43¾	43¾	44⅛	44⅛	44⅛
Spanish 5 per Ct.	22¼	22½	22½	22⅝	22⅝	22¾
Do.3 per Cent. ..	33¼	—	33⅝	33½	35⅝	33⅝

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

MARK-LANE, Monday, Aug. 26.—There was a moderate supply of Wheat at market this morning. The quality of the New was inferior to last week, and it realised in consequence 2s. to 3s. per quarter less. Old Wheat, both English and Foreign, and the finest qualities of New, sold at about the same prices as last Monday. There was rather a better demand for Barley at last week's rates. Beans and Grey Peas were 1s. dearer. There was no alteration in the value of White Peas. There was a fair sale for Oats at last Monday's prices. The accounts from the North report the weather unfavourable for the progress of harvest. We have had it fine here for the last week, with every prospect of its continuing.

S. H. LUCAS and SON.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk....	Red 42 to 50	White	48	to 54
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire	— 42 — 48	—	44	— 51
—— Scotch	— 40 — 44	—	44	— 48
—— Irish	— 40 — 42	—	44	— 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire..........		Feed	20	— 21
—— Ditto...... Ditto..	Short 21 — 22	Polands	22	— 24
—— Scotch	Feed 22 — 24	Potato	25	— 26
—— Limerick	— 21 — 22	Short	22	— 23
—— Cork			19	— 20
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork Black			18	— 19
—— Westport			19	— 20
—— Galway			17	— 19
Barley, Grinding.... 28 to 30		Distilling	30	— 32
—— Malting...... 32 — 34		Irish	26	— 30
Beans, Mazagan .... 32 — 33		Tick	32	— 34
—— Harrow ...... 35 — 37		Small........	—	— 40
—— Old Tick..........			—	— 40
Peas, White.......... 31 to 34		Boilers	35	— 36
—— Maple and Grey			30	— 34
Flour, Best Town-made...... per sack of 280 lbs....			43	— 45
—— Norfolk and Suffolk ...... —		—	36	— 38

FOREIGN.

	Free. Per Imperial Quarter	In Bond
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed	48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.
—— Rostock	47 — 54	
—— Stettin	44 — 52	
—— Hamburgh	42 — 48	
—— Odessa	42 — 46	
—— Ditto .... Polish	47 — 50	
—— Russian .... soft	42 — 46	
—— Ditto.......... hard	40 — 44	
—— Spanish .... Red	45 — 49	
—— Ditto .... White........	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding	26 — 29	— — —
Barley, Distilling..........	30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel..........	16 — 19	12 — 13
—— Swedish	19 — 20	12 — 14
—— Stralsund	19 — 21	13 — 15
—— Dutch Feed..........	18 — 19	12 — 13
—— —— Brew..........	20 — 22	14 — 16
—— —— Polands	— — —	18 — 19
Beans, Egyptian..........	20 — 22	27 — 29
Peas, White	30 — 34	— — —
—— Ditto Boilers	32 — 35	— — —
Flour, Canada .... per barrel of 196 lbs	27 — 29	— — —
—— United States.. — —	27 — 29	20 — 22
—— Dantzig........ — —	26 — 28	— — —

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Aug. 19 to Aug. 24, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	3258	30	673	319	713
Scotch	—	—	924	—	—
Irish........	—	—	6548	—	—
Foreign	11666	16082	20002	2116	2206

Flour, 4044 sacks, 8671 barrels.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending Aug. 27, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	5601	53s. 10d.	Rye	[illegible]	[illegible]
Barley.. ..	898	35s. 7d.	Beans.. ..	514	[illegible]
Oats	10944	19s. 11d.	Peas	378	[illegible]

FRIDAY, Aug. 30.—The arrivals of Foreign Wheat and Barley are large, but moderate of all English Grain, and of Foreign and Irish Oats. The Wheat trade is exceedingly dull at Monday's prices. There was rather an improved demand on Wednesday for grinding Barley for the country, but to-day the trade is dull again. The little business doing is at Monday's rates. The duty on Beans and Peas rose 1s. yesterday. We have no alteration to notice in the value of either of these articles. Factors are holding Oats at 6d. advance on Monday's rates, which the buyers are very reluctant to comply with, and there is in consequence but little business doing.

S. H. LUCAS and SON.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 26th of August to the 30th of August, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat............	2560	—	7990
Barley............	10	—	11550
Oats..............	210	3900	4100

Flour, 4320 sacks.

A WEEKLY REPORT of the NUMBER of QUARTERS, and the AVERAGE PRICE of CORN and GRAIN, sold in the several Counties of England and Wales (comprising the Two Hundred and Ninety Towns named in the Act of the 5th Vic., cap. 14), which governs Duty.

WEEK ENDED AUG. 24, 1844.

	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Wheat. Aver price	Barley. Qrs. sold.	Barley. Aver price	Oats. Qrs. sold.	Oats. Aver price	Beans. Qrs. sold.	Beans. Aver price
		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.
Weekly Averages..	85814	50 4	2948	33 3	22961	20 4	4795	35 10
Aggregate Averages..	..	51 0		34 2		20 6		35 11
Duty......	..	19 0		4 0		6 0		7 6

Stock of Corn in Bond, Aug. 5, 1844.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.	Flour.
In London,	112565	58752	27839	—	22711	7628	50500
Unit. King.	351549	108416	72399	2221	79452	42814	215575

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23.

E. M. GOOD, Rye-lane, Peckham, and Goose-green, Dulwich, farmer. [Wright, London-street, Fenchurch-street.

T. COOK, Acton-street, Gray's-inn-road, silver cutler. [Taylor, Castle-street, Holborn.

E. PETERS, Godstone, Surrey, brewer. [Woods, Epsom; Dimmock and Burbey, Sise-lane, Bucklersbury.

R. BEESLEY, Wells-street, Oxford-street, wine cooper. [Shuter, Millbank-street, Westminster.

G. and W. NOEL, Jermyn-street, bootmakers. [Bennett and Bolden, Scot's-yard, Bush-lane, City.

T. and R. BARRS, Worcester, tobacco manufacturers. [Smith, Birmingham.

DIVIDENDS.

Sept. 16. J. and E. Raine, Barnard Castle, Durham, carpet manufacturers—Sept. 17. R. Simpson, Embleton, Cumberland, innkeeper—Sept. 16. W. M. Potts, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, grocer—Sept. 16. R. P. Bell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, fruiterer—Sept. 14. G. Harwood, Chester, draper—Sept. 14. E. Hipkins, Egremont, Cheshire, commission agent—Oct. 2. Meanwood, Yorkshire, tanner—Oct. 2. J. N. Balme, Leeds, woolstapler—Oct. 11. J. Knapton and W. M'Kay, Manningham, Yorkshire, stuff manufacturers—Oct. 10. G. Robinson and M. Farrand, Almondbury, Yorkshire, fancy cloth manufacturers—Oct. 18. R. Howe, Kilpin, Yorkshire, corn factor—Oct. 2. W. Walker and J. Gray, Leeds, woolstaplers—Sept. 14. C. H. Webb, Forebridge, Staffordshire, corn dealer.

CERTIFICATES.

Sept. 13. G. Fryer, Alfred-street, City-road, Middlesex, grocer—Sept. 14. E. Foster, Dover, tailor—Sept. 13. W. R. Wood, Brighton, dentist—Sept. 16. T. W. Baker, Woolwich, builder.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

D. OGILVY, Blairgowrie, innkeeper—A. TAYLOR, Tradeston, grocer—G. COWAN, Edinburgh, flesher.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27.

BANKRUPTS.

J. T. WILDE and W. WILDE, Basing-lane, Cheapside, general merchants. [Lowless and Son, Hatton-court, Threadneedle-street.

W. M. UNDERWOOD, Fyfield, Essex, miller. [Wright, Fenchurch-street.

A. LETT, Commercial-road, Lambeth, timber merchant. [Reed and Shaw, Friday-street, Cheapside.

R. BUCKLER, Portsea, grocer. [Smith and Son, Southampton-street, Bloomsbury; Binstead, Portsmouth.

W. YUILL, Cornhill, tailor. [Tilleard and Son, Old Jewry.

J. FORTH, Nottingham, hatter. [Barlow and Radcliffe, Oldham.

R. GARNETT, Leeds, Yorkshire, boot and shoe maker. [Rushworth, Staple-inn; Bradley, Leeds.

J. W. LEWIS, Bath, victualler. [Chapman, Warminster; Holme and Co., New-inn.

R. CURRIE, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, bookseller. [Bennett and and Co., Scot's-yard, Cannon-street; Walles, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

DIVIDENDS.

Sept. 20. R. Warren, Liverpool, druggist—Sept. 20. S. Billington, Birkenhead, Cheshire, woollen draper—Sept. 19. W. Webb, Liverpool, ironmonger—Sept. 26. P. Blatchford, Plymouth, miller—Sept. 20. T. Nuttall, Rochdale, Lancashire, pork butcher—Sept. 20. J. Bennett, Manchester, calico printer—Sept. 19. H. and E. Hilton, Over Darwen, Lancashire, bleachers—Sept. 19. E. Hilton and N. Walsh, Over Darwen, Lancashire, paper makers—Oct. 11. B. Sayle and T. Booth, Sheffield, ironmasters.

CERTIFICATES.

Sept. 18. J. S. Austin, Bedford, surveyor—Sept. 19. J. M. Polak, Coleman-street-buildings, City, merchant—Sept. 19. J. Smith, Manchester, calico printer—Sept. 17. T. H. Wetmore, Worcester, grocer—Sept. 17. J. Heward, Hendon, hay salesman—Sept. 17. R. Sharpe, Chelmsford, draper—Sept. 17. J. S. Davies, Oswestry, Shropshire, draper—Sept. 17. F. Davis, Tipton, Staffordshire, linendraper—Sept. 17. I. Sherwin, [illegible], Staffordshire, engraver—Sept. 17. J. Cormie, Burslem, Staffordshire, manufacturer of earthenware—Sept. 17. E. [illegible], Highgate, ironmonger—Sept. 17. R. D. Newman, Leeds, corn factor.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

D. LYON, Edinburgh, spirit merchant—D. OGILVY, Blairgowrie, innkeeper—J. WHITEHEAD, Kinross, [illegible]—W. GALLIE and W. G. BAYLEY, Edinburgh, [illegible]—J. BROCK and T. FERGUSON, Hamilton, spirit [illegible]—J. WALLACE, Kilmarnock, grocer—R. and J. TAYLOR, Glasgow, drysalters.

London: Printed by ROBERT PALMER (of Providence-place, [illegible] [illegible]ington-lane, Lambeth, in the County of Surrey) and [illegible] (of Number 336, Strand, in the County of Middlesex) [illegible] office, Number 16, Crane-court, in the Parish of St. [illegible] in the City of London, and published by [illegible] (of Number 27, [illegible]-street, Strand, in the County [illegible]) the Office of [illegible] St. Dunstan-in-the-West—Saturday, August 31, 1844.

THE LEAGUE.

No. 50.] SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1844. [3*d*.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive a copy, weekly, of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and* addresses *to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to THE LEAGUE FUND, *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR COUNTIES.

POLLING PLACES MAY BE ALTERED.

Voters residing at one part of a county, and claiming to vote for property in another, may vote near their place of residence, by claiming in the form A or B.

An elector residing in the Strand, London, claiming for a freehold house, or any other qualification, at Uxbridge, had formerly to go to Uxbridge to poll: he can now poll at Westminster. Or an elector residing in South Lancashire, or any other county, having a freehold at Uxbridge, or in any other district in the county, may vote in London, thereby saving a journey from London to Uxbridge, or other district, and back.

This is a most important alteration in the law, and the claim may be made by the Free-Trade agents attending the court, a friend, or the tenant, *if he can speak to the claimant's handwriting.** The barrister will write the place he desires to poll at against his name; but he will not be allowed to vote anywhere else. His name will then be printed at the end of the register in the proper list.

Form A.

County of Middlesex, to wit.

I, ———, whose name appears in the list of voters of the above parish, and whose place of abode, as stated in the said list, is not within the said county, claim to vote at the polling place at ———, in the said county.

(Signed) A. B. [Place of Abode.]

Form B.

County of Middlesex, to wit.

I, ———, whose name appears in the list of voters of the above parish, and whose place of abode, as stated in the said list, is not within the said county, claim to vote at the polling place at ———, in the said county.

(Signed) A. B. [Place of Abode.]

POLLING PLACES.—Brentford, Enfield, King's-cross, City of Westminster, City of London, Hammersmith, Hampstead, Bedfont, Edgware, Uxbridge, Mile-end, Bethnal-green.

COUNTY AND BOROUGH REGISTRATION.

From the 1st to Sunday the 15th of September, is the time for the publication of the lists of persons objected to in counties, and also of the lists of claimants and of persons objected to in cities and boroughs. Overseers and town clerks are required by law to keep copies of the said lists, and also of the notices of objection, to be perused by *any person*, without the payment of any fee, at any time between the hours of ten o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon of any day, except Sunday, during the first fourteen days of September. They must also deliver copies of the lists to *any person* requiring the same on payment of a price after the following rate, which is copied from the schedule annexed to the new Registration Act:—

For any list or copy of a list containing any number of persons' names	s.	d.
Not exceeding 100	0	6
Exceeding 100, and not exceeding 200	1	0
„ 200, „ 300	1	6
„ 300, „ 400	2	0
„ 400 and upwards	2	6

Every Free-Trade elector should now examine these lists—claimants in boroughs to see that their names are properly inserted, and electors generally to ascertain whether they have been objected to in either borough or county. Free-Traders who may be objected to should apply to the local committees, or to such other persons as may be engaged in the management of the registration, for such advice and assistance as they may stand in need of, as to the best mode of defending their votes before the revising barrister.

Any county voter residing out of the polling district in which his qualification is situate is at liberty to make his claim before the revising barrister to vote at the polling place of the district wherein his said place of abode may be situate, provided such place of abode is in the same county or division of a county. The revision of the lists will commence on or after the 16th of September.

Advice and assistance will be given by application at the London Registration Offices of the League, 68, Cheapside, or the League Office, Newall's-buildings, Market-street, Manchester.

* The form signed in the presence of the party producing it when the barrister is satisfied.

A NEW MYSTIFICATION.

The perverted ingenuity of the upholders of monopoly is surprising, and, but for the evils the maintenance of their wrong inflicts upon the community, would be amusing. The windings and doublings of the creatures are infinite, but the latest shift we have noticed is certainly characterized by novelty and audacity. We need not tell the reader that the price of wheat has fallen far below the rates promised by the Corn Law, or that it must inevitably fall much lower. The Corn Law and its framers promised the farmers 56s. a quarter for their wheat; wheat has already been sold for 40s. a quarter, and there is much probability of the *average price* falling to that point. Well, this is rather an awkward state of things for monopolist landlords, who are exacting rents fixed upon the assumption that the farmers *are receiving* 56s. a quarter. Of course it will not do for the upholders of the wrong to admit that they cannot keep up prices by acts of Parliament, as that would bring a structure of legislative delusion about their ears in an instant, and therefore some new mystification has to be resorted to. And what of all things in the world does the reader imagine is the alleged cause of the low and lowering prices of wheat? If he guessed for a week he would scarcely hit upon it. Well, then, it is not abundance, it is not importation, but it is simply a PANIC!!! What a world of trouble does this word panic save. Let a troop of horse or a battalion of foot be frightened at the sight or sound of their opponents and take to their heels, and their cowardice is attributed to "a panic." Let men without capital speculate upon credit, with a rashness day by day increasing as the possibility of success grows less and less, and when some circumstance shows the baseless foundations on which their dealings were grounded, and wide-spread ruin ensues amongst those who trusted them, the short explanation is "a panic." And similar instances might be greatly multiplied.

In the present instance the person who has announced the astounding discovery to the rural community is a Mr. John Ellman, a farmer, and a sort of little squire, in Sussex.

This gentleman is a pet adherent—some ill-natured people call him a toady—of the Duke of Richmond; and having been lately, to the surprise of his neighbours, put into the commission of the peace for Sussex, he has been usually designated *the Duke of Richmond's magistrate.* We mention these things merely to authenticate the announcement by showing the source of the monopolist oracle's inspiration. Mr. Ellman, then, has addressed the "farmers of England," in terms so condescending that they would not have discredited the ducal patron himself, for the purpose of inducing them "to act upon due consideration, instead of being acted upon by selfish and designing persons," and in them he thus unfolds the grand secret:—

"What every one must have observed during the last few weeks must be quite sufficient to prove *that a species of panic has taken possession of the minds of many, which, if not stopped, will prove the ruin of thousands of the most industrious of farmers.* It will be my endeavour to prove that there is no cause for this alarm, and I entreat you earnestly to consider the reasons given by me for this opinion."

He then tells them that "there was never less English wheat in the hands of farmers, merchants, or millers, than at present;" that "the quantity of foreign wheat, either in bond or free, is much less at this season than it has been at the same period for some years;" and admitting that all the foreign wheat now in bond, or which may arrive within the next three weeks, when the duty will reach its maximum of 20s., may be entered for home consumption, he "will undertake to say that the quantity will be nothing like that we have had in previous years, with a much larger quantity of English wheat in hand." He then says, some of the wheat near the hedges had sprouted during the wet weather, and that "many farmers in Sussex have carried a considerable proportion of their wheat; but, with very few exceptions, although not absolutely carried in bad order, it will not be fit to thresh till after Christmas;" and then he makes a statement to which we beg the reader's attention:—

"We have seen in our markets, *even before the wheat was reaped, some farmers make forehanded bargains at 40s. per quarter.* For those (WHO ARE NOT A FEW) *who are obliged to sell in order to raise money to get in their harvest, we can feel nothing but compassion;* but for those not thus circumstanced, who are thus guilty of suicide, we can feel nothing but contempt."

And he winds up by abusing the *Morning Post* for prophesying that the price of wheat must fall to 40s. a quarter, and with a fulsome and elaborate eulogy on his patron the Duke of Richmond, for his opposition to Free Trade, which is ludicrously said, "seconded as he has been by the tenantry, *has changed entirely the policy of the country.*"

The last passage is sufficiently ridiculous to those who recollect that the only visible change in the "policy of the country" has been to change one of the Duke's younger brothers from a marching captain into a Lord of the Treasury; but the discovery that a panic is the cause of low prices, coupled with the admission of Mr. Ellman, that "not a few" farmers have been obliged to sell their wheat before it was reaped, "to raise money to get in their harvest," deserves further notice.

It is plain, upon the showing of this monopolist authority, that the stocks of old English wheat are shorter than usual at this season of the year, and that there is also less than the ordinary quantity of foreign in bond, while importation, under a duty of 20s. a quarter, is entirely out of the question. No man could now import foreign corn except at a serious loss, or at a hazard that it would be perfect insanity to incur. But mark how the farmers are to be deluded. Not a word is said about the abundance of the wheat crop as the cause of a low market price; but they are told they are sacrificing their property from panic! Yet, in the very same letter, these panic-stricken "industrious farmers" are stated to be selling some of their uncut wheat to get in their harvests.

How, farmers may ask, do the monopolists reconcile the two passages? We will tell them. Mr. Ellman is set to work to find some new delusion for the farmers, and he starts with his grand discovery of a panic; but as he proceeds he is forced to draw on his own practical knowledge and personal observation, and then the truth comes out. And what is the truth? Why, that the farmer, pressed by his necessities, having long since disposed of all his last year's produce, has no means of gathering in the abundant crop of the present season but by selling some portion of his standing corn at a price somewhat lower than the actual price in the open market, but not lower than the experience of those, who can thus aid the farmer by advances, tells them is the only safe rate at which they can speculate. Panic, indeed! The farmers who are thus rated by one of the tools of the protectionist landowners, will be best able to say whether it is panic which induces them to sell their wheat at a low price, or whether it is not their necessities which compel them to sell it for what they can get. In one sense, indeed, panic may be said to have operated upon the farmers; but that panic has been caused by the prospect of the coming rent day, land-stewards looking glum, and the shadow of the distraining bailiff looming in the distance: these form no phantoms of the farmer's imagination. With very many of the deluded victims of "protective laws," these things will too soon be sad realities; and Mr. Ellman says as much, though he endeavours to create a cloud, behind which the monopolists may escape the execration of their victims.

Let the farmers of England ponder on the fact, that the only explanation of their present distress which the protectionists have to offer is "a panic;" and let them contrast that with the distinct statement of the Free-Traders, that farmers are distressed because the market prices of their produce have fallen far below the rates which they calculated on receiving, and that this has occurred from home abundance, and notwithstanding the existence of a complete practical monopoly of the British market.

OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

The abstract of the population returns, describing the occupations of the people, so long expected and so unaccountably delayed, has just appeared, and is one of the most important documents which has ever been laid before both Houses of Parliament. It presents an array of facts and figures which convict the corn monopoly, not merely of palpable injustice, but of an impolicy that almost amounts to national insanity. While what is termed the agricultural interest has been nursed and fostered at the expense of the rest of the community, we have now indisputable evidence that the amount of employment afforded by agricultural occupations has greatly diminished in its relative proportions, and has even fallen in its absolute amount, so that the result of the boasted system of protection has been to lessen at a steadily progressive rate both the national value

and national importance of British agriculture. The proportions which the agricultural, the commercial, and the miscellaneous classes bore to each other were, in

	Agricultural.	Commercial.	Miscellaneous.
1811	35	44	21
1821	33	46	21
1831	28	42	30

while they were respectively in

1841	22	46	32

Here is conclusive proof that agriculture has not been found capable of the expansion which would enable it to provide employment for an increasing population. It is perfectly obvious that, while the natural limits of the extent of land in cultivation must restrict the numbers engaged in cultivating it, the unlimited nature of the supplies afforded of the produce of other countries must make the *extent of demand* the only measure of the number of hands that may be employed in converting the raw material into the articles required for clothing or luxury, and in disposing of them when so converted. Now, the iniquity of the corn monopoly is, that it unnaturally restricts the demand, and thus limits the power of manufactures to afford employment, while agriculture, so far from being able to afford compensating employment for that which manufactures are withheld from giving, has not only remained stationary, but has actually retrograded. In 1831 the number of occupiers of land and labourers above twenty years of age in Great Britain, was 1,251,751; and in 1841 the number was 1,215,264; showing a *diminution* of about forty thousand.

In 1831 the number of persons engaged in commerce, trade, and manufactures, 20 years of age and upwards, was 1,572, 292; and in 1841 the number was 2,039,409; showing an *increase* of more than 400,000. It must be further remembered that the year 1841 was one of severe manufacturing distress, when several large establishments were closed, and consequently that the number of persons employed in manufactures must since that time have been considerably increased.

Compared with the whole population, we find that the agricultural class forms not quite 8 per cent. of the entire, while trade and manufacture employ 16½ per cent. When we take into account that the agricultural labourers in their capacity of consumers are not less interested in obtaining cheap food than the manufacturing operatives, we find language fail us to describe adequately the perverse folly as well as the prepense crime with which the Corn Laws sacrifice the many to the few.

The actual increase per cent. of the population during the decennial period between 1831 and 1841 has been 14 per cent., while the calculated natural increase would be rather less than 10 per cent. This is perhaps to be chiefly attributed to the immigration of Scotch and Irish labourers, for the ascertained increase for Scotland and Ireland is lower than that of England. The largest increase has been in the county of Monmouth, where it amounts to 36 per cent.; and the lowest is the county of Westmorland, where the increase is little more than 2 per cent. By comparing the actual increase with the estimated natural increase some curious results are obtained, which tend to show how manufactures provide employment for the surplus of the agricultural population. The estimated natural increase of the county of Westmorland is 7 per cent., while the actual increase is only 2 per cent.; hence 5 per cent. of the natural increase must have migrated to other counties. On the other hand, the estimated natural increase of the county of Lancaster is 9 per cent., while the actual increase is 24 per cent., so that 15 per cent. of its increase is derived from immigration. The same difference between the agricultural and the manufacturing districts prevails throughout England. The agricultural counties exhibit the actual increase below the natural increase, while the manufacturing counties exhibit the very reverse. For instance, the West Riding of Yorkshire shows an increase by immigration to the amount of 5 per cent., whilst the North Riding shows a drain by emigration to the amount of 3 per cent. The counties which have sent the largest proportions of surplus population to seek employment elsewhere are Buckingham, Huntingdon, Norfolk, Oxford, Suffolk, Westmorland, and Worcester. Thus, while the agricultural counties annually export a large portion of their population to seek employment in the manufacturing districts, their representatives vote for the perpetuation of a system by which the amount of manufacturing employment is restricted within the narrowest possible limits. We are almost tempted to exclaim that these facts go beyond the wildest imaginings of fancy.

The total number of persons engaged in the textile fabrics of Great Britain, including cotton, hose, lace, wool, silk, and flax, is 800,246. They may be thus classified :—

Males above 20 years of age	..	344,121
" under 20 years of age	..	109,260
Females above 20 years of age	..	211,070
" under 20 years of age	..	135,795*

* The diminished numbers of young persons employed in manufactures have been already stated upon the authority of the Commissioners. A remark of theirs in further illustration of this will not be out of place here :—"In 1835 the number of persons under 13 years of age employed in factories upon the four staples of cotton, wool, silk, and flax, amounted to 55,455, and were reduced in 1839 to 33,566, being a reduction of 21,889, although the numbers employed of all ages had increased from 355,373 to 423,626, showing a transfer of employment from the young to the old, and that this could be done with a considerable extension instead of entailing a diminution of the business carried on." 153,172 is the number of females under 20 years of age engaged in manufactures in Great Britain.

The number of persons engaged in the manufacture of iron is nearly 30,000, and of iron-miners 11,000. The number of persons employed underground in mines amounts to 193,825, being very nearly an eighth of the number of persons employed in the cultivation of the surface. Of these, far the larger proportion, that is to say, 118,233, are returned as engaged in coal-mines.

We find that 24,774 persons are engaged in the Potteries; and there can be no doubt that this branch of British industry would be very greatly extended under a system of Free Trade. If we are inferior to the French and Saxons—which, however, is somewhat doubtful—in the manufacture of the finer kinds of porcelain, we are far superior to the rest of the world in the ordinary earthenware (*faïence*) of general use; and nothing but our preposterous policy could have prevented us from supplying the markets of the whole world with the articles of pottery which unite in themselves the luxury and the economy of ordinary life. Glass gives employment only to 7464 persons. The progress of this manufacture in England has been much checked by its being subjected to the operations of the excise.

It appears that 16,550 persons were engaged in the manufacture of engines and machines when this census was taken. Our own inquiries have shown us that this amount has been considerably increased within the last two years, and this beneficial result has been entirely produced by the operation of Free-Trade principles, permitted to work freely by the repeal of those laws which prohibited the exportation of machinery. It is impossible to overrate the importance of this branch of industry, which comprehends the most intelligent and best paid class of persons, both as masters and handicraftsmen. The general activity of trade and manufactures is essential to their prosperity, and the commercial restrictions by which both are fettered greatly impede the development of inventive intelligence, as well as the increase of physical wealth in this class of the community. The general results of the inquiry are presented to us in the following table :—

EMPLOYMENTS.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Isles on the British seas	Total.
Commerce, trade, and manufactures	2,619,206	473,581	17,589	3,110,376
Agriculture, including farmers and graziers, labourers, gardeners, nurserymen, and florists	1,261,448	229,337	8,493	1,499,278
Other labourers, miners, quarriers, porters, messengers, &c.	673,922	84,573	3,373	761,868
Navy, merchant service, watermen, &c.	95,193	24,359	2,279	121,821
Navy and merchant seamen afloat	—	—	—	96,799
Army, *half-pay*, and East India Company's service	36,763	4,631	840	42,234
Army abroad	—	—	—	89,230
Professions, clerical, legal, and medical	53,041	9,709	434	63,184
Educated persons in other pursuits....	123,878	18,099	859	142,836
Government civil service	14,088	2,777	94	16,959
Parochial and law officers, police, &c.	22,125	3,085	65	25,275
Domestic servants..	999,048	158,650	7,535	1,165,233
Returned as independent.....	445,973	58,291	7,176	511,440
Alms-people, pensioners, paupers, lunatics, and prisoners.....	176,206	21,690	1,173	199,069
Ditto, afloat.....	—	—	—	957
Residue of population	9,390,866	1,531,402	74,130	10,996,398
Afloat.....	—	—	—	1,467
Total of population, including army and navy abroad and afloat.....	15,911,757	2,620,184	124,040	18,844,434

This table gives us the occupations and pursuits of 7,846,500 persons actively employed in Britain, and the report thus accounts for the remainder :—

"The 'Residue' of the population whose occupations are entirely accounted for amounts to 10,997,865, which would at first appear to be a large proportion. It must, however, be remembered, that this comprehends both sexes and all ages; and it will be found, upon examination, that of this number only 2½ per cent. are males above 20 years of age. The males under 20, and the females above and under 20, make up respectively about 31, 32, and 33 per cent. of the remainder. For the large number under 20 of each sex, without any occupation, it is obviously easy to account, comprehending, as it does, infants and children of tender age. The number of women above 20 years of age, without any occupation, returned, consists generally of unmarried women living with their parents, and of the wives of professional men or shopkeepers living upon their earnings, but not considered as carrying on the occupations of their husbands. The small number of males above 20 years of age who have been returned by the enumerators as not pursuing any occupations (nor as being persons of independent means, nor as paupers), amounting to 272,732, in a population of 18,655,091 souls (a proportion of [illegible] per cent.), may be supposed to consist of sons who continue to reside with their parents, and perhaps to assist in their business, without being returned as carrying on the same trades, of husbands supported by the money and industry of their wives, and of persons temporarily out of employment."

Some of the results presented to notice by the report are a little whimsical, and these have been grouped together with some cleverness by the *Morning Post*. We shall quote a passage from our fashionable contemporary, which may serve to enliven the dryness of statistical discussion :—

"In the census returns of occupations recently presented to Parliament we find some rather curious matter relating to the occupations of ladies, which we must say, in spite of being accused of want of gallantry, afforded us much amusement. The first thing which struck us was the number of ladies who confess to being above 20; certainly in this respect there is a degree of candour displayed, which goes far to belie the old saying that a lady never tells her age. To be sure, the manner of registering ages is somewhat indefinite, being '20 and upwards,' and 'under 20,' and it is quite possible that many fairs of a certain age may, while entering their 'dates' upon the census book, have been honest under the idea that no one would take them to be above 20. It is satisfactory, however, to know that the entries in this blue book of ages above 20 are greater than those under that amount. The ladies, therefore, have always a Parliamentary return to refer to in proof of their honesty in this respect.

"Passing, however, from ages, we find fifteen ladies entered as 'authors,' and one as a 'professor of the belles lettres.' Of actresses, we have 357 females above twenty; but whether these are excluded from the performance of boarding-school misses is not related. Eighty-nine actresses are stated to be under twenty, including, we suppose, infant Sapphos, and other very juvenile performers. Of curiosity dealers, the total return is forty-six, only six being of the fair sex, a disproportion we by no means understand, but probably the latter would have mustered stronger as curiosity seekers. This disproportion, however, is amply redeemed by the statement that there are 584 females connected with the Post-office; if properly employed, we should think they are all in the secret department, under the command of the Home Secretary. Four ladies are engaged as bayonet manufacturers, 13 confess to having souls not above buttons, and 86 shoe horses or doctor them, which is not very material. Then, again, we have two registered as couriers, whether using side saddles or wearing the breeches is unaccountably omitted. One hundred and thirty-one are entered as chimney-sweepers; fair in sex, but alas, for the complexion! Of botanists, we have in all 65, two of them being ladies, who, while practising this agreeable science, must not mind wet ancles nor an occasional drenching while tramping over '*bog*, brake, and scaur.' The Scotch, too, profess to have 13 female drovers following their cattle to the Southron's market. Eighty females are entered as match makers—lucifers, not matrimonial, we presume, and therefore exclusive of prudent mammas. Under the head 'newspaper editor, proprietor, and reporter,' we find 520; only four, however, are mentioned as females above 20, which is obviously a mistake, the establishment of the *Herald*, to our certain knowledge, being of greater extent, and every one in it considerably above that age."

Turning from this trifling to more serious matters, we have to regret that the report does not afford sufficient data for absolutely determining the sanitary condition of the various occupations. The rate of mortality appears, indeed, to be the highest in the manufacturing districts, but, as we have already stated, these are the districts into which there is the greatest amount of immigration; and all former statistical inquiries have taught us that the tables both of mortality and crime are greatly swelled by strangers in those districts into which a large tide of immigration has been turned. On the subject of immigration we cannot do better than quote from a very able abstract of the report which has appeared in the *Times* :—

"The question of immigration has become a serious question; and one which solicits the attention of all who take an interest in the condition of the English labourer, affecting as it already does, and that materially, in many parts of the country, his wages and habits of living. In Cumberland, in 1841, for every 10,000 inhabitants there were 356 persons born in Scotland, and 274 born in Ireland. In Lancashire there were 130 Scotch, and 636 Irish, for the same number of inhabitants—that is to say, one-thirteenth part of the actual population of Lancashire is made up of Irish and Scotch; and nearly one-sixteenth of that of Cumberland. Many other counties exhibit large proportions of immigrants from the sister kingdoms, though none so large as these. No county is free from a considerable proportion; Suffolk and Norfolk, which have fewest, show 33 for every 10,000 inhabitants. Throughout England and Wales the average is 31 for every 10,000, or 31 for every 1250—that is, [illegible] more than one-fortieth part of the whole population is composed of strangers. In fact, there seems good ground for thinking that the amount of this immigration into England considerably exceeds the amount of emigration from England to the colonies, so that it forms a [illegible] permanent addition to the already superabundant population of this country."

We differ on one point from our able contemporary: there is no superabundant population [illegible] country; under a sound system of [illegible] commerce England could find ample [illegible] and, consequently, more than ample [illegible] the present number of its [illegible]

from the abstract in the *Times* some of the miscellaneous heads which appear most interesting:—

"Clergymen (we presume of the Church of England) are returned for England at 15,574; commercial clerks (one of the largest descriptions) for Great Britain, 56,830; chiropodists, 58; dressmakers and milliners, 106,801, of whom 22,174 are females, and 127 males, respectively under 20 years of age; East India Company's service, 591; farmers and graziers, 300,123; Government civil service, 16,750; agricultural labourers, 1,127,108, of whom 14,295 are females under 20; army, 33,057, of whom 6976 are soldiers under 20. There are only seven persons returning themselves as oculists in all Great Britain. The physicians amount to 1476; printers, 16,318, of whom 183 are females; surgeons, apothecaries, and medical students together, 18,658; so that the whole body of the medical profession in Great Britain, including students, comprises only 20,134 persons. The teachers of music and singing are 3285, being more than double the number of all the other teachers enumerated put together.

"In the metropolis, over 9 per cent. of the whole population are domestic servants, and over 4 per cent. persons of independent means. Somewhat more than 1 per cent. is the proportion of the class 'alms-people, pensioners, paupers, lunatics, and prisoners;' about the same is the proportion of those returned under the heads of 'army and navy' taken together."

The increase in the number of capitalists, bankers, professional and other educated men, 20 years of age and upwards, during the ten years ending in 1841, has been 69,012; and this large rate of increase is a convincing proof that the prosperity of the intelligent and educated classes is dependent upon that of trade and commerce, for, as we have already seen, the agricultural population during that decennial period has absolutely retrograded.

With such a document before the nation, we are unable to understand by what process any public man will henceforth be enabled so to harden himself as to appear an advocate of that most odious and most wicked monopoly the Corn Laws. He must have the hardihood to assert that it is more important to support 8 per cent. than 16 per cent. of the population; that a branch of industry which is not merely stationary, but retrograde, is more valuable to a nation than those branches which are capable of limitless expansion, and he must wind up with declaring that he is determined to support a system which unites the most obvious impolicy with the most monstrous injustice.

PROPRIETARY AGGRANDISEMENT.

"Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

We fully admit that the literal meaning of the above oft-quoted lines implies a contradiction in terms, for when wealth, in another word, capital, accumulates in a country it is impossible that any considerable portion of its inhabitants can "decay," unless they are slaves, or can by some contrivance be induced or compelled to labour to increase wealth without themselves obtaining any share of that increase. That such a contrivance exists and is in full operation in this country we shall show. There are circumstances in the condition of two important classes of the community which strike the most careless observer; these classes are the landowners and the peasants. The former have, during the last century, become aggrandised, have secured an increase of wealth, comfort, and the means of enjoyment to an extent which has no parallel in the world's history; while the latter have not merely stood still, they have retrograded. These facts are notorious; and they have now attracted the attention of the leaders of the great political parties of the state. Thus in a speech made by Lord John Russell, at the close of the late session, on "the state of the nation," the most important parts of which we have reprinted elsewhere, he said, "If we compare the condition of this country with what it was a century ago, it is impossible not to see that while the higher classes have advanced in luxury beyond measure, if we look at the men who either till the soil or labour in the factories, if we look to the quantity of necessaries which their wages would buy in the middle of the last century, and that which they buy now, I think we must be convinced *that they have not participated, in an equal degree, in the advantages which civilization and improved knowledge have conferred upon us.*"

This is true, but it is not all the truth, as not merely have "those who till the soil" not participated "in an equal degree" with the wealthier classes in the advantages of increased wealth, for they have had no participation in such advantages. The labourer in husbandry is not only relatively, as compared with other classes, worse off than his forefathers of 1740, but he is actually in a worse condition. He has less food, he is worse clothed, he has an inferior and less decent dwelling, and his employment is far more precarious and uncertain than that of the farm-labourer in the first half of the eighteenth century. But his deterioration is of more recent occurrence, commencing, in fact, with the period 1792, from which the landowners date the greatest improvement in *their* condition. And the explanation of this is simple and obvious. Down to 1815 the exorbitant prices of provisions, *by which the landowners profited greatly*, sent the tiller of the soil back in condition, while the owner of the soil was swelling from a petty squire or country gentleman into a landed aristocrat minor or major. Since that time the struggles of the Legislature to enhance rents by means of an artificial scarcity, and the consequent fluctuations in prices, and the alternations of agricultural distress and fitful high prices, have prevented the development of rural industry and the application of capital to the cultivation of land in anything like the degree the abundance of unemployed capital and the state of agricultural knowledge would, but for the Corn Laws, have induced. This has vastly injured the condition of the farm-labourer. The labour fund of even that capital which is employed in farming has often gone for years together to make up rents, while the labourers were left destitute, or depended helplessly on alms from the poor's rate. We shall be glad next session to see a committee to inquire into the state of the country, for, if it be conducted with anything of fairness and purpose, it will be most obvious that the "protection" which both the great parties of the state seem desirous to maintain is the chief obstacle to any permanent improvement in the condition of the labouring classes. To a vast and immediate improvement of agriculture and landed property it is decidedly the only bar; and nothing can mark more strongly the line which divides the two aristocratic parties from the nation than the fact that people are for Free Trade—universal Free Trade,—while the party leaders agree in the principle of maintaining an artificial scarcity, but differ about straws as to the mode. There are signs, however, abroad which show this cannot last long; and it is not impossible that the rival political leaders are only trying which shall outflank the other, and, without being upset by the squires, take up his position on the safe ground of commercial freedom.

AMERICAN PROVISIONS.

We have been favoured with a private view of the American provisions imported by Messrs. Keeling and Hunt, previous to their sale by public auction on Wednesday last. The cured hams, pork, beef, ox-tongues, and sausages were of the very first quality; and we believe that, after paying the duty and allowing a fair profit to the retailer, they will come into the market at a price of from one-third to one-fourth less than similar articles of English produce. This new trade is one of great importance to the shipping interest. The increasing expense and difficulty in victualling vessels in English ports gave foreigners a decided advantage over English shipowners, and, but for the relaxations of the tariff, must have ruined our trade altogether; these relaxations have checked, but not entirely remedied the evil; nothing but Free Trade can secure the prosperity of the shipping interest. We had proof given us, while inspecting Messrs. Keeling and Hunt's stores, that the importation of American beef and pork will in no way interfere with domestic production. A gentleman was present who had been largely engaged in the Irish provision trade; he informed us that, though the Irish trade in salted provisions had greatly declined, a more lucrative and extensive traffic in live cattle had sprung up in its stead, which, while it amply remunerated the cattle-feeders, brought the luxury of fresh meat within the reach of many of the labouring classes previously debarred from its use. Messrs. Keeling and Hunt deserve well of their countrymen for the spirit and enterprise which they have shown in opening this new branch of trade. If, according to Dr. Johnson, a man is to be deemed a national benefactor who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, much more is he a benefactor who places within the reach of consumers two carcasses of the animals to be fed on that grass where only one was previously attainable.

THE METROPOLITAN PARLIAMENTARY REVISIONS.—We understand that Mr. T. J. Arnold has been appointed by Lord Denman the revising barrister of the lists of electors for the city of London, and has appointed to hold his first court in the Court of Common Pleas, Guildhall, on Monday, the 16th inst. The proceedings of the first day's sitting will be occupied in receiving from the Secondaries the lists of the livery, and from the overseers the lists of the £10 householders. After this formal proceeding the discussion of the different claims and objections will be proceeded with in the order which, at its earliest sitting, will, no doubt, be appointed by the court. —*Times.*

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.—It is a narrow and distorted view of human affairs to talk of commercial relations as the appanage of any peculiar nation; for, if the ships and manufactures of England are seen in all the markets of the world, it is because in all those markets England is either the best customer, or affords the most convenient means of exchange. To make war on commerce is to make war, not on England, but on the human race; it is to raise armed barriers, not against the speculations of a single people, but against the necessary interchange of the produce of the world and of mankind; and, if such a system of warfare could be successfully prosecuted (which it fortunately cannot), the inevitable consequence would be the relapse of all nations into that state of barbarism from which the extent of their commercial relations with each other has slowly awakened them. Alas! that so much of this barbarism should still prevail in the 19th century that men reason on these matters as if commerce was not essentially twofold in its qualities and effects, and as if its increase or destruction were not matters of universal rather than of national interest.—*British and Foreign Review.*

DESCRIPTIONS OF REMARKABLE FARMS.

BY ADAM BROWN.

No. I.—*Near Chelmsford, in Essex.*

A journey of a few minutes less than an hour into Essex, by the railway from London, will bring you to a station, where, if you are curious about remarkable farms and farmers, you may leave the train.

Having got out and given your ticket to the officer, go down the winding stair. At the bottom of it you will find yourself beneath one of several archways, each raised upon many pillars, bearing aloft the level railway upon which runs the train you have just left. It is now on its way to Colchester, and you are at Chelmsford.

Looking through the pillars you will see passengers going to and fro, and carriages, carts, and waggons also. Before you have emerged into the full glare of daylight, you will observe the end of a new row of brick-built houses, and on the end of the house nearest you, on a painted sign-board, the words, "Office of the Essex Society for Protection to Agriculture."

Should you turn to the right, and proceed to the north and north-west, you will pass many pretty little houses with floral adornments around them; and you will come to a park of fine old trees and meadow grass, through which, to the left, there is a footpath.

Enter, and proceed by this footpath. You will in ten minutes reach a small river, over which you will cross by a wooden bridge. You will then proceed by the brink of this river for about fifteen or twenty minutes, if you do not delay. But if you linger and examine the farm land on your left, and the fences that enclose it, and the gaps in the fences, and the weeds in the fields, and all the signs of dilapidation, including the washing away of the road on which you walk by the river,—not a rolling, spoliating, reckless river, but a deep, slow, lazy river, which, even in doing mischief, does it in such a lazy style that you are forced to believe that the road is gnawed away by the tooth of time, and not by the floods of one year, —if you linger to examine such things as these you may, likely enough, take another half hour.

And indeed, if you do, it will not be the worst-spent half hour of your life. You will see that the river has not done its little bits of mischief in recent floods; no, nor in the floods of recent years. You will, on more intimate acquaintance with it, find it is an old-fashioned river that does not like to be put out of its old way, and which never has been interfered with; for on its banks are those who, not liking to be stirred up, or turned aside themselves, not even for their own good, are averse to troubling even the old river by leading it in a new and more profitable and becoming course.

Therefore, on they go; the water in its course, and the dwellers on its bank in their courses, as the streams of water and the generations of men did even in the days of the Kings of the East Saxons.

But, having arrived at that junction of roads where the river is to be parted from, you may with propriety come to a dead halt. Stand still; think for a while. Here is a tollbar, there is a village. Behind you is a farmhouse, yard, stable, barns, sheds, cornstacks, haystacks, carts, waggons, wheels without waggons, one wheel without its fellow, its fellow lying a hundred yards off without its ring; its ring keeping company with a piece of a plough, and a piece of a plough lying in the most likely place on all the farm to break a horse's or a cow's legs. Fragments of implements, and implements separated from their companion implements, present themselves to you in wondrous confusion.

You may think it worth while to look round the whole farm-steading and farm fields after this. It *is* worth while. I will go with you; I will show you. Look here! A horsepond and a ditch full of water. "Is the water all of that black colour in Essex?" you will ask me. "No; it is not; you saw the river; the river was only earthy coloured because of the rain." "Why, then, is the horsepond and this ditch full of black water? and that other ditch as well? and this hole down in the field where the cattle are drinking? Do the horses drink that black water in the pond? Why, it has a stench. Ah! how nasty it is!"

Nasty; yes, it has cause to stink and be nasty. It contains the urine of the cattle and the washings of the farmyard dung. You wonder how anybody can give horses and cattle such water to drink; but it is an old custom to do so, and it would incur trouble and expense to drain the liquids of the yard somewhere else. You are surprised that the horses should drink this water. Rest assured the horses would choose good water as readily as any human being would; perhaps more so, for their tastes are not vitiated by strong drinks from choice, they only drink polluted water from necessity.

You are surprised that a farmer, for his own profit, does not provide his horses and cattle with pure water. But you may be still more surprised that the very pollution which poisons this water consists of substances which make poor soils rich, and rich soils richer still; consists of substances which are here utterly wasted, and for the draining of which into speedy and utter waste those ditches are made; consists of substances thus wasted at the very threshold of the farmer's house, though precious as the guano of Ichaboe, carried to this country by five hundred ships, over latitudes of ocean measuring thousands of miles.

But, proceed over the farm. We have little difficulty in getting through, so far as gaps can serve us; but those undrained bogs, and broad ditches choked with weedy foulness, let us be careful how we traverse them, lest we sink. And mind the briers that fill up the wide distance between the old stumpy hedgerows—distances that would produce ten bushels of wheat on each four hundred yards lengthways; that is to say, if by any possibility one could ever hope to see wheat sown on so rich a soil as this.

You are surprised. See you not that wheat is not cultivated here. See you not that, where there was once cultivated land, as we may see by those ridges, there is now grass, and that grass is giving way to rushes and thistles, docks and weedy wastefulness. True, this is good land, the best land in Essex for wheat; but if you went over all Essex, and all England, you would not see wheat so little cared for as here.

Now, we come to another farm-steading, belonging to the same farmer, and again we see the liquids of the farm-

yard running to waste; again we see the solids laid out to dry in the sun, as if it were good that the ammonia should go into the air rather than into the earth.

You ask why it is that one farmer should hold so much land, and make such a poor use of it. I will tell you. He holds so much land because he is rich, and can be depended on for the rent better than a poorer tenant can be depended on. He is rich while many other farmers are poor; and he is so because they *are* poor. His work is not that of toiling at the farm to enable him to pay his rent; it is the "selling up" of other farmers who cannot pay their rents. His desire is not to get a good system of leases introduced, that he and his neighbours may expend capital on their land, and cultivate well. His desire is, that the present uncertain system of tenure may continue. He thrives by it. He is a land-valuer; and each tenant-at-will, moving from farm to farm, year after year, has his stock, and farm, and implements valued; and he pays the valuer at the rate of six guineas a day and his travelling expenses.

Did you not read those papers on the walls? Observed you not that sales of growing crops, sales of farm implements, sales of work horses, sales of household furniture, sales of brewing utensils, and several other sales of farm property, are advertised in at least seven different large bills, in large letters, posted on every side of the highway, and at the arches of the railway, the sales to take place this week, next week, and the next again; one five miles east, several of them six, and ten, and fifteen miles west; others north, and three out of the seven with *no auction duty to pay?*

Have you to be told that "no auction duty" means by warrant of the sheriff? that "warrant of the sheriff" means a broken farmer being sold off, and that "broken farmers," when sold off to pay their rents, contribute also to the income of an auctioneer? And who is the auctioneer? Why, the farmer on whose farm we now stand. And who is he? No other than the secretary to the "Essex Society for the Protection of Agriculture," Mr. Robert Baker, of Writtle.

You may stare with surprise that this eminent farmer, as you would suppose him to be, who has got a prize of £50 from the Royal Agricultural Society, for the best essay on Essex agriculture, and who keeps upwards of one thousand acres of the best Essex land in that deplorable condition in which you see it, should be such a very bad practical farmer. But so he is.

Were he a grocer, and kept his tea and his coffee in one canister, and his sugar in such a place that he could not weigh an ounce of pepper without letting sugar and pepper mingle together; were the coffee, "when newly roasted and ground," put out to the door in an open tray to allow its flavour to escape into the air, instead of the flavour being preserved to bring back the customers at another time; were streams of water allowed to run through the sugar hogshead and carry the liquid into the cellar to mingle with the liquors there; were he to neglect to have the counter repaired when a panel was broken in its front; were he to have beam and scales tumbled over on the floor and covered with verdigris, and the tea-chests standing where each person who assisted in the shop must either step into them or risk breaking a leg by leaping over them; were he to have his whole shop and stock in such confusion, while he was away from it all the year over five days out of six, who would believe that he was a good grocer, even though he might publish pamphlets on the grocery trade, and argue that all the villagers of Writtle should be constrained to buy just such articles at his own prices at his own shop as he had to sell? Would he not be called a very bad grocer? And is it not beyond all question that competition with another grocer would have at least two good effects?—that, while it gave the villagers of Writtle a better supply of sugar, and coffee, and tea, and spices at a moderate price, it would cause him to mind his own shop and improve his own business.

What is here supposed of a grocer, Mr. Baker, of the "Society for *Protection* to Agriculture," is, as a farmer. He may be a very respectable, moral man; that I know nothing of, nor is it my province to inquire; but, as an agriculturist, he is one of the most eminent slovens that ever came into distinction.

No. II.—*Near Kelvedon, in Essex.*

But let us return to the railway. We may take another road back to it. We shall enter Chelmsford at a part where several streets, crescents, and "places" or "rows," are in process of being built. We can hardly help remarking them. Are they to be inhabited and paid for by protected agriculture? or are they reared for persons who are still in, or have come out of unprotected trade? They are the last. London—commercial, competing, intensely competitive London—sends her tradespeople down to Chelmsford now that the rail is so convenient; and there they take lodgings and buy butter, and milk, and vegetables, and poultry, and eggs, and beef, and bread, *protecting*, while they do so, Mr. Baker and others of his neighbours from having to eat all those things themselves. We are again on the rail, faces eastward, and dashing along fast as the wind that comes with us from the west. So much for the enterprise of traders and the strength of commerce. This railway was made to facilitate the transit of agricultural produce, not by the growers but by the purchasers of that produce; and yet the growers want to be protected from those purchasers, one-third of whom would treble the amount of what they now consume, and one-half of whom would add a third to what they now consume, even though they got nothing more than barely three meals a day, if they could afford to pay the price. Mr. Robert Baker limits the supply to them, and he also advocates the perpetuation of their limited ability to buy. That vast community of London—who eat the produce of almost every blade of grass and ear of corn grown in Essex, and who depend on the commerce of their city for employment, and for the means of paying for every blade of grass and ear of corn, and who have neither enough of work to do, nor money to pay—Mr. Baker speaks to thus—if not in actual words he does so in effect:—

"You are the persons who pay for blades of grass and ears of corn. I am the person who sells blades of grass and ears of corn. You say you want more than I have to give you; and you tell me you would buy still more if you were allowed to add a little to your ability by going elsewhere. That may be, but you are not allowed to go elsewhere; and so long as I can prevent it you never shall. What, although you taunt me with not cultivating my land well, and growing as much upon it as I might do, I defy you to interfere with me, and make me do otherwise than I am doing."

But we have arrived at another station, at the distance of another twenty miles from London—forty miles in all. This is Kelvedon. We here hire a gig, and drive five miles north, to a farm called Tiptree-hall.

Here we find a farmyard, farmhouse, barns, stables, sheds, and everything very complete and compact. We find every fence running square and parallel, and all clear and useful as fences should be. We find the soil to be very inferior compared with Mr. Baker's farm. Yet we find that while Mr. Baker has been allowing his soil of best quality to run out of cultivation into grass, allowing even his grass to run into rushes and marshy bogs, this cultivator has been bringing his poor soil into the highest state of cultivation. He has one hundred and thirty acres, for which, just about the time that the Anti-Corn-Law-League became a giant, he paid £3250. He is not one of the League; but he is a believer in the virtue of agricultural enterprise in preference to agricultural protection; and so far is he from supposing that Free Trade would injure the English farmers—and so far from having listened to the forebodings of the alarmists, who are led on by Mr. Baker to cry, "Land must go out of cultivation if Free Trade is carried"—that he has since January, 1843, expended in hard cash the sum of £6200 in improving his farm; every penny of which, he is sure, Free Trade or no Free Trade, will be repaid him with a good profit. While Mr. Baker has been laying the League prostrate and slaying it, and receiving the great token of the age, "a piece of plate," for having upset, and destroyed, and utterly annihilated the League—for so the inscription on the silver sets forth his services—this farmer has been quietly cultivating his land, and employing at least twenty times more labourers than ever Mr. Baker employed on the same number of acres. He has thus stated, in letters to a local newspaper, the nature of his improvements:—"1st. The perfect and permanent drainage of the land with stones and pipes, 4 yards apart, and 32 inches deep—between 80 and 90 miles of drains.—2nd. To the entire removal of all timber trees, which cannot be profitably grown in corn fields.—3rd. To the removing all old, crooked, and unnecessary banks, fences, and ditches.—4th. The cutting new parallel ditches and fences, so as to avoid short lands.—5th. The enclosure of waste, and conversion of useless bog into good soil.—6th. The economizing time and distance by new roads, arches, and more direct communications with the extremities of the farm.—7th. The erection of well-arranged farm buildings, built of brick, iron, and slate, in a continuous range, excluding all cold winds and currents of air, but open to sunny warmth.—8th. The building a substantial and genteel residence, with all due requisites for domestic comfort and economy.—9th. The erection of an efficient threshing machine, and needful apparatus for shaking the straw, dressing the corn, cutting chaff, bruising oats, &c., so constructed as not to injure the straw; avoiding by its perfect action, that immense waste of grain visible in almost every truss of straw we examine.—10th. The avoidance of thatching and risk of weather, by ample barn room, with convenience for in-door horse labour at threshing, &c., when not employable without, so as to have no idle days for man or beast.—11th. The saving of every pound and pint of manure by a tank (90 feet long, 6 feet deep, 8 feet wide, with slated roof facing the north, and with well and pump), into which is received the whole drainage from the farmyard and stables.—12th. The conveyance by iron gutters and pipes of every drop of water from the roofs of each building, so as in no manner to dilute the manure in yards.—13th. The perfect drainage of the foundations of the barn, and every building on the farm.—14th. A steam-house to prepare food for cattle." He says he is thus particular to state his alterations, because—"It is from *each* of the above branches of expenditure that some portion of remuneration is expected."

And again he says—"During the progress of my undertaking I have been warned, entreated, and dissuaded by my farming friends, who protested that a profitable return for such an enormous expenditure was impossible. *My calculations, however, were made, and mere assertions without facts and figures weighed nothing with me.*"

This is businesslike in a farmer. And it may now be worth while to inquire who this farmer is. It is not a new thing to find that a man who has been bred in trade makes the best farmer. This is another instance of it. This agricultural reformer of Tiptree-hall, in Essex, is a tradesman from Leadenhall-street, in the city of London; no other than Mr. Mechi, of the magic razor-strop.

The tenant who occupied Tiptree before Mr. Mechi bought the land is still upon it. I shall hereafter mention some particulars of their bargain. He looked with amazement and dread at Mr. Mechi's first proceedings; but he is long since convinced that they are sound, practicable, and profitable.

Mr. Mechi says, after stating the benefit to the crops:—"In a moral and social point of view, these improvements have acted beneficially. *They have excited the energies of the tenant and his labourers, stimulating them to think, compare, and improve.* They have awakened the curiosity of the neighbouring farmers, who are watching the result, and already have they caused many undertakings in drainage, which otherwise would not have been thought of." He adds:—"Had I invested my money in the funds, there would have been an end of the matter; but now I have the satisfaction of having fulfilled a public duty (without injury to myself), by calling into action, temporarily and permanently, a considerable amount of labour. I conceive *that* the highest order of charity, which, by providing employment to the willing labourer, confers a favour unseen, and leaves uncompromised (his most valuable privilege) his self-dependence."

Mr. Mechi says he may be asked, what can a Londoner know about farming? If so, he is prepared to answer that he has been always fond of the country, and has been a close observer of the condition of agriculture. "I have seen," he says, "one farmer making a fortune, and his next neighbour losing one: I have seen one field all corn, and another nearly all weeds."

And, concluding for the present, so say I. It is the weedy field and weedy farm whose occupier calls most lustily for *protection*. But Mr. Mechi is one of those who know how to make agriculture protect itself.

AN INQUIRY INTO THE EFFECTS OF ENGLISH LEGISLATION UPON AGRICULTURAL WAGES, PROFITS, AND RENT.

By a Barrister.

(Continued from page 789.)

Chapter V.

Fifth Period—From the Passing of the Corn Law of 1791, to the Passing of the Corn Law of 1815.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century, a succession of unfavourable seasons, the Corn Law of 1791, and other causes, tended to produce a state of things, as regarded the agricultural labourers, very similar to what was produced towards the close of the sixteenth century by the depreciation in the value of money, and the forcible keeping down of wages by act of Parliament.

The transition from the old range of prices took place in the twelve months between Michaelmas, 1794, and Michaelmas, 1795. The price of the Winchester quarter of wheat, according to the Eton College accounts,* was 45s. 0½d. at Michaelmas, 1793; 52s. at Lady-day, 1794; 56s. at Michaelmas, 1794; 71s. at Lady-day, 1795; 92s. at Michaelmas, 1795; 96s. at Lady-day, 1796; having thus, by an uninterrupted ascent, more than doubled its height in the course of two years, while it still continued to rise. It also appears that the prices of all necessaries continued to rise about the same time, with the exception of those manufactured articles, the cost of which was materially diminished by the application of steam power, and by the great improvements that had been made in the cotton and other manufactures. Thus it is shown by the account of the contract prices of various articles supplied to Greenwich Hospital that butcher's meat, which in 1770 was purchased for 108s. 6d. per cwt., in 1775 for 113s. 5d., and in 1785 for 117s. 6½d., cost 202s. 10d. in 1795, and 304s. 4d. in 1800. Coals were 34s. 2½d. per chaldron in 1785, 39s. 9d. in 1795, 51s. 7d. in 1830; shoes were 4s. in 1770, 3s. 6d. in 1785, 4s. in 1795, 5s. 8d. in 1800.†

If the doctrine of those who assert broadly that wages depend on the price of food be correct, wages should have risen to meet this rise in the price of the necessaries of life. The Poor Law Commissioners of Inquiry, in their Report of 1834, assert that, "if things had been left to take their course, the consequences in England would have been what they were in Scotland, and what they were with us in those occupations which, from their requiring skill, raise the workman above the region of parish relief. Wages would have risen to meet the depreciation of money, and the labourer would have earned the same, or nearly the same amount of raw produce, and a larger amount of manufactured commodities."‡

It would be a somewhat difficult matter to demonstrate that in Scotland wages rose in proportion to the rise in the price of the labourer's necessaries. And in England, in "those occupations which, from their requiring skill, raise the workmen above the region of parish relief," it is notorious that the rise in wages was very far from equal to the rise in the prices of necessaries. "There was a rise," says Mr. Tooke, "in artisan and manufacturing labour, between 1792 and 1801; but in a small proportion only to the rise in the prices of necessaries. Various statements were put forth by different classes of artisans, setting forth the inadequateness of the rise of wages, including the most recent advance in 1801. Among other statements was one from the journeymen tailors, by which it appeared that their wages, from 1777 to 1795, had been £1 1s. 9d. per week, which, at the price of 7¼d. for the quartern loaf, would purchase thirty-six loaves; while the utmost advance of wages, which in 1795 was to 25s., and in 1801 to 27s. per week would purchase only eighteen loaves and a half in the latter year. A statement from printers' compositors, whose weekly wages were advanced from 24s. to 27s. in 1795, and to 30s. in 1801, gives a similar result in the disproportion of the advance of wages to the rise of necessaries—[the rise in wages being 25 per cent., that in bread above 140 per cent.].

"By the Greenwich Hospital table, the wages of carpenters, bricklayers, masons, and plumbers, appear to have experienced very little advance, according to the quotations of 1800, as compared with the twenty years preceding, viz.:—

		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.	
Carpenters ..	from	2 6	and	2 8	to	3 2	per day
Bricklayers ..	„	2 4			„	3 0	„
Masons.. ..	„	2 8			„	2 10	„
Plumbers ..	„	3 0			„	3 3§	„

If it be true that when the prices of the labourer's necessaries rise, wages will rise to meet them, the converse should also be true, that when those prices fall, wages will fall in proportion. On this ground it is asserted by some at present that the labourer will gain nothing by a fall in the price of food, because the price of labour will fall in the same proportion. About seventy years ago Arthur Young, whose object was the same as that of those who now make the above assertion, not only asserted, but produced in support of his assertion a large collection of evidence, that the price of labour had nothing whatever to do with the price of food. He showed that not only were wages not the highest where

* See the tables given in Tooke's "Hist. of Prices," vol. ii., p. 387.

† Parliamentary Papers cited in M'Culloch's "Dictionary of Commerce," pp. 952. 953.

‡ Report, p. 121., 8vo. edition.

§ "History of Prices," vol. i. p. 226, note.

provisions were dearest, but that in very many instances the converse was the fact.* Now, Arthur Young was, as a practical agriculturist, and therefore interested, he supposed, in a high price of food, writing against the notion then prevalent, he says, among some of the ablest writers on political economy in England, France, and Holland, that provisions must be kept low, in order that the rates of labour might be the same. His object being to *make* the price of food high, he set about proving that wages would not necessarily rise in proportion. The object of his successors being to *keep* the price of food high, they assert, they do not attempt to prove, the contrary of Arthur Young's proposition, viz., that wages must fall in proportion to the fall in the price of food: consequently, that the labourer would derive no benefit from the fall of the price of food.

The farmer's friend of 1770 has himself answered the objection urged against lowering the prices of provisions, on the ground that the manufacturers only want to lower them that they may lower wages in proportion. "It is the manufacturing interest in this kingdom," says Arthur Young, "that has usually complained of the rates of provisions raising the price of their labour; or perhaps more the sentiments of various writers than of persons really concerned in our fabrics. But their complaints are certainly groundless: some of our manufactures have sunk, and others have risen. Has the former been the effect of dearness of provisions, or the latter of cheapness? Manufactures have declined in Suffolk, and flourished in Yorkshire and Somersetshire, and all the west; but Suffolk, of all those, is the cheapest. They decline in Suffolk, and rise in Norfolk, though provisions be the same in both. And let it be remembered, that while provisions are at a regular price, labour is irregular; great orders for goods, from abroad, raise the prices much, though provisions remain exactly the same. All these circumstances would be different, if there were arbitrary laws of police to force men to work at rates decided by variations in the price of provisions."†

At the same time it must be observed, that the very high price of bread in 1801 was only temporary, and that the rise of the wages of skilled labour maintained itself after bread fell in price, and consequently came nearer a just proportion to the rise in the price of necessaries. And something of the same sort would have taken place in the case of agricultural labour, if things had been left to take their own course. But things were not left to take their own course.

There being no question as to the fact that all kinds of agricultural produce greatly increased in price at that time, it is important to show the actual increase in the money wages of agricultural labourers which then took place, whence it will be evident that Arthur Young's statement, "that the price of labour had nothing to do with the price of food," was perfectly correct, and that the labourers were reduced to starvation,—so contrary to truth is it that high prices are beneficial to the labourers.

In Hertfordshire, in 1783, a day labourer received by the week 8s.; by the day from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. In 1796, day labourers received by the day 1s. 6d.‡

"In the neighbourhood of Gloucester, labour by the piece, 1s. 6d. the day; common day labour, 1s., and liquor; and generally two meals a week. Bread and water almost the only diet of labourers' wives and children. Butter, from 10d. to 16d. the lb.; little milk to be had, owing to the great demand for veal. Bacon (alive) 10s. the score. Wheat, which in 1789 was on an average about 6s. 6d. the bushel, is now 12s. Cheese, 40s. the cwt.; labourers' shoes, 7s. 6d. the pair. In the neighbourhood of Bristol, common wages, thirty years ago, were 6s. the week; they are now 9s."§

"A few miles to the north of Northampton, common wages in 1792, and 1793, were 1s. 2d.; in 1794, 1s. 4d.; and are now 1s. 6d. the day, besides a meal and small-beer."||

It appears from a table published in the Appendix (A, Part ii., p. 75 *a*) to the Report of the Poor Law Commissioners of Inquiry, in 1834, that between 1792 and 1795 wages rose in Warwickshire from 1s. a day to 1s. 2d., the price of wheat having risen there in the same time from 5s. 4½d. to 8s. 10½d. per Winchester bushel; that wages continued at that rate of 1s. 2d. till 1803, the price of wheat per Winchester bushel having been in the same district 13s. 1½d. in 1800, and 15s. in 1801.

The result of all this was, that the price of bread had nearly doubled, and all other necessaries, with the exception of some manufactured articles of clothing, had very greatly risen in price. The increase in the expense of subsistence to the poor man cannot be estimated at less than 50 per cent.,—we should rather say at less than 75 per cent.: in other words, his 3s. 6d. in 1796 or 1800 would not go farther than his 2s. would have gone in 1785, or even in 1790. In order, therefore, that the condition of the agricultural labourer should be as good after this rise in the price of food as it was before, wages must have risen 75 per cent., or every man must have had 3s. 6d. to spend in 1796 or 1800 for every 2s. which he had in 1790. Indeed, according to the following case published by Arthur Young in the "Annals of Agriculture," in 1801, and cited by Mr. Tooke in his "History of Prices" (vol. i. p. 226), even if wages had been doubled, they would still have been insufficient. Arthur Young says:—"A person is now living in the vicinity of Bury, Suffolk, who, when he laboured for 5s. a week, could purchase with that 5s.:—

		While in 1801 the same articles cost
A bushel of wheat	5s.	£0 16 0
A bushel of malt		0 9 0
A pound of butter		0 1 0
A pound of cheese		0 0 4
One pennyworth of tobacco		0 0 1
		1 6 5
His wages in 1801 were 9s.		
His allowance as a pauper 6s.		0 15 0
Which still left him worse off by		£0 11 5"

We have shown that from the time (1350) when the great body of agricultural labourers had ceased to be the slaves or bondsmen of the landholders, the latter had exercised their authority as legislators to compel them to labour at less than the market value of their labour. We have also shown that the cause of their discontent was admitted by the statute 5 Eliz., cap. 4. (1562), and as a remedy it was enacted that the justices should have the power of fixing the rates of wages for the future, having regard to "the plenty or scarcity of the time," that is, the dearness or cheapness of provisions. This power, less unjust than the fixing the wages without reference to the price of food, was regularly exercised until about 1725, when it fell into desuetude.

The great rise in the price of food, which took place after 1794, was an occurrence for which the statute of 5 Elizabeth had provided. A meeting of the magistrates for the county of Berks was held about Easter, 1795, when the following plans were submitted to their consideration:*—

"1st. That the magistrates should fix the lowest price to be given for labour, as they were empowered to do by 5 Eliz., c. 4; or, 2ndly, that they should act with uniformity in the relief of the poor, by a table of universal practice, corresponding with the supposed necessities of each family. The first plan was rejected, by a considerable majority; but the second was adopted, and the following table was published as the rule for the information of magistrates and overseers:—

"This shows, at one view, what should be the weekly income of the industrious poor, as settled by the magistrates for the County of Berks, at a meeting held at Speenhamland, May the 6th, 1795.		Income should be for a man.	For a single woman.	For a man and his wife.	With one child.	With two children.	With three children.	With four children.	With five children.	With six children.	With seven children.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
When the gallon loaf of 8lbs. 11oz. is	1 0	3 0	2 0	4 6	6 0	7 6	9 0	10 6	12 0	13 6	15 0
Do. do.	1 1	3 3	2 1	4 10	6 5	8 0	9 7	11 2	12 9	14 4	15 11
Do. do.	1 2	3 6	2 2	5 2	6 10	8 6	10 2	11 10	13 6	15 2	16 10
Do. do.	1 3	3 9	2 3	5 6	7 3	9 0	10 9	12 6	14 3	16 0	17 9
Do. do.	1 4	4 0	2 4	5 10	7 8	9 6	11 4	13 2	15 0	16 10	18 8
Do. do.	1 5	4 0	2 5	5 11	7 10	9 9	11 8	13 7	15 6	17 5	19 4
Do. do.	1 6	4 3	2 6	6 3	8 3	10 3	12 3	14 3	16 3	18 3	20 3
Do. do.	1 7	4 3	2 7	6 4	8 5	10 6	12 7	14 8	16 9	18 10	20 11
Do. do.	1 8	4 6	2 8	6 8	8 10	11 0	13 2	15 4	17 6	19 8	21 10
Do. do.	1 9	4 6	2 9	6 9	9 0	11 3	13 6	15 9	18 0	20 3	22 6
Do. do.	1 10	4 9	2 10	7 1	9 5	11 9	14 1	16 5	18 9	21 1	23 5
Do. do.	1 11	4 9	2 11	7 2	9 7	12 0	14 5	16 10	19 3	21 8	24 1
Do. do.	2 0	5 0	3 0	7 6	10 0	12 6	15 0	17 6	20 0	22 6	25 0"

In 1725 we find that the Lancaster justices fixed the wages of the best husbandry labourer at 6s. a week (without reference to his being married or single), which would have purchased 86 pints of wheat; but according to the Berkshire scale we find that in 1795, when wheat was 75s. the quarter, they only allowed the labourer 4s. 3d. a week, which would only have purchased about 29 pints.

The Poor-law Commissioners of Inquiry inform us that the "43rd Elizabeth never contemplated, as objects of relief, industrious persons."† The foremost provision of that act is, "for setting to work the children of all such whose parents shall not be thought able to keep and maintain their children." We have adduced abundant evidence of the fact, that at the time of the passing of this law, wages were kept down by act of Parliament to a level totally inadequate to the support of a family. Accordingly Parliament fell upon this device to make those wages sufficient. The words of the act itself corroborate the necessary conclusion drawn from the prices, at that time, of food and of labour, that the wages of the *industrious labourer in actual employment* were inadequate to the support of a family. The inference, therefore, intended to be drawn from the words of the report, viz., that the law was not intended in the slightest degree to touch the labourer in actual employment, is altogether fallacious. But, besides this, the law provided for the compulsory maintenance of those labourers themselves who might be unwilling to work at the disgraceful rate of wages offered them by their legislating employers, the next provision being, "for setting to work all such persons, having no means to maintain them, and use no ordinary and daily trade of life to get their living by." And lastly, provision is made for the "relief of the lame, impotent, and blind, and such other among them being poor and not able to work; and also for the putting out of such children to be apprentices." All this amounts to as distinct an acknowledgment on the part of the Legislature that the labourer's wages of 1601 were unable to provide for his family as the allowance system introduced by the law of 1796 was in regard to the wages of 1796.

The following are the observations of the Poor Law Commissioners of Inquiry in 1834 upon the effects of this measure—the Poor Law of 1796, the statute 36 Geo. III., c. 23:—"When allowance to the able-bodied, in aid of their wages, had once been introduced, when it had been found to be an expedient by which the expenditure in wages could be reduced, and profits and rents could be raised; when the paupers became numerous in most districts, and in some places formed the majority, and even the large majority of the peasantry; when their clamours for allowance were favoured by the farmers, and apparently justified by the rise in the price of the necessaries of life, who can be surprised if the magistrates were led, in some places to connive at, in others to sanction, and in still more to promote, a practice, the evil of which had not then been experienced, which seemed so plausible in itself, and which so many persons combined to favour? Who can wonder that, thus urged and encouraged, they should have fancied themselves entitled to settle the weekly income of the labourers; and who can wonder at any amount of evil that has followed so preposterous an attempt?"*

The allowance system introduced by the Berkshire magistrates, and legalized by statute 36 Geo. III., c. 23, was more effective than all the previous legislation from 1350 to reduce the husbandry labourers to a condition analogous to slavery, that is, to the condition of men who are not paid in proportion to the value of their labour, but simply according to their most pressing physical wants. The roundsman system is an illustration of that tendency. The practical operation of what was called the roundsman system is described as follows:—

"According to this plan, the parish in general makes some agreement with a farmer to sell to him the labour of one or more paupers at a certain price, and pays to the pauper, out of the parish funds, the difference between that price and the allowance which the scale, according to the price of bread and the number of his family, awards to him. It has received the name of the billet or ticket system, from the ticket signed by the overseer, which the pauper, in general, carries to the farmer as a warrant for his being employed, and takes back to the overseer, signed by the farmer, as a proof that he has fulfilled the conditions of relief. In other cases the parish contracts with some individual to have some work performed for him by the paupers at a given price, the parish paying the paupers. In many places the roundsman system is effected by means of an auction. Mr. Richardson states that, in Sulgrave, Northamptonshire, the old and infirm are sold at the monthly meeting to the best bidder, at prices varying according to the time of the year; from 1s. 6d. a week to 3s.; that at Yardley, Hastings, all the unemployed men are put up to sale weekly, and that the clergyman of the parish told him that he had seen ten men the last week knocked down to one of the farmers for 5s., and that there were at that time about 70 men let out in this manner out of a body of 170."†

If we were to judge by the instance given above from Arthur Young, we should conclude that the agricultural labourer's wages in 1801 could purchase scarcely more than a third part of the provisions which they could formerly purchase; and that, even when the parish allowance was added, the two together could not purchase much more than half what his wages as an independent labourer could formerly purchase. But supposing that in this case (besides its representing the depression in the labourer's condition that had taken place in the course, perhaps, of fifty or sixty years), it is possible that a very cheap year may be placed against a very dear one, let us, that we may not *even appear* to take the slightest unfair advantage in the argument, assume that, after the new poor law of 1796, the PHYSICAL condition of the agricultural labourer was, though not by his wages, by the parish allowance in aid of his wages, that is, by contributions from a fund which is not the natural fund for the maintenance of labour, made equal to what it was in the first three quarters of the eighteenth century. It must be remembered, however, that man's nature is not wholly physical, that he is a being created with other capacities and other wants than

* "Six Months' Tour through the North of England in 1768," vol. iv., pp. 451-462. London: 1770. "The Farmer's Tour through the East of England in 1770," vol. iv., pp. 318-334. London: 1771. "Six Weeks' Tour through the Southern Counties of England and Wales in 1767," p. 337. 3rd edit. London: 1772.

† "The Farmer's Tour through the East of England," vol. iv., pp. 189, 190.

‡ Eden, vol. i., p. 569.

§ Eden, vol. i., p. 587.

|| Ibid, p. 571.

* Eden, vol. i., p. 575.

† Report, p. 129; 8vo. edition.

* Report, p. 180.

† Report, pp. 31, 32.

hunger and thirst, and the other merely animal instincts. It is impossible, in a limited space, to convey anything like an adequate idea of the effects produced upon the English agricultural labourer's MORAL nature by the English poor law of 1796; but we refer the reader to the section of the Poor Law Commissioners' Report which treats of the effects of the law as administered upon abourers, from which we make the following extract:—

"We have seen that one of the objects attempted by the present administration of the poor laws is, to repeal, *pro tanto*, that law of nature by which the effects of each man's improvidence or misconduct are borne by himself and his family. The effect of that attempt has been to repeal, *pro tanto*, the law by which each man and his family enjoy the benefit of his own prudence and virtue. In abolishing punishment we equally abolish reward. Under the operation of the scale system—the system which directs the overseers to regulate the incomes of the labourers according to their families—idleness, improvidence, or extravagance occasions no loss, and consequently diligence and economy can afford no gain. But to say merely that these virtues afford no gain is an inadequate expression; they are often the causes of absolute loss. We have seen that, in many places, the income derived from the parish for easy or nominal work, or, as it is most significantly termed, 'in lieu of labour,' actually exceeds that of the independent labourer; and even in those cases in which the relief-money only equals, or nearly approaches the average rate of wages, it is often better worth having, as the pauper requires less expensive diet and clothing than the hard-working man. In such places a man who does not possess either some property, or an amount of skill which will ensure to him more than the average rate of wages, is of course a loser by preserving his independence. Even if he have some property, he is a loser, unless the aggregate of the income which it affords and of his wages equals what he would receive as a pauper. It appears accordingly, that, when a parish has become pauperized, the labourers are not only prodigal of their earnings, not only avoid accumulation, but even dispose of and waste in debauchery, as soon as their families entitle them to allowance, any small properties which may have devolved on them, or which they may have saved in happier times."*

The effect of the laws upon the domestic affections is thus described:—

"The effects of allowance," says Mr. Stuart, "is to weaken, if not to destroy, all the ties of affection between parent and child. Whenever a lad comes to earn wages, or to receive parish relief on his own account" (and this we must recollect is at the age of fourteen), "although he may continue to lodge with his parents, he does not throw his money into a common purse, and board with them, but buys his own loaf and piece of bacon, which he devours alone. The most disgraceful quarrels arise from mutual accusations of theft; and, as the child knows that he has been nurtured at the expense of the parish, he has no filial attachment to his parents. The circumstances of the pauper stand in an inverted relation to those of every other rank in society. Instead of a family being a source of care, anxiety, and expense, for which he hopes to be rewarded by the filial return of assistance and support when they grow up, there is no period in his life in which he tastes less of solicitude, or in which he has the means of obtaining all the necessaries of life in greater abundance; but, as he is always sure of maintenance, it is in general the practice to enjoy life when he can, and no thought is taken for the morrow. Those parents who are thoroughly degraded and demoralized by the effects of 'allowance,' not only take no means to train up their children to habits of industry, but do their utmost to prevent their obtaining employment, lest it should come to the knowledge of the parish officers, and be laid hold of for the purpose of taking away the allowance."†

The moral evils inflicted by this law are thus summed up:—

"At the time of my journey," says Mr. Cowell, "the acquaintance I had with the practical operation of the poor laws led me to suppose that the pressure of the sum annually raised upon the ratepayers, and its progressive increase, constituted the main inconvenience of the poor-law system. The experience of a very few weeks served to convince me that this evil, however great, sinks into insignificance when compared with the dreadful effects which the system produces on the morals and happiness of the lower orders. It is as difficult to convey to the mind of the reader a true and faithful impression of the intensity and malignancy of the evil in this point of view, as it is by any description, however vivid, to give an adequate idea of the horrors of a shipwreck or a pestilence. A person must converse with paupers, must enter workhouses and examine the inmates, must attend at the parish pay-table, before he can form a just conception of the moral debasement which is the offspring of the present system; he must hear the pauper threaten to abandon his wife and family unless more money is allowed him—threaten to abandon an aged bedridden mother, to turn her out of his house and lay her down at the overseer's door, unless he is paid for giving her shelter; he must hear parents threatening to follow the same course with regard to their sick children; he must see mothers coming to receive the reward of their daughters' ignominy, and witness women in cottages quietly pointing out, without even the question being asked, which are their children by their husband, and which by other men previous to their marriage; and when he finds that he can scarcely step into a town or parish in any county without meeting with some instance or other of this character, he will no longer consider the pecuniary pressure on the ratepayer as the first in the class of evils which the poor laws have entailed upon the community."*

Let us now endeavour to discover what was the effect of all this violent limitation of wages to the mere necessities of individuals at the discretion of a parish board, which generally consisted of the employers of labourers, upon the rent of land.

The poor law of George III. was, in fact, but an extension on a large scale of the system introduced by the poor law of Elizabeth, of making persons who were not employers of labour, and consequently could not profit by such employment, contribute to the support of the labourer.

An attendant upon the poor law of Elizabeth, was, as we have seen, a great rise of rents. It also appears from the following evidence, taken from the agricultural surveys drawn up for the Board of Agriculture, that an attendant upon the poor-law of George III. was a great rise of rents:—

"From Spalding to Boston, in fifty years, rent and tithes have been doubled, on some estates trebled.

"At Burton, a farm that was worth £90 a year, is now £300."—"Lincolnshire, 1799," by Arthur Young, p. 44.

"Within the memory of many persons, a farm at Rougham has advanced from £500 a year to £2500."

"All the country for many miles round Langley, the rent raised one-third in twenty-five years."

"At East and West Fleg, in the opinion of Mr. Farrier, the rent has doubled in twenty years."—"Norfolk, 1804," by Arthur Young, p. 36.

"Rise of rent from 1790 to 1804, 60, 50, 40, to 25 per cent.—average, 35 per cent."—Ibid., p. 510.

"About most of the towns the lands let at a high price; pasture land for convenience from 40s. to 50s. per acre, and arable land at about 30s."—"Dorset, 1793," by Claridge, p. 22.

In the Appendix to the account of Hants, by Driver, 1794, it is stated by Arthur Young, that the rent of land increased from 50 to 100 per cent. in the last twenty years.

"Within twenty years the rent has nearly trebled."—"Dorset, 1812," by Stevenson, p. 93.

These increased rents still further increased, thus:—

"Fifty years ago, rents at Latchingdon, according to Mr. Rush, of that place, were 7s. 6d. an acre; twenty years ago, 10s. 6d.; the whole parish would now let for 20s."—"Essex, 1807," by Arthur Young.

"Rise of rents from 1796 to 1804, 35 to 38 per cent."—"Suffolk, 1804," by A. Young.

"Since the publication of the former edition of this work (1795), rents have much increased, and in some instances enormously, particularly in rich soils, and in the neighbourhood of market towns."—"Kent, 1805," by Boys, p. 39.

"Rent raised 40 or 50 per cent., and sometimes not more than 20 or 30 per cent."—"Bedford, 1808," by Batchelor.

"In forty years the merely agricultural parts of the county have in many parts quadrupled, and in all more than doubled."—"Oxfordshire, 1809," by A. Young, p. 327.

There is evidence to the same effect in the various Parliamentary Reports on the Poor Laws, &c., that these increased rents have been permanent. Thus, in his examination before the Lords' Committee, in December, 1830, Mr. George Harrison being asked, "Do you mean to say that the war rents are kept up now?"—replied: "There was a demand to raise them. I had a farm that I was paying £500 a year for, and which my ancestors, between 1790 and 1800, were giving £300 a year for; and that made me leave off farming entirely."—"Minutes of Evidence before Committee of Lords (1830 and 1831)," p. 91.

And before the same committee, Richard Mackenzie Bacon, Esq., stated as follows:—"There is the particular instance of Mr. Coke's estate in Norfolk, for which I may quote Dr. Rigby, who was on very intimate terms with Mr. Coke. In the year 1818, the Doctor published a book, 'Holkham, and its Agriculture.' He then stated, from documents, I believe, in the possession of the family, that, upon Mr. Coke's accession to the estate, one of the largest farms was offered at 5s. per acre, tithe-free, and refused. At the time he wrote, he saw the very same land bearing 12 coombs of wheat per acre; and Mr. Coke assured him that it had borne 20 coombs of barley; and he stated the general rise of Mr. Coke's property to be from £2300 to £20,000 per annum, and that in the course of Mr. Coke's agricultural life, which was then about forty years. It is impossible to conceive that the mere expenditure of capital could have produced such an advance of value, for if he had applied a sufficient quantity of capital to compensate the difference between the rent of 3s. and £3., it will be apparent that, taking the mean term, 210 years' rent must have been sunk."

"You do this upon the authority of Dr. Rigby, not upon your own personal knowledge?"—"I know the fact, as I have heard it from the Doctor himself. His book went through three editions, and has been circulated for twelve years without contradiction. I was intimate with the Doctor when he published his book; and I have every reason to believe he derived his information either from Mr. Coke or his steward."—"Minutes of Evidence before Committee of Lords (1830 and 1831)," p. 118.

(*To be continued.*)

* Report, p. 77. † Report, p. 96.

* Report, p. 97.

THE POLITICIAN AND THE FREE-TRADER.

The following important passages from the speech of Lord John Russell upon the "state of the nation," made on the last day of the session, though several times re-referred to in the LEAGUE, have not been presented to our readers entire. This speech, to use an expression of his lordship, "winds its way between right and wrong," but is still a most useful one, as showing that, though moved, none of the great economical questions of the day can be imagined to be even temporarily settled. Neither has that prompt assertion of justice, not charity, on behalf of the labourer, made by Mr. VILLIERS, been given in full. Both are now reprinted. Lord JOHN RUSSELL, after reviewing the policy of the Government towards Ireland and its foreign policy, said:—

"There is another topic upon which I wish to say a few words, because I think it must force itself upon our attention in some shape or other before a very long period elapses—I mean the condition of the people of England. (Hear, hear, hear.) You cannot help, from day to day, and from time to time, observing the state of the people of this country—the inadequate means which the labouring people have to supply their families with the comforts of life (hear, hear, hear), with the extreme labour which in the manufacturing districts is undergone, and with the discontent which, both in our agricultural counties and in our manufacturing districts, is at short intervals excited; and I think, if we take a general view of this subject, it is impossible not to see whether it be the fault of our Legislature or not that the labouring classes have not advanced in comfort and welfare in proportion to the other orders of the community. If we compare the condition of this country with what it was a century ago, with what it was in 1740 for instance, it is impossible not to see that *while the higher classes have advanced in luxury beyond measure—while the means available for the diffusion of comfort and the enjoyment of life have prodigiously increased*—that while, if we look again at the middle classes and their means of procuring comfort, of travelling from one place to another, the quickness with which intelligence is conveyed, and the increase in the consumption of foreign articles of luxury, that these classes have made a very great advance. If we look to the labouring classes—*if we look to the men who either till the soil or labour in the factories—if we look to the quantity of necessaries which their wages would buy in the middle of the last century, and that which they can buy now*—if we go into the details with which I shall not now trouble the House, but which have been exhibited in the reports of the commissioners sent forth, some by the late Government and some by the present—*I think we must be convinced that they have not participated in an equal degree in the advantages which civilization and improved knowledge have conferred upon us.* (Hear, hear.) Neither, Sir, can I say that they have advanced in the means of education, or in the general communication of religious knowledge throughout all parts of this country. It is a subject so vast and so extensive that it will require to be divided into many parts, and which will necessitate a comparison of all the various counties, in order to give anything like an adequate view of this great subject. But unless the Government next year shall be prepared with some measure of a comprehensive nature, by which I will not say that the condition of the people can at once be altered for the better, but by which many restrictions which are now imposed upon their well-being shall be removed, I shall think it my duty to ask the House either to consent to some measure which I shall propose, or to go into committee of the whole House on the state of the country. (Hear, hear, hear.) Sir, I may say generally that I conceive there is no likelihood of improvement in that which I see is put forth by many as if it would be an improvement of the condition of the labouring classes, in either an alteration or a repeal of the existing poor laws. My own opinion is, that if you were to break down all the workhouses and give nothing but outdoor relief, and give it in as much abundance as those who desire it would wish, that you would be but increasing the difficulty—you would but be increasing the number of poor, and augmenting the miseries of the labouring classes (hear, hear, hear); and that, in fine, it is not to giving alms—it is not to state charity that we ought to look for the support of the people of England (cheers), but it is to enabling them to obtain by honest labour that which some of themselves declare to be their object—and there can be no more just object—a fair day's wages for a fair day's work. (Loud cheers.) In considering the question, *I think it will be necessary to revise the whole of the subject which the right hon. gentleman brought before the House, I think in an imperfect manner, two years ago. I mean the subject of the import duties.* (Hear, hear.) I think the right hon. gentleman has this year proposed a plan with respect to the currency which tends to bring us back to the principles which obtained before the commencement of the war of 1793 *I think it is worth our while to see what were the duties upon the importation of articles of food and other general commodities of consumption.* (Hear, hear.) I think, together with an improved and stable currency, those great articles of consumption should be admitted with as small a duty as can well be laid upon them; and, in regard to what is due to the mitigation of burdens imposed upon the consumers of this country, *I think we should likewise consider what is due to the agricultural interest of this country.* I think you should consider, with respect to many subjects, whether that unequal taxation which now presses upon us cannot be remedied. I remember at the commencement of the session that some expressions I used on this subject were misunderstood by some members of the House, when I declared that I thought it would not be wise at once to abolish all laws restricting the importation of corn without taking into consideration the increase of duties and taxes to which the producers of corn had been subjected since the commencement of the present century. I will mention but two of them. One, the very great increase in the county-rates since the beginning of the war of 1793; another, the very large augmentation of the malt-tax. It appears to me that now, when the Government have the leisure of the recess before them, they might very well consider whether some relief might not be given to the agricultural interest (hear, hear), and whether in giving that relief they might *not frame measures* [illegible] *in accordance with those principles of trade* [illegible] *sent Government, as well as the late,* [illegible]

[illegible] question on which there has been a discussion in this House in the course of last session which has not been brought forward by my hon. and learned friend the member for Liskeard in the present session—I mean the subject of emigration. I think that very great difficulties embarrass that subject, but at the same time I consider that with respect to certain localities, to certain districts, emigration, promoted by the Government and carried out in some instances by the companies already formed, and which have now lands in the colonies—carried on in other instances in conjunction with the great proprietors of the country—will be one of the measures which will be of essential service to the labouring classes. Sir, I trust it is a subject which will not escape the attention of the Government. I do not think the present system is all that can be desired. I believe that much may still be done. I have thus mentioned some of the topics which, I think, in the present state of the country, will diminish those distresses which have so vexed us. (Hear, hear.) I have already stated that I will not refer to the various measures brought forward during the present session, and of which a great proportion have failed. But there is evidently one evil which, during the present Administration, as well as under the last, is prominent, and I think ought not to be omitted from our consideration—I mean the length of time which is consumed at the commencement of each session without forwarding measures of legislation, and the very great rapidity with which those measures are passed at its termination. If we are to attend to measures of legislation, surely some means can be devised by which those measures shall be brought under the attention of this House of Parliament as well as of the other during the earlier period of the session."

Mr. Villiers having risen after Mr. A. B. Cochrane had objected that his chief Sir Robert Peel, in defending his measures, had not intimated any intention of a further alteration of the poor laws, said—"that if the hon. member was sincere in his wish to better the condition of the poor, and thought *that increasing their employment was the way to effect it*, he wondered at his complaint of the speech of the right hon. baronet; for, if he rightly apprehended the part of that speech that referred to this matter, it was that of congratulation at the improvement which had taken place. The right hon. gentleman pointed to the improvement of the revenue, the prosperity of trade, and the better employment of the poor which had resulted from his policy. (Hear, hear.) *As that policy consisted in relaxing the restrictions on trade, lowering the protective duties, and thereby increasing the demand for labour*, he must wonder that the honourable gentleman the member for Bridport was always found in opposition to that policy. (Hear, hear.) The right hon. baronet was right in saying that trade had improved, and that the poor were better off, and, as the hon. gentleman's remedy, abolishing the new poor law, had not effected this, he would do well to inquire whether it had not resulted from the causes of pauperism having somewhat mitigated (hear); and he would also recommend to the hon. gentleman the more worthy object for his consideration, of learning *the means by which pauperism could be prevented, and not confine his whole attention to providing for it as it occurred.* (Hear, hear.) He would recommend the hon. member to employ the recess in considering what was the effect of restricting trade, *checking the employment of capital, and of narrowing the resources for consumption, upon the condition of that class which was the professed object of his solicitude* (hear); if he applied his mind honestly to such consideration, he (Mr. Villiers) would expect that next session he would *not be found in constant hostility to every measure that had in view to extend trade and augment the resources of the nation.* (Hear, hear, hear.) Let him advise the hon. member to give a little time to this subject, and he doubted not but he would *take some higher view of the wants and condition of the working class than that of beggars and paupers.* (Hear, hear.) He had not risen, however, to enter upon a discussion of these topics, or refer generally to those matters which had been touched upon by the leaders of the two great parties, and on which they appeared to differ, but only to refer to that point on which they seemed to agree, but on which he so entirely differed from them that he never would hear what had fallen from them without rising to express his utter and unqualified dissent. *He referred to the assertion that had been made to-night, that agriculture bore peculiar burdens, and afforded thereby an excuse for monopoly.* (Hear, hear.) He did not hesitate to say, that this was not borne out by the fact; he gave it an unqualified denial, and in the most confident way in which he could. *He defied those who asserted it to prove it.* (Hear, hear.) *Inquiry into this point had, time after time, been demanded by this House, and had been refused;* and it literally stood before the country now as a bare assertion *unsupported by evidence, for which proof was refused, and used only as a pretext for the continuance of the Corn Law.* (Hear, hear.) He repeated, as he had done so often before, that *there was not one single charge that could be termed peculiar or exclusive on the land.* (Hear, hear.) Whatever local taxes were imposed were borne by property other than land in its due proportion, in some parishes, and in some counties the property other than land bore a much larger share than the land itself. (Hear, hear.) His noble friend had alluded to those that he thought were the most severe, namely, the county rate and the malt tax (hear, hear); and his remarks had been assented to by the right hon. baronet. *Now, he really wondered how they could keep their countenances in urging such an argument.* (A laugh.) The *county rate an excuse for the Corn Laws!—Look at its amount, in the first place, compared with what the Corn Laws cost* (hear); *in the next place look at the property liable to it, the owners of which suffered as much from the Corn Law as any other individuals;* and look again to the fact that, within a very few years, a very considerable portion of that which [illegible] before the Corn Laws were passed has since been placed on the Consolidated Fund. (Hear, hear.) *Could it be gravely believed to be an excuse for limiting the supply of food to the whole community?* (Hear, hear.) Then, again, the malt tax, which is a tax on the beer of the community, and which, if it injures the agriculturist at all, does it, of course, *by first injuring the consumer, by limiting his power of consumption.* (Hear, hear.) [illegible] this injury being inflicted upon him, he was to be [illegible] on this account he must be visited by [illegible] (hear, hear); and because by [illegible] enough to suit the *landlord, therefore he is to be taxed for his bread for the benefit of this seller of corn.* ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) That, certainly, is very just and rational, and *these are the grounds for continuing the Corn Law.* (Hear hear.)

"Mr. Cochrane: The poor-rate?

"Mr. Villiers: The poor-rate! Why, really, he thought that this notion had been abandoned, by its not having been mentioned with the others that night, and because it was too si ly to talk of. (Hear, hear.) *What! make food scarce, make employment difficult, reduce the working man to pauperism, and then complain of the cost of relieving him (hear, hear), and call this self-inflicted burden a peculiar charge for which you are to have indemnity.* Very just, very consistent indeed. (Cheers.) No, Sir, *these things can hardly be said earnestly;* THEY WILL CERTAINLY NOT BE TREATED SO OUT OF DOORS. (Hear, hear.) He was glad, however, that they were mentioned at the close of the session, when so many persons were giving thought to the subject, for they would doubtless be well sifted and considered during the recess, and they should be fully prepared for discussion next session. Hear, hear.) He was obliged to the noble lord for having raised the question upon this occasion. He thanked him for saying that he was dissatisfied with the present system, and that he would always, if others were not, be forward to disturb it. (A laugh.) He was sure that when the noble lord, with all the authority of his character and station, at the head of a powerful party in the country, declared that he considered that the present Corn Law was a vast evil, and would not too soon be changed, *that nobody out of this House would consider the question settled, or that the little change that had been made two years ago could be said to approach a final settlement.* (Hear, hear.) It was important that this should have been said at this time. He knew that there was a fancy on the opposite side that the present law was to have a trial, and was considered satisfactory for the time. *The noble lord had dispelled that illusion by his speech that night, and it would go forth in season to the country, for he knew that the farmers were generally dissatisfied with the present law—they saw nothing stable in it—they saw it already fail in its promise to the producer* (hear, hear); *they had regarded it as a mode of maintaining a certain price for their produce, and they had agreed for the land with that view, and already they had been deceived.* (Hear, hear.) It was at this moment giving 6s. less than they were taught to expect from it, and it was precisely of this that they complained—*they were constantly being meddled with, and deceived.* Now, what they wanted was, that there should be a final settlement, and an adjustment accordingly, with those with whom they had to contract for the land. (Hear, hear.) *The farmers want stability in things; they want you to give up legislating for agriculture: to do, in fact, what you promise, or do nothing* (hear). *The farmer never will be well off, he never can do justice to his labourer, if he is to be giving rent for his land under a delusion, which leaves him a victim, and renders him spiritless and timid in the conduct of his business.* (Hear.) He (Mr. V.) knew that rent was an affair between landlord and tenant, and that this House had properly nothing to do with it; *but it was forced upon their attention when landlords came to the House for a law to keep up the price of produce, and which had not the effect of making that produce plentiful, but resulted in maintaining rents high.* (Hear, hear.) They were compelled in consequence to examine into the state of the farmers, and the influence which this law had upon them (hear, hear); *and their condition at this moment was one of loss, and suffering, and discontent.*

"Colonel Sibthorp: No.

"Mr. Villiers: The hon. member for Lincoln says the farmers are not dissatisfied with the present state of things; *now, he told him there and in the face of the country, that the farmers were generally ill off—that they were not satisfied—that they wanted things settled—that they wanted to see an adjustment of rent to prices—that they saw nothing but the prospect of prices falling, and rents being maintained; and that this was a prospect of ruin and distress to them.* (Hear, hear.) He said further, that there was *no hope for any improvement in such a state of things while this law lasted, which could not be placed on any just or national ground.* (Hear.) The law could not be tolerated in this free and densely peopled country, under the present circumstances, and the farmers could not be well off till it was settled. (Hear, hear.) *Settlement of the question was worth any price to the agriculturist, and that could only be done in one way.* (Hear, hear.) He, however, would again thank the noble lord for the assurance he had given to the country to-night; but the present arrangement should not, as far as he (Mr. V.) could prevent it, be final, for he was sure that when it was reflected upon by the parties interested, that they would the sooner prepare their minds for that total change of this law which was alone based on truth and justice. (Hear.)"

Sunderland.—There are now building on the stocks above the bridge *forty-two* vessels, whilst last year at this time half a score would be the extreme number. Several new ships have also lately been sold and are now fitting out for sea. Freights have advanced considerably, and both ships and shipbuilding bid fair to be prosperous once again, and that very speedily.—*Sunderland Herald.*

Plenty and Prosperity.—It is the lesson taught by all experience, as well as by common sense, that a year of plenty is also a year of good trade and general prosperity. Plenty causes cheapness: and when food is cheap, the population have to spend less of their income on mere necessary sustentation, and of course more is left to be spent on clothing, furniture, and all the other necessaries and comforts of life. Hence, trade and manufactures prosper; capitalists receive good profits, and workmen good wages; poor-rates are reduced; the revenue improves, so as to allow of a reduction of taxes; public undertakings are prosecuted; and the general condition of the people is that of prosperity. Such—it is our earnest hope and confident belief—will prove to be the condition of the nation during the year following this third good harvest. May there be the sound sense to take warning from former periods of a similar kind, and not to indulge that speculative spirit which is the bane of industry, which converts health into fever, and causes inflated prosperity to terminate in ruin.—*Leeds Mercury.*

BOWRING TESTIMONIAL.

At a general meeting of the inhabitants of the Isle of Man, convened by Sir William Hillary, Bart., and held at the Court-house, Douglas, on Wednesday, the 31st of July, it was unanimously resolved:—

"That to the untiring zeal, ability, and philanthropy with which Dr. Bowring, M.P., has advocated the cause of the Manx people in his place in Parliament, and with the Ministers of the Crown, we are mainly and deeply indebted for procuring the insertion, in the New Customs' Act, of the most important clauses therein contained, and especially those by which the harbour dues, hitherto pressing so heavily on the mariner and the merchant, are totally abolished, and the harbours of the island declared to be free; by which the license system has been for the most part repealed; the comforts of life placed within the reach of the poor man as well as of his richer neighbour; bonded warehouses permitted on the island, and the bonded warehouses of the United Kingdom opened, from which we can export every description of foreign goods to this island free of duty; those oppressive duties on imported goods, the 2½, the 5, the 10, and the 15 per cent., annihilated; the privilege of exporting exciseable goods on drawback continued; and the trade of the island made coastwise with the United Kingdom. Therefore, our cordial and hearty thanks are most deservedly due, and are hereby given, to Dr. Bowring, for his very great exertions on behalf of the commercial interests of the inhabitants of the Isle of Man.

"That it is the decided opinion of this meeting that some valuable testimonial should be presented to Dr. Bowring, M.P., expressive of the grateful feelings entertained towards him for his valuable and gratuitous services; and that, with this view, a committee be formed in Douglas for adopting such other means as they may consider expedient for raising a sum of money towards procuring such testimonial; and that they be empowered respectfully to invite the gentlemen of Ramsey, Castletown, and Peel, and the other districts of this island, to associate with them in the good work, in order that the testimonial may be more valuable; and that it may fairly represent the feelings of gratitude which the inhabitants of this island entertain towards him for his most important services."

And a committee was appointed to carry these resolution into effect.

This committee are anxious that the testimonial should be a fair representative of the grateful sense entertained by all to whom the benefits conferred by the recent act of the British Parliament are shared—and that Dr. Bowring, through whose instrumentality, in a great degree, these benefits have been obtained, should have to regard this testimonial as the free-will offering of the many whose means are limited, and as the generous effort of the few whose power is more adequate to the expression of their feelings—for all participate in the advantages obtained.

With this view the committee have determined to set before the inhabitants of the island generally the benefits secured by the new law.

And, first, the abolition of harbour dues throughout the island is one great benefit. By this important clause our harbours are not only free to vessels belonging to this island, but also to all vessels navigating these seas—that odious tax known by the name, Custom on Fishing Boats, which pressed so heavily on a large and industrious portion of the inhabitants, totally annihilated, and, consequently, restrictions upon commerce removed, the effect of which will be to encourage intercourse with vessels seeking either shelter or traffic in our ports, thus securing, although indirectly, the advantage of the inhabitants by the advancement of their general welfare.

But the partial abolition of the license system is a good which applies directly to all, and gives to all actual and immediate advantage, securing, as it does, a considerable reduction in the luxuries and necessaries of life, such as tea, sugar, coffee, spirits, &c.

There has also been acceded to the inhabitants of this island the privilege of exporting from bonded warehouses in the United Kingdom all foreign goods to this island free of duty.

Take also the abolition of the import duties on British manufactures, which, when added to the consequent charges in England on export and the harbour dues here, make fully 5 per cent. on these goods, and it is clear that to this extent there is a gain to the consumer on wearing-apparel, &c. &c.

The committee would, then, found their application for a contribution to the testimonial upon these manifest advantages, now actually in the possession of the inhabitants, and they trust that no other argument will be needed to secure a ready and cheerful co-operation from every class.

To the labouring population, the great body of the people, they especially address themselves—for to them the united advantage of the license had been wholly denied. Fellow countrymen! your weekly earnings will now procure for your families a larger supply of the necessaries and comforts of life than they formerly did, and consequently your wages are increased in value. Let all calculate what they save by the change, and give accordingly. Let the tribute of gratitude be commensurate with the boon.

Evils of War.—War gives more patronage to government, and more places and salaries to the tools of government; it causes the raising of more taxes, to be squandered among the locust crowd which surrounds the government, and it gives to the men in power an excuse for devoting all their energies to matters connected with the conduct of the war, and for neglecting all the evils which the country so loudly complains of. War is destructive of the true interests of a people beyond any calculation of the money spent or the lives lost in the contest. As in the roar of artillery all ordinary sounds are lost, and as amid the smoke and fire of conflict, clear vision is impossible, and fierce passions and blind vindictive rage are uppermost, so war, with its excitement, its defeats and victories, throws all other questions into the shade,—the voice of the poor and the suffering is lost in the din of arms, and the great principles of government on which the true happiness of a nation depends are disregarded and forgotten. Monarchs may gain renown in war; statesmen may gain a place on the page of history written by men seemingly unconscious that there exists such a body as the people; successful generals and admirals may live in stone on the top of some lofty pillar, monument at once of the scourge of our race and of the folly of mankind; but to the great mass of the people, to those who are born to toil and to pass through the world solaced and supported by the scanty recompense of their own industry, war brings only disappointments, increased toil, scantier recompense, heavier taxes, famine, and all the train of woes which mark the track of the demon and the destroyer.—*Rochdale Spectator.*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, September 4, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the League of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

John Ashton, sen., Newton Bank, Hyde, Cheshire	£100	0	0
Richard Walker, Esq., M.P., Bury	50	0	0
A Friend	1	0	0
Friends at Totnes, Devonshire, per Richard Martyn	0	17	0
John Lewis, timber merchant, Carmarthen	0	5	0
John Pope, jun., Guinea-street, Exeter	0	1	6
A Friend to the Cause	5	0	0
Charles Bennett, 44, Fetter-lane	1	1	0
William Patey, 57, Lombard-street	1	1	0
Rogers, Brothers, Grey Eagle-street, Spitalfields	1	1	0
Henry Driver, 1, Duke-street, West Smithfield	1	1	0
John Rogers, 2, White Hart-court, Lombard-street	1	1	0
A Friend	1	1	0
Francis Ashton, 36, City-road	1	1	0
R. T. Fellowes, 96, Fleet-street	1	1	0
A Friend, Haleworth, per J. L. B.	1	1	0
James Beattie, 6, Half Moon-street, Piccadilly	1	1	0
S. M.	1	1	0
A. M'Glashan, 16, Long-acre	1	1	0
Lambert, Ridley, and Co., 70, Lower Thames-street	1	1	0
Thomas B. Sowerby, 78, Chiswell-street, Finsbury	1	1	0
James Holmes, 180, Brick-lane, Spitalfields	1	1	0
Thomas Pearce, 23, Ludgate-hill	1	1	0
Joseph Foot, 38, Spital-square	1	1	0
R. T.	1	1	0
Alfred Blease, 5, St. James's-place, Old Kent-road	1	1	0
W. Cadogan, 2, Essex-street, Strand	1	0	0
Wm. Trott, solicitor, 1, Crown-court, Threadneedle-street	1	0	0
Mr. M'Andrew, 3, Philpot-lane	1	0	0
Joseph Crowther, 67, Upper Thames-street	1	0	0
W. Valentine Bicknell, 3, Blackman-street, Southwark	1	0	0
James Scott, 11, Trinity-square, Tower-hill	1	0	0
William Forbes, Denmark-hill, Camberwill	1	0	0
Gent, Millar, and Co., 5, Bread-street	1	0	0
William Leggett, 8, Union-street, Hill-street, Berkeley-square	1	0	0
James Baker, 39, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square	1	0	0
Matthew Carr, 25, Conduit-street, Regent-street	1	0	0
Thomas Bonsor, Rose-street, Newgate market	1	0	0
John Whitaker, 9, Carburton-street, Marylebone	1	0	0
George Bradbury, 80, Bishopsgate-street Without	1	0	0
John Dodgson, do., do.	1	0	0
Thomas Lucas, 113, Aldersgate-street	1	0	0
James Slim, 17, Spital-square	1	0	0
T. Surr, 55, Stamford-street	1	0	0
Mr. Phillips, 16, Cornhill	1	0	0
Joseph Upwin, 67, Upper Thames-street	1	0	0
Mr. Hemsworth, 80 and 81, St. Martin's-lane	1	0	0
John Bull, 52, do. (2nd subscription this year)	1	0	0
John Thomas, 57, do.	1	0	0
Miss Hutchinson, 48, Mark-lane	1	0	0
W. F. Ross	1	0	0
John Christian Janson, 117, Bishopsgate-st. Within	1	0	0
W. Fickling, 84, Bishopsgate-street Without	0	15	0
From a few Persons favourable to the Cause	0	11	6
A Friend, 24, Trinity-square, Tower-hill	0	10	6
Ebenezer Smith, 10, Billiter-square	0	10	0
Messrs. Wilson, 37, Walbrook	0	10	0
Mr. Lewin, 110, Regent-street	0	10	0
George Harrop, 5, Ashby-street, Northampton-square	0	10	0
Joseph Brown, 15, President-street West, Goswell-rd.	0	10	0
Persons in the employ of Mr. Freake, 15, St. John's-square, Clerkenwell	0	10	0
W. E. Tuke, 35, Great Tower-street	0	10	0
D. Hancock, 116, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square	0	10	0
J. Naylor, 3, Chapel-place South, do.	0	10	0
A Friend	0	10	0
Thomas Nicholls, 13, Castle-street, Holborn	0	10	0
T. W. Dean, 26, Nicholas-lane	0	10	0
Mr. Jackson, Camberwell-green	0	10	0
John Steadman, 83, Lower Thames-street	0	10	0
Isaac Ward, New-court, Old Bailey	0	10	0
George Biggs, 421, Strand	0	10	0
J. D.	0	10	0
A Friend, Cornhill	0	10	0
Thomas Weedon, 22, Paternoster-row	0	5	0
Mr. Little, 7, Great Tower-street	0	5	0
John Gregory, 210, Upper Whitecross-street, St. Luke's	0	5	0
Rowland Thomas, 107, ditto, ditto	0	5	0
Mr. Stewart, 118, Bishopsgate-street Within	0	5	0
Mr. Hamer, Brown's-lane, Spitalfields	0	5	0
George Low, 1, Duke-street, West Smithfield	0	5	0
Richard Beard, 65, King William-street, City	0	5	0
Robert Theobald, 89, Bartholomew-close	0	5	0
G. Huguenin, 12, Ashby-street, Northampton-square	0	5	0
Henry Proctor, 77, Goswell-road	0	5	0
John Coulden, 12, Smith-street, Northampton-square	0	5	0
X., Northampton-square	0	5	0
Mr. Mussel, 7, Church street, Camberwell	0	5	0
Mr. Smith, Rosemary Branch, Southampton-st., do.	0	5	0
Mr. Gare, 17, Diamond-row, ditto	0	5	0
G. W. Speth, 1, John-street, Crutched-friars	0	5	0
James Mann, 57, South Audley-street	0	5	0
James Jorden, 17, Hart-street, Grosvenor-square	0	5	0
Mr. Hooper, 1, Shepherd's-market	0	5	0
Mr. Hooper, jun., ditto	0	5	0
John Wrigglesworth, 31, South Audley-street	0	5	0
John Propert, 22, ditto	0	5	0
Benjamin Wall, sen., 28, Norton-street, Marylebone	0	5	0
Benjamin Wall, jun., ditto, ditto	0	5	0
Joseph London, 1, Charlton-street, Marylebone	0	5	0
George Jinks, 6, Skinner-street, Snowhill	0	5	0
Richard Phillips, 24, Chiswell-street, Finsbury	0	5	0
A. Z.	0	5	0
H. E. Notley, 117, Newgate-street	0	5	0
William Brittain, 11, Paternoster-row	0	5	0
James Scott, draper, 95, Mount-street, Lambeth	0	5	0
John Pinnock, 1, Castle-street, Long-acre	0	5	0
David Elder, 104, Houndsditch	0	5	0
J. T. Fickling, 84, Bishopsgate-street Without	0	5	0
James Thornwell, Camberwell-grove	0	5	0
Mr. Wade, High-street, Camberwell	0	5	0
N. Dyett, 12, Labour-in-Vain-yd., Doctors'-commons	0	3	0
Mr. Swift, 2, Ashby-street, Northampton-square	0	3	0
Edward Stride, 6, St. Swithin's-lane	0	2	6
Amy Chambers, 4, Great Tower-street	0	2	6
Mr. Ramage, 3, William's-terrace, Commercial-road, New Peckham	0	2	6
W. Humphreys, 70, Prospect-place, St. George's-road, Southwark	0	2	6
Robert Drummond, High-street, Vauxhall	0	2	6
James West, 27, Lombard-street	0	2	6
William West, do., do.	0	2	6
Stephen Jessop, jun., 23, Bull and Mouth-street, St. Martin's-le-Grand	0	2	6
James Baldry, Britannia, City-road	0	2	6
William Reilly, 8, Finsbury-terrace, do.	0	2	6
John Miller, baker, 11, City-road	0	2	6
W. W.	0	2	6
John Cornwell 91, Upper Whitecross-st., St. Luke's	0	2	6
H. G. Clark, 66, Old Bailey	0	2	6
Henry Tasman, 64, Plumber's-row, City-road	0	2	6
Mr. Colla, 1, High-street, Camberwell	0	2	6
John Mathew, 15, Mincing-lane	£0	2	6
T. Allingham, Tower Dock, Tower-hill	0	2	6
Henry Charles Heather, 9, Charlton-st., Marylebone	0	2	6
R. Mills, 17, Long-acre	0	2	6
Mr. Coleman, 4, Haymarket	0	2	6
W. Reed, 5, Upper Ashby-street, Northampton-sq.	0	2	6
Mr. Dent, 30, Spencer-street, Goswell-road	0	2	6
William Gravell, 39, Charterhouse-square	0	2	6
J. B. Cross, 41, do.	0	2	6
W. T. Huggins, 95, Gracechurch-street	0	2	6
Alexander Robb, 95, St. Martin's-lane	0	2	6
John Galloway, 37½, do.	0	2	6
James Norman, 93, Bishopsgate-street Without	0	2	6
George Larman, 64, do.	0	2	6
Jeremiah Whitfield, do.	0	2	6
T. Massey, 4, Birchin-lane	0	2	6
T. J. Croggan, 8, Ingram's-court, Fenchurch-street	0	2	6
Frederick Main, 3, Hanway-street, Oxford-street	0	2	6
Peter Kirk, 49, Tottenham-court-road	0	2	6
W. Thornwell, Camberwell-grove	0	2	6
R. Thornwell, do.	0	2	6
John Castro, 13, Powell-street East, Goswell-road	0	2	6
F. Grimshaw, 159, Goswell-street	0	2	6
Wm. Catherwood, 24, Nelson-street, City-road	0	2	6
Small subscriptions	1	10	0

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor *of the* League.

Sir,—I am glad to find that the League is attacking the agricultural interest, as it is called, in the registration courts. If the trick of joining several persons as the tenants of a farm, when, in point of fact, one only is really the tenant, could be defeated, the effect would be tremendous, and go far to deprive the landlords of their power in the counties. Now, it appears to me questionable whether the courts would hold a man to be the tenant of a farm of which he was only nominally a tenant. If it appeared that one person was the real occupant, that the whole capital employed was his, with all the profit, and that the other (nominal) tenants had no interest whatever in the farm, and could claim no part of the profits, I doubt much whether the courts would hold the latter to be such tenants as are contemplated by the act. The qualification is actual *occupancy*, and a man can scarcely be considered the occupant of a farm who has no interest in the capital or profits. It is no answer to this that the (nominal) tenants are responsible for the rent; they may be so, and yet not be the actual occupants of the farm. Perhaps the Council of the League will think this hint worthy of attention; this year it is too late to take advantage of it, but it may be useful next year. The farmers will not like to make their sons *actual partners* to avoid this objection.

Your most obedient servant, W. B.

Birmingham, Sept. 3, 1844.

The following letter, which was picked up in the neighbourhood of Bond-street, has been sent to us for insertion. It appears to be a rough copy of a circular from the chairman of the Publication Committee of the Society for the Protection of British Agriculture, to the local societies in the country; but we do not, of course, vouch for its genuineness:—

"Society for the Protection of British Agriculture.

"*Private and confidential.*

"Dear Sir,—I am anxious to call your attention to a most delicate matter affecting the character of our body. The census report which has just been published, giving the occupations of the people, puts it beyond a doubt that those employed in agriculture are less in number than the manufacturers. This is being made the most of by the *Chronicle* and the other League papers, and I expect we shall hear of nothing else from the Leaguers during the winter. I have seen the *Morning Post* people, and requested them to turn it into ridicule, which I have no doubt they will do. But I would advise you to impose silence upon the editors of the country newspapers in our interest: the least said the soonest mended with those fellows, who are too clumsy to be trusted to write jokes, especially upon arithmetical tables. But my principal object in writing is to urge on you the necessity of withdrawing from circulation, as quietly but speedily as possible, all those tracts and handbills which give the comparative employments of the people. There is one of our tracts headed 'Facts not Assertions,' which states that seven-ninths of the population are agriculturists: you must withdraw every one of these. I have just ordered all our stock to be burned. It is unlucky we ever put out this tract. I never had much confidence in Spackman's 'Statistics,' but, as they were written expressly to serve us, I could not refuse to quote him. Pray lose not a moment in suppressing these tracts. You may continue to circulate Mr. Cayley's pamphlet, for although Lord Radnor did expose its falsifications of Adam Smith, nobody will believe it.

"I remain, dear Sir, faithfully yours,

"W. Stafford O'Brien,

"Chairman of the Publication Committee."

The Harvest in Ireland.—The splendid autumn weather with which we are now blessed will crown the labours of the husbandman. In most of the Irish counties the corn harvest is now nearly completed. The wheat crop has turned out even more abundant than had been expected. The only crop reported short is oats, which, it is said, do not yield well in threshing; but, judging by all the accounts, even this crop will be pretty good. Green crops are in the most promising state. The markets are, as a matter of course, going down.—*Correspondent of the Chronicle.*

Java Sugar.—A letter has been written to the East India and China Association by Mr. Lefevre, by direction of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, acquainting them that no certificate signed by the officer of a foreign government will be receivable under the fifth clause of the Sugar Duties Bill, passed in the present session of Parliament; and also, that her Majesty's Government has made arrangements, which will take effect immediately on the arrival of letters despatched by the July mail, for the appointment of persons duly authorized to certify the origin of sugar in the following ports of the island of Java, viz., Batavia, Samarang, and Sourabaya; and that a consul has been appointed for Manilla, who has repaired to his post by the same opportunity.

THE REGISTRATION.

Claims and Objections. — Borough of Manchester.—We understand that the following are the numbers of claims and objections made in the several townships forming the parliamentary borough of Manchester:—

	Claims.	*Objections.*
Manchester	318	148
Cheriton-on-Medlock	12	13
Hulme	12	51
Cheetham	6	9
Ardwick	4	4
Total borough	352	225

In the townships of Newton, Harpurhey, Bradford, and Beswick, there is neither claim nor objection. We believe that the great majority of the claims (about 250 we are informed) are by the Liberals, and the great bulk of the objections are made by them to the names of Tory voters on the list.—*Manchester Guardian.*

Borough of Salford.—Claims and Objections.—We understand that in this borough 50 objections (all in the township of Salford) have been taken by Liberals, and not one by the Tories, a circumstance which seems to intimate the abandonment of all hopes of returning a Conservative candidate in future. There are only 16 claims, three out of every four of which are by Liberals; so that the parliamentary register for the borough must inevitably stand in a better position for the Liberals after the approaching revision than it even does at present.—*Ibid.*

South Lancashire Registration.—Township of Salford.—In this township 144 objections to names of Tories being retained on the register for the southern division of the county, have been taken by the Liberals and Free-Traders, and 42 have been taken by the Tories. The total number of claims in respect of property situate in the township, is 303, of which about 180 are by Liberals and Free-Traders, 80 by Conservatives, and the remainder have been made by the parties themselves at the overseers' office; and of these three-fourths are supposed to be by Liberals.

Borough of Preston.—On Saturday last, the time allowed by law for the delivery of claims and objections to the overseers expired, when, strange to say, not a single objection was made. This is the first time since the passing of the Reform Bill that this has occurred, which is no doubt, in a great measure, owing to the Registration Bill of 1843, entailing the costs upon parties making frivolous objections; and partly to the fact that the Conservatives are not making any effort this year. The number of claimants this year is 85. Last year the number of claims was 70, and objections 18.—*Preston Guardian.*

Warrington.—Great excitement has been produced amongst the Conservatives of this place, by the energetic efforts of the Free-Traders in reference to the registration. In July, upwards of 50 claims were sent in by the Liberal party; of these 20 have been objected to by the Conservatives. The total number of objections made by the Free-Traders to county voters in this township is 126; whilst their opponents have objected to 24 (inclusive of those to claims above mentioned). In the borough revision the Liberals have every reason to expect great success; their number of objections is 39, all of them on good grounds; the Tory objections amount to 9. Free-Trade claims, 22; Tory claims, 2. Amongst the borough objections to Tories is one which applies to 18 of that party; and being based upon a recent decision of the Court of Common Pleas, to which the barristers must submit, is sure to be fatal to all these votes. It is, therefore, confidently expected that the next list of voters for the borough will show a decided majority in favour of Free Trade.—*Manchester Guardian.*

Wigan.—Nearly 200 objections have been made to county voters on the list for the township of Wigan; and in the district of 15 townships polling at Wigan, the objections number nearly 600. Twenty-five objections have been taken by the Free-Traders to voters on the borough list, and 30 by the monopolists. The claims and amended claims of the latter are 12, and of the former 9. The principal ground of both claims and objections is a successive occupation of different premises.—*Ibid.*

Colchester.—A vast number of objections to parliamentary votes have been served upon parties in Colchester, and it is alleged that the Anti-Corn-Law League has a hand in the matter.—*Essex Herald.*

THE ALTERNATE SACRIFICE.—THE HARVEST AND THE SLIDING SCALE.

(From the *Economist.*)

The harvest is everywhere rapidly progressing to a most successful close—the efforts of the farmer have been crowned with universal abundance—the prospect of plenty and prosperity gives cheer and confidence in the future to all classes, save one, and that the one which, under natural and wise laws, should, above all others, reap the benefit of a large crop—the producer himself. This is a melancholy reflection, not only from the fact that the most favourable combination of circumstances, securing general success to the efforts of the farmer, results rather prejudicially than favourably to him; but also from what is perhaps the more important fact, that, under our present laws, one class of society seems only to prosper on the ruin and losses of another. Socially this is a great evil, and produces most injurious consequences. There is no truer law, *prima facia*, than that which indicates one common and general ultimate interest among all classes of a community; and that legislation which so much disturbs, nay reverses, this obvious rule must indeed be based on unsound principles. Those laws, under a pretence of protecting the farmer, impose restrictions on the importation of corn of the most [illegible] kind, but which can only affect prices when we [illegible] from a deficiency. The moment there [illegible] a succession of two or three favourable [illegible] law can no longer operate, and internal [illegible] the price to its natural level. But [illegible] his engagements for rent, and other [illegible] upon the high and artificial prices wh[illegible] to command under the restriction [illegible] when scarcity made it operative. [illegible] give him an increase of one-fifth of o[illegible] but as soon as the supply is abundant [illegible] much greater proportion than the [illegible] An estimated deficiency of crop of [illegible] the price of wheat from 56s. to 70s. [illegible]

cent.; while a corresponding abundance has again proportionably reduced it. Hence is it that farmers prosper when their crops are ruined—and hence is it that their success in producing large crops brings with it only disappointment and agricultural distress.

Much as the profession has been made that the Corn Laws are maintained for the benefit of the farmer, it is not difficult to show that not only is their general tendency, over a number of years, unfavourable to him, but that their peculiar effects from year to year, even while apparently operative for protection and the maintenance of a high price, are only prejudicial. By the very nature of those laws they inflict the most serious injury on the consumer, without a corresponding benefit to the producer at any time, and more usually are accompanied by real disadvantage. They may, indeed, not only from period to period, as the cycles of high and low prices proceed, but also in their effects in single years, be said to be an alternate sacrifice of the consumer and producer.

When the Corn Law was under discussion in 1842, the Ministers were obliged to admit many of the evils which had been charged against the late law, and to urge them as a reason for the modification which they proposed. Among the chief of these was its tendency to create violent fluctuations, which as often proved injurious to the producer as to the consumer, and more frequently to both. We last week showed, from the experience of the new law, that it has, as much as its predecessor, all the inherent tendency to fluctuation; and we would now, for the special benefit of the farmer, and the landlord as well, endeavour to show how prejudicially these fluctuations affect them, at all times and in every year; and, at the present moment, how much the tendency to sudden low price is aggravated by the very nature of this law.

It is, perhaps, not enough to show that fluctuations always have attended the operation of this law. It will be more satisfactory to show that they are inseparably part and parcel of it. The sliding scale holds out the highest premium and inducement to this end. If there is an appearance of scarcity indicated by a rising price, that, instead of being a cause why supplies should be furnished, forms, on the contrary, the best reason why they are withheld, in order that the merchant may benefit by a lower duty; but as soon as either the arrival of the harvest, or any other cause, shows that there is abundance, and prices begin to recede, then the whole of the foreign wheat in bond at the time is suddenly cleared for consumption, to avoid the inevitable consequence of a higher rate of duty with the lower price. In the first case, price is raised much higher than it would otherwise be by supplies being then withheld. In the latter case, prices fall much lower and more rapidly, by the sudden large supply thrown upon the market at the moment it is least required; and it is this constant tendency and direct inducement to extremes that the law itself holds out which produces the fluctuations so much complained of. It is a consequence inseparable from the law.

But the most serious effects of these fluctuations on the producer and consumer arise from the peculiar season when they most act on each—depriving the latter of supplies when most needed, and unduly depressing prices at the moment the former has his largest quantity to sell. The time when the consumer would be most benefited and the producer least affected by foreign supplies is during the spring and summer months, while prices are usually advancing, from the gradually diminishing stock of home-grown corn; but this is just the time when experience shows that, under this law, no supply whatever is obtained. On the other hand, the period when the consumer is least benefited and the producer most seriously injured by foreign supply, is at the moment of the harvest, and for two or three months afterwards, when our produce is coming in abundance to market; but this is just the period when the whole accumulated imports of the year have been usually brought forward. The new law was to remedy this obvious inconsistency and defect, and to produce a gradual and regular trade. Let us inquire how far it has succeeded, and this inquiry will illustrate and make clear the serious injury to the farmer, to which we allude. The events of the three last years are particularly instructive. Beginning with 1842, the following statement shows the time and the circumstances under which the wheat of that year was imported, and cleared for consumption:—

	Quantity in bond at the end of month.	Imported.	Cleared for Consumption.	Average. s.	d.
January	353,308 ..	102,999	9,819	61	7
February....	571,265 ..	2[illegible],033	5,232	60	4
March.....	793,380 ..	230,064	6,194	58	11
April	911,507 ..	163,158	40,852	59	11
May.....	1,082,823 ..	287,797	106,251	61	3
June.....	1,233,436 ..	310,262	135,130	64	2
July.....	1,338 757 ..	435,525	342,588	64	2
August	8,917 ..	886,587	2,186,600	55	11

—(*Tables of Revenue, &c.*, 1842.)

Thus we see that in the month of January, with 353,308 quarters in the bonded warehouse, and the price up at 61s. 7d., the most insignificant quantity was cleared for consumption. In February, with a stock of upwards of half a million of quarters, and the price above 60s. a quarter, only 5232 were supplied to the market. The importation continued steady and large in every month until, at the end of June, the stock in bond was 1,253,436 qrs., and, though great scarcity and privation had been endured all the spring, and though the price, notwithstanding the limited consumption, had advanced to 64s. a quarter, yet the whole quantity which had been entered for consumption during the six months was not equal to the stock held at the beginning of the period. Now, we would claim special attention to what occurred during the next two months, July and August. In July the quantity imported amounted to 435,525 quarters, leaving a stock at the end of the month of 1,338,757, which was increased by the imports of August to 886,587 quarters; in that month the enormous quantity of 2,240,233 quarters, the accumulation of the whole year, was suddenly thrown on the market, leaving in bond at the end of the month only 8917 quarters; the warehouses being literally emptied in the last week of August, just as the new crop began to come to market. For several months we had gradually advancing prices, the best indication of scarcity; but for that very reason no foreign supplies were brought on the market, but when the fine new wheat of that harvest lowered the price in August to 55s. 11d., and gave evidence of internal abundance, then instantly the whole accumulated stock was brought forward, before the six weeks' average regulating the duty had fallen. The highest *Gazette* price was that of the 22nd July, which was 65s. 8d., when only 17,203 quarters were cleared for consumption. On the 26th of August the *Gazette* price was 56s. 5d., and in that week 1,354,797 quarters were cleared for consumption. Is it then too much to say that this large quantity of wheat had been kept back for several months only because price indicated scarcity and a great want of it, and finally all thrown on the market when it became plain that it was no longer so much required? But the effect produced on the farmer's interests was most disastrous—the price, which from January to the end of July ranged from 60s. to 65s. 8d., fell in August, as soon as they had any to sell, to 55s. 11d., in September to 52s. 6d., in October to 49s. 11d., in November to 49s. 1d., and in December to 46s. 10d.; showing a fluctuation of 18s. 10d. in five months; and that large accumulation of foreign wheat, so long withheld from the consumer, remained a dead weight on the market for several months. A similar process went forward in the year 1843. Importations accumulated all the spring and summer, until, in August, there was a quantity in the warehouse equal to 465,454 quarters, and immediately after arrivals took place, early in September, of 371,403 quarters. During the first seven months of the year only 61,500 quarters were taken into consumption; but in the months of August and September, as soon as the arrivals of new wheat began to lower prices, the whole on hand, amounting to 844,984 quarters, was thrown on the market. The price had risen for some time, till, on the 18th of August, the week's average was 61s. 2d., in which week only 2510 quarters paid duty; the price then fell, until, on the 22nd of September, the *Gazette* weekly average was 50s. 10d., when 562,954 quarters were cleared for consumption—the average for the six weeks being 55s. 11d. On the 29th of September the price had fallen to 49s. 3d.

The experience for the present year has been to the same effect. On the 1st of January there remained in the bonded warehouses 220,483 quarters. The quantity imported and cleared for consumption has been:—

	Imported.	Cleared for Consumption.	Average Price.	
January	35,420	3,546	49s. 0d.	Jan. 4.
February	16,074	1,981	52 6	Feb. 1.
March.....	39,60[illegible]	3,076	56 2	March 7.
April	68,061	80,880	56 5	April 4.
May	2[illegible]6,361	63,320	55 6	May 9.
June.....	224 802	80,979	55 6	June 6.
July 1st to 24th..	181,656	112,415	55 9	July 3.
Aug. 5th to 30th	202,373	440,941	51 0	Aug. 7.

and on the 14th the weekly average fell to 48s. 10d.

In the four last years the quantities of wheat cleared for consumption have been as follows:—

	From January 1 to July 31, in seven months.	August and September at harvest time—two months.
1840	784,538	1,561,933
1841	308,403	2,610,824
1842	646,066	2,320,515
1843	61,575	844,988
1844 first 6 months	233,782 last 8 weeks..	553,356

What a subject for the reflection of farmers and landlords!!!

We thus see that every year the effect of this law is to accumulate a stock of foreign grain, to be thrown on the market, and unnaturally depress it at the very moment when our own farmers have the largest quantity to sell. Can this be called protection to the farmer?—a system which keeps back and accumulates our imports at a time when they are most required, and sustains high prices when he has little or nothing to sell, in order to depress the market when he has his all to dispose of. Can such a system be called protection to the farmer? Is it, then, protection to the consumer? It has as little pretence to the one as the other, for it withholds supplies when most needed. It condemns the consumer in the spring and summer to the unmitigated evils of high prices, without benefit to the producer; it condemns the producer to the competition of an accumulated stock thrown suddenly on the market at the moment when his own produce comes to it in greatest quantities—it is an alternate sacrifice of producer and consumer.

There is, then, surely great hope, when it is acknowledged that there is no obstacle between us and Free Trade but this universally ruinous and absurd system.

MANUFACTURES.—We are happy to announce the completion of various mills and sheds lately erected in Preston, the commencement and progress of which we have previously noticed. The three weaving sheds erected by Mr. R. Threlfall, Messrs. Goodair and Co., and Messrs. Horrocks, Miller, and Co., are now finished, and will be forthwith fitted with looms. The Sovereign mill, purchased and enlarged by Mr. Pickles, is also about to commence working; and Mr. Bashall's mill, on the Maudland estate, is all but roofed. In addition to the above, we may state that the mill of Messrs. J. and A. Leigh is rapidly progressing, and that John Paley, sen., Esq., has commenced the erection of a new mill adjoining his works in Stanley-street. Land has also been purchased by Mr. Lawson, corn-merchant, immediately behind Singleton-row, as the site of a new weaving shed, and another party has successfully treated for land in Ribbleton-lane for a similar purpose. Lastly, Mr. John Evans, of Chipping, is about to erect a new mill upon a vacant plot of land between Newton-street and Edmond-street, opposite Barton-terrace. These facts are good evidences of the prosperity of our town, and give abundant promise of increased employment to the operative population.—*Preston Guardian.*

To talk of the population of this country as standing in the way, and obstructing the road of its prosperity, is sheer nonsense, or something worse. The population of the United Kingdom is not to be rated, by its extent of territory, as compared with the number of souls and acres in some other countries. Jacob, his family, and his servants, his flocks and his herds, required more extent of land for their subsistence. They were a pastoral community. But Great Britain is chiefly a manufacturing country; and how many thousands of labourers may support themselves and their families upon one square mile of workshop need not be accurately told. No one, casting an eye over the length and breadth of the land, will deny that there is "ample room and verge enough" for twenty times its present actual amount of manufacturing labour; no one, taking a survey of the world, but will admit there is a wide market for their goods. What, then, hinders their full employment? Commercial restrictions—colonial preferences and protections—Corn Laws, and a great many other opposing circumstances "too numerous to mention." Abolish them, then—away with them all!—*Lloyd's Weekly London Newspaper.*

REVIEW.

The Taïti Question (*Iles Taïti, Esquisse Historique et Geographique*, par MM. Dumoulin and Desgraz.) Paris: Berthand. London: Dulau.

The group of the Society Islands, of which Taïti is the most important both in wealth and size,* forms the first cluster in that chain of islands which seems designed by nature to unite Asia with the continents of Australia and America with the groups of the Marquesas and the Gambier Islands it forms a vast triangle, the sides of which enclose an immense number of low wooded islets, most of which are inhabited. The Pomotou cluster is almost wholly the produce of the coral insect, that wondrous builder of marble rocks beneath the waters of the ocean. All persons who have recently visited the Oceanic Isles have been struck with the aptitude of the natives for navigation; they are in many places, but more particularly in the Tonga and Samoa islands, a bold adventurous race, frequently engaged in buccaneering expeditions, and making distant voyages in their war canoes to plunder weaker populations. Many of them have entered into the service of the South Sea whalers, and have been found excellent sailors, though they have not always been fairly treated by their European employers. The gradual spread of civilization has begun to teach these islanders the value of their internal resources, and at the same time has created a desire for the acquisition of those articles which belong not so much to luxury as to comfortable existence.

A perfectly free trade by which the islanders could exchange their raw produce for the manufactured goods of Europe would, in the natural course of events, lead the natives to attend to the cultivation of the soil and the development of their internal resources, while the payment which they would thus be enabled to offer for manufactures would attract competing merchants to their markets. Unfortunately there are men who believe that it is possible so to direct commerce as to ensure to some favoured party a disproportionate share of gain, and, acting under this delusion, they prefer schemes of colonization and forcible occupation to the free interchange of commodities, not discovering until it is too late that they must pay a higher price for an exclusive market than can ever be remunerated by all the traffic such a market could afford. The rage for colonization which has taken possession of a large and influential body of the French people is based on the mistaken notion that the extent of the British colonial empire is the main source of the commercial wealth of England; but the colonial trade forms a very insignificant item in British commerce, and our intercourse with the United States has become infinitely more lucrative and more extensive since they achieved their independence than when they were British provinces.

The considerations involved in the question of the occupation of Taïti are complicated by religious animosities, which, after having long disturbed the Old World, seem destined to raise difficulties in the New, and change the Pacific into the Belligerent Ocean. Messrs. Dumoulin and Desgraz have discussed this question with great candour and moderation, and we shall extract their views of the subject:—

"On one side the Protestants, who have formed settlements in most of the islands of the archipelago, where they have acquired such influence as to be perfect masters, do not hesitate to use violent methods to remove the Catholic priests from their dominions. The latter, in their turn, far from seeking to conquer *new* lands to the Christian faith and to extend civilization to those barbarous tribes, where cannibalism and prostitution are still honoured customs, seem, on the contrary, anxious to place themselves in constant rivalry with the Protestants, and to wrest from them their proselytes."

The authors then proceed to examine at some length the results of the efforts made by the Catholic missionaries, and we think that a portion of their account may be very beneficially laid before our readers:—

"The natives retain nothing of the instructions of our missionaries except what has been impressed upon their senses; amongst them ceremonies, and the external signs by which adoration is expressed, constitute the whole of the religion which they have embraced. To be convinced of this truth it is sufficient to open the annals of the missions, and read what the Bishop of Maronia has written:—'You cannot believe,' he says, 'the effect which the sight of devotional images has produced on our islanders. They have come fifty leagues to admire a coarsely painted picture, representing the Nativity and the Adoration of the Shepherds. All the natives that have seen our paintings have been filled with wonder. The room in which the altar of our mission is raised, is adorned with several large statues, before each of which it is not rare to find our savages in a state of contemplativeness which renders their visits rather long, but which assuredly confers benefit on their souls. In all the chapels which, please God, we shall erect, we shall not fail to place statues and pictures.' Hear the further testimony of the Rev. Father Servant, who writes from New Zealand:—'The ornaments of the chapel greatly delight the natives, the beauty of our ceremonies enchants

* We have followed the loose geographical arrangement which has been adopted both by French and English writers, but Taïti properly belongs to the Georgian group, which is both naturally and politically disconnected from the Society Islands.

them, their eyes seem never wearied of beholding them. Church music has also great attractions for them, and seems to produce a most lively impression.' Doubtless the decorations of chapels, the luxury of religious ceremonies, presenting to them a new and lively spectacle, cannot fail to produce a lively effect, and even to realize several conversions; but will such means produce deep convictions? Will each convert be able to discuss points of theology, and to become Catholic or Protestant, according to his own belief? Would it be reasonable to expect from populations still barbarous sufficient discernment as even to apprehend the differences which exist between Catholics and Protestants? But our good fathers are satisfied with far less; a few drops of water sprinkled in secret on the head of a poor infant, are considered as a triumph by the Catholic missionaries. Thus the Rev. Mr. Batallon, who appears to have invented a very simple process for attaining this object, hastens to communicate it to his brethren; let us cite his words:—'I have always with me a flask of scented water and a flask of plain water; I begin by sprinkling a little of the scent on the head of the infant, under pretence of comforting the babe, and whilst the mother takes pleasure in spreading it over the baby's face, I dexterously change the flask and use the water which conveys regeneration, without any suspicion being excited of the nature of the action.' . . . . We also read the following in a letter inserted in the 'Annals of the Propaganda':—'But the child which we baptized so hastily, since it seemed at its last hour, died last night, *to our great joy*, for its death ensures its eternal happiness.'"

The errors which these writers ascribe to the Protestant missionaries are chiefly the adoption of too rigorous laws, and a selfish anxiety to engross the commerce or the produce of the countries in which they are stationed. They state that under the missionary codes, prostitution, intemperance, working on the Sunday, dancing, and even smoking, have been declared crimes, which are to be punished by stripes, or by pecuniary fines; and that such severity threatens to produce a dangerous reaction wherever the missionaries have established their empire. The authors further complain that the Protestants have not paid sufficient attention to the physical improvement of the converts by teaching them improved modes of agriculture and the rudiments of manufacture. Our authors then severely censure the Catholic missionaries for having neglected those islands where the name of Christ had never been heard, to interfere with the labours of the Protestants:—

"A glorious field was opened to them; some of the finest archipelagos remained untouched, such as the isles of Samoa, of Viti, of Salomon, Papouasia, and New Caledonia; all the inhabitants of these lands were still idolaters, and promised the noblest conquests for religion and civilization. What, then, were the points on which our missionaries first sought to convert the natives. Two bishops were sent to the Pacific, the first to New Zealand, the second to the Gambier Islands. Instead of going to preach to the nations still sunk in idolatry, it was on the islands of Taïti and Hawài, already converted many years before by English or American missions, that our missionaries from the Gambier Islands sought to establish themselves at the risk of kindling a religious war. The French missionaries from New Zealand sought to convert the natives of the Tonga Islands, already Protestants, whilst the inhabitants of the neighbouring Viti Islands are still cannibals, and almost daily massacre the crews of the vessels cast upon their inhospitable shores. . . . . Nothing can palliate the ill treatment which, at the instigation of Protestants, our priests received in these islands; but our impartiality also forces us to declare, that the design of the Catholics was pernicious and even culpable in the eyes of society, when they intruded themselves on ground already occupied by Protestants, for the purpose of making proselytes."

We shall offer no comment of our own on the religious divisions involved in this question, but we must say that, if the rivalries of missionaries should lead to a war between the two nations of Christian Europe which confessedly take the lead in civilization, the effect on the progress of Christianity must be fatal, for even savages will see that this holy religion can be perverted into a pretext for plunder and slaughter.

The importance of the French protectorate of Taïti has been monstrously overrated. The group of coral islands to which Taïti belongs contains about 300,000 acres of land capable of cultivation, and rather less than 20,000 inhabitants. Its occupation may serve to gratify national vanity, but it could in no conceivable way tend to increase the strength or improve the commerce of France. Its harbours are already open to trade, and whoever supplies the natives on the cheapest terms will command a preference. There is every probability that, under a judicious system of administration, the population would rapidly increase, and the internal resources of the islands would be still more rapidly developed; but these results are far more likely to be retarded than accelerated by a European protectorate. All that France could gain by the occupation of those islands would be a little addition of patronage to the Government in the appointment of functionaries to be paid by the French people. The islands cannot import until they have something to export, and as yet their exports are utterly contemptible.

The authors of the volumes before us have protested strongly against the occupation of the Oceanic Isles as a means of converting the natives to Catholicity instead of to Protestantism, though they hint in no very covert form that this has been a great recommendation of the protectorate of Taïti at the Tuileries. While, however, they protest against this religious delusion, they have raised up a political chimera, which they set forth as the sure means of establishing a French empire in the Pacific. They recommend that the French should occupy the Straits of Magellan as the English do the Cape of Good Hope; that all the Polynesian islands which have a convenient position for controlling the commerce between Asia and the western coasts of America should be similarly seized, and that then the French nation should by some inexplicable means secure to itself the monopoly of all intercourse between the states surrounding the Pacific. If France adopted all the means here recommended, the end which they were framed to attain would be as distant as ever. France could hold a share in such a commerce only by fair competition, or by a coerced monopoly. But what would be the cost of effective coercion? What would be the number of the navy and the amount of the custom-houses necessary to prevent smuggling through the length and breadth of the Pacific? We do not here pretend to discuss the question whether colonization is under any circumstances an advisable system; but we must say that such a system of colonization as is propounded in these volumes, and such reasons as are propounded for its adoption, belong more to the schemes for founding empires in the air than for acquiring dominion either by land or by sea.

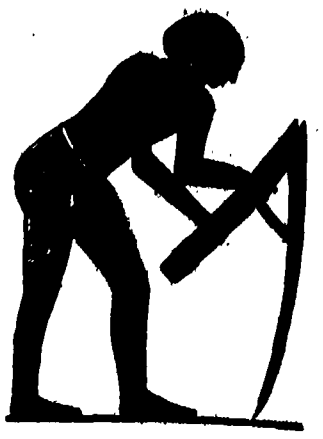
Nothing can be more ludicrous than those French schemes of oceanic empire, except the alarm which some have attempted to excite in England at their probable realization. It is of course the duty of the British Government to prevent those markets being closed against British commerce, which British enterprise and British industry alone have opened; but this has not been, and is not likely to be attempted. Whether the semi-barbarous Queen of some twenty thousand savages has the tricolor flag or the union jack erected over her wooden hut, is a matter of as little importance to England and France as whether the lady wears a white or a red petticoat.

Monopoly is, in fact, at the bottom of all the disputes which have been raised respecting Taïti; they began in religious monopoly, are continued in the spirit of political monopoly, and are avowed by many French writers to be designed to terminate in commercial monopoly. Here, then, is another added to the many proofs that Free Trade is the best security for the peace of nations, and that the spirit of war is identical with the spirit of exclusiveness. It would be intelligible to propose the foundation of a French colony in the Pacific, if the French commerce in that ocean was so extensive as to render it desirable to have harbours for the protection and supply of the vessels engaged in the traffic; but to found colonies in the hope of creating such a commerce, is not less preposterous than would be the erection of cities in the midst of deserts, and taking chance for their obtaining inhabitants. If, however, such a course of policy be adopted by our neighbours, we shall watch the results with far more of curiosity than of jealousy, for the success of the scheme would lead to an extension of commerce, in which it would be impossible to prevent us from having a share, and its failure would add one more to the countless proofs of the utter absurdity of monopoly.

Heeren's Researches, French and English translation. London: Talboys, Paris, Didot.

[Fourth Notice.]

In our former articles we have shown the great importance of the Nile to the people of Egypt, but have only slightly noticed its connexion with the agriculture of the country. Agriculture in Egypt appears to have been taken under the protection of the priests and kings. Even in the representation of a victorious monarch coming to pay homage to the gods for their protection, the importance of agriculture is manifested amid all the "pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war;" when the king comes forward to present his offering, a priest holds out to him a bundle of corn, which the monarch cuts through with a sickle before depositing his gifts on the altar. Husbandry, indeed, was the parent of civilization; but in Egypt there were many circumstances which rendered it of peculiar importance. The most influential of these was the limited extent of the fertile ground, the complete dependence of the farmer on irrigation for success, and the small proportion of the year to which agricultural operations were consequently confined. Indeed, the most important part of the Egyptian farmer's labours was to superintend the distribution of the overflowings of the Nile, and this must have been a very difficult task in those seasons when the river did not rise to a sufficient height. Hence Moses particularly alludes to the abundance of rivers and springs in Canaan, when he describes the superiority of the Promised Land over that of Egypt. "The land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs: but the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: a land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year." (Deut. xi. 10—12.) The inundation manured the ground, and rendered further preparation unnecessary. The plough was chiefly used to turn a light earth over the seed, and was indifferently used as a pickaxe when used by men, or as the ordinary plough when drawn by oxen. There is no difference of shape between the hand-plough and the ox-plough; when oxen were employed, the pointed side was merely laid upon the ground, and the handle harnessed very rudely to a collar round the neck of the draught animals. It is probable that the hand-plough was only used when the waters had so long subsided as to render the soil hard and stiff from the action of the sun. It was a very unwieldy instrument, and the use of it was most laborious and fatiguing; hence the draught-plough was always preferred whenever its use could be made available.



The ox was from the remotest ages the animal most commonly employed in agricultural labour, and it still continues to be so in most oriental nations. A body of Bedouins making an incursion on peaceful agriculturists, would probably find things in the state in which Job's messenger described them: "And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: and the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee." Job i. 14, 15. On this account we find the Levitical law very minute in its precepts for regulating the damages to be assessed for injuries committed by oxen, or inflicted on them; and this consideration shows how forcible is Job's description of the violence of the wicked: "They drive away the ass of the fatherless, they take the widow's ox for a pledge." Job xxiv. 3.

The connexion between the ox and his master was always regarded both by the Egyptians and the Israelites as a social tie; and their mutual dependence on each other is the subject of frequent allusions in the prophetical writings. Thus Isaiah illustrates the gross insensibility of the disobedient Jews, by setting them lower than the beasts of the field: "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; *but* Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider." Isaiah i. 3.

Hosea has given an elegant turn to the same image, by using it as a metaphor or allegory: "I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them." Hosea xi. 4. The meaning will be more clear if we preserve the original parallelism of Hebrew poetry in the translation:—

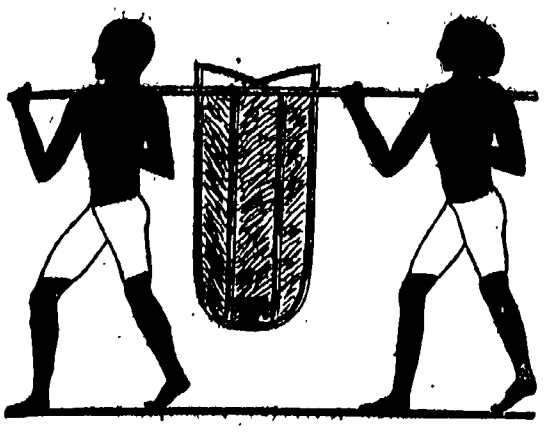
"I drew them with human cords, with the bands of love:
And I was to them, as he that lifteth up the yoke upon their cheek;
And I laid down their fodder before them."

The middle clause, which seems rather obscure, is thus simply and clearly explained by Solomon ben Melek: "I was to them as at their desire, as they that have compassion on a heifer, lest she be overworked in ploughing; and that lift up the yoke from off her neck, and rest it upon her cheek, that she may not still draw, but rest from her labour an hour or two in the day."

Very little labour was required between sowing and reaping, for there are scarcely any weeds in Egypt; no traces of the intermediate operations between seed-time and harvest, so important in our system of farming, can be discovered on the monuments. They usually sowed in November, and the harvest was ripe in April. The corn was cut with a sickle; its shape does not differ materially from that used at the present day.

"It will be seen that the reapers merely cut the ears off, for straw was of no value in Egypt."

were a better material for thatching their cattle and horses seem rarely, if ever, to have been stabled, and consequently litter was not required; the chaff was preferred to the straw for stuffing beds. We find it recorded, that in the seven years of plenty "the earth brought forth *by handfuls*;" a singular expression, which seems to allude not only to the great luxuriance of the crop, but also to this custom of cutting away only so much of the stalks as the reaper grasped in his hand. We find, however, that straw was used in the manufacture of bricks: the stems of the corn left by the reapers were plucked up by the hand for the brick-makers; and as this was both tedious and toilsome, we can estimate the injustice of Pharaoh when he refused to supply straw to the captive Israelites. We must remember that the tyrannical



Pharaoh issued his orders, prohibiting the supply of straw, about two months before the time of harvest. If, therefore, the straw had not been usually left standing in the fields, he would have required from the Israelites a physical impossibility; but the narrative shows us that the Israelites found the stems of the last year's harvest standing in the fields. "So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Eygpt to gather stubble instead of straw." (Exod. v. 12.) By stubble, the historian clearly means the stalks that remained from the last year's harvest. We find no traces of gleaning on any of the Egyptian monuments. It has been observed by the Jewish rabbins that where the harvests were most abundant the least corn was left for the gleaner. Hence Isaiah refers to the reaping of the harvest in the fertile valley of Rephaim, near Jerusalem, as an emblem of the total sweeping away of the Israelites by the King of Assyria:—"The glory of Jacob shall be made thin, and the fatness of his flesh shall wax lean. And it shall be as when the harvestman gathereth the corn, and reapeth the ears with his arm; and it shall be as he that gathereth ears in the valley of Rephaim." (Isaiah xvii. 4, 5.) Thus in Egypt and Palestine the rapacity of the lords of corn was always found to increase in proportion to the advantages which they possessed over the rest of the community; and hence it was necessary in the Mosaic legislation to make special provision for the rights of the poor to the gleanings of the field. When the corn was cut down it was not, as with us, bound into sheaves, the straw having been neglected by the reapers, but the ears were collected in large baskets and carried to the threshing-floor. There is no appearance of joy or pleasure among those engaged in bringing home the harvest; the agricultural labourers of ancient Egypt, like those of modern England, were screwed down to the lowest rate of remuneration which would support existence by the lords of the soil, but they were spared the insult of the hypocritical pretence that restrictions were imposed upon their food for their own benefit.

The threshing-floor was a place of considerable importance; it was formed of clay, well tempered and hardened, so as to become like a single marble slab. So important were these places, that we find threshing-floors mentioned as geographical points of equal importance with cities; indeed, it is probable that they were prepared at the joint expense of several communities, and formed a kind of centre of union for the surrounding districts. Threshing-floors are always mentioned, in the more ancient books of the Old Testament, as places universally known. Thus, in the account of the burial of Jacob, we find the halting-place of the funeral procession identified by a threshing-floor, whose name was changed in consequence of the solemnities by which the patriarch's loss was deplored:—"And they came to the threshing-floor of Atad, which is

beyond Jordan, and there they mourned with a great and very sore lamentation: and he made a mourning for his father seven days. And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning in the floor of Atad, they said, This is a grievous mourning to the Egyptians: wherefore the name of it was called Abel-mizraim, which is beyond Jordan." (Gen. l. 10, 11.)

Threshing was always performed by oxen, a custom to which we find frequent reference in the Holy Scriptures. One of the Levitical precepts was, "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn."

Isaiah notices four different kinds of threshing in a passage thus translated by Bishop Lowth:—

"The dill is not beaten out with the corn-drag;
Nor is the wheel of the wain made to turn upon the cummin;
But the dill is beaten out with the staff,
And the cummin with the flail, but the bread corn with the threshing-wain;
But not for ever will he continue thus to thresh it;
Nor to vex it with the wheel of his wain,
Nor to bruise it with the hoofs of his cattle."
(Isa. xxviii. 27, 28.)

It is obvious that small and tender seeds would be crushed to pieces if trodden out by oxen, and they were therefore extracted from the husk by the staff or flail. The seed of the lotus we shall find hereafter was extracted by a peculiar instrument. Threshing by the drag or wain, which is a frame of rough planks, with or without serrated rollers, is still common in Egypt. It is called the *nôreg*, and is drawn by oxen over the corn-sheaves, the driver sitting upon it, in order to add to its weight.

Unthreshed ears, clods of earth, and gross impurities, were separated by a sieve, and the winnowed heap, which contained many ears of corn not yet broken, or at least imperfectly crushed out, was again subjected to the threshing of the oxen. After this second operation, the corn was once more flung against the wind by a shovel, or a square instrument, like a board slightly scooped, similar to the shovels used in corn-stores, but without a handle, called by the Hebrews *mizreh*, which. in our translation of Isaiah, is called a fan. "The oxen likewise, and the asses that plow the ground, shall eat clean provender, which hath been winnowed with the shovel and with the fan." (Isa. xxx. 24.)

It would appear, from a passage in St. Matthew, that the fan was considered the more perfect winnowing implement, for the Baptist, describing the advent of Christ, says. "Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." (Matt. iii. 12.)

The scattered straw, and the light chaff entangled in the stubble, were burned in Syria and Palestine for the purpose of manuring the ground, but this does not appear to have been the practice in Egypt, where, as we have already said, the fertility of the soil depended wholly on irrigation. The winnowed corn was removed to the granary in measured vessels of equal capacity, to facilitate the keeping of a proper account. The royal officer, with his pen and tablet, is always present at the winnowing and storing. A great portion of the royal revenues was derived from a corn-rent, and hence the officer took an accurate account of the produce. This was called "numbering," and was effected by measurement. The vessels in which the corn was carried from the winnowing floor to the granary were all of equal capacity, and officers were appointed to keep a reckoning in both places, that they might act as a check upon each other. We find that the practice of "numbering" existed before Joseph rendered the King proprietor of all the land of Egypt. "And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering: for it was without number." (Gen. xli. 49.) In consequence of the imperfection of the threshing, great attention was paid to the operation of winnowing, which was several times repeated until the corn was perfectly clean.

The image of the threshing and winnowing is frequently used by the Hebrew poets with great strength and beauty, to express the utter destruction and dispersion of God's enemies, or the separation of the wicked from the righteous. Thus in Isaiah's description of the overthrow of Babylon:—"O my threshing, and the corn of my floor: that which I have heard of the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, have I declared unto you." (Isaiah xxi. 10.)

Our translators have here used the word "threshing" in a passive sense, to express the object or matter threshed, that is, the population on whom God declares that he shall exercise a discipline as severe as that to which corn is subjected when spread upon the threshing-floor. It may be remarked that the words rendered "corn of my floor," signify in Hebrew "son of my floor," for it is an idiom of the Hebrew language to call the effect, the object, the adjunct, anything that belongs in almost any way to any other, the son of it. After the first clause, we find one of those sudden changes of person so common in Hebrew poetry; the prophet abruptly breaks off the speech of God, and begins to speak in his own person. This remarkable verse briefly and expressively gives the application, end, and design of the prophecy, partly in the person of God, partly in that of the prophet: its meaning is, "O my people, whom for your punishment I shall make subject to the Babylonians, to try and to prove you, and to separate the chaff from the corn, the good from the bad among you: hear this for your consolation: your punishment, your slavery, and oppression will have an end in the destruction of your oppressors."

Extensive stores were provided for the reception of the corn, and, from the accounts we have received of them, there can be no doubt that they would have contained a supply sufficient for the support of the population during the seven years of famine. The vintage was of far less importance in Egypt than in Palestine, for the grapes that grow in the valley of the Nile, unless very carefully cultivated, are small and thin. Hence arose the surprise of the spies at the size of the enormous clusters of grapes which they found near Eshcol. In another article we shall take a glance at the progress of manufactures in Egypt, and examine their connexion with the commerce of Tyre.

Abundance of Food—Agricultural Distress.—To secure a sufficiency of good wholesome food to the masses of the people, and to secure the people in the enjoyment of this food, once that it has been produced, this, after all, is, or ought to be, the great end and aim of that complicated machine which we call government—this is, or ought to be, the end and aim of all our registration courts, our hustings, our polling booths, and our parliamentary talking. But this, or part of it at least—the abundance we mean; the distribution of that abundance is another and far more difficult question—we are likely to have this season, not in consequence of our Reform Bill, with its registrations, and hustings, and polling booths, and parliamentary talkers, but in defiance of them all. We are to have a good harvest; as a consequence, we are to have cheap corn; and again as a consequence, we are likely to have "agricultural distress"! Low grain prices will give the farmers a colourable pretence for raising the cry of agricultural distress; but we cannot see how their distress can be greater with low prices and a large quantity to sell, than with high prices and a small quantity of disposable produce. The fact is, that the agriculturists as a body are *always* "distressed." A good season is no blessing to them; for this reason—they are rack-rented. High prices are no blessing to them; for this reason—they are rack-rented. Corn Laws are no blessing to them; still for this reason—they are rack-rented; and the repeal of the Corn Laws would leave them much about where they are, *unless* they could get quit of the crushing burden of rack-rents. Rent is the "evil genius" of the farmers; and we can see no amelioration for them except in a thorough and radical revision of their relation to their landlords. Such a revision must be effected; rents, like every human thing, must fall. This is one of the great social questions which will agitate society after the repeal of the Corn Laws.—*Bradford Observer.*

Distribution should follow Production.—We like the benefits of every improvement and every discovery to be conferred upon all classes in society. Hitherto the upper classes have enjoyed almost exclusively the advantages accruing from our rapid progress in science, and our long-continued peace. There has been a large increase of production by the same labour, and yet the masses have scarcely known any abatement of toil, or obtained any considerable increase of enjoyment. Cotemporary with increased methods of production, the Legislature has taken care to transfer the results from the many to the few. It is certainly gratifying to anticipate the great increase of employment that must result from the number of new mills, weaving sheds, and manufactories, now in progress of erection; but unless our commercial laws be changed, so as to allow the produce to be sold to countries whose only means of payment consists of food, we fear that those engaged therein will be denied the enlarged benefit which might reasonably be expected from so great an extension of our powers of production. How apparent it must be to every considerate workman that if his employer can sell his goods he has a security for continued employment; but if not, that the workpeople must be the great sufferers. With good harvests, producing cheap food, the home demand may keep the mills at work; but as these are contingent upon the seasons, over which we have no control, how important it is for all to combine together to insist upon a free access to the harvests of other countries, and thus prevent the return of such miseries as were endured by the people during the late depression. We are glad, indeed, to find that a better feeling is beginning to exist between men and masters, which we trust will lead to united efforts for the benefit of both. We have lately heard of two threatened "turn-outs" being prevented, and the differences adjusted, by the free and kindly intercourse and deliberation of the employers with the employed. There is no doubt that if the men, instead of being excited and misled by reckless agitators, would calmly represent their requirements to employers, and if masters, on the other hand, would reasonably consider the merits of honest labour, we might hereafter entirely avoid those movements of the masses which ever and anon threaten the destruction of our social edifice. And if both masters and men, instead of supporting faction, would endeavour to understand the principles of national economy, and the advantages—nay, the indispensable necessity—of unrestrained exchanges, there is little doubt that such legislative changes would be the result as would enable the employer to reap the reward of enterprise, and the employed to receive the just recompense of toil. We rejoice to repeat that we see indications of better feeling between these two classes, and, in contemplating the almost infinite capabilities of our country, we cannot but reiterate the words of the beautiful prayer at the funeral of the venerable Dalton:—"May the time hasten when men will find out the true method of so distributing the bountiful provision for human subsistence and comfort, even for this life, among each other, that the poorest, living a life of usefulness, may have in fullness all things necessary to the comfort of that life."—*Preston Guardian.*

AGRICULTURE.

WHY ARE FARMERS IN DISTRESS IN ABUNDANT SEASONS?

There is something for which the laws of men, and not natural causes, are accountable when we find the cultivators of the soil injured by bountiful harvests. Nay, so incredible is it, so revolting to common sense, that the farmers of England should always raise the cry of lamentation and complaint when their garners are overflowing with the precious gifts of a bounteous Creator, that nothing but the most indubitable evidence could convince us of the fact. Yet so it has ever been. In 1822 and in 1835 the cry of agricultural distress arose contemporaneously with the most abundant harvests that had ever been experienced: and now we hear the first signals of suffering and embarrassment from the same quarter in the midst of a more glorious season for the husbandman than has been known since 1835. Why is this? The question is surely deserving a careful investigation by the farmers;—it has been investigated and solved by men, who, in the calm and impartial spirit of philosophy, have examined the subject; and, that we may not be repelled as partisans by those who have been taught to believe the League their enemy, we will confine ourselves in the present case mainly to quotations from writers who have no connexion with us, whose views were published before the League was in existence, and for whose opinions we claim the same attentive investigation, and no more, from the farmers which they have already obtained from other classes of the community.

Mr. M'Culloch, in his "Commercial Dictionary," gives the following, upon the subject of fluctuations in the prices of corn:—

"It may be thought, perhaps, that the greater quantity of produce in abundant seasons will compensate for its lower price; but this is not the case. It is uniformly found that variations in the quantity of corn exercise a much greater influence over prices than equal variations in the quantity of almost anything else offered for sale. Being the principal necessary of life, when the supply of corn happens to be less than ordinary, the mass of the people make very great, though unavailing, exertions, by diminishing their consumption of other and less indispensable articles, to obtain their accustomed supplies of this prime necessary, so that its price rises much more than in proportion to the deficiency. On the other hand, when the supply is unusually large, the consumption is not proportionally extended. In ordinary years, the bulk of the population is about adequately fed; and, though the consumption of all classes be somewhat greater in unusually plentiful years, the extension is considerable only amongst the lowest classes, and in the feeding of horses. Hence it is, that the increased supply at market, in such years, goes principally to cause a glut, and, consequently, a ruinous decline of prices. These statements are corroborated by the widest experience."

Mr. Tooke, the author of the "History of Prices"—a standard work, quoted as an authority by all parties—was examined before the Agricultural Committe of 1821, and gave his reasons for believing that an excess of quantity operates in depressing the prices of commodities generally, but of corn especially, in a ratio much beyond the degree of that excess. *His reasons were quoted in the report of the committee, which, in the most unqualified manner, adopted them as the opinions of the committee.* In his work upon Prices, Mr. Tooke enters at some length into this subject, and explains the mode in which a deficiency operates upon prices:—

"The fact (says he) that a small deficiency in the produce of corn, compared with the average rate of consumption, occasionally causes a rise in price very much beyond the ratio of deficiency, is obvious upon the slightest reference to the history of prices at periods when nothing in the state of politics or of the currency could be suspected to have had any influence."

Mr. Tooke shows that this is no new doctrine, by quoting an old writer, Gregory King, who laid down the same principle, and framed a table of fluctuations which has been often quoted.

According to this author, a defect in the harvest may raise the price of corn in the following proportions:—

Deficiency.		Above the common rate.
1-tenth	raises the price	3-tenths.
2-tenths		8-tenths.
3-tenths		16-tenths.
4-tenths		28-tenths.
5-tenths		45-tenths.

Upon this scale of fluctuations Mr. Tooke remarks:—

"It is perhaps superfluous to add, that no such strict rule can be deduced; at the same time, there is some ground for supposing that the estimate is not very wide of the truth, from observation of the repeated occurrence of the fact, that the price of corn in this country has risen from 100 to 200 per cent. and upwards, when the utmost computed deficiency of the crops has not been more than between 1-6th and 1-3rd below an average, and when that deficiency has been relieved by foreign supplies.

"All that can be said, therefore, in general terms, is that a decided deficiency of supply is commonly attended in the case of corn, more than in that of most other articles, with an advance in price very much beyond the degree of the deficiency. And the reason of the fact is as clear, upon a little reflection, as the fact itself is upon the slightest observation. The process by which the rise beyond the proportion of deficiency takes place, is the struggle of every one to get his accustomed share of that which is necessary for his subsistence, and of which there is not enough or as much as usual for all.

"If prices of produce rose only in exact proportion to the deficiency of growth,—thus, if in commonly good years an acre of wheat produced 33 bushels, which sold for 6s. per bushel, or £9 18s., but in a bad season produced only two-thirds of a crop, or 22 bushels, which sold 9s. a bushel, or £9 18s., supposing the expenses of getting in the crops to be the same in both cases,—the farmer would be neither gainer nor loser by the deficiency of his crops, that deficiency being here assumed to be general.

"But, upon the principle now laid down, the case would be widely different. In the event of a deficiency of one-third of an average crop, a bushel of wheat might rise to 18s. and upwards. Now, 22 bushels at 18s. would be worth £19 16s.; whereas, the 33 bushels at 6s. per bushel were worth only £9 18s.; making a clear profit to the grower of 100 per cent."

These views are no longer disputed by men of intelligence, and they have had the sanction of a parliamentary committee. But it may be said, "You have explained how the fluctuations in *quantity* aggravate the fluctuations of *price*; but you have yet to show what it is that causes these fluctuations in quantity." To this there can be but one answer,—*the variations mainly in the seasons*. But we contend that these variations are greatly increased by restricting the supply of corn to the growth of this country; that the wider the field over which the supply and demand range, the greater the steadiness of price; and that, whilst seasons of abundance or scarcity recur in ever-varying succession in the British islands, it is not so throughout the wide world, in which a never-failing plenty is to be found for all its inhabitants, if its diffusion were not prevented by restrictive laws.

But we will conclude with a quotation from Mr. M'Culloch on this subject, commending it to the serious attention of the farmers, merely premising that he is no Leaguer, manufacturer, or merchant, who can be charged with having an interest in misleading the farmers, for the purpose of increasing his foreign trade:—

"It is demonstrably certain that the recurrence of periods of distress, similar to those that have been experienced by the agriculturists of this country since the peace, cannot be warded off by restricting or prohibiting importation. A free corn trade is the only system that can give them that security against fluctuations that is so indispensable. The increased importation that would take place, were the ports always open, as soon as any considerable deficiency in the crops was apprehended, would prevent prices from rising to an oppressive height; while, on the other hand, when the crops were unusually luxuriant, a ready outlet would be found for the surplus in foreign countries, without its occasioning a very heavy fall. To expect to combine steadiness of prices with restrictions on importation, is to expect to reconcile what is contradictory and absurd. The higher the limit at which the importation of foreign corn into a country like England is fixed, the greater will be the fluctuation of prices. If we would secure for ourselves abundance, and avoid fluctuation, we must renounce all attempts at exclusion, and be ready to deal in corn, as we ought to be in everything else, on fair and liberal principles.

* * * * *

"IT IS THE EXCLUSION, NOT THE INTRODUCTION OF FOREIGN CORN, THAT HAS CAUSED THE DISTRESS OF THE AGRICULTURISTS."

COVERING THE DUKE'S RETREAT.

That pompous monopolist, the Duke of Richmond, never makes a speech at an agricultural or a protection meeting without lugging in the fact that he once was an officer in the army, and actually went a warring. It is, we presume, because his contemporary chroniclers have been so regardless as to omit all mention of the Duke's military services, that he finds it necessary on all occasions to trumpet his own prowess, and declare his readiness to die for his country and—dear food, a dukish paraphrase for high rents. There is one part of the art military which it is certain the Duke must have thoroughly mastered, for he has completely instructed his non-military dependents and subordinates in it; we allude to the art of covering a retreat. Every body has heard of the Duke's roarer. Well, no sooner was the Duke's prize horse discovered to be an unsound animal, and unsound in a way which renders it absolutely certain that everybody who had known him must have been aware of his unsoundness, than forth steps Mr. Rushbridger, the Duke's land-steward, and says, "I am the culprit; the horse is not the Duke's horse, but my horse; it is all a mistake of those clumsy fellows the managers of the Royal Agricultural Society's Show, who chose to enter my horse in the name of my master." Now, when we shall presently show the reader the conditions upon which people compete for the society's prizes, he will be inclined to say the bold agent's diversion in favour of his master was rather a dashing manœuvre.

But next comes also Mr. B. Gibbs, the manager of the show-yard, to the Duke's rescue, and he chivalrously takes upon himself all the onus of the mistake, saying, that as Mr. Rushbridger had always signed the requisite certificates for stock exhibited by the Duke, and as in the present instance the certificate had been signed by Mr. Rushbridger, he, Mr. Gibbs, had supposed erroneously that the horse was the Duke's horse; and further, that the mistake was discovered in time to alter the catalogues sold on the show-ground. This also, the reader will see, was a bold move to cover the Duke's retreat. On looking at the published conditions on which the prizes of the society are open to competition, we find that certificates stating the particulars of the animals were required to be delivered to the secretary nearly two months before the show day, and it is stated that "forms of certificate to be procured on application to the secretary." Now, the prizes are offered to the "owners" of animals; as for instance, "*To the* OWNER *of the best thorough-bred stallion*, &c., thirty sovereigns;" and, if the form of certificate is any certificate at all, it *must* state the name of the ow[illegible] otherwise there would be no person to whom to [illegible] the prize. And the horse in question must have been stated to be the Duke's, though the certificate may have been signed by his agent; and therefore, if there was a real mistake, it must have been Mr. Rushbridger's, and not Mr. Gibbs's. It certainly does seem odd that the agent should have made the *mistake* of entering his own unsound horse as the Duke's.

Then we have Mr. Gibbs's further statement that the mistake was rectified in the catalogues *sold in the show-yard*, and that the horse was there correctly entered as Mr. Rushbridger's. This is not the fact. We visited the show-yard on the grand day of the show, and saw, certainly without admiring, the flashy equine delinquent. Now, the following is a copy from the catalogue we purchased in the show-yard at Southampton on the Thursday morning, the grand day of the meeting:—

"CLASS V.—THOROUGH-BRED STALLIONS.—216. His Grace the *Duke of Richmond, of Goodwood, Chichester*, a thorough-bred stallion, four years old, got by Sheet Anchor, out of Valencia, bred by the Right Hon. Lord George Bentinck (*for sale at the auction*). 565."

And we learn by a N.B. at the beginning of the catalogue, that "The figures at the commencement of each description signify the judges' number, and the figures at the end of each animal the number of entry."

Now, notwithstanding all the skill exhibited in the attempts to cover the Duke's retreat, it is quite clear that the whole matter is a pretty considerable mess; and we suspect it will not tend to give farmers any great degree of confidence in exhibiting *their* animals.

Has this mistake arisen from the inaccurate habits the Duke and his employes have got into, by marshalling figures and facts so as to make them look to the uninformed like arguments for the Corn Laws?

REVISION OF THE GAME-LAWS—FACTS FOR THE "HOME-OFFICE."

In accordance with our pledge to assist the Home Secretary in his *searching* inquiries into the operation of the game laws, we present him this week with a few gatherings, which his numerous official and letter-ary avocations might otherwise cause him to overlook.

First, from Buckinghamshire, is the following memorandum:—

"Dr. Lee, a Buckinghamshire magistrate, at a meeting recently held at Hartwell, said that '*one hundred and thirty of the prisoners who had been confined in the county gaol during the past year were poor labourers, who had been taken up for offences under the game laws.*'"

Sir Harry Verney showed to the magistrates in quarter sessions, that one wing of the new gaol now building, or about one-third of the whole, was required for the imprisonment of poachers only! What say you to that, Sir James Graham?

Next we find game creating ill-blood and litigation between two neighbouring landowners. At the last Wiltshire assizes an action was brought by Mr. Tanner, nominally against a farmer named Spackman, but really against Mr. Heneage, one of the monopolist members for Devizes, and a game-preserver, for a trespass:—

"The trespass complained of was the persistance by the defendant in crossing and recrossing a field, called the Croft, through which he alleged a public footpath ran, and it was, in effect, to try the right of the public to a path through this field, rather than for any act of trespass, in the common acceptation of the term, that this action was brought. The trial, which was dull and uninteresting in the highest degree, except to the parties concerned, occupied the court from a little after eleven o'clock on Friday morning till nearly two o'clock on Saturday afternoon; *42 witnesses (21 on each side) having been examined and cross-examined, many of them at great length.*"

There was a special jury; and three counsel on one side, against two on the other. And the cause of all this strife was, that the monopolist squire's gamekeeper might have a way over the land of his master's neighbour, to watch and keep within their own bounds his master's pheasants.

"The field in question is a wet springy piece of land, with a little brook running through it, lying at a distance from the back of Mr. Tanner's estate, and close to the game preserves of Mr. Heneage, M.P. It has been broken up and part of it planted with withies, and other parts with potatoes, buckwheat having been sown on its outer boundaries, and barley and beans scattered about its interior. This proceeding has made it a favourite resort of Mr. Heneage's pheasants, and it would seem, from the observations which were occasionally made by the learned counsel, and by the questions that were put to some of the witnesses, that the object of the plaintiff in denying the right of way through the croft was, that it might be a more snug and undisturbed decoy for his neighbour's pheasants, and that the object of the defendant, or of some person behind the scene—*Mr. Heneage, probably, from the interest which his gamekeeper took in the matter—was to maintain the alleged right of way that opportunities might be afforded for exercising some, even slight, surveillance over the vagrant pheasants, and of having some chance of opportunities for disturbing them in their retreat.*"

A verdict was eventually found for the plaintiff, which negatived the right of way, and thus the senatorial game-preserver must give up his game, or submit to have his pheasants occasionally seduced by the temptations of his neighbour's buckwheat. The following report from the *Aylesbury News* may help to inform our inquiring Home Secretary how the game laws are administered:—

"PETTY SESSION.—August 16.—Present—The Hon. P. S. Pierrepoint, and the Rev. A. H. Matthews. The Game Laws.—Joseph Rawlins and Samuel Layland, of Lower Heyford, were charged by George Woods, jun., of Middleton Stoney, with having, on the 14th inst., at the former place, used snares for the destruction of game. Layland did not appear. *Rawlins, a young man, crying piteously, attended to his summons.* Irons, one of the constables of Cawcott, said he could not read, but he had served the summons on, and explained it to, Layland. Rawlins said he was eighteen years of age. Mr. Pierrepoint—'Why not enlist for a soldier, instead of lying about poaching? You would do yourself some good then.' To this the young man did not reply. [It is possible he may not have a relish for such a blood-thirsty profession. By what authority are parties thus catechised? Is not this *à la France*?] The complainant is one of the Earl of Jersey's gamekeepers, and he called James Andrews, another of the Earl's keepers, to prove the case. The evidence was far from being direct and conclusive; it was what would have been 'scouted' from an assize court. *Andrews did not know what day of the month it happened on; he shifted more than once from the 14th to the 15th, and* vice versa; *nor did he appear to be confident as to the day of the week, but thought it was Wednesday. This was strange, as only two days had elapsed since the offence was alleged to have been committed.* The witness went on to say that Rawlins and Layland were reaping in a field; that he did not then know their names; that they took up three snares; that he then went up; *that Layland gave them up to him; and that there was nothing in either of them.* [illegible] *in his eyes, assured the bench that he* [illegible] *his life; that he did not set them or take them up.* [illegible]

CONSIDERED THE OFFENCE PROVED, but said, it appearing that this was the first time he had been before them, they would give him the advantage of it. *To pay fine and costs, 20s. each, and in default one month's hard labour. Respite paid the 20s.* [This was giving him an 'advantage' with a vengeance—to pay £1 10s. for having been with a person who picked up three empty snares in a wheat field!"]—*Aylesbury News.*

A LONG MINORITY.

The monopolist newspapers are very sedulously quoting passages from a very weak pamphlet of Mr. Alison, published by the "Central Protection Society." One which we have several times met with is headed, "The capacity of the British soil to support three times its present population," and which, after some statistical statements which are purely imaginary, the monopolist writer says:—

"Nothing, therefore, seems more reasonable than to hold that the British islands contain within themselves *the means of maintaining in comfort at least triple their present population*; and, consequently, all arguments drawn from the supposed impossibility of adequately maintaining our population from our own agricultural produce, or of the inhabitants soon approaching the limits assigned to the increasing subsistence, are perfectly chimerical and absurd. While, on the other hand, these facts *demonstrate that at least triple the amount of subsistence may be extracted from the soil of the British islands than is at present obtained*; and consequently triple the vent for our manufactures obtained in the home market from that which is at present afforded, and *which even now, in its comparatively infantine state*, takes off 130,000,000 worth of our home fabrics, being above four times the amount of our exports to all foreign countries put together. What, therefore, can be so unwise *as to run the risk of injuring an interest capable of such prodigious extension*, and on which such enormous classes are dependent, which is withal entirely within ourselves, and beyond the reach of foreign jealousy or attack, for one of far inferior amount, held by an infinitely more precarious tenure, and susceptible of a much less considerable extension?"—*From Mr. Alison's Pamphlet on Free Trade and Protection.*

Now, this is literally reading the history of British husbandry backwards. We have a firm persuasion that, *under favourable circumstances*, the production of food, grain and meat, in this country might be increased to an indefinite extent; but how is it that the home market, so dependent upon an agricultural demand, is still in "an infantine state" after thirty years of landlord-protective drynursing? Surely the landed interest has had a minority sufficiently long. An intelligent farmer lately said, at a farmers' club, when some one had been talking of recent rural improvements performed and projected, and had remarked that agriculture is in its infancy, that "It was true our husbandry is in its infancy, and he believed it would not emerge from that state until it is relieved from some of the swaddling clothes by which it is at present confined." So we say to Mr. Alison, if the agricultural interest is capable of such prodigious extension as he contemplates, why has not that extension taken place during thirty years of protection, if protection could conduce to that end? But the truth is, the shackles imposed by the Corn Laws, and their consequences, have prevented that extension. And it is a fact which no fictitious statistics can displace, and no wordy nonsense conceal, that precisely as protection has been diminished, has British husbandry shown signs of advancement. That it may soon attain its majority, and escape from the tutelage of the Richmonds and the Buckinghams, by a total repeal of all restrictions on the corn trade, is the earnest wish of every agriculturist who really understands the capacity of our soil for increased production.

DISTRESS OF THE LABOURING CLASS.—The reports of the state of agricultural labour, which we have received from different districts of Bedfordshire, have drawn our attention to the want of employment existing in almost every parish of the county. There are many circumstances in connexion with the moral condition of the peasantry which escape the notice of the prosperous yeoman, who is occupied with the management of his farm, and seldom contemplates anything beyond it; but these circumstances, when brought before the public, force on him reflection and the necessity of an improved course of action. We therefore proceed to recount some facts for consideration. At Harrold, we are told that in the midst of harvest *forty* labourers are without work. At Cranfield, we are informed that 12s. per week and two pints of beer a day are the wages of harvest time. 9s. per week are the usual wages of a horse-keeper, and 8s. per week are the wages of labourers when they can get work, which is so scarce that many families are without it, and almost starving. We ask the farmers, the clergyman of the parish, the landowners in the lordship, what is to become of the poor fellows who are willing to work and cannot get it, what is to be done with them in the winter, when work will be scarcer still than at present? Are these men to be debased to pauperism—are they to be employed in increasing the national wealth, or are they only to be kept to consume it in demoralization and idleness? We propose to the above gentlemen that a piece of land be rented and cultivated by spade labour, and the produce of it, after paying a fair rent for the land, be divided amongst the labourers according to each man's labour done on the parish land; and that he be allowed to till the ground by the sweat of his brow for an honest and improved livelihood. The state of the people now at the end of August is frightful. The shopkeepers are without trade, and the labourers are without work. At Cranfield, we were assured that not one bullock has been killed during the whole month of harvest, whilst at times two and three bullocks have been killed in a week. The state of that village is not worse, we may observe, than many other places. How long it may be borne depends on the mercy of God to the holders of the capital and land of the country. Before hatred shall be engendered, we exhort them to place within the reach of every one, anxious to live by honest labour, the means to do so, and they will enrich a nation and improve the morals of the people. What pleasure the corporation of Bedford would confer on many of the industrious classes, if the town lands were to be cultivated by the poor at allotment prices! and other inhabitants of the town would derive advantage from the wealth created by the happy labourers who may be so fortunate as to occupy the land, for they would have more money to exchange with the trade in the town. These are notetimes for men to stand idling with their hands feeling the bottom of their empty pockets. They must be employed to get food and the necessaries of life for themselves and families, or society will pass into disorganization.—*Bedford Mercury, a monopolist paper.*

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POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, September* 7, 1844.

This week has been one of more political excitement than could have been expected in the proverbially dull month of September. The Queen's Speech at the prorogation of Parliament has been delivered by the royal commissioners; the iniquitous sentence on Mr. O'Connell has been reversed by the House of Lords; and a vacancy has occurred in the representation of North Lancashire, by the resignation of Lord Stanley, who is about to become a member of the Upper House of Parliament. The Queen's Speech will be found in another part of this paper; and, accustomed as we have been for some years to the "no-meaningness" of such documents, we must yield to the present speech the palm of inanity: never before has so little been said in so many words. Ireland was the most prominent topic in the speech with which the session was opened; not the slightest allusion is made to it in the speech by which the session has been closed. Her Majesty is made to congratulate the Parliament on "the completion of *many* legislative measures, calculated to improve the administration of the law and to promote the public welfare." It is to be desired that those who concocted this speech for her Majesty had ventured to be rather more specific in their congratulations: instead of *many*, we cannot find *any* legislative measures by which the law has been improved or the public welfare advanced. Lord Brougham's measure for the abolition of imprisonment for debt is bad in itself, and still worse when viewed as a substitute for that framed by Lord Cottenham; the Factories' Bill is an elaborate failure, for it will be impossible to enforce its petty and complicated details; and the changes in the Poor Law are merely precursors of new legislation.

Her Majesty is next made to eulogize Sir Robert Peel's monetary system and financial regulations. We shall not carp at the praise; the Premier's laurels are too few to render it worth while to contest his claim to three or four leaves of the chaplet.

We share in the pleasure with which assurances were given that the blessings of peace will be maintained, and we hope that tranquillity will continue abroad and at home. We must, however, remind our rulers that perfect tranquillity can only be perpetuated by perfect justice, and that so long as the consumers of this country are onerously taxed for the benefit of a few monopolists, so long will there be a spirit of just discontent and indignation fermenting below the surface, to which unforeseen chances may give a dangerous and even an irresistible activity.

The reversal of the sentence on O'Connell has been the great topic of the week; it came upon the nation by surprise, and it certainly has been the most important legal decision given in England since the acquittal of Hardy and Horne Tooke. The perilous principle of constructive conspiracy, which would have placed the liberties, and perhaps the lives, of all who sought the repeal of any oppressive law at the discretion of a despotic Minister, has been shivered to atoms by the speech of Lord Denman,—a speech which united the profoundness of a lawyer with the sagacity of a statesman and the manly independence of a patriot.

Lord Stanley's removal to the Upper House has given rise to much party speculation; but most people see in it nothing more than Sir Robert Peel's cleverness in removing one of his chief difficulties from the House of Commons, and quietly shelving him in the Hospital for Incurables, as the House of Lords is usually called. A vacancy is thus created for North Lancashire, where no electoral contest has yet taken place, and where it is to be feared that the opponents of monopoly have not paid sufficient attention to the registration. Under such circumstances, little can be hoped from the result of a contest beyond the opportunity that will be afforded for the dissemination of Free-Trade principles, and the preparation for a future struggle against the feudal domination which the monopolists of land have imposed upon their serfs, who are mocked by the nickname of independent voters.

BOLTON BOROUGH REGISTER.—The borough register of electors, after revision by the barristers last year, contained the names of 1252 electors. The lists recently published by the overseers contain 1380 names, an increase of 128, but these proportions may be altered at the revision. The Reformers have made 66 objections to persons on the borough list, and also sent in some claims. The Tories have neither made any claims nor objections.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

The House of Lords met at two o'clock on Thursday, in order to dispose of a number of judgments in cases of appeal, previously to the Parliament being prorogued by Royal Commission.

This business occupied all the early part of the day. One o'clock was the hour fixed for the Commission, but the judgments were not got through until some time after that hour.

The Commons having been summoned to the bar, and the usual preliminaries gone through,

The LORD CHANCELLOR proceeded to read

THE ROYAL SPEECH.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"We are commanded by her Majesty, in relieving you from further attendance in Parliament, to express to you the warm acknowledgments of her Majesty for the zeal and assiduity with which you have applied yourselves to the discharge of your public duties during a laborious and protracted session.

"The results have been the completion of many legislative measures calculated to improve the administration of the Law, and to promote the public welfare.

"Her Majesty has given her cordial assent to the Bill which you presented to her Majesty for regulating the issue of Bank-notes, and for conferring certain privileges upon the Bank of England for a limited period.

"Her Majesty trusts that these measures will tend to place the pecuniary transactions of the country upon a sounder basis, without imposing any inconvenient restrictions on commercial credit or enterprise.

"We are directed to inform you that her Majesty continues to receive from her Allies, and from all Foreign Powers, assurances of their friendly disposition.

"Her Majesty has recently been engaged in discussions with the Government of the King of the French on events calculated to interrupt the good understanding and friendly relations between this country and France.

"You will rejoice to learn that, by the spirit of justice and moderation which has animated the two Governments, this danger has been happily averted.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

"We are commanded by her Majesty to thank you for the readiness with which you voted the supplies for the service of the year.

"Her Majesty has observed with the utmost satisfaction that, by the course to which you have steadily adhered in maintaining inviolate the public faith, and inspiring a just confidence in the stability of the national resources, you have been enabled to make a considerable reduction in the annual charge on account of the interest of the national debt.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"Her Majesty desires us to congratulate you on the improvement which has taken place in the condition of our manufactures and commerce, and on the prospect that, through the bounty of Divine Providence, we shall enjoy the blessing of an abundant harvest.

"Her Majesty rejoices in the belief that, on your return to your several districts, you will find generally prevailing throughout the country a spirit of loyalty and cheerful obedience to the law.

"Her Majesty is confident that these dispositions, so important to the peaceful development of our resources and to our national strength, will be confirmed and encouraged by your presence and example.

"We are commanded by her Majesty to assure you that, when you shall be called upon to resume the discharge of your parliamentary functions, you may place entire reliance on the cordial co-operation of her Majesty in your endeavours to improve the social condition, and to promote the happiness and contentment of her people."

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at twenty-five minutes to one. There was a considerable number of members present. Those on the Treasury benches, however, very greatly preponderating.

Mr. HOPE moved for a new writ for the northern division of Lancashire, in the room of the Right Hon. Lord Stanley, who had accepted the office of Steward of the Chiltern Hundreds. The writ was ordered amidst a considerable sensation in the House.

Earl JERMYN appeared at the bar of the House, and read her Majesty's most gracious Speech, in reply to the Address of congratulation of the House on the recent birth of a Prince.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE gave notice, that early in the next session of Parliament he should call the attention of the House to the unsatisfactory report of the committee on the Post Office; and that he should also move for the repeal of the ratepaying clauses in the Reform Act.

In answer to a question put by Sir C. NAPIER,—

SIR R. PEEL said it would be satisfactory to the House to learn that he was in a position to say that the proceedings which had been going on on the coast of Morocco would not lead to any occupation of that part of the world to give the slightest uneasiness. All the promises made by France with respect to Morocco had been fulfilled, and he was satisfied would continue to be fulfilled. With respect to the question of Tahiti, he begged to say that discussions had taken place between her Majesty's Government and the Government of France with regard to the events that had taken place there, and that they had ended in such a way as was calculated to continue the most friendly feelings between the two countries. (Hear, hear.) He had the high satisfaction of saying that those discussions had had the most amicable and satisfactory termination that could be desired. That which had occurred between the two countries would, of course, at a future period, be fully communicated to the House and the country. He trusted, however, he should not be pressed further on the subject at that time. (Hear, hear.) Indeed, he felt it his duty to abstain from any further communication to the House than that satisfactory one he was happy to be enabled to make. This, however, he would add, that in everything which had taken place on this Tahiti affair, the honour and interests of England had been most scrupulously regarded. (Ministerial cheers.)

Mr. HINDLEY wished to ask the opinion of the right hon. gentleman (Sir R. Peel) as to the proceedings of the French towards Mr. Pritchard.

Sir R. PEEL said that he must at present decline to go further in his information than he had done, repeating his declaration, that when the proper opportunity offered he

should be prepared to prove that anything which had been done had been done consistently with the honour and true interests of this country. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. T. Duncombe said, in consequence of the new writ that had just been moved, he wished to ask if the noble lord alluded to (Lord Stanley) still filled the office of Secretary to her Majesty's Colonies? (Loud cries of "Hear, hear.")

Sir R. Peel—I have the satisfaction to say that the position of my noble friend (Lord Stanley) in the Colonial department is not in the slightest degree affected by the writ which has just been moved by my hon. friend near me. (Loud laughter from the Ministerial benches, mixed with cries of "Hear, hear.")

Mr. T. Duncombe, having observed that he was not aware that his question was of so peculiar a character—especially after the writ which had been moved—as to call forth the ridicule which honourable gentlemen opposite attempted to attach to it, then moved for a copy of the opinions delivered by the Judges in an action of law against Daniel O'Connell and others, together with a copy of the notes taken by the short-hand writer, and the several judgments thereon. He wished especially to ask if the judgment of Lord Denman, which ought to be published all over the world in letters of gold, would be communicated authoritatively to the world. He should move that that noble lord's judgment should be printed, together with the opinions of the Judges on this most important case.

Mr. O. Cave seconded the motion.

Sir R. Peel deprecated the inconvenience of a debate at a time when they might be interrupted by other business. Whenever the period should arrive he would be prepared to defend the course taken by Government. With respect to the particular motion before the House, he had only to say that he would not offer any opposition to the production of these judgments, and, though he apprehended that there would not be time to send a message to the House of Lords, he would take care that that should not prevent the communication being made to the House of Lords in the usual manner.

Lord J. Russell concurred with the right honourable baronet as to the inconvenience of entering into a discussion upon these judgments at that moment, but he must reassert his opinion, that the trial which Mr. O'Connell and the others had received in Ireland was not that trial which would give an impression of fairness and justice. He should be prepared to enter into a discussion with the right honourable gentleman on the subject, and to maintain his former opinion, more particularly since his opinion had been confirmed by that of the House of Lords, who decided that the conviction was not according to law. (Cheers.) If the right honourable gentleman had, as he asserted that he had, resorted only to the law, and had given the persons accused the full benefit of trial by jury, he should not have complained, whatever might have been the result; but what he complained of was, not a trial by a fair jury, but by a jury elaborately put together for the purpose of conviction (loud cheers), charged by a judge who did not allow any considerations in favour of the accused to come fairly before his mind, but who charged more violently than the Attorney-General accused (loud cheers), and altogether acted towards a prejudiced jury in such a manner as to prevent justice being done to the accused. He trusted that the result of the proceedings would be to prevent any similar examples of such a trial being witnessed again, and that hereafter the people of that country would be allowed to enjoy the full benefit of English institutions (cheers); and that, if justice was not done them in their own country, they would see that in the highest quarters in this country, amongst men of the highest rank, attainments, and abilities, there was a determination to do towards them what they conceived to be justice—not because they belonged to that country, but because they thought that all the subjects of the United Kingdom ought to have the full enjoyment of the inestimable privileges which the people of this country enjoyed.

During some remarks from Sir Thomas Wilde on the legal bearings of the question, the learned member was interrupted by the Usher of the Black Rod, at the bar, to summon the House to the bar of the House of Lord, to hear the royal assent given to certain bills by commission, and to hear Parliament prorogued.

On the return of the Speaker to the House, attended by several members, the royal speech on the prorogation was read from the chair, and the members separated.

REVERSAL OF THE SENTENCE ON MR. O'CONNELL AND THE OTHER TRAVERSERS.

The House of Lords met again on Monday for the purpose of receiving the opinions of the judges on the writ of error, in the case of the Queen v. O'Connell and others.

Mr. Justice Wightman, Mr. Justice Williams, Mr. Baron Gurney, Mr. Justice Patteson, Lord Chief Baron Pollock, and Lord Chief Justice Tindal were of opinion that the challenge ought to have been allowed in the court below. All the learned judges agreed in pronouncing that the sixth and seventh counts of the indictment were "so bad, that, if the indictment consisted of those counts alone, it would be impossible to give any judgment against the defendants upon the verdict," an opinion directly contrary to that of the four judges of the Court of Queen's Bench in Ireland, who pronounced these counts to be unexceptionable, and upon which, accordingly, as upon the others, they gave their decision against the traversers. Mr. Baron Parke and Mr. Justice Coltman were for the reversal of the sentence of the court below, on the ground that there were some bad counts in the indictment; that the defendants had been found guilty upon each; and as the judgment was general, and the *quantum* of punishment a matter in the discretion of the judges, it was to be presumed that a part, at least, of the punishment must have been awarded upon the bad counts, and that, as it was impossible to ascertain how much had been, as the whole might have been so awarded, the defendants might in fact have been punished for that which was, in law, no offence.

After their lordships had severally delivered their opinions, the further consideration of the case was adjourned to Wednesday.

On Wednesday the House of Lords accordingly met, when, after the decision of the case of "Samuel Gray v. the Queen in error," in which the judgment of the inferior court was reversed, the Lord Chancellor proceeded to deliver his opinion in the case of the Queen v. O'Connell and others. His lordship went minutely into the case, and, having expressed himself in accordance with the majority of the judges, moved that the judgment of the court be affirmed.

Lord Brougham followed on the same side.

Lord Denman then delivered his opinion, dwelling chiefly on the challenge of the array, and contending that it ought to have been allowed, and that if such a practice as that with regard to the jury lists were permitted, a "trial by jury, instead of being a protection, would be a mockery, a delusion, and a snare." It appeared to him that the challenge to the array on the ground of the omission of several names ought to have been allowed. His lordship fortified his opinion on this point by that of Mr. Justice Coleridge (who, from illness, was prevented from attending), who entirely coincided with him.

Lord Cottenham said that, after the fullest consideration, he had come to the conclusion that the opinion expressed by the majority of the learned judges was wrong. He had formed his opinion early in the argument, and had heard no reason since given why he should change it.

Lord Campbell contended, among other points, that the parties ought not to have been tried by a jury struck from a defective list, but on the challenge the panel ought to have been quashed.

The question having been put by the Lord Chancellor,

Lord Wharncliffe recommended such of their lordships as were not learned in the law, and had not heard the whole case, to abstain from voting, on the ground that their voting might lessen the authority of their lordships' House as a court of justice.

Lord Brougham, lamenting the decision of his noble and learned friends, agreed in the recommendation of the noble lord.

The lay lords accordingly retired behind the woolsack.

The amendment of Lord Campbell was then put, and carried in the affirmative.

The judgment of the court below was therefore pronounced reversed.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

France and England.—The *Siècle* of Tuesday states, that the affair of Tahiti still caused the utmost uneasiness to the Cabinet, which was threatened with dissolution. The President of the Council, after a tolerably long resistance, agreed to the recal of M. d'Aubigny.

We see by the provincial journals that public rejoicings have taken place in many parts of France, in honour of the successes obtained by Marshal Bugeaud and the Prince de Joinville.

The French Minister of the Interior has ordered a medal to be struck at the mint in commemoration of the battle of Isly.

Love your Enemies.—The Bishop of Chalons-sur-Marne has issued a circular, directing all the clergy of his diocese to render, during one week, public thanks to Heaven for the "glorious" successes obtained by the French in Africa, and prayers for the further protection of the Most High.

The Visit of Louis Philippe to England.—The *Courrier Français* says:—"Some journals have announced that the King's journey to England was postponed until after the arrangement of the Tahiti affair. It is now affirmed that this matter is settled, and that the journey will take place speedily. A medal, destined to perpetuate the remembrance of his visit, is already being prepared at the mint."

Trade of France.—Great activity is at present manifested at Nismes in all branches of its silk manufactures. The number of commands has rendered it difficult to find a sufficiency of workmen even at higher prices than usual.

French Marine.—The Paris *Le Commerce*, in an article upon the commercial condition of France during the last three years, takes occasion to admit and lament the comparatively small extent of its commercial marine. The tonnage, in fact, of the merchant vessels belonging to France is stationary in amount. The tonnage of the foreign vessels which have entered French ports has been, for the last three years, steadily increasing, while that of native vessels remains almost stationary, and in matters of this kind, no progress means backward progress. The general small size of the merchant vessels of France is also admitted and deplored. In fact, in increase of size, and in number of sailors, the French commercial marine has made no progress for fifteen years, while we have been advancing steadily and rapidly.—*Chronicle.*

Price of Bread at Paris.—The price of bread at Paris has experienced a slight reduction. The 4lb. loaf, which was sold at 70c. during the month of August, has been reduced to 68c. for the first 15 days of September.

Prices of Wheat in the French Markets.—The *Moniteur* publishes the returns of the prices of wheat in August last in the different markets of France, from which it appears that it sold, on an average, at 19f. 93c. per hectolitre at Toulouse, Gray, Lyons, and Marseilles; 18f. 44c. at Murans and Bordeaux; 17f. 76c. at St Laurent and La Grand Lemps; 17f. 35c. at Mulhausen and Strasburg; 19f. 49c. at Bergues, Arras, Roye, Soissons, Paris, and Rouen; 17f. 43c. at Saumur and Nantes; 16f. 27c. at Metz, Verdun, and Charleville; and 18f. 69c. at St. Lo, Palmpol, Quimper, and Hennebon.

Tangier.—It is a pity that Tangier has been attacked at all—the only place in Barbary where there are marks of some civilization; where Christians are not insulted and spit upon in the streets; where not a leaf was touched in the gardens of consuls at a distance from the town; and where alone Jews have lived in peace throughout the town and mixed in the same streets with the inhabitants.—*Times.*

Mogadors.—A letter from an officer on board the French squadron off Mogadore, dated the 17th ult., says:—"We are to keep for a time possession of the island, the garrison of which is already formed, and the troops have begun to raise fortifications. We shall leave here the brigs of war Argus and Cassard, and a steam sloop. The other ships of the squadron are about to sail for Cadiz, to repair their damages; we hope afterwards to return to France. Our squadron during the conflict threw 16,000 projectiles into Mogadore. The Jemappes had her sides struck by more than 30 balls, and her rigging was much cut up. A ball passed through the flag at the topmast head of the Triton."

Spain.—The Madrid journals of the 28th ult. announce that the responsible editor of the opposition journal, the *Espectador*, has been arrested by the Government and confined *au secret*, and that his journal is suspended until a new editor be appointed. A Madrid letter states that the demands of the Spanish Government upon Morocco not having been complied with, orders have been given to put all the naval forces in motion; and, to cover the expense, Treasury bills to a large amount have been drawn upon Cadiz and Corunna.

Treaty of Commerce between Belgium and Prussia.—The *Moniteur Belge* of the 2nd announces the conclusion of a commercial treaty between Belgium and Prussia, and the other states of the Customs Union. The *Commerce Belge* says, "The measure by which a high duty was imposed exclusively on our cast iron and iron articles is withdrawn. The Customs Union concedes to Belgium a reduction of 50 per cent. on the duty on foreign cast iron. This duty is fixed from this day at 2 francs 20 centimes per 100 kilogrammes. Thus Belgian cast iron will pay only 1 franc 25 centimes: besides this a reduction of duty on iron articles is granted. The export duty on woollens at the frontiers of the Zollverein is reduced from two dollars to one dollar. The concessions made by Belgium are the repayment of the Scheldt toll, the maintaining in force of the law of the 6th of June relating to Luxemburg, the renewal of the regulations in favour of the German wines and silk manufactures, the revocation of the resolution on the exportation of bark, and the opening of the frontiers custom-house at Frankorchamp. Lastly, the ships of the Union are placed on an equality with Belgian ships with respect to all the privileges and advantages of the navigation. The transit of goods on both parts is wholly free."

Province of Posen.—The journal called the *Borsen Nachuchten des Osteen*, of the 28th of August, announces that, according to perfectly credible information, orders from Prince Paskewitsch have been received at the Polish frontier Custom-house at Peisern, not to allow any more corn to pass.

Athens, August 20.—The new Ministry have just issued a proclamation:—"We propose," say they, "nothing which shall not be avowed; we announce plainly, and with sincerity, the spirit which shall direct us. We hate exclusiveness. Justice and impartiality!—this is our motto. To execute religiously every portion of our valuable constitution—to apply rigorously our laws—to prefer for public offices those who have made sacrifices in the cause of independence, when accompanied by necessary qualifications—to reward the honest, and to punish the guilty—to administer the strictest economy which it will be possible to adopt; these are what we propose."

Circassia.—The *Universal German Gazette* contains a letter from Constantinople, of the 14th ult., which says:—"For some time a report has been current here that Schamil Bey had advanced with his forces as far as Tiflis, and that he remained three days there after having beaten the Russians. Some slave-dealers first brought this news, which, however, has been fully confirmed by a letter from a European residing in that city."

Cape of Good Hope.—Cape of Good Hope papers to the 27th of June have arrived. The chief feature in these journals is the statement of Customs' returns, which show an improvement; but it is remarked that, notwithstanding the public revenue increases so rapidly as to enable the Government to pay off its old debts, there never was a period before in which the colonists felt so extreme a monetary pressure, or when there were so many unexpected failures. The exports of wool for the quarter ending March, 1844, was 847,544 lbs., value £43,236. In the corresponding quarter of 1834 the quantity was not more than 51,792lbs., valued at £3498; thus showing the progress of ten years had increased the production of the staple about sixteen-fold. It appears by these same returns, that the gross amount of imports was valued at £226,117, and the exports at £114,399. The increase in revenue does not arise from additional taxation, but is the result of improving commerce and a reduction of the expenses of the service. Abundant rains had fallen throughout the colony, and the crops promised a large return. On the frontier the old complaint is made of the depredations of the Caffres. New treaties had, however, been concluded with the Busotas tribe. Reports had come to hand at the Cape of the continued arrival of vessels at the Guano Islands for supplies, and cargoes were being secured as freely as ever.

DOMESTIC.

A Cabinet Council was held at two o'clock on Monday: most of the Ministers were present. The Council sat two hours and a half. The difference between France and England, arising from the recent events at Tahiti, was, according to the *Times*, the subject of deliberation. On Tuesday, that journal "congratulates the country on the truly gratifying intelligence of a probable arrangement of the Tahiti question, and a termination to all fears of a rupture between ourselves and France." It states, further, that "M. d'Aubigny has been moved from Tahiti, his conduct has been made the subject of apology, and satisfaction will, we are told, be made to Mr. Pritchard for the ill treatment he has received. The former officer had been previously censured by his superior, Captain Bruat, and this additional stamp upon him, accompanied with a due measure of satisfaction to the injured person, appears to be a sufficient recognition on the part of the French Government of our charge against D'Aubigny. He is not dismissed the service, indeed, and it is not necessary that he should be; so that his Government acknowledges that his acts were unjustifiable, all is done that is required."——On Monday, new English wheat of the finest quality fell in Mark-lane between 2s. and 3s. a quarter; while wheats of inferior descriptions fell from 4s. to 5s. below the prices which prevailed last week.——It is stated that her Majesty and Prince Albert will embark on board the royal yacht on Monday or Tuesday next, and immediately proceed to Scotland, on a visit to the Duke of Atholl, over whose magnificent estates his Royal Highness will enjoy the sports of the field.——On Friday, the 30th ult., an incendiary fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Walters, sen., of Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, and which destroyed some hay-ricks, of about 25 tons or 30 tons each, and a rick of straw, containing about 30 loads.——On Saturday morning last Easey, the head gamekeeper of the Earl of Stradbroke, committed suicide at Henham Park estate, at which he was keeper, by shooting himself through the head with a double-barrelled gun. The deed is attributed to the vexation and annoyance he experienced from the predatory acts of poachers in the neighbourhood, which had recently succeeded in destroying great quantities

gates on their estate, which gave rise to fears that he should in consequence incur his lordship's displeasure, the Earl being expected to arrive on the day of the fatal catastrophe, preparatory to commencing his sporting amusements the following Monday.——Bartholomew Fair was opened on Tuesday by the Lord Mayor. The scene altogether was very dismal. His lordship did not meet with one cheer. The Corporation of London has very properly taken steps to put down this annual nuisance, and it may now be said to be extinct.—*Sun.*——Last Sunday the cheap excursion trains of the London and Brighton Railway Company conveyed about 3000 persons to and from Brighton. Each train consisted of 25 carriages, carrying about 700 persons.——The will of the late J. Travers, Esq., has been proved in the Prerogative Court. The property is sworn under £70,000.——The funeral of the unhappy girl, Eliza Kendall, who committed suicide last week, took place on Friday, the 30th ult. The deceased was followed to the church of St. Paul, Deptford, by nearly fifteen hundred persons, a very great proportion of whom were females.——Mr. Francis Baily, F.R.S., president of the Royal Astronomical Society, expired on Friday, the 30th ult., at his residence in Tavistock-place, Russell-square, in the 71st year of his age. His scientific attainments were of the highest order.——An inquest was held on Saturday evening last by Mr. Higgs, deputy coroner for Westminster, at the Angel and Crown, Heddon-street, Regent-street, on the body of Mary Smallman, aged four years, who was burnt to death at a fire which occurred in the back attic of the house No. 5, Heddon-street, on the previous Friday evening. Verdict, "Accidental Death."——On Thursday night, the 29th ult., about eight o'clock, a fire broke out in the stack-yard of Mr. Woollard, of Barrington, about eight miles from Cambridge, and near the seat of the Earl of Hardwicke, the lord lieutenant of the county, when three stacks, viz., a pea stack, an oat stack, and a hay stack, valued at about £150, were destroyed. Mr. Woollard has no doubt that the fire was the act of an incendiary.——It has been stated, on pretty good authority, that the Dowlais Iron Company have at present as many orders on hand as will keep that establishment with all its irons in the fire for seven years to come.—*Bath Journal.*——The usual entertainment, given by Messrs. William and Robert Chambers to the numerous workmen and others connected with their extensive publishing and printing establishment, took place on Thursday evening, the 29th ult., in a spacious apartment in their own premises. About 200 persons sat down together, the greater part of this large company being composed of the work people, their wives and families, while the remainder consisted of invited friends of Messrs. Chambers. Several eminent authors and authoresses were present.——The *Leicester Mercury* reports a singular case of mesmerism which lately took place in that town; a young girl named Mary Ann Larkin, who had suffered from a painful disease of the knee-joint for many years, was subjected to the mesmeric influence, and while in that state her leg was amputated by Mr. Tosswill, surgeon, the patient not manifesting the slightest indication of pain. Several medical men were present and witnessed the operation.——On Wednesday night week the extensive coach factory of Mr. Hill, on Green-hill, was discovered to be in flames. In less than an hour the factory, with all its contents, was entirely consumed. The dwelling-house was next consumed, and a house on the opposite side, tenanted by Mr. Bustard, a Wesleyan minister, was very much damaged, as were also several tenements in the rear of the factory, belonging to poor families.——Father Mathew has written a letter to Dr. Shiel, in which he says that he approves of the total abstinence repeal pledge, but solely on the ground that he recognises the benefits of abstinence to be so great, and not from any political motive; he denies, however, that the adoption of this pledge is sufficient to constitute a true teetotaller.——On Thursday night, the 29th ultimo, a large out-office, the property of Mr. Pae, of Donnybrook, county Tipperary, was maliciously consumed to ashes. Several articles of farming utensils, &c., were also consumed. The damage sustained on this occasion exceeds £50. The cause of this piece of incendiarism is attributed to the refusal of Mr. Pae to discharge from his service a steward who had become obnoxious to the peasantry.——According to the testimony of Captain Laws, the manager, as given before the railway committee, the original cost of a first-class carriage on the Manchester and Leeds line is between £300 and £400, and the renovation of lining, painting, &c., amounts to about £150 a year. This carriage will carry but 18 persons, whereas a third-class carriage on that line will take 40 persons, and costs at first only about £120, with about £10 per annum for repairs.—*Railway Record.*——On Friday afternoon last, as Mr. Robert Turnbull, merchant, Scalloway, Mr. Standen, of Oxford, and two men, were returning to Scalloway from Reanic in a sailing boat, and while about mid channel, between the islands of Hoy and Hevra, the boat took in so much water as to fill and go down, when Mr. Turnbull and the two men were drowned. Mr. Standen escaped by swimming.—*Perth Journal.*——*Le Pilote*, a Guernsey paper, states that the belief was gaining ground that Government was contemplating the erection of works and fortifications on an extensive scale in the island.——On Monday, the Marquise St. Simon Tecman gave another grand *soirée mesmerique* at her residence in Baker-street. The company was very numerous, and the experiments varied and striking. The Marquise herself was, in the course of the evening, subjected to the mesmeric influence, in which state she possesses, or is supposed to possess, the mysterious *spécialité* called "clairvoyance;" and, indeed, the revelations which she made to those who consulted her were surprising, and wholly inexplicable by any ascertained laws of nature. To some she described minutely the condition of their own health, and the seat, extent, and duration of disease, if any. To others she described the appearance, stature, age, health, and character of friends at a distance, respecting whom they put questions to her. To account for these things, and much more that were witnessed on this occasion, is impossible, but they seemed to be beyond the suspicion of collusion or deception.—*Sun.*——On Wednesday week a field of uncut barley, very ripe, in the parish of Rivenhall, the property of a Mr. Upson, accidently caught fire from a spark from a locomotive engine which was passing on the railway adjacent; about two acres of the barley, valued at £30, were consumed.——A dinner was given last week at Birmingham, by the Athenic Institution, which was founded about three years ago by some young men, for the purpose of securing during their leisure hours rational recreation and mental instruction. The dinner was attended by Lord John Manners, M.P.; Sir J. Hanmer, M.P., and Mr. R. M. Milnes, M.P., who severally spoke, and advocated the necessity of providing healthful recreation for the people.——Last week Mr. Disraeli, M.P. for Shrewsbury, attended a meeting of his constituents, whom he addressed in a speech of considerible length, in the course of which he deprecated the temporising policy of the Government, and advocated the policy of "the new generation."——The Repeal Association met as usual on Monday. The usual bulletin from Mr. O'Connell was read by his son Daniel. A Mr. Gordon brought forward a resolution to the effect that, "in the event of a war with France an extraordinary meeting should be called to consider the propriety of reviving the volunteer organization of 1782. The chairman and other members denounced the proposition as illegal, and the mover, amidst much disapprobation and confusion, withdrew it. The rent for the week was announced to be £785.——The Commissioners of the Irish National Education Board have just issued their annual report. The following paragraph gives the progress the schools have made during the past year:—"At the close of 1842 we had 2721 schools in operation, which were attended by 319,792 children. At the close of 1843 we had 2912 schools, which were attended by 355,320 children. The increase in the number of schools in operation, therefore, amounted within the year to 191, and the increase in the attendance of children to 35,528."——Joel Fisher underwent the extreme penalty of the law on the new drop outside the walls of Wilton goal on Wednesday last, for the murder of his wife, at Weston-super-Mare, in June last.——The total number of deaths in the metropolis during the week ending last Saturday, as made up by the Registrar-General, was 798, being less by 148 than the weekly average of the last five years.——It is somewhat remarkable that during the whole of last week not a single commitment was made out by the Birmingham magistrates—a circumstance that has not occurred for 35 years.——The contest for the office of City Chamberlain commenced on Thursday. The candidates were Alderman Brown, Alderman Humphery, M.P., and Mr. G. P. Heppel. The show of hands appeared to be about equal for the two former, but very few were held up for Mr. Heppel. Alderman Humphery having refused to demand a poll in writing, the contest was confined to Mr. Alderman Brown and Mr. Heppel. At the close of the first day's poll there voted for the former 464; for the latter, 11. There is no doubt of Alderman Brown's return.——A meeting of the constituency of Arbroath took place on Thursday, in the Town-hall, to hear an address from their worthy representative, Mr. Hume, M.P., then on his way north. The hall was well filled on the occasion, the larger proportion of the electors being present. Mr. Hume was accompanied by the provost and bailies, and rapturously received by the audience.——The shipping interest in South Shields, during the last two or three weeks, has undergone a complete reaction. Freights, from being a losing affair, are rising up to the average of the best times.——On Thursday the bakers in the Blackfriars-road, the New-cut, Westminster, Whitechapel, Minories, Bishopsgate, Tottenham-court-road, and other populous parts of the metropolis, reduced the 4lb. loaf to 6½d.——A few days ago a barber, named Joseph Croucher, living at Mount Pleasant, committed suicide while in a state of drunkenness.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COMMERCE OF FRANCE.—The *Moniteur* publishes the returns of the principal imports of France, in July last, from which it appears that the duties levied thereon amounted to 14,980,828f., or 3,571,601f. more than in 1843, and 3,815,551f. more than in 1842. The duties levied during the seven months of 1844, ending on the 1st of August last, amounted to 86,528,235f. They had been 78,290,550f. in the corresponding period of 1842, and 81,328,445f. in 1843.

THE DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.—We refer with great gratification to the unanimous decision of the Town Council (Manchester), that a portion of the funds at its disposal shall be devoted to the opening out of close courts and narrow streets, with the view of causing the thorough ventilation which is necessary to the preservation of health. We have rejoiced to see the probability of a sum of £50,000 being subscribed for the purchase of fields or gardens, in which every class of persons in our dense population may enjoy health-giving air and light; and we anticipate with pleasure the time when the toil-worn man shall be seen with his wife and children delighting in the fresh breeze, the verdant turf, the luxuriant foliage, and the glorious sky. Many thanks to the members of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Footpaths, headed first by the benevolent Richard Potter, and latterly by his no less benevolent brother, Sir Thomas, for the many cool shady lanes, whose destruction they have averted—many thanks to them for the preservation to the working classes of many delightful walks; and many thanks to the noble-hearted men who have given of their abundance, in thousands, and hundreds, and fifties, to secure places of recreation for those whose labour creates wealth, and multiplies the means of enjoyment. Each and all—footway protectors and field givers—deserve the warm gratitude of this and succeeding generations. But, great as are the advantages derived or to be derived from their humane and generous labours and contributions, we do think that equal benefits will be conferred by carrying out to its full extent the principle unanimously recognised by the Town Council; for if it be important that the toil-worn should have easy access to light and air in green fields and shady lanes, it is equally important to admit light and air *directly to their abodes.* Look at the evidence of Dr. Southwood Smith, and our townsman, Mr. Philip Holland, as to the effect upon health, and even upon morals, of residence in ill-ventilated, ill-drained, and ill-cleansed courts and streets. The one tells us that the benevolent aid of the physician is comparatively useless when the patient is so situated, and the other that mortality in the worst houses in the worst streets is double that in good houses and good streets! The report on the condition of large towns and populous districts is full of similar proofs. We trust, therefore, that the Improvement Committee will enter upon its labours with a full conviction that they are for the benefit of our common humanity, and that Manchester will become an inspiriting example to every city and town in the kingdom in this great work of civic reform.—*Manchester Guardian.*

DEFEAT OF THE MONOPOLISTS IN HULL.—Placards were posted through our town last week, announcing that Mr. John Harper (an emissary from the Central Agricultural Protective Society) would deliver a lecture in support of the Corn Laws on Monday evening last, in the Court of Requests' Room, Town-hall. This being the first public demonstration in Hull on the part of the monopolists, we naturally expected there would be a tremendous gathering on the occasion, and that the influential "protectionists," who are said to be so numerous in our town, would muster strongly in support of their pet doctrine. Nothing of the kind took place, however, for notwithstanding Mr. John Tall, Mr. Digby, Mr. Huffam, and Mr. Wilson were present at the meeting, and seemed most anxious for its success, a more lamentable failure was never experienced. Not a monopolist opinion was applauded during the whole evening, except where it coincided with the views of the Chartists, who had assembled pretty numerously on the occasion. Indeed the Chartists, the Operative Conservative Association, and a few of the inhabitants of both sexes, from the classic neighbourhood of the Court of Requests, constituted the bulk of the meeting. The respectable portion of the assembly evidently viewed the whole affair as ridiculous in the extreme, and, beyond asking a few questions in elucidation of the lecturer's meaning, took no part in the proceedings. The chair was taken by the Rev. William Hill (late editor of the *Northern Star*). Mr. Harper then proceeded to deliver a very rambling address, but was frequently interrupted by some working men, who sadly posed him by their pointed questions and objections. A Mr. Kidd, a Chartist, moved a resolution in favour of the Charter, which was seconded by a Mr. Mudd.—Mr. Scoley, apparently a working man, who said he was in favour of the Charter, but who did not seem to be recognised by that body, made some very shrewd remarks on the lecture which had been delivered. He said, so far from the Corn Laws being beneficial to the interests of the farm-labourer, it was very detrimental to them. His father was a farm-labourer, and before the Corn Law was passed earned a guinea a week; he had now a brother a farm-labourer, who was a better workman than his father, and who, under the Corn Law, received only 9s. a week. (Cheers.) The misery of farm-labourers had been increased by the Corn Laws, and they had been, consequently, driven into the manufacturing districts. The Corn Laws had been designed by, and had the effect of supporting only a class of persons who had ridden rough-shod over the poor for centuries, and he was ashamed to find the lecturer, who said he was a working man, advocating such a law. The lecturer had talked about the working man being no better off when food was cheap. All the speaker knew was, that his family consumed four stone of flour a week, and that he got them that flour much more easily when it was cheap than when it was dear. The lecturer had made a comparison between the protection of the Corn Laws, and the union of workmen to protect themselves. There was no comparison between the cases. It was not a monopoly on the part of the working men, because, though they resolved to have a certain remuneration for their labour, there was no law to compel the master to take them at their own price. But when a law was passed to raise the price of food, it was a monopoly, because there was a law compelling them to take that food at the high price, and not go to markets where they could get it lower. (Cheers.) Mr. Scoley concluded by saying if he were a weaver, as Mr. Harper confessed himself to be, he would knock a shuttle up and down till he was silly before he would advocate such doctrines as he had. (Laughter.) After some further remarks from other speakers, the Chartist resolution was carried.—*Hull Advertiser.*

BONDED CORN.—Within the last few weeks a large quantity of bonded wheat has paid duty at this port, and at the present time the stocks of this article in bond at the warehouses here, we have heard, are lower than have been known almost at any time since the opening of the port. The stocks of other descriptions of foreign corn (peas, barley, &c.) are very large.—*Gloucester Journal.*

BLACKBURN.—A meeting of the operative cotton-spinners was held on Thursday evening, at the house of Mr. James Roberts, the Britannia Inn, Penny-street, to take into consideration the necessity of a demand for the increase of wages. No decisive resolutions were come to, but the feeling seemed to be in favour of a demand for an increase of ten per cent. A meeting of the power-loom weavers was held on Monday night, at the house of Mr. James Forrest, the Masons' Arms, to take into consideration the propriety of a demand for higher wages, considering the great demand for labour and the increase of trade. Resolutions were agreed upon to the above effect, and it was also decided that circulars should be issued to the manufacturers, soliciting their acquiescence. It was stated that Messrs. Hornby and Co., Mr. Eccles Shorrock, of Over Darwen, and one or two other firms in the neighbourhood of Accrington, had already signified their willingness to accede to the demand.—*Preston Guardian* of Saturday.

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—Whilst the controversy between Captain Warner and his opponents has been carried on in the daily journals during the past week, and has lost nothing by its continuance,—the Captain affirming with increased vehemence his original assertions, and his opponents rejecting his assertions and denying that he possesses the powers or the secret to which he lays claim,—Professor Ryan has very wisely been continuing his lectures at the Polytechnic Institution, on the nature, properties, and powers of combustibles and explosive compounds, and has been attended by crowded audiences of scientific, naval, and military men, and that large class, the general public. These lectures of Professor Ryan have enabled a great many persons, who, but for them, would have had very limited means of judging for themselves, to form an adequate opinion of the claims which Captain Warner has made upon the Government of the country: they have, at least, excited such a spirit of investigation, and so well directed it, that prejudices and mistakes have been removed. The learned Professor explains intelligibly, and without involving his subject in the labyrinth of scientific vocabulary, the nature and properties of what are called explosive compounds; he shows by numerous experiments, conducted on a large scale—such a scale as, perhaps, the laboratory of the institution alone could afford—what has been done by former inventions, and what recent chemical discoveries render practicable can be done now. The lectures at the present [illegible] interesting to all parties, and deserve very general [illegible].

should be required to prove that anything which had been done had been done consistently with the honour and true interests of this country. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. T. Duncombe said, in consequence of the new writ that had just been moved, he wished to ask if the noble lord alluded to (Lord Stanley) still filled the office of Secretary to her Majesty's Colonies? (Loud cries of "Hear, hear.")

Sir R. Peel—I have the satisfaction to say that the position of my noble friend (Lord Stanley) in the Colonial department is not in the slightest degree affected by the writ which has just been moved by my hon. friend near me. (Loud laughter from the Ministerial benches, mixed with cries of "Hear, hear.")

Mr. T. Duncombe, having observed that he was not aware that his question was of so peculiar a character—especially after the writ which had been moved—as to call forth the ridicule which honourable gentlemen opposite attempted to attach to it, then moved for a copy of the opinions delivered by the Judges in an action of law against Daniel O'Connell and others, together with a copy of the notes taken by the short-hand writer, and the several judgments thereon. He wished especially to ask if the judgment of Lord Denman, which ought to be published all over the world in letters of gold, would be communicated authoritatively to the world. He should move that that noble lord's judgment should be printed, together with the opinions of the Judges on this most important case.

Mr. O. Cave seconded the motion.

Sir R. Peel deprecated the inconvenience of a debate at a time when they might be interrupted by other business. Whenever the period should arrive he would be prepared to defend the course taken by Government. With respect to the particular motion before the House, he had only to say that he would not offer any opposition to the production of these judgments, and, though he apprehended that there would not be time to send a message to the House of Lords, he would take care that that should not prevent the communication being made to the House of Lords in the usual manner.

Lord J. Russell concurred with the right honourable baronet as to the inconvenience of entering into a discussion upon these judgments at that moment, but he must reassert his opinion, that the trial which Mr. O'Connell and the others had received in Ireland was not that trial which would give an impression of fairness and justice. He should be prepared to enter into a discussion with the right honourable gentleman on the subject, and to maintain his former opinion, more particularly since his opinion had been confirmed by that of the House of Lords, who decided that the conviction was not according to law. (Cheers.) If the right honourable gentleman had, as he asserted that he had, resorted only to the law, and had given the persons accused the full benefit of trial by jury, he should not have complained, whatever might have been the result; but what he complained of was, not a trial by a fair jury, but by a jury elaborately put together for the purpose of conviction (loud cheers), charged by a judge who did not allow any considerations in favour of the accused to come fairly before his mind, but who charged more violently than the Attorney-General accused (loud cheers), and altogether acted towards a prejudiced jury in such a manner as to prevent justice being done to the accused. He trusted that the result of the proceedings would be to prevent any similar examples of such a trial being witnessed again, and that hereafter the people of that country would be allowed to enjoy the full benefit of English institutions (cheers); and that, if justice was not done them in their own country, they would see that in the highest quarters in this country, amongst men of the highest rank, attainments, and abilities, there was a determination to do towards them what they conceived to be justice—not because they belonged to that country, but because they thought that all the subjects of the United Kingdom ought to have the full enjoyment of the inestimable privileges which the people of this country enjoyed.

During some remarks from Sir Thomas Wilde on the legal bearings of the question, the learned member was interrupted by the Usher of the Black Rod, at the bar, to summon the House to the bar of the House of Lord, to hear the royal assent given to certain bills by commission, and to hear Parliament prorogued.

On the return of the Speaker to the House, attended by several members, the royal speech on the prorogation was read from the chair, and the members separated.

REVERSAL OF THE SENTENCE ON MR. O'CONNELL AND THE OTHER TRAVERSERS.

The House of Lords met again on Monday for the purpose of receiving the opinions of the judges on the writ of error, in the case of the Queen v. O'Connell and others.

Mr. Justice Wightman, Mr. Justice Williams, Mr. Baron Gurney, Mr. Justice Patteson, Lord Chief Baron Pollock, and Lord Chief Justice Tindal were of opinion that the challenge ought to have been allowed in the court below. All the learned judges agreed in pronouncing that the sixth and seventh counts of the indictment were "so bad, that, if the indictment consisted of those counts alone, it would be impossible to give any judgment against the defendants upon the verdict," an opinion directly contrary to that of the four judges of the Court of Queen's Bench in Ireland, who pronounced these counts to be unexceptionable, and upon which, accordingly, as upon the others, they gave their decision against the traversers. Mr. Baron Parke and Mr. Justice Coltman were for the reversal of the sentence of the court below, on the ground that there were some bad counts in the indictment; that the defendants had been found guilty upon each; and as the judgment was general, and the *quantum* of punishment a matter in the discretion of the judges, it was to be presumed that a part, at least, of the punishment must have been awarded upon the bad counts, and that, as it was impossible to ascertain how much had been, as the whole might have been so awarded, the defendants might in fact have been punished for that which was, in law, no offence.

After their lordships had severally delivered their opinions, the further consideration of the case was adjourned to Wednesday.

On Wednesday the House of Lords accordingly met, when, after the decision of the case of "Samuel Gray v. the Queen in error," in which the judgment of the inferior court was reversed, the Lord Chancellor proceeded to deliver his opinion in the case of the Queen v. O'Connell and others. His lordship went minutely into the case, and, having expressed himself in accordance with the majority of the judges, moved that the judgment of the court be affirmed.

Lord Brougham followed on the same side.

Lord Denman then delivered his opinion, dwelling chiefly on the challenge of the array, and contending that it ought to have been allowed, and that if such a practice as that with regard to the jury lists were permitted, a "trial by jury, instead of being a protection, would be a mockery, a delusion, and a snare." It appeared to him that the challenge to the array on the ground of the omission of several names ought to have been allowed. His lordship fortified his opinion on this point by that of Mr. Justice Coleridge (who, from illness, was prevented from attending), who entirely coincided with him.

Lord Cottenham said that, after the fullest consideration, he had come to the conclusion that the opinion expressed by the majority of the learned judges was wrong. He had formed his opinion early in the argument, and had heard no reason since given why he should change it.

Lord Campbell contended, among other points, that the parties ought not to have been tried by a jury struck from a defective list, but on the challenge the panel ought to have been quashed.

The question having been put by the Lord Chancellor,

Lord Wharncliffe recommended such of their lordships as were not learned in the law, and had not heard the whole case, to abstain from voting, on the ground that their voting might lessen the authority of their lordships' House as a court of justice.

Lord Brougham, lamenting the decision of his noble and learned friends, agreed in the recommendation of the noble lord.

The lay lords accordingly retired behind the woolsack.

The amendment of Lord Campbell was then put, and carried in the affirmative.

The judgment of the court below was therefore pronounced reversed.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

France and England.—The *Siècle* of Tuesday states, that the affair of Tahiti still caused the utmost uneasiness to the Cabinet, which was threatened with dissolution. The President of the Council, after a tolerably long resistance, agreed to the recal of M. d'Aubigny.

We see by the provincial journals that public rejoicings have taken place in many parts of France, in honour of the successes obtained by Marshal Bugeaud and the Prince de Joinville.

The French Minister of the Interior has ordered a medal to be struck at the mint in commemoration of the battle of Isly.

Love your Enemies.—The Bishop of Chalons-sur-Marne has issued a circular, directing all the clergy of his diocese to render, during one week, public thanks to Heaven for the "glorious" successes obtained by the French in Africa, and prayers for the further protection of the Most High.

The Visit of Louis Philippe to England.—The *Courrier Français* says:—"Some journals have announced that the King's journey to England was postponed until after the arrangement of the Tahiti affair. It is now affirmed that this matter is settled, and that the journey will take place speedily. A medal, destined to perpetuate the remembrance of his visit, is already being prepared at the mint."

Trade of France.—Great activity is at present manifested at Nismes in all branches of its silk manufactures. The number of commands has rendered it difficult to find a sufficiency of workmen even at higher prices than usual.

French Marine.—The Paris *Le Commerce*, in an article upon the commercial condition of France during the last three years, takes occasion to admit and lament the comparatively small extent of its commercial marine. The tonnage, in fact, of the merchant vessels belonging to France is stationary in amount. The tonnage of the foreign vessels which have entered French ports has been, for the last three years, steadily increasing, while that of native vessels remains almost stationary, and in matters of this kind, no progress means backward progress. The general small size of the merchant vessels of France is also admitted and deplored. In fact, in increase of size, and in number of sailors, the French commercial marine has made no progress for fifteen years, while we have been advancing steadily and rapidly.—*Chronicle.*

Price of Bread at Paris.—The price of bread at Paris has experienced a slight reduction. The 4lb. loaf, which was sold at 70c. during the month of August, has been reduced to 68c. for the first 15 days of September.

Prices of Wheat in the French Markets.—The *Moniteur* publishes the returns of the prices of wheat in August last in the different markets of France, from which it appears that it sold, on an average, at 19f. 93c. per hectolitre at Toulouse, Gray, Lyons, and Marseilles; 18f. 44c. at Marans and Bordeaux; 17f. 76c. at St Laurent and La Grand Lemps; 17f. 35c. at Mulhausen and Strasburg; 19f. 49c. at Bergues, Arras, Roye, Soissons, Paris, and Rouen; 17f. 43c. at Saumur and Nantes; 16f. 27c. at Metz, Verdun, and Charleville; and 18f. 69c. at St. Lo, Paimpol, Quimper, and Hennebon.

Tangier.—It is a pity that Tangier has been attacked at all—the only place in Barbary where there are marks of some civilization; where Christians are not insulted and spit upon in the streets; where not a leaf was touched in the gardens of consuls at a distance from the town; and where alone Jews have lived in peace throughout the town and mixed in the same streets with the inhabitants.—*Times.*

Mogadore.—A letter from an officer on board the French squadron off Mogadore, dated the 17th ult., says:—"We are to keep for a time possession of the island, the garrison of which is already formed, and the troops have begun to raise fortifications. We shall leave here the brigs of war Argus and Cassard, and a steam sloop. The other ships of the squadron are about to sail for Cadiz, to repair their damages; we hope afterwards to return to France. Our squadron during the conflict threw 16,000 projectiles into Mogadore. The Jemappes had her sides struck by more than 30 balls, and her rigging was much cut up. A ball passed through the flag at the topmast head of the Triton."

Spain.—The Madrid journals of the 28th ult. announce that the responsible editor of the opposition journal, the *Espectador*, has been struck by the Government, and confined *au secret*, and that his journal is suspended until a new editor be appointed. A Madrid letter states that the demands of the Spanish Government upon Morocco, not having been complied with, orders have been given to put all the naval forces in motion; and, to cover the expense, Treasury bills to a large amount have been drawn upon Cadiz and Corunna.

Treaty of Commerce between Belgium and Prussia.—The *Moniteur Belge* of the 2nd announces the conclusion of a commercial treaty between Belgium and Prussia, and the other states of the Customs Union. The *Commerce Belge* says, "The measure by which a high duty was imposed exclusively on our cast iron and iron articles is withdrawn. The Customs Union concedes to Belgium a reduction of 50 per cent. on the duty on foreign cast iron. This duty is fixed from this day at 2 francs 20 centimes per 100 kilogrammes. Thus Belgian cast iron will pay only 1 franc 25 centimes: besides this a reduction of duty on iron articles is granted. The export duty on woollens at the frontiers of the Zollverein is reduced from two dollars to one dollar. The concessions made by Belgium are the repayment of the Scheldt toll, the maintaining in force of the law of the 6th of June relating to Luxemburg, the renewal of the regulations in favour of the German wines and silk manufactures, the revocation of the resolution on the exportation of bark, and the opening of the frontiers custom-house at Frankorchamp. Lastly, the ships of the Union are placed on an equality with Belgian ships with respect to all the privileges and advantages of the navigation. The transit of goods on both parts is wholly free."

Province of Posen.—The journal called the *Borsen Nachuchten des Osteen*, of the 28th of August, announces that, according to perfectly credible information, orders from Prince Paskewitsch have been received at the Polish frontier Custom-house at Peisern, not to allow any more corn to pass.

Athens, August 20.—The new Ministry have just issued a proclamation:—"We propose," say they, "nothing which shall not be avowed; we announce plainly, and with sincerity, the spirit which shall direct us. We hate exclusiveness. Justice and impartiality!—this is our motto. To execute religiously every portion of our valuable constitution—to apply rigorously our laws—to prefer for public offices those who have made sacrifices in the cause of independence, when accompanied by necessary qualifications—to reward the honest, and to punish the guilty—to administer the strictest economy which it will be possible to adopt; these are what we propose."

Circassia.—The *Universal German Gazette* contains a letter from Constantinople, of the 14th ult., which says:—"For some time a report has been current here that Schamil Bey had advanced with his forces as far as Tiflis, and that he remained three days there after having beaten the Russians. Some slave-dealers first brought this news, which, however, has been fully confirmed by a letter from a European residing in that city."

Cape of Good Hope.—Cape of Good Hope papers to the 27th of June have arrived. The chief feature in these journals is the statement of Customs' returns, which show an improvement; but it is remarked that, notwithstanding the public revenue increases so rapidly as to enable the Government to pay off its old debts, there never was a period before in which the colonists felt so extreme a monetary pressure, or when there were so many unexpected failures. The exports of wool for the quarter ending March, 1844, was 847,544 lbs., value £43,236. In the corresponding quarter of 1834 the quantity was not more than 51,792lbs., valued at £3498; thus showing the progress of ten years had increased the production of the staple about sixteen-fold. It appears by these same returns, that the gross amount of imports was valued at £226,117, and the exports at £114,399. The increase in revenue does not arise from additional taxation, but is the result of improving commerce and a reduction of the expenses of the service. Abundant rains had fallen throughout the colony, and the crops promised a large return. On the frontier the old complaint is made of the depredations of the Caffres. New treaties had, however, been concluded with the Busotas tribe. Reports had come to hand at the Cape of the continued arrival of vessels at the Guano Islands for supplies, and cargoes were being secured as freely as ever.

DOMESTIC.

A Cabinet Council was held at two o'clock on Monday: most of the Ministers were present. The Council sat two hours and a half. The difference between France and England, arising from the recent events at Tahiti, was, according to the *Times*, the subject of deliberation. On Tuesday, that journal "congratulates the country on the truly gratifying intelligence of a probable arrangement of the Tahiti question, and a termination to all fears of a rupture between ourselves and France." It states, further, that "M. d'Aubigny has been moved from Tahiti, his conduct has been made the subject of apology, and satisfaction will, we are told, be made to Mr. Pritchard for the ill treatment he has received. The former officer had been previously censured by his superior, Captain Bruat, and this additional stamp upon him, accompanied with a due measure of satisfaction to the injured person, appears to be a sufficient recognition on the part of the French Government of our charge against D'Aubigny. He is not dismissed the service, indeed, and it is not necessary that he should be; so that his Government acknowledges that his acts were unjustifiable, all is done that is required."——On Monday, new English wheat of the finest quality fell in Mark-lane between 2s. and 3s. a quarter; while wheats of inferior descriptions fell from 4s. to 5s. below the prices which prevailed last week.——It is stated that her Majesty and Prince Albert will embark on board the royal yacht on Monday or Tuesday next, and immediately proceed to Scotland, on a visit to the Duke of Atholl, over whose magnificent estates his Royal Highness will enjoy the sports of the field.——On Friday, the 30th ult., an incendiary fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Walters, sen., of Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, and which destroyed some hay-ricks, of about 25 tons or 30 tons each, and a rick of straw, containing about 30 loads.——On Saturday morning last Easey, the head gamekeeper of the Earl of Stradbroke, committed suicide at Henham Park [illegible], of which he was keeper, by shooting himself through the head with a double-barrelled gun. The deed is [illegible] to the vexation and annoyance he experienced [illegible] predatory acts of poachers in the [illegible] had recently succeeded in destroying great [illegible]

THE CANADA CORN TRADE.

(From the *Liverpool Times*.)

From a comparative statement of the exports from Canada, up to the 9th of August in the last and the present year, it appears that the quantity of flour exported had increased from about 50,000 barrels to upwards of 307,000, and the quantity of wheat from a little more than 15,000 bushels to upwards of 287,000. This has occurred in spite of unusually high freights and of a declining market in this country, and although the losses on the recent importations have fallen very heavily on the importers, the production of wheat on the banks of the St. Lawrence and the shores of the lakes is increasing so rapidly, that a constantly-increasing supply must find its way to the English market. It will be seen, from the following extract of a letter received by the Caledonia, that the harvest of the present year is one of the finest ever gathered in America:—"Montreal, August 12.—We are in the midst of one of the finest harvests that ever occurred in America, extending from north to south."

In addition to the immense increase in the exports of wheat, there is a great increase in barley, oats, and peas.

GROWTH OF WOOL.—The following returns have been made of the growth of wool in Cambridge and the neighbouring counties:—

Counties.	Quantity.	Value.
Cambs.	657,840 lbs. ...	£32,892
Bedford	1,020,000	51,000
Bucks	1,369,440	68,472
Essex	2,372,640	118,632
Hertford	1,410,720	70,536
Hunts.	1,075,200	53,760
Middlesex	250,320	12,516
Northampton ..	3,840,000	192,000

Total wool produced in England is 102,803,758lbs., and the total value at 1s. per lb. (the rate reckoned above) is £5,140,186. Yorkshire produces the greatest quantity, 8,263,558lbs.; and Middlesex the smallest quantity.—*Cambridge Advertiser.*

THE GROWING COTTON CROP.—We copy the following remarks on the growing crops from the *New York Herald* of the 10th August:—"The growing crop, at this moment, bids fair to be larger than any previous one. The yield is estimated at from 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 bales. Should the quantity produced even reach the lowest estimate, the value must be reduced very much, as the demand for consumption must fall far below the supply. The data on which the above estimates are founded is this:—The regular increase in the production of this staple annually, is set down at 350,000 bales—the crop of 1841 and 1842 amounted to 2,373,000 bales; the season producing such a large crop, must, of course, have been very favourable, and free from freshets, nevertheless the land cultivated that year was in order, and was undoubtedly used the following year, with the average quantity of new land annually fitted for cotton. The crop for 1842 and 1843 should have yielded, with the same advantages as regards season, &c., 350,000 bales more than that of 1841 and 1842, this being, as we have heretofore stated, the average annual increase, consequently the crop should have been 2,725,000 bales. Freshets, early frost, and fall rains, &c., destroyed then at least 700,000 bales, leaving a crop of merchantable cotton amounting to little more than two million bales. The crop of 1843 and 1844, many bales of which have already reached market, must, calculating the regular increase, reach three million bales; making allowance for the floods, &c., that have, doubtless, destroyed the yield on many plantations, by throwing off 300,000 bales, and we find left a crop of 2,700,000 bales of marketable cotton. Land that has been heretofore appropriated to the cultivation of cotton, is cultivated for the same crop this year. We are informed, that every acre of cleared land that could be put into cotton has been used, and many acres not thoroughly cleared have been cultivated for this staple. It is true that there are plantations now devoted to raising sugar that have heretofore been appropriated to cotton; but the new land brought under cotton cultivation, over and above the average annual quantity, will more than offset this drawback. The season thus far has been unusually favourable; there never was one more so. From every section of the country we receive the most flattering accounts of the crops generally. We see nothing now likely to prevent the picking of an immense crop of cotton; and, should the estimates made be realised, it will be impossible to tell how great a reduction will take place in prices."

TRADE OF ALEPPO.—The principal trade of Aleppo is the importation of British manufactures to the amount of about 5000 bales a year. The trade in colonial merchandise used to be in the hands of the French. In 1836 the importations from Britain were one-fourth less than those from France; they were in 1843 quadruple the French importations: the same with coffee and other colonials. Cloth is the principal article in which England yields the palm to her competitor, commerce having in this respect experienced an extraordinary revolution; for, as above stated, cloth used to be the staple article of the English trade for two centuries; but now that the general manufacturing capacities of England have received an unparalleled extension, we are outstripped by the French in this article, for nearly all the foreign cloth used comes from Marseilles; from England, little or none. The worst feature of the Aleppo trade, and that of Syria generally, is the want of exports: the silk of Antioch is all long reel, the cotton is good only for candlewicks, the wools of the Taurus and the Desert, although of good quality, are, from their being dirty and unwashed, badly adapted to the English market. Thus, although the Pashalic of Aleppo and the surrounding districts produce in abundance the raw materials of the staple manufactures of Great Britain, from the want of skill and capital, caused by a want of security, their English imports are paid almost exclusively in specie and bullion; while France and Italy, enabled by vicinity of position and consequent low freights to take off the coarse cotton and the unwashed wool of Syria, have lost ground in the import trade. The result of all this is, that the exchanges have been thrown into the greatest disorder; there is a perpetual drain of specie and bullion, and moneys are yearly rising, in spite of all the efforts of Government to keep them down.—*The Modern Syrian.*

IMPROVE THE TIME.—A breathing space is afforded, that we may recover, in some degree, from the effects of the years of scarce and dear food. Wisdom would say, Improve the time: take precautions against a return of scarcity with its attendant evils. Short-sighted folly says, Enjoy the present time; taunt the Anti-Corn-Law League that it has laboured in vain, and that prosperity is to come again without Corn-Law repeal. Have those who thus speak taken a bond from Providence against bad harvests? Are we guaranteed against cold summers and wet autumns? Is the increase of mouths requiring food, and increasing the disproportion between the demand and the supply, arrested? Is any precaution taken so that, at the next deficient harvest, we may have a foreign supply procured in abundance, on cheap terms, and by the natural operation of trade, instead of by the exportation of millions of gold, producing derangement in our currency, and stagnation in trade? If not, let us beware how we forget, in the day of temporary prosperity, the time of adversity through which we have passed, and which will again come upon us in aggravated horrors unless we remove those legislative follies that have inflicted such incalculable woes upon us. At present, our chief danger is from the fever of prosperity. The cheapness of food sets at liberty from the food trade, millions of money which must find other employments. Therefore speculation is rife. The abundance of food is additional capital. The greater part of it must be brought into employment, and food can only be employed in one way—the purchase of labour. In the exchange under such circumstances, labour has the advantage. Higher wages, that is to say, more food, are given for labour. And, if the law allowed abundance of food to be perpetual, we might enjoy a stable and constantly-increasing prosperity. But we have laws against abundance. At present, by the blessing of Providence, they are become null; and, therefore, we have a revival of trade, and a return to something like comfort.—*Sheffield Independent.*

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. Aug. 31	Mon. Sept. 2	Tues. Sept. 3	Wed. Sept. 4	Thurs. Sept. 5	Fri. Sept. 6
Bank Stock......	199	199	199½	—	—	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	99½	99⅝	99⅝	—	—	—
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	98⅞	98⅞	99⅛	99	99¼	99⅛
3½ per Ct. Red. Ann	Shut.	—	—	—	—	—
3½ per Ct. Ann. new	Shut.	—	—	—	—	—
Long An. Ex. 1860	12½	12½	12 7-16	12 7-16	12 7-16	—
Cons. for Acc. ..	98⅞	99	99	99	99¼	99⅛
Exc. Bills, pm. ..	74	73 5	73 5	73 5	73 5	—
Ind. Bds. und. 1000l	95	93	95	95	—	—
India Stock	—	280	280½	281	281	—
Belgian Bonds ..	102½	102½	102½	103	103	—
Brazilian Bonds ..	81½	81½	85	—	85½	—
Buenos Ayres....	34 6	34 6	34 6	—	—	—
Chilian..........	103 5	103 5	101 2	102½	—	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	14	13¾	13¾	13¾	13¾	14½
Danish	89½	—	89½	—	89¾	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	100⅛	100⅛	100¼	100⅛	100⅜	100⅜
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	61½	61⅝	61⅝	61⅝	61¾	62
Mexican	35½	35½	35¾	35½	35⅛	35⅜
Peruvian	23 5	23 5	—	—	23	—
Portug. conv. ..	44	44	44	—	44½	44½
Spanish 5 per Ct.	22½	22½	22⅝	22⅝	22¾	23
Do. 3 per Cent. ..	33⅜	33⅜	33⅜	33½	33⅜	33¼

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

MARK-LANE, Monday, Sept. 2.—There was a moderate supply of English Wheat this morning, which was not fine either in quality or condition. It was taken off slowly at a decline of 2s. to 3s. per quarter. Old Foreign met a slow sale at 1s. less than last week. There was a fair sale for Barley at last week's rates. The supply of English Beans continue very short; the few that were offering brought high prices, and all descriptions were fully as high as this day week. No alteration in the value of Peas. Towards the end of last week several cargoes of Oats arrived from Ireland, which, with a few from abroad, amounted to 20,000 quarters. There was a continued demand from the country, but owing to factors insisting on higher prices the amount of business done was not extensive.

S. H. LUCAS and SON.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk.... Red 42 to 50 White 48 to 54
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire — 42 — 48 — 44 — 51
—— Scotch .... — 40 — 44 — 44 — 48
—— Irish .... — 40 — 42 — 44 — 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire.................. Feed 20 — 21
—— Ditto ...... Ditto .. Short 21 — 22 Polands 22 — 24
—— Scotch .... Feed 22 — 24 Potato 25 — 26
—— Limerick .... — 21 — 22 Short 22 — 28
—— Cork .... 19 — 20
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork Black .... 18 — 19
—— Westport .... 19 — 20
—— Galway .... 17 — 19
Barley, Grinding .... 28 to 30 .... Distilling .... 30 — 32
—— Malting ...... 32 — 34 .... Irish .... 26 — 30
Beans, Mazagan .... 32 — 33 .... Tick .... 32 — 34
—— Harrow ...... 35 — 37 .... Small........ — — 40
—— Old Tick .... — — 40
Peas, White.......... 31 to 34 .... Boilers ...... 35 — 36
—— Maple and Grey .... 30 — 34
Flour, Best Town-made...... per sack of 280 lbs .... 43 — 45
—— Norfolk and Suffolk ...... — — .... 36 — 38

FOREIGN.

	FREE. Per Imperial Quarter.	IN BOND
Wheat, Dantsig, high mixed	48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.
—— Rostock	47 — 54	
—— Stettin	44 — 52	
—— Hamburgh	42 — 48	
—— Odessa	42 — 46	
—— Ditto .... Polish	47 — 50	
—— Russian .... soft	42 — 46	
—— Ditto........ hard	40 — 44	
—— Spanish .... Red	45 — 49	
—— Ditto .... White........	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding	26 — 29	— — —
Barley, Distilling..............	30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel..............	18 — 19	12 — 13
—— Swedish	19 — 20	13 — 14
—— Stralsund	19 — 21	13 — 15
—— Dutch Feed..............	18 — 19	12 — 13
—— —— Brew..............	20 — 22	14 — 16
—— —— Polands	— — —	18 — 19
Beans, Egyptian..............	20 — 22	27 — 29
Peas, White	30 — 34	— — —
—— Ditto Boilers	32 — 35	— — —
Flour, Canada .... per barrel of 196 lbs	27 — 29	— — —
—— United States .. — —	27 — 29	20 — 22
—— Dantzig........ — —	26 — 28	— — —

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Aug. 26 to Aug. 30, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	4185	11	62	332	694
Scotch	—	—	945	3	—
Irish........	—	—	13463	—	—
Foreign	11447	21125	6970	1700	2557

Flour, 5624 sacks, 1085 bars.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending Sept. 3, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	4134	51s. 6d	Rye	184	37s. 5d.
Barley.. ..	1158	36s. 2d.	Beans	524	35s. 5d.
Oats	18436	20s. 2d.	Peas	320	35s. 6d.

FRIDAY, Sept. 6.—The arrivals of English Wheat since Monday are chiefly direct to the millers; there is, in consequence, so little doing that we cannot report any alteration [illegible] prices. There is very little inquiry for Foreign Wheat, and the same remark applies to it as to English. The supplies of Foreign Barley are not large: the business doing is at Monday's rates. We have short supplies of Oats, both Irish and Foreign; the trade is not brisk, but Monday's prices are fully maintained. No alteration in Beans and Peans. The duty on Wheat rose yesterday to 20s., and on Peas to 8s. 6d.

S. H. LUCAS and SON.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 2nd of September to the 6th of September, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat............	4590	—	[illegible]
Barley.	60	—	[illegible]
Oats..............	750	2030	1620

Flour, 3170 sacks.

A WEEKLY REPORT of the NUMBER of QUARTERS [illegible] the AVERAGE PRICE of CORN and GRAIN, sold in [illegible] several Counties of England and Wales (comprising the [illegible] Hundred and Ninety Towns named in the Act of the 5th Vic. cap. 14), which governs Duty.

WEEK ENDED AUG. 31, 1844.

	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Wheat. Aver price	Barley. Qrs. sold.	Barley. Aver price	Oats. Qrs. sold.	Oats. Aver price	Beans. Qrs. sold.	Beans. Aver price
		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.
Weekly Averages..	94309	50 11	4036	34 11	27847	20 7	3477	37 0
Aggregate Averages..	..	50 6		34 3		20 4		35 10
Duty......	..	20 0		4 0		6 0		7 6

Stock of Corn in Bond, Aug. 5, 1844.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.	Flour.
In London,	112565	58752	27839	—	22711	7628	50560
Unit. King.	351549	108416	72399	2221	79452	42814	[illegible]

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30.

BANKRUPTS.

W. PARSONS, Upper Eaton-street, Pimlico, and Half Moon-street, Piccadilly, starch manufacturer. [Barron and Cullen, Bloomsbury-square.

A. GOODEVE, Aldermanbury, warehouseman. [Reed [illegible] Shaw, Friday-street, Cheapside.

J. SANDERS, Reach, Cambridgeshire, carpenter. [Hustwick Cambridge.

J. LOWTHER, Queen's-row, Pentonville, builder. [Jacobs, Winchester-buildings, Winchester-street, City.

W. FRANCE, Wigan, Lancashire, grocer. [Cornthwaite and Adams, Dean's-court, Doctors'-commons; Cornthwaite, Liverpool.

W. A. BROOKS, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, quarryman. [Harle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Chisholme, Hall, and Gibson, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

R. HODGSON, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, grocer. [Ingledew, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Williamson and Hill, Gray's-inn.

T. PATERSON and J. CODLING, Sheriff-hill, Durham, earthenware manufacturers. [Clayton and Cookson, New-square, Lincoln's-inn; Claytons and Dunn, or Mr. Bunn, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

E. ROBERTS, Liverpool, corn merchant. [Maples and Co., Frederick's-place; Fairclough, Liverpool.

DIVIDENDS.

Sept. 25. J. Hawarden and Co., Little Bolton, Lancashire, commission agents—Sept. 25. C. Biggs, Manchester, commission agent—Sept. 26. J. Wood, Heathfields, Yorkshire, woollen manufacturer—Sept. 28. E. Jones, Liverpool, grocer—Sept. 23. G. Cleverley, Calne, Wiltshire, builder—Sept. 25. P. Walters and M. Llewellyn, Neath, Glamorganshire, timber merchants—Oct. 10. T. L. Gordon, Exeter, cabinet maker.

CERTIFICATES.

Sept. 23. J. F. Garnett, Wellington-street, Southwark, hatter—Sept. 23. J. L. Loraine, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, wine merchant—Oct. 3. T. L. Gordon, Exeter, cabinet maker—Sept. 25. J. C. Burton and T. Cave, jun., Nottingham, lace manufacturers—Sept. 24. J. Taylor, Liverpool, commission merchant—Sept. 20. J. Carpenter, Rothwell, Northamptonshire, surgeon and apothecary—Sept. 20. W. Austin, Bell street, Edgware-road, Middlesex, builder—Sept. 20. J. Fletcher, Liverpool, paint and colour manufacturer—Sept. 20. C. F. Oppenheim, George-street, Minories, London, ship owner—Sept. 20. C. Robinson, Great Trinity-lane, London, oil and colour merchant—Sept. 20. J. S. Christophers, East India Chambers, merchant—Sept. 20. W. Burton, King-street, Soho, upholsterer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

A. LYLE, sen., Awels, Stirlingshire, grazier—J. BUCHANAN, Glasgow, commission merchant—C. H. NIMMO and G. BUCHANAN, Glasgow, ship brokers.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3.

BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.

J. BATTEN, Tilehurst, Berkshire, cattle dealer.

J. C. KNILL, Gloucester, tailor.

BANKRUPTS.

J. BROWNE, King's-cross, saddler. [Badham and Houghton, Verulam-buildings, Gray's-inn.

W. C. CLOUGH, Eye, Suffolk, apothecary. [Archer, Stowmarket, Suffolk; Jones and Co., John-street, Bedford-row.

C. J. BANISTER, Derby, linen and woollen draper. [Mottram and Giddy, Birmingham; Smith, Bedford-row.

J. and J. WOODHEAD, Bradford, Yorkshire, worsted stuff manufacturers. [Gregory and Co., Bedford-row; Wavill, Halifax.

H. HALL, Smalesmouth, Northumberland, cattle dealer. [Bell and Co., Bow Churchyard; Bates and Dees, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

R. K. MANN, Kingston-upon-Hull, wine merchant. [Tilson and Co., London; Messrs. Wells, Hull; or Horsfall and Harrison, Leeds.

DIVIDENDS.

Sept. 26. T. Wileman, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, hosier—Sept. 27. J. Dowle, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, wine and spirit merchant—Sept. 27. R. Davies, Abercarne, Monmouthshire, grocer—Sept. 27. A. Gordon and Co., Manchester, machine makers—Sept. 25 J. Dean, Habergham Eaves, Lancashire, cotton spinner—Sept. 28. I. Parsonage, Birmingham, paper hanger.

CERTIFICATES.

Sept. 26. J. Holland, Buxted, Sussex, draper—Sept. 26. [illegible] S. Saxby, Old Fish-street, London, wine merchant—Oct. 4. J. Simpson, jun., Wakefield, Yorkshire, manufacturing chemist—Sept. 27. J. Dyson, Sheffield, scythe manufacturer—Sept. [illegible] T. W. Green, Leeds, bookseller—Sept. 26. J. A. Forrest, Liverpool, glass merchant—Sept. 25. A. Watson, Liverpool, [illegible] broker—Sept. 26. J. Fairfield, Tranmere, Chester, corn merchant—Sept. 26. Z. Bond, Manchester, brickmaker—Sept. [illegible] J. Royle, Manchester, flour dealer—Sept. 27. T. Wolfenden and J. Prestwich, Oldham, Lancashire, cotton spinners—[illegible] J. Carruthers, Blackburn, Lancashire, linendraper—[illegible] H. Griffiths, Chelford, Cheshire, innkeeper—Sept. 24. T. [illegible]ren, Brushford, Devonshire, maltster—Sept. 24. W. [illegible] Newport, Monmouthshire, draper—Sept. 24. E. Rayner, [illegible]field, merchant—Sept. 24. T. Kearsley and T. Walt, [illegible] Chester, bone merchants.

London: Printed by RENNIE PALMER (of Providence-place, [illegible]nington-lane, Lambeth, in the County of Surrey) and [illegible] (of Number 320, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at [illegible] office, Number 10, Crane-court, in the Parish of St. D[illegible] in the City of London, and published by ABRAHAM [illegible] (of Number 12, Norfolk-street, Strand, in the County [illegible] the Office of THE LEAGUE, Number 67, Fleet-street, [illegible] St. Dunstan-in-the-West.—Saturday, September 7, 1844.

THE LEAGUE.

No. 51.] SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1844. [3d.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive a copy, weekly, of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and* addresses *to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND, *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR COUNTIES.

POLLING PLACES MAY BE ALTERED.

Voters residing at one part of a county, and claiming to vote for property in another, may vote near their place of residence, by claiming in the form A or B.

An elector residing in the Strand, London, claiming for a freehold house, or any other qualification, at Uxbridge, had formerly to go to Uxbridge to poll: he can now poll at Westminster. Or an elector residing in South Lancashire, or any other county, having a freehold at Uxbridge, or in any other district in the county, may vote in London, thereby saving a journey from London to Uxbridge, or other district, and back.

This is a most important alteration in the law, and the claim may be made by the Free-Trade agents attending the court, a friend, or the tenant, *if he can speak to the claimant's handwriting.** The barrister will write the place he desires to poll at against his name; but he will not be allowed to vote anywhere else. His name will then be printed at the end of the register in the proper list.

Form A.

County of Middlesex, to wit.

I, ———, whose name appears in the list of voters of the above parish, and whose place of abode, as stated in the said list, is not within the said county, claim to vote at the polling place at ———, in the said county.

(Signed) A. B. [Place of Abode.]

Form B.

County of Middlesex, to wit.

I, ———, whose name appears in the list of voters of the above parish, and whose place of abode, as stated in the said list, is not within the said county, claim to vote at the polling place at ———, in the said county.

(Signed) A. B. [Place of Abode.]

POLLING PLACES — Brentford, Enfield, King's-cross, City of Westminster, City of London, Hammersmith, Hampstead, Bedfont, Edgware, Uxbridge, Mile-end, Bethnal-green.

COUNTY AND BOROUGH REGISTRATION.

From the 1st to Sunday the 15th of September, is the time for the publication of the lists of persons objected to in counties, and also of the lists of claimants and of persons objected to in cities and boroughs. Overseers and town clerks are required by law to keep copies of the said lists, and also of the notices of objection, to be perused by *any person*, without the payment of any fee, at any time between the hours of ten o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon of any day, except Sunday, during the first fourteen days of September. They must also deliver copies of the lists to *any person* requiring the same on payment of a price after the following rate, which is copied from the schedule annexed to the new Registration Act:—

For any list or copy of a list containing any number of persons' names	s.	d.
Not exceeding 100	0	6
Exceeding 100, and not exceeding 200	1	0
" 200, " 300	1	6
" 300, " 400	2	0
" 400 and upwards	2	6

Every Free-Trade elector should now examine these lists—claimants in boroughs to see that their names are properly inserted, and electors generally to ascertain whether they have been objected to in either borough or county. Free-Traders who may be objected to should apply to the local committees, or to such other persons as may be engaged in the management of the registration, for such advice and assistance as they may stand in need of, as to the best mode of defending their votes before the revising barrister.

Any county voter residing out of the polling district in which his qualification is situate is at liberty to make his claim before the revising barrister to vote at the polling place of the district wherein his said place of abode may be situate, provided such place of abode is in the same county or division of a county. The revision of the lists may commence on or after the 16th of September.

All advice and assistance will be given by application at the London Registration Offices of the League, 68, Cheapside, or the League Office, Newall's-buildings, Market-street, Manchester.

* The form signed in the presence of the party producing it before the barrister is sufficient.

We beg to inform our subscribers that bound volumes of the LEAGUE *newspaper, containing the whole of the first year's numbers, may be had on application at the Offices either in London or Manchester, after the expiration of the present month.*

OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

The Corn Laws may be regarded as a buttress erected to prevent the fall of a tottering edifice, the doom of which may be protracted but cannot ultimately be averted. They form part of a vast system of monopoly which grasped at all the elements of wealth produced by the industry of the people, and which had for its great object to gorge idleness with the fruits of labour. Such a purpose nakedly stated would have been met with universal reprobation; it has been, therefore, the policy of the monopolists to set forth hypocritical pretences, having at least the semblance of plausibility; and the foremost of these was, that protection to agriculture meant protection to the farmer and agricultural labourer. Now, the Occupations Report proves that this system yearly affords less of employment, and, consequently, less of protection to the agricultural labourer; it shows that hundreds of the agricultural labourers would inevitably perish if they did not obtain employment, and, consequently, means of subsistence, by migrating into the manufacturing districts. But, conclusive as is the report on the state to which the agricultural labourers have been reduced by the operation of the Corn Laws, it is scarcely less decisive as to the operation of this iniquitous system on the condition of the farmers. No better test could be found of a farmer's prosperity than the number of labourers in his employment; and, consequently, no better test can be found of the progress or decay of British farmers, taken as a body, than the number of agricultural labourers in the periods compared. Now, the report establishes not merely that the agricultural population has not kept up its relative strength, but that it has absolutely retrograded; and the fact of this diminution proves that there must have been a lamentable sacrifice of farming capital during the decennial period under our consideration. This inference is confirmed by the results of every inquiry that has been made into the condition of the agricultural districts; while population has increased in these districts, the means of accommodation have been diminished; the food used by the people has been diminished in quantity and deteriorated in quality; the home consumption of farm-produce is daily diminishing. Such, indeed, must be the natural result of a monopolist system. The report merely adds the confirmation of irrefutable figures to the obvious deductions of reason.

The owners of land passed a law which was intended to procure a fixed price for the produce of that land, and they let their fields to their tenants on an estimate of the average produce sold in the market at the supposed fixed price. The only thing that was fixed with any certainty in the matter was the *rent*, for price is a matter beyond legislative control, and fixes its own averages in the market by the proportions of demand and supply. If corn reached or exceeded the expected price in any given year, the immediate result was that a larger breadth of land was sown with corn in the following year; and if the harvest happened to be favourable, as it is this year, prices fell far below the expected point of remuneration, but the rent still remained the same. But, even in a dear year, the farmer, under the operation of the sliding scale, had anything but a fair chance of obtaining remuneration: if he held over his corn in the expectation of receiving a high price, he exposed himself to the danger of competing with foreign corn poured in at a low rate of duty. He was playing a very hazardous game against corn-speculators, whose whole business was to understand every trick and finesse of the play, while he was suddenly called to hold a hand, scarcely knowing one card from another. No wonder that farmers playing at such desperate hazard have been ruined in rapid succession—no wonder that their trade is proverbially the least lucrative in the empire.

Every improvement in farming points to increase of production; but under the system of the Corn Laws an increase of supply was what the farmer was taught chiefly to dread. If he sowed a wide breadth of land he feared that one field would compete with another, and that his too abundant supply would interfere with his expected price. He did not see that the laws which gave him the power of exclusive supply necessarily placed similar, and even greater, restrictions on the amount of demand, and that, when the landed legislators promised that they would procure him a fixed price, they forgot to give him the only possible security for the performance of their promise, namely, fixed customers. The delusion that a famine price could be obtained for an average produce is the entire source of agricultural distress; it has placed the farmer in a vicious circle, from which he vainly attempts to extricate himself; at one extreme he is met by a good harvest and low prices, at the other by a bad harvest and few customers; but whether prices be high or low, whether customers be few or many, he finds one thing fixed and invariable—that is *the rent*.

How farmers can continue under the delusion that prosperity is attainable under an artificial system, which deranges every principle on which the fair and profitable exchange of commodities can be conducted, is perfectly astonishing. But that they have been so deluded is now indubitably established, for the falling off in the number of agricultural labourers is not only evidence of a diminution in agricultural employment, but also evidence of a diminution in the farming capital which gives that employment.

THE MONOPOLISTS UNMASKING.

There is but one opinion amongst those best skilled in the art of husbandry as to the impolicy of the Corn Laws, and of the mischiefs farmers have sustained by the artificial and unstable state of things those laws have created. They understand that, so long as any restriction on the corn trade continues, there is no safe basis on which the agricultural capitalist can found his calculations, and they feel most strongly the hazards under which they are compelled to carry on their business; but they have been so long led, by the Legislature and by all those persons of station and influence with whom they come most into contact, to believe that high prices are essential to agricultural prosperity, and that high prices can be secured by act of Parliament, that they have listened with reluctance and incredulity to every true exposition of the effects of "protection" on agriculture. They have been taught to think that Free-Traders have some peculiar interests adverse to agriculturists, and, though unable to resist the arguments in favour of Free Trade, they still cling, in too many instances, to the hope of high and artificial prices, and shrink from a thorough examination of the question of the Corn Laws. They know that rents are usually fixed upon such exaggerated estimates, that little profit is left for the farmer, and that the funds which ought to be employed in wages are constantly encroached upon, yet until the monopolists had been compelled to defend their monopoly orally—as soon as they felt obliged to speak in public, and to argue in favour of protection by their organs of the press—the farmers scarcely understood the grounds upon which "protection" was demanded. Now, however, the upholders of protection have thrown off the mask. The present plentiful season has obliged them to avow that it is high price, and high price as the consequence of deficient supply, which they seek to make permanent, and to declare openly their hostility to all improvements in domestic husbandry which may reduce the price of grain. We have frequently noticed that the most ardent monopolists look askant at the Royal Agricultural Society and its diffusion of agricultural knowledge and experience; and in a late article in the *Dorset County Chronicle*—a journal so congenial to the sentiments of Mr. George Bankes, the notorious Dorsetshire monopolist, that it is believed to speak his opinions, perhaps in his own words—this jealousy of the society is very strongly indicated. The writer, whosoever he may be, begins by saying:—

"In recently calling attention to the great exhibition of stock at Southampton, we expressed our opinion that the Royal Agricultural Society is an association well calculated to promote useful improvements in the various branches of farming, and consequently entitled to general support; intending, with this statement of our views, to have left the subject of this particular society without further comment, at least for the present. *But, having since observed the party anti-protection use which the Leaguite and semi-Leaguite journals have endeavoured to make of this annual meeting and show of the Royal Society*, we did not feel ourselves justified in silently allowing the enemies of the British farmer to take advantage of the circumstance, *with the view of artfully promulgating their destructive principles, under pretence of wishing well to the agricultural body.*"

Does not this mean that those who advocate the

increased production of grain by the introduction or more general adoption of improved husbandry, are "artfully promulgating the destructive principles" of Free Trade? Thus he says:—"Without openly avowing their design, the liberal supporters of the Royal Society are artfully endeavouring *to convert it into a vast normal school of leaguism in which the work of Cobden, Bright, and Co., may be done without exciting suspicion.*" The truth is, that the Royal Agricultural Society does form, and that without any active interposition of Free-Traders, "a vast normal school" for the elucidation of the great principle of Free Trade, that the only method of giving prosperity to any class is to teach them to rely on their own resources and industry. The society distinctly does this; and in so doing, according to the Dorsetshire monopolist oracle, it calls upon "landlords and farmers" to "at once throw aside their common sense;" and then the Royal Society and the Protection Societies are thus brought into open contrast:—

"They are, forsooth, to look to improvements in agriculture as their *only* future protection against the free importation of the cheap corn of the foreigner. If the agricultural body can be brought to adopt this opinion of what must be their only future protection, *they will, of course, at once dissolve the Protection Societies, as being worse than useless*, as only drawing from them some of those 'resources' which would be more profitably applied in assisting to carry out the very liberal and enlightened views of the Leaguite and Radical members of the Royal Agricultural Society. * * * * They [the farmers] will rather, should they have to choose between the two, *abandon the Royal Society, than withdraw their support from the Protection Societies*, being well assured that these will prove their best defence in future struggles."

Here, then, is a clear preference for the societies formed to maintain a permanent artificial scarcity, over that whose object is to increase production from our soil. And then the writer tells his dupes:—

"The farmers know full well, that however improvements may be carried out, this will not enable them to pay their *rents*, rates, and taxes, and to compete, without protection, with the foreign corn-grower; they know, as every one must who has given the subject the least thought, *that improvements, however desirable they may be, cannot be effected without a considerable outlay*, and that no one would be mad enough to lay out money in improvements, with the expectation that, as soon as the improvements have been effected, protection will be taken away, and the farmer who has sunk his little capital in the land, perhaps his all, left to compete with the cheap corn of foreign growth."

Every farmer knows full well that improvement will *alone* enable him to pay his rent and outgoings, and *retain any profit for himself;* for at whatever price corn could be kept artificially, the competition amongst farmers would enable the proprietor of the land to put in his own pocket the whole difference between the natural price and the artificial price. By means of the Corn Laws the prices of grain in this country are in many years raised considerably above the natural price, and landlords and land-valuers, ay, and too many farmers assume that such artificial prices will be permanent. That is protection; and the best that could happen to the farmer, if such prices could be rendered permanent, would be that he would pay a high rent, and find everything in which he laid out his own money considerably enhanced in price from the dearness of food. He would also find the power of his customers to purchase much lessened, and the general rate of profits in all businesses lowered from the same cause. But what takes place when such seasons as the present occur? There has been no diminution of nominal protection. The farmer has now a complete monopoly of the home market, yet wheat is full 12s. a quarter below the price which he was told protection would give him, and upon the faith of receiving which he has engaged to pay his present rent.

How do monopolists meet this fact? It will not do to try to beguile farmers with long tirades about currency bills, and Canadian corn, and American bank. True it is that improvements cannot be effected without some outlay, though the amount is often greatly overrated; but what farmer can safely lay out money in improvements, when an abundant season may defeat all his plans, by knocking down the artificial price upon which his calculations were founded, and leaving him to pay, out of his capital, a rent calculated on the high and artificial scale of prices?

The farmers are now forced to examine this view of the Corn-Law question; and the monopolists, feeling the shoe pinch, have openly declared that they claim to maintain high rents by keeping the community under-supplied with corn.

This was distinctly stated in the *Morning Post* a few days ago, in these terms:—

"We maintain, however, that steady prices of food are to be secured, *not* by the adoption of Free-Trade schemes, but by an expansion of the protective system. Let all forms of native industry be protected; let the cultivation of our soil be encouraged; *let foreign agricultural produce of all kinds be at all times excluded from our markets. When our harvests prove superabundant, let the surplus be bought by Government.* When our harvests prove deficient, let that surplus be sold at a certain determinate price."

This plan is undoubtedly bold and simple, and its announcement argues a high degree of candour on the part of the journalist, or a firm conviction that his lucubration would not be read beyond the ignorant class of landed monopolists for whom it was written. Let us examine it. When our crop is deficient, all foreign importation being absolutely prohibited, bread corn may be run up to any conceivable price, say 80s., 90s., 100s., or 110s. and upwards a quarter; now, our acred legislators may, as they have done before, fix upon any sum less than those prices, and say by act of Parliament, the price of wheat shall there remain steady; steady in their vocabulary meaning that it shall never fall below the legislative point. But suppose them to have some bowels of compassion for the bread eaters—not to say a word about an insurrection of the belly—and that they fix their "steady" price at 64s.; whenever the price of wheat shall fall below 64s. a quarter, in the language of the *Post*, "when our harvests prove superabundant," Government will be required to purchase "the surplus," that is, enough to raise the market price to 64s., to be afterwards sold in years of deficiency at "a certain determinate price." That price must, of course, be above the legal limit of 64s. This is a very pretty scheme for keeping up rents; and we think the Free-Traders are especially obliged to the writer in the *Post* for setting before the world, in *puris naturalibus*, the exact purpose for which the many complicated and clumsy Corn Laws have been framed. If we are to have a Corn Law at all, in the name of common sense let us have the simple and effectual plan of the *Morning Post!* It is merely opening a Government office, over the door of which will be inscribed—in letters of brass we suspect—"64s. a quarter for wheat always given here." We grieve, however, to be compelled to mar this notable project by asking—we hope we don't intrude—what is the Government? Whence are the funds for purchasing this "surplus" of "superabundant harvests" to be derived? Can they come from any other source than the pockets of the industrious people?

The scheme, then, is merely one to tax the people in order to raise the price of food, for the purpose of keeping up rent; and what is this but the Corn Law?

MONOPOLIST TACTICS.

It is notorious that the champions of "short commons," the advocates of starving on a scanty home growth, in preference to feeding on a sufficient supply, have grounded their defence in a great measure on the statement that the Corn Law keeps up wages. To lower the price of bread, according to the philosophy taught by the monopolists, is in effect to lower wages, the price of the quartern loaf, as they would have it believed, always determining the value of the working man's toil. Scarcely a Pro-Corn-Law tract has been published, scarcely one speech made at any of the protectionist meetings, in which it has not been asserted that the manufacturers have sought repeal in order that they might be able to reduce the wages of their hands. And the organ of the monopolists, the journal so appropriately designated the "*post*," is at this moment with amusing gravity declaring that "high prices" in food and high rates of wages are synonymous. Now, with all the experience of past years to contradict such statements, he must have no ordinary measure of charity who believes that such notions have been put forth in honest candour. But, with facts, as at this moment, staring the monopolists in the face, what shall be said if these assertions be persevered in? The average price of wheat for the three years 1839, 1840, and 1841, was 67s. 1d.; at the present time wheat is actually selling for 43s. per quarter. Here is an enormous reduction in the price of food; and if the doctrine of the monopolists be true—if the value of labour does rise and fall with the price of bread—there has been a proportionate reduction in the rate of wages. The fact is however, that instead of wages being now lower, they are both relatively and absolutely higher than they were at the period of high-priced food. This is not a matter of mere speculation or unfounded assertion; the fact is now staring the advocates of monopoly in the face; and were they capable of such a weakness, a blush would rise to witness their own oft-refuted fallacy so palpably contradicted.

Another method which the monopolists have taken to defend the Corn Law, has been to overstate the proportion of persons employed in agriculture as compared with those dependent on commerce and manufactures. And here we may state, by way of parenthesis, that, provided they had succeeded in establishing their point, we cannot see how this would have justified a law to limit the supply of food. If it could have been proved that that portion of the population which depends on commerce and manufactures were relatively as insignificant in numbers as the protectionists desired to make out, and provided (which is by no means the case) that that portion alone were injured by the Corn Laws, the injustice of the enactment would have remained unchanged. To deprive fifty poor men of a portion of their bread is as much a theft as to rob fifty millions, and to effect the deed by a Corn Law is as criminal as to accomplish it by any other means. However, the friends of monopoly have supposed that they could gain something by an array of statistics, and they have appealed to them. Men who have the hardihood to declare that extraordinary monopolist problem, that by limiting the nation's supply of wheat you give to each individual of the community a larger loaf than he could otherwise procure, are likely, in any use they may make of statistics, to be much more *figurative* than correct. Therefore it can excite but little surprise that the monopolists, by some mode of calculation unknown to "Cocker," should compute the proportion of persons dependent on agriculture as constituting 7-9ths of the entire population. Yes, the length and breadth of the land has been made to ring with the monopolist announcement, that 7-9ths of the whole population are engaged in agriculture. The parliamentary "Occupation Abstract," however, unfortunately for their trumpetings, is now published, by which it is seen that the agricultural portion of the community, instead of being, as represented by the monopolists, 7-9ths of the whole population, is little more than 1-5th, and not equal in number to one-half of those employed in commerce and manufactures. Now, although the monopolists had the *authority* of "Spackman's Tables" for their assertions, it is hard to believe that any individuals, old enough to lay aside their pinafores, could be so ignorant of the actual condition of the country in which they lived, as to credit themselves the extravagances they were retailing. If they were themselves deceived, blind leaders of the blind they must in truth be, and their followers must, sooner or later, find themselves in the ditch. But if they were conscious that the statistics (!) they were using were erroneous, we must say, and nothing stronger can be said, that the means employed were worthy of the end.

Another of the *reputable* modes employed to sustain the tottering Corn Law has been, the falsification of quotations. Who has not heard, in Parliament and out, of the shameless interpolations, substitutions, and perversions of Adam Smith by the convicted Mr. Cayley, whose pamphlet with its monstrous perversions and substitutions was adopted by the Protection Society, and defended in the House of Lords by the Duke of Richmond when Earl Radnor exposed its falsifications? As the members of the Society for the Protection of Agriculture are not expected to know themselves what is or what is not in Adam Smith, charity might have suggested, when the Cayley pamphlet first appeared, that the author had been practising on their ignorance; but when, after its glaring falsifications had been exposed, the publishing committee continued to advertise further editions uncorrected, it must be acknowledged that the society took the whole guilt of the disreputable affair upon themselves. The monopolists deride Adam Smith's philosophy, and strive, by fair means and foul, to hinder the adoption of its principles, but they do not scruple to borrow Adam Smith's name in order to pass off surreptitiously their own base coin, to serve the purpose of monopoly. Again, we exclaim, a suitable means for such an end!

We might adduce instances, *ad infinitum*, but those we have pointed out may suffice to show the character of the witnesses brought forward in favour of monopoly. The principles of the protective system are acknowledged to be wrong, in the admission made by the friends of monopoly, that the *theory* of Free Trade is right; and it is fitting that a system false in principle should be defended by false figures and false quotations. And although much cannot be said, it is true, about the uprightness of using such means, yet the advocates of monopoly may at least urge the plea of necessity for such a course: they are not in this respect dishonest from choice, for compel them to use honest figures, honest quotations, and honourable means, and they would at once expose the dishonesty of the system they defend.

We cannot do better than conclude this article by referring to the tables (which will be found in another portion of our paper) from the parliamentary "abstract" just published, showing the proportions of juveniles and adults employed in factories, &c. It will show what sort of dependence may be placed on the statements made by the friends of scarcity in their attacks on the factory system. We especially recommend it to the attention of Lord Ashley, and would at the same time respectfully intimate that it will furnish him with more authentic data than any that he can glean from such authorities as he is accustomed to quote in the House of Commons.

We are reluctantly compelled to suspend, until next week, the continuation of the "Inquiry into the Effects of Legislation upon Agricultural Wages, Profits, and Rents." There was an error in the second paragraph of the paper which appeared last week under this head that may possibly have struck many of our readers. In the

statement of the contract prices of various articles supplied to Greenwich Hospital, the printer had misread the MS., and made the quotation of the price of butcher's meat, in 1770, 108s. 6d. instead of £1. 8s. 6d. The same error runs throughout the subsequent quotations in the paragraph. In 1775, instead of 113s. 5d., the figures should have been £1. 13s. 5d.; in 1785, instead of 117s. 6½d., £1. 17s. 6½d.; in 1795, instead of 202s. 10d., £2. 2s. 10d.; and for 304s. 4d. in 1800, the figures should have been £3. 4s. 4d. Though so obvious an error of the press, it is a very important one; and we have to thank several of our correspondents for so speedily detecting and calling our attention to the mistake.

MEETINGS.

GRAND ANTI-CORN-LAW DEMONSTRATION AT WALSALL—PRESENTATION OF A SALVER TO JOHN B. SMITH, ESQ.

It is this week our pleasing duty to record another striking instance of the untiring devotion of our good friends at Walsall to the principles of Free Trade. It will be in the recollection of our readers that in the year 1841, when the great battle was to be fought against monopoly in Walsall, Mr. Smith of Manchester offered himself a candidate to the electors of that borough. Every influence that corruption could bring to bear against him was put in requisition, and a temporary triumph of monopoly was the result. Mr. Smith's spirited conduct on that occasion won for him the unbounded esteem and respect of all classes, amongst whom were not the least interested in his favour the ladies of the borough, who resolved on presenting him with a piece of plate as a token of their regard. A subscription was accordingly set on foot amongst the fair sex, and it very soon amounted to a sum sufficient to purchase a splendid salver. The means of presenting it was the next consideration, and, emanating as it did from the ladies, a tea-party was considered the most appropriate medium through which the compliment could be conveyed. Wednesday evening last was accordingly selected for having the *soirée* in the large assembly-room. At five o'clock, the appointed hour, the room was filled to excess by a highly respectable company of ladies and gentlemen. The room was tastefully fitted up for the occasion, and had a most pleasing effect. The arrangements were admirable, and the whole reflected infinite credit upon the generous hearts who had the management of the festivity. Robert Scott, Esq., M.P., presided at the head of the table, supported by John Bright, Esq., M.P., Charles Greatrex, Esq., Thomas Brittle, Esq., Samuel Cox, Esq., Charles Wilkinson, Esq., and Messrs. Grafton, Mason, Swift, Standley, Westwood, &c. At the same table sat a number of highly respectable ladies, amongst whom were Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Whitney, Mrs. Grafton, Mrs. Bartram, Mrs. Myring, Mrs. Griffiths, Miss Mall, Miss Creswell, and Mrs. Standley.

The CHAIRMAN rose and said, in an assemblage composed as that was of many ladies, it would be highly improper to commence the proceedings without allusion to their most gracious and beloved Sovereign. It was one of the glories of England to be subject to female dominion, and it was still further glory that in the history of this country the domination of the more tender sex had been productive of greater happiness and prosperity to the nation than the sway of great and mighty man. If ever they had reason to be proud of their Sovereign it was at the present time, when they had upon the throne one who was the solace and comfort of her own home, who had set an example well worthy of imitation, who had a heart to feel for the distress of her people, and who would, if she could, have long since relieved them from those laws which had so long oppressed her people and ground them down to the very dust. (Hear.) He most cordially proposed the health of her Majesty, which was received with loud applause.

The CHAIRMAN soon after rose and said, they had lately witnessed some slight revival of trade; at the same time they could not forget the great and appalling distress which had so long prevailed in that town and neighbourhood. (Hear, hear.) They ought to be thankful for the change which had taken place, but they could not hope, under the existing laws, that the present prosperity would be permanent, or continue for any great length of time. It was impossible it could last so long as they were governed by class legislation; so long as the interests of the many were sacrificed to the benefit of the few, so long would difficulties, uncertainties, and hardships attend their commercial pursuits. He was well aware that many of their legislators were influenced by good motives, but they were unfortunately ignorant of the real wants of the people, and deficient of that commercial knowledge which would enable them to legislate, as they ought to do, for the interests of the country at large. He proposed with all his heart success and prosperity to the manufacturing interests of Great Britain. (Applause.)

Mr. HENRY WALKER, of Wolverhampton, responded to the toast, and, after some introductory observations, said, he most cordially thanked the ladies of the borough for their attendance on that occasion. He thought the public were much indebted to them for the part they had taken in the agitation of the great question of the Corn Law. It was not a question of religious or political difference, but one which came home to the wants, feelings, and affections of those who were more keenly alive to the necessities of their fellow-creatures. It was now well known that the land of England had long since ceased to grow sufficient food to feed the people of the country. This had long been denied by their opponents, but now it had been demonstrated. It had also been proved that the agricultural interests of the kingdom only maintained 22 per cent. of the entire population; while the manufacturing population consisted of forty-seven out of every hundred. Another singular fact connected with this question was, that the agricultural portion of the population had been growing less under the operation of the Corn Laws, and that whatever increase had taken place was owing to the increase of commerce and manufactures. The aristocracy of the country had been governing them upon a feudal system thoroughly incompatible with the present state of society. Land was considered by the aristocracy the only property in the country, and under this belief these noblemen had given themselves all sorts of privileges, but the most odious privilege they ever assumed was the right to tax the bread of the people. It was his firm belief, founded upon a thorough knowledge of the present system, that it was utterly impossible to have devised any means by which the trade and commerce of the country could have been more effectually destroyed than by the perpetuation of the restriction upon the food of the people. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN, after the elapse of a short time, again rose and said, he then came to the principal business of the evening; and in doing so he must beg their indulgence while he adverted to the circumstances connected with their first acquaintanceship with the hon. gentleman to whom they were that evening about to pay so marked a tribute of respect. He well remembered when in the year 1841 they were called upon to come forward as the champions of Free Trade in England. That was the first borough in which the question was fairly tried, and nobly, indeed, did they respond to the call. They had then a Whig candidate who did not come up to the mark; they tested him, and found him wanting; upon which, with great prudence, he retired from the contest, and the Conservative candidate was actively engaged in his canvass, and his friends busily employed bringing to bear upon the electors every possible interest which they possessed. Many incautiously had given their promises without considering that the trust which had been reposed in them was not one given for their own exclusive benefit, but one for which they were answerable to the non-electors who were not so favoured. He well knew the anxiety which the friends of Free Trade had felt at that period, and the difficulties they had in procuring a candidate to stand forth as the uncompromising advocate of the great principles which they were desirous of testing in that borough. It was at that moment of difficulty and struggle that Mr. Smith (loud cheers)—a gentleman of great station, of well-known character, of extensive commercial knowledge, and considerable talents—unhesitatingly consented to become a candidate, and make an effort to rescue the borough from the thraldom in which it had been held. Mr. Smith was then the president of the Chamber of Commerce in Manchester, chairman of the Anti-Corn-Law League, and universally known and respected throughout the country. He came to Walsall at their request, and conducted the contest in such a manner as to merit not only the applause and esteem of his friends, but the approval of even his opponents. There was not a person in Walsall who could be found to utter a single word against Mr. Smith during that memorable contest. He (Mr. Scott) held in his hand a publication which came out during the election at Walsall, and which was called the "Letter Bag," having, he believed, that peculiar advantage over all other "letter bags" which secured it from the inspection of Sir J. Graham. (Laughter and cheers.) In that publication he found addresses from nearly all parts of England, and some from Ireland, to the people of Walsall, calling upon them to return Mr. Smith, and thereby achieve one of the most glorious victories which had been obtained for the benefit of their country. To these addresses the people nobly responded; and, had it not been for the highly improper influence which had been brought against them, there was nothing more certain than that they must have succeeded in the contest. They were, however, borne down by the influences to which he had already adverted, but not until they had reduced the majority of their opponents to that point which proved the impossibility of his or any other monopolist again successfully contesting the borough. The ladies of Walsall felt grateful to Mr. Smith for his invaluable services, and they were resolved that at some future time they would prove the estimation in which they held him, by the presentation of a substantial token of respect. He would not detain the company longer from the enjoyment they anticipated in the presentation of that tribute, but sit down leaving the next part of the business in the hands of those with whom that festivity originated.

Mrs. Cox then rose and, taking up a very splendid silver salver which was on the table, presented it to Mr. Smith, saying:—I have great honour in handing you this piece of plate.

The hon. gentleman accepted the plate, which is a specimen of exquisite workmanship: it bears the following inscription:—

"Presented to J. B. SMITH, Esq.,

By the ladies of Walsall, as a testimonial of their gratitude and esteem for the patriotic and spirited manner in which he stood forward in February, 1841, to contest the representation of the borough against a monopolist and bread-taxer; for his upright and independent conduct and urbane demeanour during the struggle; for his general and unwearied advocacy of the rights of labour and happiness of all, in opposition to the selfish interests and usurped domination of a class.

"May he live to enjoy the reward of his exertions, in beholding truth triumphant and his country happy."

Mr. SMITH then rose, and was received with loud and continued applause, which lasted for a considerable time. After the applause had subsided, the hon. gentleman rose and said, he was exceedingly happy to have the pleasure of meeting them on that occasion. After so long an absence they would not be surprised that he felt some embarrassment at coming before them, and inadequate to express himself upon the reception of that beautiful testimony of their kind esteem and regard. He could assure them he never should forget the kindness of his friends at Walsall, particularly the ladies. (Cheers.) It was delightful to see so many then around him who had cheered him on in his contest, and many of whom had made great sacrifices for the advancement of those principles which he and they deemed essential to the welfare of their country. When he first came to Walsall he had not the most distant idea of becoming a candidate, and it was nothing but a deep sense of the importance of the struggle in which they were then engaged that could have induced him to engage in so arduous a contest. It was the first struggle for Free Trade which they had had in the kingdom. It was nobly fought, and, though they were defeated, they were greatly indebted to the generous enthusiasm of the ladies for the favourable struggle they had made. (Cheers.) When he commenced the canvass, his opponent boasted that he could command 700 votes, and that he, Mr. Smith, could not raise 500 supporters. He believed there was some truth in the calculation which was then made, and if he had come forward upon any other grounds than those which he had adopted he never could have succeeded to the extent he did against such great odds. He did not come before them as the advocate of any faction nor the tool of any party, but he preached a new doctrine which found a response in the heart of every man, woman, and child in the borough; he contended for the right of every man who could make any description of goods to exchange them for any other description of articles in which he might stand in need. He contended for perfect freedom of trade independent of any paltry party consideration, and, having submitted the arguments in favour of this principle to the people of Walsall, they at once saw the reasonableness and justice of them. They saw how intimately their own immediate interests were bound up in the question, and what was the consequence? Why, the election came on, and instead of having 300 majority against him (Mr. Smith), the monopolist got only 27 votes above him. (Loud cheers.) To those who knew the circumstances under which that contest was fought, the result would be surprising, and nothing less than a great amount of enthusiasm could have effected such wonders. In five months after, however, the contest was renewed, and in place of a majority of 27 in favour of the monopolist, they had a majority of 23 in favour of his honourable, excellent friend, Mr. Scott, and Free Trade. (Loud and continued cheering.) Now, he did not hesitate to say, that he could not attribute that extraordinary success to any other cause than the enthusiasm by which the ladies of the borough were actuated. They influenced their husbands, their friends, and neighbours, and prevailed upon them to make sacrifices for the good of their country, which had reflected infinite credit upon them throughout the length and breadth of the land. He believed there was a spirit planted in the borough at that time which would never die until they got freedom of trade established throughout the whole world. Since he had last the pleasure of addressing them they had unfortunately suffered great privations, and he was delighted to know that they were now enjoying the benefits of an improved state of trade; but it would be instructive to look back and see how far the principles they maintained were founded in truth, and to ascertain, if possible, the cause of the sufferings they had endured. At first, when distress appeared in the land, the monopolists denied its existence; and it were not until it forced itself upon them in the most appalling forms that they admitted its existence. He remembered going at that time upon a deputation to Sir Robert Peel, and representing to him that not less than 10,000 houses were empty in that district. The Premier then said it was over-population, that there was too many people; but, if that was the cause of the distress, most certainly it had not been removed, for they had one million souls more at the present moment than there were at that time. Then, again, it was said the distress was to be attributed to over-production, and they must make less goods. Now, they had not made less goods, on the contrary, they had more goods, and yet there was a revival of trade. Was it not, therefore, quite clear that the arguments of the monopolists were unfounded? (Hear, hear.) If over-population and over-production were the causes of the distress, the increase in both ought, as a matter of course, to have increased the distress; whereas, in point of fact, the distress had decreased in proportion to the increase of population and of manufactures. (Hear, hear, hear.) Then, what was the cause of this prosperity? He recollected, on a former occasion, when they had a similar revival of trade, the Whigs claimed the credit, because they were in power, and now they were told the prosperity was the result of Sir Robert Peel's Government. The truth was, two good harvests, sent by a bountiful Providence, had caused the increase of trade; and, if they always had the blessing of free trade in corn, they would always have good trade. (Hear, hear, hear.) He defied any man to show him where prosperity reigned amongst the people without there being an abundance of food in the land. It was impossible that prosperity could exist in this country unless that the people were in the enjoyment of plenty of food. When corn was scarce and dear, all the money the poor working men of Walsall could get for their labour was insufficient to buy enough of bread for themselves and their families, and therefore they had no money to expend upon clothes or those other necessaries the consumption of which were essential to the well-being of other parts of the community. The hon. gentleman next proceeded to point out the great evils resulting from leaving a country like England depending upon the limited produce of her own soil, and stated that he had lately been in conversation with a gentleman who assured him that they had not more than seven or eight weeks' consumption of corn in the country. Now, he would suppose that they had had a bad harvest this year, who could tell what would have been the consequence, with such a limited supply of food in the country. The same gentleman informed him of that of which he (Mr. Smith) had no doubt, that, if there had been a failure, corn would have been raised fifty per cent. in two months' time. Now, he would ask, with such startling facts before them, how could any honest man say that monopoly in the great necessary of life ought to be tolerated for one hour? If it were not for this monopoly they would always have good trade and abundance of food; they would not be reduced to seven or eight weeks' supply, as would appear evident from the quantity of other articles in the country upon which there was no monopoly. They had now in stock in England forty weeks' consumption of cotton, forty weeks' consumption of bread, a year's supply of coffee, a year's supply of tea, enough of sago to last for one year; there was enough of pepper to last two years; the ginger would hold out the same length of time; the mace, nutmegs, cloves, pimento, and cinnamon now in England would last during the next three or four years. What did that prove? Why, it proved the advantages that the country derived from having useful commodities unrestricted. If they had free trade in corn, in place of seven or eight weeks' supply, they would have two or three years, so that they would never be under any apprehension of scarcity or high prices. He would therefore, in conclusion, have them bear in mind that, if the present system of Corn Laws continued, they could have no security for continuance of that prosperity they now enjoyed; they would be always subject to danger; and, whenever foreigners were unable to pay in cash, they (the manufacturers of England) would always feel the hardships arising from not being able to exchange with them for that food which they might be able and willing to give in return for our goods. Mr. Smith, after paying a well-merited compliment to Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright for their unprecedented exertions in behalf of the best interests of their country, concluded by again thanking the ladies of the borough for the splendid present they had made to him, and assured them that he would never be

insensible of their kindness or be unmindful of the interests of their borough.

The Chairman in highly complimentary terms next proposed the health of John Bright, Esq., M.P. for Durham. The announcement of this gentleman's name was received with loud and continued cheering, waving of handkerchiefs, &c. Silence having been restored,

The Hon. Gentleman rose and was again received with renewed applause, after which he delivered one of those powerful and patriotic addresses in favour of Free Trade, for which he has already obtained, both in the House of Commons and out of it, so much applause. He appealed to facts in proof of the doctrine of Free Trade, and most forcibly elucidated the advantages which all classes in the community would derive from an entire free trade in corn. His address throughout was listened to with great attention, and made a deep and lasting impression upon all who heard it. He regretted the absence of Mr. Cobden, who was detained at home in consequence of the temporary illness of his lady at the time when he was about to leave for Walsall.

The health of the Rev. W. Mackean, the Committee of 1841, who assisted in the contest of Mr. Smith and subsequently of Mr. Scott, was afterwards drunk: the company soon after separated.

Horsham.—The League.—A public meeting of the electors and other inhabitants of Horsham was held on Wednesday evening, to take into consideration the subject of agricultural protection, and the vote of Mr. Hirst on Mr. Villiers's motion. On the motion of the Rev. Mr. Ashdowne, seconded by Mr. Agate, Dr. Rickwood was unanimously called to the chair. After opening the business of the meeting he introduced Mr. Sidney Smith, who gave a view of the great progress of the Anti-Corn-Law League, and its present high position. He examined the measures of the present Cabinet, and exhorted all to prepare for an election, and to look out for an honest Free-Trade representative against a dissolution, which the affairs of Ireland rendered by no means improbable at an early period. The rest of the address was occupied with an examination of the agricultural part of the question. A number of farmers were present, and Mr. Smith pointed out that, even in Sussex, there were only 34,000 persons employed in agriculture, out of a population of 299,000. He also showed that the "Canada backdoor" had admitted upwards of 400,000 barrels of flour, at a nominal duty—that large sales of American provisions were made—that Russell had declared against the sliding scale—and that all was uncertainty as to law, prices, and prospects, which could only be obviated by absolute freedom of trade. A unanimous vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Smith. The assembly-room of the Richmond Hotel was crowded with a respectable auditory, and all the front seats were occupied by ladies.

Importation of Walnuts.—the steamer Antwerp, which arrived at the St. Katharine steam-wharf on Thursday, the 5th inst., from Antwerp, had, in addition to a full complement of passengers, and a variety of fruits of different sorts, a large quantity of walnuts on board, which were landed immediately, and cleared for the London market. This is, we believe, the first importation of walnuts from the Continent this season. Fruit of all kinds is very plentiful at present, in consequence of the extensive importations from abroad; and the superior kinds of fruit are remarkably cheap, peaches, nectarines, &c., being offered, of very excellent quality, in the markets at the low price of 1d. each.

Free Labour.—The Cost of Producing Sugar.—One of the most encouraging circumstances with regard to the British colonies in the West Indies, is the great improvement which is taking place in agriculture, and which the Earl of Elgin and the other governors are doing everything in their power to promote. Amongst the numerous agricultural societies formed in Jamaica, is one in the parish of Clarendon, and amongst the prizes offered by that society was one of £20 to be given to the manager of the plantation who should produce the greatest quantity of sugar at the smallest cost. It appears from the report of the Jamaica Royal Agricultural Society, that two managers competed for the prize, one of whom succeeded in producing sugar at a cost of 9s. 6½d. per cwt., and the other at an expense of 8s. 10¾d. This is a surprisingly cheap rate of production, much cheaper indeed than anything we had supposed to be possible, and would justify much stronger hopes of the triumph of free labour over slave labour than we should before have ventured to indulge.—*Liverpool Times.*

Game Law Victims.—Two of the gamekeepers of the Earl of Stradbroke committed suicide on Saturday and Sunday last, within twenty-four hours of each other. Report attributes the death of both of them "to their anxiety and dread of meeting their master (who was expected at Henham-park on Saturday, on his return from his Irish estates, but who is not now looked for till this week), fearing his anger that such extensive depredations should have been allowed among his preserves as have lately thinned the number of his pheasants, &c." There are other reports to a similar effect, showing that the anxiety of mind which ended in these unfortunate men destroying themselves, was caused by their solicitude about the game they had to preserve. It is not long since another gamekeeper of this same Lord Stradbroke was murdered by poachers, and, if our memory serves us aright, several transportations beyond the seas were the consequence. Look, then, at the loss of life, the misery, and the expense to the public, in order that this single landlord's game may be preserved. Let it be kept in mind that, during the last ten years, some thirty gamekeepers have been murdered, and as many poachers hanged for the murders—that in *one* year, namely, 1843, thirty persons were transported, and four thousand five hundred convicted and sentenced to fine and imprisonment in England alone for infringements of the game laws—that the cost of prosecuting the "criminals," and of maintaining their families when thrown upon the parish, amounts annually to not less than £100,000 sterling—not to speak of the immense cost of maintaining those who are transported beyond seas, nor of the wreck and ruin of virtue and happiness to tens of thousands, nor of the brutal and revengeful feelings engendered, and the desperate criminals who are brought into existence and fostered by these laws—and who shall say but that they are one of the greatest curses of our land, and ought, without delay, to be swept from off the statute-book for ever.—*Leeds Times.*

EARL SPENCER'S ESTATE.

To the Editor *of the* League.

Sir,—The matter which I am about to introduce to the readers of the League in a series of letters, or essays, is so similar to that communicated by another correspondent, Mr. Adam Brown, that, at the outset, I feel it necessary to make a few explanatory observations.

Neither Mr. Brown nor myself are professional authors. We have written on matters relating to the farm, and have published what we have written; but we are not professional writers. Mr. Brown has never been, I believe, much of a party man; and I have never been a party man at all. I have hesitated until lately even to join the League, though I know it to be of no party but that of the Free-Traders. But I am bound to say, that, so far as my humble judgment goes, the time has come when those favourable to Free Trade should declare for the League. During the present session of Parliament the members of that body in the House of Commons have so honourably occupied, and steadily maintained, their neutral ground in the conflicts of factions, that all who are not of the conflicting parties must seek the neutral ground; that is to say, if they have no objection to the company they may meet there.

Now, it seems to me that there never was neutral ground upon which men could meet with more benefit and satisfaction to one another than the Free-Trade ground. Those who have held aloof from the League, though approving its principles, lest, in joining it, they might be making up another of those state parties from which the public has gained little and suffered much, may safely and consistently and usefully come forward here; for there is no danger of being called upon as a body, in future, either to achieve or defend other projects. There is but one object to attain, and it is public, palpable, and national. That object obtained, the Free-Traders have no farther compact.

As an agriculturist, I offer what little assistance I can for the settlement of this question of questions. I may do so with more than a requisite or justifiable preference for my order—the order of the plough. But, born and bred upon the farm, I love it. In the correspondence which I shall send to this paper I may seem to the men of the steam engines and the ships to be too partial to the farmyard; but it will be seen that it is that partiality, I should rather say that love for, and that high importance in which I hold the agricultural interest of our country, that makes me advocate the abrogation of the delusive Corn Laws, and the settlement of agriculture on the basis of justice and common sense.

I may say truly enough that it is Mr. Adam Brown who at present induces me to undertake to be a regular correspondent of the League. But I must also say that it is the principle of Conservatism, the love of our national institutions;—I do not mean the Conservatism of a party so calling themselves—but the Conservatism of such as love their country for their country's sake, and who would preserve and extend its greatness; who venerate the virtues of our national institutions, not their vices or their blemishes; it is this kind of Conservatism which makes me desire to give my humble hand of friendship and of help to Free Trade. It is that I love England and England's reputation, and feel a joy in her greatness and her power, that I would join with those who are labouring so zealously and so well to keep England in the front rank of nations, and who are contending for the ability to advance her as far beyond what she has ever been as she is now in advance of all other communities.

It is, however, more especially for the benefit of British agriculture that I offer a helping hand to the League. It is to redeem the farmers, if possible, from that most fatal delusion which has been spread among them—the belief that the so called "protection" does them any good, that I offer my correspondence; and I hope to prove to every landowner who will listen to proof, that the whole agricultural interest of Britain suffers from the restrictive policy which keeps millions hungry and poor to raise the prices of corn and the rents of land; prices and rents which, on the contrary, are neither so high or so well paid as they would be if the millions were not constrained to be poor and hungry.

As I just now said, Mr. Brown has been, through his correspondence with the League paper, the immediate cause of my beginning this series of descriptive letters. We once ploughed the fields together on the same farm. We have at times travelled together. We have formed opinions very much alike; and when arrived at home from our travels we have, on chancing to meet, often compared notes and thoughts together. Mr. Brown empowers me to say, in introducing myself, that he has been for some months too much engaged with his personal affairs to keep up a continued correspondence, with all that attention to freshness of matter and correctness of facts which this great subject requires. And, though he began a series of letters last week on "Remarkable Farms," he is afraid that his engagements will still interfere with his ability to carry them out as he intended.

We have, therefore, agreed that, as some of our visits to notable places were performed in company, he shall give me some of his exclusive information, and allow me to mingle it with what I myself have collected or may collect, and with what we have in common, and that I shall write it and send it to London to the League for the information of those who read that paper. And I am told they are very many in number.

One thing I am not able to do, at least not at present. I cannot take up Mr. Brown's visit to the "Remarkable Farms" in Essex where he left off. But, as he says he will still communicate with the League so often as he has leisure, this is of the less importance. Nor is the subject which I choose for my first letter one that I am so completely master of as I should like to have been. It is a description of the estate of that most excellent nobleman, Earl Spencer. My visit to his estate was brief; and it is now some months since it occurred. Moreover, I did not by any means see all that should have been seen, not even for a brief period. But what I did see will probably be read with interest.

JOURNEY TO EARL SPENCER'S ESTATE.

The First Day.

I was a passenger on the London and Birmingham Railway on the 31st day of May last, coming from the north; and, calling to mind that Earl Spencer's seat was in Northamptonshire, I bethought myself of going thither to see his lordship's cattle, and his celebrated breeding and feeding establishment. I was wrong in supposing this establishment to be at Althorp, in Northamptonshire; it is in Nottinghamshire; but of that hereafter.

Not knowing where Althorp was situated, save that it could be reached from Northampton, I came on to the Blisworth station, which is the nearest to Northampton, though, as I subsequently ascertained, I was nearer Althorp at the Daventry station, which I had passed.

Blisworth is between four and five miles from Northampton, westward, and Althorp-park is six, or perhaps seven miles northward from Northampton. It may be worth while to remark that the railway has its station at Blisworth, so inconvenient to the principal town of the county, which should have been a principal station, because of the bitter, resolute, and expensively-continued hostility of the corporation of Northampton to the railway project when it was before Parliament. The corporation, and all the inhabitants who sided with it, have lived to repent their hostility to the railway, and that before they were much older than when the line was made. It is pleasant, however, to see that they gain in wisdom much faster than they grow in years. They are as eager advocates of railway intercourse now as they were hostile opponents to it before. The staple trade of Northampton, which is shoemaking, has been much improved by the railway, even though it did not come to the town. Thus it will be hereafter with many of those who are the bitterest enemies of the extension of trade, and the facilities of intercourse between nation and nation. Freedom of intercourse will be carried in spite of them; they will reap their share of the general benefit; and then they will be the most hearty approvers of it.

Thus it will be, that those who now suffer reproach and contumely for their labours in the liberation of commerce will return to their enemies good for evil.

To be at Northampton, with one's face turned towards Althorp, and one's thoughts turned upon Earl Spencer, it is impossible to forget the question of the Corn Laws. The simple honesty, the political integrity, and benevolent nature of Earl Spencer would excite at any time a high interest in the mind of a stranger visiting in his neighbourhood; and all the more so, if that stranger listened to the repeated and never-ending testimonies of respect and love which the tenantry and their work-people are ever paying to his lordship when his name is mentioned by the stranger. And, in addition to that, the interest in the mind of the stranger is heightened, if it is remembered that this amiable nobleman is personally and untiringly engaged in advancing the increase of human comfort, by increasing the first element of comfort, human food; but how much greater is the interest heightened, when we call to mind that this eminent agriculturist, who led, when it was not fashionable to follow, but who is now followed because it is fashionable to be, or to seek to be, good breeders and feeders of cattle; how unspeakably more interesting is it to approach his estate with the recollection that he has declared it to be his decided and well-considered opinion that a Free Trade between England and all other nations would not injure agriculture, but would, on the contrary, be for the good of agriculture, and the great good of all England.

I went out of Northampton on the road to Harleston, a village on Lord Spencer's estate, with all those things revolving in my mind. I knew no one in that part of the country, nor did I know if his lordship was at Althorp. I had rather some reason to believe that he was in London; but I had no doubt that I should push myself into a right channel by some means or other for seeing his estate.

The village of Harleston is pronounced as if written *Alston*. I had inquired at Northampton if it was a place which was likely to afford me a night's lodging, and, being told there was no doubt of that, I hired a gig, and a man to drive me there and take the gig back; so I went in the evening, that I might have a walk in the early morning amid the fine old woods, which, I was told, covered the country about Harleston.

I entered the village by going down a rather steep road, midway by the side of which, facing upwards, stood the inn, or public-house of the village, as if it were looking out for customers, and waiting there to receive them.

Such was my impression while my face was to its face, and we had not yet met. But I was much disappointed to find that its landlady was not disposed to admit me as

a lodger for the night. I inquired if there was no other house, and there was none. I asked for the next village, and found that was some miles off; and when the landlady said I could soon go there in my gig, I suggested that they might be as unwilling to admit me there as she was here; and again I pleaded to be allowed to stay, for she had not said that there was no room for me; she only said that she did not think I could stay there. The man that drove me knew, however, what string to touch. He intimated that I was going to Lord Spencer's in the morning on business, and that it was necessary that I should stay in the neighbourhood all night.

The mention of his lordship's name and residence, and of business to do there, was enough. She had no objection now, save a fear that I would not be satisfied with her accommodation; but such as it was I should be welcome to try it. I did try it; and never was I accommodated with a bedchamber more delightfully fresh and fair and comfortable. I might have almost formed an opinion that it was too spotless and perfect to be intended for use; had it not been that my experience in travelling has proved to me, long ago, that if the most perfect cleanness and freshness and general comfort are to be found in any bedchamber, that chamber is to be found in the little village inns of rural England.

Nothing could he more delightful than this. Floral richness adorned the outside and fresh flowers were gathered and brought within. In the lofty trees that overhung the roof, blackbirds and throstles, and their musical companions of the evening, sung to me almost at the very window; and for several hours after they were done, during the whole night indeed, the nightingales kept up the sweet discourse. I had only to sleep with their voices in my ears, and dream myself into Elysium. I had only to wake in the morning, and find that to be in Elysium was no dream. The brilliant sun of four o'clock in the morning of the 1st of June was out; and the flowers of June were out with him; and thousands of vocal birds, from the full-voiced thrushes—the Wilsons of the woods—to the sparrows that were so happy as not to know what key to sing in, nor which of them to make most noise; all these, in such a place, made an awakening out of sleep glorious beyond my power of telling.

But I go too fast. On my arrival there, in the evening, I walked out to see the village and its neighbourhood; the road still descended until it came to a clear streamlet, which issued from the deep shady woods on the left hand, and which, after watering the garden walls and hedges at bottom, went on its way, wandering farther than I could see into the country, eastward.

I do not know how many houses the village contains: they can never be seen all at once. With but little stretch of the imagination, one might believe this village to have descended upon the earth from some place more blessed than the earth, and to have brought the beauty of blessedness with it. One might suppose that the more grave and aged houses were sitting quietly in their gardens; while the frolicksome and the young houses had run off into the woods and were hiding there, while others wandered out and scattered themselves to look for them. And if we could speak of smiling cottages as of smiling children, and speak of them peeping from beneath the lofty elms, decked in their roses and twining flowers, looking out to see if the pleased face of a mother was upon them, we might be at no loss to discover that mother;—not only that a full-sized mansion looks down upon them from the gentle eminence upon which it sits, as if pleased to see their rosy faces through the trees; but that this mansion on the eminence is, in many respects, a parent to the little cottages below.

I did not, however, turn this way at first, which, to have done, would have required me to turn to my left westward, out of the public road. I kept on the public road and ascended, going northward, an acclivity upon which the road toiled, similar to that which brought me down to the village on the southern side. Gaining the top of this rise, I at the same time gained an unexpected view of a portion of the village which lay about three hundred yards to my left on the brow of an opposite height, separated from where I stood by a narrow deep valley, the height crowned with lofty towers of green branches, and the valley dotted with gardens and green enclosures; in each enclosure some of those remarkable cattle grazing, the breeding of which distinguishes the House of Spencer.

I say the House of Spencer, for these cattle did not belong to his lordship, nor was I yet at Althorp-park. The mansion, of which I just now spoke, is that of the Honourable Captain Spencer, brother to his lordship, and the cattle belonged to the captain.

The scene before us, from that rise of the road on which I first caught a view of it, is most lovely. And it is most thoroughly English. The chiefest object on the opposite height is the village church, venerable and grey in its old graveyard. Next to it is the parsonage-house, with its bright windows and slated roof, its shrubberies and its garden, and its elaborate floweriness. Lower down are barns and stables and a farmyard, all substantial and new. And all around are those matchless beasts grazing in the dewy sunset, which help to make up that most matchless of exhibitions, the London Christmas Show. But, not being yet put up to be fed at the stall for Christmas, they are not so loaded with fat as then, and are consequently more comely and handsome to look upon.

I here turned direct to my left; went down a narrow road; crossed the streamlet in the hollow, and went up to the churchyard and the church. As is always my custom in a strange place, I went there to read the epitaphs and the ages of the dead; and to pay my respects to the church. It may be fantasy in the eyes of some, and superstition in the eyes of others; but, whichever it may be accounted, I must confess to it that I never feel that I have formed a full and fair acquaintance with a village until I have become acquainted with its graves and its tombstones.

Leaving the church, and keeping on the footpath that led towards Captain Spencer's mansion, I found myself in the park. Here there were also cattle grazing; and such splendid cows some of them were! But the cattle, fine as they were, did not as far surpass the inferior and ordinary runts, such as we may see in Galloway or Wales, than did the trees of this park surpass all ordinary forest trees.

There they stood, each tree towering like a dome, and spreading out its branches like the roof of a great cathedral. And, looking along, they seemed in number and in breadth as if all the cathedrals of Christendom had been collected and formed into one; their huge trunks, vast as if they had stood there in the days of the giants, forming a succession of pillars, each of a magnitude which would take three or four or more men to encompass with their outstretched arms. And high overhead among the millions of leaves there was a solemn humming that sounded as if the worship was just dying away with the closing twilight. And it was a place which infused into the soul thoughts of solemnity whether the soul desired them or not.

There was so much of the greatness and the glory of the Creator present, that the creature was overpowered thereby with a sense of his own nothingness. And such thoughts partook still more of devotion when the eye could see, and the mind could understand, that all this majesty of nature was not walled round and separated from the world to make one man proud that it was all his own, and that nobody else could look upon it. It was in this park, sheltered by the most magnificent of forest trees, and looking out upon the meadow sward that intersected their groups in many parts, that the houses of the village lay scattered about; and it was pleasing and most grateful to the mind to reflect, after being told, that of the industrious families who inhabited there, no hand was unemployed, no mouth was unfed.

Finding the night coming on me fast, while I had to return by paths of which I knew not the intricacies, I turned back, and, in doing so, forgathered with a man who came down another road. He was going towards that part of Harleston where I was to lodge for the night, and offered to conduct me. I remarked to him that this was a place of most singular beauty; and he replied that he had been, in his time, in nearly every part of England, but he had seen nothing to equal this; "and more," said he, "I have seen few people to equal those who are the owners of this place." Which remark of his led us into farther conversation, and I found that he was a mechanic employed in the building of new cottages, which on all sides of Althorp-park, in several parishes, Earl Spencer was at that time providing for the labouring population. His lordship was pulling down the old ones, not so much for their inferiority or age, for they were equal and rather superior to the ordinary class of labourers' houses; but they were pulled down, and new ones of a very superior kind were built in their room, because the old ones did not come up to the class of dwellings which his lordship thought the families of working men should inhabit. But I have here expressed myself erroneously. The old houses were not pulled down and new ones built in their place. The new ones were built first, and then the old ones were pulled down. But, as I saw these new cottages on various parts of the estate next day, I shall defer a farther account of them until I describe my proceedings on the next day.

When I began writing this account of my visit to Althorp-park, I thought to finish it in one article; but finding myself not farther yet than Harleston village, on the evening before my visit to Althorp, I shall halt here, as I did there, and repose myself before going farther.

ONE WHO HAS WHISTLED AT THE PLOUGH.

THE HARVEST.—The crop will be a full average one, and, with this fine weather to get it in, the grain heavier and better than last year. Again the lesson will be taught the farmers, that with abundance prices cannot be kept up by Corn Laws or any other legislative contrivance, except that of pouring out bales of paper, or, in other words, increasing the circulating medium, which Sir R. Peel will not do, and which no threat of noble dukes will ever induce him to do. And again, Mr. Cobden's question, "What good do the Corn Laws do the tenant-farmer or the labourer?" will be forced on public attention. The question has never yet been satisfactorily answered, nor ever will.—*Brighton Herald.*

TREATY OF COMMERCE.—On Monday the treaty of commerce and navigation between her Majesty and the Grand Duke of Mecklenburgh Schwerin, which had been laid before Parliament, was printed. The treaty was signed at Schwerin in May, and the ratification exchanged on the 10th of August last, at Dobberan. There are eight articles in the treaty, and three in the treaty containing the accession of the Grand Duke to the treaty of commerce. The vessels of the respective powers are to be subjected to the same charges as national vessels. All articles of the growth, produce, and manufacture of the two countries are to pay the same duties, whether exported or imported in vessels of Mecklenburgh Schwerin or in British vessels.

THE REGISTRATION.

NORTH AND SOUTH LANCASHIRE—(From a Correspondent.)—The Conservative agent announced, on Saturday last, that South Lancashire is lost unless the Conservatives come forward to aid the cause. This was to be expected long ago. For three years past, E. Worthington, Esq., has been constantly attending to the register, and this year the League, with thirty clerks, are endeavouring to complete what Mr. Worthington began. In North Lancashire the same sad aspects are too evident to be mistaken. Wherever you turn you find Mr. Moorhouse and his emissaries of the League earnestly searching into the most remote and secluded spots for information. As a freeholder said to us in Preston, "he is here, there, and everywhere." With these startling facts before them, the Conservatives ought to buckle on their armour for the conflict, and by active unity again defeat, as they can, the impertinent interference of the League.—*Morning Herald.*

CAUTION TO OBJECTORS.—The barristers on the Northern circuit have given notice of their determination to grant costs under the 46th section of the Registration Act, in the following cases:—If an objection be withdrawn without reasonable notice being given to the party objected to, where a person has already been objected to, and the case heard by the revising barrister and the name retained upon the list; if it appear, upon a subsequent objection, that no change of circumstance has taken place; and, lastly, where the facts disputed might be ascertained by reasonable diligence, as examining the rate-book or the like.—*Hull Advertiser.*

BOROUGH OF BEVERLEY.—The business of the barrister's court is likely to be light this year. The number of objections to be decided are, compared with previous years, only few. On the freemen's list there are 19 objections and 106 claimants; the latter are principally persons who reside in Hull, but as their case was argued last year, and decided against them, we should say they will have no better chance at this revision to prove that they are within the required distance. We understand the registry this year is likely to show a further gain to the Liberal party.—*Ibid.*

PERTH.—In this burgh there has been a gain to the Liberals and Free-Traders of 31 on the present registration.

PUBLIC PARKS, WALKS, &c.

Tuesday evening a great meeting of the working classes of Manchester and Salford, convened by public advertisement, was held in the Free-Trade Hall, Manchester, for the purpose of forwarding the movement now making for the establishment of public parks, walks, &c. The following extract from the advertisement indicates the feelings of the working classes on this important and interesting subject:—"Every working man who feels an interest in the improvement of the town should attend this meeting. Every man who is fond of healthful, pleasant walks and recreative exercise should bestir himself in this question. Every one who knows the value of good air and manly sport, as conducive to the proper development of both mind and body, should be in action himself, and should rouse his neighbours to action, to push on to success this important movement. Every woman who finds her children's sports restricted by the smallness of her house, and their health deteriorated by continual habitation of crowded streets, and who loves her offspring and wishes them to live, should move herself, and induce her husband to move, in support of the establishment of *free public parks.* Above and before all, every person engaged in the improvement of the masses, physical, intellectual, or moral, should exert himself and work earnestly in this question; for the establishment of *free parks* will excite the mind to action, by supplying instructive and pleasing lessons in science; will moralize by the association of classes, and the generation of sympathy between them. Educators of youth should engage in this public work; for *free parks* will supply them with *free school-rooms,* full of ever-changing and ever-beautiful apparatus, capable of furnishing practical lessons in plenty and variety for life. This is peculiarly the question of the working man; and all, without exception of class or party, should heartily engage in it." Resolutions in favour of the object of the meeting were unanimously agreed to, and a handsome sum was subscribed by many present. A resolution of thanks to the Council of the Anti-Corn-Law League, for lending the Hall, was moved by Mr. James Morris, who said that, although its price was £20, its gratuitous use was at once granted. Mr. R. J. Richardson seconded the resolution, which passed with great applause.

SIR ROBERT PEEL AND THE MANCHESTER PUBLIC PARKS.—We have very sincere and very great gratification in laying before our readers the copy of a letter received by the honorary secretaries of the Public Parks Committee from the Premier—a letter which reflects honour upon the right hon. baronet, for the sentiments it avows, the associations adverted to, and the acknowledgments made; and which we commend to general attention as a noble example worthy to be followed by many other gentlemen formerly connected with Manchester, and on whom it has much stronger claims individually. The following is the Premier's letter:—

"Whitehall, Sept. 7, 1844.

"Gentlemen,—Although I have no longer any personal connexion with the town of Manchester, by property or other local tie, yet, considering Manchester to be the metropolis of a district to the industry of which I and my family are under very deep obligations, and most heartily approving of the wise and benevolent design to provide for those who are doomed to almost incessant toil the means of healthful recreation and harmless enjoyment, I willingly contribute to the furtherance of that design, and offer my cordial wishes for its success.

"I request my name may be added to the subscription which has been commenced for this purpose, for the sum of one thousand pounds.

"I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

"Malcolm Ross, Esq. "ROBERT PEEL.

"Edward Watkin, Esq."

This munificent donation is, to our mind, greatly enhanced in value by the graceful and liberal terms in which it is conveyed. We hail it, too, as a pledge that, in the estimation of every benevolent mind, no petty party feelings should be allowed to obtrude into this excellent design for the benefit of a large and industrious community.—*Manchester Guardian.*

MACCLESFIELD.—We understand that John Latham, Esq., town-clerk of Congleton, is in communication with the Lords of the Treasury, for the purpose of obtaining a grant for the construction of public walks in the Town

Wood, which it is hoped will be successful. The plans are already made, and it is expected that workmen will very shortly be employed in carrying them out.—*Macclesfield Chronicle.*

BIRMINGHAM.—In most of the great towns in England some progress has already been made towards providing the resources of parks and public walks and baths for the the people. A movement in the same direction has already commenced in this town. Perhaps there is not a community on the wide surface of England that stands more in need of such auxiliaries to healthful recreation than the working population of Birmingham. The higher ranks of the community may depend upon it that no more effective check can be applied to those dangerous anti-social doctrines which infect society than a removal of the odious class distinctions in which they originate.—*Birmingham Journal.*

THE "LANKESTER"IAN SYSTEM.

There is too much reason to fear that Lankester fired more stacks than those of Mr. Frederick Payne, of Great Barton. There is no doubt at all that he had been at Stanton, and spread his opinions among the labourers there. And certain it is, for I have held argument with persons of high and low degree in that and other parishes in the west of Suffolk—certain it is that, with most farmers and with some of their men, an opinion has taken root there, that the dearer corn is the more prosperous is the country. None of them would wilfully destroy their own property, nor like others to destroy it. Yet still they hold scarcity and dearness to be a blessing. Lankester, however, carried the principle and the doctrines of artificial scarcity into practice. The judge exclaimed from the bench when he heard the witnesses—"A new and most extraordinary application of the doctrines of political economy certainly!" And when he passed sentence on the prisoner, he spoke of the peculiar atrocity of his conduct as distinguished from the others who were standing at the bar with him, in having gone about the country spreading the most pernicious opinions and doctrines.

No doubt the conduct of this man was most criminal and criminally stupid; but his doctrines, which may be called the "Lankesterian School of Agricultural Economy," is neither so new nor so extraordinary as the honest judge declared them to be. That great oracle of the Duke of Richmond's party in Sussex, Mr. John Ellman, who boasted to be, and is believed to be, the father of the sliding scale, addressed a letter to the farmers of Sussex, through a Brighton newspaper, two weeks ago, cautioning them against thrashing out and selling their wheat too hastily, as there was a very strong probability at that time of continued wet weather; which wet weather would either injure permanently, or unfit for the market for a long time to come, the abundant crops of corn in the counties not so favoured as Sussex; the crops of which were all in the rick or in the barn. Mr. Ellman told the farmers to hold back until Christmas, and the scarcity in the market would redeem their hopes. He could only justify their holding back until Christmas by the assurance that they would then have it all their own way, as the wet weather would have destroyed the crops yet left in the field.

What is the difference between Mr. John Ellman, of Sussex, and Mr. James Lankester, formerly of Suffolk, and now of the hulks? Only this, that John rejoices in water, and James rejoiced in fire; John hopes the rain will do the business, and James was so sure that lucifer matches were better than the rain, that he actually applied them.

Is there not a paragraph going the round of the newspapers of London this week—a paragraph of printed joy—telling us that, because of the good weather, the wheat is down in price, and the quartern loaf is down after the wheat? Does it not tell us that in all the populous districts of London the loaf has been lowered to 6½d?

Who needs to be told that the difference between that price and 11d., in 1840, and in 1841, is the difference between the activity of trade in those years and in this year? When the mother of a family this night pays her baker 6½d. per loaf for the bread she has had during the week, will she not have more money to get shoes or stockings, or dresses, for her children, than if Mr. John Ellman's hopes of wet weather and scarcity had been realised? Does not the increased purchase of shoes, and stockings, and dresses add to the business of the shopkeeper, enabling him to live better and dress better? And does not his increase of business give more work to mercantile travellers, and carriers, and merchants, and manufacturers, and all the people employed by all of them? And do not these people buy largely of bread, and beef, and bacon, and butter, and consume it when well employed, thus making corn scarce and dear by legitimate means—the only means which virtue, humanity, and policy sanction?

If John Ellman will open his eyes to look for "protection to agriculture" in the quarter from whence alone it can be obtained, he will see that the ability of the consumers to buy and pay for farm-produce is that protection.—*Morning Advertiser.*

INCENDIARISM IN BEDFORDSHIRE.

BEDFORD, Sept. 7.

During the past week a painful degree of alarm has been created in some parts of this county, owing to the revival of those incendiary outrages which spread dismay throughout the district last winter.

In addition to the destructive fire at Dunstable on Wednesday, four others are reported to have occurred under circumstances which admit of little doubt that some, if not all, are attributable to design.

The most destructive of these fires took place at a farm in the occupation of Mr. Pope, of Lower Caldicott, an extensive farmer, and who is also landlord of the King's Head. The flames broke out soon after eleven o'clock on Wednesday night, and spread rapidly over the homestead before any alarm was given. A large number of labourers collected, who generally evinced a disposition to render assistance, but, owing to the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient supply of water, their efforts proved unavailing. The property consumed consisted of the produce of nearly three acres of wheat in the straw, three acres of barley also in the straw, some live stock, and the whole of the farm-buildings. None of the workmen were on the premises later than eight o'clock on that evening, where everything was left apparently safe, and it is said that the flames broke out at two separate parts of the stack-yard—a fact which strengthens the presumption that it was the act of an incendiary. Mr. Pope will be a large loser by the fire, as the stock was uninsured. The farm is the property of Mr. Hogg, who is insured in the Norwich Union to the full amount of the farm-buildings.

On the previous morning, so early as two o'clock, another fire broke out near Biggleswade, on the premises of a man named Giles Smith, a gardener. There was a large quantity of dry straw in the yard, which rapidly ignited, and the flames attained a frightful ascendancy before assistance was obtained. Messengers were sent off to Biggleswade, the nearest town, for the engine, but on its arrival there was, as usual, a dearth of water. The fire had spread over the yard, and every attempt to arrest its progress failed. The dwelling-house, barn, stables, and other out-buildings, together with some pigs, were wholly consumed. The property was not insured. The origin of the fire has not been accounted for.

On the same morning, and nearly at the same hour, another fire occurred at Tempsford, in a cottage occupied by two men, named Page and Jeeves. The inmates, who were aroused from their beds, narrowly escaped with life. The building and the greater part of the property were consumed. It is supposed that this fire resulted from negligence.

On Thursday morning another fire broke out at Goldington, in a cottage belonging to a labourer named Gaunt. The damage was inconsiderable, as the fire was speedily discovered. It is supposed to have been caused by children who had been amusing themselves with lucifer matches, one of which is presumed to have fallen among some barley spread to dry on the floor.

Another fire took place at Toddington, on the premises of Mr. Fox, saddler and harness-maker, on Tuesday night. There is reason to suppose that it was quite accidental; but a circumstance connected with it is not a little calculated to awaken suspicion. It seems that Mr. Fox, after retiring to his bed-room, had occasion to go to a linen closet, and some time afterwards, perceiving a smell of fire, he returned to the place, where he saw the flames issuing from under the door. On entering the apartment he found his apprentice, whom he had left up, nearly suffocated in a vain attempt to extinguish the flames. The lad, probably apprehensive of his master's anger, made his way into the garden, where he hung himself to the bough of a tree, but, fortunately, the noose slipped, and he dropped to the ground without material injury.

The police have been actively engaged in investigating the cause of the frightful conflagration which took place at Dunstable on Wednesday. The agents of the insurance companies have had the premises accurately surveyed, and it is understood that the loss will be more considerable than the first estimate. The destruction of the Wesleyan Chapel will prove a great inconvenience to the congregation, who erected the edifice by subscription, and will have some difficulty in finding a fresh fund for its restoration. The police have apprehended a man on suspicion, who was to undergo a private examination to-day, before the magistrates of the Lupton division.

Some of the principal landholders in this county have recently evinced a disposition to adopt any tangible scheme that may be suggested with a view to better the condition of the agricultural labourers, of whom there are at present a very considerable number only partially employed, and there is no doubt whatever that the encumbrance will be immensely increased by the cessation of field labour, as the harvest has in many places been nearly got in.

Amongst others, Lord St. John has announced his intention of introducing on his estate the plan of fork or spade husbandry, recommended by the Highland Agricultural Society. His lordship says, "I have already broken up some land with the fork, and am so satisfied with the advantages of the plan, that I intend forking the whole of the land for fallow crop next year, which will most likely be the double one of turnips and beans, a system I have adopted for two or three years past."

It is said that the substitution of spade husbandry for the plough would give constant employment to the surplus labourers, and without materially increasing the cost of cultivation. If so, the scheme is surely worthy of general adoption.—*Times.*

THE GUANO TRADE.—A private letter, from an intelligent shipmaster, at Ichaboe, who had personally measured the island and surveyed every part of it, states, that, on the 20th of June, the *average* depth of the guano not excavated was then thirty-five feet, fifty-five feet being the extreme depth of any part yet delved. The writer's calculation was, that 120,000 tons of the deposit were yet available for commerce.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

WAGES OF THE MILL OPERATIVES.—For several weeks the operative cotton-spinners of Oldham, as well as others classes of cotton-mill hands, have held meetings of their respective trades at various public houses, to arrange new lists of prices for their work, with the view of ultimately demanding a higher rate of wages than is at present paid. As yet no turn-out has taken place in connexion with the present movement, and it is to be hoped the difference will be otherwise settled.—*Manchester Times.*

CHEAP RAILWAY TRAVELLING.—An article in the "Westminster Review" on railway administration attracts some notice in the City, on account of the mode in which it advocates the principle that passengers may be carried at infinitely less sums than they now pay, and that very low fares will prove in the end the best source of profit to the proprietors. From the evidence given by Mr. Hudson before the Railways Committee, the writer draws the statement, that on the North and York Midland Railway coals are carried at the rate of three farthings per ton per mile, and that that price is a remunerative one. Estimating that 13 passengers would go to a ton, he finds that a regulation load of passengers on the London and Birmingham Railway—that is, three tons and a half, or 46 passengers, who, standing up, would only occupy a waggon of the common size—might be conveyed at Mr. Hudson's remunerative price for £1 12s. 8d., or 8½d. per passenger. Why, then, he asks, should passengers, who can load and unload themselves, and, moreover, are not liable to be lost or stolen, be charged higher than goods? This is, of course, going to a violent extreme; but it is a useful line of argument as showing that the fares are capable of being very considerably reduced, leaving a profit which would very much increase from the additional numbers conveyed.—*Times.*

HARVEST WAGES AT KELSO.—At our port on Monday morning last for hiring shearers, there was a great attendance of Irish reapers. Wages were from 12s. to 13s.—*Border Watch.*

IMPORTS OF HAY.—The value of hay in this country continues sufficiently high to make it an article of profitable import from the agricultural ports of Holland.

NORTH LANCASHIRE.—North Lancashire contains 254 townships, and the number of votes on the present register is 10,337. There are eleven polling districts and places—namely, Blackburn, Burnley, Chorley, Garstang, Hawkshead, Kirkham, Lancaster, Poulton, Preston, Ulverston, and Whalley. The county court for the election of knights for the northern division is held in the Shire Hall (or Nisi Prius Court), Lancaster.

CAUSE OF THE POTATO FAILURE.—For some time after the failures appeared, I durst not venture to offer any opinion on the subject; but, from seeing the fanciful opinions that began to be vended as to the cause of failure, I turned my attention to the subject, and soon came to be satisfied that the evil arose entirely from the seed being placed in the ground when it and the manure were too dry to bring on vegetation.—*Correspondent of the Ayrshire Agriculturist.*

MONOPOLY.—Monopoly commits the crime of forbidding man to serve man. It throws up a barrier between man and man. It interdicts human intercourse, lays an embargo on human sympathies, makes it a statutable offence to do good and communicate.—*P. Harwood.*

IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN CATTLE.—Since our last, the Hamburg, Capt. Brown, from Hamburg, has landed 25 head of cattle; the Victoria, Capt. Draper, 35 head; and the Emerald Isle, Capt. Bouch, 15 cows, 2 bullocks, and 73 sheep.—*Hull Advertiser.*

EXPORTATION OF MACHINERY.—The exportation of lace machinery to France is again in operation. The exporters allege that it is done to evade the patent laws, and that the National Institute of Paris levies a duty of 50 per cent., but if the machinery is upon a new principle not known in France, the duty is only 15 per cent., as heretofore.—*Notts Review.*

EDUCATION AND CRIME.—Of 68 prisoners committed to take their trial for various charges of felony and misdemeanour, at the Salford Hundred Sessions, now holding, 25 can neither read nor write, 37 can read and write imperfectly, and only four can read and write well. None of them have received a superior education. Of two prisoners in the calendar there is no account given.

POPULATION OF EGYPT.—The prolific soil of Egypt not merely increases the fertility of vegetable and animal life, but that of the human race likewise. This fact is noticed by many ancient writers, particularly Aristotle, who states that women in Egypt sometimes produce three, four, or even seven at a birth. Early marriages, the longer duration of life, abundance and cheapness of provisions, would tend, under the Divine blessing, still further to promote the population of this flourishing district.—*Milman's History of the Jews.*

SUGAR REFINING IN BOND.—The Lords of the Treasury, having had under consideration an application of Messrs. M'Fie and Sons, of Liverpool, sugar-refiners, praying to be relieved from payment of the duty on certain quantities of bastard sugar and treacle, being the deficiency which has arisen from sundry parcels of those articles produced from foreign sugar refined in bond, and deposited in the warehouse for the purpose of exportation, and that no duty in future be demanded upon deficiencies of sugar and treacle deposited in the warehouses under similar circumstances, directions have been issued by their lordships authorising the Board of Customs to direct in the present case, and in all similar instances in which there may be no reason to suspect fraud, and without exposing the revenue to risk, that the duty may be remitted. This order has been made general, and communicated to all the departments.

HOW TO LIVE ON 9s. A WEEK.—Every man's income is limited more or less; and he must limit his expenditure accordingly. Thus, he may be forced to content himself with a house of a rent not exceeding £2000. a year, with no greater number of servants than a dozen, with six horses and no more; with but two carriages; with turtle, venison, champagne, and burgundy, only now and then; with a middling box at the Opera, and so on. 9s. a week is a decidedly limited income. To live upon it a man must first cut down his expenditure to the fewest possible branches, and secondly apply the closest shaving to each. They can hardly be reduced below three—food, clothes, and lodging; but if anybody could do without one of these, the difficulty would be much simplified. As to lodging. The cheapest to be had must be chosen; the more unpleasant the situation the better, as the rent will then be more reasonable. A roadside hovel, or a ruinous old house up a court, may be recommended. A single room, however small, must suffice for a whole family, however large. Chairs, tables, bedsteads, and other moveables, may be dispensed with; the entire furniture should consist of a few blankets and some straw; and the blankets ought to be begged. Coals and candles are too expensive; and it is extravagant to have any fire at all, except to cook a few potatoes, or to avoid being frozen to death. With regard to clothes, these must be obtained, if possible, through charity: there is another way of getting them, which it would be hardly right to hint at. By a proper economy they may be made to last till they fall to pieces, which they will not altogether do for years. If it is necessary to buy clothes, they must be bought; but the purchase should only include indispensables. Shirts and stockings are superfluities; and the younger children may always, and the whole family at times, manage to do without shoes. Food must be confined, in general, to bread and potatoes; but perhaps, with management, a little bacon may be indulged in now and then. It will be out of the question to think of any other drink than the plain water; and tea and sugar are luxuries not to be dreamt of. By following the above rules it is perhaps possible to live honestly on 9s. a week, with a wife and family. Medical attendance is out of the question. What are called comforts must be considered unattainable; for any man, even though starving and perishing, to help himself to a meal, a handful of wood, or anything of the kind, is highly immoral; the law respects not persons but property, and severely visits such wickedness.—*Punch.*

Middlesex is the least agricultural county in England, there being little more than one per cent. of the population so engaged. The average of the population to each house in the same county is seven. In 14 other English counties, the average to each house is five.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN FACTORIES.

The following valuable tables, with the accompanying observations of the Commissioners, we take unabridged from the Parliamentary Occupation Abstract, just published :—

Table showing the Number of Persons in Great Britain engaged in the Manufacture of Cotton, Hose, Lace, Wool and Worsted, Silk, and Flax and Linen.

	COTTON.					HOSE.					LACE.				
	Males.		Females.			Males.		Females.			Males.		Females.		
	20 Years of Age and upwards.	Under 20 Years of Age.	20 Years of Age and upwards.	Under 20 Years of Age.	TOTAL.	20 Years of Age and upwards.	Under 20 Years of Age.	20 Years of Age and upwards.	Under 20 Years of Age.	TOTAL.	20 Years of Age and upwds.	Under 20 Years of Age.	20 Years of Age and upwds.	Under 20 Years of Age.	TOTAL.
England and Wales, and Isles in the British Seas	73,819	36,727	67,182	50,440	228,168	23,820	3,726	6,071	2,371	35,988	5,330	1,072	14,425	5,658	26,485
Scotland	31,991	12,241	16,648	13,328	74,208	1,362	416	2,066	99	3,943	43	10	1,451	429	1,933
Total	105,810	48,968	83,830	63,768	302,376	25,182	4,142	8,137	2,470	39,931	5,373	1,082	15,876	6,084	28,418
Add Proportion of Fabric not specified ..	32,302	10,203	20,640	12,141	75,286	7,688	863	2,003	470	11,024	1,640	225	3,909	1,169	6,943
Total GREAT BRITAIN ..	138,112	59,171	104,470	75,909	377,662	32,870	5,005	10,140	2,940	50,955	7,013	1,307	19,785	7,242	35,347

	WOOL and WORSTED.					SILK.					FLAX and LINEN.				
	Males.		Females.			Males.		Females.			Males.		Females.		
	20 Years of Age and upwards.	Under 20 Years of Age.	20 Years of Age and upwards.	Under 20 Years of Age.	TOTAL.	20 Years of Age and upwards.	Under 20 Years of Age.	20 Years of Age and upwards.	Under 20 Years of Age.	TOTAL.	20 Years of Age and upwds.	Under 20 Years of Age.	20 Years of Age and upwds.	Under 20 Years of Age.	TOTAL.
England and Wales, and Isles in the British Seas	66,092	17,758	21,819	15,580	121,249	23,267	7,170	20,723	12,509	62,669	8,810	2,817	3,504	4,008	19,149
Scotland	6,508	1,753	1,510	1,123	10,894	2,191	521	767	743	4,222	21,395	6,211	13,203	7,791	48,600
Total	72,600	19,511	23,329	16,703	132,143	24,458	7,691	21,490	13,252	66,891	30,214	9,028	16,707	11,799	67,748
Add Proportion of Fabric not specified ..	22,164	4,065	5,744	3,180	35,153	7,466	1,602	5,291	2,523	16,882	9,224	1,880	4,114	2,247	17,465
Total GREAT BRITAIN ..	94,764	23,576	29,073	19,883	167,296	31,924	9,293	26,781	15,775	83,773	39,438	10,908	20,821	14,046	85,213

	FABRIC not SPECIFIED. Weavers, Spinners, and Factory Workers.					TOTAL of TEXTILE FABRICS.					
	Males.		Females.			Males.		Females.			
	20 Years of Age and upwards.	Under 20 Years of Age.	20 Years of Age and upwards.	Under 20 Years of Age.	TOTAL.	20 Years of Age and upwards.	Under 20 Years of Age.	20 Years of Age and upwards.	Under 20 Years of Age.	GRAND TOTAL.	
England and Wales, and Isles in the British Seas	65,462	14,932	28,483	15,927	124,804	265,609	84,202	162,207	106,490	618,508	England and Wales, and Isles in the British Seas
Scotland	15,022	3,906	13,218	5,792	37,938	78,512	25,058	48,863	29,305	181,738	Scotland
Total GREAT BRITAIN ..	80,484	18,838	41,701	21,719	162,742	344,121	109,260	211,070	135,795	800,246	Total GREAT BRITAIN

"It is gratifying to see that the returns as to sex and age will afford consolation to those who have regretted the supposed preponderance of the weaker sex and of more tender youth in the number of persons employed in these manufactures. Under the head of cotton manufacture (all branches), comprehending, as we have already mentioned, 302,376 persons, the males above 20 years of are more than double the number under 20, and considerably exceed the total number of females above 20 years of age, who, in their turn, exceed by a third the females under 20. It is also an additional satisfaction to add, that the proportion of very young persons employed appears to be progressively diminishing, as the last detailed returns on this subject, viz., those furnished by the Factory Commissioners, show a continued improvement in this respect.

"In 1835 the number of persons under 13 years of age employed in factories upon the four staples of cotton, wool, silk, and flax, amounted to 55,455, and were reduced in 1839 to 33,566, being a reduction of 21,889, although the numbers employed of all ages had increased from 355,373 to 423,626, showing a transfer of employment from the young to the old, and that this could be done with a considerable extension instead of entailing a diminution of the business carried on.

"So lately as January 15, 1844, Mr. Saunders, Inspector of Factories for the Yorkshire district, says the increase in the number of young persons and adults is greater than in the number of children. Mr. Howell, in his Report for the same quarter, p. 18, for the Cheshire and Midland Counties, says it might be worthy of notice that the few factories in which children under 13 years of age continue to be employed are chiefly isolated in rural districts or in non-manufacturing towns. Mr. Saunders, in his Report for the quarter preceding, gives a very favourable view of the proportionate increase of numbers as follows:—

Total numbers employed in 1838	95,000
Ditto 1843	106,500
Increased number ..	11,500

"The proportion in which this increase is divided among the three classes recognised by the Factory Act, viz., adults or persons above 18 years of age, young persons or those between 13 and 18, and children under 13 years of age, is as follows:—

Increase of adults	12,000
Ditto of young persons	1,500
	13,500

which is reduced to the actual increase, namely, 11,500, *by a positive decrease in the number of children* amounting to 2000."—*Parliamentary "Occupation Abstract,"* pages 16 and 17.

Food.—The facilities for procuring wholesome food are now so great, that diseases which in former times spread over extensive tracts of country, from sheer want of aliment fitted for the use of man, are now unknown. Through the progress of agriculture almost every spot of earth is rendered useful, and the produce of our lands is vastly increased and is still increasing. The cultivation of the potato, of fresh vegetables, and of various kinds of useful fruit, the apple, the plum, the chestnut, and the orange, in the different countries of Europe, materially repress the price of wheat, and have an unquestionable influence on the health of communities. Two centuries ago a salad was not to be bought in the markets of London for money; a cabbage-stock and a carrot were unknown; apples were scarce, and never used save in the crude and unnutritious state. Sir Walter Raleigh and Admiral Drake might have brought half a dozen oranges for the Queen's table, but the community had never seen the golden fruit of the Hesperides. At the present time we buy this delicious fruit at the rate of two for a penny in the streets of London! and, through the blessing of sugar, we are never at a loss for a meal for our children when we have an apple. Sugar is, in fact, one of the grand conquests of man's industry, and the barbarism of regarding it as a luxury, and making it a source of revenue, ought to be abandoned: it is one of the prime necessaries of life, and ought to be as free as air; the first act of the stomach upon the amylaceous principle, which constitutes about four-fifths of our ordinary food, is to turn it into sugar, and dextrine, an insipid kind of sugar—a fact from which the value of sugar as an article of nourishment may be inferred. Nature presents us with the article ready formed, but we make it inaccessible by our absurd laws! It is little more than a century since the great bulk of the community lived upon salt provisions through the winter. Agriculture had made so little progress, that there were no green crops, no such staple as the turnip, not merely to keep cattle alive, but to fatten them; and so little hay was made that it was always an object to save it for the use of the stock that must be maintained till the spring. The cattle which now supply us with fresh animal food through the whole of the winter, in our grandfathers' days, would all have been slaughtered and salted down at Michaelmas; there was no more fresh meat until God's providence brought round the spring. In Sydenham and Morton's times, and even considerably later than these, among the grand causes for which the assistance of medical men was sought, were the scurvy and intermittent fever. The faculty would starve now did they depend on either one or other of these diseases. The *death* of the members of the community was then the source of professional income, now it is their *birth*."—*Dr. Willis.*

Irish Flax.—The flax crop in the county of Monaghan never presented a finer appearance, and we are credibly informed that there is more than double an average crop on the ground.—*Banner of Ulster.*

Manufacturing Prosperity in Scotland.—We are glad to notice the continuance of favourable accounts from the different seats of our manufacturing industry. In addition to the animation which exists in our own department of production, we understand that there is an extraordinary excitement in the woollen manufactures of Scotland. The factories of Galashiels, and the southern districts adjoining, are all in a state of the liveliest activity. Sufficient hands cannot be got to execute the orders which the factory-owners have been receiving. The weather has become most favourable for harvest work, and great progress is making in reaping.—*Glasgow Chronicle.*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, September 11, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

	£	s.	d.
George Woolley and Son, Manchester	£50	0	0
Philip Novelli, Mosley-street, do.	50	0	0
Thomas Baxter, 1, Back-pool-fold, do.	5	0	0
Joe Berry, at Messrs. Lees, Kershaw, and Co.'s, 22, High-street, do.	5	0	0
C. D., per J. S. Ormerod	2	0	0
John Albiston, at T. Baxter's, Back-pool-fold, Manchester	1	1	0
James Grimshaw, White House, Belfast, Ireland	1	1	0
James Hirst, Knutsford, Cheshire	0	2	6
Frederick Le Mann, 15, Threadneedle-street	5	0	0
John Mouat, 8, Cooper's-row, Crutched Friars	1	10	0
John Hoppe, 3, Bishopsgate-street Without	1	1	0
Thomas Tanner, Norwood, Surrey	1	1	0
George Barker, 49, Bishopsgate-street Without	1	1	0
C Gilpin 5, do.	1	1	0
Thomas Dean, 35, Threadneedle-street	1	1	0
William Stacey, 35, Tavistock-street, Covent-garden	1	1	0
Joseph Sinclair, 49, St. Martin's-lane	1	1	0
G. W. Acton, 66, Farringdon-street	1	1	0
John Adams, 101, Fenchurch-street	1	1	0
P. Browne, Rye-lane, Peckham	1	1	0
Andrew Kilby, Leadenhall-market	1	0	0
Edward Darley, 10, Maiden-lane, Covent-garden	1	0	0
John Teede, 85, Bishopsgate-street Without	1	0	0
Clement White, 36, King-street, Covent-garden	1	0	0
Samuel Cocking, jun., 1, Harder's-road, Peckham	1	0	0
Daniel William Lucas, 34, Mark-lane	1	0	0
William Rivett, 50, Crown-street, Finsbury	1	0	0
George Taylor, 53, Bishopsgate-street Without	1	0	0
George Manning, 97, do.	1	0	0
Henry Clarke, 39, King-street, Covent-garden	1	0	0
Richard Saunders, 56, Leadenhall-street	1	0	0
James Wylie, 1, Great Tower-street	1	0	0
T. H. M.	1	0	0
Jonathan Soden, 16, Upper Marylebone-street	1	0	0
William Addis and Son, 1, Gastigny-place, St. Luke's	1	0	0
William Skelton, 29, Bishopsgate-street Within	1	0	0
Richard Hulse, 36, Leadenhall-street	1	0	0
Philip G. Dodd, 25, do.	1	0	0
Thomas Ibbotson, 21, Camomile-street, Bishopsgate	1	0	0
Charles Hurren, 13, Wormwood-street, do.	1	0	0
F. Reynolds, engraver, 15, Old Broad-street	1	0	0
James Ingham, 36, Red Lion-street, Holborn	1	0	0
Robert Ord, 23, Threadneedle-street	1	0	0
"Ebony"	1	0	0
William Kent, 88, Bishopsgate-street Without	0	10	6
Andrew Kennedy Hutchison, 2, Crown-court, Threadneedle-street	0	10	0
Samuel Bellamy, 24, High-street, Camberwell	0	10	0
A Friend	0	10	0
James Izod, 8, Turnagain-lane, Farringdon-street	0	10	0
Henry Cater, the Grove, Great Guildford-street, Southwark	0	10	0
Edward Hardy, Peckham-rye	0	10	0
Rev. Edwd. Steane, Champion-park-road, Camberwell	0	10	0
William Fox, 113, Fenchurch-street	0	10	0
William Dettmer, 50, Upper Marylebone-street	0	10	0
Mrs. Eccles's Printing office, Fenchurch-st. — F. Robins	0	10	0
G. W. Lean	0	10	0
L. Dunphy	0	5	0
R. Potter	0	5	0
G. Taylor	0	5	0
W. James	0	5	0
D. Courtnay	0	2	6
R. Potter, jun.	0	2	6
J. B——s	0	5	0
J. Stutchbury, 38, Seething-lane	0	5	0
A Friend to the Cause	0	5	0
James Sangster, 14, Philpot-lane	0	5	0
Henry Parnall, 100, Bishopsgate-street Without	0	5	0
Thomas Gowland, 5, Leadenhall-street	0	5	0
James Lavor, 93, Houndsditch	0	5	0
Thomas Dunsdon, 138, Goswell-street	0	5	0
Samuel Peirson, 1, Sun-street, Bishopsgate	0	5	0
Edward Wallis, 42, Skinner-street, Snowhill	0	5	0
Thomas Baylis, 23, Rahere-street, Goswell-road	0	5	0
E. Lowrie, President-mews, King-square	0	5	0
A Friend	0	5	0
J. A. Parry and Son, 7, Bishopsgate-street Without	0	5	0
G. Vollam, 76, do.	0	5	0
David Lonsdale, 29, Aldgate	0	5	0
Mrs. Baker, Lecture-room, Hill-street, Peckham	0	5	0
Sharratt and Nowth, 44, Percival-st., Goswell-road	0	5	0
C. B.	0	5	0
George Spearing, 29, Leadenhall-street	0	5	0
George Jones, 8, Billiter-street	0	5	0
T. W. Candler, do., do.	0	5	0
A Friend	0	5	0
Robert Amery, 46, Bishopsgate-street Without	0	5	0
A. B.	0	5	0
James Pearce, 68, Bunhill row, St. Luke's	0	5	0
Mr. Leigh, Great St. Helen's, Bishopsgate	0	5	0
J. Williams, 82, Waterloo-road	0	5	0
Joseph Young, 20, Little Tower-street	0	3	0
James Elisha, 192, Bishopsgate-street Without	0	2	6
John Evans, 23, Southampton-street, Strand	0	2	6
James Christie, 82, Maiden-lane, Covent-garden	0	2	6
Richard Acock, 22, Bishopsgate-street Within	0	2	6
Peter Andrews, 92, Bartholomew-close	0	2	6
James Roberts, 7, Devonshire-street, Bishopsgate	0	2	6
George Walton, 140, Goswell-street	0	2	6
William Hunt, 12, Skinner-street, Bishopsgate	0	2	6
John Draysey, 14, Primrose-street, do.	0	2	6
Joseph Last, 28, Haymarket	0	2	6
John Dennison, 21, Liverpool-street, Bishopsgate	0	2	6
Thomas Davies, 25, do., do.	0	2	6
Matthew James, 47, do., do.	0	2	6
T. W. Willin, 12, Upper Smith-st., Northampton-sq.	0	2	6
John Whitmee, 70, St. John-street, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
Wm. Rd. Newman, 27, Widegate-street, Bishopsgate	0	2	6
A Friend	0	2	6
H. Woodall, 70, Bishopsgate-street Without	0	2	6
Edward Riles, 17, do., do.	0	2	6
William Harwood, 3, High-street, Camberwell	0	2	6
Thomas G. Beck, 4, Tavistock-row, Covent-garden	0	2	6
John Murray, 403, Strand	0	2	6
Edward Elmslie, 46, St. Martin's-lane	0	2	6
John Hartry, 41, do.	0	2	6
Henry Williams, 22, Percival-street, Goswell-road	0	2	6
G. M.	0	2	6
J. R.	0	2	6
George Conen, 41, Spencer-street, Goswell-road	0	2	6
Thomas Booth, 30, Upper Charlton-st., Marylebone	0	2	6
Algernon Black, 32, ditto, ditto	0	2	6
G. A. Soden, 33, ditto, ditto	0	2	6
Zechariah Barber, 17, Upper Marylebone-street	0	2	6
John Wilkins, 36, Clipstone street, Fitzroy-square	0	2	6
Robert Lock, 27, Cirencester-place, ditto	0	2	6
William Eldridge, 30, Carburton-street, Marylebone	0	2	6
Fortescue Hitchens, 62, Crown-street, Finsbury	0	2	6
William Davies, 9, Providence-row, ditto	0	2	6
Patrick Shany, 22, Ropemaker-street, ditto	0	2	6
W. Jeffrey, jun., 36, Charles-street, Hampstead-road	0	2	6
George Crafts, 19, Artillery-lane, Bishopsgate	£0	2	6
W. C.	0	2	6
John Godfrey, 25, Widegate-street, Bishopsgate	0	2	6
Joseph Robins, 24 Spencer-street, Goswell-road	0	2	6
James Sands, 3, Ratcliffe-terrace, ditto	0	2	6
Samuel Crosde, 2, Providence-row, St. Luke's	0	2	6
Josiah Saunders, 2, St. Agnes-terrace, Tabernacle-sq.	0	2	6
Timothy Thomas, 9, Tabernacle-walk, Finsbury	0	2	6
Mr. Thomas Allen, City-road Anti-Corn-Law Association, two monthly subscriptions, per Mr. Const	0	2	0
Small subscriptions	3	5	6

NORTH LANCASHIRE ELECTION.

(From the *Times* of yesterday.)

Lancashire is again about to be the scene of a Parliamentary contest. Lord Stanley has taken his *congé*, and Mr. Talbot Clifton makes his *début*. The well-graced actor leaves the scene, and the eyes of men are bent with a semi-curious listlessness on him who follows next. And painfully alive does the *débutant* appear to the exigencies of his position. He is oppressed by the novelty of his character, and the expectations which it raises. He feels that he is expected to speak on certain topics, but hardly knows what. He therefore speaks on all. But as he has not quite made up his mind what to say, he speaks with that ambiguity and indistinctness which Lucian ascribes to the oracles of Heathenism. He is aware that "it is no ordinary constituency before whom he is invited to present himself." He then proceeds to show how it is "no ordinary constituency," which is done by describing it as "a constituency rendered important not only by its numbers, but also by the varied nature of its interests." This might be supposed to be a circumstance rather calculated to awaken diffidence than audacity. But Mr. Talbot Clifton is not a man to be thus daunted: that is the very thing that makes *him* bold. He leaps at it, and over it. "To ALL these interests," says, or rather writes he, "my duty and my inclination would lead me to give the most unwearied attention." Happy Lancashire!—

"Dives agris; dives positis in fœnore nummis."

Rich in land, in capital, and speculation; teeming with the produce of acres and of factories; exulting alike in natural and artificial wealth! but doubly happy in the possession of a citizen who vows that he will bestow equal attention—and that, too, unwearied—on both the great and hitherto conflicting interests!

Then follow the samples of Mr. Clifton's unwearied attention to the interests of his prospective constituents:

"For the agriculturist I desire most undoubtedly to secure that full protection to his capital, his industry, and his enterprise, to which the burdens he has to sustain justly entitle him."

"That full protection to which the burdens he has to sustain justly entitle him." But what is the *quantum* of this full protection, Mr. Clifton? That is the important point. As it is, you have said no more than Mr. Cobden might say. He, too, would give the agriculturists "that full protection to which their special burdens entitle them." But then he fixes their burdens at *nil*, and their full protection at *nil* also. He tells them that 40s. or 45s. a quarter is as much as they ought to receive and other folks pay for corn. You must speak a little more plainly on the hustings, Mr. Clifton.

Now for another piece of mystification:—

"To the representation of the Northern Division of Lancashire, I fully appreciate the great importance of its combined commercial and manufacturing interest, and that I shall always be ready to promote them to the utmost of my power. I trust that by a constant attention to the duties which they impose upon a representative, I shall acquire that confidence at your hands to which it might be considered presumption in me at the present moment to lay claim."

Mr. Clifton "trusts that he shall always be ready to promote the combined commercial and manufacturing interests" of the county. We "trust" that he will. But, unless he gives a somewhat less vague exposition of his economical creed, we fear that the electors are likely to take him upon "trust." North Lancashire deserves something more than wide generalities.

ADVANCE OF WAGES IN PRESTON.—Messrs. Ainsworth and Co., Mr. John Cooper, and some other firms in this town, have intimated to their hands their intention to raise their wages about 7 per cent. It is probable the advance will be general.—*Preston Chronicle.*

THE HARVEST MOON.—As there is an erroneous opinion prevailing amongst many persons unacquainted with astronomy, who are in the habit of denominating that the *harvest moon* which occurs at the time of harvest, let that happen when it may, the following may not prove unacceptable to such of our readers. The moon, during the week in which she is full, about the time of harvest, rises sooner after sun-setting, and with less difference between the times of two successive risings than she does *in any other full-moon week* in the year. By these means she affords an almost immediate supply of light after sunset, which is very beneficial for gathering in the harvest and fruits of the earth; hence this full moon is distinguished from all others in the year by the appellation of the *harvest moon*. To conceive the reason of this, it may first be considered that the moon is always opposite to the sun when she is in full; that she is *full* in the signs *Pisces* and *Aries* in our harvest months, those being the signs opposite to *Virgo* and *Libra*, the signs occupied by the sun in that season; and that those parts of the ecliptic (in which the moon then is) rise from the horizon in northern latitudes in a smaller angle, and, of course, equal spaces, in shorter intervals of time than any other points, as may be easily shown by the celestial globe; consequently, since the moon's orbit deviates not much from the ecliptic, she rises with less difference of time, and more immediately after sunset about harvest than when she is full at other seasons of the year. The sun enters *Libra* on September 23, and the full moon which is nearest that day is, properly speaking, the *harvest moon.*—*Mark-lane Express.*

REVIEW.

The Lives of Oliver Cromwell and John Bunyan. By Robert Southey, LL.D. (British and Colonial Library.) London: Murray.

Les Œuvres de Victor Hugo (and *Victor Hugo's Dramatic Works, including the Tragedy of "Cromwell"*). Paris: Gosselin. London: Dulau.

Southey's "Lives of Cromwell and Bunyan" are in the main reprints from the "Quarterly Review," and are, of course, thoroughly imbued with the one-sided spirit of partisanship. Cromwell was a regicide, and nothing else, in Southey's eyes; and to this single circumstance he makes the rest of Cromwell's career subservient, as if the 30th of January was the epoch to which the whole of Cromwell's youth tended, and from which his old age radiated. Bossuet, speaking from his episcopal pulpit, erected near the throne of Louis XIV., naturally enough confined himself to the simple view of Cromwell's anti-monarchical character; but we may well be surprised that an Englishman, who had been neither an uninterested nor inactive spectator of the repetition in our days of most of the great political struggles which agitated the days of Cromwell, should have confined himself to so narrow a view of the Protector's character—a view which excludes some of the most striking features both of the man and the age. Victor Hugo justly observes that Cromwell is one of the many illustrious men who is at once greatly celebrated and but little known. It has been too much the custom to view him as an isolated individual, and to pass lightly over the circumstances by which he was surrounded; he has not been sufficiently regarded as the colossal prototype of English religious reform and political revolution. Cromwell combined these two elements in himself to a wondrous extent, but it must be remembered that they had been intimately associated in England from the days of the Conquest; nor, indeed, are they yet dissevered, for no political question has been discussed in our day to which parties have not endeavoured to give a religious aspect, and there has been no religious dispute which has not been more or less complicated by party politics.

Alienation from the Established Church began in England under the reign of the Norman William. The Saxon Church, though nominally submissive to the Pope, was, to a considerable extent, independent in its character, and most of the inferior clergy were intensely national. The Saxon priests and monks possessed extraordinary influence over the multitudes; but this power belonged to them rather in their individual than in their corporate capacity; they were respected, not as members of a great and imposing establishment, but as men whose daily sacrifices gave proof of their sincerity, and whose unwearied exertions demanded respect and gratitude. The ecclesiastical system introduced by the Normans not only gave the prelacies, the abbacies, and the other rich preferments of the English Church into the hands of foreigners, but introduced other changes still more alien to Anglo-Saxon habits and feelings; forms and ceremonies were substituted for appeals to the reason and the affections; preaching was discontinued, and the clergy and people were separated by the greatest of all obstacles, an utter ignorance of each other's language. We, however, find continuous traces from the Conquest to the Reformation, of a native Saxon clergy, sometimes, as in the case of Wicliffe, going to the full extent of dissent from the established system; sometimes, like John Ball, taking a lead in insurrectionary movements, but, in all cases, viewed with suspicion by the Plantagenets, and with dislike by the Romish See. The Anglo-Norman monarchs, the Anglo-Norman nobles, and the foreign ecclesiastics were banded together in support of the same system, and all were equally detested by the Saxon people, whom they oppressed by their cruelty, plundered by their rapacity, and slandered by their malice.

The wars of the Roses annihilated the Plantagenet dynasty, and all but exterminated the Anglo-Norman aristocracy. Those nobles who survived were indisposed to submit to the new race of monarchs, and hence it became the policy of the Tudors to raise up a new aristocracy as a counterpoise to the hereditary influence of the Anglo-Norman nobles.

Though the proximate cause of the quarrel between Henry VIII. and the Pope was simply the capricious passion of a lustful tyrant, yet the political interests of the Tudor dynasty were directly opposed to those of the Romish Church. That Church, as then existing in England, was, by its traditions, its associations, and its habitudes, intimately connected with the dynasty which the Tudors had overthrown, and both were in their natural position when they became open and avowed enemies. The seizure of the church and monastic lands gave Henry an opportunity of founding a new aristocracy; he bestowed these immense estates with a lavish hand on the panders and parasites of his court, and he created a new nobility, which he naturally believed that a consciousness of its vicious origin would retain in complete subservience to the Crown. His expecta-

tions were frustrated by his death; the Crown descended to a boy, infirm in health, and not very strong in intellect; its powers, during the minority, devolved on the new nobility.

Henry VIII. effected very little in the way of religious reform, but he had effected a complete political revolution, and out of this he left for his successors the task of framing a new constitution.

The nobles of Italy, and especially those of Venice, were the only aristocracy which at this period claimed high consideration in the eyes of Europe; the feudal nobility of France had been broken in its strength by Louis XI., that of Spain had succumbed to Cardinal Ximenes, and that of Germany was a mass of chaotic confusion. The new English aristocracy, left during a minority to frame its own constitution, took that of the Italian states, and particularly that of Venice, for its model; and thus were laid the foundations of that Venetian constitution which the author of "Coningsby" has, with equal justice and eloquence, denounced as the great evil in the social economy of England.

Those who have studied English literature of the age between the death of Henry VII. and the establishment of the Protectorate must be struck at the great influence which the Italian school then exercised over the English mind. Harrington's "Ariosto," and Fairfax's "Tasso," are signal instances of the most powerful poetic minds being directed to the work of translation; indeed, their versions have never since been surpassed. But it was not merely in translation that the influence of the Italian models was visible; Milton and Shakspere have borrowed largely from the writers of Italy, and imitations of "Ariosto" occur in almost every page of the "Paradise Lost." It would appear as if Italy had lost its religious power in England only to establish a stronger hold of literary and political influence. The English nobility, created by the Tudors,—for the older families were so soon swamped by the new men, that they can scarcely be taken into account,—had nothing better than a provisional existence under the reign of Elizabeth; but when the accession of the imbecile James rendered monarchy contemptible, they made rapid strides towards the attainment of their favourite object—a Venetian oligarchy, and were aided in their work by the Scotch having already adopted an oligarchy of somewhat a similar character in the government of their Church. Geneva had been the chosen model of Scotland, as Venice was of England.

Charles I. saw more clearly than his father the design of the new English aristocracy to reduce the monarch to the condition of a Venetian Doge, and he endeavoured to counteract it by elevating a monarchical Church to the chief power of the State, and reviving, as far as was in his ability, those feudal institutions of the kingdom which had brought royalty into closest connexion with feudal aristocracy. On the other hand, the new gentry and nobility planned for themselves a Genevese Church and a Venetian Parliament, claiming for both the attributes of liberty, but desiring to exercise under both the most grinding tyranny. In the great Civil War one side aimed at Despotism, the other at Oligarchy; and it was a benefit to humanity that Cromwell triumphed over both.

The cause of the Long Parliament has been so often identified with that of constitutional freedom, that we are likely to provoke many ardent lovers of the great cause of human improvement, when we intimate some doubts of the purity of motive in the great parliamentary leaders. But we have carefully examined the records of their Parliament, the memoirs many of them have composed, the pamphlets which were published in their justification, and we can find nothing but efforts to secure the whole power of the Constitution for a privileged class, and to exclude all others from the benefits and privileges of citizens. Their laws of exclusion were as rigid as any that were ever enforced in the isles of the Adriatic; and their intolerance exceeded that of the Romish Church in its worst days of persecuting existence. Their great object was to exonerate the landholders of England from the obligation of providing for the defence of the country, which was the primary condition on which estate in land was created; and their patrotism began and ended in the protection of their pockets.

Had the Long Parliament given proofs of an honest desire to advance general good it would have maintained its superiority at the close of the war; its intense selfishness became apparent with victory, and was particularly manifest in all the negotiations with the unfortunate King. Charles, well aware that a Doge was necessary to a Venetian constitution, stood out for better terms than the Parliamentary leaders proposed, and the consequent protraction of the negotiations afforded indisputable proofs of the insincerity of the King, and the selfishness of the Parliament.

Cromwell assumed a dictatorship by seizing on the King's person at the instigation of the army. It would be a great error to suppose that this army consisted of mere mercenaries; on the contrary, it embodied in its ranks the whole moral force of England, and represented the sense of the nation far more truly than did the Parliament. The trial and execution of Charles were grievous errors; yet it is difficult to discover how, under the circumstances, they could have been avoided. The worst result of the judicial murder of the King was the impossibility it created of Cromwell's assuming the character of a legislator, and framing a new constitution. His Protectorate was merely a provisional form of government, the permanence of which depended on the life of Cromwell himself; but it is evident that he was anxious to frame a constitution which would have given to the country a strong executive, and, at the same time, secured liberty to the people.

Cromwell's instrument of government, though never put into full execution, had great merits; it corrected the gross anomalies of the old representative system, and anticipated the acts of union with Scotland and Ireland. But when this plan was formed, Cromwell stood somewhat in the position of a prophet who has begun to doubt of his inspiration, and therefore stops short in the fulfilment of his mission.

Victor Hugo has given a most powerful portraiture of Cromwell at the crisis when the crown was proffered to him, and very reluctantly refused. He hesitated at the very crisis of his fate, and the opportunity was lost for ever.

The Reformation is the epoch from which the landed ascendancy of England dates its existence, and its constitution was established by the Revolution. In this interval Cromwell alone perceived that the tendency of the new oligarchy was to a Venetian constitution; but, though he saw the evil, he had not energy to apply the remedy, or rather the circumstances of his position compelled him to temporize. Since that period the monopolists of land have held the monopoly of political power, and have dictated law both to the monarchs and the people.

Doctor Southey's "Life of Cromwell" does not rise beyond the average of common political pamphlets; it is deficient in extension of survey, and in appreciation of character. The "Life of Bunyan" is written in a far better spirit, though even in this memoir there are passages which exhibit more of the rancour of a renegade than of the deliberate judgment of a philosophic critic.

Notions on Corn Laws and Customs' Duties. By H. T. Prinsep, Esq. Second Edition. London: W. H. Allen and Co., 7, Leadenhall-street. 1844. pp. 56.

The pamphlet whose contents we are about to notice is one of the most recent as well as the most important which the pro-corn-law press has put forth. It is the production of Mr. Prinsep, one of the unsuccessful candidates at the late election for the Kilmarnock district of boroughs, and is written in a better spirit, a higher tone, and with a more honest intention to search for truth than any publication on that side of the question which it has been our lot to read. Unlike the large majority of monopolist writers, Mr. Prinsep avoids, with equal mind, all cringing servility to the dominant landowners, and all vituperative censure of his opponents. He neither claims the patronage of "The Agricultural Protection Society," nor seeks to obtain their approval by assailing "The League."

Mr. Prinsep's first edition, which had escaped our attention, "was published only a month before he offered himself as a candidate for Kilmarnock;" and he sends the second impression into the world with the following declaration:—"It is my earnest wish that all I have advanced in these pages should be discussed and submitted to the severest test of argument."

Mr. Prinsep opens the subject which he proposes to discuss in the following manner:—

"The Corn-Law question is divisible into two parts.

"There is, first, the expediency of laying duties of protection upon articles which form the agricultural produce of the country, and the proper limit of such protection, if there be any.

"And, secondly, the form in which to give that protection, whether by fixed duties or by a scale varying conversely with the prices."

The main arguments of the writer in favour of protective duties are, "The degree in which home trade is preferable to foreign trade;" "that every substitution of foreign productions for home productions entails to a country the loss of the entire return for industry and capital afforded by one equivalent of the exchange;" "that customs' duties on import and export are inevitable in an advanced state of civilization;" "that wherever there are customs' duties, there is, *pro tanto*, protection;" and "that the Corn-Law question resolves itself into a claim of exemption from the general rule for agricultural produce."

The course of Mr. Prinsep's argument is ingenious, and, in some sort, or, in his own language, "after a fashion of its own," conducted with fairness. He contends that, "the argument against protection is general, and not confined to agriculture." In this we concur; but we insist that, "of all things an indiscreet tampering with the trade of provisions is the most dangerous." * He assumes "customs' duties on import and export to be inevitable in an advanced state of civilization." This, also, we admit. But when he contends that "wherever there are customs' duties there is, *pro tanto*, protection," and that "the question of the Corn Laws is resolved into an inquiry whether corn shall be placed upon the same precise footing as other commodities of home production, or shall for special reasons be excepted," we are called upon to exhibit our own views.

First, with regard to the "*pro tanto* protection" afforded by customs' duties. This protection is not required by manufacturers in general; many of the most important manufacturers repudiate protection altogether; and, this being the case, it results that, if protection were withdrawn from manufacturers, *who do not need it*, the converse of Mr. Prinsep's proposition would hold, viz., there would be no reason why corn should be placed on any other footing than other commodities of home production.

On the effect of prohibitory and protective duties generally, we have the decisive opinion of the committee appointed by the House of Commons on the 6th of March, 1840, "to inquire into the several duties levied on imports into the United Kingdom, and how far those duties are for protection to similar articles, the produce or the manufacture of this country, or of the British possessions abroad; or whether the duties are for the purposes of revenue alone." This committee was composed of fifteen members, and contained a proportion of monopolist principle and fixed-duty leaven, more than sufficient to neutralize their antagonist Free-Trade ingredients, if the "valuable character of the evidence" had not surmounted and overpowered by its unanswerable convictions every argument which the advocates either of monopoly or fixed duties have at any time advanced.

This opinion we find expressed in the following words:—

"The effect of prohibitory duties, while they are, of course, wholly unproductive to the revenue, is to impose an indirect tax on the consumer, often equal to the whole difference of price between the British article and the foreign articles which the prohibition excludes." "On the articles of food alone, it is averred, according to the testimony laid before the committee, that the amount taken from the consumer exceeds the amount of all the other taxes which are levied by the Government. Somewhat similar is the action of high and protective duties. These impose upon the customer a tax equal to the amount of the duties levied upon the foreign article, whilst it also increases the price of all the competing home-produced articles to the same amount as the duty; but that increased price goes, not to the Treasury, but to the protected manufacturer. It is obvious that high protective duties check importation, and, consequently, are unproductive to the revenue; and experience shows that the profit to the trader, the benefit to the consumer, and the fiscal interests of the country are all sacrificed when heavy import duties impede the interchange of commodities with other nations."

"With reference to the influence of the protective system upon wages, and on the condition of the labourer," the committee observe, "that, as the pressure of foreign competition is heaviest on those articles in the production of which the rate of wages is lowest, so it is obvious, in a country exporting so largely as England does, that other advantages may more than compensate for an apparent advantage in the money price of labour."

So much for the effect of prohibition and protection upon the community at large. But the committee goes further:—

"They find, on the part of those who are connected with some of the most important of our manufactures, a conviction, and a growing conviction, that the protective system is not, on the whole, beneficial to the protected manufacturers themselves."

And, finally, "The committee were persuaded that the best service that could be rendered to the industrious classes of the community would be to *extend the field of labour, and of demand for labour, by an extension of our commerce;* and that the supplanting the present system of protection and prohibition by a moderate tariff would encourage and multiply for the state and for the people our commercial transactions."

These are not the opinions of any author on political economy, but the solemn judgment of fifteen intelligent members of Parliament, of all shades of political sentiment, and selected indiscriminately from the ranks of all parties in the House, founded on the evidence of many persons of long experience in the public service, and in all the most important walks of commerce; and this evidence went to show most conclusively, amongst other things, that the manufacturers of all the principal articles of home production do not fear competition, and do not require protection.

We may go further back, and quote the opinion of the merchants of the city of London, in their memorable petition presented to the House of Commons on the 8th of May, 1820, twenty years prior to the report which we have just cited. It was from this petition that Sir Robert Peel borrowed the expression used in his speech on the 10th of May, 1842, and since so frequently alluded to, "that we should purchase in the cheapest market, and sell in the dearest." This petition, so important for the sound principles of commercial policy which it has recorded,

* Right Honourable Edmund Burke.

concluded with the following declaration :—"It is against every restrictive regulation of trade, not essential to the revenue; against all duties merely protective from foreign competition, and against the excess of such duties as are partly for the purpose of revenue, and partly for protection, that the prayer of the present petition is respectfully submitted to the wisdom of Parliament."

Retiring into the shade of the last century, we may there discover some lights which indicate the opinions of those who had to deal with fiscal regulations affecting a former generation. M. De Caradeuc de la Chalotais, procureur-general, when he carried into the Parliament of Brittany an edict of July, 1764, made use of the following language; and, taking into consideration the different positions of France at that period, and England at the present, his sentiments are at least remarkable :—

"I have the honour to inform you of the most signal benefit with which his Majesty can gratify his people—a liberty to trade in corn. After having permitted the free circulation in the interior of the kingdom, the King grants by this edict the entire liberty of exportation and importation."

"The system of prohibition seems to be abandoned for ever; a fatal system, which cuts off between France and other nations that *communication of exchanging superfluities for necessaries which is so conformable to the order of Divine Providence.*" He describes "particular permissions, that useless resource," as having "enriched a few private persons at the expense of the nation;" and states, "it is certain that the most useful of all political laws is that which gives the greatest facility to the sale of the productions of the earth. The necessaries for consumption, taxes, even the trade of the nation, all take their rise from the sale of merchandise; we cannot, therefore, extend this source too much, nor be too careful how we straiten it; if it should be dried up, the evils of the state would be without remedy and without bounds." "The facility of a Free Trade is a remedy as well for scarcity as for the too great plenty of merchandise, which is naturally carried where it is most wanted."*

It is unnecessary for us to discuss, in this place, the "notions" of Mr. Prinsep on differential duties and the slavery question. These are topics to which the attention of the public has recently been drawn; they have occupied a very prominent position in the arena of polemics as well as that of politics; the daily and weekly press has conceded an unusually extended space to the consideration of both these subjects; and though their discussion has discovered an attachment to party rather than to principle, in quarters where we anticipated no such falling away, we fearlessly refer our readers to other columns of this journal for the full development of our own views, and therein we believe also the full refutation of Mr. Prinsep's arguments.

Proceeding to the allegation "that every substitution of foreign productions for home productions entails to a country the loss of the entire return for industry and capital afforded by one equivalent of the exchange," Mr. Prinsep quotes Mr. M'Culloch, "the great apostle of Free-Trade doctrines;" but, like many of his friends of the Pro-Corn-Law party, he does not quote with fidelity. We will, therefore, place both extracts before our readers :—

Mr. Prinsep.	Mr. M'Culloch.
"Suppose that we import £1,000,000 worth of any commodity, that its importation is prohibited, and that the same quantity of produce cannot be raised in this country for less than £1,200,000; in a case of this sort the prohibition has the same effect on the consumers of the commodity as if they had been burdened with a tax of £200,000 a year;" and this amount, instead of benefiting the revenue, "is of no advantage to any one."	"Suppose that we import £1,000,000 worth of any commodity, that its importation is prohibited, and that the same quantity of produce cannot be raised in this country for less than £1,200,000, *or* £1,500,000; in a case of this sort—*and this is actually the case in ninety-nine out of every hundred instances in which prohibitions are enacted*—the prohibition has the same effect on the consumers of the commodity as if, *supposing it not to have existed*, they had been burdened with a *peculiar* tax of £200,000, or £500,000 a year. *But had such been the case, what the consumers lost would have gone into the coffers of the Treasury, and would have afforded the means of repealing an equal amount of other taxes; whereas, under the prohibitory system, the high price, being occasioned by an increased difficulty of production*, is of no advantage to any one."

The preceding quotation of Mr. Prinsep, professing, though without referring to the authority, to be made from Mr. M'Culloch's "Dictionary of Commerce," is not fairly given. The omission of the supposititious increased amount of cost of production is uncandid, because the author doubtless used that increment to strengthen the effect of his argument; the deletion of Mr. M'Culloch's parenthetical assertion as to the numerical consequences of prohibitions is unjust, because it deprives his sentence of much of its weight; and the suppression of his conclusions on the fiscal results of prohibition denudes the case which he proposes to establish of one of the strongest testimonies in its support. The expression, "instead of benefiting the revenue," adopted by Mr. Prinsep, sinks into insignificance when contrasted with the powerful language used by the "Veteran Political Economist," Mr. M'Culloch.

We may, however, venture to differ a little in opinion from both our authors, when they state that the amount which the consumers lose "is of no advantage to any one." So far, at least, as the restriction upon the importation of corn is concerned, we believe the landlords do not deny that this amount has hitherto been and at present is of advantage to them.

"Home trade (says Mr. Prinsep, quoting Adam Smith,) replaces capital, and supports the industry represented *by both equivalents in every exchange transaction of such* commerce. Whereas, in foreign trade, one of the equivalents represents foreign industry and foreign capital. In every case, therefore, in which exchange with a foreigner is *substituted* for home dealing, we transfer to the foreigner the support to industry, and the employment of capital represented by the one equivalent of such exchange, which was our own, but has become foreign. So much industry, therefore, as was so represented, is thrown out of work at home."

This position Mr. Prinsep illustrates "by supposing a coalmine to be thrown out of work in consequence of coal being produced, and brought to market cheaper from abroad." And he contends that, "the case of coal is strictly analogous with that of corn." He anticipates the answer of the advocates of Free Trade, and admits that they

"Are not such bad logicians as not to see the results of such a substitution in throwing able workmen upon the parish, and stopping the concern, whether manufacture, mine, or agricultural farm, which produced heretofore the home equivalent. What is their answer? Take it in their own words. The fact that workmen are thrown upon the parish is denied thus :—'We may (says Mr. M'Culloch) change *the species of labour in demand*, but it is not possible that we should thereby *change its* quantity. If, in consequence of the abolition of restrictions, our imports were increased to the amount of four or five millions, our exports, it is certain, must be augmented to the same extent; so that whatever diminution of the demand for labour might be experienced in *certain* departments, would be balanced by a corresponding increase in others.'"

"Now, is it possible (inquires Mr. Prinsep) that any acute reasoner can be satisfied with such an answer?"

This answer, as it is called, is another quotation from Mr. M'Culloch's Dictionary, but has no immediate or peculiar application either to corn, or to coal "strictly analogous with it." The extract is made from an able article upon "restrictions on commerce," and is quite as applicable to every other commodity of home production as to coal or corn. But the argument supposes a *substitution* of foreign productions for home productions, which implies a present home supply sufficient for the wants of the people. Can this be the case when, without further resort to statistics, Mr. Prinsep himself calls "attention to the destitution and wretchedness of three millions of the population of Ireland," and to "upwards of one million of paupers relieved in England in three months only?" And upon this he asks whether "it is not a desirable thing to secure for its population as much productive employment as possible?" Why, this is precisely the recommendation of the committee to whose report we have referred: "Extend the field of labour, and of demand for labour, by an extension of commerce."

Mr. Prinsep concedes that, "so long as a foreign exchange does not *displace and stand in lieu* of a home one, it is a real benefit." And he has recourse to the assertion so often used, that a repeal of the Corn Laws would throw land out of corn cultivation :

"But, as the land thrown out of corn cultivation would still not be wholly unproductive, the difference of value between the new and old produce would be all that need be added to the foreign import of corn, to make the country on the whole no loser by the substitution. That difference it is, of course, very difficult to estimate. The conversion of corn-land to pasture is generally assumed as the consequence of substituting foreign for home corn; and this would assuredly be a sacrifice of more than half the industry employed on the land converted, whatever might be the effect upon rents. To guard against such an evil, a duty of protection, at the same rate as we find laid on manufactures, cannot be regarded as excessive."

On these points, as applicable to the Corn Laws, we will lay before our readers an extract from the evidence of Mr. M'Gregor, one of the joint secretaries of the Board of Trade, given before the committee whose report we have quoted :—

"*Mr. Blake:* Do you think that the alteration you propose in the duties on agricultural produce imported from abroad would interfere materially with British agriculture?—No, I do not at all.

"Do you think the production of corn in this country would be diminished?—I think the production of corn in certain parts, which have been forced into corn cultivation, would be diminished, but not otherwise.

"*Mr. Villiers:* You do not think the soil would cease to be used?—No; I *believe that the rents of lands*, generally speaking, *in this country would gradually increase*, in consequence of the greater demand for labour creating a greater demand and ability to pay for fresh or green vegetable food, and especially for animal food.

"*Mr. Blake:* From the encouragement which you expect your tariff would give to commerce and manufacture, do you expect that the population and the wealth of the country would rapidly increase?—Certainly I do. I depend upon this change in the duties diminishing emigration, and giving full employment in this country; and I look at the quantity of additional bread which in that case would be consumed. *The people of England do not eat one third the bread they ought to eat*, nor the people of Ireland one-twentieth that those of France do.

"Do you think, in consequence of that increased population and wealth, the population of this country might consume an increased quantity of imported corn, without diminishing the demand for the agricultural produce of our own country?—I think so, taking all kinds of agricultural products. In the course of ten years you would want at least ten millions of quarters of grain additional, if you were to produce as much as you have done in the last six years in the United Kingdom; but then you would not produce so much, but you would change a great deal of the land into grazing and culinary vegetable land. Ten millions appear to be a great quantity to introduce into the population we have, but it is but little more than the third of a quarter to each individual. When I made out this I allowed one-fourth less per individual of bread to the population of the country than to France."

In concluding this notice, which, if we now accompanied Mr. Prinsep into the questions of bullion and currency, would occupy more space than we can afford, we cannot but advert to his "desire that the constituency of the Kilmarnock district of boroughs should be placed in full possession of his opinions on all subjects, and so judge whether or not he was the kind of person they desired for a representative." In this desire we heartily concur. We hope the electors will investigate the principles of Free Trade, but rather more deeply than Mr. Prinsep has hitherto done; and, whilst we willingly concede to him an honest intention to search for truth, we recommend him, with all respect and good feeling, to extend the field of his inquiry.

North Lancashire.—A meeting was held at Preston on Monday, of gentlemen from various parts of the northern division of the county, to consider what steps ought to be taken, at which it was resolved, that in the present state of the registration it was not advisable to bring forward a candidate on Free-Trade principles alone; but that if the gentlemen of the county favourable to liberal principles were to bring forward a candidate who was for the repeal of the Corn Laws, he should receive the hearty support of the Free-Traders throughout the division. The result was communicated by deputation to Mr. Towneley, of Towneley Park, whose son, now absent, was the most likely person to come forward and vindicate the independence of the county.

Decrease of Crime. — On recent inquiry at the Guildhall, Huddersfield, we found that there had not been a commitment during the past three weeks, and that the duties of the sitting magistrates during the same time had been comparatively light. These circumstances may be attributed to the prosperous state of trade, and the facility with which labour is obtained, coupled with the present low prices of provisions.—*Leeds Mercury.*

Condition of the Peasantry.—In the circumstances, feelings, and views of the various classes of which society is composed in this country, there is none which merits more careful attention than the momentous change which has been brought about in the condition of our rural peasantry. That an all but universal change for the worse has taken place in the condition and habits of this important class, is a lamentable and admitted *fact:*—that honesty, sobriety, industry, and contentment have disappeared almost entirely among a body of men once remarkable for their virtues, is a truth which no person conversant with the state of our country parishes will venture to controvert. The wealth of the country, the productive capacity of the soil, has been constantly and steadily increasing; while the condition of those who till our fields—of those who may, in one sense, be said to increase the wealth—seems to be *daily retrograding.*—*Farley's Bristol Journal.*

The Bread Tax.—On Monday evening Mr. Liddell delivered a lecture on the Corn and Provision Laws and the Coal Tax, in the Long Room, Hetton Colliery Inn, Hetton-le-Hole. The distress which had for a long time been felt in the manufacturing districts, the lecturer remarked, was ascribed by the Anti-Corn-Law League to the scarcity of food in the country, and this scarcity was occasioned by our Corn Laws, which prevented the people from receiving proper supplies from abroad when there were deficient harvests at home. The League therefore maintained that these laws were cruel and unjust, and ought to be repealed. The League, however, had not merely to contend with the bread taxers; some persons, in whom masses of the working classes had confidence, maintained that the repeal of the Corn Laws would be followed by the building of mills and the extension of machinery, and these persons gave their aid to the bread taxes. The present condition of the people in the manufacturing districts was proof of the sound principles held and promulgated by the League. Food was become more abundant, and this was immediately followed by greater employment and better wages. Food was more abundant, and the millowners, or cotton lords as they were sometimes called, were enlarging their buildings and increasing their machinery. There was a greater demand for labourers, and with that greater demand the wages of the operatives had increased. They were not at the present time paupers, but independent labourers in the enjoyment of the necessaries and comforts of life, attending to the education of their children and their own mental improvement, and engaged in measures for obtaining pleasure-grounds and gardens, in which they were efficiently aided by the principal leaders of the Anti-Corn-Law League. Not one of the predictions of the bread taxers and their operative allies had been verified—all their statements, the present condition of the operatives showed to be fallacious. The miserably low wages which the operatives in the factory districts had received was owing to the limited supply of food, and, as the present abundance of food was followed by good wages, no credit was due to employers in the one case, nor blame to them in the other. Employers had no control over the wages of the operatives; these depended upon the demand and supply of labour, and those who formerly blamed the employers should now give them praise for the comfortable circumstances in which the operatives are placed. On Tuesday evening Mr. Liddell delivered a second lecture on the same subject in the same place.—*Sunderland Herald.*

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* *Gazette du Commerce*, 22nd and 27th September, 1764, Nos. 76 and 77.

AGRICULTURE.

WHAT IS THE FARMER'S PROSPECT?

The harvest has now so far advanced that some basis exists for an estimate of the state of the corn trade, and of the farmer's prospects during the ensuing year. Just before the commencement of the harvest, when the weather appeared settled, and there was every expectation of a fine season, the price of wheat underwent a large and rapid reduction. In one week the price of wheat fell from 4s. to 6s. a quarter, and the state of the crops justified the expectation of a further decline. Since that time a week or ten days of wet and unfavourable weather rallied the grain market, and wheat advanced in price from a third to one half of the extent of its previous decline. Again, the weather cleared, and for *five* weeks we have had most favourable harvest weather: there has been a good deal of sun with brisk drying winds, so that all those farmers who were not alarmed by the wet week into housing their wheat in bad condition, have gathered into their barns wheat of as good quality and in as good condition as possible. This has again given the price a downward tendency, and the little business which was done in the corn trade last week has been at lower rates; and this week has been marked by a more decisive fall. At Mark-lane last Monday se'nnight new English wheat was 3s., 4s., and 5s. a quarter lower than on the previous Monday; and from the *Mark-lane Express* of last Monday we learn that "very good wheat, weighing 63 to 64 lbs. per bushel, may be bought in many parts of the country at 43s. to 44s. per quarter; and old wheat could only be sold at a considerable reduction." The price of white wheat is quoted as low as 42s., and red 40s. a quarter. And it is remarked that the quality of the different parcels offered for sale is exceedingly various. If little wheat has been actually injured by the weather, a good deal has been got in damp, and that chiefly by the poorer farmers, to whom the chance of a thoroughly wet harvest offered the prospect of utter ruin. By this time the wheat harvest in the south of England has been completed, and so large a proportion of our bread corn has been well got in that the character of this year's produce may be stated to be dry and fine. In the north of the island more wet weather has occurred, and a little uncertainty still prevails as to the result of the wheat harvest there. Whatever that result may be, though it may materially affect individual farmers and particular districts, will not greatly alter the state of the corn trade. It may be taken as decided that for the next six or eight months, at all events, the price of wheat will be low. The average price of wheat on the 23rd of August was 49s. 1d. per quarter, having fallen from 54s. 10d., which was the average of the 13th of July last. At the corresponding period of last year the average price was 59s. 9d. The average has since temporarily risen from the advance of prices during the wet weather. With another week's fine weather our wheat harvest will be over, and the average price will probably be not much above 45s. a quarter. But wherever the land has been tolerably farmed the wheat crop has been abundant; and had the farmer's business been in a sound and natural state, so far as regards his wheat, he he would have had no just reason to complain. At Spalding, Lynn, and Boston, two weeks since, fine new wheat brought 48s. a quarter, while at some of the inland country markets the prices range from 46s. to 52s. a quarter; from the corn reports of the week before last we learn that, "at the principal shipping ports on the east coast, viz., Boston, Lynn, Spalding, &c., new wheat has been selling at least 2s. per quarter below the opening price, no difficulty having been experienced this week *in buying good qualities of red*, weighing 62 lbs. to 63 lbs. per bushel, at 45s. to 46s. per quarter free on board, at the places named;" last week in the same markets a further fall of 2s. a quarter is mentioned.

Each successive week, also, shows that more wheat has been injured by wet than was at first supposed, for much of the new wheat now offered is in but indifferent condition. Of course the new wheat sent to market comes from the poorer farmers, who must sell to meet their current outgoings, not to say a word of rent.

From the beginning of November till Christmas the Michaelmas rents will be in course of payment, and with the great mass of farmers their wheat crop, which is always their main reliance, is this year their sole resource for meeting their rents. Now, if wheat averages about 45s. a quarter—and it is now absolutely certain that whatever may be the *average price*, an immense quantity of wheat, if sold at all before Christmas, must be sold for much less than 40s. a quarter—how can the farmer be expected to pay a rent calculated upon the assumption that he would obtain yearly and every year, the price of 56s. a quarter at the least? The law awards him that sum, and the landlords who made that law tell him that unless he obtains such a price he cannot compete with foreign growers, and they give him a prohibitory duty of 20s. a quarter to shield him from such competition. Yet, in the absence of all foreign competition, the price of wheat falls more than 10s. below the act-of-Parliament price, and, however the miscalculation has happened, *the farmer pays for it.* It is therefore plain, that the farmer is punished by the transfer of a considerable portion of his capital into the landlord's pocket, for having believed that an impossibility could be performed by an act of Parliament.

So far as regards the wheat crop, then, the effect of an abundant season is to mulct the farmer to the extent of at least 20 per cent. upon the estimated value of all his wheat. And precisely the same thing happens with respect to his other crops, when he has any other crops, for all other articles of produce are calculated by valuers at the enhanced prices promised by the Corn Law.

But the present year offers additional instances of the onerous way in which the Corn Law may affect the farmer; for, though the wheat crop is abundant, nearly every other crop is a failure. Barley, oats, beans, peas, and hay, almost universally are deficient; and the effect of that deficiency, as we have before had occasion to explain, will render it impossible for the farmer to keep his usual stock without a serious loss. Here his interest is that of a consumer, and if he could obtain foreign pulse, oats, and other grain suitable for the food of stock, duty free, he would not find his stock converted into a burden instead of a source of profit, and the fertility of his land in future years seriously impaired, from his unwillingness or inability to maintain his accustomed stock.

In the *Mark-lane Express* of last Monday we find it stated, that "the late dry weather has checked the growth of grass, and the second crop of hay will scarcely prove much heavier than the first; *a fact which must have a material effect on prices of all articles used as provender for cattle.*" This acts again upon the breeders of stock, who are just now suffering as much from the high price of provender as the grain-growing farmer. At the late Barnet fair—the largest fair for lean stock in England—scarcely a fourth of the usual sales was made, and, though the prices of store stock were low, the most enterprising farmers bought cautiously and sparingly. The common remark of the dealers was:—"There are plenty of lookers-on but no buyers;" and the almost invariable response to an offer to sell a "nice lot of beasts" was, "I have no keep this year." We noticed, in particular, one very good lot of ten short-horned oxen, offered for £10 each, which would certainly have sold when fat for upwards of £20 each, yet, from the extravagant price of all artificial food, the purchase was declined by one of the most spirited farmers of the home counties. Had the trade in corn been free, the breeder would have obtained a better price for his stock, while the grain-growing farmer would have bought the stock and fattened them, with the certainty of a fair return for his trouble and outlay.

The monopolists are just now trying to show that the low and declining prices of wheat are caused by the admission of Canada wheat at a low duty; but the very passages they cite in support of their position prove the contrary. Thus all the London monopolist papers have given an extract from the *Liverpool Times*, which states that the import of Canadian flour had increased from 50,000 barrels in 1843, to 307,000 in the present year; and that Canadian wheat had also increased from 15,000 to 237,000 bushels during the same period; but adds, "this has occurred in spite of unusually high freights, and of a declining market in this country, *and although the losses on the recent importations have fallen very heavy on the importers.*" It is absurd to assert that such an insignificant quantity as the whole of the Canadian wheat and flour imported could affect our market; but the monopolist authority itself proves that such importations have not reduced prices, but on the contrary, that our declining markets had rendered such importations losing speculations. Now, our prices have fallen from an abundant home produce.

The only object of these statements is to prevent the farmers from investigating the causes which affect their business, to divert them from inquiries which would not produce the results the monopolists desire. But farmers must inquire why rents are so high while prices have fallen so low, and they will as certainly discover that they have been most grossly deluded by the monopolists.

We suspect that ere Parliament again assembles we shall have a central association of farmers aiding the League to abolish the Corn Laws, in the place of the high-rent protection society over which his Grace of Richmond presides.

RURAL INVESTIGATION.

The following letter, written by a farmer, so clearly shows the sort of investigation to which the agriculturists are subjecting the Corn Laws, that we insert it with the request that our readers will look more to the facts mentioned than to the reasonings, which are to some extent inaccurate. It is addressed to Mr. Johnson, the secretary of the Nottingham Anti-Corn-Law Association:—

"Dear Sir,—I am greatly obliged by the receipt of a small pamphlet from you on the Corn Laws, written by Mr. Baines, jun., of Leeds, and addressed to the Earl of Harewood. It contains the best and most correct facts I have yet seen stated upon that subject. I have made the Corn Laws a study since 1815, and I find Mr. Baines's remarks to prove correctly the effects produced by that cruel, injurious, and unjust sliding scale, which has deceived and ruined thousands of industrious, hard-working farmers.

"I am convinced that, in 1815, the Corn Laws were altered in order to oblige and benefit the landlords, of whom many, with their time-serving agents, went to those of their tenants that desired their rents to be reduced, owing to the sudden change from war to peace, with this beautiful language in their mouths, springing from their selfish hearts—'We cannot think of lowering your rents at present; we consider it would be very improper to do so *while you have any property left, obtained by you during the dear times.' These were the exact words spoken to me by my landlord's agent, and the same to others I then knew well in the county of Shropshire.*

"Mr. Baines has very justly pointed out the effects of the sliding-scale Corn Law, which was framed and carried out to oblige, and intended to benefit, one class of her Majesty's subjects (and that a small one), to the great injury of all, or nearly all the rest. An exception may be made to lawyers, who, I believe, have been greatly benefited by it, as all men know, the greater the distress, the better for lawyers and sheriffs' officers; and, *allow me to say, those landlords who live beyond their income are those who most oppress their tenants, and change them most frequently, the result of which is, that their estates become ultimately the poorest*, and in the *worst condition.* I ask, why should this class of subjects be protected in the high price of bread above the natural one, to maintain them in their folly, at the expense of the many who are ruined by their improvidence? The tenant-farmer will, in time, see his error, and resolve not to rent a farm under a landlord who advocates a sliding scale without a lease of 7, 14, or 21 years; for it has been long enough tried, and the most ignorant farmer, as well as the more intelligent, well knows it does not answer what they were led to expect from it, by the representations made to them upon the subject by their landlords. The farmers will see it in the same light Mr. Baines, jun., does, when more of them are compelled to become inmates of union-workhouses, and their children to resort to some town to work day-labour for those manufacturers whom they have been advised by their landlords to vilify, and cast unjust reflections upon. *I have seen many in such situations already, and, should I live a few years longer, shall see or hear of many more* (should the sliding scale continue) sink into insignificance, without remorse, regret, or pity from those who have wrung from them their patrimony by exorbitant rentals; and when they seek for pity, or complain to these gentlemen of their losses and misfortunes, they will reply to them, with a bold face, thus—'How can I help you? I am not answerable for your losses; you should have taken better care of yourself; but take care now;' and then turn away with an insulting sneer. This is the exact case, I know by experience. I know also there are a great many now in towns working as day-labourers, whose fathers were doing well, and living respectably as farmers; and thousands will be in a similar situation in a few years, if the sliding scale is not superseded by a low standard duty, *or abolished a together.*

"It is my opinion a duty of 3s. or 4s. a quarter on imported wheat would be much better than free, for more reasons than one. Sixpence per bushel would injure no one, and not only England (the United Kingdom, I mean,) but all other nations would know what they were doing—*not so now.*

"Secondly, to take the whole duty off would be injurious, because it would only be changing protection so called from one class of persons to give it to another, viz., the *corn-merchant and corn-dealer, who are a class much more intelligent respecting the corn trade, the state of the country, what land is sown with wheat each year, what quantity is grown, how it yields at harvest, &c., than the generality of farmers or their landlords can;* therefore, to have no duty at all would be jumping out of the frying-pan into the fire. As for landlords talking of land going out of cultivation if the sliding scale was abandoned, it is a complete humbug; it would bring all waste lands *into* cultivation, and not lower that fairly rented 1s. per acre; for if farmers and high-renting landlords would only consider the consumption of bread in the United Kingdom, according to the calculation of Mr. M'Culloch and others, viz., that every man, woman, and child, on an average, consumes one pound of bread each per day, to be alarmed at the threatened importation of a few millions of bushels of wheat is rank folly, and shows a deficiency of intellect. The calculation of Mr Baines and others is, that the United Kingdom contains 27,000,000 of people. *Now, by experience I know that 64 pounds of good, dry, well-got wheat will make 56 pounds of good flour, which, if made and dressed a few weeks before baked, will, if well manufactured, make 75 pounds of bread; I have seen 80 pounds made from that quantity of good fine flour;* so that, if each person should consume one pound of bread a day, the consumption in the United Kingdom would be in the year 9,855,000,000 pounds, a quantity which it takes 19,248,040 quarters of wheat to make. Mr Baines observes that 16,000,000 quarters a year, or thereabouts, are consumed, and that there are 5,000,000 acres of wheat grown in the United Kingdom yearly. I say, if Ireland had the same laws that England has, and the sliding scale was abolished (which it ought to be, having injured England long enough), then no doubt there would be a consumption of fully one pound of bread per day by each person, which would be about 3,000,000 quarters of wheat more than England can grow, on an average, on 5,000,000 of acres. Now, I ask those landlords and tenant-farmers who appear to be so offended at the Anti-Corn-Law League endeavouring to obtain free trade in corn with all the world, *how many ships of 300 tons burden each would it take to bring the grain to England to fill up the deficiency of her native growth?* and, if imported, how long it would last the consumers, at 64 pounds to the bushel, if ground and made into bread? It would last this kingdom only a few weeks; and yet the landlord pretends to be so alarmed, that he cries out for protection to keep the price of bread above the poor man's means or ability to purchase. Surely, the wish to injure the persevering industrious manufacturer and tradesman, without benefiting themselves (for the tenant-farmer must come down low enough if the sliding scale is continued, and the landlord be compelled to grant leases), proves the landlord's conduct to be not only the extreme of folly and infatuation, but as dishonest as it is unwise.

"*The third objection I have against importing wheat or other grain free from duty is, that this nation is in debt, and the national creditor must be paid.* A standard duty of 3s. or 4s. per quarter on imported wheat would pay for taking an account of it, leaving a little to the revenue, and, what would be better than all, the dealer would have no inducement to hold corn, in the expectation of thereby raising the averages to get it out of bond at 1s. per quarter, as in 1842, to the great injury of the corn-grower. It would then not stay in bond to spoil, but be sold at a market price as it arrived, and the knowing corn-dealer would follow the advice of Sir Robert Peel, of buying in the cheapest and selling in the dearest market; trade would be as free and open with a small duty as with none, and prove much more regular; and I doubt not a much better trade would be the result with all nations than this country ever yet witnessed; no complaints from want of work, except by the naturally idle, who wish to live as the drone bees do, on the more industrious; the commission of crime would diminish, and employment would increase as quick as, or quicker than the population. "Yours truly,

"The Old Shropshire Farmer.

"Mr. J. G. Johnson, Secretary to
the Anti-Corn Law Association, Nottingham."

The "Shropshire Farmer" is right enough so long as he speaks of matters within his own knowledge; but when he comes to talk of a duty of 3s. or 4s. a quarter being necessary to protect the farmer against the corn-merchant, and to pay the interest of the national debt,

he has evidently got out of his depth. It may, however, be worth while to say a word or two on the fallacy of a fixed duty, for some men of more knowledge than the generality of farmers have fallen into the error of preferring a fixed duty to a free trade in corn.

The first and very obvious objection to a fixed duty is, that it must operate as a tax upon all the corn consumed in this country, both home-grown and imported. There cannot be two prices in one market, and until the deficiency of home-grown corn is so great as to cause such an advance of price as would render it worth while for merchants to buy and import foreign corn, it is plain no foreign corn will be imported. The price here must be so much above the foreign price as to enable the importer to pay the expenses of importation, and realize the ordinary profits upon the transaction. Now, let us take the present price of wheat, about 44s. per quarter, and we shall find that, if the trade were absolutely free, all the merchant would have to consider would be whether he could buy and import wheat with a profit to himself, when he must sell it at 44s. per quarter. And the same thing would occur, whatever might be the price of wheat in our market. The effect would be to prevent any sudden or exorbitant advances of price. But if a fixed duty of 4s., 8s., or any other number of shillings should be imposed, no importation could take place, until all the wheat here sold for 4s. or 8s., as the case might be, above the rate at which merchants could buy and import foreign wheat at a profit. This would be a clear loss to the consumers of 4s. or 8s.—according to the rate of duty imposed—on every quarter of corn consumed in this country; and as all rents would be fixed according to the anticipated price, including the duty, the landlords might gain increased rents in proportion to the rate of duty. The farmer would profit nothing by the rise in price, because the difference would all go to the landlord. That, however, would happen only when there was a scarcity of wheat in this country, and foreign supply would be wanted; for in such seasons as the present, when the home growth will be sufficient for the home consumption, the farmer would not merely not profit from the fixed duty, but would be an absolute loser of the amount. Say, for instance, that 48s. should be assumed to be the price of wheat here when the supply is just equal to the demand, and that a duty of 8s. is put on with a view to shut out the foreign corn, which, being imported duty free, would have equalized the supply to the demand, until the supply being deficient the price would rise 8s., or to 56s. a quarter; then if our crops are abundant, and the home supply exceeds the home demand, the price would fall not merely 8s. a quarter below the act-of-Parliament price, but, perhaps, 8s. or 10s. a quarter besides, according to the measure of our abundance. Now, though the large crop might compensate the farmer for the natural low price, that is, all below 48s. a quarter, yet nothing could save him from losing the difference between 56s. and 48s. a quarter on every quarter of wheat he might send to market. The effects, therefore, of a fixed duty would be precisely of the same kind as those produced by the sliding scale: the farmers and the consumers would be robbed alternately, and the only persons who would obtain anything in the scramble would be the landowners, who, so long as the delusion lasted, would take a slice from every one's loaf when the price of corn might be high, and would seize a large section of the farmers' capital when the price might be low. As to corn-dealers benefiting at *the expense of farmers*, because the trade in corn is free, the notion is merely absurd. Corn-dealers make their profit by employing capital in buying up the corn as it is brought to market by the farmers, either in large or small quantities, and reselling it again at a slight advance when the market has risen, or to persons who buy of them as they require. Sometimes they sell upon credit that for which they have paid ready money; or they have business connexions which enable them to supply precisely the kind and quantity of the commodity required, whereby they make a profit. It will invariably be found that the effect of the intervention of capitalists as corn-dealers, between the growers and the consumers, is to give the former, in the long run, steadier and better prices than they would otherwise obtain, while it at the same time equalizes and renders less fluctuating the prices paid by the latter. We will illustrate the benefits conferred on growers and consumers through the dealer's operations, by a case which not long since happened within our own knowledge. A farmer had a quantity of barley to sell, for which a person who wanted to use barley in some way or other offered a certain price, but no sale was effected for this reason. The farmer wanted ready money, and the consumer, though safe, was a man slow in his payments, and would have taken six weeks or two months after he had received the barley before he would have paid for it. Here, though one party had a commodity which the other wanted, the terms upon which alone either of them could afford to deal would not suit the other. No business was, therefore, done between them. Afterwards, a corn-dealer, on the same day, purchased the barley at 1s. 6d. *a quarter below* the price the consumer had offered, paid the farmer for it in ready money, and immediately resold it to the same consumer at the same price he had offered to the farmer, and which had been refused. The dealer in this case sold at six weeks' credit. The quantity of grain was considerable, and the dealer being satisfied with the responsibility of his customer, was satisfied with a profit which the farmer's necessities would not permit him to obtain by giving credit.

So much, then, for the idea that dealers will profit at the expense of farmers should the trade be free; the truth being that, as the risks of their trade will be diminished by the greater steadiness of price consequent on Free Trade, they will be enabled to take less profit and to give the farmers better prices.

Then, as to a fixed duty assisting the revenue, nothing can be more absurd; for a tax on which reliance is to be placed for payment of the interest of the national debt must be constant and regular; whereas a corn duty, fixed or sliding, is of necessity irregular. Sometimes, for years together, no duty would be paid; while in other years—always years of scarcity—the duty would be wrung out of the diminished incomes of the people, and more than the corn duty would be indirectly lost to the revenue in other ways. Moreover the farmers, above all others, want the question settled, and a fixed duty would be no settlement at all. Though we have deemed it right thus shortly to glance at the mistakes of the "Old Shropshire Farmer," we are, nevertheless, glad to find him putting forth his views and supporting them by references to his own line of business. No farmer of ordinary intelligence, who begins honestly to inquire into the operation of the Corn Laws, will be long before he becomes an advocate for total and immediate Free Trade.

HELPS FOR THE HOME SECRETARY; THE GAME LAWS.

In pursuance of our promise to assist Sir James Graham in his "*searching investigation*" into the operation of the game laws, we string together a few paragraphs which have caught our eye in the provincial papers. Here is an instance of the loss, from game, sustained by the community through the farmer:—

"GAME LAWS.—As a proof of the injury the tenant-farmer sustains by these inquitous laws, we may mention the case of a tenant on the estate of a wealthy baronet, near Ipswich, who, within the last three years, has lost £700 from the ravages made upon his crops by his landlord's hares. *The redress he has obtained is leave to quit the occupation a year before his lease expires, which was gladly accepted, and he now waits anxiously for the day when he can escape from the boasted 'protection' under which he, with others of his brother farmers, have been so sadly fleeced.*"—*Suffolk Chronicle.*

Next we have a specimen of "justices' justice," in which the contrast between the prompt punishment of a poacher and the non-protection of individual safety is strongly marked. The locality is Buckinghamshire, and the magistrates are the Duke's own:—

"ASHENDON PETTY SESSION, Monday, August 26.—Present—Revds. Geo. Chetwode and Thos. Martyn, and John Stone, Esq.—The Game Laws.—John Cadle and Thomas Neary, both of Long Crendon, were charged with having damaged some vetches, the property of Mr. John Dodwell, of the same place, to the amount of 10s., on the 17th ult. Mr. Dodwell said it was not for the damage he proceeded, but snares had been found in the field, and he believed the parties were regular poachers. *Mr. Stone was of the same opinion, and said the first time he could catch them he would mark them.* One of them had been previously convicted. Convicted in a penalty of 20s. each, with costs 10s. 3d., and fine 6d. They said they had no money, and were sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour."

The poachers, or rather the suspected poachers, were quickly disposed of, and a promise on the part of the magistrate that he would "mark them next time," show that here Justice was "short, sharp, and decisive." In the next case her movements showed more of reluctance and hesitation:—

"Mr. J. D. Reed, solicitor, of Brill, applied to the bench to order Wm. Archer, of the same place, into custody, under the 1st and 2nd Vict., the Lunatic Act. Mr. Reed related a train of grievances under which he laboured from the conduct and threats of Archer, who he said was not a fit subject to be at large, and that he carried a weapon of about a foot long (a kind of needle) in a sheath about with him, to do him (Mr. R.) an injury with. Mr. Chetwode said, that the act authorizing them to take a man's liberty away was a serious one, and should be acted on carefully. Mr. Reed called Mr. Knight, surgeon, who was of an opinion that Archer was a 'monomaniac' as regarded Mr. Reed, but he could not say he was mad; he certainly had strange feelings towards Mr. Reed, but his conduct towards others was in many instances proper enough. He thought it was chiefly his malicious, nasty disposition. The bench declined issuing their authority to have the man apprehended as a lunatic. *Mr. R. then applied for proceedings against him, declaring that he felt himself in danger and his life insecure.* Mr. R. called Messrs. Stuchfield and Lamb to prove the danger from Archer's threats. Each had seen Archer's formidable dirk, and he had told them that if Mr. Reed spoke to him he would 'give him a prick' with the instrument, and that he would serve him out. Mr. Reed said Archer was constantly annoying and insulting him; *was under his window in the night, and followed him along the street.* Mr. Chetwode said, Archer had, it appeared, *qualified his threats*, and it appeared he meant acting in self-defence. *He was, no doubt, an annoying fellow, and would advise Mr. Reed to have a good stick, and to give him club law.* The magistrates declined acceding to Mr. Reed's request. The latter gentleman (considerably excited) hinted that he should apply for a 'mandamus' to the Court of Queen's Bench on the subject. *Several persons from Brill who were present spoke of Archer's bad conduct in the streets;* and one of them suggested that the bench should authorize their clerk to write him a cautionary letter: this was also declined. [*It will be remembered that Mr. Reed was, before he reached home, stabbed by this Archer.*"]—*Aylesbury News.*

But is not the preservation of pheasants and hares of more consequence than the safety of a solicitor? So, at least, the Buckinghamshire justices seem to think; but in so doing, do they not overlook the friendly semi-official warning given to them by the *Herald*, to administer the game laws leniently during the present autumn? Let us give Sir James another specimen of game-law leniency, as exhibited in the adjoining county of *Oxford*:—

"THAME PETTY SESSION.—Tuesday, August 27.—Present—J. W. Henley and C. A. Sheppard, Esqrs.—The Game Laws.—Geo. Gurney, a young man of Thame, appeared to his summons charging him with having, on the 12th ult., at North Weston, been in search of game on the land of Mrs. Mary Phillips. William Ward, an under gamekeeper of Lord Abingdon, preferred the charge, and Benjamin Ward, another of his lordship's gamekeepers, attended to prove the charge. *Defendant admitted being on the ground, but it was in search of mushrooms in the morning.* Ward said he saw him in the afternoon of the day looking among the grass, about twenty yards from the footpath; *that a rabbit jumped up, which the defendant threw at and missed, but afterwards picked up the stone that he threw with, and that he (witness) was about 140 yards from him.* Gurney declared that he was not there in the afternoon at all, and that he could, had he have known the time to be in the afternoon, have brought witnesses to prove it. *It appeared he had been twice before convicted; once for breaking a line fence, and once for a trespass in pursuit of game.* FINED 40s., INCLUDING COSTS. The poor fellow asked for time to pay the amount, *which was refused*, and he was committed to prison for one month. *He said he thought it very hard to go to prison for picking up a few mushrooms.*"

We think so too; and we believe there is no one in England, not being a game-preserver, will think otherwise.

MORE GAME LAW HORRORS.

If anything beyond the injustice and the practical mischiefs caused by the Corn Laws was requisite to stimulate all reflecting persons to seek for a speedy abrogation of those laws, a secondary motive of great force would be, that with the repeal of the Corn Laws that fearful remnant of feudalism, the game laws, must also fall. Not a week passes but some new catastrophe happens through the practice of game-preserving. And this is not, as has been said, a merely sentimental view of the subject, for the direct and positive evils inflicted by game-preserves upon the working classes in rural districts are as real and palpable as the injuries done to agriculture by game. Indeed, the two evils are so closely connected that they can only be deemed branches from the same fatal root. This is illustrated by the awful self-murder of two gamekeepers on the Suffolk estates of the Earl of Stradbroke, who, having lost much game from the daring incursions of the destitute peasantry, feared their master's arrival to enjoy his *dear-bought* sport. We take the following account from a local paper and from the correspondence of the *Times*. The *Suffolk Chronicle*, after referring to the extent to which crime and ill-blood are fostered by game-preserving, says:—

"In the eastern parts of this county game is preserved with a severity that few who have not a personal knowledge of the fact could believe—it is abundant to excess, devouring the farmers' crops, and offering a perpetual and irresistible temptation to the poor man. The consequences are that poaching becomes the occupation of the idle, and too often of those who would do better had they the opportunity presented them, and that keepers and policemen are constantly on the watch by day, or prowling after *their* game at night. It is said, however, *that, so bold are the poachers on many estates, the keepers dare not attempt to capture them, and that in some cases they cannot help sympathising with the poor wretches whose only choice lies between the union-house and the gaol.* Be this as it may, at any rate such are the remarks we have heard from persons who reside in these localities. Whether attributable to any of these causes we know not, but an extraordinary event has occurred on the estate of the recently-appointed Lord-Lieutenant of the county, the Earl of Stradbroke, at Henham—*namely, the suicide of his head gamekeeper on Saturday, and of another keeper on Sunday. A third keeper we understand has been put under personal restraint for fear of similar consequences.* At such a moment, people living in the immediate vicinity of the estate, are afraid of opening their mouths; but dark hints are thrown out which we should prefer hearing put into clear and unmistakable language."

This forms a cause which ought to undergo a searching inquiry; but will it receive it at the hands of the Home Secretary? We know that there is no chance of any efficient investigation in that quarter, and it therefore becomes incumbent upon every journalist to assist in bringing the whole affair to light. Here is the official report of the coroners' inquests:—

"INQUISITIONS TAKEN BEFORE MR. SPARROWE, CORONER.—On Monday last, at Henham, the seat of the Right Hon. the Earl of Straubroke, on view of the body of William Easy, aged 54, one of the gamekeepers of the noble earl, who on Saturday last destroyed himself by shooting himself through the head in one of the covers near his dwelling. The deceased had tied a twig of osier round the but-end of his gun, and connected it with the lock in such a manner as to enable him to pull the trigger, and, placing the end of the barrel in his mouth, discharged the contents of the barrel through his head, which was literally blown to pieces. It appeared from the evidence of several witnesses that the deceased had for some time past been in a very low dejected state of mind, and his intellect at times was much disordered. The jury returned a verdict of 'Insanity.'—On the same day, on the body of John Cucksey, aged 56, also a gamekeeper, in the service of the Earl of Stradbroke, whose death, proceeding from a similar catastrophe, and so immediately following that of Mr. Easy, excited the most intense interest in the neighbourhood. It was stated in evidence by Richard Andrews that he had gone on Sunday evening last to the cottage of Mr. Ludlow, adjoining that of the deceased; that while sitting in Ludlow's room, about seven o'clock, he saw John Cucksey go into his house with his wife and three children, as if from a walk, and that deceased could not have been in the house more than two minutes when he heard the report of a gun in deceased's house, and, hearing the screams of his wife and children, he ran down stairs and went round to the house, and there saw the deceased lying on the carpet of the room, and his wife stooping to extinguish the fire which had communicated to his shirt and waistcoat. His gun was lying on the floor with the but-end next his feet. He was quite dead. Mr. Lay, surgeon, of Wangford, stated that he was sent for on Sunday evening, and arrived at the house a short time before eight o'clock; he found the deceased lying dead on the carpet, with a gun at his feet, one barrel of which was recently discharged; his shirt and clothes had been burnt considerably. He found a large wound under the jaw, from which considerable hemorrhage was flowing—the wound, proceeding upwards into the head, was instantly fatal. He had attended the deceased for some time past as he had been unwell. He had had a fall from his horse, and suffered from a pain in his side; saw him on Sunday morning, when he seemed very low, and said he had had a bad night. He saw him also on Saturday morning, after Easy's death, which had shocked him much, and he appeared much excited and distressed about it. It further appeared in evidence, that the deceased on entering his house had complained of being very chilly, and desired his wife to get some coals and light a fire, and while she was gone into the yard to get the coals the catastrophe occurred. The gun, it appeared, was suspended from the beam by a couple of holdfasts, one of which supporting the stock of the gun was found on the floor near where the gun laid. The ceiling of the room was very low, so much so that any one passing through the room with his hat on, would come in contact with the beam and gun as it hung. This circumstance, and the holdfast being found upon the floor, coupled with the remarkable fact of the gun going off so immediately after the entrance of the deceased and his family, it having been going

tively stated to have been not more than two minutes, caused considerable doubt in the minds of the coroner and jury whether the deceased had inflicted the injury upon himself, and, after considerable deliberation, the latter returned a verdict—'That deceased died from a gun-shot wound through the head, but whether inflicted by his own hand or the effect of accident, sufficient evidence thereof did not appear to the jurors.'"

How curt and cautious is this report, and what a slight investigation into the circumstances which led to these two poor fellows' self-slaughter does it indicate! But, probably, as the *Suffolk Chronicle* says, "people living in the immediate neighbourhood of the estate are afraid to speak out." The *Times's* correspondent, however, gives a further glimpse of the causes of this dreadful scene. He says:—

"The neighbourhood of Henham-park, the country seat of the Earl of Stradbroke, was thrown into a state of great excitement on Saturday morning last, August 31, by the rumour being spread that his lordship's headkeeper, whose name was Easy, had destroyed himself. This report, on inquiry, was found to be but too true. About eleven o'clock on the morning of that day the unfortunate man, it appeared—*whose character for quietness and general worth was high*—left his cottage, which is situate on the Henham-park estate, taking a double-barrelled gun with him. He proceeded to a spot at the back of his house, where grow a quantity of bulrushes; and of these he managed, in an ingenious and most original manner, to form the means of his death and fearful mutilation. From the relative positions in which the body and the gun were found, it would seem that he had fixed some of the rushes across the two triggers of his piece, and placed his foot upon the end of those rushes in such a manner as to enable him, having put the end of the barrels in his mouth, to fire off the gun. The effect of this most extraordinary and determined act of suicide was, of course, the immediate death of the unhappy man. The whole of the head was shattered in a frightful manner, particularly the left side, which was blown completely away. The brain was found in a tolerably perfect condition, at a distance from the corpse. A more resolute and horrible mode of self-slaughter can scarcely ever, if ever, have occurred. As may be imagined, the circumstance has created great excitement in the immediate vicinity of the park, and indeed around that part of the country; and the various circumstances attending the melancholy act are such as to be well calculated to increase the peculiar and painful interest of the case. From the situation held by the deceased, he necessarily had the chief care and direction of the Earl of Stradbroke's game preserves; *and, as the noble lord was expected to arrive on Saturday at Henham-park with his family, Easy was anxious to have all duly prepared for his reception and sporting amusement on Monday. However, for some time past, the poachers have been active on the estate, and great quantities of the game have been destroyed and taken by them: including several of his lordship's favourite breeding birds, among numbers of pheasants that have fallen before these illegal sportsmen.* The vexation and annoyance caused to the deceased by these predatory acts have been very great. Persons who had seen and conversed with him during the past week, all remarked how unusually dull and depressed his manner was. *It is imagined by his wife and those most intimate with him, that this has been the cause of that state of mind which led to the commission of the fatal deed, combined with the expectation of meeting his master so soon, and the fear excited that the noble earl would impute blame to him for negligence of his duties in permitting the continuance of such robberies of his preserves.* Whether such were really the origin of the suicide or not, it is, of course, quite impossible now to decide; but it would seem to afford a very probable and likely cause for the melancholy circumstance in the absence of any domestic and private motive for the act. *It is also stated that he was to have been a witness at the examination of some poachers, who will be brought before the magistrates on Wednesday. These men he saw leave with game in their possession, he being afraid to attack them, they being four or five in number.* This may have added to the troubled state of mind under which the unfortunate man had evidently for some days laboured."

In the despot-ruled countries of the East men not unfrequently commit suicide rather than meet a cruel master, whose anger they have justly or unjustly excited; but when before did respectable English servants rush uncalled into the presence of their God, under the terror of the frowns of an offended master? *Lord Stradbroke was the person who introduced in the past session the last and most oppressive game law of our feudal code!* Every one knows the state of destitution to which the labourers in *Suffolk* have been reduced during the present year, and the reckless and desperate disposition which the prevalence of game-preserves has fostered amongst them; and there can be no doubt that the utmost vigilance on the part of Lord Stradbroke's gamekeepers has been insufficient to protect his preserves from the depredations of desperate gangs of half-starved poachers. The fact mentioned in the latter part of our last extract, that the unfortunate man Easy had seen "men leave the premises with game in their possession, he being afraid to attack them, they being four or five in number," shows the fearful character of these marauders; and that the keeper knew that, if he attempted to stop the poachers, he must be prepared for a death struggle. Is this horrible state of things to continue? Has not public opinion been sufficiently aroused to put an end to this constant endangerment of human life, and this frequent recurrence of human bloodshed, for the sake of aristocratic sports?

Public opinion compelled the abrogation of the punishment of death for forgery; it has forced Government to put down smuggling conflicts by reductions of duties; and will it not compel the removal of the yet more fatal source of crime and bloodshed—game-preserving and the game laws?

WHAT IS TO BECOME OF THE LABOURERS?

"Now the harvest is pretty well over, the farmers are beginning to discharge their labourers or lower their wages. In several parishes near Lewes this has been done, and the winter is again looked forward to with dread by the agricultural population."—*Brighton Herald.*

We hear universal apprehension expressed amongst farmers as to what will become of the labourers during the next winter. Rents will leave the great mass of ordinary farmers but small surplus for the cultivation of their farms and the employment of labourers; and in many instances, with abundant crops of wheat, farmers will find themselves mere collectors—and too often unpaid collectors—for the landlords' benefit. This is the necessary consequence of a law which causes rents to be fixed at a rate artificially high. Farmers, however, are beginning to discover that their protectionist friends are but false friends after all. At Barnet fair, the other day, we heard great numbers of farmers—both those who were unable to sell their lean stock, and those who, from the high price of cattle provender, were afraid to venture to purchase—express most earnest wishes for a final settlement of the Corn Law question; but we did not meet with one who believed that there could be any final settlement of that question except a total and unconditional repeal. In the meantime the labourers in Wiltshire, at all events, are endeavouring to help themselves; for they have not, and never had, *any faith* in the high-sounding professions of the monopolists. The following report extracted from the *Wiltshire Independent* shows that the agricultural labourers of that district are up and doing:—

"Meeting of the Working Classes.—A public meeting was held on Monday, the 2nd of September, at the Independent Chapel, Goatacre, Wilts, *where upwards of three hundred attended.* Mr. Read, of Goatacre, was called to the chair. The object of the meeting was to explain the rules and objects of a society formed in Goatacre for moral and political information.

"The chairman, on opening the meeting, pointed out in a very clear manner the rights and privileges of the working classes, and the necessity of their uniting to strive against ignorance, and to endeavour, upon sound constitutional principles, to regain their rights. The chairman then called upon William Edwards to address the meeting.

"W. Edwards then came forward and addressed the meeting, and pointed out the manner in which the working classes had been, and were, oppressed by those who ought to have protected them; and *showed the necessity of their being on their guard against some who professed friendship*, and wished them to meet and discuss the true principles of government, and judge for themselves.

"The following objects of the society were then read to the meeting:—1st, *to obtain by every legal and just means the repeal of the Corn Laws, and all restrictions on trade and commerce.* 2nd, to inquire into the state of the working classes, and point out the cause of their distress. 3rd, to promote a union among all classes, and to guide and direct the public mind into uniform, peaceful, and legitimate operations. 4th, to collect and organise the peaceful expression of public opinion so as to bring it to act upon the legislative functions in a just, legal, and effectual way. 5th, to consider the means of organising a system of operations whereby the public press may be influenced to act generally in support of the interests of the people.

"The chairman then proposed that an address be forwarded to Mr. John Arkell, thanking him for the kind manner in which he has come among us to advocate the cause of the working classes. It was carried unanimously, as was also the following resolution—'That this meeting think it highly necessary to call upon the inhabitants of Wootton Bassett to sign an address requesting the Right Hon. the Earl of Radnor, the Hon. Charles Villiers, M.P., Mr. Cobden, M.P., J. Edridge, Esq., and Mr. J. Arkell, *to attend a public meeting in the town of Wootton Bassett, to discuss the principles of Free Trade.*'

"After the meeting was over, nothing could show the interest the labouring people take in the cause, more *than the manner in which they came forward to contribute their pence out of their hard and scanty earnings towards the furtherance of its objects.*

This, and other labourers' meetings, constitute the most complete refutation of the falsehoods and fallacies endeavoured to be palmed upon the public by Mr. Benett and the other monopolist squires of Wiltshire. Indeed, we have, in some measure, to thank the monopolists for *this form* of Anti-Corn-Law agitation, for it was the outrageous assertions that the west-country labourers had not suffered distress from want of employment, which aroused the peasants to give in person direct contradiction to the misstatements.

War.—Religion has not prevented, morality has not stayed, pecuniary interest has not arrested, national depression has not impeded human slaughter and human affliction, although the horrors of desolated provinces, burning towns, and kingdoms laid waste have not deterred monarchs and statesmen from their asserting the triumphs of might over the dictates of humanity and justice. We maintain that the most pernicious, most disastrous, most slaughterous, most ruinous, most afflicting, most monstrous of all human errors is the error of war.—*Norwich Mercury.*

Dwellings of the Poor.—With regard to the description of dwellings erected for the poor; the holes and corners into which labouring men are often driven; the wretched undrained streets and courts; the buildings totally unprovided with many accommodations which are needful for the comfort of human life. Why, it is not enough to say, when speaking of these things, "people *might* live in better habitations if they would." The fact is, they cannot do it. Apart from the question of rent, they are by circumstances tied to some particular locality; their occupations in life require of them that they should be within reach of the place where they have to earn their daily bread: they have no choice; the society which says to them, "We condemn you to gain your means of subsistence by your daily labour," says also, "and we add to this the doom that you shall earn it in an impure and disease-generating atmosphere." In the various improvements which are effected in this great metropolis, what is the common tendency of the alterations? Why, to clear away small houses, and erect larger ones in their place. No doubt these large edifices are more valuable than the smaller, and bring a higher rent to the proprietors of the ground: but do *the people* of this country exist only for the benefit of the proprietors of the soil? Is a city an erection intended merely to enhance the private emolument of those who may have previously gained possession of the land upon which it is built? Is it not an arrangement which society has in charge, and which I think it is bound to carry into effect, to overrule any of those irregularities of private property which prove themselves to be destructive of public health and enjoyment? The abodes of a large portion of the community, in which they are condemned by the necessity of local circumstances to dwell, are a disgrace to any civilized society, the existence of which should be prohibited, and they should be swept away from the face of the earth, like any other nuisance. I see no reason whatever why we should tolerate machinery for the production and diffusion of malaria, or why we should feel any charity for factories of fever.—*Fox's Lectures to the Working Classes.*

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

An agriculturist, who sends us his name and address, has forwarded the following for insertion:—

"Sevenoaks, Sept. 10, 1844.

"Mr. Editor,—Being on a visit to this town, I last Saturday (it being market day) ascertained the price wheat was selling at here to my surprise to be for best white, 48s. 6d. per quarter, and brown, 40s., with, as a farmer informed me, almost a certainty of a further reduction next Saturday, in consequence of the difficulties they will have to contend against to meet the coming rent-day.

"These prices ill accord with the specious promises of the protection-loving 'Farmers' Friends.'

"A Free-Trade Farmer's Son."

"W. P."—It would be difficult, and perhaps imprudent, to comply with his request.

"A Subscriber to the League."—It is equally unjust and absurd to charge the bakers, or any other class of tradesmen, with fixing too high a price on the articles they vend. We are informed by our correspondent that flour and meal are disproportionately high, because the extreme dryness of the season has prevented the full working of the water-mills; and this may be sufficient to explain the apparent overcharge for bread. Had we a perfectly Free Trade such anomalies would be impossible, and the want of water would neither cause consumers to suffer in pocket, nor tradesmen in character.

"Z."—Is such a trifle worth notice?

"Humanitas."—The subject is very important, but it is not connected with League objects.

"Viator" proposes that the farmers of England should form an "Anti-Game-Law Association;" and the same proposition is urged by another correspondent, who adds that "all poachers should be regarded as honorary members."

"W. S."—Subscriptions are received at the office in Fleet-street.

"G. W. W.'s" letter has been received.

"Louis La Roche" is informed, that the Hastings election took place on Friday, the 29th of March last, when there voted for Briscoe, 513; for Moore, 174.

"A Working Man."—We cannot comply with his request, but we quite agree with his appreciation of the merits of the late Mr. Cobbett.

"W. W." is a little too strong; we may, however, use some of his hints *diluted.*

"A. M."—The lines are not quite up to the mark.

The remarks of "Odor Oppressionis," in which he traces out some of the evils of oppression, and urges the removal of all restrictions on labour as a remedy, are, in the present stage of the Free-Trade discussion, much too trite, even in their abridged form, for insertion as an original communication.

"W. Wells" is informed that the debate in which Sir Robert Peel insinuated that Mr. Cobden instigated assassination took place on the 17th of February, 1843. "Hansard's Debates" contain the report.

"A Subscriber" is informed that if, on letting a farm, no stipulation is made as to the game, the tenant will be entitled to it. It was provided by the Game Act, 1 and 2 William IV., c. 32, that where land was under lease at the time of the passing of the act, the landlord should have the game, unless it had been by the lease expressly granted to the occupier.

Several other notices to correspondents deferred.

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

Any person forwarding 3s. 3d. by Post-office order, to the Publisher, 67, Fleet-street, London, will have one quarter's copies of the League forwarded by post on the days of publication. Subscriptions for the paper may also be left with J. Gadsby, Newall's-buildings, Manchester; and the League may be had by order of any news-agent in town or country. Subscribers who receive coloured envelopes on their papers must bear in mind that their subscriptions are due.

POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, September* 14, 1844.

Amongst the lengthy accounts of the Queen's voyage to Scotland, and the still more interminable narrations of the mimic royal festival of the Duke of Buckingham, at Stowe, wherewith the daily press deems it fit to entertain its readers, we yet meet with sundry evidences of Free-Trade opinions. Thus we find the ladies of Walsall have presented a splendid piece of plate to Mr. J. B. Smith, in testimony of the estimation in which they held his exertions in 1841, when he contested the representation of that borough upon Free-Trade principles, and laid the foundation for the subsequent triumph over the monopolists. This is a just and discriminating tribute to a gentleman whose sound views and intelligent advocacy of Free Trade are well known, and the more so because his well-timed efforts did not result in personal success.

In breaking down the monopolist party in any place it often happens that the first candidate, whose exertions pave the road to the future success of the righteous cause of Free Trade, cannot himself obtain the reward; and this causes many men in every way well fitted to represent a Free-Trade constituency to shrink from the turmoil of repeated elections, in the first of which they are usually unsuccessful. But the man who dares to fight a first battle often deserves as much credit as he who finally succeeds; and in this point of view it is most gratifying to Free-Traders to see the ladies of Walsall bearing testimony to the good services of Mr. Smith, in putting down the monopolists in that borough. Moreover, it furnishes fresh proof that the repeal of the Corn Laws has become an Englishman's domestic question.

Another symptom that Free-Trade opinions are working their way with considerable rapidity amongst the farmers, under the influence of low prices, is found in the elaborate efforts of the monopolist press to show that either the Canada Corn Bill—the effects of which are practically insignificant—or the Corn Law of 1842 has rendered the existing "protection to British industry delusive." Delusive enough it is, our readers well know, but not upon the ground so mendaciously asserted by the *Morning Post.* That journal says that corn may be imported into this country from the east of Europe, paying the highest duty of 20s. a quarter, and that

the importers may thereby obtain a profit! Now, we really hope that there is no one in the corn trade so green as to be influenced by such statements; for while by the *Post's* own showing, in the same article, "unexceptionable wheat, weighing from 62lbs. to 64lbs. a bushel," has been sold in Mark-lane "at from 40s. to 43s. per quarter," the price of wheat at Dantzic is about 31s. and 32s. per quarter! If there be any regular readers of the *Morning Post* who can work a sum in simple addition, and they will condescend to add 10s. for freight and expenses and 20s. for duty to the cost price of a quarter of wheat at Dantzic, they will find it results in a cost price here of 61s. or 62s. a quarter!!! Still such stuff will serve to amuse the monopolist squires, and therefore is it written.

LIBERATION OF MR. O'CONNELL; DEMONSTRATIONS OF POPULAR FEELING IN IRELAND.

As might have been expected, the decision of the House of Lords, and consequent liberation of Mr. O'Connell and his fellow-prisoners, has caused an extraordinary state of popular enthusiasm in Ireland; and never in his remarkable career has the honourable member received such tokens of love and admiration from his countrymen as on this occasion. When the intelligence reached Kingstown by the Medusa steamer, a crowd of people who had been anxiously awaiting its arrival exhibited the most vehement exultation. The news was speedily conveyed to Dublin, and spread like wildfire over the city, and everywhere caused the same delirium of feeling. Mr. O'Connell himself heard it with calmness, but, at the same time, with unmingled satisfaction; as did also the other traversers. For a time he was almost overwhelmed with congratulations; and even the governor of the prison, Mr. Purdon, a gentleman of opposite politics, but who treated his illustrious prisoner with remarkable courtesy and kindness during his three months' sojourn in the Penitentiary, was quite overcome by the unexpected intelligence, and gave vent to the depth of his feelings of hearty sympathy in the most unequivocal manner. When it was understood that Mr. O'Connell was to be released, all restraint on the number of visitors was withdrawn, and thus hundreds were permitted to have access to and congratulate him. It is said that he gave in a short time not less than twelve hundred of his autographs to parties who solicited the favour of his name. During the whole of Friday thousands of the inhabitants gathered round the prison, anxious to catch a first glimpse of the "Liberator," Mr. O'Connell having expressed his wish and intention to walk home. So soon as he made his exit from the prison, and became visible to the congregated masses, shouts of exultation rent the air. The people then ranged themselves in files, firmly grasping each other by the hand, and thus formed a free passage for Mr. O'Connell and the other traversers to proceed uninterrupted, save by enthusiastic cheers, to Merrion-square, his place of residence, where, having entered his house, and ascended to the balcony, he addressed the immense multitude in terms of hearty congratulation on his triumph, and exhorted them to separate peacefully, an injunction which they scrupulously obeyed. On the following day, Saturday, according to arrangement, a triumphal procession took place from the Penitentiary through the principal streets of Dublin. A chariot had been hastily prepared and decorated for the occasion, in which Mr. O'Connell took his seat; next the other traversers, also in carriages, but less conspicuous, and an immense train of private carriages and other vehicles; then the various trades of the city, with banners and bands of music; the rear was brought up by a dense crowd of the inhabitants not only of Dublin, but of the surrounding country districts. When all had formed in marching order, the procession set out at noon from the Penitentiary, and having passed through the principal streets, arrived before Mr. O'Connell's house, where he delivered a stirring speech, similar in strain to that of the previous evening, and concluded by announcing that at the Conciliation Hall on Monday he would detail his future plans. The crowd separated in the most orderly manner, and not a single breach of the peace occurred throughout the day's proceedings.

On Sunday, a grand pontifical high mass was celebrated at the Metropolitan Church, as a thanksgiving for the triumph of Mr. O'Connell, who, with other of the traversers, was present. The chapel was densely crowded. The Roman Catholic Archbishop, Dr. Murray, officiated. The Rev. Dr. Miley preached, and, in alluding to the event of the liberation, ascribed it to the intervention of the Virgin, whose intercession had been sought during the Novena, or nine days' devotion, which had just been celebrated, and which terminated on the very day of the decision of the Lords. This portion of the preacher's discourse produced a great sensation.

The rejoicings throughout Ireland have been characterised by the same enthusiasm as at Dublin.

THE IRISH REPEAL ASSOCIATION.

The weekly meeting took place at the Conciliation Hall on Monday, when the crowd was immense. The Lord Mayor was called to the chair, and after some preliminary business,

Mr. O'Connell addressed the meeting. He announced that Irishmen might now meet in thousands and tens of thousands to petition! There was no impediment now—by keeping themselves within the law there was nothing to prevent them strengthening themselves by the increase of numbers—by increasing the registries, and pouring petitions into the House of Commons until the table should break beneath the load of complaints of the people of Ireland. Mr. O'Connell next commented upon the proceedings in the House of Lords. He made a full and ample apology to the Whigs, and promised never to abuse them more; and complimented the *Morning Chronicle* for the able manner in which it had exposed the proceedings against him. The country, he said, owed the Whigs a debt of gratitude for the judges whom they appointed—it was to the Whigs they were indebted for such judges as Lords Denman, and Cottenham, and Campbell—men who never would be on the bench if the Tories continued in power. After stating that he would move for a committee to consider the propriety of calling the Clontarf meeting, he proceeded to give his views on his plan for forming a Preservative Society:—The next matter to which I intend to refer is the plan I brought forward last year for the establishment of a preservative assembly in Ireland. (Tremendous applause.) This is a subject surrounded by legal difficulties, which we must approach by degrees, and which we were prevented considering last autumn by the iniquitous prosecution. My plan, you are aware, was this—that 300 gentlemen should meet in Dublin in a body, and that the title of each gentleman to form part of that assembly should be his handing in £100. They were to appoint their own treasurer, and be the guardians of their own money. (Cheers.) I would propose that they should unite together for the purpose of correcting and controlling every thing done by the association, the members of which should take no step without their full sanction and unqualified approval. (Hear.) A body of that kind would be a drag on the wheel, which would prevent any danger of revolutionary violence, and would have the greatest influence over the association to preserve it from all danger, and to remove its proceedings from all suspicion. (Loud cheers.) They would act between the Government and the association, and enter into arrangements with the Minister which could not be otherwise effected, and obtain ultimately a parliament for Ireland—should it only be a federal parliament in the first instance. I do not myself approve of a federal parliament, or think it the best; but still I would not object to their getting the best they could from the Government, which could not attempt to disturb such an influential body of men, and which, if properly addressed, could not refuse them what they asked legally and determinedly (loud cheers); therefore, upon the next day of meeting, I will move for a committee to form such an assembly, or rules for their guidance; and when formed that they be laid before the most eminent lawyers both in England and Ireland for their opinions, in order to establish it upon a legal and firm foundation. (Cheers.)

He concluded by giving notice that on the next day of meeting he would submit the three following subjects to the consideration of the association.

1st. As to the propriety of holding the Clontarf meeting—his own opinion was not in favour of doing so.

2nd. The propriety of forming a preservative society of 300 gentlemen, each one paying £100. It should not be an initiative body, but correct and control everything of a revolutionary tendency.

3rdly. The impeachment of the Irish judges and the Attorney-General.

The rent was announced to be £575 6s. 6d.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.—The French Government and Opposition press, as might have been expected, take totally opposite views of the mode in which the Tahitian question has been terminated. The Government press approve of the concessions made to England, while the Opposition journals denounce them as humiliating to France, and derogatory to national honour.

VISIT OF LOUIS PHILIPPE.—We understand that the visit of the King of the French to her Majesty is now definitively fixed for the early part of next month. It is arranged that his Majesty will embark at Tréport on the 3rd of October, and proceed at once from Portsmouth to Windsor. The Queen of the French will not accompany his Majesty; but it is expected that King Louis Philippe will be attended by two of his Ministers, and by his youngest son, the Duke de Montpensier.—*Times.*

The *Journal des Débats* states that the Court of Assize of Saintes (Charente Inferieure) has devoted three days to the judgment of a parricide. This crime was committed on an old man of 80 by his son. The means employed was poisoning by arsenic. The parricide (Pierre Guyonnet) was condemned to the penalty of death.

LOSS OF A FRENCH WAR STEAMER.—The Groenland, one of the largest of the French war steamers, was totally lost on the west coast of Morocco, on some rocks about three leagues from Larache, on the 26th ultimo. The Moors immediately commenced an attack upon the vessel, which had lasted full four hours, when fortunately the steamer Vidette arrived to her assistance, succeeded in dispersing the Moorish soldiers, and received on board the crew and such things as could be saved from the wreck. In the afternoon the Prince de Joinville, in the Pluton, also arrived on that part of the coast, and, finding it impossible to float the Groenland, caused her to be destroyed by fire.

We are assured that a treaty, the origin of which may be referred to 1840, is on the eve of being concluded, by which England will obtain possession of the port of Suez, free passage from Alexandria to that port, and other advantages of importance in Egypt and Syria. This treaty, to which France is said to be no party, is guaranteed by Russia, Austria, and Prussia. We know not by what intrigue the King of the French has been prevented from participating in it, but have reason to believe that England has had nothing to do with his exclusion.—*Morning Herald.*

SPAIN AND MOROCCO.—A despatch has been received from Morocco, announcing that the Emperor has acquiesced in all the demands of Spain. The concessions made are:—"1. The severe punishment of the Arab who caused the consular agent to be assassinated. 2. Our Government will receive indemnities for all the acts of piracy which have been committed on Spanish vessels. 3. Two leagues of territory are to be granted to Spain beyond the lines of Ceuta. 4. The Spanish flag shall be saluted by the Morocco cannon." It is thought that the Spanish Government will not hesitate to ratify this arrangement, which will appear immediately in the *Gazette*. The troops which were assembling to form part of the Morocco expedition are already ordered to march back into the interior. This conclusion of the differences with the Emperor of Morocco is generally attributed to the good offices and intervention of Mr. Bulwer.

LISBON.—The Lisbon corn monopoly is destroyed by royal decree. By this most beneficial measure the price of bread will be reduced one-third.

ITALY.—The road between Rome and Naples is again infested by robbers; and two diligences having been recently attacked by them. Travellers have been compelled to make the voyage by sea, in French steamers.

The *Augsburgh Gazette* contains a letter from Naples, announcing that the Government of the Two Sicilies is at present revising its tariffs, with a view to diminishing the duties now pressing on foreign exports. The letter adds that the Neapolitan Cabinet has renounced all hope of concluding an advantageous treaty with France, England, and Spain, but that it was on the point of entering into negotiations with the Zollverein.

COLOGNE, Sept. 1.—For some days past a printed prayer for O'Connell and the martyrs of Catholicism has been circulated here; it is in the French language, and was sent from Namur.—*Allgemeine Zeitung.*

FRANKFORT, Sept. 4.—According to the Nuremberg correspondence, sentence has been pronounced at Berlin in the first instance against the assassin Tschech. The sentence is said to be that he is to be broken on the wheel.

BRUSSELS, Sept. 5.—A Belgian manufacturer has undertaken to form a settlement at Campos, in Brazil, in order to introduce there the cultivation of flax; and a great number of Belgians were invited to join in this enterprise.

BELGIUM AND THE GERMAN UNION.—The *Moniteur Belge* publishes a decree by the King of the Belgians, dated the 7th instant, by which, as a consequence of the recent treaty with the German Customs Union (Zollverein), it is ordered that, in future, Prussian vessels in Belgian ports shall pay only the same duties as Belgian vessels; that the customs duties on wines of the union shall be reduced to 50 centimes per hectolitre in cask, and two francs per hectolitre in bottle; the excise duty also to be reduced 25 per cent., and the import duty on silk manufactures of the Zollverein to be reduced 20 per cent.

FOREIGN CORN TRADE.—The *Cologne Gazette* contains the following letter from Berlin of the 1st of September:—"A great uneasiness is felt for the corn trade of the Baltic provinces, and especially for the trade of Dantzic, where immense quantities of wheat are accumulated, which cannot be disposed of except in case of a bad harvest in England; but as it is better this year than it has been for a long time, the merchants of Dantzic, being obliged to keep their corn, are threatened with considerable losses. One house has already failed for 180,000 dollars, and it is feared that several others, and more considerable houses, will share the same fate."

THE SLAVE TRADE.—In consequence of a convention concluded between the five great powers on the 20th of December, 1841, for the suppression of the slave trade, the Prussian Government has published an ordinance, by virtue of which the captain, supercargo, and the first pilot of every ship convicted of having been engaged in the slave trade are condemned to hard labour for a period varying from five to twenty years. The same punishment will be inflicted on the owner, the insurer, or on any person advancing funds knowing the destination of the vessel. The crew are to be liable to an imprisonment of from six months to five years, if it be proved that their operation in this trade has been voluntary.

ATHENS.—Our Athens correspondent writes under date the 26th ult., that the Colletti Ministry would find it difficult to weather the impending storm, and that the protecting Powers would again be obliged to interfere, in order to save the country from anarchy.—*Times.*

TUNIS.—We learn from Tunis that the Bey has permitted the free export of corn for six months by vessels of all nations.

TRIPOLI.—A private letter from Tripoli, dated August 21, just received, mentions that the Pasha has sent his interpreter to the consuls, informing them that the troops of Hamed Pasha had succeeded in defeating and entirely routing the Arabs, and was in complete possession of the Gibel, after three days' and three nights' hard fighting. The loss in killed and wounded on the part of the Pasha's troops was exceedingly heavy, as the Arabs defended the mountain passes with the greatest obstinacy. Fifty heads and a great number of prisoners are on their way down.

INDIA AND CHINA.—The usual monthly overland despatches from India appeared in the London morning journals of Wednesday. The delay of the mail, which generally arrives much earlier, was caused by the shaft of the steamer in which it was despatched from Bombay on the 19th July having broken at sea; the vessel was compelled to return, and the mail was then forwarded in another vessel on the 31st. The 64th Bengal Native Infantry had again broken out into open mutiny at Shikarpore on the 20th and 21st of June; they demanded more pay, and, having been refused, insulted and pelted their officers. They were subsequently reduced to submission, but the following day, after receiving their pay, they demanded to be discharged. The regiment was subsequently disarmed, and the ringleaders were arrested. A party of 40 cavalry, sent out about twelve miles from Shikarpore to protect a body of grass-cutters, was attacked by some Beloochees in the pay of Shere Mahommed, in consequence of the neglect of the native officers commanding, who retired from the road to smoke with their soldiers. The grass-cutters, and 12 men and one native officer, were killed by the assailants. This had produced a stringent order from Sir Charles Napier. Scinde was otherwise tranquil.

CHINA.—The news from China is to the 21st June. Sir H. Pottinger left China on that day in her Majesty's steamer Driver, touched at Singapore, Trincomalee, and Galle, whence the Driver sailed for Bombay on the 23rd July; and Sir H. Pottinger intended to leave Bombay for Suez by the September mail in the Ackbar. Hong-Kong was healthy. Turkey opium had advanced in price, owing to the Malwa proving inferior; but as next year's crop of Malwa is large, and will be ready for shipment partly in November and December, no arrivals of Turkey later than the end of the year are likely to benefit by the advance. Trade in general was languid. The French embassy proceeding to China had anchored at Singapore. The new Governor of Hong-Kong, Mr. J. F. Davis, with his suite, landed there on the 8th of May. He was immediately sworn into office. Some disturbances had occurred at Canton between the Chinese and the Americans, but they were of trifling import. Piracy prevailed on the Chinese coasts, especially of small boats.

COMMERCIAL NEWS.—The *Hong-Kong Gazette* of the 15th of May states, that the necessity of a reduction of the duty on tea is daily becoming more evident. The increased consumption of goods in China must be met by a corresponding export; hitherto, with the exception of tea and silk, China has been unable to furnish other articles to any amount, suitable to the English market, and, so far as is now known, it is with these commodities the enormous importations from England and India must be

paid. The opium trade is draining the bullion out of the country, and the American bills on London, which have long afforded a safe remittance, are decreasing—the Americans, finding that their own manufactured cottons yield a handsome profit, will send goods to procure their tea charges. That China will, in the course of time, be an outlet for a very large quantity of the staples of British manufacture, is undoubted. But the question now is—how is she to pay for them? With the enormous drain upon her in the shape of compensation money, and the heavy annual burden of some twenty millions of dollars for opium, all paid in specie—unless there are mines in the interior, of which Europeans are in ignorance—a few years will drain the greater part of the silver out of the country, and raise what remains to a factitious value. Even now, in Canton, the sales are in many instances made in exchange for inferior teas; the price of the article sold being merely nominal, as it is impossible to calculate upon what these teas may realize in the English market.

Sir H. Hardinge.—The Hindostan steamer, with the Governor-General on board, touched at Madras on the evening of the 19th of July; his Excellency declined, however, to land, and started for Calcutta on the morning of the 20th, which place he would probably reach on the 24th.

The recal of Lord Ellenborough had taken the people of India by surprise; but appeared to have been expected by his lordship, who had provided himself with a private residence, a few miles from the Government-house. The officers of the army at Calcutta had invited him to a dinner, which was to take place there four days after the arrival of his successor, Sir H. Hardinge. A subscription for a testimonial was also on foot.

The ship Cameo, from Liverpool to Calcutta, with a cargo valued at £60,000, was lost off Kedgeree. The Candahar, from China, was totally wrecked near Bombay. In Bombay there was a trial going on of eighteen Parsees for a murder committed at two o'clock in the day, in one of the most public streets in the town, on the principle of the gang murders which degrade India. Great excitement prevailed on the subject; the murdered man was one of their own tribe, and yet much money was expended in the hope of preventing the conviction of any of the parties.

Sydney.—The news from Sydney to the beginning of May, describe that country as suffering much from the depreciation of stock.

United States.—The New York packet ship, New York, arrived at Liverpool on Thursday morning with papers to the 17th ultimo. They do not contain the least news of interest. There has been no variation in the cotton market since last intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

On Monday morning, at seven o'clock, her Majesty, Prince Albert, and the Princess Royal, left Windsor Castle for the Slough station of the Great Western Railway, *en route* for Woolwich. The royal *cortège* consisted of three carriages and four, and was accompanied by a guard of honour. Her Majesty embarked at Woolwich in the royal yacht, which reached the Nore in two hours and fifty minutes. Her Majesty proceeded on her visit to Scotland. By latest accounts she had reached Dundee, where preparations on a magnificent scale had been made, and where she has received an enthusiastic reception.

The infant Prince was christened on Friday, the 6th inst., with much ceremony, by the names of "Alfred Ernest Albert." The royal children will remain at Brighton during her Majesty's stay in Scotland.

Accounts received from Drayton Manor on Monday announced the severe indisposition of Miss Peel, daughter of the Premier: later intelligence states that she has become much better.

On Friday evening, the 6th inst., as the mail train on the Bristol and Gloucester Railway was passing near the Dursley station, it passed over a gate which had been maliciously thrown across the line. Fortunately the impediment was crushed to pieces, without causing any injury to the train.

On Thursday evening, while a number of reapers were at work in a corn field, within two miles of Campsie, in the vicinity of Kilsyth, two of them entered into a violent dispute touching some recent shearing match, and one party, unable to control his temper, in a sudden gust of rage plunged his shearing-hook into the bosom of his companion, and instantly deprived him of life. The murderer, whose name is John M'Lachlane, immediately fled. —*Glasgow Reformers' Gazette.*

A fine little girl, three years old, belonging to Sidney-street, North Shields, died there last week in consequence of eating hemlock.

The committee of the National Temperance Society are now establishing book clubs for the exclusive use of the members of their association. These clubs are to be conducted upon the principle of circulating libraries, the number of works to depend of course upon the extent of the funds.

On Saturday night five cottages at White-lane, near Church Oakley, Basingstoke, all occupied by labouring persons, were completely destroyed by fire. The accident was occasioned by some hot ashes, incautiously left on a dungheap, being blown on the thatched roof. The greater part of the furniture of the poor tenants was saved, but they are all considerable sufferers.

Last week a land slip occurred at Atherfield, Isle of Wight. About an acre of land suddenly, and with a loud noise, moved off into the sea.

The most respectable booksellers, grocers, chemists, milliners, and other shopkeepers, excepting provision and refreshment shops, have commenced now to open at seven in the morning, and close their doors at eight every evening, excepting Saturday night; then one hour later. Arrangements are also being made to close at seven o'clock in the months of November, December, January, and February.—*Sun*

The Bank of England has suffered a forgery to the extent of about £8000 Consols, by a clerk in the establishment who was away on leave of absence.

On Friday evening, the 6th inst., the village and neighbourhood of Hazel Grove, Cheshire, were visited by a terrific thunder storm, accompanied by a heavy fall of rain. A little brook in the village overflowed its banks, which having given way the water rushed into Wellington Cotton Mill, belonging to Mr. Cooper, extinguished the fires and stopped the works. Many of the hands were dragged out of the water by ropes. About thirty of the workpeople sought to cross a bridge under the protection of a brick wall, behind which there was a large reservoir for supplying water to a factory situated on its banks. They had proceeded but a little distance when the banks gave way, letting the water rush with such violence against the wall that it also gave way, burying about twenty of the poor people under its ruins, and forcing the others into the stream. As soon as the materials could be removed, four girls and a little boy were found to have been killed, and the following day another girl was found dead clinging to a tree. The others were seriously injured. On Saturday an inquest was held, and in each case a verdict of accidental death returned.

During the nights of Sunday and Monday there were severe thunder storms at Brighton, Canterbury, Petersfield, and other towns and districts, and some damage to property was sustained.

Recent accounts state that the progress and condition of the harvest in Scotland are most satisfactory.

Louis Philippe has sent her Majesty a present of a beautiful *char-à-banc* similar to those used by the royal family of France. Her Majesty, it appears, during her visit to Eu, having expressed her admiration of these social vehicles, the King on his return to Paris gave orders for the construction of this one as a present to her Majesty.

The *Times* of Tuesday announces that the Admiralty have decided "on commissioning a number of brigs, which, although not of themselves constituting a very efficient force, supply the means of manning larger vessels, if ever their services should be required."

About half-past two o'clock on Monday morning, a fire was discovered making considerable progress in the lower part of the Rose and Crown public-house, near Stratford turnpike. Stock and furniture to the value of £600 were consumed.

A fire, which has proved very destructive in its consequences, broke out about two o'clock on Saturday morning, on some extensive premises occupied by Mr. Cleave Hooper, a tanner and leather-factor, in the Spa-road, Bermondsey, having a frontage of nearly 500 feet. The principal building destroyed was a warehouse, termed the "bark-barn," having an altitude of 80 feet, 60 in depth, and 100 in length. The whole extent of the property destroyed is roughly estimated at £20,000.

A project is on foot which, if realized, will materially benefit a large portion of the London community. It is proposed to establish baths, coupled with washhouses for clothes, on such a scale as to place the comforts of cleanliness within the reach of all. "It is contemplated," says the *Spectator*, "to begin with four foundations, three on the Middlesex, and one on the Surrey side of the river, at a total expense of £30,000. The annual charge thereafter to be met by the payments of those who use them; 1d. for a cold, and 2d. for a warm bath (the use of a towel inclusive), being the rates for the bathers, while at the washhouses, all appliances and means for six hours' scrubbing, drying, and ironing, are to be supplied for 2d. With the aid of an income to be derived from a few baths of a more expensive kind, the institutions are thus expected shortly to compass their own support. It cannot be doubted that the £30,000 will speedily be raised."

Various public manifestations of rejoicing, such as illuminations, processions, &c., have been adopted by the Irish part of the population of Manchester, to commemorate the reversal of the judgment upon Mr. O'Connell and his fellow-prisoners; and, with one or two trifling exceptions, these exhibitions have passed off peaceably.

Mr. O'Connell gave the sum of £70, on Saturday, for the liberation of persons confined in the Richmond Bridewell for petty assaults, &c.

Belany, the surgeon, who was acquitted on the late charge of poisoning, has arrived at North Sunderland, the place of his nativity. The greatest excitement prevailed against him by the people, and his effigy has been burned.

The Panama, of Liverpool, a vessel of 200 tons burden, which sailed from that port on Monday for Montreal, was run down on Tuesday morning at two o'clock, near Point Lynas, by the Iron Duke steamer, on her way from Dublin to Liverpool. The unfortunate vessel sank almost immediately, and with her seven out of eleven persons who were on board; the other four were picked up by the steamer, and thus rescued from a watery grave. The steamer had her bowsprit and figure-head injured.

Last week the Honourable Mr. Walpole, a mate of the Collingwood, lying off Spithead, while coming on board from a small yacht, the latter upset, and it being a dark night he would have perished but for the heroic conduct of Mr. Roderic Dew, a brother mate, who plunged into the water, swam to his assistance, and succeeded in bringing him in safety to the ship.

Three incendiary fires took place last week: one at Barrington, near Cambridge; the second at Stratford-sub-Castle, in Wiltshire; and the third near Guildford, where a field of cut and standing barley was destroyed.

On Thursday, the 5th inst., the act to indemnify persons connected with Art-Unions and others against certain penalties came into operation, having on that day received the royal assent. The act is only to legalize Art-Unions for a limited period, and is not to sanction, for the purchase of pictures, transactions which are in law illegal when adopted for other purposes. Another act of the late session respecting gaming matters has a fixed period; and, as Art-Unions are considered somewhat analogous in their operation, a definite application has been appointed by the Legislature.

In a letter to the "Quarterly Journal of Agriculture," the Earl of Essex says he has found the spirit of turpentine, about half-a-pint at a dose, an effectual remedy for distemper in cattle. Half-a-pint is the smallest, and a pint the largest dose, to be given every three or four days.

During an awful thunder storm at Dover, on Sunday night, a police constable named Samuel Couchman, while attempting with a companion to quell a riot, received such ill usuage from a prize-fighter named Clarke, that he has since died. Four of those concerned in beating him have been apprehended, but the ringleader, Clarke, has escaped. Deceased has left a widow and two children.

On Friday evening, the 6th inst., during a thunder-storm at Derby, two men, who were at work in a field, were struck with lightning. One, named Sandars, was killed on the spot; the other, named Pegg, was knocked down and rendered insensible.

The docks at Leith are more thronged at present than they have been for more than a year. A great many arrivals from the Baltic, Holland, Dantzic, and other grain ports, have taken place within these few days; and one or two sugar and wine ships have added to the general activity.—*Scotsman.*

A public dinner is to be given in Dublin on Thursday next to Mr. O'Connell and his late fellow-captives, in commemoration of their liberation from their recent unjust imprisonment. It is likely that the banquet will be given either in the Rotunda or in the great room at the Mansion-house.

The *Cork Examiner* states that great preparations are in progress to strengthen the forts on the Cork coast; guns of large calibre are erected.

Mr. Alderman Brown has been elected to fill the office of Chamberlain by an immense majority.

An order of the Postmaster-General was affixed to the walls of the General Post-office on Monday, notifying the dismissal of the letter-carriers who had been proved to have been guilty of opening the letters of sporting gentlemen.

On Thursday, the Dutch steamer Batavier arrived at St. Katharine's Wharf with a full cargo, consisting of 49 live oxen, 11 cows, and 9 calves, being the largest quantity imported in any one vessel from Holland since the passing of the Tariff.

Several Irish papers state that the Government are increasing the military force and strengthening various fortifications in Ireland. The rejoicings for the liberation of O'Connell still continue.

Brighton Free-Trade Meeting.—W. J. Fox, Esq., and Robert R. Moore, Esq., have been deputed by the Anti-Corn-Law League to attend a meeting of the Brighton Free-Trade and Registration Association and its friends, which will take place either on Tuesday the 24th, or Wednesday the 25th instant, and of which due notice will be given.—*Brighton Herald.*

Good Prospects for the Working Classes.—The certainty of a most abundant harvest has produced not a little speculation as to the probable average price of wheat. We have heard the best judge in England declare his opinion, that within six months the average price would fall to 45s. per quarter. Should this be the case, the margin of wages remaining to the working classes, after paying for mere necessaries, will be much enlarged, and their capabilities of purchasing the comforts of life be extended in the same proportion.—*London Commercial Record.*

Trade of the Tyne and Wear.—Coal freights from the Tyne and Wear, coastwise as well as foreign, have been higher during the last week than for some years past. We should have rejoiced could we have attributed such augmentation to an increased demand for coal; but, unfortunately, we cannot do so. The fact is, that vessels have become scarce in the Tyne and Wear, in consequence of the long *strike* of the pitmen. Shipowners have been driven to seek employment elsewhere; and very many have entered into arrangements which will prevent their return, for some time, to their old quarters. In addition to this, vessels have been making long voyages to Archangel and America, thereby preventing them from competing in the coal trade.—*Gateshead Observer.*

Cheap Bread and High Wages.—The advocates of cheap bread used to point to 1836, when wheat was under 40s. a quarter, as a period when successful strikes for an advance of wages have taken place. Similar successful strikes for wages had taken place during the present year, but we have no example of any such thing during the intervening years of dear food. The tendency of which we speak is, in fact, so obvious that, but for the mist which has been intentionally thrown around the subject, the labour of arguing upon it would appear altogether superfluous. To any who may still entertain doubts as to the effects of cheap bread on the well-being of the labouring-classes, we would recommend a reference to a work just published, entitled the "Vital Statistics of Glasgow," by the regularly appointed statist of that city, A. Watt, LL.D. Alluding to the National Savings' Banks, he says, "that the amount of deposits by the working classes, the number of accounts opened, and the number closed during particular years, rises and falls as the price of the 4lb. loaf (or grain) rises and falls during these years; and that the average amount of the sum accumulated by each depositor greatly diminishes at the termination of a series of years in which the grain is high, and again increases during the years of cheap bread."—*Macclesfield Chronicle.*

A Fact for Lord Ashley.—Such is the demand for labour in the manufacturing districts of this riding, arising out of the briskness of trade, and the great increase of that much abused and vituperated *machinery*, especially power-looms, that there is the greatest difficulty in procuring servants for domestic purposes, the female population very much preferring employment in the mills to domestic servitude; nor do we much wonder at this preference, when it is known that females can earn at the power loom from 10s. to 15s. per week, at the least laborious and most cleanly occupation in a mill, leaving their work as neatly clad, and their persons as cleanly, as if they had been all day employed at their *needle;* and with a very different result to either the London female shirt-makers, or the able-bodied *Dorsetshire* agricultural labourers. Would it not be quite as well if Lord Ashley would, for a short period, suspend his persevering efforts to extract the *mote* from his neighbour's eye until he has succeeded in plucking the *beam* from his own?—*Leeds Mercury.*

Ashburton.—Extraordinary Case.—A young man, named John St. Clements Palmer, a native of Devonport, was committed to the county gaol, on Wednesday last, by J. Caunter, Esq., for killing a sheep. From the evidence given, it appears that the poor fellow had been upwards of five years a seaman on board the Warspite; but since that ship had been paid off he has travelled hundreds of miles, seeking employment, but without success; day after day he subsisted on a scanty morsel of bread and cold water, which he obtained from some kind friend; but during the last few days his hardships were truly distressing, having nothing to make use of, and without a friend in the world. In a fit of despair, through want and starvation, he entered a field on the above morning, killed a sheep, and commenced skinning it; he spoke to a person passing by at the time, and desired him to tell some one to come and take him in custody for the offence, as he was starving; accordingly he gave himself into the hands of justice, and was committed for the offence. His emaciated appearance betokened the want and privation which he must have suffered.—*North Devon Advertiser.*

MONTHLY CORN CIRCULAR.—The following is the Circular of the Messrs. Sturge for the present month:—"Birmingham, 9th month 5th, 1844.—From the impossibility of giving any accurate opinion of the prospects of the corn trade, at a time when so much depended on the state of the weather, we did not issue our usual circular at the commencement of last month. The drought continued with very little exception during the whole of the month of July, and the price of wheat gave way about 4s. per quarter; but from the 1st to the 17th of last month, the weather was unsettled, and though the quantity of rain which fell was not large, it caused some reaction in the price of old wheat, and a good deal of the new in the early districts was secured in very indifferent condition. More recently, the weather has been very fine and warm, and the later crops are harvested in excellent order. Our markets are well supplied with new wheat, the quality of which is, with very little exception, fine, but the condition various. Some of the best and driest samples weigh as much as 64lbs. per bushel. The small stocks of old wheat, added to the failure of the crop in the great corn-growing districts in the north of Europe, and the deficiency in all other kinds of agricultural produce, will operate against very low prices for wheat during the ensuing winter; notwithstanding we have, as usual in dry seasons, more than an average crop of wheat in the midland, southern, and western counties of England. The stock of wheat in bond at Gloucester is about 11,000 quarters. The free does not exceed 4000 quarters. Dantzig wheat sells slowly at 6s. 6d.. Polish Odessa 6s. to 6s. 3d., hard 5s. 6d. to 5s. 9d. per 60lbs., at Gloucester. English new sells at 5s. 10d. to 6s. 4d. per 62lbs., at Birmingham.—The crop of barley, as generally anticipated, is greatly affected by the dry weather, and in this part of the country turns out, with few exceptions, from one-half to one-third deficient; but, as it was not ripe so early as wheat, it is secured in better condition. The sale for all qualities is large at 29s. to 34s. per quarter at Gloucester, for foreign. Should our prices be as high as expected, we may get some fine from France, but we do not look for any of even fair quality from the Baltic before the spring, if then. English new is held with us at 40s. to 44s., and the latter price has been obtained.—Oats in this district are a light crop, and, although in Ireland they appear to have suffered much less from the dry weather than with us, the general testimony of our correspondents is that this grain will prove below an average both in quantity and quality, and we have recently had an improved demand at somewhat lower prices; and the stocks of oats at Gloucester, which a month since were very large, are now reduced into a moderate compass. Light foreign have been disposed of as low as 18s.; Irish, 19s.; heavy 19s. to 20s. 9d. per 312lbs., at Gloucester.—Beans, hay, and turnips may be considered as an almost entire failure. In many cases beans have not been thought worth the trouble of gathering. Hay with us is about the same price by weight as oats. The bean crop is said to be more or less deficient wherever grown, not only on the Continent, but in Egypt.—The reports of the potato crop, as far as it has been tested, are also very unfavourable, and they find a ready sale at high prices. Altogether, the agricultural produce for feeding cattle, horses, and pigs, is so short, that, although the imports of oats, barley, beans, and peas, into Gloucester, the last three months, have exceeded 10,000 quarters, the most part is already gone into consumption."

PRICE OF WHEAT.—Wheat sold last Saturday week in Peterborough market, weight 18st. 12lbs. per sack, at 43s.; at Lynn, wheat sold Saturday, the 7th, weight 18st. 6lbs., at Mr. Cobden's predicted price, 40s. per quarter. Wheat never heavier, and more than an average crop, in the fens and marshes. I am going from here through Rutland, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, and several other counties, from which I shall send you information how they are going on. I never heard such complaints amongst the farmers since I was born. I have talked to several who say that Mr. Cobden is a true prophet.—*Correspondent.*

THE COAL TRADE.—The formation of a company is in contemplation to introduce steam-vessels upon a new construction into this description of trade. The enormously increased consumption of coal renders it an exceedingly desirable object that every effort should be made to supply that mineral as cheaply and quickly as possible, and it appears somewhat singular that no successful adaptation of modern improvements has hitherto been made in the construction and arrangement of vessels so employed. We find that upwards of 10 000 colliers entered the port of London last year, the consumption being about 3,000,000 tons; and if it be satisfactorily shown that a steam-vessel from 300 to 500 tons can be brought to London, and land her cargo at any wharf between the bridges, for 2s. 6d. a ton less freight than at present charged, we think the utility of the company cannot be doubted.—*Mining Journal.*

IGNORANCE THE PARENT OF CRIME.—We deem it our duty always to place prominently before our readers such facts as may come to our knowledge, in proof of the motto which we have placed at the head of this article. We do so in order to stimulate parents, who can afford it, to impart to their children sound mental and moral instruction, and to enforce on the higher and middle classes the necessity of educating the offspring of the poor, if they desire to see rising up around them a virtuous and happy population. The Government report of the state of the Model Prison, at Parkhurst, in the Isle of Wight, supplies further and conclusive evidence that, generally speaking, the inmates of our gaols are the ignorant and the neglected. Since the opening of that prison, 596 persons, whose ages vary from eleven to twenty, have been admitted, and the following statistics exhibit their comparative attainments:—

	Capacity of reading.	Capacity of writing.
Well	21	7
Tolerably	131	110
Imperfectly	233	172
Scarcely at all	95	66
Not at all	116	241
	596	596

It thus appears that only 21 out of the 596 were able to read *well*, and only 7 to write well. Scarcely any of them had any knowledge of Scripture, the meaning of words, or general information, and upwards of 100 were altogether without instruction. Facts like these, whilst they prove how the children of the poor are neglected, ought to rouse society to a right appreciation and a prompt performance of their duty.—*Sunderland Herald.*

THE MANUFACTURE OF POTTERY, EARTHENWARE, AND GLASS.—The following are the numbers given in the recently published Occupation Abstract of the Census Returns of 1841, of the persons employed in the manufacture of pottery, earthenware, and glass, in Great Britain:—

	Males. 20 and upwards.	Males. Under 20.	Females. 20 and upwards.	Females. Under 20.	Total.
Pottery, china, and earthenware	12438	5028	3978	3330	24774
Glass & glass bottle	5548	1605	234	77	7464
Total	17986	6633	4212	3407	32238

These manufactures are principally carried on in the counties of Stafford, Worcester, Salop, Derby, Northumberland, and the West Riding of the county of York.

COMMERCE WITH MOROCCO.—In 1839 the commerce of England and France with Morocco was as follows:—

	Imports into Morocco.	Exports from Morocco.
England	£457,760	£356,560
France	82,840	79,560

The existing commercial treaty between England and Morocco is upon the most friendly conditions—the subjects of England being admitted unreservedly to all "the privileges which other powers enjoy at present, and if hereafter any further indulgences be granted to any other power, the greatest share shall be extended to the friendly nation by the Emperor of Morocco."

COST OF WAR.—A French journal asserts that the losses sustained by the Emperor of Morocco since the commencement of hostilities with France are estimated at 30,000,000 of francs, and this loss is every day increased by the cessation of commerce, and the impossibility of collecting taxes.

THE FUNDS.

	SAT. Sept. 7	MON. Sept. 9	TUES. Sept. 10	WED. Sept. 11	THURS. Sept. 12	FRI. Sept. 13
Bank Stock	—	200½	200½	—	—	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	99¾	99¾	99½	99½	99⅜	99⅜
3½ per Ct. Red. Ann	Shut.	—	—	—	—	—
3½ per Ct. Ann. new	Shut.	—	—	—	—	—
Long An. Ex. 1860	—	12 7-16	12 5-16	12 5-16	12 5-16	—
Cons. for Acc.	99¾	100	99¾	99½	99¾	99⅞
Exc. Bills, pm.	75	75 7	75 7	76	74 6	—
Ind. Bds. und. 1000l	—	96	94	—	94	—
India Stock	284	283½	282½	283½	—	—
Belgian Bonds	103½	103½	—	103½	—	—
Brazilian Bonds	85	86	86½	87	87¾	—
Buenos Ayres	86	86	—	—	86½	—
Chilian	104	104	—	—	—	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	14	14½	13¾	14½	—	14½
Danish	89½	90	—	—	—	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	100¾	100¾	100¾	100 7-16	100¾	100⅞
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	62½	62⅞	62⅞	62½	62½	62⅞
Mexican	85½	86	86	86½	85⅞	86
Peruvian	24½	25	24¾	25	—	—
Portug. conv.	45	46	46	46	46	46½
Spanish 5 per Ct.	23	23½	23½	24	23¾	24
Do. 3 per Cent.	34	34	34½	34½	34½	34¾

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

MARK-LANE, Monday, Sept. 9.—The supply of English Wheat this morning was not large, and the quality and condition of most of it was very inferior. The best samples were readily taken off at the prices of this day week, but the rest were sold at a decline varying from 1s. to 3s. according to quality. There was rather more inquiry for the best descriptions of Foreign; but the trade in secondary qualities was about the same as last week The prices of Barley, Beans, and Peas were firmly maintained: there were but few samples of new of either of those descriptions of Grain. There was a fair supply of Foreign Oats during last week, but short of Irish. This morning there appeared to be rather less demand from the country than of late, and the high prices at which Oats are held had the effect of checking business. S. H. LUCAS and SON.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk Old Red	40 to 48	White 44 to 52
—— Ditto ..... New	40 — 45	— 40 — 50
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Old	40 — 46	— 42 — 48
—— Scotch	40 — 44	— 42 — 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire		Feed 20 — 21
—— Ditto ..... Dittb	Short 21 — 22	Polands 22 — 24
—— Scotch	Feed 22 — 24	Potato 25 — 26
—— Limerick	— 21 — 22	Short 22 — 23
—— Cork		20 — 21
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork	Black	19 — 20
—— Westport		19 6 — 20 6
—— Galway		18 6 — 19 6
Barley, New		30 — 36
Beans, Mazagan	32 — 33	Tick 32 — 34
—— Harrow	35 — 37	Small — — 40
—— Old Tick		— — —
Peas, White, New		32 — 36
—— Grey	30 to 31	Maple 32 — 33
Flour, Best Town-made	per sack of 280 lbs	40 — 43
—— Norfolk and Suffolk	— —	34 — 36

FOREIGN.

Per Imperial Quarter

		FREE.	IN BOND
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed		48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.
—— Rostock		47 — 54	
—— Stettin		44 — 52	
—— Hamburgh		42 — 48	
—— Odessa		42 — 46	
—— Ditto	Polish	47 — 50	
—— Russian	soft	42 — 46	
—— Ditto	hard	40 — 44	
—— Spanish	Red	45 — 49	
—— Ditto	White	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding		26 — 29	— — —
—— Distilling		30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel		18 — 19	12 — 13
—— Swedish		19 — 20	13 — 14
—— Stralsund		20 — 21	14 — 15
—— Dutch Feed		19 — 20	13 — 14
—— —— Brew		21 — 23	15 — 17
—— —— Polands		— — —	18 — 19
Beans, Egyptian		27 — 29	20 — 22
Peas, White		30 — 34	— — —
—— Ditto Boilers		32 — 35	— — —
Flour, Canada	per barrel of 196 lbs	27 — 29	— — —
—— United States	— —	27 — 29	20 — 22
—— Dantzig	— —	26 — 28	— — —

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Sept. 2 to Sept. 7, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	5429	98	362	338	649
Scotch	—	—	1513	—	—
Irish	—	—	2031	—	—
Foreign	5730	6126	7235	1355	1309

Flour, 5734 sacks, 182 bars.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending Sept. 10, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat	2911	48s. 9d.	Rye	78	36s. 8d.
Barley	555	29s. 5d.	Beans	456	32s. 6d.
Oats	8852	20s. 10d.	Peas	531	37s. 5d.

FRIDAY, Sept. 13.—The supply of Wheat since Monday is very moderate; of Barley only 320 quarters of English have arrived, with about 5000 quarters of foreign. There is not a single cargo of Irish Oats reported, and only four or five small cargoes from abroad. The attendance of buyers of all descriptions of grain is small, and there is, therefore, but little business doing. Monday's prices are maintained for Wheat, Barley, Beans, and Peas; Oats are held for an advance of 6d., with which necessitous buyers are obliged to comply. The duty on Beans fell yesterday to 6s. 6d.

S. H. LUCAS and SON.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 9th of September to the 13th of September, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat	5890	—	1430
Barley	320	—	5570
Oats	680	—	4590

Flour, 2880 sacks.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES Weeks ending

	Wheat. s.	d.	Barley. s.	d.	Oats. s.	d.	Rye. s.	d.	Beans. s.	d.	Peas. s.	d.
3rd August	51	0	34	0	20	3	37	6	34	7	36	5
10th "	48	10	34	6	20	1	35	9	35	0	34	2
17th "	49	1	34	6	20	0	35	11	35	7	33	7
24th "	50	4	33	3	20	4	36	8	35	10	34	0
31st "	50	11	34	11	20	7	34	2	37	0	33	10
7th Sept.	48	6	35	9	20	5	—	—	38	1	—	

Aggregate Average of the Six Weeks.—Wheat, 49s. 9d.; Barley, 34s. 6d.; Oats, 20s. 3d.; Rye, ——; Beans, 36s.; Peas, ——.

Duty.—Wheat, 20s. 0d.; Barley, 4s. 0d.; Oats, 6s. 0d.; Rye, ——; Beans, 6s. 6d.; Peas, ——.

Stock of Corn in Bond, Aug. 5, 1844.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.	Flour.
In London,	112565	58752	27839	—	22711	7628	50500
Unit. King.	351549	108416	72399	2221	79452	42814	215576

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6.

BANKRUPTS.

J. QUY, White Roothing, Essex, dealer in cattle. [Ashley, Shoreditch.

T. ROLLINGS, Ingram-court, Fenchurch-street, wine and general merchant. [Goddard, King-street, Cheapside.

L. SOTHERS and W. PERRITT, Gravesend, grocers. [Thompson and Co., St. Swithin's-lane.

T. BAILEY and J. BAILEY, Kingscliffe, Northamptonshire, toy dealers. [Goddard, King-street, Cheapside.

R. T. DOCKERY, Dartford, Kent, market gardener. [Jermyn, Walbrook-buildings.

C. R. TERRILL, Carey-street, Chancery-lane, victualler. [Robinson, Ironmonger-lane.

R. PETTIGREW, jun., Woolwich, tailor. [Hine and Robinson, Charterhouse-square.

H. CLARKE, Sheffield, builder. [Ryalls, Sheffield; Blackburn, Leeds.

J. KITCHEN, Stockport, Cheshire, corn and flour dealer. [Johnson and Co., King's Bench-walk; Ferns, Stockport.

L. A. REGNAULT, Cheltenham, milliner. [Pike, Old Burlington-street.

DIVIDENDS.

Oct. 1. J. Tratt, Berners-street, Oxford-street, plumber—Sept. 28. W. Timmis, Longton, Staffordshire, draper—Sept. 27. T. Higginson, Liverpool, pawnbroker—Oct. 9. S. Speakman, Preston, Lancashire, ship builder—Oct. 3. E. Fozzard, Dobcroes in Saddleworth, Yorkshire, dyer—Oct. 2. T. F. Clarke, Liverpool, draper—Oct. 2. S. Meredith, Liverpool, linendraper—Oct. 2. J. Buckley and Co., Manchester, cotton manufacturers.

CERTIFICATES.

Oct. 7. J. Avery, Mincing-lane, colonial broker—Oct. 1. J. Young, Aldermanbury, laceman—Oct. 1. E. B. Lamb, Burton-crescent, St. Pancras, builder—Sept. 28. J. Tucker, Sutton-street, Commercial-road East, ship builder—Sept. 28. C Beavis, Shirley, Hants, carpenter—Sept. 28. J. Dunphy, Burford, Oxfordshire, victualler—Sept. 28. T. J. Swaine Hatfield, Woodside, Hertfordshire, innholder—Sept. 28. C. Cope, Edgbaston, Warwickshire, wine merchant—Sept. 28. E. Jones, West Bromwich, Staffordshire, dealer in iron—Oct. 3. G. Grantham, Manchester, grocer—Sept. 30. E. Fozzard, Dobcross in Saddleworth, Yorkshire, dyer—Sept. 27. J. Levett, Soham, Cambridgeshire, carpenter—Sept. 27. N. Procter, Meanwood, Yorkshire, tanner—Sept. 27. J. L. Smith, Leicester, cabinet maker—Sept. 27. W. Thompson and J. Mellis, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchants—Sept 27. A. Westmore, West Derby, Lancashire, joiner—Sept. 27. M. Brown and S. Bromley, Denton, Lancashire, hat manufacturers.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

T. STEVENSON, Edinburgh, general agent.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. SISON, Brighton, dealer in toys.

BANKRUPTS.

A. J. WARRILLOW, Sekforde-street, Clerkenwell, fancy stationer. [Scott, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane.

J. HOOK, Nine-elms, contractor. [Sangrove, Mark-lane.

T. SEDGWICK, Leeds, grocer. [Duncan, Featherstone buildings; Unwin, Sheffield; Blackburn, Leeds.

G. BRADSHAW, Welchpool, Montgomeryshire, linendraper. Walker, Furnival's-inn; Bradley, Liverpool.

DIVIDENDS.

Oct. 7. H. F. Turner, Myddelton-street, Clerkenwell, painted baize manufacturer—Oct. 7. W. Hopper, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, carpet warehouseman—Oct. 9. J. Morrison and W. Stone, Harp-lane, Tower-street, wine merchants—Oct. 5. P. Williams and C. Mottram, Wood-street, City, Manchester warehousemen—Oct. 5. R. Chilver, Ipswich, upholsterer—Oct. 16. W. F. Nicholson, Warley, Yorkshire, worsted spinner—Oct. 2. T. H. Thompson, Liverpool, merchant—Oct. 3. T. Molineux, Manchester, silk manufacturer—Oct. 4. T. Hindmarsh, Hartlepool, grocer—Oct. 2. R. Jefferson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, victualler—Oct. 4. J. L. Loraine, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, wine-merchant.

CERTIFICATES.

Oct. 3. I. Munro, Princes-street, Leicester-square, builder—Oct. 3. W. B. Smith, Sudbury, Suffolk, surgeon—Oct. 7. R. Howland, Thame, Oxfordshire, auctioneer—Oct. 7. R. Drew, Compton-street, Regent-square, licensed victualler—Oct. 3. B. Norman, Cheltenham, ironmonger—Oct. 4. J. Barnard, Cheltenham, clothes dealer—Oct. 3. H. S. Bailey, Bingley, Yorkshire, stuff merchant—Oct. 1. R. Baxter, Sheffield, merchant—Oct. 1. G. Parker, Sheffield, spade manufacturer—Oct. 1. J. Cuttell, Holmfirth, Yorkshire, clother—Oct. 1. G. Hocknell, Birmingham, writing clerk—Oct. 1. J. Dixon, Sheffield, linendraper—Oct. 1. F. Stokes, London-wall, French warehouseman.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. SHIELS, Edinburgh, corn dealer—J. MILLER, Uphall, mining engineer.

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Price.
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THE LEAGUE.

No. 52.] SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1844. [3d.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive a copy, weekly, of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of the subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and* addresses *to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND, *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

We beg to inform our subscribers that bound volumes of the LEAGUE *newspaper, containing the whole of the first year's numbers, may be had on application at the Offices either in London or Manchester, after the expiration of the present month.*

THE LABOURER AND HIS FRIENDS.

From the activity displayed by royal and other agricultural societies, a stranger might be induced to believe that the agriculturists of this country are in a prosperous and advancing condition; whereas, all this pomp and circumstance, all these Cereal festivals, are merely symptoms of agricultural uneasiness. Who ever heard of public associations and annual exhibitions as means to promote the improvement of any branch of manufactures? And much as we admire "a short-horned cow," or an "improved Leicester sheep," we do not believe that the beauty of their forms—and beautiful they certainly are—would entitle them to exhibition as works of art. So again, the squirearchy of England would seem from their rural speeches to be altogether immersed in the consideration of plans for the improvement of the condition of agricultural labourers. Yet this is only evidence that public attention has been attracted to the fact that the rural labourers, the "bold peasantry," by whose means all the splendid cattle of the agricultural shows are reared, and on whose labour all projected agricultural improvements depend, are in a state of deep destitution and dangerous degradation. In Suffolk and Norfolk, the wages of the agricultural labourers are 8s. and 9s. a week, and with a large proportion of them employment is uncertain, irregular, and precarious. In Wiltshire, harvest wages have been only 8s. a week, and a very general reduction has lately been made to 7s. a week. Indeed, the writer of the Royal Agricultural Society's "Prize Essay on the Agriculture of Wiltshire," states that the ordinary wages of a farming workman in that county are 7s. a week. And these counties may be taken as examples of the state of the peasantry in the eastern and western counties of England.

Then we have the most important fact, that, while the number of workmen employed in every other kind of industrial occupation had greatly increased during the ten years from 1831 to 1841, there had been, during the same period, an absolute diminution in the number of labourers employed in husbandry. Has this happened because labourers in husbandry are less wanted in 1841 than in 1831? or because improvements in tillage have enabled farmers to grow their produce with less labour? Far from it. All agricultural authorities agree that the soil of this country presents a vast field for the beneficial employment of capital, and that nineteen-twentieths of the farmers in England are sadly deficient in the requisite supply of manual labour. Yet there is no lack of capital seeking profitable investment, and the term "superabundant population" is one of daily use in the rural districts. In truth, according to the actual demand for agricultural labour, there is a superabundance of labourers—two men are usually running after one master. But let any one who has the slightest acquaintance with rural affairs imagine that some considerable part—say one-half—of the land of this country had been cultivated in the same way as the best farmer he knows cultivates his farm, and say whether there would then have been any diminution of the number of labourers employed in husbandry? We know there would not; on the contrary, if one-half of the land in England had been cultivated from 1831 to 1841 up to the average practice of good farmers, there must have been as great, or nearly as great, an increase of the labourers in husbandry as in the other departments of industry during the same decennial period.

Indeed, the circumstance that fewer farm-labourers were employed in 1841 than in 1831 is a decisive proof of the partial character of the much-vaunted modern improvements in agriculture. In every district a few men farm well, adopt many improvements, and secure large produce. These farmers invariably employ a great many labourers, and are the only persons who make farming profitable; but the ordinary farmers have since 1831 been suffering under the alternation of high and low prices, and during many years of that period have been paying rents out of capital. They have decreased the number of their labourers, and the condition of their farms has deteriorated.

Few will venture to gainsay these positions, and when we remember that during the same ten years in which the number of labourers in husbandry has fallen off, the trade and manufactures of the nation have endured several years of most grievous distress from the high price of food, and still have gone on to employ an increasing proportion of the working classes, is it possible to resist the conclusion that there are some peculiar causes affecting the condition of agriculture and the demand for the services of the rural population? It cannot be said that a diminution of *forty thousand* in the farming occupiers and labourers took place between 1831 and 1841, because agriculture was without "adequate protection;" for during the whole time that law, which is now referred to by protectionists as the perfection of Corn-Law legislation, was in existence. Foreign corn came into home consumption only after the British community had endured for some time famine prices; and it came in then under circumstances which secured to the British corn grower, for a brief period, an unnaturally high price. He had a monopoly of the home market secured to him by law, and though in the ten years prices had been as low, if not lower, than they would have been with a free trade in corn, such low prices were caused by the abundance of home produce. This has again occurred in the present year, and in spite of a law giving the home grower a high nominal protection, he is again in a state of great distress. The farmer's distress is caused by his rent being fixed according to a scale of prices much higher than he actually obtains for his produce, as well as from his system of cultivation being adapted only to high prices; and both causes affect the condition of the labourers. It cannot be pretended that the farm-labourers who are constantly employed do not benefit by low prices of provisions; but when the farmer finds that a much larger share of his saleable produce is required to pay his rent than he calculated upon when he engaged his farm, he is compelled to discharge all those labourers whose services are not indispensable to carrying on the farm. It is certain, and the farmer knows it, that by discharging these men his cultivation must go back; but he has hitherto hoped that the low prices would be only temporary, that Government and Parliament would do "something" for the farmers, and that with a *bad harvest* he might recover his lost ground. But in fact he never does recover his lost ground, even when the Corn Laws and artificial scarcity press most heavily upon the consumers; and he is a fortunate man if he can even then pay his rent without further encroachment on his capital. His farm has deteriorated, and it would require not merely the labourers he dispensed with during the low prices, but more labour and more outlay to bring it back to its former state. This he is either unwilling or unable to undertake, and a permanent reduction in the number of his labourers takes place. This is practically the way in which the number of labourers in husbandry has diminished since 1831 under the operation of the Corn Laws. It is not merely low price which causes the discharge of labourers, but a price lower than that upon which the cultivator founded his expectations; for with the majority of farmers those expectations are founded on no calculations. For a price permanently low the farmer would provide by increased and *less expensive* production, and to that end he must employ more labourers. The way in which Corn Laws, by teaching the farmer to look for high prices, introduce a system of low cultivation, is this:—A certain amount of corn—say of wheat, from 18 to 24 bushels an acre—can be grown without maintaining a large stock, and without growing the root and green crops required to keep the stock; and the expectation of receiving the high prices promised by the Corn Laws induces farmers to undertake farms with barely sufficient capital for cropping the land in an ordinary way, but with far too little capital for growing wheat, by the aid of good farming, *at a low cost*. It is notorious that a good crop, though costing more to grow it, is obtained at a less proportional cost than an inferior one; but to grow the better crop requiring more skill, forethought, and outlay in the first instance, is only resorted to by the best farmers, who will, perhaps, give no more rent, and will require more secure tenures than inferior husbandmen. Hence the tendency of the Corn Law is not only to make bad farmers, but to make the owners of land rather prefer the bad to the good farmer. In every way its effect is to diminish the employment of labourers in husbandry. And yet the monopolist landowners have often the assurance to assert that they seek to maintain the Corn Laws for the benefit of the agricultural labourers!

THE SOUTH-WESTERN EXCURSION.

Amongst the most useful as well as the most agreeable results of the railway system, are the excursions to considerable distances at cheap rates, and with the allowance of sufficient time for the travellers to look about them. The operatives of Manchester and Birmingham have thus had, and in great numbers availed themselves of, the opportunity for becoming acquainted with the sights of the metropolis; and many a Londoner who would scarcely have found it practicable, a few years ago, to get beyond the sound of Bow bells, has lounged amongst the beauties of our coast scenery, or had a wholesome wonder excited by the inspection of some grand specimen of manufacturing machinery. Besides the actual amount of enjoyment thus afforded, there is great good in the information obtained, the stimulus given to observation and thought, the abatement of local prejudices, and the raising the general mental qualification of those whose voices tell in the expression of public opinion, and very often their votes in the selection of representative legislators.

During the present week the South-western Railway has offered to a cargo of Londoners conveyance to and from the Isle of Jersey at the cheap fare of 28s. there and back, railway carriage and steam voyage both included, and one week allowed for returning. This excursion was well thought of. The remarkable peculiarities of the Channel Islands, both physical and social, cannot fail to make the tour a most interesting one. It has all the advantages of a visit to a foreign country, combined with a sufficient prevalence of the English language to secure the uneducated traveller from any difficulty or embarrassment. Moreover, it is the very thing which, as Anti-Corn-Law Leaguers, we would have suggested to the railway directors. Jersey is a great school of instruction on Free-Trade and landlords' law-making. Let the metropolitan visitors keep a keen eye when they get there. They will find it as good as a Covent-garden meeting; and a very pleasant way of filling up some of the vacant space, keeping the same object in view, during the suspension of those popular assemblages.

The first sensations of the citizen at the deep blue sky above, and the deep blue sea below, the grotesque rocks and the beautiful bays, will scarcely have subsided before he becomes equally astonished at the cheapness of everything. At the best hotels in St. Helier's he may have every accommodation of bed, board, and sitting-room, at 24s. the week. He will find good bread from five farthings to three halfpence the pound. Ducks, 1s. 6d. per pair. Fine poultry turkeys, 2s. to 3s. each. Gunpowder tea, 5s. per pound. Double-refined sugar, 4½d. to 6½d. per pound; and Brazil, 3d. Port wine, 15s. the dozen; very good sherry at from 1s. to 2s. the bottle. If a brandy-drinker, he will get it good at 3s. 6d. a gallon; and finer than is to be had in England at 7s. the bottle for that same sum a gallon. Hollands, 2s. 10d. to 3s. 4d. the gallon. If he inquire the rent of a house, he will usually find it below even the cheap out-of-the-way country-houses in England; little more than one-half of those in villages near London; and with this important cir-

cumstance, that the rent is all that has to be paid for the house: *there are no taxes.* To be rated, and so have a vote for the local authorities, is a favour which English residents obtain with difficulty, and which, when obtained, is in its amount little more than nominal. The total cost of the island government, which includes all that corresponds with the parish as well as the state expenditure in England, is defrayed by a small import duty on wines and spirits. By this means the whole expenditure is met, even to that of mending the roads. There is no such thing as a tollbar on the island. The roads and the port are alike free, with the trifling but sufficient exception just mentioned. Hence the striking contrast with the price of similar articles in England. A hundred pounds per annum there is worth at least one hundred and fifty on the island; more, rather than less; for the difference in currency must be added to that already made apparent in our list, and this alone is considerable. The English shilling goes for thirteenpence in Jersey, so that after all the cheapness, when the Londoner comes to the payment, he will be yet more delighted to find, on proffering the nominal amount, that he may "take his change out of that."

Why is all this? Not because Jersey is a little island, and Great Britain a large one. No: it is simply because Jersey has, by ancient charter, and for the political purpose of conciliating a people whose natural connexion would rather seem to be with France, the privilege of Free Trade. There is the whole secret and mystery of the matter. The difference, as to bread, sugar, &c., is what we in England have to pay for monopoly. What is not resolvable into that cause may be placed to the account of a system of aristocratical taxation, which spares property, to plunder industry. The cheapness of Jersey, as compared with England, or rather the dearness of England as compared with Jersey, is artificial not natural; it is solely the result of subordinating the interests of the many to those of the few.

The bread in Jersey is very good. It is generally made from *foreign* wheat. There is plenty of home-grown corn. The soil is exuberantly fertile. But the Jersians eat bread made from Prussian or Danish corn, and send their own wheat to England, thus buying at the cheap market of Free Trade, and selling in the dear market of monopoly. A thriving trade this; and one that makes Master Bull look rather ridiculous. 'Tis true, he is used to it. His beloved negroes in the West Indies enjoy Brazilian sugar, even after it has voyaged to England and been refined in bond; and sweeten therewith the liberty which their late owners make a cant word of, to extract a protection duty from the English poor. The landed proprietors in Jersey are of course favourable to the existing Free Trade, on the one side, and the existing monopoly on the other. *Seven pounds* per acre is the average rent of land in Jersey. Enormous as this may seem, the thrifty farmers manage to live. Nor is that accomplished by any peculiar degree of skill. They are as averse from all improvement as most of their tribe.

One Jerseyman was lately using a modern Scotch swing plough—two horses and one man only required—one-foot furrow; and another in the next field the old-fashioned Jersey plough—twelve horses and several men—eleven inches furrow only. The former politely invited the latter to see the improved plough, which makes a deeper furrow than the old one, with so much less labour and expense. The latter replied, "He would neither walk three yards, nor give a d—n, to see any plough but the good old big Jersey one."

For persons of limited incomes, Jersey is a paradise; especially if they like a warm climate. It offers little attraction to the working classes. Whatever perversion may be made of the fact, it is right to mention that wages are low. We see no evidence that the freedom of trade causes this evil; on the contrary, it mitigates the mischief which it has not prevented. Two reasons for the fact offer themselves to notice: first, a large influx of poor Irish, those colonists and missionaries of pauperism; attracted chiefly by the low price of spirituous liquors. Even the pledged Irish are here out of Father Mathew's sight. And secondly, the prevailing agricultural character of the island. The natives do not know what a factory means. Agriculture alone always debases the labourers to serfdom. It is so here. The little tenant-farmers are farmers, labourers, carriers, fishermen, &c., all in one. There must be manufactures to keep up wages. Except shoemaking, for British North America, whither from 10,000 to 20,000 pairs are annually exported, scarcely anything is made in Jersey. And yet the natural produce (especially of apples for cider), and the foreign trade, render it rich and thriving; the landowners and shipowners being the principal recipients.

The London visitor will be wise to keep out of the clutches of Jersey law, which seems constructed for the special behoof of the proprietary, and is marvellously fitted, though by foul means, to exclude English intrusion into the possession of their little feudalities. But for this part of the subject, such birds of passage as our steamed friends may consult their books afterwards. They may haply see enough to set them inquiring; and we put that down as so much more good achieved by the cheap excursion. They cannot read much on the subject without additional reason for reflection on the consequences of attaching legislative powers to the possession of landed property.

And so, *bon voyage* to the South-western cargo for the Channel Islands. Thanks to the locomotive for its co-operation in the struggle against monopoly. As the stars, in their courses, fought against Sisera, so do the steamers, in their courses, fight against Richmond. The Free-Trade agitation could never have accomplished what it has, but for railways. They multiplied our meetings, and gave ubiquity to our missionaries. Thanks, again, to the penny postage, the other great and strong arm of our cause. All good things are in alliance: mechanical invention fights for social right; physical discovery aids moral improvement; harmless enjoyment excites useful thought; and the progress of invention facilitates the triumph of justice.

THE REGISTRATION COURTS.

In the constitutional struggle to obtain the emancipation of British industry from the unwise and unjust restrictions imposed upon it by selfish monopoly, Free-Traders should ever bear in mind that victory must be won by and through the agency of the electoral body. The franchise is our weapon of war, and it must be sought in the armory which the Reform Bill has provided. It is of the utmost importance that our friends should look after their votes in the registration courts, so as to be prepared for the great struggle at an election, which may come when it is least expected. The importance of personally appearing before the revising barrister does not appear to be sufficiently understood; it is valuable not merely for the purpose of establishing the right of vote, but also as an evidence that Free-Traders will not relax in their efforts to obtain justice, and that they look for success to the right use of the means which the Constitution has provided. If any incentive were requisite to urge Free-Traders to the performance of this duty, it would be found in the alarm which the steadiness of attention our friends are paying to the registration has excited in the monopolist ranks. In the *Morning Herald* of Tuesday there appeared an article of most melancholy mirth, designed to deter Free-Traders from attending to the business of registration. Having announced the utter extinction of the League some dozen times, the *Morning Herald* is now content to allow of its existence, though in a state of weakness and decay; and in the next breath discovers that the League is not only alive, but has formed revolutionary projects which could only suggest themselves to a body in the very vigour of power, and animated by the confidence of permanent vitality. It informs us that, "the proceedings of the League are not only grossly unconstitutional, but, according to the old reading of our duties, actually illegal and punishable as breaches of law." One would have thought that recent events might have inculcated the propriety of a little more caution. But this puerile threatening is not destitute of significance; it shows that the Free-Traders have found out the weak point in the lines of monopoly, and that the monopolists are forced to cover their apprehensions by a vaunted assumption of security which betrays their real fears.

The classes to which the elective franchise has been delegated should look on the right of voting as a sacred trust, which it is scarcely less improper to neglect than to use injuriously. Registration, which secures the right of voting, is an act of duty; it affords the only available means by which the unjust system of monopoly can be safely and surely abolished. *We are anxious that Free-Traders should make themselves familiar with the business of registration.* The law of the subject is not very difficult; a man of ordinary understanding can easily master both its principles and details; we therefore strenuously recommend the active members of our associations in town and country to attend diligently to the registrations, and, so far as possible, to be personally present in the registration courts. Every hour thus spent will be equivalent to days of labour at a general election; and every man should act as if the final result depended on his own individual exertions.

We must, of course, be prepared to find every constitutional exertion to secure a Free-Trade constituency assailed with all the coarseness and virulence which distinguish the monopolist press. But, instead of being daunted by such attacks, they should afford us fresh ground of encouragement, for their anger will be in the direct proportion of the success of our efforts. We must never forget that the object which the League has been formed to attain is one that involves no organic change, but is simply the removal of an oppressive burden—a burden imposed for the pretended benefit of one class at the expense of all other classes, and a burden which the Population Report proves to have been injurious to the very classes which it professes to serve, for the returns show that agriculture becomes annually less and less adequate to provide support for the population. The Corn Laws were, and are, a mischievous innovation; the repealers of the Corn Laws seek only to return to the ancient and equitable system, now that the device of a sliding-scale has been demonstrated to be fraught with grievous injury to the interests of the general community. Every member of the constituent body is called upon to give his vote either for the abatement of this mischievous nuisance or for the continuance of monopoly; neglect of securing the right to vote is little better than desertion to the enemy. We therefore exhort Free-Traders to exert themselves strenuously in the registration courts; there the battle must be fought, and there, we doubt not, the victory will be won.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.

We are requested to insert the following letter from Mr. Joseph Reynolds, the son of the celebrated philanthropist:—

"Bristol, July, 1844.

"Dear Friend,—I presume it is in the recollection of the Committee of the Bristol Auxiliary to the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, or some of them, that the efforts made by the Committee of that Society to uphold the law which in effect prohibits the importation of Cuban and Brazilian sugars for our own use was objected to by me and some others, as erroneous in principle and injurious in its effects; and I have now to request thee to submit to the Committee of the Bristol Auxiliary that as the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, at a special meeting called together for the purpose of considering the propriety of continuing to support that prohibitory law, has authorised their Committee to continue their support of that law, it appears to be my duty to withdraw from the Bristol Auxiliary of that Society, because,

"1st. The refusal by those who govern this country to permit the importation of Cuban and Brazilian sugars for our own consumption is a direct infraction of the law of God. 'Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so unto them.'

"2nd. The refusal to import and use such sugars is highly injurious to the people of this kingdom; is partial in its operation, weighing heavily on the middle and labouring classes of the community; and is a breach of the ancient constitution of England.

"3rd. Every prohibitory law is an impediment to the progressive increase of that commercial intercourse between nations through which they confer reciprocal benefits on each other, and which is, in the ordering of Providence, instrumental in preparing mankind for the reception of permanent and universal peace. Therefore every law which prohibits or restrains the progress of commerce tends to prolong the practice of war, and ought to be repealed.

"4th. Though this nation, and those by whom it is governed, are awfully responsible for their breach of the divine law, 'to do as we would be done by,' they are not responsible for the conduct of other nations, over whose internal arrangements they have not, and ought not to, have any control.

"5th. The lawfulness or unlawfulness of using sugar, or any other product of slave labour, is a question of conscience; like that respecting the use of meat which had been offered unto idols, which was proposed to the Apostle and by him answered, 'Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no questions for conscience' sake;' yet the consumption of that meat contributed to the encouragement and support of idolatry.

"6th. As the Apostle asks, 'Why is this my liberty (to eat such meat) to be judged of (or condemned) by another man's conscience? for, if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks?' So they who would thankfully eat the prohibited sugar may ask why they are to be deprived of that liberty by the judgment of other men's consciences? And they have the precept and example of the Apostle to support them, in claiming to have the law by which they are deprived of that liberty repealed by the Parliament of England.

"7th. Though the British nation has of late years been sufficiently enlightened to perceive the unchristian nature of slavery so clearly that it would be criminal in us to practise it, our having liberated our slaves does not justify us in imputing criminality to those nations which have not been so enlightened, and continue to retain a system of labour which was practised by their forefathers, has been sanctioned and established by the laws of perhaps every civilized nation, and was recognised in that law which was given through the instrumentality of Moses to the Israelites; nor have we a right to refuse to share the benefits of commerce, and to cultivate feelings of kindness and good will with other states employing slave labour, in order to do away with slavery, or even to prevent an increase of their present sufferings, because it would be to do evil that good may come of it.

"These are my conscientious convictions, the result of long and serious consideration; and they are respectfully offered to the consideration of the Committee of the Bristol Auxiliary Society, in the hope that, though they may not concur with me in these views, they will give me credit for estimating very highly the character, talents, and humanity of the Committee of the Parent Society, and for the desiring the abolition of slavery and commiserating the condition of the negroes as sincerely as ever; and I will thank thee, as the Bristol Secretary, to lay this paper before the Committee, on behalf of their friend,

"JOSEPH REYNOLDS.

"To Thomas Doyle, Secretary to the Bristol Auxiliary Anti-Slavery Society."

TAHITI.—During the year 1843, the arrivals and departures of commercial vessels at and from the Island of Tahiti, amounted to 98; viz., 67 whalers, measuring 22,517 tons, with 1068 men; 118,200 casks of oil, valued at 8,545,200f.; 12 other trading vessels, measuring 3906 tons, and crews amounting to 234 men; and 12 coasting vessels, measuring 302 tons, and navigated by 61 men.—*Morning Herald.*

AN INQUIRY INTO THE EFFECTS OF ENGLISH LEGISLATION UPON AGRICULTURAL WAGES, PROFITS, AND RENT.

By a Barrister.

(*Continued from page* 806.)

Chapter VI.

Sixth Period—From the Passing of the Corn Law of 1815, *to the Passing of the Poor Law of* 1834.

"The Corn Laws," says Mr. Tooke,* "were inoperative, or nearly so, between 1792 and 1815." Mr. Tooke seems to attribute the high prices which prevailed previously to 1815 to the combined influence of the war and the seasons. However that may be, the Corn Law of 1791 imposed the prohibitory duty of 25s. the quarter until the price was 51s. 6d.; then, in 1804, until the price was 64s. 11d., the duty was 31s. 3d., which was advanced to 34s. 4d. in 1809, and to 40s. 9d. in 1813.† During that period of twenty-four years we find that the average export price of wheat at St. Petersburgh was 34s. 7d.‡ But if there can be any doubt as to the Corn Laws being operative from 1791 to 1815, there can be none with respect to the law of 1815, which fixed 83s. 6d. (the imperial quarter) as the lowest price at which importation could take place. The poor law of 1796—which legalized payments from the poor rates to labourers in aid of wages—and the Corn Law of 1815 were now, therefore, at work together; and the evidence produced before the various Parliamentary committees, particularly the select committee of the House of Commons on labourers' wages in 1824, and the select committee of the House of Lords on the poor laws in 1830 and 1831, together with the vast body of evidence collected by the commissioners appointed by his Majesty, in 1832 to make a full inquiry into the practical operation of the laws for the relief of the poor in England and Wales, affords us an opportunity of observing their joint operation upon the condition of the agricultural labourer.

It is stated in the report of the committee of 1824, that

"In some counties, as in Bedfordshire, wages are kept so low that it is utterly impossible for the labourer to support a wife and child without parish assistance."—*Report*, p. 3.

Upon the allowance system it is remarked, that

"Persons who have no need of farm-labour are obliged to contribute to the payment of work done for others. This must be the case wherever the labourers necessarily employed by the farmers receive from the parish any part of the wages which, if not so paid, would be paid by the farmers themselves."—*Report*, p. 4.

Mr. Thomas Bowyer, Buckden, Huntingdonshire, gave in evidence that the following were the average prices of the wheat sold, and the wages paid by him, from 1815 to 1824:—

Year.	Wheat.	Wages.
1815	8s. 3d.	14s.
1816	8s. 10d.	11s. 6d.
1817	11s. 1d.	11s. 6d.
1818	9s. 2d.	11s. 6d.
1819	10s. 0d.	12s. 0d.
1820	8s. 6d.	11s. 9d.
1821	8s. 0d.	11s. 6d.
1822	6s. 6d.	10s. 6d.
1823	5s. 6d.	7s. 6d.
1824	7s. 0d.	8s. 6d.

"Those are the prices that I have taken from the average of my own books within my own parish what I have paid for my labour and what I have received for my wheat; my sales have been regular throughout the year; it is a system that I have adopted; I have sold regularly. I dare say some people, if they were asked the price of wheat, would give it higher than I do; but this is not taken from my trade books, but from my farm books. I have inquired the price of a material article of expenditure, which is shoes, and I find that is a very heavy expense upon our labourers; for instance, now it costs our men 30s. a year for shoes; the price of a pair of shoes for a labourer, in the first year I commenced, was 14s. 6d. a pair; they got down from 1s. to 1s. 6d. a pair in 1819 and 1820, and they have now got back again to 14s. a pair; my labourers are in the habit of saying that they feel the expense of shoes more than any thing; it does not cost them less than 30s. a year for shoes; I presume that the expenses of other parishes are very similar to those of my own, I do not know any difference in other places."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 22.

"Do you consider the general mode of living of the labourers at present better or worse than it was when you first remember it?—Worse."—*Ibid.*, p. 28.

Mr. John Dauns, of Little Stukeley, near Huntingdon, was asked,—

"Have you any savings' banks in your neighbourhood? Yes.

"Do you find the labourers often put money into them?—No.

"What is the average price of labour now?—9s.

"Is not that more than is sufficient for the support of a single man?—Most certainly; he might save half of it, and if he cannot save half that, what is the labourer with a family to do, who has four children to maintain with that?

"You do not find many instances of labourers laying by part of those earnings in a savings' bank?—I should think not one."

* * * * *

"Have you observed any change in the condition and character of the labourers within your remembrance?—Very much.

"Has it changed for the better or for the worse?—For the worse."—*Minutes of Evidence*, pp. 29, 30.

"What was the rate of wages at the former period?—Not so much as it is now. I remember wages at 6s. a week.

"You attribute the change, then, to the great variations in the prices of labour and provisions which have occurred within your memory?—In some measure I do.

* * * * *

"Do you think commons tend to the comfort or discomfort of the poor?—I think, perhaps, the enclosure was rather an injury; there were some little people who kept a cow, or two cows, who were glad to sell their milk, which the poor are always glad of.

"How were those cows fed, then?—They hired little bits of land to grow hay upon.

"Does not the enclosure create a demand for labour?—Yes, at the first part of the time, but not afterwards. I think if there was much waste ground in the parish, and that was taken into cultivation, that would create more labour; but if the parish was all arable, that would make very little difference."—*Ibid.*, pp. 31, 32.

Mr. Stephen Bourne, of Tolbridge, Dorsetshire, being asked what was the usual manner of paying labourers there, replied:—

"The overseers are principally farmers, and they have a scale furnished to them by the magistrates of what the magistrates will allow the paupers; they probably hire the labourers as low as they can, from 4s. to 5s., or 6s., and at the very extreme 7s., the natural consequence of which is, that the families are obliged either to starve, or to go to the parish.

"You think the average wages are not more than 6s.?—Not more than 6s.

"That is barely sufficient for the support of a man and his wife and two children?—It is not sufficient."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 32.

"Have you any savings' bank?—At Sherborne there is a very considerable one, and at Shaftesbury, and at Blandford; and there is a branch of it in our parish.

"Do you find the labourers put money in it?—I am not able to speak to that; I am quite sure they cannot in any large quantity, because I know the rate of wages is not enough to maintain them.—*Ibid.*, p. 33.

The Rev. Philip Hunt, LL.D., a magistrate for the county of Bedford, was asked:—

"Is it usual for the parishes to pay any part for the wages of labourers employed by the farmers?—I believe that the rate of payment of labourers has been reduced so low, of late years, that it is impossible for a labourer who is married, and has a family (with the greatest energy, assiduity, and economy, on the part of himself and his wife), to support his family without aid from the parish rates.

"What are the wages usually paid to a single man?—At present, I believe, not more than 5s. a week, frequently less.

"Do you suppose that it is possible for a labourer to lay by anything out of those wages?—I do not think that an unmarried labourer in Bedfordshire is in a situation to lay by anything from his earnings; I would say it is almost impossible for him to support life on his actual wages, if he has lodgings or medicines to pay for, in addition to the expense of food and clothing.

"Do you not consider that the character of the agricultural population generally, in that part of the country, is thereby greatly degraded?—I think it is very much so; and I conceive the evil to flow originally from the very low rate at which the labour of an able-bodied single man has of late years been estimated; he cannot lay by any money against the time he may wish to marry; he can scarcely indulge any temporary gratification without having recourse to other means than labour: and in counties where game preserves are very numerous, the resource of poaching immediately presents itself to him. If detected, he cannot pay the penalty, and is consequently sent to prison, where he remains three months, and where he sees other persons not suffering a greater penalty for petty larceny. When he is at length liberated, perhaps he goes a step further in delinquency, and he commits an offence that he knows will not be visited more severely than poaching; he breaks open a dove-house, or he steals poultry, and other half-protected property, and probably he is sent to prison again, and in the end becomes a confirmed depredator or felon; whereas, if he could have gratified an occasional wish for any extra little enjoyment by what he could have saved out of his wages, the first temptation to crime would not have presented itself so strongly to his mind.

"Has there been, in fact, a great increase of crime in the county in which you reside?—I am afraid that I must say that crime has very much increased in Bedfordshire within the last fourteen years (1810—24).

"Have you any means of comparing the state of crime at present with that of a period still further back?—I have not at present the means of giving any accurate information upon that point; but the impression on my mind is, that crime has been very much on the increase amongst the labouring class of the inhabitants since the wages for agricultural labour has fallen so low as it lately has been.

"What are the lowest wages you have known given to a single man?—Three shillings and sixpence a week.

* * * * *

"Have you many savings' banks in your county?—There are three or four in the county of Bedford.

"Do you find many labourers depositing money in them?—I am persuaded that there are scarcely any agricultural labourers who deposit in the savings' banks. Deposits seem to be confined, in general, to domestic servants, to journeymen, and to little annuitants, that save something out of their incomes."

In reference to the labour-rate (as it was called), the principle of which was to make the shopkeepers and others pay a part of the wages of farm-labourers, Dr. Hunt was asked:—

"Then, if you were to exempt small tenements, that objection would be done away with?—The hardship would not be done away with, unless you exempted every individual that does not want hired labour."—*Minutes of Evidence*, pp. 33, 36, 38, 40.

The Rev. Henry Walter, rector of Haselbury Brian, county of Dorset, was asked:—

"What wages did they (the labourers) receive from their employers?—They had stated wages at tenpence or a shilling.

"Do you imagine that any single men labouring in the parish could lay by anything out of their wages?—If they could, it must be from exceedingly frugal habits, which are the habits certainly of that district. With regard to the mode of living, they live almost entirely on tea and potatoes: they take tea three times a day.

"Do they use milk and sugar with their tea?—I think they use sugar certainly; milk not often, though it is a dairy county.

"Do they eat meat?—Very seldom indeed."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 45.

Henry Drummond, Esq., J. P. for the counties of Hampshire and Surrey, observed that, with respect to the increase of the poor rates:—

"The poor rates are not nearly so high as one would be led to suppose, from the parliamentary returns—first, because much of the expense returns to the farmers in the labour which is performed upon their farms; secondly, because much is expended upon roads, and therefore does not properly come under the head of poor rates. I have never known any instance where gravel-digging or stone-picking was paid for by gentlemen, but it is always paid by the overseer. Again, a great part of the allowance which the labourers receive returns to the farmers and landowners in the shape of exorbitant rent for cottages. I have known many instances where the amount paid by a labourer for a cottage was greater than the amount of relief which he received from the overseer. The rent of cottages is so high that it is one of the chief causes of the agricultural labourers being in a worse state now than they ever were. Before the war the average rent of cottages, with good gardens, was 30s. a year; it is now in our own neighbourhood commonly as high as five, seven, or even ten pounds per annum; and where cottages are in the hands of farmers they always prohibit the labourers from keeping a pig, and claim the produce of the apple-trees, and of the vine which usually covers the house; so that, although if the wages of labour be compared with the price of bread corn, it appears that the power of the labourer to procure a given quantity of that article has varied very little, yet there are many other articles of quite as urgent necessity, such as house, fuel, and clothes,* all of which are increased very much in price; and therefore, even supposing the labourer is able to procure as much corn, he cannot procure as much of any one of the other necessaries. The increased rent of cottages is owing to an increased demand for them, which is occasioned, first, by an increased amount of population; secondly, by fewer servants being kept in farm-houses; and thirdly, by the parishes forcing marriages. Again, all around us, most proprietors have pulled down cottages because they yield no rent, without distraining, which gentlemen are unwilling to do; and again, the farmers have been very anxious to get the gardens to throw into their fields.

"The farmers invariably oppose the poor man's building himself a house upon the wastes, and generally succeed in preventing his doing so. In some parishes where cottages are at this exorbitant rate, the poor have built themselves turf huts on the wastes. The farmers have pulled them down, and the people have rebuilt them. The farmers invariably refuse to relieve those who occupy these huts, alleging that they are possessed of property, and that they will not relieve them nor give them work unless they give up their huts; this they refuse to do, and, being unable to support their families by fair means, they become perfectly lawless; such parishes furnish the poachers, carriers of stolen apples, hives, fowls, &c. &c., for all the neighbourhood."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 47.

Mr. Thomas Todd, Park Farm, Woburn, stated in answer to the question,—

"Have you any savings' banks?—Yes; there are several savings' banks in the neighbourhood (Woburn).

* "History of Prices," vol. i., p. 85.

† Parliamentary Returns relating to the Importation of Corn, &c., 1842, No. 19.

‡ Parliamentary Return, 2; No. 27, 1826, p. 3.

* Of course this does not include cotton articles. The rise in the price of other articles of the labourers' dress is shown in a statement of the prices of labour, provisions, and necessaries in Warwickshire, furnished to one of the Assistant Commissioners in the Commission of Inquiry, and published in the Appendix to his Report. Appendix (A), Part II., p. 75a. It appears from that document that the price of a pair of labourer's strong shoes, which in 1792 cost 7s., had in 1832 risen to 11s.; that the price of labourers' coats or jackets, which in 1792 cost 6s. a piece, had in 1832 risen to 11s.; that the price of a labourer's smock or round frock, which in 1792 cost 4s. 8d., had in 1832 risen to 6s. 6d.

"Do any of the labourers put any money into them?—There are some, but not many of them; there are very few of the labourers that have done so lately."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 53.

The following evidence of Thomas Smart, 46 years of age, a labourer at Eversholt, in Bedfordshire, who had been married twenty-eight years, and had had thirteen children, of whom seven were then living, is remarkable, as showing the condition of a labourer in a highly-pauperised district, who brought up a large family without assistance from the parish. It presents a simple and unadorned, but most faithful picture of the life of an English peasant, still struggling amid the degradation of his race against the effects of laws of which it is the object of these pages to trace the operation.

"Have you ever received any relief from the parish for the support of any of those children?—For funerals when any of them died, but no otherwise.

"How many children have you alive now?—Seven; I buried six.

"During the sickness of your children have you had no assistance?—No, only for burying them.

"What have been your wages for the last five years (1819—1824)?—10s. and 8s.

"Is that summer and winter?—In harvest we have more: the last two years I have had 8s., and the three years before that we had 10s., and they have sunk us down to 8s.

"What had you in harvest time?—Forty shillings and our food for the month of harvest.

"Have you had that every year?—Yes.

"Then the food was the only addition to your wages in harvest time?—Nothing else.

"Do you belong to any benefit society?—I belong to a club; I have been in it twenty-four years.

"Has your wife been able to earn anything besides those wages?—She always did as far as she could.

"Had you or your wife anything when you married?—Nothing at all.

"Have your children obtained anything by their labour for you?—We kept them at work as soon as they were able.

"What have they been able to obtain?—Platting and lace making.

"How much have they been earning in a week?—I do not know; the platting and lace making are gone, and they cannot earn anything hardly.

"How much in the last year?—The oldest would earn about 3s. a week, and the youngest would come in. I have only one boy.

"How many of them can assist you with their labour?—Three.

"At what age do they begin to earn anything?—About nine.

"From that age up to the oldest, how much have they got you per week, upon the average, for the last year?—About 2s. a week each.

"Have you had pretty constant employment summer and winter?—Always pretty constant employment.

"Has the employment been pretty constant for your children in the lace making?—Pretty constant, only very low.

"What have you paid for your rent?—Fifty shillings a year.

"What have you paid for your coals every year?—I have generally paid as much for wood or firing as I have for rent, or rather more.

"How much have you paid a year to this club to which you belong?—It costs me about one pound a year; it is fifteen pence a month.

"Have you ever had assistance in sickness from the benefit club?—I have never had but a month's pay out of the benefit club since I have been in it.

"What is the food on which you have supported yourself and your family?—Bread and cheese, and what we could get; sometimes we were short, and sometimes we got enough for them.

"Did you get meat on Sundays?—I have not had a bit of meat for a month together sometimes.

"What do you drink—Water.

"Have you no bacon?—We get a little bacon; that is the chief meat we get when we get any.

"You do not keep a pig?—No.

"Have you a garden?—Yes.

"Is that of much use to you?—A great deal of use to me.

"Do you get potatoes?—Yes; I get plenty of potatoes.

"Do you ever get any milk?—Now and then we get a halfpenny worth of milk, but the farmers are very shy of letting us have it.

"What wages had you by the week in 1813?—I have never had more than 2s. a day.

"You had then 12s. a week?—Yes, when I was under Mr. Potts, about eight years ago.

"Were you much better able to live then than you are now?—No, I could not get so much as I can now, particularly because my children are grown up, and they help me.

"Have you had no kind friends to assist you in any way occasionally?—None.

"Do you use tea in your family?—Yes.

"And sugar?—No, sometimes we do not.

"Do you have tea for breakfast?—The children do, and sometimes water gruel and what we can get; we cannot get tea always.

(*To be continued.*)

VISIT TO EARL SPENCER'S ESTATE.

The Second Day.

As stated before, the morning of the 1st of June was a lovely morning. The weather had been long dry, and rain was looked for, hoped for, and prayed for—prayed for by those who never prayed for anything else. And in the absence of rain the copious dew was only the more delightful.

It was at that hour when dew is freshest and clearest and most pleasing to look upon, when it is brilliant as diamonds and far more precious, the hour of sunrise, that I went out of the village towards Althorp-park. So far as I remember, the distance might be a mile from the village to the park gates. But I went out of the direct way into some fields where people were beginning, or waiting to begin, to work, and talked with them.

Here I saw a lad, thirteen or fourteen years old, who was plying himself well at a large hunch of bread. I said to him he would not get through it soon; and asked him how long he thought it would last. "Well," said he, "I cannot tell how long it will last: all I know about it is, that it will be done too soon." He was sitting on the sunny side of a high thorn hedge; and some other lads of the same age were near him. One of these looked at me as if he saw an old acquaintance, and laughed; I looked at him, and laughed; yet I did not know him. Again he laughed and looked exceedingly familiar, So I laughed once more and looked familiar also. And then we both laughed together, and all the others, old and young, laughed. And we seemed to do so the more vigorously that no one knew what the other was merry at. Eventually the youngster managed to say, "Don't you know I am one of the boys you gave the money to, to buy a new bat?" And again he lost himself in mirth, and winked his eyes in the bright sun, and screwed his face about most comically.

And then I called to mind that on the previous evening I had overheard a discourse amongst a number of boys who had been playing cricket, or some game resembling it, and who, having broken their bat, were holding a little parliament under the hedge, and were discussing how to raise the ways and means to get a new one. They were rather astonished and somewhat pleased to find a mysterious stranger step out and relieve their difficulties.

I passed a space of two hours or more out of one field and into another, and off one farm upon another. And I had much satisfaction in talking with the persons whom I met. For the first time in all my travels I found, in society completely rural, on the estate of an extensive landowner, on the very verge of a nobleman's park, nay, almost in front of his gate, that I moved in a moral atmosphere of Free Trade. The farmers spoke freely and unequivocally, and condemned the Corn Laws without reserve. The labourers also seemed familiar with the question, and were not afraid to speak about it. Everybody knew Earl Spencer's sentiments on the subject, and everybody had discussed the question of Corn-Law delusion.

I subsequently discovered that much of this familiarity with the Free Trade arguments here and all round the neighbourhood resulted from Lord Spencer's retirement from the Northamptonshire Agricultural Society. It may be remembered that certain of the members of that society intimated their intention to withdraw from it if Lord Spencer continued, he having declared that agriculture would thrive all the better without that delusive protection which is no protection; and that his lordship, rather than have the society broken up, which, he believed, had conferred some benefit on the county, chose to withdraw from it himself. This generous sacrifice of himself for a supposed public good; together with the undoubted fact that he had been persecuted out of a society which he himself had founded and advanced to maturity, by those members of it who never, of their own accord, would have founded nor supported any society for any good public purpose whatever until led to it by such a leader as Lord Spencer; these various circumstances resulted in a general fire-side discussion on the merits of the Corn Laws and Free Trade. Because the population on the Althorp estate would not submit to see their venerated landlord come out of a society without discussing his merits, and the cause of his retirement. They knew it must be a good cause of which he was the friend, and of which, at least, *some* of the other agriculturists in Northamptonshire should be seen as enemies.

Remarks on the merits of Earl Spencer led to the merits of the general question. His lordship's tenants are, of course, at liberty to read what papers, or pamphlets, or printed circulars come in their way without being reported and reproved at head-quarters by the agents. They did read. They were enlightened, and they have enlightened others. Thus, though the ungenerous treatment of Lord Spencer is to be regretted for the sake of his lordship's feelings, it has done great good to the progressive cause of Free Trade. In no county in England has any single event done more to advance that cause than has the mean attempt of the Agricultural Society to persecute its founder and its chief patron, Earl Spencer, done in Northamptonshire.

As I said before, I moved in an atmosphere of Free Trade in the vicinity of Althorp-park.

The park does not hold within its bounds such large old timber as I saw near Captain Spencer's mansion on the previous evening. Yet the timber is generally large, and the park is picturesque. It seemed to be a mile, or rather more, across either way; and the house is in the centre, in a hollow. This house contains the most choice and comprehensive library (so I have been told) that belongs to any private individual in England. I saw the library; but, to me, books are not worth looking at if there be not time to read them. I was more interested in his lordship's pictures, especially the family portraits. And of these, the most interesting were the portraits of Lord Spencer himself. I could conceive nothing more pleasing than to see the infant, the playful child, the youth, the young man from college, the young statesman in Parliament, the grave statesman a leading member of the Government—all following in succession; and then to see them all merged in the fine old English gentleman that has retired from public life, and now walks about in his park enjoying the high luxury of doing good to his fellow-creatures in private.

I entered the park by a gate from the Harleston road, and walked by what seemed to be a carriage way. I soon saw cattle grazing; but there was nothing remarkable about any of them. As I subsequently found, they were nearly all bought in from different fairs and markets, and were only to be grazed for the season. There were, as nearly as I can recollect, between fifty and sixty of them. They were in two divisions. With those I saw first there was a boy who was keeping them in a certain part of the park, to allow the grass to get up in another part. The drought had kept the pasture very low, and they deemed it better to let the cattle eat one portion bare, so that another might get up for them to be eaten the week or fortnight following, rather than to have it all bare alike.

After going across the park, and out at the opposite side towards the west, I found that the morning was advancing. And having heard that Lord Spencer was at home, I thought it would be most appropriate to ask leave to go over the estate to look more minutely into things. This leave I intended to apply for from the head steward, Mr. Elliot; but he had not then arrived. He lives at a farm about three miles from Althorp. But when I heard that Lord Spencer was at home, I thought it better to address a note to his lordship.

It is not with every lord I would presume to take such a liberty. But I felt well assured that Earl Spencer would not take it amiss. And I was not mistaken. Yet his lordship's personal condescension prevents me from writing as particularly here as some might wish me to do, and as otherwise I might have done. Suffice it to say, that though his lordship was going to London that day, and though business extending over a year had to be transacted with the steward (it being a day of annual reckoning) I had his lordship's attention for some time, and subsequently that of the steward, to whom his lordship introduced me, with orders that I was to see all the cattle, and everything else that might be of interest. It was now that I heard from Lord Spencer himself that his breeding establishment was not on this estate, but in another county. This was to me some disappointment, as the young cattle and calves were the chief of what I wanted to see.

However, as I have been describing, I may proceed with my progress here; for, being here, I felt an interest in looking over the estate simply because it was Lord Spencer's.

When we parted from his lordship, Mr. Elliot took me to a district of the park where a number of cattle were grazing, of the most of which he gave me some account; such as saying how old they were, at what fair such a couple were bought; how long they had been grazing, and so forth. None of which particulars I noted down; nor, if I had, would they have been of sufficient interest for publication here.

We went westward, and by a door in the park wall, which Mr. Elliot opened with a key which he took from his pocket, we went out into an avenue of trees, near which we again saw cattle and sheep at grass. But they, I think he said, belonged to a tenant-farmer. Here we had a fine view of the adjacent country, west and north. It was what is called a fine fox-hunting country; that is, bold in its heights and hollows, with high fences, deep ditches, and covered with farmers' crops and farmers' interests. A good fox-hunt is rarely carried out without a very considerable loss to the farmers, on whose fields of wheat newly sown, or newly sprung through the ground, or among whose sheep it takes place; for it cannot be a *good* fox-hunt if not in an enclosed and cultivated country.

Lord Spencer is too much of a kind neighbour both to poor and rich to deny the rich the privilege of the fox-chase on his estate. Consequently there are some great hunts there, and in the neighbourhood, as I was told.

On this western side of the park we soon came to a village called Brington; and first of all we came to its church. Into this we entered. There were workpeople cleaning and repairing it, who, when Lord Spencer's steward entered, came to him for orders, for he seemed to be chief man everywhere, even in the repairs and alterations of the church. When he had given his orders, he showed me the different tombs and monuments of the Spencer family; for they have been buried here for many generations.

It was in the village of Brington where I saw the first of the new cottages in process of being built on different parts of the estate: they are generally formed so as to have four apartments, besides other conveniences. Some of them at another village were built so as one cottage with two or with three apartments should stand between

two with more apartments; the outside architecture, a kind of Gothic, being particularly attended to. These were built in groups, and each group had a middle cottage, as it might be, for single a widow or two poor women; while on each side dwelt the married people with families. In the largest houses there were two rooms up stairs and two below. The doors were of massive oak, panelled and polished; the window frames were large and convenient. The people were encouraged to keep all clean inside, and flowery and weedless without; for they had flower gardens in front, and potato gardens behind. They had also to each four houses a bakehouse and a washing-house. They had pigsties conveniently removed from the cottage, &c. &c.; and the rents were to those who paid full rents £2 a year, but some poor people had them cheaper, and some had their dwellings altogether free.

They had allotments of land also at a moderate rent: at 15s., and 20s., and 30s. per acre, according to quality. The quantity of ground was regulated in some cases according to the number of persons in a family. But these allotments were mostly all at too great a distance from the cottages to be as valuable as they should be. Some of them were a mile, and some more; and none that I saw were nearer than half a mile, except at Brampton (I think that is the name of another of Lord Spencer's villages which I saw), where the allotments are close to the village.

In one of the new cottages at Brington which we entered I discovered that the person who inhabited it, an elderly woman, had only been in the village twelve months, and that she came from London. I had some curiosity to know why she had come from the metropolis to live there, and was informed she was a midwife. The want of such a personage had been felt in the neighbourhood; so Lord Spencer provided the people with her services, by giving her a house and garden and some portion of an income. I was not told how much, and did not inquire. But this little circumstance is a pleasing instance of the kind respect of Lord Spencer for the poor.

When I had left Mr. Elliot, and met another person belonging to the estate, I heard many more proofs of such kindness. "In fact," said my informant, "Lord Spencer does harm with his generosity. When I came to this part of the country first, we had the old poor law, and to get the labouring men to work a day's work was beyond my power, or the power of any other employer. The men just did as they liked, or did nothing if they liked; but, after the new poor law came into operation, things began to change. It took some time; still they were growing better, and were obliged to work for their wages. But his lordship came to live here, and, after a while, he just began and spoiled them again. They came about him, some really poor and needy, but the greater part impostors; or, what is as bad, persons who fall out of work because they will not work. Well, on certain days of the week, his lordship gives them audience. There he stands, twenty, or thirty, or forty people about him. Some have one tale of distress, and some another—some true, and some a parcel of lies. He pretends to make particular inquiries into their stories, and does do so, and learns that they have been trying to impose on him. But what of that? He puts his hand in his pocket to every one of them. It is not in his nature to refuse one of them—no, not one of them—who pleads poverty, no matter how undeserving they be. He says they must be needful, or they would not run the risk of telling him such lies! In fact, Sir, Lord Spencer has virtually repealed the poor law, so far as the people about him are concerned."

Some of the Lancashire readers of this paper will recognise a striking similarity in one point of his lordship's benevolence to that of a late manufacturer remarkable alike for his generosity and his wealth. The gentleman whom I heard relate the anecdote illustrative of that one point says he was one day in company with the benevolent capitalist, when a man of very bad character, known to them both, but who had seen better days, came to beg. In his better days the man had done a deep injury to the manufacturer; he had libelled him and cheated him; and even now in his poverty he was a common cheat to others. But he was relieved with a liberal sum from the benevolent man whom he had injured so much. Observing which, the visitor said, "Mr. G., you surely know what a vagabond that is? a libeller, a liar, a swindler, a common cheat, who never did good in his life, and will never try it: if I mistake not, you have suffered by him yourself?" to which Mr. G. replied, with some uneasiness of manner, "Yes, yes; he is all that; but then what a dreadful state of poverty he must be in before he would come to beg from *me?*" And Mr. G. turned the conversation into another point as quickly as he could; for, in fact, his benevolence had been excited and he was glad to get an excuse for his generosity, as if he had done something wrong in letting a third party know that he was benevolent.

That generous and in all respects good man, and his brother, were the originals of the *Brothers Cheeryble* of Dickens. Mr. Dickens says, that for the honour of human nature he is glad to say, that, at least, two of his characters in "Nickleby" were not fictitious; and that these were the two brothers, who had done more good in real life than would be readily believed in fiction.

Having heard many anecdotes of the generous doings of these two brothers, in their real characters, these appeared to me a most pleasing resemblance to their actions in those of Lord Spencer. His lordship seemed to be under the necessity of getting excuses for himself even to his own servants, for his benevolence to those who did not deserve it. And all this made me think the more highly of his lordship, even though his generosity might have had the effect which my friend attributed to it, of virtually repealing the poor law.

Having gone over different parts of the estate, first with one guide, and then with another, I went to the farm at which Mr. Elliot lived. Here were three fine animals put up to feed, each in a box, for the London Christmas show. And, instead of so many beasts as his lordship has been in the habit of sending to the show, these will be all he will send this year. Owing to the scarcity of grass at that time other cattle were to be put up to feed on oil-cake, corn, &c., but they were not of a class admissible at the show.

His lordship has also begun the breeding of racehorses at Althorp; but I am not aware of anything connected therewith that deserves notice. I shall therefore proceed to another topic.

OF THE OCCUPANCY AND CULTIVATION OF THE FARMS.

Earl Spencer still keeps up the tenantry-at-will system on his estate. This is all but universal in Northamptonshire. I think it is much to be regretted that his lordship does not break through this, for the sake of public example, if for nothing else. No doubt his tenants are safe enough. And, if all landlords were to be Spencers in this and every other generation, there would be no need of leases. Neither if all men were honest would there be any need of laws. But there is a need for laws, and there is a need for leases. His lordship and some of his tenantry are first-rate breeders and feeders of stock; they are, in fact, eminent graziers. They stand much higher in that respect than as cultivators. Now, it is in cultivating crops where the benefit of leases are most apparent. From what I heard I can believe that great advances have been made there in cultivation within these few years; but there is, unquestionably, much to do yet; and the more so, as the culture of crops and the feeding of cattle must go hand in hand, if the highest rate of profit is to be extracted from the land.

There is a farm in that part of the country, but not on Lord Spencer's estate, which I shall here notice. It is the farm on which is situate the battle-field of Naseby. A Scotchman has found his way to it, and is now growing very fine wheat on the ground where Prince Rupert wheeled round to give Fairfax battle, and where Fairfax, and Cromwell, and Ireton overthrew the royal troops as a preliminary to the overthrow of the throne. This farmer has been draining and enclosing, and ploughing and sowing, and reaping on that ground, devoting it to better purposes than that of war. He has been increasing human happiness, not diminishing human life. Yet, from the day that the rebels and royalists slew each other on it up to a recent period, that ground, and much of Northamptonshire, has remained the same. Here is its description by a writer thirty years ago:—

"The open field is extensive, and in as backward a state as it could be in Charles I.'s time, when the fatal battle was fought. The lower parts a moist, rough grass, with furze, rushes, and fern abounding; the rest of the field a strong, brown, deep loam, in the usual bean and wheat culture; pasture enclosures near the village, and a good many cows kept. The parish is as much in a state of nature as anything I have seen in the country. The avenues across the field are zigzag, as chance has directed, with hollows and sloughs unfilled, except with mire. The village contains a good many dwelling-houses and other buildings, all of which, I observed, built with mud, and covered with thatch, except the church and two dwellings. The walls of many of the houses were apparently shivering under the pressure, and seemed to indicate that a small weight or force additional would convert them and their contents into a ruinous heap. Yet neither the soil nor the aspect are by any means contemptible."

The appearance of this place is much altered now; but many parts of Northamptonshire have remained the same as in the days of Charles I., even unto this day. The soil is generally good; for grazing it is exceedingly good. But agriculturists have established the fact elsewhere, that even the best grazing land would be more profitable if cultivated. Of course the breeding of cattle and sheep requires grazing farms; but the feeding of them is most decidedly obtained with the largest profit by cultivating crops, by economizing food, and by saving all the manures that can be made while feeding the cattle.

On Lord Spencer's farm at Brampton this is partly attended to; and on some other farms a movement is made in this direction. Still, with excellent soil, the farmers of this county are very profitlessly employed, both for themselves and landlords; and I do not expect it will be much otherwise with them until a new spirit is infused by giving them leases of their farms.

I found the rent of good land to be from 20s. to 30s. an acre, if not used for garden ground nor nurseries in the immediate vicinity of a town. Wages 9s. and 10s. a week; except at Lord Spencer's, where they generally ran about 2s. a week higher. I should say, however, that 10s. a week is fully the average of that part of the country.

Some people do not attach the same importance to the improvement of the dwellings of the poor that I do; but they have not, perhaps, attended as much to the subject. A good cottage, a good garden, and a tasteful adornment with flowers is worth all the county police for making people stay at home and cultivate good behaviour. It was intimated to me that the expense of building Lord Spencer's cottages was too great for general imitation. I did not ascertain what the expense was; but I understood the steward to say that £2. 10s. of annual rent would not pay the expense. This I can well believe. But, in most counties, the merest hovels are rented as high as that. In most of the wretched villages of Dorsetshire, for instance, where the traveller sees the worst of houses and the poorest of labourers, the cottage rents are £3 and £4 a year, with not a yard of garden ground.

But I hold that, apart from the mere expense of building, there is another question of expense; that is, of keeping a demoralised population in the old hovels; the expense of shifting them alternately from their hovels to the prisons, or to the workhouses. With good gardens and allotments for the labourers, according to the size of their families that they may have an anchor, as I may say, to hold on by; with good cottages, that they may have pride and pleasure in their homes, we would soon see a saving of expense and of loss to both farmers and landlords in prisons and workhouses.

I just now spoke of Dorsetshire as containing the worst houses and the poorest population. The poorest population is correct enough; but on calling to mind that there is on the other extremity of England a county called Northumberland, where but a few years ago the houses were worse than ever they have been in Dorsetshire, I must retract the superlative degree of badness from Dorset, the more so as, on many estates, the Northumberland hinds' houses are not changed one whit, save to the worse, up to this very day of writing.

But even where they have been building new houses, both in Northumberland, and in the neighbouring counties of Scotland, particularly Berwickshire, they have only built mere sheds. On the estates of the princely Duke of Buccleuch in Dumfriesshire new houses for the farming men have been built recently, and they have neither ceiling nor lofting of any kind. Neither are they plastered inside; neither have they any partitions, nor inside doors, nor cupboards, nor conveniences for any purpose whatever. There is nothing but the bare walls, about twenty-four feet long and twelve feet wide, inside measure, and seven feet high; one door in front, and a little square window. The walls are built of stone and mortar, and, as said before, are not plastered. Into that shed, with the bare roof above their heads, the Scotch hind and his family are crammed, men and women, young and old. And these are the houses which are the *new* dwellings of the hinds on the Duke of Buccleuch's farms.

Though Lord Spencer should do nothing more than he has already done, agriculture is deeply indebted to him for his advances in the breeding of cattle; and humanity is not less indebted to him for his advances in the moral science of advancing the comforts and the virtues of the labourers.

Let us hope that his lordship will take the lead in his county in improving the condition of the farmers and their style of cultivation, by reforming the tenures of the farms. Landlords need his example.

ONE WHO HAS WHISTLED AT THE PLOUGH.

NOTES OF A TRAVELLER TAKEN IN THE SUMMER OF 1844.

No. VIII.

Cologne, August 1, 1844.

Having, in my last, offered some general observations regarding the origin and prospects of the German manufactures, I propose to give a more detailed account of the various territorial divisions into which the manufacturers have grouped themselves, taking each separately.

Belgium, we have seen, has two distinct mining districts, which separate in the province of Namur: one district stretching in the direction of Mons and Charleroi into France; the other taking the direction of Liege, and extending into Prussia. A traveller who goes by the railroad from Brussels to Namur, and descends to Liege by the steamer, traverses the whole of this last district, and finds that it unites a superior system of agriculture to that prevailing in the northern provinces, united with an excellent mode of improving the resources of the country by manufacturing industry. While farms, varying in extent from one hundred to four hundred acres, produce the heaviest crops that are found in Belgium, the farmer is in every way superior to the general class of farmers in Flanders. The stables, if not luxurious in their construction, are spacious; and the number of cattle is large, because the steep sides of the hills are better adapted to pasturage than to tillage. On a farm that I stopped at to make some inquiries respecting the management of the meadows, the owner asked me to walk over them with him, as he was going with his servants to milk the cows. I found that, even here, no artificial irrigation was practised beyond conducting, by means of small channels, any rills or overflowings of springs from the high ground upon the meadows. When the cows are milked, the dung that has dropped in the preceding interval is brushed asunder and thinly spread to prevent spots of rank verdure from spoiling the even surface of the pasture, which is usually as smooth and as densely clothed as a bowling-green.

The province of Hainault has long been one of the seats of the culture and management of flax, and its dense po-

pulation had fallen into the system of miniature farms, which that description of industry, as we have seen, induced under the old processes. There is, therefore, more pressure at present felt in Hainault than in Liege and Namur.

In Liege and Namur the population is much less dense; accordingly the number of miners employed in coalpits in Hainault exceeds 25,000, while in Namur it is below 1000, and in Liege it does not exceed 10,000. These are official returns, but of not later date than 1838. The price of labour, I find, is higher in Hainault, where so many hands are required; and 2s. per diem are given to pitmen there, while 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. is the pay in Namur and Liege.

The province of Namur turns out annually more coals than the kingdom of France, and Belgium in general produces half as much again as France. By one of those freaks which mock the intelligence of men, with all this abundance of coal, the Belgians are forced to import from France some kinds better suited for particular branches of smelting than their own, while the export to France of Belgian coals is very large. This play of industry, that but for the intervention of frontiers, with their injudicious restrictions, would be more frequent every where, and would tend to enrich every body, is more remarkable between the province of Liege and the Prussian mining district that joins it, and that indeed forms a continuation of the same beds of coal and ores. There having been but a nominal duty on iron in pigs, the smelters on the Prussian side have long taken all their raw iron from the Belgians, and have only worked their own coalmines to obtain fuel to forge it.

The offsets of the Ardennes that run into Prussia are, however, rich in iron ore, so that it requires some little explanation to account for this circumstance. The mines in Belgium are, as I before remarked, free of control as far as the ordinary arrangements for working them are concerned. The Government has for some time tacitly abandoned the right of granting permission to open mines, and the inducement to embark in mining speculations increased to the extent that I reported in my last; so that in 1836 the quantity of iron raised in Belgium reached 636,955 tons, or as much as England produced but a few years ago. In Prussia the Government reserves the direction of all mining operations; and the consequence is that, with far greater resources for this description of industry, Prussia produces but twice that quantity. In the Rhenish province the Prussians are, as we see, gladly dependent upon the Belgian miners. It must, therefore, appear strange to those who are not accustomed to such contradictions, to find Belgian writers lamenting the absence of such a control as is found in Prussia; and the Belgian Government disposed to re-establish it in the face of the experience that lies so near them. For all but such as have spent any time in investigating the causes of the present distress amongst the labourers of Europe, the simple remedy for Prussia, when it felt jealous of the progress of Belgium, was to imitate the policy by following which Belgium had thriven. If the Belgian miners were dissatisfied with their trade, it would seem easy to ascertain by comparison whether the Prussian system was likely to correct the evils under which they suffered. This mode of proceeding is, however, too simple for governments; instead of releasing the enterprises of miners from the control of the bureaux, Prussia has preferred, at different times, to augment its import duties on foreign iron, and has thus narrowed the market for the producer, while it has imposed an unjustifiable burden on the consuming classes. The distress felt in Belgium has arisen not from any abuse of the privilege of mining without control, but in consequence of the withdrawal of the foreign market on which the producer speculated.

The insecurity of property thus produced by this barbarous and unchristian-like international legislation, has found a sad and a striking monument on the banks of the Meuse, where I am writing. Belgium, abounding in all resources for industrial enterprise, densely populated, rich in coals and in minerals, had found a man of knowledge and of talent to lead the way in utilizing the rich boon that nature had placed at her disposal. John Cockerill, although a foreigner, was respected by the rulers and revered by the inhabitants of the country into which he brought his acquirements and his experience. It was natural for a man able to calculate the advantages that spring from well-guided exertion, supported by machinery, to imagine that his convictions must be general. He was familiar with the wants of the industrial classes, with the elasticity of markets, and with the imperfect supplies that can now be commanded. It was natural for such a mind to expect that no country would reject the boon of the means of acquiring riches, even if its inhabitants were imbued with the modern abhorrence of all supplies drawn without difficulty from abroad. Iron and machinery he of course supposed would be welcomed everywhere at a low price; and when he had a sufficient command of these, he thought it only necessary to show the continental manufacturers how to use them, to find immediate imitators and customers. But he had not studied ministerial bureaux, nor did he know the kind of education which those who work in them receive.

Following the impulse of his own vigorous and clear understanding, he created the remarkable works at Seraing, which I visited yesterday morning. A few miles before reaching Liege, up the river, you arrive at an establishment which is unique upon the Continent, and is not easily matched in England. The summer palace of the old Bishops of Liege presents itself surrounded by factory chimneys, foundries, railroads, wet and dry docks, mining shafts, and steam-engines, forming a *multum in parvo* of manufacturing activity, but yet not on a very small scale. A canal connects the premises with the Meuse, on which the raw materials enter the establishment, which they quit in the shape of steam-boats, locomotive engines, rails, twist, or separate portions of manufacturing machinery, by the same channel.

The eleven workshops divide and enclose a number of courtyards, varying from 450 to 200 feet in length. In these everything is constructed which is requisite to complete a steam-boat from the keel to the decorations of the cabin. The first department is occupied by the turners, carpenters, modellers, and upholsterers. Planing machines for wood and iron, drills, boring instruments, circular saws, locksmiths' forges, &c., are here united. A second establishment works up the raw iron brought from the neighbouring country to bars, rods, and sheets. Casting furnaces, and a manufactory of fire bricks, complete this division of the works. In another section coals are raised for the use of the concern; and in a fourth the steamers are constructed, launched, and fitted with their engines.

The vigorous mind that conducted these extensive works, in which 16 steam-engines and 2500 work-people of both sexes are in constant employment, did not find sufficient occupation within them. In order to obtain a sale for the productions of Seraing, Cockerill was obliged to take shares in vast undertakings in all parts of the globe. A model factory at Liege is said to have occupied 800 hands. Three cloth factories—at Liege, Aix-la-Chapelle, and Ardennes; a paper-mill and a factory of woollen stuffs near Namur, were also founded by him. At Colbur, in Prussia, a manufactory of nets; at Przelborg, in Poland, a cloth mill; two others at Berlin and at Guben; again, at Aix-la-Chapelle, a wool-combing establishment; a spinning factory at Liege; a cotton factory at Barcelona; steam-engines in sugar mills at Surinam; a commission house at Amsterdam; besides other establishments in different parts of Germany, were called into life by the energy and talent of a single individual. Immediately before his death, Mr. Cockerill erected a workshop for the construction of steam-engines and railroad carriages at St. Petersburgh; and undertook to raise coals near St. Etienne for the use of the French railroad company on the line from St. Etienne to Lyons.

Such wonderful activity, if it exceeded the bounds of prudence, cannot be said to have been an uncalled for exertion, unless the countries thus supplied with the means of creating wealth can be proved to have been able to dispense with the aid thus proffered them, or not to have needed the impulse which it imparted to their industry. This will scarcely be asserted; and society has, therefore, only to lament the state of commerce generally, which prevented these undertakings from proving successful, without entailing upon one individual so unfair a responsibility. That there is room for an extensive application of machinery in tropical countries, is proved by the fact, that the opening of the English market, even partially, to foreign sugars has made it evident to planters of all nations, that machinery is their only resource. Were the trade in textile fabrics once free, we should see the same thing take place; weaving by hand would everywhere disappear, and, as the consumption would increase with the reduction that would be afforded in price, the result of a better supply of clothing for the poor would be, that these iron districts would be kept in full employment. On Cockerill's death it was found impossible to sell a concern of such magnitude; and the creditors, having constituted themselves into a joint-stock company, are working Seraing for their common benefit.

Various ridges of the Ardennes—a low, but intricate mountain chain—divide Belgium from the government of Aix-la-Chapelle, in Prussia. The coalbed that is common to the two kingdoms increases in depth on the Prussian side, and near Eshweiler presents forty-four seams in one dip.

The extensive forest tracts that the traveller passes on the Prussian side are curiously interspersed with lofty chimneys of the iron or coal works that are very numerous. Many branches of industry were driven into these valleys by the intestine troubles in the great cities during the fifteenth century. Thus Aix-la-Chapelle lost its copper and brass founders; Cologne its weavers, which there, as at Ghent, were at one time the leading guild in the city, and numbered half the present population. In the retired valleys of the Ardennes, these manufacturers found shelter from the insecurity of civic tyranny, and were joined after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes by the industrious Huguenots who were expelled from France. The circumstance that iron and coals abound in these districts opened to the weavers of the Ardennes the resources of machinery, and they have taken advantage of them. Nor does any obstacle oppose a flourishing progress of the woollen manufacture in these districts, which have the market of the Zollverein open to them, but the dearness of other articles of clothing, such as cottons and linens.

All the towns of this district are manufacturing seats on a smaller scale than Verviers and Liege, but considerable for Germany. Needles, and objects of cutlery, as well as girdlers' wares, are made at Aix. Cloth and woollen factories are found at Burtschied, Eshweiler, Stolberg, Eupen. The cloths of the last-named town are as celebrated as those of Elbœuf, in France, for texture and dye. Stolberg has a very large copper and brass foundry, that dates from a French emigration as early as the year 1450. It would appear that the emigrants brought some secret with them, which makes their brass peculiarly desirable for watch work, and it is for this use admitted exceptionally at a low duty into France.

The iron veins in the Ardennes are, as we have seen, not worked on the Prussian side, the founders and forgers finding it more advantageous to buy the Belgian pigs. The coalmines are worked, and we find upon inquiry, that they are emancipated from the yoke of the bureaux, and have been so since the French occupation of these provinces. A small tax is levied at the pit's mouth on the coal extracted, to compensate for the tithe levied by the crown on the produce of the mines in the old provinces; but, as the coalmines on the left bank of he Rhine are otherwise not interfered with, they are exposed to no other checks than such as arise from the faulty financial systems of the nations of Europe in general. The price of the best coals, suited for cooking and for the use of the steam-boats on the Rhine, is at Stolberg about 5d. per cwt., or 8s. 4d. per ton. As the country abounds with minerals, and the population is sufficiently dense (225 to the square mile), the advantages for many kinds of manufactures are greater even than in Belgium, where the demand for coals for France has raised the price of the best qualities to 20s. and 22s. per ton. Labour is to be had at about the same rate on both sides of the frontier: common hand-labour at 1s. per day, and skilled labour not exceeding 2s., except where trust is reposed, as in the case of machinists and engine men, when the head men are paid 3s. to 4s. The custom of piece-work prevails generally. In the large glass works at Stolberg, 9 gros (1s. 6d.) are paid for blowing six sheets of window-glass, 30 inches by 40 inches. When in full work the earnings of the men are considerable; and a workman, who acted as my guide, told me, that in nine years he had saved 2500 dollars (£375). Savings' banks are now general in Prussia; but circumstances have not, as yet, forced the Government to introduce the regulations adopted in Belgium of the "*Livret*." In fact, labour is, in these districts, sufficiently scarce to make it easy for industrious workmen to get on, and a sufficient number cannot be collected on an emergency, as, for instance, to do railroad work, without advertising in the newspapers. The labourers are universally colliers, and often travel some miles to their work, from the neighbouring villages, where their families attend to their gardens, and sometimes keep one or two cows. This circumstance does not, it would seem, improve the quality of the work they do; and, although increasing their fatigue, it really acts like an augmentation of wages upon the masters' profits. There is an evident waste of labour in the arrangement, by which none is benefited; and the heavy work, I cannot help thinking, gives the men a clownish look, which they otherwise need not have. Schools open to all classes (and which it is obligatory on children to frequent), then two years of drilling as a soldier, ought to set up (as officers say) a man, and give him an intelligent look and dexterity of motion. This effect is less generally visible in the Prussian peasantry than might be expected, and unquestionably arises from the labour which they undergo, and the few comforts they secure to themselves, in consequence of the bad economy of time and exertion, which, as we shall have occasion to see, is the plague of Germany.

The opening of the railroads on the one side to the sea, and on the other to the Rhine, is too recent an event to display any striking result in the economical position of the district of Aix-la-Chapelle, which, however, cannot but be sensibly effected by it. In an article in the "British and Foreign Review" (No. 22), attention was called to the imperfect state of the public communications in many parts of Prussia, as illustrated by the average prices of corn given in the officially-published statements. In 1836 the price of wheat at Münster, in Westphalia, was 40 6-12ths gros the sheffel, while at Cologne it was 43 gros, and at Malmedy, in the Ardennes, 60 gros. In 1840, when the Germans felt the effects of our scarcity, the prices averaged, at Münster 73 gros, on the Rhine 80 gros, and on the Upper Moselle and in the Ardennes, 100 gros per sheffel. The price in the manufacturing districts was thus 50 per cent. higher than in 1836. The distance from Cologne to Mulmedy is nearly 65 miles, and took light waggons drawn by two horses at least four days to accomplish. With the railroad, a similar distance is now performed in a few hours; but it is likely that this means of conveyance will increase the demand for coals, and raise the price. These countervailing changes, when they happen to prove conflicting, may, doubtless, often render it difficult or impossible to carry on descriptions of work that formerly were profitable. Inconvenience may partially be anticipated, and has in the first place been felt, as I have noticed, by introducing English yarn and iron at a cheaper rate than before into these parts. What, we may ask, is the natural policy of the Government under such circumstances? Ought it, by bolstering up the duties, help to keep a district, so fertile as this is in resources, in exactly the same position that it stood in before the railroads were laid down? To do so would be to annihilate the result which the railroads are intended to bring about. Is it not the far nobler task—imperative on those who undertake the responsibility of guiding the activity of their fellow-countrymen—that of aiding them to overcome the difficulties that are insepara-

ble from all progress to improvement, especially by opening new markets for the sale of their productions, and by removing any obstructions that now render their labour unprofitable. The simplifying of the forms which now clog mining speculations in Germany must have been a boon to the miner, while it spurred him on to increased exertion. The new duties imposed by Prussia on iron wares (I do not allude to the exceptional treatment of Belgian iron) has a tendency to relax exertions, and to prevent the ironmasters from preparing against the further changes that must be looked forward to. They have, in the present instance, the double effect of paralyzing this branch of the national industry, and of impeding the prosperous result of the railway speculations. Every shareholder in the Prussian railways is a double loser by the new duties. Perhaps this is an argument in favour of Government railways; the proprietors then, at least, have the remedy in their own hands.

In my last I remarked the advantages which the Belgian constitution, by means of the *Conseils provinciaux*, possessed, as they enabled petitions to be couched in more energetic terms when addressed to the Minister than would be tolerated in individuals or companies. Since then the Council of the province of Liege has addressed a strong remonstrance on the subject of the differential duties, which have called forth the hostile proceeding of Prussia, that threatens to destroy the ironmasters of Liege. The answer of the Minister, after a conference with some of the leading members of the Council, was, that negotiations should immediately be commenced with Prussia. In this province I have heard nothing but complaints of the same proceedings, which threaten to stop many works that depend upon supplies of raw iron from Belgium. But there is no provincial Council on the Prussian side to lend weight to the protestations of the industrious inhabitants; neither a remonstrance has been forwarded to Berlin, nor has the Government at that remote capital given any cheering assurance to the parties it has placed in jeopardy.

In the hilly country adjacent to the Belgian frontier the same good system of cultivation and dairy farming continues that prevails in Limburg. The fields are enclosed, and the cattle graze in the field, which is kept free from weeds and receives great attention from the farmer. In that part of the country the rural population is scattered, and inhabits houses each placed on the land belonging to them. As soon as the traveller leaves the offsets of the Ardennes, and enters the magnificent plain that stretches to the Rhine, the face of the country alters. Tillage succeeds to pasturage; there are few or no enclosures; no scattered farms, but large villages at a considerable distance from each other proclaim that he is in a land liable to be a seat of war according as whims govern the Chamber of Deputies at Paris or the Council of State at Berlin. As the manufacturer depends on the fancies of legislators at a distance respecting the possibility of buying his materials on advantageous terms, and his obtaining access to the best markets to sell them, so the farmer depends on the notions of national honour or of personal ambition that decide whether his crops are to be reaped or trampled, whether he is to grow his own food only, or is to be allowed the benefit of suiting his crop to his climate and the course of trade. But the result is precisely the same in both cases. As merchants think twice before they buy ships that they are not sure of being allowed to load to advantage, and capitalists give enormous prices for land rather than embark in fair speculations, so the farmer seeks to shelter himself from the chances which the experience of centuries has taught him to expect, and over which he has no control. His house is crowded into a village, where it meets the trifling support of public opinion when pillaging bands of invaders or defenders scour the country. He lays out no money in collecting choice stock or in making costly improvements which one war may destroy, but with his savings he buys land—more land to cultivate in the same imperfect manner as what he had before—more land, no matter how situate, but at all events more land. The manner in which land changes hands in this province may be estimated from the number of parcels registered for the payment of the land tax. They were, in 1841, 11,215,517 in number, and, as the population of the Rhenish province amounted but to 2,600,000, or little more than 500,000 families, it is curious that their properties should *average* twenty parcels each. But I must return to this remarkable illustration of the state of property in Germany in another letter. Here I must continue my journey across the Rhine into the coal and iron district on the Ruhr.

Pursuing my route from Aix-la-Chapelle to Dusseldorf by the way of Inlich, I embarked in the steamer for Ruhrort, about thirty miles down the river, and situated at the mouth of the river Ruhr, which opens a rich mineral district towards the Rhine. The Ruhr rises in the heart of Westphalia, and is navigable for a long portion of its course. It divides the extensive tract of sandhills known by the name of Sauerland, in Westphalia, from two other low chains, the Hellweg and the Hardtstrang. These hills are mostly of sandstone, and abound in coalbeds as well as veins of minerals. The coals supply all the Lower Rhine, and are easily raised. Accordingly the whole country is here, as near Aix, filled with mills and factories, in which, however, only the greatest industry and economy enable the manufacturers (even with the protecting duties they enjoy) to compete with England and Belgium. The principal coalmines are near Duisburg, at a short distance from the Rhine, and communicating with that river by a canal. The pits produced, in 1834, 1,400,000 tons of coal of all qualities, which averaged at the pit's mouth 9s. per ton. The production is now probably greater. These coals, which require no land carriage, are sent up and down the Rhine and furnish employment for the skippers of Ruhrort. At Muhlheim and Sterkrade, further up the river, are factories of steam-engines, and several of the fine steam-boats now plying on the Rhine have been built at Ruhrort, and fitted with engines from Sterkrade by the great house of Jacobi Haniel and Huyssen. This firm has here established a second Seraing. Three high furnaces, two cupola, and two flame furnaces turn out seventy-five tons of iron per week. The works are driven by two water-wheels and three steam-engines.

The population is here more dense than in the neighbourhood of Aix-la-Chapelle, as it exceeds 320 on the square mile, and if exempted from the trammels of the bureau-ocracy would assuredly be very prosperous. Cloth-manufacturers have been established here since the twelfth century. The Emperors of the Saxon dynasty held their court occasionally at Duisburg, the strong positions of which place, covered by the Ruhr and the Rhine, point to the same origin with that of the Netherlands towns. My course took me up the Lenna, a tributary of the Ruhr, into the heart of the Sauerland, whence I had not far to go to Siegen, famous for its meadows and its native steel. Siegen lies on the western declivity of the Westerwald, a chain of mountains that divides Nassau from Prussia. The little river Lieg, after being very serviceable both to farmers and factories in the hills, crosses the level country slowly, and falls into the Rhine opposite Bonn. The ore of Siegen, for the smeltings of which the forests of the Westerwald furnish the fuel, is a carbonate of iron from which steel is made that is worked up in the celebrated workshops of Solingen. I came down upon the Rhine from Siegen near Neuwied, having traversed in a circular route from Duisburg nearly one hundred and fifty miles of scattered mining and metal-working districts, into the details of which it is needless to enter, as the result by no means corresponds with the resources that these districts contain. Nor is this the fault of the inhabitants, who are docile, industrious, and well conducted as workmen, and as masters careful, economical, and well supported by scientific assistants. At every establishment I met men thoroughly acquainted with chemistry, metallurgy, and the theory of mechanics, while their practical knowledge was not confined to a blind imitation of known processes, but often showed great ingenuity in adapting to their wants the simple advantages of the locality. Wages are about the same as at Ruhrort and Aix-la-Chapelle, and small agricultural undertakings are every where combined with the factory work. If I do not mistake, some highly valuable hints respecting the treatment of metals have recently been taken from the ironfounders of the Westerwald by English ironmasters that will enable them to turn to better account some of our own mineral resources. When I express myself dissatisfied with the result obtained by so much industry and knowledge expended where resources are by no means deficient, I allude to the small amount in metal raised in comparison with the demand throughout the country for tools and machinery. The total production of the Rhenish province, which, besides the three mining districts of the Ardennes, the Ruhr, and the Sieg, contains the very important district on the Upper Moselle near Saar Louis, did not exceed 45,000 tons in 1835, and does not now exceed 50,000 tons. The basin of the Saar, which lies between the Vosges and the Hardt Mountains, contains vast coalbeds that stretch from France into the Prussian and Bavarian dominions, and form a source of wealth for the French machinists of Alsace, besides what is produced by the extensive works on the German side.

It was some notion of the relative superiority in resources of some of the mining districts of Prussia that induced a Belgian miner, M. Delvaux de Feuffe, to make a visit of inspection in the fifth great iron district, that of Upper Silesia. He found in that mountainous district a similar abundance of oar and of coals, with the addition of immense forests and cheap charcoal. But he found the greatest carelessness in the planning of works, deficiency of communications, and the navigable Oder in the worst possible condition; after which he was not surprised to find that the Prussian founders were afraid of English and Belgian competition.

The present high duties, it must be evident to all who visit these districts, are not intended to protect industrious men who have natural difficulties to overcome, but to allow of the continuance of false notions of government and financial legislation.

TRUTH.—The inquiry of truth, which is the love-making or wooing of it—the knowledge of truth, which is the presence of it—and the belief of truth, which is the enjoying of it—is the sovereign good of human nature. The first creation of God in the work of the days was the light of sense—the last was the light of reason—and his sabbath work ever since is the illumination of his spirit. First he breathed light upon the face of matter or chaos; then he breathed light into the face of man; and still he breathes and inspires light into the face of his chosen. Certainly it is heaven upon earth to have a man's mind move in charity, rest in providence, and turn upon the poles of truth.—*Bacon.*

In the metropolis over 9 per cent. of the whole population are domestic servants, and over 4 per cent. persons of independent means.

REGISTRATION.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY REGISTRATION.—The Free-Trade party, it would appear from the following statement, are active in the field, and have again an advantage over the Monopolists, although we are sorry to say the old Whig party have rendered but little aid. The Anti-Corn-Law League have rendered service:—

	Free-Traders.		Monopolists.
Bedfont district	10	..	17
*Brentford do.	0	..	28
Enfield do.	7	..	36
Edgware do.	15	..	3
Uxbridge do.	13	..	7
*Hampstead do.	0	..	4
Hammersmith do.	28	..	52
King's-cross do.	68	..	96
Westminster do.	35	..	43
Mile-end do.	62	..	129
Bethnal-green do.	35	..	38
City of London do.	364	..	61
	637		514

* The overseers have objected in these parishes.

In the county list in the city of London two Judges, the Solicitor and Attorney Generals, and eighty-five barristers and attorneys, who voted for the Monopolists, are objected to, they having claimed in the wrong parish. No doubt much noise and declamation will be made to induce the Revising Barrister to retain their names.

METROPOLITAN REGISTRATION COURTS.—Of these only two have as yet been opened—the Tower Hamlets and the City. East Surrey commences on the 20th, and Middlesex on the 27th.

TOWER HAMLETS.—This revision occupied Monday, Tuesday, and part of Wednesday, when the proceedings closed. No appearance was made on behalf of any party except the Free-Traders, for whom Mr. Boxer and Mr. Sidney Smith attended. No objections of any kind were made, and the only claims were those of Leaguers; those amounted to 84, of which 70 were allowed and 14 disallowed.

CITY OF LONDON.—Proceedings commenced here on Monday, and on Thursday afternoon the whole of the Livery lists were gone through. The result of the Livery revision is as follows:—

	Total of Objections.		Objections sustained and names expunged.		Objections sustained but name retained. The address corrected.		Failed.
By Free-Traders	372	..	189	..	94	..	89
By Monopolists	156	..	53	..	42	..	61
By both parties	67	..	62	..	..	..	6
Total	595	..	304	..	136	..	155

Majority of objections sustained for Free-Traders .. 136

CITY OF DURHAM.—Registration analysis:—

FREEMEN.

Monopolists objected to	.. 12	struck off	9
Free-Traders objected to	.. 18	„	9

HOUSEHOLDERS.

Monopolists objected to	27	withdrawn 1	struck off	14
Free-Traders objected to	45	„ 11	„	10
Total objections by Free-Traders		39	struck off	23
Total objections by Monopolists		63	„	19
Majority for Free-Traders				4

NEW CLAIMS.

Free-Traders	6	allowed	5
Monopolists	7	„	2
Majority of new claims			3
Majority of objections			4
Gross majority for Free-Traders ..			7

Eight of the Free-Trade objections and ten of the Monopolists were for change of qualification, but as new claims had been given, describing the parties as "occupying in immediate succession," they were not gone into.

REGISTRATION.—REVISING BARRISTERS' COURTS, SOUTH LANCASHIRE.—The revision of the lists of voters for the southern division of Lancashire commenced on Monday, at Newton and Ashton-under-Lyne. The proceedings before the barristers derive some interest from the recent discussions in the newspapers upon the large number of objections made to the names of voters. A smart struggle took place between the advocates of the two parties, both at Ashton and Newton, in reference to a large class of names which had been objected to by the Free-Traders, on the ground that the qualifications of the parties were not sufficiently described to enable objectors to identify them, and test their sufficiency; and that, in this respect, they did not fulfil the requisites of the recent act of Parliament. The struggle was not with the object of determining whether the votes were to be struck off or retained, but whether the barrister should or should not amend them, by inserting the names of tenants, or other particulars, so as, in each case, strictly to identify the qualification in respect of which the vote was claimed. The Monopolists opposed the amendment, on the ground that it was unnecessary, and claimed costs from the objector. Mr. Matthews, who sat at Ashton, reserved his decision until he knew the course taken by his senior, Mr. Brandreth; and, as the latter gentleman decided upon amending the descriptions, and refusing costs, we presume that Mr. Matthews will now take the same course. This decision will, in a great measure, dispose of the loud complaints of the Monopolists, as to frivolous objections alleged to have been made by their opponents. A very large proportion of the objections said to be frivolous have been made on the ground which Mr. Brandreth has decided to be reasonable and proper.

VENICE.—For some years after the final evacuation of this city by the French, and the occupation of it by Austria, we were told that it displayed an extreme appearance of depression, and was really a most forlorn-looking place. But the present government is employing every means, and with success, to revive its trade. Venice, like Trieste, is made a free port, and ships of many nations are again in its harbour, giving animation to the scene, and exciting renewed industry and enjoyment amongst the people, who strike me as being *en masse* the merriest set I ever met; they are all night long singing, as far as I can judge by the hours they keep me awake, not with songs "most musical, most melancholy," but with cheerful ditties, never exchanged for brawls or [illegible]—*Mrs. Yates's Italy.*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, September 18, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

		£	s.	d.
Keighley.	Butterfield, Brothers	50	0	0
	John and Joseph Craven	50	0	0
	John Brigg	20	0	0
	S. B. Clapham	20	0	0
	William Lund	10	0	0
	John Town	10	0	0
	Procter Hall	10	0	0
	Two Friends	5	0	0
	Thomas Corlass	2	0	0
	Simeon Smith	1	0	0
	Gilbert Keighley	1	0	0
	Frederick Smith	1	0	0
	John Lund, Wellington-street	1	0	0
	James Smith, High-street	0	10	0
	Sundries	0	8	6
	Abraham Pearson, Steeton, near	1	0	0
	William Wright, Silsden, near	5	0	0
	William Greenwood, jun., Oxenhope, near Haworth	5	0	0
Wm. Vickers and Son, High Pavement, Nottingham		30	0	0
A Friend, per Wm. M'Call, Manchester		1	1	0
H. G., per S. Stitt, Liverpool		1	1	0
Mann and Son, Albion Brewery, Whitechapel-road		10	0	0
John Dillon, Fore-street, Cripplegate		5	5	0
Robert Miller, 34, Trinity-square, Tower-hill		5	0	0
Richard Barrett and Son, Beech-street, Barbican (2nd subscription)		2	2	0
Henry How, 7, Loraine-place, Holloway		2	0	0
David Gibb, 76, Milton-street, Cripplegate (2nd sub.)		2	0	0
D. L.		1	1	0
John Symonds, 2, Ingram-court, Fenchurch-street		1	1	0
Pacciotto, Mongredien, & Co., 147, Fenchurch-street		1	1	0
Evans and Clarke, 65, Bishopsgate-street Without		1	1	0
Robert Arnold Wainewright, Sydenham, Kent		1	1	0
Joseph Acton, 72, Shoe-lane		1	1	0
Stevenson & Mager, blue manufacturers, Battle-bridge		1	1	0
Isaac Haywood, 9, Rood-lane		1	1	0
Robert London, 9, Hungerford-market		1	1	0
Thomas Chew, Little Moorfields		1	1	0
Benjamin Bunney, 43, Noble-street, Cheapside		1	1	0
R. Hall, jun., 130, London-wall		1	1	0
J. A. Sharwood, 55, Bishopsgate-street Without		1	0	0
J. Forward, 3 and 4, Leather-lane, Holborn		1	0	0
Augustus Mordan, 2, Barkham-terrace, Lambeth-rd.		1	0	0
W. J. Lynn, 113, Lower Thames-street		1	0	0
Chas. Wordsworth, Esq., barrister-at-law, 2, Paper-buildings, Temple		1	0	0
George Wheeler, 80, Leather-lane, Holborn		1	0	0
James Beale, 91, Great Tower-street		1	0	0
A. Reede, Esq., Government House, Fredericton, New Brunswick, per Captain R. Locke		1	0	0
Luke Broomhead, 8, Union-street, Spitalfields		1	0	0
R. B. Whiteside, 32, Aldgate		1	0	0
Daniel Farmer, 28, do.		1	0	0
Thos. Osborne, 13, Sidmouth-street, Regent-square		1	0	0
J. Rogers and Son, 392, Oxford-street		1	0	0
Dr. Epps, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury (5th subscription of £1 this year)		1	0	0
John Eyke, 58, Milton-street, Cripplegate		1	0	0
W. D. Jourdain, 60, do., do.		1	0	0
James Kilner, 44, Castle-street, Leicester-square		1	0	0
Ebenezer Champion, High-street, Gravesend		1	0	0
G. K., Hatton-garden		1	0	0
A Friend to the Cause		1	0	0
John Jameson Innes, 27, Rood-lane		1	0	0
Henry Newton, Oakhampton		1	0	0
Thompson Webb, 109, Tottenham-court-road		1	0	0
Peter Graham, 37 and 38, Oxford-street		1	0	0
Joseph Robert Baylis, 41, Aldersgate-street		1	0	0
Robert Scott Lauder, 35, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square		1	0	0
Henry Godfrey, 4, Honey-lane-market, Cheapside		1	0	0
George Raves, 30, Frederick-place, Hampstead-road		1	0	0
John Griffith, 41, Clerkenwell-green (2nd subscrip.)		0	10	6
W. E.		0	10	6
Henry Gibson, 108, Lower Thames-street		0	10	0
John Campion and Son, 19, St. Mary-axe		0	10	0
Samuel D. Morey, 201, Bishopsgate-street Without		0	10	0
Thomas Piper, jun., 173, do.		0	10	0
William Crellin, 3, George-yard, Lombard-street		0	10	0
Joseph Rickerby, 1, Sherborne-lane		0	10	0
John Campion, jun., 19, St. Mary-axe (2nd subscription, making 20s.)		0	10	0
Stephen Silverthorn, 1, Peerless-place, City-road		0	10	0
Samuel Dixon, 10, Finsbury-street		0	10	0
John Collins, 28, Fore-street, Cripplegate		0	10	0
James Law, 24, Tottenham-court-road		0	10	0
Mrs. Walker, 15, Brown's-lane, Spitalfields		0	5	0
Joseph Pool, 26, Bartholomew close		0	5	0
H. E. Pistor, 79, Bishopsgate-street Without		0	5	0
Mr. Render, Waterloo-place, Albany-rd., Camberwell		0	5	0
Ebenezer Arnold, 37, Tabernacle-walk, Finsbury		0	5	0
A Friend to the Cause		0	5	0
John Smith, builder, 8, Orange-street, Gravel-lane, Southwark		0	5	0
Samuel Knight, 69, Fore-street, Cripplegate		0	5	0
Thomas Emberson, 31, do., do.		0	5	0
William Were, 44, Botolph lane		0	5	0
James Coombs, 9, Bennett's-hill, Doctors'-commons		0	5	0
Thomas Maltby, 10, Tabernacle square, Finsbury		0	5	0
Mr. Richards, 8, Surrey-square, Old Kent-road		0	5	0
H. W.		0	5	0
W. Harris, 46, St. John street, Clerkenwell		0	5	0
William Harvey, 33, Monkwell-street		0	5	0
Francis Banks, 11, Hoxton-square		0	5	0
Edward Banks, 11, do.		0	5	0
A Friend, Strand		0	5	0
John Rowe, Change-alley, Cornhill		0	5	0
T T A.		0	5	0
George Willis, Piazza, Covent-garden		0	5	0
William Connell, 72, Myddelton-street, Clerkenwell		0	5	0
W. H.		0	5	0
Mr. Astell, Shepherd-street, May-fair		0	5	0
William Ballard, 91, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square		0	5	0
Richard Lucas, 91, do., do.		0	5	0
Mrs Harvey, 30, Perceval-street, Clerkenwell		0	5	0
William Goodrum, 25, do., do.		0	5	0
John Taylor, 53, Lime-street		0	5	0
Richard Thomas Sambrook, Bricklayers' Arms, Old Kent-road		0	5	0
Thomas Howell, Dolly's Chop House, Queen's Head-passage, Paternoster-row		0	5	0
Charles Balkin, 9, Foster-lane, Cheapside		0	5	0
[illegible], Fore-street, Cripplegate		0	3	6
[illegible], Brick-lane, Spitalfields		0	2	6
[illegible], 7, Union street, do.		0	2	6
[illegible] Merrall, 117, Brick-lane, do.		0	2	6
[illegible] Bowles, 4b, St. Mary-at-Hill		0	2	6
A. B., Cheapside		0	2	6
[illegible] Winter, 3, Leather-lane, Holborn		0	2	6
[illegible] Harrison, 69, Fore-street, Cripplegate		0	2	6
[illegible], 150, do., do.		0	2	6
[illegible], 10, Perceval-street, Clerkenwell		0	2	6
[illegible], 7, Myddelton-street, do.		0	2	6
[illegible], 26, do., do.		0	2	6
G. H. Brown, 32, St. John-street, Clerkenwell		0	2	6
G. Airey, 7, Throgmorton-street		0	2	6
Edward London, 51, London-wall		0	2	6
David Lawson, 80, Wood-street, Cheapside		0	2	6
R. Howard, 62, Fore-street, Cripplegate		0	2	6
Philip Pimm, 97, do., do.		0	2	6
G. Ward, 49, Myddelton-street, Clerkenwell		0	2	6
D. B.		0	2	6
J. C. Adcock, 72, Myddelton-street, Clerkenwell		0	2	6
C. E.		0	2	6
T. B. Harris, 74, Myddelton-street, Clerkenwell		0	2	6
Samuel Saltmarsh, 74, do., do.		0	2	6
Isaac Harrison, 28, Jewin-street, Cripplegate		0	2	6
Thomas Phillips, 14, Gastigny-place, St. Luke's		0	2	6
Robert Binks, 11, Hoxton-square		0	2	6
Thomas Binks, 11, do.		0	2	6
John White, 2, Devereux-court, Temple		0	2	6
John Black, 2, Greville-street, Hatton-garden		0	2	6
Mr. Powell, 10, Lower-street, Islington		0	2	6
C. Moore, 29, St. John-street, Clerkenwell		0	2	6
John Harley, 20, St. John's-lane, do.		0	2	6
William Johnson, 34, Hatton-garden		0	2	6
C. Churchyard, grocer, Wickham-market, Suffolk		0	2	6
William Graham, 27, Union-street, Spitalfields		0	2	6
A Friend to the Cause		0	2	6
John Ellis, 14, Castle-street, Leicester-square		0	2	6
William Wilson, 8, Clerkenwell-green		0	2	6
Smith and Watkins, 133 and 134, Tottenham-court-road		0	2	6
John Foster, King's Arms, 82, do.		0	2	6
T. H.		0	2	6
Frederick Burnett, 25, Oxford-street		0	2	6
A. B.		0	2	6
D. G. B.		0	2	6
James Richards, 16, Little Bell-alley, Coleman-street		0	2	6
Edmund Farthing, 119, Cheapside		0	2	6
A Friend		0	2	6
Northwick.	James Leslie, Anderton, near	1	0	0
	R. Brattan, cabinetmaker	0	5	0
	A Leasehold Farmer	0	2	6
Small subscriptions		2	4	6

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

"THE POST."—A LITERARY CURIOSITY.

We perceive by the reports in the daily papers that the British Archæological Association have been busily engaged in their interesting labours. On Friday week the "Historical Section" had a sitting, in which many curious documents of ancient date were read. Mr. Halliwell produced some valuable extracts from an extraordinary MS. in the library of Canterbury Cathedral. Mr. Crofton Croker and others also read papers of considerable antiquity, and in the comments thereon considerable antiquarian acuteness was displayed. It is only a matter of surprise to us, that, amidst the many ancient papers and literary curiosities produced and descanted on, no one should have thought of reading a leader from the *Morning Post*. The interesting paper of Mr. Wright, the secretary, in which he so successfully traced the origin of the word "gossip," might have been most appropriately followed by an article from the venerable document to which we refer. It would have elicited some pertinent and learned remarks on the nature of ancient literature, and, in the endeavour to make sense of it, doubtless some interesting conjectures would have been hazarded. It is possible that the efforts to ascertain the meaning might have been unsuccessful; and probably the known difficulty of discovering the intention of the author may have deterred the learned members of the Archæological Society from entering upon such an intricate subject. What, however, Dr. Buckland and the professors and learned divines associated with him have not had courage to undertake, we have ourselves seen attempted at the League meetings in Covent-garden Theatre. The process of unravelling a leader of the *Post*, minutely resembles that interesting operation performed by Dr. Pettigrew at the Saturday's sitting of the association, and described in the daily papers under the head of "Unrolling a Mummy."

For the benefit of science generally, we shall give an outline of the mode of operation in both cases, by which it will be seen that not only are the processes alike, but the results are also similar. It appears from the report that

> "The members of the association assembled at the theatre in the evening for the purpose of seeing Mr. Pettigrew unroll a mummy. Nearly all the members were present, and a number of ladies graced the boxes with their presence. Mr. Pettigrew commenced the operation of unrolling; and, after the removal of a few folds of the cloth, he came to a black bituminous covering. Afterwards the bandages commenced; and occasionally small pieces of loose cloth were found, which had been put in to fill up hollows, and to make the surface quite smooth."

Those who have had the opportunity of attending the "League" meetings in Covent-garden Theatre will recollect that some of the speakers have at times chosen to exhibit in a similar manner, the *Post* (the personification of protection) enshrouded and mystified in one of his own leaders. They will be reminded of the amusement that has on those occasions been excited, as he has been divested, bit by bit, of the shreds and patches, under which he has striven to hide the gaunt and loathsome carcase of monopoly. The report of Dr. Pettigrew's operation proceeds:—

> "The face was uncovered, and a part of the body sufficiently to show its form. The arms, from which the flesh appeared to have shrunk, were crossed over the body. *The face had been gilded*, and a great part of the gold leaf still adhered to it. The eyes were hollow, the cheek bones high, but covered with skin; the lips were thin, and, half-opened, *showing the teeth*."

The similarity of the results is here remarkable, for after the "small pieces," the figments and the fallacies, "to fill up hollows and to make the surface smooth," have been removed from a monopolist leader, it is discovered that though the face of protection is gilded, yet, the eyes are hollow, the lips thin, and the mouth half-opened, *showing the teeth*,—indicative, at once, of the voracity of monopoly and the leanness and misery it inflicts.

> "Dr. Pettigrew sawed off the back part of the skull, which was as hard as recent bones, to expose the interior whence the brains had been extracted, and their place filled with pitch."

We believe that neither John Bright nor any of the other operators at Covent-garden have ever considered it necessary to apply their oratorical rasp actually to the head of Jenkins, the articles of the *Post* always being considered sufficient evidence of the existence of the pitchy substitute in the region mentioned above. Dr. Pettigrew conjectured that the mummy he operated upon "belonged to a period about 500 years before the Christian era." The literary mummy we are considering probably belonged to the same age; at all events we may safely affirm that "*protection*" is of *heathenish* origin, and it is quite evident that those who have gilded its face, and embalmed it, have exhibited no knowledge whatever of the benign precepts of Christianity.

To proceed—

> "When the uncovering had proceeded as far as was considered necessary, the mummy was raised on its feet and presented to the company, and its erect appearance on the stage was received with enthusiastic applause!"

In reading this portion of the report we can imagine that we see *monopoly* as exhibited on the stage of Covent-garden Theatre, with its flimsy folds of sophistry removed, and denuded of every rag of subterfuge and excuse, and which, though like its counterpart at Canterbury, it may have a gilded face, yet, like an ornamented sepulchre, consists beneath of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. The reporter of the doings of the Archæolocial Association appears to have hesitated at first as to whom the "enthusiastic applause" he records, was intended for; but, having at length made up his mind, he adds, in a tone of great gravity and confidence in order that no doubt may be left in the reader's mind,

> "The applause, however, was intended for Mr. Pettigrew, who had contributed so much to the gratification of the members of the association."

We think there is never any difficulty at the Covent-garden meetings to appropriate to the right parties the peals of derisive laughter, or the expressions of enthusiastic applause.

COMMERCE SACRIFICED TO THE SLIDING SCALE.

(From the *Economist*.)

Since the beginning of July (in little more than two months) upwards of *six hundred thousand quarters* of foreign wheat have been cleared for consumption, at a duty of 17s. and 18s. per quarter, and at a loss to the importers of at least 12s. per quarter, representing a total sum (little as has been remarked upon it) of nearly £400,000.

At the same period last year *eight hundred and fifty thousand quarters* were entered for consumption, at a duty of 14s. per quarter, and which left a loss to the importer of at least 10s. per quarter, making a total sum of £425,000.

At the same period in 1842, upwards of two millions and a half of quarters were entered for consumption, at a duty of 8s. per quarter, and which, it was estimated, left a loss to the importers of at least 20s. per quarter, making a total sum of £2,500,000.

The losses in the present and last year, though representing large sums, have been so divided among the various ports of the United Kingdom as not to have caused any particular sensation or shock to credit; but the enormous amount sacrificed in 1842 produced so much ruin and havoc, that it will be long before it is forgot in Mark-lane or Lombard-street.

The whole sum lost during these three years by the importation of foreign wheat cannot be estimated at less than £3,500,000; and this is the penalty which, it may be fairly said, the mercantile interest has suffered under the operation, and mainly in consequence of the uncertainties of the sliding scale, as a set-off against the profits made in the three preceding years, 1839, 1840, and 1841, when the scale worked favourably for the importer. And we believe that no one conversant with the business will disagree with us in stating that, on the whole six years (from the autumn of 1838 till the present time), if all the accounts connected with the import of foreign wheat were fairly balanced, a considerable sum would appear as loss to the importers, notwithstanding the fact that in 1838-39 more profit was realised by foreign wheat than on any one former occasion. And thus that business, to the amount of at least *thirty-five millions sterling*, has been transacted, the ultimate result of which is a loss to all concerned with it, and in many instances of utter ruin to those who, in the early period of these transactions of chance, were understood to have realised large fortunes.

There is one very singular feature connected with the imports of wheat during the last two years and the present one, viz., that, while the losses suffered by the importers of wheat have amounted to at least £3,500,000, the whole amount of the duty paid thereon has not exceeded £2,500,000, showing that a loss equal to £1,000,000 has been sustained by the importers above the whole duty paid; and that, consequently, under similar circumstances, and at the same relative prices, there would, on the transactions of these years, have been a loss to this extent, even had wheat been duty free, and which shows more strongly than any other circumstance how gross a delusion

to the home grower is the pretended protection which the law offers him, while it inflicts so much injury on others. And we believe it can be shown, in an undeniable way, that, with an entirely Free Trade, these losses would have been avoided, the home producer would have been exposed to less competition, and the wants of the consumer would have been better supplied. The chief cause of these losses, and especially of those in 1842, arose from the fact, that anticipation of the very high price which is obtained here under the stringent operation of the sliding scale whenever a deficiency, however slight, occurs, raises the price by speculation abroad during the winter and spring, while purchases are being made much above what it would otherwise be; at which enhanced price a larger quantity is secured for this market than would otherwise be. During the spring of 1842 the price of wheat in Dantzic, caused entirely by the speculative purchases for the English market, was from 54s. to 60s. per quarter. This price was regulated, not according to the *existing price* and *existing duty* in England at the time the purchases were made, but in reference to a *speculative price* and a *speculative duty*, which were looked for before the harvest. The wheat, therefore, as it arrived, was all warehoused, to wait the time when it was expected the *duty* would be most favourable for its being entered for consumption; and this time, as we showed last week, has always been just on the eve of our own crop being ready for the market. Now, it must be plain, that in the event of a better or earlier harvest than had been anticipated, as was the case in 1842, the losses of the importer, as well as of the home producer, are greatly increased by the fact that the whole or chief part of the imports of the year have been kept back and thrown upon the market at the moment it is least wanted, and thus unnaturally depressing the price both to the importer and home producer; and the consumer, who has suffered from extreme prices all the spring and summer, suddenly finds a greater reduction than would take place, or than could probably be permanent under a perfectly Free Trade. We are now looking at this question without reference to the legitimate increase of price, which, under a Free Trade, would arise from the improved condition of the country generally. The monthly average prices of 1842 were:—

January	61s. 7d.	July	64s. 2d.
February	60 4	August	55 11
March	58 11	September ..	52 6
April	59 11	October	49 11
May	61 3	November ..	49 1
June	64 0	December ..	47 1

Now, with an entirely Free Trade, purchases of foreign wheat would be made chiefly with a view to the existing prices at home; and if an opinion obtained that the price would advance, and speculative purchases were made in consequence, English wheat would first feel the influence of such opinion, and the markets abroad would follow; whereas at present speculation is confined chiefly to foreign wheat, in consequence of the declining duty with the advancing price. With an entirely Free Trade purchases would, therefore, only be made abroad at such rates as would repay the importer at the moment the purchase was made, and as it arrived the market would be regularly supplied; no reason or inducement would exist for keeping back foreign wheat from the market more than applied to English wheat; and, therefore, no great accumulation would be found on hand in the autumn, when least wanted. The effect of a Free Trade in the year to which we allude, and which will serve to illustrate the effect in every year, would have been as follows:—

The importer would have purchased wheat in foreign markets only at such prices as would have repaid him at the existing prices in the early part of the spring, when his orders were given, and not with reference to a speculative reduction of the existing high duty. The price, in consequence, in Dantzic would not have been so high as it was by 8s. or 10s. per quarter. As it arrived during the spring and summer months, it would have been as gradually supplied to the market as if it were English wheat, as no more inducement would exist for keeping it back. The price during these months would have been a few shillings per quarter lower; increased consumption and trade generally would have been promoted thereby; the intense suffering which then existed would have been mitigated; the working classes would have continued larger consumers of other articles of agricultural produce; and every importer of wheat would have taken care to have sold his stock in the months when the greatest scarcity existed, and before the price was likely to be reduced by the supplies of the coming harvest; so that, instead of the enormous accumulation which the home producer had to encounter in the autumn, the market would have been cleared and ready for his supplies; and, instead of the price ranging from 60s. to 64s. in the first six months, and from 47s. to 52s. in the last four months, it would have been maintained at an equal medium rate the whole year; for we are quite willing to admit that the operation of the sliding scale produces prices at particular moments, and often for an entire year, much below what would be maintained with a regular Free Trade; but such low prices are always the reaction from, and the forerunners of, extreme high prices, which again disorganise every interest.

We have shown that, with an entire Free Trade, *and other circumstances the same*, more foreign wheat would not have been imported during the last three years than has been, for even without duty the price has been such that no profit could be derived from it; but that the imports which have taken place under the delusive inducements of the present law would, with a Free Trade, have been made, without entailing such large losses on the importer, with more benefit to the consumer, and with much less injury to the home producer. And if, as a consequence of a Free Trade, *circumstances were materially altered*, and we imported much more wheat than we have done—which we sincerely believe would be the case,—it could only be in consequence of a general improvement in the condition of the consumer, and could only again tend further to improve that condition by promoting the general trade and industry of the country, in the results of which no one could have a deeper interest in every way than the cultivator of the land at home, dependent on near and good markets for the consumption of his produce generally; and the more we increased our imports, the further we extended the radius of our supply, under such circumstances, the greater would be the legitimate advantages of his locality and proximity to the best market.

THE FRENCH WAR MONOMANIA.

Surely the brave, acute, and clever French nation is labouring for the moment under a most mischievous monomania. They are mad after conquests and colonies,—mad after the very things which painful experience should have taught them have ever proved injurious, or embarrassing, not only to themselves, but to every other European nation. The French see the English rich, manufacturing, commercial, and powerful at sea, and they at once jump to the conclusion that England owes her wealth and maritime strength to her possessions in Asia and America. They, therefore, begin the career of wealth by conquests in Africa and Polynesia, over warlike and ungovernable barbarians, or timid half savages, equally unprofitable as subjects.

If the French nation had come to the conclusion that England possesses great wealth and great naval power in spite of conquests and great colonies, France would be much nearer the truth. If the French people could but for a moment be brought to their sober senses, they might see this at a glance. The most splendid of our acquisitions is India. As sovereigns, or protectors, we have 100,000,000 of people under our sway. In finance, the utmost that can be said of this very fine possession is that it just pays for the trouble of keeping; while, as to trade, our commerce with it is much less than that with China, in which our sovereignty is confined to one barren rock.

If we turn to the Western Continent, the result is still more striking and instructive. The colonies, now the United States, took us a century and a half to establish, and all this long while they cost some portion of their civil charges, and all their military and naval charges, while a commercial monopoly was caused by their possession, more oppressive to parent and offspring than needless fleets and armies. Then we lost them, and the struggle to hold an unprofitable dominion cost us one hundred and thirty millions.

We have still extensive possessions on the North American Continent, containing as many subjects as the United States at the declaration of independence; but let the French point out, if they can, what benefit we derive from them. They cost us the expense of a large army and a considerable squadron. They are the cause of a monopoly which takes a clear million and a half a year out of the pockets of the British people; they are the only source of danger to our peace and friendship with the American Republic; and finally, they do not take off one-half the emigrants, nor one-fifth part of the manufactures, which does that Republic that costs us not one farthing.

Our Antilles are still worse. We bear the whole charge of their military and naval protection, and we have been performing the same pleasant office for near two centuries. Some ten years ago we paid them twenty millions of head money, and ever since we have been paying them a net £5,000,000 a year for their produce beyond what their produce is intrinsically worth. All this is surely not very encouraging for that course of territorial and colonial aggrandisement which the French nation seems so intent on pursuing.

If France itself be a smaller loser than Britain by her colonies, it is only because she has the good fortune (not certainly appreciated) of having a smaller stake at risk. She once possessed Canada; and at the end of a century it involved her in a war with England. She lost it, making it over to us (to whom it has ever since proved a burden), the poorest and most backward colony of North America. Unable to make anything of Louisiana, she sold it to the United States; and the prosperity of Louisiana commenced from the date of the sale. In the West Indies she pursues the same policy as ourselves: that is, the policy approved of by the great-grandfathers of all men of any decent amount of enlightenment: and she is a proportional loser by it. As to her East India possessions, they are on such a scale that she could not seriously hurt herself if she were to pave all the streets of all their towns with silver.

Fourteen years ago the French nation was bitten with the wild notion of conquering and colonizing Africa on the Mediterranean, and they made their first essay in the ancient Numidia, which they have held ever since,—the concern becoming every year more and more unprofitable, and more and more unmanageable. Some 40,000 men were enough to make the conquest, but it now takes 120,000 to keep it; that is, *four* times the number of European troops necessary to the maintenance of British authority in India, over fifty times the number of inhabitants, about fifty times as far away, and yielding about seventy times as much revenue!

With this unprofitable essay staring them in the face, the French are now proposing to add the empire of Morocco to their African colonies. That is obviously their intention; whether they may happen eventually to be crossed in their purpose or not is another matter. The French would seem to have forgotten the very meaning of the word colony. It means an unoccupied country, or nearly so, planted with an exotic race of men, who shall have room to grow and thrive in it. Now, this common notion of a colony does by no means apply to Algiers and Morocco, which are said to contain between them above ten millions of inhabitants, composed of no less than nine different races of men, all warlike, and all semi-barbarous; and, although so close to Europe, the very antipodes of Europe in religion, manners, and language.

We have not colonised Hindustan, although in possession of a large portion of it for near a century, because Hindustan had been colonised or settled by other races of men when we conquered it. Neither can the French colonise Africa, unless they first exterminate the different races of men who now occupy it, and who probably have done so as long as the Hindus and Mahomedans have occupied India. Among the many races that occupy India the English are numerically among the smallest, and so will the French continue to be, should they conquer the Mediterranean coast of Africa, under the fanciful notion that they are colonising it.

When the French, therefore, talk of colonising Africa, what they really mean is conquering it. What, then, is to be gained to France by such a conquest? We really believe nothing worth the cost of a single regiment of *chasseurs*, but it is easy to see that she will entail on herself an enormous national loss by it. A country that can pay a surplus revenue beyond the expense of maintaining the conquest must have a very fertile territory, and that territory must be peopled by a dense, docile, and industrious population. There are very few such countries in the world. We know of none that can be named, except the plain of Lombardy, the valleys of the Nile and Ganges, and perhaps the fertile islands of Java and Cuba.

Now, Algeria and Morocco possess not one of the necessary qualities. The country is fertile by patches, but sterile by larger patches. The population is not dense, and, instead of being docile and industrious, it is turbulent, idle, predatory, and vicious. In what calculable number of ages can France be expected to convert 10,000,000 of such barbarians into peace-loving and tax-loving subjects?—*Examiner*.

TRAVELS AMONG THE SUFFOLK FIRES.

(No. VI.)

FIRE AT ANN MANNING'S COTTAGE, AT WANGFORD.

(From the *Morning Advertiser*.)

The notice of this miserable woman in the report of the inquest on the Earl of Stradbroke's gamekeepers, which appeared in the *Morning Advertiser* on Tuesday, is substantially correct, but not wholly so. As stated there, it is true that her husband was suffering imprisonment in gaol for a trumpery offence against the game law, the most trumpery of laws. He had taken some pheasants' eggs, and his summer and his harvest months were doomed to be spent in a prison because he had done so. It is a dreadful thing in Suffolk to take pheasants' eggs, even though they are but newly laid in the grass by the side of a hedge, and offer a tempting prize to the hungry father of a hungry family. It is an awful thing to take away the eggs. The taker gets three months in the gaol, treadmill and all, for the first offence. Three months in gaol, with the additional punishment of knowing that his family is starving outside, and that his furniture will be seized on and carried away and sold to pay the cottage rent. Thus much for a man who takes the eggs from a pheasant's nest. But the gamekeeper who loses the eggs feels the awfulness of the loss in a degree commensurate with the enormity of the crime of the man who put them in his pocket. Dreading to face his noble master and to account for the eggs which were in a nest, and have produced nothing better than a brood of criminals in the house of correction—fathers in one gaol, mothers in another gaol, and their children in the workhouse; dreading to meet a master's face with no better account of the pheasants' eggs to give than this, he puts the muzzle of his fowling-piece in his own mouth and blows out his own brains. Had he met the stealer of the eggs in the act of taking them, then they might have reversed the manner of the death. They might have grappled and struggled; they might have struck, or stabbed, or strangled each other. The gamekeeper might have been slain by the egg-stealer, and the egg-stealer would have been hanged. All this would have been more common than what did happen. But the egg-stealer was not caught in the act, and no battle took place. No blood was shed; no excuse could be offered to the noble owner of the eggs; so the gamekeeper slew himself.

This was no sooner done, than another gamekeeper, who had to answer for his eggs, took his fowling-piece, and also slew himself; and after him another was ordered to be bound and confined, and watched, lest he should do the same.

So much for the man who put the noble lord's eggs in his pocket, and so much for the men who lost them, and were answerable to their owner for their loss. And now for the family of the man who put the eggs in his pocket.

The mother was left, while the father was in gaol, with a family of young children, without money, without food, and almost without hope of life. Arrears of rent accumulated, and James Ruthen, the owner of her cottage, put in a distress. He sold off her furniture, which was worth £8. or upwards, for the sum of £2. 19s. The rent due to him was £2. 7s. 6d.; but when he had paid the expense of the distraint and sale, he had only 18s.; this deducted from the arrears, left a balance of £1. 9s. 6d. still due.

This wretched mother of a starving family—miserable wife of a husband sent to the treadmill for taking the eggs of a wild bird which destroys the farmer's grain, which eggs he saw in the field: this miserable woman begged for time to pay from James Ruthen, but James Ruthen said the case was now in the hands of his lawyer, and he had not the power to stop the sale of her furniture.

The reporter, writing on the subject of the suicide of the gamekeepers, intimates that a belief prevails that the woman burned the cottage by accident. I was present at her trial, and I am sorry to say I cannot hold such an opinion. There seemed no doubt to me, the jury had no doubt, and the judge concurred with the jury, that the wretched woman did set fire to her cottage.

It was proved that in her madness, when Ruthen refused to withdraw the distraint, she said to him, "Before you shall have my things I shall burn them in the room, and your old house too." Mr. Prendergast, for the prosecution, with a mildness which distinguishes him at all times, and an expression of mercy which distinguished him at this time, did not press for a conviction beyond what the evidence fully warranted. And Mr. Palmer, for the defence, encountered the proofs in vain. The jury found her guilty, and recommended her to mercy, on account of the very peculiar circumstances of the case.

The judge, Mr. Baron Alderson, said that he entirely agreed with the jury. He believed their verdict was just; and he also believed the recommendation to mercy

was well founded. He deferred passing sentence; but after having conferred with his brother judge, Mr. Justice Williams, he sentenced her to the punishment—an inferior punishment for arson—of two years' imprisonment. The reporter who said one year, is misinformed. The judge also condemned the enormous costs of the lawyer who distrained and sold the furniture.

There is now to be added to all this catalogue of evils, which have followed the taking eggs from a pheasant's nest, the expense of keeping the children in the workhouse, and the parents in the prisons.

There is also the moral effect of all this on the population around. Theft is theft, and every thief knows it, whether found out or not. Every man who takes another's property knows that he is doing wrong—knows that he is breaking a commandment; but the man who kills a pheasant, or who takes her eggs from the hedge, believes no such thing. He knows that the law calls the bird private property, and that its death is punished severely by the law; but he also knows that the bird is a public depredator; that, unlike all other creatures called private property, it is not fed at the expense of the man who claims to be its owner. He knows it is a wild bird, living at the expense of those who dare not touch it nor complain of it, if seen or heard, yet who do complain of it, and who would destroy all its kind, were it not for fear of losing their farms by offending their landlords, the owners of the pheasants.

A man who knows that the game law is made to create and protect a species of property which is not recognised as property by any other law; but which, on the contrary, is maintained by the infringement of every other law relating to private property—a man who breaks this game law is not likely to believe he has broken a sacred law, not even though administrators of the game law are, in eight cases out of ten, the clergy of the Church. So far, indeed, from their sacred profession investing this law with that sacred character which it so much wants, and which other laws possess, the administration of the game law only detracts from much of the respect which might otherwise attach to the clergy.

The game laws have produced many evils. Crimes of every dye have resulted from them. Morality has been assailed, and overturned, and trodden down by the keeping of game in so densely peopled a country as this, amongst so much poverty. And, as if it were not bad enough that morality should suffer—not bad enough that murders, and thefts, and every vice should be propagated by the breeding and keeping of game—religion is prostituted and depreciated by the same means in a like manner. The successors of the Apostles, instead of confining themselves to the cure of souls, employ themselves in executing the law against poachers. They set themselves up as a kind of head gamekeepers. W.

THE FARMERS' PROSPECTS.

To the Editor of the Times.

Sir,—You would be conferring a great blessing upon the agricultural part of the community, if you would endeavour to enforce upon the minds of landlords, through the agency of your powerful journal, the injurious effect which is produced by the centralization of landed occupations.

In your remarks on "savings' banks" on Saturday last, you briefly referred to this subject. You ask a very important question about the labourer—"When he has saved his £50 or £100, then comes the greatest difficulty; what is he to do with his money?"

This question is equally applicable to the situation of the farmer. He has toiled through many a period of war and peace, of famine and of plenty; he has lived to see the changes which have taken place between the reign of George III. and the present period of Queen Victoria; and it is a subject worthy of inquiry to know what is his present position, and what are his prospects for the future.

We will suppose a case from the number which is continually occurring. The members of a family are gathered round the death-bed of their aged parent, and are soon called upon to perform the last tribute of affection to their departed father. The produce of his industry and economy is divided fairly and justly among them. The lease of their farm probably expires the following Michaelmas; previous to which they are informed by the landlord's steward that Mr. Smith, or Mr. Jones, or Mr. Somebody-else, who has already in his occupation one-third of the parish, has hired it, and that it is useless to expect a renewal of the lease. The house, in which a large family had been trained up in habits of industry, is to be occupied by Tom Brown, the gamekeeper, who is strictly charged to attend to the game preserves, and forward as large a quantity as possible to the fishmonger at the nearest market town, in exchange for oysters, salmon, and turbot; while his wife is to rear poultry to forward to the town-house in the winter. The carpenter is ordered to board up all the windows in the house save two, over which you may see the words "Cheese-room" and "Dairy," in order to save the assessed taxes; and the house is entered in the parish books "unoccupied." If any man doubts this, let him take a tour through Suffolk and Essex, and examine for himself.

But I will return to the case of the farmer's son who has been bred up to agriculture. He is now in possession of the dividend of his father's property, but out of the farm. Now comes the important question, "What is he to do with his money?" He asks the very question himself, and everybody who knows him asks the same. "Small farms are become obsolete." The new poor law has swallowed up every trader who cannot take a contract for £3000. "Do what he will, he has a very fair prospect of the union workhouse before him." What a lamentable fact to know, that, with so great an increase of population, our landed aristocracy should encourage a system so baneful to the welfare of society!

If England is to remain a great nation, she must provide her people with occupations, or be prepared to support them as paupers, or punish them as vagabonds and felons. Surely it must be far wiser and better to do so, than to build for them prisons and workhouses. Landlords may blind their eyes to these facts, but the number of occupations which are thrown into one, and those which are held "off-hand," as it is termed, will, every year, tend to increase pauperism.

I have made several careful inquiries lately in Suffolk and Essex, and I find in many parishes that the number of farmers and farms does not amount to more than one-half, and, in many instances, to not more than one-third of what they were 40 years ago; notwithstanding many thousands of acres have been added to estates from waste and common lands.

Do the agricultural labourers profit by this? Do they not look upon the grasping power of landlords as one of the great sources of their poverty and distress? The landed interest, indeed, may well "feel a want of supporters;" and "yet they continue to drive humble thrift and ambition to the towns, decimating the yeomanry, and grinding down the labourer." These facts are indisputable.

The late meeting of agriculturists at Wickham-market was but a sorry affair. It is really sad to find a set of country gentlemen met together in such a county, and under such circumstances—to hear them talk of "assumed distress," and of exporting our "redundant population," like so many bales of cotton goods. Why not make allusion to the spirit of disaffection which is not yet destroyed amongst the agricultural labourers of the county? It would be far better if those gentlemen would divide and subdivide their immense estates amongst those who would be yeomen, but cannot, so that there might be more employment for men of small capital, instead of adopting Captain Rous's plan of sending them to the coast of Africa.

If you can rouse the attention of landlords to the certain evil which must result from the modern system of centralization in agricultural property, it will amply repay the labours of your powerful influence. We shall look in vain for any change but by the force of public opinion, if we may judge from the specimen of "after-dinner speeches" made at agricultural meetings.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Sept. 18. H.

Leases essential to Agricultural Improvements.—Many tenants have not the requisite means to become improvers under any circumstances; and the unwillingness of landlords to grant leases of considerable duration, which unfortunately prevails throughout England, will prevent their obtaining tenants able and willing to invest the proper amount of capital in farming. The late Earl of Leicester and the present Earls Spencer, Ducie, and Radnor, form, however, noble exceptions. This aversion to leases must be overcome, before any great and general agricultural improvement can take place. It has been said that a lease is binding on the landlord only, for if a tenant is unable to pay his rent and perform his covenants, the owner is but too anxious to get rid of him, which is true as regards the class of farmers before alluded to; but landlords, if prices should become steady, instead of looking to the man who might offer the most rent, would think more of the ultimate result of having persons of capital upon their estates, and in this way would really receive better and more certain incomes than they do at present. Such, however, has been the fluctuation of prices of late years, that really good tenants are as much averse to leases as landlords; they do not like being bound to terms calculated upon prices which they can never be certain of obtaining for two years together. If the rents offered can only be given when corn is at the artificial price promised by the Corn Laws, we cannot blame tenants who hold off from leases; but, while such a state of things exists, the capital necessary for extensive and permanent agricultural improvements will not in general be forthcoming.—*British and Foreign Review.*

Restriction and Reciprocity.—Driven from so many of the strongholds, which for a long time they had so tenaciously kept possession of, the monopolists have at length hit upon a certain crotchety sophism, which, upon a superficial view, has all the appearance of a certain kind of rough, plausible common sense about it, but which, examined a little more closely, will be found to be nothing more than mere empty moonshine. It is said that, so long as foreign countries continue to impose restrictive duties upon our manufactures, it would be madness in England to take off all restrictive duties upon the importation of their corn. Upon this subject a great deal of very learned argument and a great variety of curious statistics have of late been most elaborately displayed in many of the daily journals on both sides. The matter, however, lies in a nutshell. The common-sense view of it is open to the common understandings of all men. There is an old proverb which says—"It is possible to cut off one's nose to hurt one's face." The propriety of committing such an act there are few, it is to be hoped, who will be heroic enough to undertake to defend. But this would be exactly the course which England would pursue if she were to postpone the period of granting a Free Trade to foreign corn until foreign countries have granted a Free Trade to her manufactures. A familiar illustration will demonstrate the truth of this:—A and B are possessed of two articles which each of them is anxious to dispose of. Let it be said, for instance, that A has a horse which he wants to sell, and that B has a plough which he would have no objection to part with. It so happens, however, that A wants B's plough much more than B wants A's horse. A has a horse too many, and that is the reason he is willing to sell. But A wants a plough to make up his necessary number, which is the reason that he is still more anxious to become the purchaser of B's plough. Now, suppose B says to A, "I will not purchase your horse unless you pay to my steward a handsome per centage when the money is being paid to you. Do as you like about the plough, but those are the only terms on which I will buy your horse." Now, recollecting A wants the plough more than he does the horse, would it be a sensible mode of acting in him to say in return—"No, if you impose those terms on me when selling my horse, I will impose similar terms upon you when I am purchasing your plough." "Very well," the other would naturally reply, "I can do without your horse, but if you do not get my plough you must be seriously inconvenienced in consequence." This is precisely the case of England. England wants America's corn much more than America wants England's manufactures. Why then should she be so foolishly obstinate as to wait for a perfect system of reciprocity? If she can get it, of course it would be so much the better. But to open her ports first for the article which she wants, and then leave it to America afterwards to do as she pleases in regard to manufactures, is certainly the more sensible course—the course more in accordance with those principles of common sense on which Sir J. Graham himself has acknowledged Free Trade to be founded.—*Sydney Guardian*, New South Wales.

REVIEW.

The Popular Member, and other Tales. By Mrs. Gore. London: Bentley.

Creditable as this work is to the versatility of Mrs. Gore's powers, it is far from raising her character either for correctness of observation or soundness of judgment. Her purpose is to deter wealthy manufacturers from seeking a seat in the Legislature, by showing them the danger to which their domestic peace will be exposed from the new connexions into which they are likely to be led by parliamentary life. The error into which she has fallen in her delineation is one very likely to be produced in the atmosphere of May-fair. She supposes that a manufacturer entering Parliament must of necessity come out of his order, and seek new associations in fashionable circles; she believes that St. Stephen's Chapel cannot be dissevered from Almack's, and that political life is impossible beyond the sphere of attraction belonging to fashionable circles. The author of "Coningsby" has taken a more just view of the proper position of a man of business who has been led to take a part in public life. Millbank is one of those ideal creations which present themselves to the mind with the stamp and impress of reality. So far from wishing to come out from his own class, and seek to be a dependent on the caprice of a different rank, he exhibits a determination "to stand by his order" not less energetic than that of Earl Grey himself. On the other hand, Mrs. Gore's hero, Robert Myrton, sets out from the commencement of his public career as a creature of the aristocracy; he is brought into Parliament by a Whig peer for a rotton borough; he is represented as ready to sacrifice public principle to the behests of party, and as eager to court the smiles of great personages. It may be said that Mrs. Gore is unable to form any other notions of patriotism, and that she cannot conceive any political existence free from the conventional morals and usages which party has created. This is undoubtedly true; all her clever novels derive their principal attractions from her exposure of the hollowness of those conventionalisms with which the circumstances of her life have rendered her familiar; and she can no more conceive a public career independent of conventional rule than Scriblerus could separate the idea of a Lord Mayor from the mace and gold chain. Her tale is an utter failure, because she is completely ignorant of the class of men from which she has taken her hero.

Robert Myrton is represented as having married the portionless daughter of a clergyman, but after being three years wedded he embarks in large speculations, which withdraw his attention from his wife and children. We shall introduce him at the moment when he has completed a new mill:—

"'I heartily wish you joy, my dear Car.,' cried he,—after witnessing the admirable operations of the new machinery; 'the event of this day will put some thousands a year into your pocket.'

"'Rather wish me joy,' she retorted, 'that it will restore to me the company and affections of my husband!'—For Mrs. Myrton had yet to learn, that a man of active mind, long absorbed in an arduous undertaking, does not easily return to the uneventful and vapid monotony of his previous life. The responsibility which had devolved on Robert Myrton's shoulders at the death of his father, was never more to be shaken off. The services of his right hand were too often in request in his house of business, to admit of its remaining enclasped, as of old, between those of his lovely wife.

"The vastness of the speculations in which the house of Myrton and Son was now engaged, and which he found, from Aunt Minchin and other persons of more account, had drawn upon him the sneers of his manufacturing competitors, seemed to render success a duty, as well as a delight. Every nerve, therefore, was strained, every faculty exercised to the utmost, in order to support the firm in the high position it had long maintained in the export trade of the country.

"Success, even beyond his hopes, soon entitled him to claim the congratulations of his wife. Unwilling as he had been to weary the attention of a fair creature still scarcely past the age of girlhood, with the tedious details of his buildings and new patent, no sooner was the product tangible, than he called upon his beloved Caroline to rejoice with him, and be glad.

"And glad she was,—but not with the perfect and heartwarm sympathy of other days. During the three years which had elapsed since the death of the old gentleman, Caroline Myrton, deprived of her husband's society and of active domestic duties, had created employments for her leisure which now satisfied her attention. An expert artist, a fine musician, a good linguist, her memory was stored with the choicest works of imagination in her own and other languages. At two-and-twenty she was an accomplished, as well as a beautiful woman.

"But she was no longer the idolizing wife of the man of business, who comprehended all the joys of life in an evening stroll by the river side, hand in hand, with her husband! At present, indeed, Robert was unconscious of what he had lost or what she had gained; nor, while she remained so considerate and submissive a daughter-in-law, and so affectionate and gentle a mother, was he likely to notice that she lent only a forced attention to his perpetual exultations over the increase of his traffic, and the superior quality of his merchandise.

"On the other hand, the superficial accomplishments she had acquired were as unimportant in *his* eyes, as in *hers* the admirable texture of his cloths. Her pianoforte and water-colours appeared to him only the toys of her grown-up play-hours; and when, one evening at Hilliard Park, he found himself eagerly complimented, by a party of London fashionables, on the exquisite taste with which

Mrs. Myrton executed her part in one of Beethoven's symphonies, he could scarcely refrain from a smile at hearing so much enthusiasm wasted on an excellence so trivial.

"It was enough, however, that there was no cause for fault-finding with the new pursuits in which his wife was absorbed. She neglected no duty for the prosecution of her pleasures. The poor found as kind a friend in the accomplished wife of the manufacturer, as in his silent bride; and when, twice on every Sabbath, she took her place in the family pew, in the neat parish church of Stainton erected at the sole cost of the elder Myrton, the eyes of the workmen and their families rested upon their patroness with a degree of veneration almost amounting to worship."

The entire description which we have quoted is not true in fact, and is scarcely comprehensible in theory. Men of enlarged minds and great speculation, so far from being indifferent to domestic joys and social accomplishments, are precisely those who seek most for the support which sympathy affords, and the recreations which artistic accomplishments always yield. There is no part of the world where the fine arts, and more especially music, meet more liberal encouragement than in Manchester, and there are no men who exhibit so decided a love for the affectionate enjoyments of the domestic circle as the manufacturers of Yorkshire and Lancashire. But, though Mrs. Gore has failed in the great purpose of her story, it is one which contains a valuable moral. It should teach the manufacturers that they can only maintain respectability when they show, like Millbank in "Coningsby," that they are not ashamed of themselves or their order, but that they will fall like Myrton if they become dependents on party, or aspirants to the honour of permissive existence as fractions of aristocratic circles.

The Fountain, and other Poems. By W. C. Bryant. (Clarke's American Series.) London: Clarke and Co.

Clarke's cabinet series of cheap and beautiful works has just been enriched by the addition of the poems of W. C. Bryant, the most national of the American poets, and one of the most faithful translators of the silent language of Nature that has ever written verse divine. He has studied the universe until the voices of its winds and waters have become familiar to his soul, and its beauties intertwined themselves with all his feelings and all his intelligence. It is almost a picture that presents itself to the mind when his descriptions of the beauties of creation are read; but the picture is pervaded with life and feeling, each object is associated with lessons of high and holy philosophy, which elevate the soul and influence the heart. His philanthropy is universal in its sympathies; he everywhere manifests a sincere love of freedom, and an intense hatred of oppression. We have seen few odes on the liberation of Greece, countless as are the lyrics in which that event was celebrated, equal to the following stanzas:—

"THE GREEK BOY.

"Gone are the glorious Greeks of old,
Glorious in mien and mind;
Their bones are mingled with the mould,
Their dust is on the wind:
The forms they hewed from living stone,
Survive the waste of years alone;
And, scattered with their ashes, show
What greatness perished long ago.

"Yet fresh the myrtles there—the springs
Gush brightly as of yore;
Flowers blossom from the dust of kings,
As many an age before.
There nature moulds as nobly now,
As e'er of old, the human brow;
And copies still the martial form
That braved Platea's battle storm.

"Boy! thy first looks were taught to seek
Their Heaven in Hella's skies;
Her airs have tinged thy dusky cheek,
Her sunshine lit thine eyes;
Thine ears have drunk the woodland strains
Heard by old poets, and thy veins
Swell with the blood of demigods,
That slumber in thy country's sods.

"Now is thy nation free—though late—
Thy elder brethren broke—
Broke, ere thy spirit felt its weight,
The intolerable yoke.
And Greece, decayed, dethroned, doth see
Her youth renewed in such as thee;
A shoot of that old vine that made
The nations silent in its shade."

A very different interest attaches to the "Death of the Flowers," which is equally vivid in its delineation, and affecting in its suggestion:—

"THE DEATH OF THE FLOWERS.

"The melancholy days are come, the saddest of the year,
Of wailing winds, and naked woods, and meadows brown and sere,
Heaped in the hollows of the grove, the withered leaves lie dead;
They rustle to the eddying gust, and to the rabbit's tread.
The robin and the wren are flown, and from the shrubs the jay,
And from the wood-top calls the crow, through all the gloomy day.

"Where are the flowers, the fair young flowers, that lately sprang and stood
In brighter light and softer airs, a beauteous sisterhood?
Alas! they all are in their graves—the gentle race of flowers
Are lying in their lowly beds, with the fair and good of ours.
The rain is falling where they lie, but the cold November rain
Calls not, from out the gloomy earth, the lovely ones again.

"The wind-flower and the violet, they perished long ago,
And the briar-rosé and the orchis died amid the summer glow;
But on the hill the golden-rod, and the aster in the wood,
And the yellow sunflower by the brook in autumn beauty stood,
Till fell the frost, from the clear cold heaven, as falls the plague on men,
And the brightness of their smile was gone, from upland, glade, and glen.

"And now, when comes the calm, mild day, as still such days will come,
To call the squirrel and the bee from out their winter home;
When the sound of dropping nuts is heard, though all the trees are still,
And twinkle in the smoky light the waters of the rill,
The south wind searches for the flowers whose fragrance late he bore,
And sighs to find them in the wood and by the stream no more.

"And then I think of one, who in her youthful beauty died,
The fair, meek blossom that grew up and faded by my side:
In the cold, moist earth we laid her, when the forest cast the leaf,
And we wept that one so lovely should have a life so brief:
Yet not unmeet it was that one, like that young friend of ours,
So gentle and so beautiful, should perish with the flowers."

"The African Chief" is a very vigorous conception, and very powerfully developed.

"THE AFRICAN CHIEF.

"Chained in the market-place he stood,
A man of giant frame,
Amid the gathering multitude
That shrunk to hear his name—
All stern of look and strong of limb,
His dark eye on the ground:—
And silently they gazed on him,
As on a lion bound.

"Vainly, but well, that chief had fought,
He was a captive now,
Yet pride, that fortune humbles not,
Was written on his brow.
The scars his dark broad bosom wore,
Showed warrior true and brave;
A prince among his tribe before,
He could not be a slave.

"Then to his conqueror he spake—
'My brother is a king;
Undo this necklace from my neck,
And take this bracelet ring
And send me where my brother reigns,
And I will fill thy hands
With store of ivory from the plains,
And gold-dust from the sands.'

"'Not for thy ivory nor thy gold
Will I unbind thy chain;
That bloody hand shall never hold
The battle-spear again.
A price thy nation never gave,
Shall yet be paid for thee;
For thou shalt be the Christian slave,
In lands beyond the sea.'

"Then wept the warrior chief, and bade
To shred his locks away;
And, one by one, each heavy braid
Before the victor lay.
Thick were the platted locks, and long,
And deftly hidden there
Shone many a wedge of gold among
The dark and crisped hair.

"'Look, feast thy greedy eye with gold
Long kept for sorest need;
Take it—thou askest sums untold
And say that I am freed.
Take it—my wife, the long, long day
Weeps by the cocoa-tree,
And my young children leave their play,
And ask in vain for me.'

"'I take thy gold—but I have made
Thy fetters fast and strong,
And ween that by the cocoa shade
Thy wife will wait thee long.'
Strong was the agony that shook
The captive's frame to hear,
And the proud meaning of his look
Was changed to mortal fear.

"His heart was broken—crazed his brain:
At once his eye grew wild;
He struggled fiercely with his chain,
Whispered, and wept, and smiled;
Yet wore not long those fatal bands,
And once, at shut of day,
They drew him forth upon the sands,
The foul hyena's prey."

Among the religious poems "The Song of the Stars" is, on the whole, our greatest favourite.

"SONG OF THE STARS.

"When the radiant morn of creation broke,
And the world in the smile of God awoke,
And the empty realms of darkness and death
Were moved through their depths by his mighty breath,
And orbs of beauty and spheres of flame
From the void abyss by myriads came,—
In the joy of youth as they darted away,
Through the widening wastes of space to play,
Their silver voices in chorus rung,
And this was the song the bright ones sung:—

"'Away, away, through the wide, wide sky—
The fair blue fields that before us lie—
Each sun, with the worlds that round him roll;
Each planet, poised on her turning pole;
With her isles of green, and her clouds of white,
And her waters that lie like fluid light.

"'For the source of glory uncovers his face,
And the brightness o'erflows unbounded space;
And we drink, as we go, the luminous tides
In our ruddy air and our blooming sides:
Lo! yonder the living splendours play;
Away, on our joyous path, away!

"'Look, look, through our glittering ranks afar,
In the infinite azure, star after star,
How they brighten and bloom as they swiftly pass!
How the verdure runs o'er each rolling mass!
And the path of the gentle winds is seen,
Where the small waves dance, and the young woods lean.

"'And see, where the brighter day-beams pour,
How the rainbows hang in the sunny shower;
And the morn and eve, with their pomp of hues,
Shift o'er the bright planets and shed their dews;
And, 'twixt them both, o'er the teeming ground,
With their shadowy cone the night goes round!

"'Away, away! in our blossoming bowers,
In the soft air wrapping these spheres of ours,
In the seas and fountains that shine with morn,
See, Love is brooding, and Life is born,
And breathing myriads are breaking from night,
To rejoice like us, in motion and light.

"'Glide on in your beauty, ye youthful spheres,
To weave the dance that measures the years;
Glide on, in the glory and gladness sent,
To the farthest wall of the firmament,—
The boundless visible smile of Him,
To the veil of whose brow your lamps are dim!'"

Our last extract shall be the last poem in the collection—

"THE ANTIQUITY OF FREEDOM.

"Here are old trees, tall oaks, and gnarled pines,
That stream with gray-green mosses; here the ground
Was never trenched by spade, and flowers spring up
Unsown, and die ungathered. It is sweet
To linger here, among the flitting birds,
And leaping squirrels, wandering brooks, and winds
That shake the leaves, and scatter, as they pass,
A fragrace from the cedars, thickly set
With pale blue berries. In these peaceful shades—
Peaceful, unpruned, immeasurably old—
My thoughts go up the long dim path of years,
Back to the earliest days of liberty.

"Oh, FREEDOM! thou art not, as poets dream,
A fair young girl, with light and delicate limbs,
And wavy tresses gushing from the cap
With which the Roman master crowned his slave
When he took off the gyves. A bearded man,
Armed to the teeth, art thou; one mailed hand
Grasps the broad shield, and one the sword; thy brow,
Glorious in beauty though it be, is scarred
With tokens of old wars; thy massive limbs
Are strong with struggling. Power at thee has launched
His bolts, and with his lightnings smitten thee;
They could not quench the life thou hast from heaven.
Merciless power has dug thy dungeon deep,
And his swart armorers, by a thousand fires,
Have forged thy chain; yet, while he deems thee bound,
The links are shivered, and the prison walls
Fall outward: terribly thou springest forth,
As springs the flame above a burning pile,
And shoutest to the nations, who return
Thy shoutings while the pale oppressor flies.

"Thy birthright was not given by human hands:
Thou wert twin-born with man. In pleasant fields,
While yet our race was few, thou sat'st with him,
To tend the quiet flock and watch the stars,
And teach the reed to utter simple airs.
Thou by his side, amid the tangled wood,
Didst war upon the panther and the wolf,
His only foes; and thou with him didst draw
The earliest furrows on the mountain side,
Soft with the deluge. Tyranny himself,
The enemy, although of reverend look,
Hoary with many years, and far obeyed,
Is later born than thou; and as he meets
The grave defiance of thine elder eye,
The usurper trembles in his fastness.

"Thou shalt wax stronger with the lapse of years,
But he shall fade into a feebler age;
Feebler, yet subtler. He shall weave his snares,
And spring them on thy careless steps, and clap
His withered hands, and from their ambush call
His hordes to fall upon thee. He shall send
Quaint maskers, forms of fair and gallant mien,
To catch thy gaze, and uttering graceful words
To charm thy ear; while his sly imps, by stealth,
Twine round thee threads of steel, light thread on thread,
That grow to fetters: or bind down thy arms
With chains concealed in chaplets. Oh! not yet
May'st thou unbrace thy corslet, nor lay by
Thy sword; nor yet, O Freedom! close thy lids
In slumber; for thine enemy never sleeps,
And thou must watch and combat till the day
Of the new earth and heaven. But wouldst thou rest
Awhile from tumult and the frauds of men,
These old and friendly solitudes invite
Thy visit. They, while yet the forest trees
Were young upon the unviolated earth,
And yet the moss-stains on the rock were new,
Beheld thy glorious childhood, and rejoiced."

There are lessons taught in these powerful lines which ought not to be lightly banished from memory. It was overweening confidence that caused nations to lose their freedom; monopoly, the most insidious form of tyranny, is ever on the watch to avail itself of unguarded moments, and there is as much necessity for vigilance to preserve freedom as for courage to achieve it.

AGRICULTURE.

HOPE ON FOR EVER!

The season is now arrived at which lords and squires gather about them their tenants and adherents under the pretence of promoting agricultural improvements. For the gentry these meetings vary agreeably their pleasure-hunting lives; and to "gammon the farmers" forms a pleasing relaxation from the business-like pastime of partridge shooting. We had, however, some curiosity to learn what would be the particular topics of consolation these magnates would address to the farmers upon the present aspect of rural affairs. Amongst the first of the meetings of the sort is that of the *East Suffolk Agricultural Association*, which assembled on Friday se'nnight under the auspices of its President the *Earl of Stradbroke*. Many circumstances concur to render this meeting one worthy of remark. The president of the association, and of course the chairman at the dinner, is the lord-lieutenant of the county, a position to which he has lately been appointed by Sir Robert Peel; and he is the notorious game-preserver upon whose estates two gamekeepers have just destroyed themselves in consequence of the depredations committed by poachers on their master's game-preserves. Moreover, Suffolk is the seat of incendiarism, the dreadful resource of a destitute and half-employed peasantry to call attention to their sufferings. It was therefore impossible for Lord Stradbroke to avoid touching upon delicate ground, and accordingly he did touch upon it; though with a tenderness and in a way by no means satisfactory to the farmers present. He observed:—

"He should take the liberty of saying, *that the distress of the labouring population, which was put forward as the chief cause of incendiarism, was ascribable to circumstances over which neither the owners nor the occupiers of land had any control.* He was most anxious to abstain from treating the subject as a political question, for he felt that by so doing he should violate the rule of the association, a rule which no one could be more anxious than he was to abide by. Nevertheless, he was not precluded from adverting to facts, and facts were far more convincing than opinions. Every gentleman present must be well aware that the harvest of 1843 was deficient in quantity. That, in itself, was a great evil to the farmer. But his embarrassment did not stop there. In addition to a confessedly short crop, there had been a very large importation of foreign corn, *which so affected the market that the English farmer was unable to obtain a remunerating price for his produce*, although the consumption might be supposed to advance with the increase of population, and population would, of necessity, increase in any country having a poor law. The effect was inevitable. *The farmer, being unable to get a fair price for his produce, had not the means of giving employment to the surplus labourers.* It was not the interest of the farmer to restrict the means of cultivation, but he had no other alternative left. Hence it was that the labourers were thrown out of employment. Idleness and want produced discontent, and want and ignorance combined led to the commission of crime. The retrospect was painful—most painful—the future was more encouraging. He rejoiced to learn that the harvest would prove abundant this year; *and, although for some time the farmers must calculate on low prices, they were in a far better position than they were last year.*"

Now, if there were any farmers present, who had the power of thinking for themselves, and the capacity for observing what has been passing around them for the last year or two, they could not have regarded this speech as anything but the most heartless mockery. It was not because the harvest of 1843 was deficient that prices fell; on the contrary, the wheat crop of last year was moderately productive upon the whole, though less so than the great bulk of straw promised. This, and not importations, brought food down more nearly to the natural price than farmers relying on the Corn Laws had been led to expect. Thus it was that they were "unable to obtain a remunerating price for their produce." The rents swallowed up an undue proportion of their produce, and the labourers suffered in consequence. Does Lord Stradbroke pretend to say that the owners of land had "no control" over this circumstance?" Why, it was the direct consequence of their last thirty years' legislation! The Corn Law is a one-sided measure; it is only effective in seasons of scarcity: in good years it is inoperative except to plunder the farmers—who have relied on its delusive promises—of part of their capital to keep up the landlords' rents. Then this noble consoler of rural woes, having expressed his delight at learning that the present year's crop would prove abundant, said that "although for some time the farmers *must calculate on low prices*, they were in a far better position than they were last year." We wish there had been some farmer present with spirit enough to have asked the noble president, why farmers are in a better position this year than last. There perhaps has never been a year in which so large a proportion of the whole saleable produce of a farm will be required to pay the rent; and a more fearful prospect for the agricultural labourers than the coming winter presents seldom occurred. Nothing but outlays of capital by farmers, in the expectation of future profit, can keep the labourers employed; but such hope of profit will be illusory unless rents are adjusted and the fluctuations produced by the Corn Laws brought to an end. These, however, are the last things the landowning monopolists of Suffolk think of doing, for Lord Henniker, one of the county members, observed:—

"He thought the country *was under auspicious circumstances. They had the word of the Prime Minister that it was not his intention to alter the Corn Laws.* He had always said that the farmers might rely on Sir Robert Peel. This he repeated now."

Yet under this "auspicious" Corn Law, the price of wheat is now full 10s. a quarter lower than that which the president had declared to be "not remunerating" to the farmer, and which did not enable him to "give employment to the *surplus* labourers."

It is difficult to conceive how the farmer's "position" is better this year than it was last, upon any grounds stated by the monopolists. And this is the view of his lordship's speech taken by the more consistent starvation-men of the *Morning Post*, who, after referring to the last passage of Lord Stradbroke's speech above quoted, says:—

"*Is not the same tale told to the poor farmer at the close of each disastrous season—at the close of every season which false schemes of legislation have rendered disastrous to the cultivator of the British soil?* Was not the farmer told in the autumn of 1843, that his position was much better than it had been in 1842? And was not the farmer in 1842 encouraged to submit to the Tariff and new Corn Law by the assurances of great landowners that he had no reason to fear that increased competition to which Sir Robert Peel had doomed him? How long will men of station condescend to lend themselves to this game of subterfuge? How long will they shrink from the duty of aiding those who are, more or less, dependent on them, to look boldly and honestly at the extent of the danger to which, in melancholy truth, all the forms of native industry are now exposed?

"In what way, it may be demanded of Lord Stradbroke, *will the abundance of the present harvest improve the condition of the British farmer and labourer?*"

This is quite fair on the part of those who say that to high prices, and high prices only, can the farmer look for "remuneration," and the labourer for employment; but Lord Stradbroke, and such as he, blow hot and cold with the same breath. They tell the farmer that a price of 53s. a quarter for wheat is too low to be remunerating, and quite accounts for the non-employment of the agricultural labourers. Yet, when the price has fallen to 43s., the farmer's "position" is improved, and he is called upon to place implicit reliance on Peel and his Corn Law. Well may the thorough-paced monopolists of the *Post* chafe with indignation at such (for their and his lordship's object) suicidal nonsense. If this is the kind of consolation the political landlords have to offer to the farmers, we shall have *a tenant-farmers' anti-corn-law league* by the next session of Parliament. And having duly discoursed on guano and other manures, and urged the Suffolk farmers to purchase them lest they be outstripped by the farmers of Ireland, Lord Stradbroke said:—

"He need not mention to Suffolk farmers the good use of improved machinery, *and, though they employed all the labourers that could be employed*, without machinery they could not expect the land to produce all it could produce, and he was sure that with the combination of this power, *and the full employment of labour, farmers may avoid those difficulties, and bear that taxation, which surrounded and pressed upon them.*"

Thus apparently forgetting the first part of his own speech, wherein he had shown, or attempted to show, that from the low price of corn farmers could afford a "full employment of labour."

Captain Rous, M.P., afterwards said, with reference to the president's injunction to the farmers, that they should employ the labourers:—

"He concurred in the view generally. Still he thought it necessary, to render the plan universal, it must be shown that if the farmer laid out £10 in labour he should get £10. 10s. return, then he would be ready to employ; but if it was only proved that by this employment, though he had laid out £10, £9 was got back only, he would not do it."

This is true; but it does not follow, as Capt. Rous seemed to infer, that, because there is no land to be gained from the sea in Suffolk, the only remedy is emigration. We say, advisedly, that there is ample room for the employment in Suffolk of all the agricultural labourers, and that with profit to the farmers, provided our landlord-legislators would place agriculture upon a solid basis, by releasing it from the trammels of imaginary "protection."

Lord Rendlesham, another Suffolk county member and a monopolist, then had his say, and he appeared to feel the difficulty of, and perhaps some compunction at, expatriating our labourers, saying:—

"I allude to a subject of vast importance, and which at present occupies much of the public attention—the condition of the labouring classes. The hon. and gallant captain observed that emigration would be the better plan. I agree with him, *but you cannot force people to emigrate;* there is always attachment to country, and there must always be a few relations left behind. *I confess I think we ought not to get rid of our labourers altogether.*"

But he had no better reason for wanting them than this:—

"For I conceive the time may come when, as the gallant captain has held out, we may be plunged into war. *We may want our men—we may want their sinews in the conflict.*"

We say we do now want our men, we at this moment want their sinews in conflict,—not in conflict which leads man to imbrue his hands in the heart's blood of his brother,—but in conflict with the stubborn soil, with the rushes and weeds, the banks and hedgerows which now encumber our soil. When our own lands are cleared and brought into a state of real cultivation, then, but not till then, may our "surplus labourers" (if any) be sent to clear the wilds of Canada or New Zealand. His lordship then descanted upon the "allotment system" as a great prevention of "poaching and crime," and in stating the alleged advantages of that system he incidentally gave the following view of the condition of the labourers:—

"I believe, if you give the industrious man the means of employing his time, he will not go about committing depredations. It must be known to most of you *that great numbers of men are employed regularly by the farmers as ploughmen and servants, at about 9s. per week. But others receive only occasional employment.* Now, I ask any reflecting person, if a man be cut off his one or two days in a week, how is he to support perhaps his wife and seven children? *All I want is to give him the means of employing his leisure hours when he is not fully engaged;* and it is far from my intention to render him independent of his natural protector."

This confirms the view we have often expressed, that the small allotment system is really nothing more than a cheap substitute for parish relief. Its promoters assume that there must always be a large number of men in the rural districts who are half employed, and that a bit of land will feed them and their families—on potatoes, for that is the utmost in ordinary cases it can do—and keep them from poaching.

Now, at best, this is a mere palliation; the remedy for the disease being higher cultivation by farmers, whereby *all* the labourers would be regularly employed. All the land the labourer in full employ wants, is a small piece of garden ground attached to his cottage. Let the landowners provide this, and *the cottage*—though it may be somewhat more expensive than staking out a poor field into garden allotments—and the public will give them credit for some of the anxiety they profess to feel for the welfare of the labouring classes who surround them.

IMPROVED FARMING—WHO IS TO BEGIN?

For a long time tenant-farmers were periodically lectured by their landlords upon the necessity of adopting improved systems of husbandry, and such lectures were usually received rather silently and sulkily; though in some instances the more spirited farmers frankly declared that if the improvements recommended were to become general, the first steps must be taken by the landlords. Now, falling prices have impressed upon the minds of most landlords that something must be done on their parts to sustain the value of their property, and the more sensible of them are offering various inducements to their tenants. Take for instance the following paragraph:—

"LONG LEASES.—We have been informed that Sir Stephen Glynn, Bart., M.P., has given instructions that a draught of a lease on the Scotch principle of 19 years *shall be prepared, with the view of submitting it to his tenantry for their acceptance.* We feel assured that, *if corn rents are connected with it*, a great boon will be conferred on the tenantry, and a good example set to the country."—*Chester Chronicle.*

Here we have an example of the uncertainty the Corn Laws introduce into all contracts concerning land. Sir Stephen Glynn offers to his tenants leases of long duration, and gives the best evidence of his desire to grant such leases under reasonable covenants, by submitting a draught of the proposed lease to the occupying tenants. So far all is as it should be; but the local journalist, speaking unquestionably the sentiments of the farmers of the district, says, "*if corn rents* are connected with it, a great boon will be conferred on the tenantry." Whence comes it that the adoption of the most judicious act of liberality a landlord can do is to be received with such qualified praise? There is no great difficulty in framing a calculation of the average money value of a farm during so long a term as 19 years; nor is there any intelligent farmer who would require a corn rent merely to guard him from the effects of variations in seasons. Such variations it is his peculiar business to guard against, and he will have no difficulty in doing so. Wherefore then is the addition of a corn rent necessary to render a long and rational lease "a boon" to the tenant? Simply because the existence of a Corn Law sets all calculation at defiance. Suppose the draught of Sir Stephen Glynn's lease approved by the tenants, the long and secure tenure for 19 years received with satisfaction, the question arises upon what data are the rents to be calculated? The farmers naturally say, "we must take wheat at from 40s. to 43s. a quarter, that being the rate at which it is selling when the produce of this country is believed to be sufficient for the year's consumption." "Oh!" says Sir Stephen's steward, "that won't do, for though it so happens that a *panic* amongst the farmers has lowered the price at this moment, that will only be temporary, for there is an act of Parliament in being, expressly made to 'protect' the farmers from receiving less than 56s. a quarter for wheat; the rent must be calculated on that scale." Here, then, the farmers are at issue with the landlords; for, great as their faith may be in the said act of Parliament, they cannot forget the facts that they have not received the act-of-Parliament price above three years out of five for the last nineteen years, and that they are not likely to receive it so often

during the next nineteen years now to come. A corn rent, then, is necessary to make a long lease a safe speculation for the tenants. On the other hand, a corn rent fixed now would certainly be disadvantageous to the landlord, who is thus, by his much cherished Corn Law, placed in the dilemma of being obliged to accede to corn rents, which will not give him the full value of his property, or to see his estate undergoing constant deterioration in the hands of yearly tenants, who have neither the motive nor security for improving their farms. Thus landowners are met and defeated in their first efforts to improve the management of their estates by the very law they have passed for their own exclusive advantage.

The proposition that agricultural improvement must commence with landlords giving secure tenures to their tenants, is strongly enforced in a lecture delivered by Mr. Edward Archer, a landowner, at the *East Cornwall Experimental Club*, in which he says:—

"The next point for consideration is, the *tenure* under which land should be held; our existing practice, in which respect may be fairly learnt from the daily advertisements to be observed in our provincial journals, nine-tenths of which will be found to be to the following effect, viz:—'To be let, for a term of five, seven, or twelve years, all that very desirable farm, &c.;' or more commonly, perhaps, if the estate advertised is of any size, it will be thus:—'To be let, for a term of fourteen years, determinable at the end of the first seven years, all that capital messuage or barton, &c. &c.' *Now, this mode of tenure I consider so fatal at the outset to any improvement in agriculture, that I must stigmatise it as the first great defect in our system of husbandry.* Indeed, I consider the tenancy from year to year a far more beneficial system."

And he refers to the fact that under yearly tenancies some farmers have been found who have risked considerable outlays in the expectation of not being dispossessed, or having their rents raised. They must have had at least the feeling, if not the reality of security. But—

"The tenant for a term of short duration has daily before his eyes the fear that at the end of his first five or seven years his farm will either be taken from him, or offered to him at an increased rent; his only object is, therefore, to extract as much profit from it, with as little trouble or expense to himself as possible. He thus shuffles through his term, and the unfortunate estate is again put into the market, and let to the highest bidder, to undergo once more the same fatal process. Now, for this no one is to blame but the landowner himself; *and,* IN SPITE OF *all that may be urged by the advocates of the tenancy-at will system, it does appear to me that the first grand step towards improvement of husbandry is the lease for a long term of years.* In fact, it may be looked upon as the basis of agricultural prosperity."

True, but we have seen what an obstacle to long leases is formed by the Corn Law. What tenant will take a long lease, at a rent calculated on the assumption that wheat will always sell at 56s. a quarter? What landlord will agree to a price of 40s. a quarter with the existing state of husbandry? Mr. Archer, in confirmation of his view, then quoted the following passage upon yearly holdings from "Morton on Soils," where that intelligent agriculturist observes:—

"The landed proprietors of England must arouse themselves from that apathy and indifference with which they have so long regarded the improvement of their estates, *and endeavour to give the land an increased power of producing a much greater return.* This, we think, may be easily attained, by giving to their tenantry leases of 21 years, and binding them to effect all the permanent improvements of which the soil is capable. The high state of culture which exists in the Lothians, and other parts of Scotland, is entirely attributable to leases which the farmers have of the land they occupy for terms of 19 or 21 years. *The tenant-at-will who, on the good faith of his landlord, lays out his capital on the improved culture of the land he occupies, knows that he has no security that the money he lays out, in the case of his death or of accident, which may derange his pecuniary affairs, will ever be returned to him or his family, and therefore he limits his expenditure to the natural and yearly expense of the crops he annually puts into the soil, and, of course, never expends a shilling in attempting to improve the permanent productiveness of his farm.* Being constantly in a state of uncertainty, he jogs on the beaten track, anxious to be able to clear the way, but never anxious to increase the productive powers of the soil, lest his rent should be raised, or he should be turned out, to give place to some one in greater favour with his landlord. Give to the English farmer, *who has sufficient capital,* a certain term in his estate, and then he would not only be justified in laying out his capital in its improvement, but he will exert all his energy in increasing its productiveness, so as to ensure the greatest return to him for his outlay. The length of term should be in connexion with the improvement which the land requires. When land is let for building on, a term of 60, 80, 90, or even 999 years is granted, to indemnify the speculator for the expenses of brick and mortar, and the risk he is liable to: *and just so should it be with the farmer, where there are extensive improvements required, or great risk to be sustained.*"

But the risks occasioned by the Corn Laws cannot be guarded against, and therefore the most decisive evidence in favour of leases becomes the strongest condemnation of the Corn Laws. Mr. Archer then shows that it is the landlord's interest to prevent the leases from ever being run out, and thus states his own practice in that respect, saying:—

"The plan which I purpose to adopt on my own estate is to grant an absolute term of 14 years, giving the tenant the option at the end of the first seven years of renewing his term absolutely again for 14 years, and so on; thus I hope obviating the 'racking' which usually commences as the end of the term approaches. *Whatever, indeed, be the mode of tenure, it must obviously be of the first importance that the industrious and well-disposed tenant should feel as much at home as possible in his estate.*"

This is the language of a man well aware of the circumstances which give value to or deteriorate landed property. And the *Mark-lane Express*, in referring to this part of the lecture, says:—

"However much we may admit, and none do so more than we do, that sort of, as it were, family connexion subsisting between landlord and tenant, through the influence of which the farms are continued from father to son as the ownership of the land descends to the landlord, *still we cannot blind ourselves to the fact that the present artificial state of society is rapidly changing this state of things, and the connexion between landlord and tenant is every day becoming more a matter of contract between man and man.* We can mention many cases in which the estates of a landlord, whose family and himself had carried out this principle to its fullest extent, have been sold, and the tenants, unprotected by leases, handed over to a new landlord and a new agent, either or both of whom having no connexion with the tenantry, could have no sympathies with them, and who might embrace the opportunity of enabling some expectants or friends to step in and reap the fruits of the toil and capital of the occupiers of the estate. Capital invested in the cultivation of the soil as much deserves protection as when employed in any other pursuit, and we trust that, 'as the spirit of enterprise' grows among the tenant-farmers, *that a 'spirit of encouragement' will likewise grow amongst the landlords.*"

But it is the Corn Law, of which this journalist professes to be an admirer, that stands in the way of both the "spirit of encouragement" amongst landlords and the "spirit of enterprise" amongst farmers, and prevents "contracts between landlords and tenants" from being framed upon a fair and reasonable consideration of the interests of both parties.

HIGH FARMING *v.* MONOPOLY.

Perhaps there is no single speech which has effected so much towards the destruction of the corn monopoly as that delivered by the Earl of Ducie at Covent Garden. His lordship has practically carried out improved husbandry—arable husbandry—to a greater extent than any other person in England, and the results have been proportionally beneficial; but so generally has a very inferior system been adopted, that the statement of his produce at Whitfield has been received with something like incredulity by persons who have not been accustomed to high farming, though they are by no means monopolists. It is by exciting the observation of such men that his lordship's speech has been so eminently useful. We only hope all men who really desire to know of what land is capable, will visit Whitfield Farm, and observe in person his lordship's practice in agriculture. Not a few of Lord Ducie's critics forget these very important facts, namely, that such high farming, and such large returns as are found on Whitfield Farm, can only be obtained by the employment of a much larger amount of capital per acre than is usual; and that farms ought to be better prepared for a tenant's occupation by a preliminary landlord's outlay than has hitherto been general. Like Mr. Baker, they are too apt to say, "we don't do so much in Essex," and then imagine they have thereby thrown some doubt upon his lordship's statement. Something of this feeling seems to pervade the following sensible and, in many respects, useful letter from a correspondent:—

"*To the* EDITOR *of the* LEAGUE.

"Lord Ducie seems to have got into a hornets' nest by his statements as to the prices at which wheat can be profitably grown. *Agreeing, as I do, with his lordship, that neither heavy nor light land will be thrown out of cultivation by a repeal of the Corn Laws,* I think that, in order to arrive at anything like a sound opinion on the matter, the whole expenses and receipts of a farm must be taken into account, and that a partial calculation is good for nothing. I am the more strengthened in this opinion from having paid three several visits to the Whitfield Farm, and from having, on each occasion, had reason to feel satisfied *that the extraordinary growth of wheat on that farm is dependent altogether on the expensive system of cultivation, and the corn-feeding of cattle and sheep, in my opinion, of necessily entered into for the sake of securing the green crops.* The published accounts in the second report of the Whitfield Farm will not help his lordship's argument; and now that the farm is rented by Mr. Morton, and stocked with cattle and sheep (not with hunters, as the stables were on my first visit), the better plan will be to wait until Ladyday next, when, without doubt, Mr. Morton, who has already confirmed his lordship's views, will put forth such a statement of his receipts and payments for the year as will set all doubt on the matter at rest. In the meantime I will give you an estimate of my own, presuming that, though Mr. Morton paid a large sum at Ladyday last for straw, manure, and cultivation, he will be entitled to the same return on his leaving the farm, and that such items need not, therefore, be entered in the account.

"The statement as to the cropping of Whitfield Farm contained in your last paper was, I believe, accurate. The farm consists of 240 acres of arable land, and Mr. Morton will take annually 40 acres of clover, 80 acres of roots, and 120 of wheat. Mr. Morton has also about 20 acres of pasture land. I now give you my notion of the expenses on one hand, and the receipts on the other, taking wheat at 25s. a sack.

Presumed Expenses on Whitfield Farm.

Rent	£500	0	0
Labour	500	0	0
Poor, church, highway rates, and tithes	125	0	0
Seed corn, grass and root seeds	125	0	0
Corn for eight horses, no oats being grown on the farm, at two bushels a week to each horse ..	100	0	0
Wear and tear, bills, losses by stock, bone manure, marketing and other expenses	200	0	0
40 oxen to be purchased in May for feeding on clover in the yards, and finished off with roots and corn, at £12 10s. each	500	0	0
1000 sheep to be purchased when the roots are ready, at 25s. each	1250	0	0
Corn for oxen, at 50s. per head	100	0	0
Beans and oats purchased for sheep, the beans at 20s. a sack, the oats at 20s. a quarter, each sheep to consume on the average half a bushel of beans and two bushels of oats. Beans	125	0	0
Oats	250	0	0
	£3775	0	0

Presumed Receipts.

120 acres of wheat, 10 sacks to the acre, at 25s. a sack	£1500	0	0
40 oxen, at £20 each	800	0	0
1000 sheep, including wool, at £2 each	2000	0	0
	4300	0	0
Return for interest on capital, and profit	3775	0	0
	£525	0	0

How, then, will a repeal of the Corn Laws affect Mr. Morton? My belief is, that such repeal would reduce his wheat to 20s. a sack, by which he would lose £300. He would, however, gain about £150 in the purchase of his beans and oats, and the improved demand which a Free Trade would give for his beef and mutton would more than compensate him for the remaining £150.

"*I farm light land on the alternate system of white and green crop; and I have long been in favour of a total repeal, and am a subscriber to the League Fund on that ground.* At the same time, I take this opportunity of stating my belief, that, with the excessive competition which exists in this country for land, it is absurd to suppose that farming can ever become a profitable business; and, though a great admirer of the manly character of Lord Ducie, I think he was wrong in separating the cost of growing wheat from the expenses attendant on the green crop. *Mr. Morton's real difficulty will be that of making enough of his green crop. There is great risk in the purchase on a large scale of lean, and the sale of fat stock.* I have always felt that difficulty; and I know that many farmers in Norfolk have been ruined by the small return they have got for their roots on sending their beasts and sheep to Smithfield. We can have no real competition in the articles of beef and mutton. *There is not a sheep on the Continent that a Smithfield butcher would look at. We ought to have the means of fattening beasts and sheep at the cheapest possible rate, and thus improving the condition of our land. A repeal of the Corn Laws would at once give us those means.* The low prices of corn would render good farming absolutely necessary; *and, as no good farming can be had without a large expenditure in labour, the poor would be benefited by cheap food and abundance of employment.*—I am, &c.,

"A WILTSHIRE LEAGUER."

On this letter several obvious remarks occur. First, our correspondent will find, that in every district in which an "extraordinary growth of wheat" is attained, that it is entirely owing to an "expensive system of cultivation and corn feeding of cattle, sheep, &c." That is high farming; go to any part of the country, and it will be seen that high farming alone has for the last thirty years been profitable farming; and further, that the Corn Laws and their consequences, direct and indirect, have formed the great obstacle to the extension of high farming.

Secondly, the estimate here given, though showing a good profit, is not so favourable to the farmer as it ought to be. Wheat, on an average of years, would probably be higher than 40s. a quarter; while grain for cattle food would certainly be obtained at lower prices than those of the estimate. The prices for the purchase and sale of the stock are also stated more against the feeder than they ought to be, assuming him to be an average judge of stock.

Thirdly, as to the competition for land which has undoubtedly reduced the profits of farming, it is a mistake to suppose that that competition will be increased by a Free Trade; on the contrary, all that competition which is founded upon a reckless expectation of high prices will altogether cease, and offers to rent land will be more in accordance with sober calculation than has been the case under the delusions of "protection." Finally, that which our correspondent states as "Mr. Morton's real difficulty, the "making enough of his green crop," is a difficulty solely caused by restrictions on the free importation of foreign grain for fattening stock, as indeed our correspondent has himself ably shown in a subsequent passage.

CROPS AND PRICES.—LEFT-HANDED FREE TRADE.

The wheat crop is now admitted to be good, the grain is heavy, and, where farmers have had sufficient firmness not to hurry in their corn upon the first show of wet, the quality is excellent. The usual consequence of such a wheat crop has ensued, for wheat in Lincolnshire of the best quality sells for "from 41s. to 43s. a quarter." This is pretty much the natural price in the world's market; for, from the foreign corn-trade reports, we find that best Dantzic wheat, *in bond* at Amsterdam, was last week worth from 40s. to 43s. a quarter, or as nearly as possible the Lincolnshire price. Every other kind of farming produce, however, is scanty. Thus, from the Derbyshire report, we learn that

"The turnip crop is partially a failure. On soils cleaned early, and of a light texture, the crops are good; but heavy soils, which in a more hurried season would have grown first-rate Swedes, are this year a failure, or extremely patchy. *One half the turnip-growers in this county lose their crops for the want of more autumnal cleaning of their grounds.* Soils allowed to rest during winter, and which have to be dressed in the spring, have generally a foul tilth, and the plants cannot maintain health under such unfavourable circumstances. Keep is more plentiful, but not abundant. Hay has receded a shade in price. *Stock continues depressed in value, and is extremely low.* Our corn markets are dull, and the supply more than the demand. *Everything the farmer has to sell realizes very little money: how payments are to be met is the secret.* Trade generally is good, and few out of employ."

The main dependence of stock, the root crops, have failed, and that, in a great measure, arises from neglect of autumnal cleaning of the land; while the Corn Laws shut out all kinds of grain and pulse which would have supplied the deficiency. Barley is generally a very poor crop; while oats, peas, and beans, of which farmers themselves are the great consumers, are still worse. Indeed, the present season has pretty generally forced farmers to the opinion that the existing state of things cannot be maintained, as they very loudly complain of the tariff which has admitted foreign meat, while the Corn Laws exclude all the cheap provender which would enable the British grazier to compete in the production of meat on equal terms with the rest of the world. The following passage from the letter of a correspondent of the *Mark-lane Express* sets forth the grievance very much in the terms we have often heard it stated at the market-table:—

"What was it then (granting there was an apparent deficiency of these products [meat]) that produced *that* deficiency? O, the Corn Laws, to be sure! the Corn Laws are restrictive, without affording 'protection:' they caused the deficiency in the supply of the more elaborate articles of agricultural produce; they shut out of the market the *raw material* of their production. How, then, could the farmers *manufacture* sufficiently for the wants of the community? What, then, was the true remedy? *Why, a repeal of the Corn Laws would have enabled our farmers to have supplied all those products lately protected by the tariff to an infinity;* there would then have been 'protection' without restriction; we should then have had that natural protection which distance gives to the home producer over the foreigner, *by causing the latter to supply us with the coarsest and cheapest kind of produce, its very bulkiness being an additional protection;* whereas, by one of the most extraordinary errors ever committed in the way of legislation, the foreigner has now the supreme advantage of transmitting his produce in the most concentrated forms of which it is capable, by which he is enabled not only to overcome that natural protection of the home grower which distance and freightage gave, but to secure far more valuable profits, and to introduce at least twenty times the amount in real value of agricultural produce than he could have done if at liberty to import corn alone."

And he recommends the "Central Protection Society" to adopt this view of the subject; and then adds:—

"I can do no more than draw an outline of the subject, and return to detail by-and-by, to ascertain by a rigid calculation to what extent (if any) of protection to agriculture the Corn Laws have afforded, *taking into the account the consumption of the taxed articles by the agriculturists themselves*, for whose benefit they are supposed to have been enacted, *not neglecting to reckon the probable consumption of it by the farmers during the ensuing winter in support of their live stock, which, after having fed through the winter upon feed paying a tax of thirty or forty per cent., they will have to offer in the market next spring and summer in competition with the produce of foreign countries paying a nominal duty of 5 per cent. only*; to ascertain, also, to what extent the late tariff duties on live stock and animal food protected agriculture, and *the value* of the importations of agricultural produce in that shape compared with *the value of corn* if freely imported; and the effects of either or both on the prosperity of agriculture."

Now, we think the admission of foreign meat and cattle a just and sound measure in itself; but it does imply great ignorance of British husbandry on the part of the Ministry who propounded such an alteration, without, at the same time, permitting the regular importation of foreign grain. There is certainly no class of men who have been so unfortunate in the choice of their political "friends" as the farmers.

SUPERIOR BARLEY.—Lately was sold to Mr. Mehan, distiller, Waterside, by Mr. George Alexander Grange, 500 bushels of barley, of this year's growth, which weighed 57lbs. per bushel, being the heaviest barley that we ever heard being produced in this country, and equal to the finest grown in the Lothians, from which the seed was procured.—*Derry Journal.*

EXTRAORDINARY CROP OF WHEAT.—William Taylor, market-gardener, of Bootle-cum-Linacre, has just reaped a most extraordidary crop of wheat, off a piece of land in that township, measuring 70 yards less than half of a Cheshire acre. It is a beautiful sample of yellow wheat, the seed of which was grown in Kirby. The produce of this small lot of land was—delivered at the mill, 53 bushels, of 70 pounds each, and warehoused for his own use 11 heaped-up imperial bushels. We believe the annals of agriculture do not record such a crop under any circumstances; and, when the droughty season is considered, in conjunction with the hot, sandy nature of the soil, it is wonderful. This produce speaks volumes in favour of small farms and the allotment system; for, although the ploughing and harrowing of this piece of land was in the ordinary manner, yet there is no doubt that the large crop may be ascribed to the cultivation of the land previously. The year before it had been planted with potatoes and cabbages, and had been trenched to the depth of four feet. —*Liverpool Albion.*

BONE DUST ON PASTURE LAND.—There is, perhaps, no county in England where the pasture lands (particularly the poorer soils) have been so much improved during the last ten or twelve years as in Cheshire; and this principally by the application of what is termed bone dust. This extraordinary manure has a peculiar effect upon the poor clay-land pastures, for on the application of boiled bones a sudden change takes place in the appearance of the fields, and instead of the carnation-leaved, or pink grass, which so much abounds on this kind of land, a luxuriant herbage presents itself, consisting of red and white clover, trefoil, and other grasses, of which the cattle are so fond that they eat up almost everything before them; even thistles and rushes are very much weakened, and eventually reduced, by being constantly eaten off by the stock after the pastures have been bone dusted.—*Mr. Paulin on Cheshire Farming, in the English Agricultural Society's Journal.*

A TEST OF GOOD GOVERNMENT.—The ruin or prosperity of a state depends so much upon the administration of its government, that, to be acquainted with the merit of a Ministry, we need only observe the condition of the people. If we see them obedient to the laws, prosperous in their industry, united at home and respected abroad, we may reasonably presume that their affairs are conducted by men of experience, abilities, and virtue. —*Junius.*

THE POWERS OF VEGETATION.—In those good days of old, when there were no cornfactors in England to counteract that part of our Redeemer's prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread," by hoarding up vast stores of grain until mouldiness and vermin have rendered it unfit for the use of man, there stood at Walton-hall a water-mill, for the interest of the proprietor and the good of the country round. Time, the great annihilator of all human inventions, saving taxation and the national debt, laid this fabric low in ruins some sixty years ago; and nothing now remains to show the place where it once stood, except a massive mill-stone, which measures full seventeen feet in circumference. The ground where the mill stood having been converted into meadow, this stone lay there unnoticed and unknown (save by the passing haymaker) from the period of the mill's desolation to the autumn of the year 1813, when one of our nut-eating wild animals, probably by way of a winter store, deposited a few nuts under its protecting cover. In the course of the following summer, a single nut having escaped the teeth of the destroyer, sent up its verdant shoot through the hole in the centre of the procumbent mill-stone. One day I pointed out this rising tree to a gentleman who was standing by, and said, "If this young plant escape destruction, some time or other it will support the mill-stone and raise it from the ground." He seemed to doubt this. In order, however, that the plant might have a fair chance of success, I directed that it might be defended from accident and harm by means of a wooden paling. Year after year it increased in size and beauty; and when its expansion had entirely filled the hole in the centre of the mill-stone, it gradually began to raise up the mill-stone itself from the seat of its long repose. This huge mass of stone is now eight inches above the ground, and is entirely supported by the stem of the nut-tree, which has risen to the height of 25 feet, and bears excellent fruit. Strangers often inspect this original curiosity. When I meet a visitor whose mild physiognomy informs me that his soul is proof against the stormy wind of politics, which now-a-days set all the world in a ferment, I venture a small attempt at pleasantry, and say, "that I never pass this tree and mill-stone without thinking of poor old Mr. Bull, with a weight of eight hundred millions of pounds round his galled neck; fruitful source of speculation to a Machiavel, but of sorrow to a Washington."—*Waterton's Essay on Natural History.*

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"G. W. W."—A fixed duty imposed for purposes of revenue would be equitable only when applied both to home and to foreign produce. Importation of corn creates a demand for labour probably equal to that which arises from the home production of corn; it provides employment for shipping, for sailors, and for the artisans engaged in the manufacture of the goods exported to pay for the corn. A *fair* demand for labour is identical with Free Trade, for every restriction on trade is an interference with the natural conditions of industry, and consequently unfair to the labouring classes on which this interference acts, whether directly or indirectly. There is no inconsistency between the measure which "G. W. W." advocates and that supported by the League; we do not see that any good result would follow from discussing which has abstractedly the stronger claim to preference, but we hold it to be the part of wise men not to be diverted from the attainment of a practical object by the prospect of a more remote advantage, which, however meritorious in theory, must be contingent on circumstances beyond, not only their control, but their powers of foresight.

"Oremo."—The subject has been already discussed in the LEAGUE, and we should not, for many reasons, wish to return to it at present.

"J. L." asks, "What would the farmers *now* do if there were Free Trade?" He does not see that the difficulties which impend over the farmers have all arisen from the want of Free Trade—from the confidence which they reposed in the delusive system of monopoly. If the farmers *now* had Free Trade, they would have some *certainty* to guide them in their future arrangements; they would have a solid base for their calculations instead of the doubts and perplexities which render every bargain they make a speculative hazard, and leave them uncertain whether they had better till their fields or leave them idle.

"A Newcastle Farmer."—If he sends the price here, either by Post-office order or letter-stamps, the numbers will be forwarded.

"N. R." omits in his argument the difficulty of estimating beforehand the amount of the depredations.

"An Ardent Repealer."—Porter's "Progress of the Nation" ought to be in every library in the United Kingdom; it contains much that is not to be found in M'Culloch, and the information common to both is better arranged and more pointedly put by Porter. Mr. M'Culloch is a sound statistician, but Mr. Porter is not only a sound, but a scientific statistician; and a very slight comparison between the works of these gentlemen will illustrate the importance of the distinction.

"An Old Subscriber."—We are gratified to find that the legend has produced such an impression, but it would not be quite in rule to reprint our own articles.

We are requested to insert the following acrostic, from the pen of a fair juvenile:—

C hampion of liberty! the bondsman's friend,
O n in the cause of freedom! and though might
B ear for a while the palm of victory,
D eem not 'twill always triumph over right;
E 'en though wealth, power, rank may all assail,
N athless, pure patriot, thou shalt yet prevail.

"Rusticus" wishes us to direct attention to the practical refutation of "Rigby's" impudent fallacy in the "Quarterly Review," which he put in the shape of a mathematical formula, "*Cheap Bread = Low Wages.*" Rusticus has taken pains to collect the rates of wages paid in various manufacturing districts last month, and to compare them with the rates paid in the corresponding period of 1840 and 1841. We have no doubt of the correctness of his conclusion, that wages have risen; but we should not like to publish his tables without an opportunity of verifying the statistical data on which they are based.

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

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The Morning Post *of Thursday last contained a long letter from Mr. Baker, of Writtle, in reply to the description of his farm in Essex, which appeared in this paper on the 7th inst., from the pen of Mr. Adam Brown, under the head of* "Visits to Remarkable Farms." *As we are ignorant of Mr. Adam Brown's present* "whereabouts," *we have forwarded a copy of the* Post, *containing Mr. Baker's letter, to his last address in the country, and have no doubt we shall hear further from him on this subject in the course of next week.*

POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, September* 21, 1844.

Mr. Talbot Clifton was, we presume, yesterday returned without opposition for North Lancashire. The interests of upwards of half a million of people are thus intrusted to the parliamentary keeping of a youthful ex-cornet of the Guards. The manufacturers of Blackburn, Preston, Burnley, Clithero, and the rest of this great cotton district, will be represented by one who is, we dare say, incapable of distinguishing between sheep's wool and cotton wool, or between a power-loom and a spinning-jenny. Well, in this respect Mr. Clifton stands only upon a par with Mr. Newdigate, Mr. Stafford O'Brien, and a score of other young gentlemen who sit for English counties.

Lord Stanley's resignation took place, designedly we have no doubt, at the moment when the League was engaged in the business of the county register, preparatory to the visit of the barrister. However desirable it would have been after the pending revision to have tested the strength of parties, a contest *now* would have been not only hopeless, but it would have prevented the Free-Traders from giving that attention to the registration in *South* Lancashire by which they hope to secure the return of both members at a general election. The Council of the League therefore wisely determined not to be diverted from the important labours of the registration courts by the somewhat startling announcement of Lord Stanley's resignation.

If the absence of all interference from the Leaguers, it is instructive to see the manner in which this important constituency is disposed of. We do not refer to the character of the elected member, for, we repeat, he is quite upon a par, in every way, with the ordinary run of county representatives. But it is edifying to see the state and working of parties in the counties in connexion with the Corn-Law question. In this respect North Lancashire affords a type of the condition of nearly every other county, *in all* of which the old line of demarcation between Whig and Tory has been melting gradually into thin air, ever since Free Trade came into earnest collision with monopoly. "The Tories have turned Conservatives, and the Whigs *Corn-servatives*," said an old politician, during the late South Lancashire contest. The truth of this observation has been exemplified at the present election for the northern division. Not only was there not a sign of opposition on the part of the Whig aristocracy, but the requisition contained the names of more than one large landowner who were until now regarded as of the popular party. Nay, the candidate himself is a member of one of the wealthiest Whig families in the county, and was, we believe, only a few years ago elected a member of the Reform Club. Religion seems to be no barrier to the irresistible tendency to *Corn*-servatism on the part of our Whig landowners, for some of the oldest and most active Catholic politicians have gone over. We mention these facts now, because it has been before argued that hatred to the League and its interference, and not love of monopoly, has driven the Whig landowners into the ranks of the Tories. How has it happened that in North Lancashire, where the League stood aloof, not a breath of opposition has been raised by the so-called *Liberal* proprietors? At all events, let us not be told in future, should the Free-Traders contest the division, that they are preventing some other party from doing so.

THUNDER STORM AND FLOODS NEAR HAZLE GROVE, CHESHIRE.—SIX LIVES LOST.

No fewer than six lives were lost in consequence of the recent floods and storm near Hazle Grove. It seems that the thunder-storm, which passed over Hazle Grove in a south-easterly direction, commenced in that neighbourhood about two o'clock in the afternoon, and continued till about six in the evening. The rain fell in torrents; and the brooks, reservoirs, and lodges of water in the neighbourhood were soon considerably swollen, and, in some instances, overflowed their banks. In consequence of the stream leading to Mr. Cooper's cotton mill at Bosden overflowing the basement story of the mill, the hands were compelled to quit the mill a little before six o'clock in the evening. So great had been the force of the water, that a bridge (which the hands would have to cross in their way home) was thrown upwards and washed away; and the young women had, consequently, to come through the field, and so into the by-road already described, to the lower or southerly end of Hazle Grove. In the grounds of Torkington-lodge is a small reservoir, kept for ornament only; and in the lower side of this reservoir is a sluice, by which its water can be let off by a tunnel under the by-road. This sluice was shut, and a circular hole to take off the overflow was of too contracted dimensions to receive the great and sudden rise of water in the reservoir, resulting from the heavy fall of rain. The reservoir consequently overflowed into the field; and the waters, sweeping over a small kitchen garden, were dammed up by an old brick wall, about 3½ yards high, and 35 yards in length, which divides the Torkington-lodge premises from the by-road. The waters, spreading along the upper side of this wall, at length began to pour into the road below, at each end of the wall; and the factory hands, having arrived in the road, at the end of the wall farthest from Hazle Grove and their homes, were urged not to attempt passing along the road, but to take shelter in a stable belonging to the premises till the rain should abate. Unfortunately, however, they persevered; and just as they were running along the footpath, under the wall, the weight of water in the field above threw it down for nearly its own length, and the flood swept the unfortunate people, together with the stones, bricks, &c., of the wall, into the lower ground and the brook below the road; the flood making its way a distance of 200 yards upon the high road at Hazle Grove. Six individuals were killed and a great many others severely injured. Five of those most severely injured were conveyed to the Stockport Infirmary. One had lost a leg; another had a thigh and an arm broken; and the others were very seriously bruised. The body of a sixth was found on Saturday morning, in the brook below, at a distance of 200 yards from the spot, having been caught by a tree on the bank. On Saturday evening last, an inquest was held on the bodies of the six unfortunate sufferers, and a verdict of "Accidental death" returned in all the cases.—*Preston Guardian.*

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.—FINAL TERMINATION OF HOSTILITIES BETWEEN FRANCE AND MOROCCO.—The following important announcement from Paris has been received, by which it will be seen that a treaty of peace has been signed at Tangier, on behalf of the Emperor of Morocco and the King of the French; the conditions of Prince de Joinville having been unconditionally accepted by the Moors:—

Paris, Sunday Evening, Nine o'Clock.

The *Messager* of this evening contains the following telegraphic despatch:—

"Bayonne, Sept. 15.

"The following telegraphic despatch has been transmitted by the Prince de Joinville to the Minister of Marine, and by the Duke of Glucksburg and M. de Nyon to the Minister of Foreign Affairs:—

"'Tangier, Sept. 10.

"'The Government of Morocco has sued for peace. The squadron has arrived to-day at Tangier. The governor of the city came on board to renew that request. Our conditions have been signified and accepted, and the treaty *has been signed*. In the course of the day the consul-general's office has been replaced, and the flag of the consul has been duly saluted. An order to cease all hostilities, and to evacuate the Island of Mogadore, will be despatched this evening.'"

Naples letters of the 6th inst. speak of the marriage of the Duke d'Aumale with his first cousin, the Princess of Salerno, as fixed for the second week of next month. Great preparations were in progress for the celebration of the marriage with pomp and circumstance.

Extensive Inundation.—The *Journal des Débats* publishes the following extract from a letter dated Plescof (Russia), the 2nd instant.:—"In consequence of the torrents of rain we have had during more than two months, the great lake of Peipous, situated between the Governments of St. Petersburgh, Plescof, Livonia, and Esthonia, through which the river Embach runs, has overflowed its banks and inundated an immense extent of ground. The greater part of the fine road from Riga to St. Petersburgh is flooded, and can only be passed in a boat. During the height of the flood the peasants were obliged to take refuge on the roofs of their houses. The number of persons who lost their lives by this disaster is estimated at 1500. The crops which have been destroyed, and other damage, exceed in value 2,000,000 roubles, or about £300,000."

A New Motive Power.—The Paris papers mention that a first trial of M. Andrau's new locomotive power, by means of compressed air, was made on Monday week, on the Versailles Railroad, in the presence of commissioners appointed by Government, the engineers of the railroad, and a great number of spectators. Although the locomotive was charged upon the low-pressure system, because there was not a sufficient power to compress the air to a greater extent, the experiment perfectly succeeded. In expending two or three atmospheres, the locomotive ran a quarter of a league with great rapidity and regularity. The trial is to be repeated in the course of next month.

Spain.—Accounts from Madrid of the 11th inst. state, that a Council had been held on the preceding evening, but the result of its deliberation had not transpired. M. Martinez de la Rosa attended at it. Report stated that he had refused the Department of Foreign Affairs, but would readily accept the Presidency of the Chamber of Deputies. The elections had been generally favourable throughout the kingdom to the Conservative party. The Carlists had boldly disputed the victory at Palencia, Guadalaxara, Saragossa, Seville, Leon, and Segovia, but had only succeeded in this last town. The *Castellano* announces that the Government, being apprehensive of a new Carlist insurrection in the northern provinces, had ordered a body of 7000 men to march to Navarre, under the command of General Villalonga.

Two capitalists, Messrs. H. J. da Silva, of London, and Manuel Matheu, of Madrid, had offered the Minister of Finance to supply him during three years with the funds necessary (75,000,000 of reals per annum) for the payment of the clergy and nuns. They required 6 per cent. on the amount of their advances, 2 per cent. commission, and to receive as a guarantee the management of the clerical estates yet to be disposed of.

Italy.—Letters from Rome dwell still upon the unsettled state of the public mind in the Roman states. That a conspiracy is still on foot, and may lead to the destruction of the unhappy enthusiasts engaged, would appear unquestionable. It seems equally beyond doubt that the Pontifical Government refuses to listen to the advice of Austria, Naples, Tuscany, and other powers, to concede a little to the popular desire, in order to escape a calamity sure to occur in case of a continental war. The *séjour* of the imperial family at Trieste suggested the belief that political affairs—those of Italy—would be then seriously considered, but no hope seems to exist that the Papal Government will give way.

America.—Manufactures in Canada.—A meeting was held in Sherbrooke on the 19th inst., at which it was resolved to carry out a long-talked-of project of establishing a cotton factory at that village. A subscription was opened for 25,000 dollars, in shares of 100 dollars each: 150 were taken up on the spot, leaving 100 open. A gentleman from Massachusetts, acquainted with the manufacture, subscribed 2000 dollars. A building will be erected this fall, 40 by 80 feet, three stories high, on the site of the old saw-mill, just below the Magog-bridge. The British-American Land Company has given a choice of a water privilege, with the use of it, rent free, for twenty years. Machinery is to be employed to drive 1000 spindles, capable of turning out 300,000 yards of cotton cloth per annum. In addition to the cotton factory, knitting machines are to be set going for the manufacture of woollen drawers, shirts, stockings, &c.; and arrangements have been made for making sewing silk from the raw material. —*Sherbrooke Gazette.*

United States' Statistics.—Taking the population of the United States to be, in round numbers 17,000,000, the proportion

Employed in agriculture is	12,750,000
Employed in manufactures and trades	1,500,000
Employed in commerce, fisheries, &c.	1,250,000
Employed in mines, forests, &c.	1,500,000

How important that England, whose population is chiefly commercial and manufacturing, should cultivate commerce with the United States!

In Bombay there was a trial going on of 18 Parsees, for a murder committed at two o'clock in the day, in one of the most public streets in the town, on the principle of the gang-murders which degrade India. Great excitement prevailed on the subject. The murdered man was one of their own tribe, and much money was expended in the hope of preventing the conviction of any of the parties.

Mutiny at Ichabor.—By a letter received at Lloyd's from their agent at Bristol, it appears that advices had been received by the writer from Ichaboe, of the 6th July last, from which it appears that serious disturbances had occurred amongst a portion of the vessels loading at the island with guano; that several parties had been put in irons and sent to St. Helena. The officer selected by the committee appointed by Captain Brooks, of her Majesty's steam-ship Thunderbolt, to form a judicial body, had elected Captain Albert Hancock, of the Victoria, commodore, who had deemed it advisable, the island being in a state of mutiny, to send to the Cape for the assistance of a man-of-war. The brig Canning had been despatched for that purpose. The number of vessels loading at the date of the letter above mentioned is represented to have been between 70 and 80, and the origin of the disturbances was from the new comers attempting to take precedence of previous arrivals in the loading of the vessels.—*Morning Herald.*

DOMESTIC.

The Duke of Norfolk is about to give 50 acres of land to the people of Sheffield for public pleasure grounds.

On Thursday last, one of the most extraordinary packages perhaps ever sent through the same medium reached the post-office of this city. This was no other than a parcel containing *some fifteen or twenty live frogs*. The contents of the parcel were discovered by two or three of them jumping out at the post-office. The frogs, it is believed, were of the Egyptian or some other rare species, and were addressed to Dr. Buchanan, of Moore-place, in this city. They reached their destination in safety.—*Glasgow National.*

A rumour has reached us from more than one quarter, that the Queen intends to visit some parts of the Western Highlands and Islands before returning to England, and that the royal yacht will be ordered round to the west coast to receive her. In particular, we have heard Staffa and Iona mentioned as likely to be visited by her Majesty, in which case she will probably return by Inverary and the Clyde. Whether the report respecting her intended progress has any good foundation, we, of course, cannot vouch. The movements of the royal party will no doubt be regulated in a great measure by the state of the weather and other contingencies; but the magnificent scenery of the Hebrides, and the splendid reception which would be sure to await her Majesty on our western Frith, render it by no means improbable that she may be induced to take this route in her return south.—*Glasgow Citizen of Saturday.*

The proprietors of the London and Greenwich Railway have leased their line to the London and Dover Company. The lease is for 999 years, to commence from the 1st of January, 1845, at a rent of £36,000 for the first year, and £1000 additional every year till it shall reach £45,000.

A French paper says, almost every day there are sent from Paris to Windsor, for the Queen of England, cargoes of peaches, Fontainebleau grapes, and pears from the gardens of the Civil List. It is probable that these fruits will arrive without hindrance—not like the pheasants sent by Prince Albert to the King, which were seized.

Mr. Barry, the clown at Batty's Circus, has undertaken to float in a washing-tub from Vauxhall to Westminster-bridge, drawn by two geese, on Monday afternoon, Sept. 23. A similar feat was performed by Mr. Usher, the celebrated clown, about twenty-five years ago, and attracted several thousand spectators.

As a gentleman was passing through Tyndall's Park, Bristol, about noon one day last week, he saw a shoemaker's lad coolly milking a cow into a new pair of boots, which he was taking home to a customer.

The mail for the Caledonia steamer to Halifax, made up here this evening, Wednesday, is rather large, as the fall trade is now in full activity on the other side of the Atlantic.

The Tweed, Royal Mail Steam-packet Company's ship, Captain Sharp, arrived at Southampton, on Wednesday, Sept. 18, at ten A.M. She brings 155 ounces of gold dust, and 1193 ounces of silver. On the 26th of August a destructive fire at Guadaloupe destroyed the Custom-house and 55 houses; loss estimated at 30,000f. We believe that the Tweed brings no other news of importance.

Watches, remarkable for their extreme thinness, are now manufactured at Geneva. They are not thicker than a line and the sixteenth of a line (little more than the twelfth of an inch. This change does not, however, militate against the full play of the movement, for that remains the same, the thinness being obtained by placing the hands at the side, instead of over the works. This arrangement makes the watches rather larger in circumference.—*Galignani.*

Thursday morning last a special railway train (in four divisions) went from Sheffield to Hull. Altogether it was decidedly the most monstrous of all monster trains ever recorded. The number of engines employed were 10, the carriages 250, and the passengers amounted to the enormous number of nearly 7800!

MISCELLANEOUS.

Importance of Cheap Bread.—M. Melier investigates, with a philosophic spirit, that important medico-political question, the influence of a varying state of the price of provisions on general disease and mortality. The statistical documents he has collected, and the tables into which his figures are thrown, bear out the following inferences:—1. The mortality of a country is influenced by the price of corn and bread. 2. This influence was extremely marred formerly, and is less so at present. 3. The diminution of this influence has been gradual, and various causes have contributed to this result. 4. The cultivation of the potato is one of the chief of these. 5. The question is one of morality as well as of hygiene, for it is demonstrated that crime increases with the dearness of provisions.—It is inferible too, the author considers, from his inquiries, that, in a well-organized state of society, provisions tend constantly to increase in abundance. This tendency is more marked than that of the population to increase—"a powerful argument against the theory of Malthus."—*British and Foreign Review.*

Lieutenant Vibart's New Machine Power.—Our agricultural friends will remember that we noticed this new and truly wonderful power, invented by Lieutenant Vibart, of Chilliswood-house, near this town, in our paper of the week before last. We had yesterday, through the kindness of Mr. Richards, ironfounder, an opportunity of again inspecting the invention, which has been further improved, and which may now be considered to have reached the acmé of perfection. It was applied to a thrashing machine, also of Lieutenant Vibart's construction, and which affords another proof of the splendour of his inventive genius, and the ease and rapidity with which the latter machine was worked was wonderful. We are informed that it is capable of thrashing sixty stitches of wheat per hour, and this it accomplishes in the most perfect manner, not a single grain being left in the ear, while the straw is thrown aside wholly uninjured. It may be worked with ease by one man and a boy, and is unquestionably one of the most surprising, as well as valuable, novelties in mechanical skill that has ever been submitted to public notice.—*Somerset County Gazette.*

Orders in Council.—A Supplement to Friday's *Gazette* was published on Saturday, containing a series of Orders in Council, giving effect to recent commercial treaties with Hanover, Oldenburg, and Mecklenburg-Schwerin. The commercial treaty with Hanover is that under which the Stade duties are in future to be regulated, and by which certain concessions and privileges are accorded to Hanoverian commerce in British ports. In compliance with the terms of the treaty, it is now ordered by her Majesty in Council, that all Hanoverian vessels coming from the mouths of the Meuse, the Ems, the Weser, or the Elbe, or from any navigable river between the Trave and Memel, inclusive, shall be admitted into British ports, at home, or in our colonies, on the same terms as if they had come from ports actually within the dominions of the King of Hanover. These concessions are a return for British commerce being placed in Hanover on the footing of that of the "most favoured nation." Similar orders are made with respect to "vessels of Oldenburg," and "vessels of Mecklenburg-Schwerin." Those of the latter state, when coming from the ports of Barth, Stralsund, Griefswald, Wolgast, and Stettin; or from the ports in the Trave, Elbe, or Meuse, or any river between the Elbe and the Meuse, or between the Trave and the Oder, are to be admitted into British ports on the same terms as if coming from ports actually within the dominions of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. It is also ordered that all vessels of less than sixty tons burden, belonging to Austria, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and Oldenburg, shall enjoy the same privilege in British ports as British vessels under sixty tons burden, of being exempt from the necessity of taking licensed pilots; this, along with some minor regulations, being intended to carry out the provisions of the commercial treaty to which the orders in Council relate.

Polytechnic Institution. — Mr. Magnus's Enamelled Slates.—Few things have been added to the immense collection of works of art, natural and artificial curiosities, which are exhibited in the gallery and rooms of the Polytechnic Institution, than the recent addition to that collection of the specimens sent for the inspection of the public by Mr. Magnus, of Pimlico. That gentleman, after many years of labour, directed by judgment and a very intimate acquaintance with chemistry and machinery, more especially as they are applicable to practical purposes, has discovered a method of imparting to slate the appearance of marble, and of giving it a polish to which marble cannot be brought. The invention enables him to cut slabs of marble, or solid pieces and forms of it, with great ease by means of circular saws worked by steam-engines, and by other tools of which he is also the manufacturer, by which mouldings and devices of all kinds are in a manner sculptured by machines with great rapidity and precision. By a chemical process colours are prepared and laid upon the surface of the slate, which is then subjected to the heat of a furnace for a considerable time, say a fortnight, and the colours burnt into the slate in the same way that colours are burnt into earthenware or porcelain, or what is called enamelled; the slate is then polished, and the process is complete. The resemblance which it then bears to porphyry, Sienna marble, black marble, *negro antico* (as the finest black marble is called), to the marbles of the oriental quarries, and to lapis lazuli, and to other precious opaque stones, is so close as to defy the most minute inspection. It is more durable than real marble, will bear any degree of heat or cold, and is calculated for all purposes for which marble is or can be used. The expense is, of course, in comparison as nothing. The Duke of Wellington has some very fine pieces of decorative furniture of this material, and he has a billiard-table with enamelled legs and mouldings made of it, which is, perhaps, the most elegant and complete thing of the sort ever produced. We do not wish our readers to take upon trust our description of the invention, but to go and examine for themselves at the Polytechnic Institution.

What are politics? History in the making. The working of those second causes which are preparing happiness or misery for those who will come after us. The present page of Divine Providence. The notion that any Christian man can be at liberty to decline attending to the signs of the times, and to the duties which they indicate, is a strange delusion. But, if this fallacious notion is repudiated, then religious men must study politics; politics must be made a branch of practical duty; religious principle must be carried into the concerns of the borough and the county, as well as of the market and the exchange. To the religious members of our congregations who are not possessed of the franchise, we would say in the words of an Apostle, "If thou mayest be free, use it rather." There is no more reason that a Christian man should be content to be a political serf or nullity, than that he should willingly remain in personal bondage. If every religious Dissenter and Methodist in this country had a registered vote—and almost every one might obtain one—it would so modify the character of many constituencies, as to admit of a very material improvement in that of the representative body. *If every Dissenter who could afford to invest £50 in the purchase of a freehold, would entitle himself to vote as a freeholder, the counties might be recovered from oligarchical domination.—The Patriot.*

The great western states and territories are pouring their products into the cities on the seaboard to an extent hitherto unparalleled. Bread stuffs of the richest description—fine wheat flour, Indian corn, buckwheat, rye, barley, &c. &c.—are selling at very low prices. The only difficulty is to find a market. As England will not take our bread stuffs, we are compelled to establish manufactories and manufacturing towns, so as to divert masses of the people from agricultural pursuits; thus we create a home market for our produce, and become large exporters of manufactured goods. Our manufacturers already compete with England in some branches, and in two or three years more, without a tariff even, they will drive English fabrics from the home market, if not from foreign markets. The result is inevitable. And all the efforts of English currency regulators to keep down prices at home (so long as the British landed interests retain the present Corn Laws) will avail nothing. We can produce the necessaries of life to any extent at far cheaper rates than English agriculturists can under the Corn Laws, and as a natural consequence we must excel in domestic manufactures; while, at the same time, our operatives can live like European princes.—The *Weekly Sun*, New York, Aug. 31.

Burnersbury Fair.—The supply of sheep was the largest that has been witnessed in this town for several years past (pens could not be procured for several hundreds), and the number of buyers was also considerable, some of whom bought largely. Several large lots were purchased for the Smithfield market, by Mr. Thomas, the well-known ex-dealer; sixty fine wethers, estimated at 32lbs. a quarter, were sold by Mr. Langford, of Henfield, near Montgomery, for the London markets. Best wethers were not over numerous, and smaller ones were eagerly bought at 4½d. to 5½d. per lb.; the larger sort 5d. to 5½d. Ewe mutton, of best quality, sold at 4½d. to 5d.; inferior ones lower. There was a good call for smart stores. There were but few lambs in the fair, the season being nearly over; the prices ranged from 5½d. to 5½d. per lb. The pig market was also overstocked; the price for strong well-meated animals was about the same as last fair; but small pigs sold very low. The cattle market on Wednesday had but a very limited supply of good beef, the quality of most of the beasts being inferior; in fact, there was not a first-rate cow in the fair. The prices varied from 4½d. to 5½d. per lb. The bullock trade was very much depressed, owing to the scarcity of turnips, and the fear of a scarcity of winter provender. Bullocks which sold for £12 at last September fair, now only fetched £9. 10s. to £10 a head; and this price was from 20s. to 30s. a head better than was given at Bishop's Castle fair on Monday. Even good cows and calves sold but middling; and stores were a drug in the market. There were a great many horses in the fair, the majority of an inferior kind; all, however, were depreciated in value. The supply of cheese and butter at the Circus was smaller than usual, and a few lots of each were left unsold. Cheese 20s. to 30s. per cwt.; butter 8½d. to 9½d. per lb.; hams 7d.; bacon, 6½d. per lb. At the Market Hall, Howard-street, the supply of cheese was good, about 60 tons being pitched. Buyers were also numerous, and all was sold at a decided improvement in price. New cheese ranged from 40s. to 60s. per cwt. upwards of 60s. being obtained for a dairy of this year's make, belonging to Mr. Elkes of Rossall. Prime old Cheshire obtained from 60s. to 67s. per cwt. At Pool fair on Wednesday the prices of sheep and cattle were at least equal to those at Shrewsbury.—*Shrewsbury Chronicle.*

Wilton Fair.—At Wilton St. Giles's great sheep and lamb fair, held on the 12th inst., the number of sheep amounted to near the usual average—viz., 80,000. The price for all descriptions was about 1s. per head higher than at the late Britford fair, with a brisk sale, and but few remained unsold at the close of the fair. The prices may be quoted as follows:—Wethers, from 24s. to 34s.; ewes, from 18s. to 24s.; lambs, from 12s. to 20s. A large pen of fine wether lambs, the property of Mr. Waters, of Stratford, sold at 28s. per head. Two pens of very fine lambs, belonging to Messrs. Lush, of Damerham and Stride, of Deverill, were much admired, and sold at high prices. Mr. Stephen Mills of Elston, and Mr. Sainsbury of Lavington, sold a pen of very fine ewes at 31s. per head. The show of rams was not so numerous as last year, but quite as fine. Those from the celebrated stocks of Messrs. Brown, Northeast, Mills, and Sainsbury, attracted great attention, and deservedly sold and let readily at good prices. A lot of 600 ewes belonging to Mr. S. Mills, of Elston, commanded unusual attraction; their great size, combined with some of the best blood in the kingdom, elicited universal commendation from the breeders of Southdown stock. These sold at 31s. per head. A lot of lambs penned by Mr. Lush, of Damerham, were much admired. They were sold at 24s. per head. The number of horses was large, but met a very dull sale.—*Salisbury and Wiltshire Herald.*

Postage Labels and Envelopes.—The following facts relative to the manufacture of our present postage labels and envelopes may not be uninteresting to the reader. The manufacture of the envelope is effected by many powerful yet accurate machines. The paper is pervaded by coloured threads as a security against frauds; and when sent from the manufactory is cut into lozenges by an engine with the utmost precision, at the rate of 60,000 or 80,000 a minute. Previously to being stamped, each lozenge has a notch cut in each side for the convenience of folding; this is done by an angular chisel. The envelopes are then stamped at Somerset-house by a machine which combines the operation of printing and embossing—the invention of the late Sir William Congreve. The last process is the folding and gumming, and a quick hand can fold 3500 a day. One engraving on the hard steel roller will afford 1680 transfers to soft steel plates; these again will, when hardened, admit 60,000 impressions being pulled upon each, so that one original will afford 100,800,000 impressions of labels. Twelve years ago common envelopes were sold at 1s. the dozen; now the postage envelope, with its medallion, may be bought wholesale at half a farthing, exclusive of the stamp; and yet, though the manufacture is peculiarly costly, it returns a small profit to the Government. More than 22,000,000 of chargeable letters were posted in 1843; so that, supposing all the letter-boxes in the United kingdom to be open 12 hours in the day, and to communicate with one large spout, the letters would keep flowing through it at the mean rate of 14 in a second.

Vital and Social Statistics of Lancashire.—We derive the following curious calculations relative to the population of this county in 1841, from an elaborate table in the preface to the occupations abstract of the census returns, just published:—Lancashire possesses 147·5 inhabitants to every 100 statute acres. The following are the numbers in each case *to every* 10,000 *inhabitants* in 1841:—Annual average number of marriages, 89·3; of births, 370·5; and of deaths, 279·2. Proportion of both sexes alive under five years of age, 1382; males alive between 20 and 30 years of age, 1851; ditto between 30 and 40 years, 1400; females alive between 20 and 30 years, 1989; ditto between 30 and 40 years, 1381; both sexes alive above 50 years, 1068. Inhabited houses, 1734 to every 10,000 inhabitants. Born out of the city, natives of England and Wales, 1220·7; of Scotland, 130·4; of Ireland, 635·3 to every 10,000 inhabitants. The actual increase of population in the ten years, by the census returns of 1831-41, was 24·7 per cent. The assumed national increase in the same period, by excess of births over deaths, was 9·1 per cent.; so that the difference, 15·6 per cent., is assignable to immigration to this country from other places. Out of every 100 marriages celebrated, the following are the proportions of each. Sex married under 21 years of age:—males, 5·21; females, 14·26; mean, 9·73 per cent. Out of 100 marriages celebrated, the number of each sex signing the marriage register with marks, was:—males, 38; females, 67; mean, 52. The annual mortality of children under one year of age, to the total number of births in 1841, was 17·7 per cent., and to the total number of deaths, 25·4 per cent. The average annual proportions of marriages and births in three years, and of deaths in four years, to the total population of both sexes, was one death in 36, one birth in 27, and one marriage in 112. The number of persons engaged in agricultural pursuits was only 3 per cent. of the whole population. The number of persons engaged in trade and manufacture was 28·1 per cent. out of the whole population.—*Manchester Guardian.*

English and Foreign Railways.—In the evidence before the select committee of last session, Mr. Laing, of the Board of Trade, stated that the average railway charges in Belgium, for 100 miles, are, for the first, second, and third classes respectively, 10s., 7s. 6d., and 4s. 8d.: in Germany, 12s., 8s. 6d., and 5s. 6d.; in France, 15s., 10s., and 8s. 6d.; and in England, 25s., 17s., and 10s. As one cause of the comparatively high rate in England, he states that the average cost of railways in this country is three or four times that of the German lines; double that of the Belgian, and greater by one-half than the cost of the French. Mr. Laing is of opinion that the advantage is in favour of the English in regard to speed; but that, in point of accommodation, the second and third class passengers in Belgium, and on the Continent generally, have the decided advantage over those of the same classes in England.—*Railway Record.*

A Plea for State Abuses.—The great secret in English internal policy is to get up a given quantity of wrong, and then set the wrong to cry out against the inconvenience of its own removal.—*Colonel Thompson.*

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. Sept. 14	Mon. Sept. 16	Tues. Sept. 17	Wed. Sept. 18	Thurs. Sept. 19	Fri. Sept. 20
Bank Stock for Ac.	201½	203½	205	206	208	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	Shut.	—	—	—	—	—
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	99¾	99¾	99¾	99¾	99¾	99¾
3½ per Ct. Red. Ann	Shut.	—	—	—	—	—
3½ per Ct. Ann. new	—	—	101⅛	101⅛	—	—
Long An. Ex. 1860	12 5-8	12 5-16	12 5-16	—	—	—
Cons. for Acc. ..	99¾	99¾	99¾	100	99¾	99¾
Exc. Bills, pm. ..	76	76	76	76	76	76
Ind. Bds. und. 1000l	96	92	92	92	—	—
India Stock	283½	284	284	284	283½	—
Belgian Bonds ..	104	—	104	103½	102½	—
Brazilian Bonds..	88½	88½	87½	89	89	—
Buenos Ayres....	86	—	86	86½	86½	—
Chilian.....	104	—	105	105	105	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛
Danish	90	—	90	90	90	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	62½	62⅛	62½	62⅛	62½	62⅛
Mexican	35½	35½	36½	36½	36⅛	36⅛
Peruvian	25½	—	25½	25½	—	—
Portug. conv. ..	46⅛	46	46⅛	46⅛	47	47
Spanish 5 per Ct.	24½	24	24	24	23⅞	23⅞
Do. 3 per Cent. ..	35	35½	34⅞	34½	34⅛	34⅛

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Monday, Sept. 16.—There was a moderate supply of English Wheat to this morning's market, the condition of most of it was very inferior; the finest samples were sold early at fully the rates of last week, the rest were not disposed of till late in the day at a little reduction. There was some inquiry for Free Foreign, but the buyers were very unwilling to give the same prices as last week, and the holders being firm the amount of business done was very limited. There was a good deal more New Barley at market than last week; Malting and Distilling qualities were 1s. to 2s. lower, and for Grinding, whether English or Foreign, former prices were with difficulty obtained. There were more Old Mazagan Beans offering on the Kentish stands; they were not cleared off at a late hour, though offered on rather lower terms; other descriptions being scarce maintained former rates. White Peas the same as last week, Maple and Grey 1s. lower. The supply of Oats up to Saturday was short, both of Irish and Foreign; about ten vessels arrived in time for market this morning from Ireland, some of them with the first cargoes of New, the quality of which is very inferior to the early shipments last year. There was not quite so much demand for Oats from the country as last week, and where vessels were on demurrage a trifling abatement had to be submitted to. This applies principally to Irish; fine fresh cargoes of Foreign being less plentiful than they have been, fully maintain last week's rates.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk	Old Red	40 to 48	White	44 to 52
—— Ditto.....	New	40 — 45	—	40 — 50
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire	Old	40 — 46	—	42 — 48
—— Scotch	—	40 — 44	—	42 — 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire.....			Feed	21 — 22
—— Ditto	Ditto ..	Short 22 — 23	Polands	23 — 25
—— Scotch		Feed 22 — 24	Potato	25 — 26
—— Limerick	—	21 — 22	Short	22 — 23
—— Cork				20 — 21
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork			Black	19 — 20
—— Westport.....				20 — 21
—— Galway				18 6 — 19 6
Barley, New				30 — 36
Beans, Mazagan	32 — 33	.....	Tick	34 — 36
—— Harrow	36 — 38	.....	Small.....	— — 40
Peas, White, New				32 — 36
—— Grey	30 to 31	.....	Maple	32 — 33
Flour, Best Town-made.....		per sack of 280 lbs....		36 — 43
—— Norfolk and Suffolk				34 — 36

FOREIGN.

Per Imperial Quarter.

		FREE.	IN BOND
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed		48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.
—— Rostock		47 — 54	
—— Stettin		44 — 52	
—— Hamburgh		42 — 48	
—— Odessa		42 — 46	
—— Ditto	Polish	47 — 50	
—— Russian	soft	42 — 46	
—— Ditto.....	hard	40 — 44	
—— Spanish	Red	45 — 49	
—— Ditto	White.....	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding		26 — 29	— — —
—— Distilling.....		30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel.....		19 — 20	13 — 14
—— Swedish		19 — 21	13 — 15
—— Danish.....		20 — 22	14 — 16
—— Stralsund		20 — 21	14 — 15
—— Dutch Brew		21 — 23	15 — 17
—— —— Polands		— — —	18 — 19
Beans, Egyptian		27 — 29	20 — 22
Peas, White		30 — 34	— — —
—— Ditto Boilers		32 — 35	— — —
Flour, Canada	per barrel of 196 lbs	27 — 29	— — —
—— United States..	— —	27 — 29	20 — 22
—— Dantzig.....	— —	26 — 28	— — —

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Sept. 9 to Sept. 14, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	9621	714	220	887	1473
Scotch	—	—	2359	—	—
Irish.....	—	—	3190	—	—
Foreign	1438	7548	4929	1810	350

Flour, 4383 sacks, — bars.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending Sept. 17, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	5530	47s. 7d.	Rye	373	30s. 6d.
Barley.. ..	2026	36s. 8d.	Beans	725	34s. 9d.
Oats	12484	21s. 0d.	Peas	405	35s. 1d.

Friday, Sept. 20.—There is not much English Wheat fresh up since Monday; some of the Monday's supply still remains unsold on the Kentish stands, owing to its very inferior condition. Foreign Wheat is held firmly at Monday's rates, but the millers buy only to supply their immediate wants. Barley, Beans, and Peas are exactly as on Monday. There are a few cargoes of Irish Oats fresh up, some of them new, and two or three small parcels of new Lincolnshire; the quality of the former is much as we reported on Monday, that of the latter is also inferior to the usual quality of the early shipments. The new Irish have been sold at from 20s. 6d. to 22s. 3d., but only in small quantities. Prices generally are the same as on Monday. There was no alteration in the duties yesterday.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 16th of September to the 20th of September, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat.....	8140	—	3240
Barley.	2150	—	6120
Oats.....	3140	17370	4130

Flour, 2960 sacks.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES Weeks ending

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
10th August ..	48 10	34 6	20 1	35 9	35 0	34 2
17th „ ..	49 1	34 6	20 0	35 11	35 7	33 7
24th „ ..	50 4	33 8	20 4	36 8	35 10	34 0
31st „ ..	50 11	34 11	20 7	34 2	37 0	33 10
7th Sept. ..	48 6	35 9	20 5	— —	38 1	— —
14th „ ..	45 11	35 11	20 1	— —	37 9	— —

Aggregate Average of the Six Weeks.—Wheat, 48s. 11d.; Barley, 34s. 10d.; Oats, 20s. 3d.; Rye, ——; Beans, 36s. 6d.; Peas, ——.

Duty.—Wheat, 20s. 0d.; Barley, 4s. 0d.; Oats, 6s. 0d.; Rye, ——; Beans, 6s. 6d.; Peas, ——.

Stock of Corn in Bond, Aug. 5, 1844.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.	Flour.
In London,	112565	58752	27839	—	22711	7628	50500
Unit. King.	351549	108416	72399	2221	79452	42814	215576

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, September 13.

BANKRUPTS.

D. and H. DAVIES, Asylum-road, Old Kent-road, road contractors. [Venning and Co., Tokenhouse-yard.

T. and J. JONES, Liverpool, tallow chandlers. [Cotterill, Throgmorton-street; Fletcher and Hall, Liverpool.

J. S. HOLMES, Liverpool, shipbroker. [Vincent and Sherwood, Temple; Littledale and Bardswell, Liverpool.

J. and D. SUGDEN, Springfield, Yorkshire, fancy cloth manufacturers. [Cumming, King-street, Cheapside; Brooks and Freeman, Huddersfield; Sykes, Leeds.

DIVIDENDS.

Oct. 8. J. Carruthers, Mitchells, Kent, distiller—Oct. 8. J. F. Garnett, Wellington-street, Southwark, hatter—Oct. 10. F. Jordan, jun., and R. L. Magrath, Liverpool, merchants—Oct. 10. R. L. Magrath, Liverpool, merchant—Oct. 10. C. Elliot, Leeds, tallow merchant.

CERTIFICATES.

Oct. 5. J. Bail, Salisbury, cabinet maker—Oct. 7. R. Hodgson, Bishop Auckland, Durham, mercer—Oct. 7. W. Weir, Carlisle, iron merchant—Oct. 4. J. W. Robey, Upper John-street, Fitzroy-square, builder—Oct. 4. J. W. Mardall, New Shoreham, Sussex, insurance broker—Oct. 4. J. Elliott, Caxton, Cambridgeshire, innkeeper—Oct. 4. J. F. Wood, Oxford, surgeon—Oct. 4. A. Portway, Braintree, Essex, tea dealer—Oct. 4. B. W. Blake, City-road, merchant—Oct. 4. W. Dethick, Temple-street, Whitefriars, lime merchant.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

R. FRASER and SON and S. FRASER, Edinburgh, tailors—D. KIER, Irvine, slate merchant.

TUESDAY, September 17.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

S. H. T. BISHOP, Upper Ground-street, Blackfriars, iron merchant.

BANKRUPTS.

G. ROSSITER, Bridgewater, Somersetshire, jeweller. [Taylor and Collisson, Great James-street, Bedford-row.

F. C. HOPKINS, Tottenham-court-road, commission agent. [Whittington, Dean-street, Finsbury.

S. HADFIELD, Fawcett-street, Manchester, file manufacturer. [Atkinson and Saunders, Norfolk-street, Manchester; Makinson and Sanders, Temple.

T. and J. JONES, Liverpool, tallow chandlers. [Cutterill, Throgmorton-street; Fletcher and Hull, Liverpool.

J. S. HOLMES, Liverpool, shipbroker. [Vincent and Sherwood, Temple; Littledale and Bardswell, Liverpool.

W. TRUMBLE, Liverpool, licensed victualler. [Vincent and Co., Temple; Curry and Co., Liverpool.

W. H. DARKE, Aston juxta Birmingham, chemist. [Motteram and Giddey, Birmingham.

J. CRICH, Sheffield, maltster. [Bigg, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane; Haywood and Bramley, Sheffield.

DIVIDENDS.

Oct. 10. A. Manigliler, Mincing-lane, merchant—Sept. 30. J. L. Heathorn, Abchurch-lane, shipowner—Oct. 10. E. Lawton, Darleston, Staffordshire, cooper—Oct. 9. J. R. Lamb, Pilkington, Lancashire, calico printer—Oct. 8. G. and J. Wilkinson, Bishop Auckland, Durham, curriers—Oct 8. W. Weir, Carlisle, iron merchant—Oct. 8. R. Hodgson, Bishop Auckland, Durham, mercer—Oct. 10. T. Walker, Houghton-le-Skerne, Durham, grocer—Oct. 24. J. Fothergill, sen., Selby, Yorkshire, apothecary—Nov. 8. G. Parker, Sheffield, spade manufacturer—Nov. 8. J. Pemberton, Knostrop, Yorkshire, soap boiler—Oct. 17. T. Brook, Longwood, Yorkshire, wool cloth merchant—Oct. 17. J. Layton, Leeds, fruit merchant—Oct. 17. G. Womack, Leeds, cloth merchant—Oct. 8. W. Walford, Birmingham, maltster.

CERTIFICATES.

Oct. 8. P. Tansley, St. John-street, straw plait dealer—Oct. 8. G. Fryer, Alfred-street, City-road, grocer—Oct. 8. F. Goadsby, jun., Salford, Lancashire, druggist—Oct. 8. E. Foster, Dover, tailor—Oct. 8. T. W. Baker, Woolwich, builder—Oct. 8. W. R. Wood, Brighton, dentist—Oct. 8. I. Marsden, jun., Bowling, Yorkshire, maltster—Oct. 8. T. W. Younghusband, Upper Belgrave-place, bitumen manufacturer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

T. GEMMELL, Riddlaw Wood, Lanarkshire, farmer—A. CARSWELL, Dundee, flax dresser.

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THE LEAGUE.

THE EXPONENT OF THE PRINCIPLES

OF

FREE TRADE,

AND THE ORGAN

OF THE

NATIONAL ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.

"Surely as much food as a man can buy, with as much wages as a man can get, for as much work as a man can do, is not more than the natural inalienable birth-right of every man whom God has created with strength to labour and with hands to work."—Mrs. LOUDON's *Philanthropic Economy*.

VOLUME THE SECOND.

FROM

SEPTEMBER 28, 1844, TO SEPTEMBER 20, 1845.

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MDCCCXLV.

THE LEAGUE.

No. 53.] SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1844. [3d.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive a copy, weekly, of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and addresses to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND, *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

We beg to inform our subscribers that bound volumes of the LEAGUE *newspaper, containing the whole of the first year's numbers, may be had on application at the Offices either in London or Manchester, after the expiration of the present month.*

THE CALM.

A temporary lull seems to prevail over the Anti-Corn-Law agitation: but it is merely temporary; and only by a very unobservant mind can the character of the present comparative quiescence be mistaken. It is the repose of power, and not of defect; of inherent vitality, and not of death. The assertion may safely be made that, since the suspension of the great public meetings, not one mind has become less dissatisfied with the Corn Laws, or more disposed to submit to their continuance. There is no ebbing away of strength, nobody "'bates one jot of heart or hope." The temper and spirit of the Anti-Monopolist public exhibits a complete contrast with that of their opponents. With the former, there is no premature craving for renewed excitement; they wait the fitting time for fresh demonstrations of their resolve, quietly, and confidingly. On the other hand, we behold an incessant restlessness. The newspapers, that affected scarcely to notice the League or recognise its continued existence, while its thousands were every week gathering together, now write about it and against it from day to day. There is the visible uneasiness that indicates a haunting bodement of impending peril. There is the flutter of the bird in the snare of the fowler. Monopoly is made nervous by the quietude of the League. It would feel better assured of its own safety by the heaves and throes of active Agitation.

In fact, the term "agitation" is not a thoroughly accurate description of the efforts of the League, and the sympathy of the public mind in those efforts. We use the word for want of a better: our political vocabulary is imperfect. The course of the League, though a "movement," is not an "agitation." It is the progress of rational conviction; the intellect being stimulated in its inquiries and expressions by moral feelings and humane consideration for the multitude of sufferers wronged by the unjust laws whose removal is sought. In this case, therefore, there is none of the common and characteristic dependence of what is called agitation upon the continued application of external excitement. The strength of the movevent is self-sustained. People cannot un-know what they have been taught. Facts do not ebb and flow, like feelings. The success of the League is, not to have worked the millions into rage and fury, but to have instructed, enlightened, convinced, and determined them, so that the power which has been created exists independently of its authors; and enduringly, in virtue of its own nature.

The advocates of Free Trade are sometimes using hard words and fierce expressions. If it be so, no wonder; for the protest against outrageous injustice cannot always clothe itself in lullaby lispings. But what is the prevailing character of the efforts that have been made, whether by speaking or writing? It is not to be mistaken. It corresponds with that of the cause which is advocated. It mainly consists in stating facts; and then, additional facts; and then, still more facts—*voila tout.* That is the essence of the Anti-Corn Law agitation, if an agitation it must be called. It is simply the dissemination of a knowledge of facts, bearing upon the question. They do the work. The mere theory and the sophistry, the suppression and the perversion, are all on the other side. The Leaguers deal only in actualities. They are our case. The pleadings are in the evidence. There is nothing to be answered; and so opponents take to railing. Perceiving the power of the truths, they fasten upon whatever they deem, or can make appear as, the failings of the promulgators.

Indeed, others, unconnected with the cause, are not spared when *they* report facts which illustrate the real industrial interests of the country. Witness the hubbub just now raised against the population commissioners for the statistics of employment and occupation. They ought, it is contended, to have included the wives and families of farm-labourers in the number of persons employed in agriculture. Suppose they had, what would it have done except to show the starvation power of monopolist agriculture? What pitiful sophistry to reckon the five children of the farm-labourer, who has to support them all on 10s. a-week, as employed in the same sense as the three children of the factory operative who add each their 6s. to his 21s. weekly, for the sustenance of the family! How preposterous to say, here are six persons connected with agriculture in the one instance, and only four persons connected with manufacture in the other instance, and therefore agriculture is the greater interest, and must be upheld by exclusive privilege! And what a practical inference from the whole that the food of all the ten persons is to be enhanced in price by taxation! The farm-labourer does not *receive* the bread-tax; he pays it, as well as the cotton-spinner. It falls as hardly, and often much more hardly, upon his scanty wages. Whoever may gain the advantage of monopoly, it is not the labourer. Some, undoubtedly, believe they profit by restrictive laws, or such laws would not be upheld as they are. They may deem it an aggrandisement of the monopoly, which they miscall agriculture, to multiply the numbers to whom it is said to afford employment. But what if there were millions, so long as the system condemns them only to sow, toil, and reap starvation?

One reason why those on whom the forlorn task devolves of championing monopoly by means of the press cannot know peace or rest, while all others are refreshing themselves by repose, is that they feel all is not as they wish in the ranks of agriculture. A good harvest threatens to put the farmer into the anomalous position of paying a "protection" rent while he receives Free-Trade prices. This cannot last: another such harvest, and the settlement of prices must enforce the unsettlement of rents. These victories are ruinous. The writers who catch at the argument of cheapness, as against their opponents, are made tremulous in wielding it by the effect upon their clients. They wound those behind them, while striking at those before them. Their logic strikes both ways, and most keenly amongst their friends. Well may they writhe and wriggle, and be ill at ease.

They know, also, that the cessation of League demonstrations is not the suspension of League workings. The courts of the revising barristers begin to show that noiseless processes have been continuously going on, and are producing outward and visible results. The toil, expense, divisions, and disasters of the next general election rise before their imaginations in appalling perspective. Hence an infuriate quarrel with the very machinery by the dexterous use of which they turned the Reform Act to the destruction of its framers. To their fancy, registration was only devised for parties, and not for the people. The *Herald* discovers that the interference of agents is "unconstitutional" (save the mark!), and the penny-a-liners of the *Times* have their cue to ridicule the claims on behalf of numbers for whose enfranchisement the Reform Act was believed to be especially intended. Abused for losing elections, the League is now also abused for taking the means to win elections. Like the unfortunate drummer, it always hits too high or too low to please the patient. The less noise it makes the more it occasions.

Let those who think the present rather too much of a slumberous time look at the indications afforded by our opponents. In their restlessness, irritability, and wrath, are the symptoms that things are going right. The evidence by reflection supersedes the occasion for direct demonstration of progress. The movement continues; and the external impulse will be renewed the instant it is needed.

STARVATION AND SUICIDE AT SUNDERLAND.

We take from the *Sunderland Herald* the following extract, being the evidence of Elizabeth Pemberton, wife of James Pemberton, given at an inquest held on the body of her husband in the town of Sunderland a fortnight ago. We ask the especial attention of our readers to this simple but terrible narrative:—

"*Elizabeth Pemberton*:—I live in Baines'-lane, and am widow of the deceased, who was a 'striker' to the blacksmiths. He was 32 years of age last June. The deceased was discharged from a factory at Gateshead; at Christmas, and has only had 16 days' work since the commencement of this year. We have been for a long time past in a state of complete destitution—we pawned all our clothes and furniture, and for some weeks we have laid on nothing but a bit of straw. I used to carry fire papers about for a living, but since the cold weather came in I have not been able to obtain any. The last article I sold was a 'skeel' for three-pence. We lived very poorly; I think we did not live, but only breathed. My husband has been all over the country side seeking work, but he was not able to obtain any. Sometimes he was very much depressed in consequence, and I tried to cheer him up by telling him we should be better soon. Many times the children cried for bread and we were not able to give them any; he said he thought if things did not take a turn they would get the better of him—he was tired of his life. On Thursday morning my husband and myself went out to glean on the Durham road. We could not find a corn-field likely for some time, and at last when we found one near Ryhope, in which Irishmen were shearing, my husband asked if we might be allowed to glean there, and the farmer said no, he did not allow any person to glean after Irishmen. He then wanted to return, but I advised him to seek more fields. When we got to Ryhope Dene, we found a man leading corn; he spoke to him, but this person took no notice of him, and we walked on. At Tunstalk, a man threatened to punish us if we went into the corn-fields—'Jim' persisted in going on, and the man pursued him, but did not overtake him. I walked back towards home. When I got to the house, which was about half-past one o'clock, my little girl shouted, 'O mother, father's ill.' I went to him and found him lying on some straw; when I first saw him he was dreadfully sick, and I asked him what he had taken. He was breathing heavily, and made no reply. I was impatient to know what had happened to him, and repeated the question. As soon as he could answer for retching he said, 'I've taken arsenic.' I gave an alarm, and the neighbours went and brought two doctors. They applied the stomach pump, bathed his head with cold water, and used other means. About five o'clock he became more composed and wanted to sleep, but I would not let him, for the doctor said he would never come round again if he did; he was a dying man. I asked him to tell me what he had taken the arsenic in that none of my children might be poisoned. He said he had taken two pennyworth dry, which he had bought at a druggist's shop above Number's Garth. He took some castor oil, and tried 'with his best heart's blood' to come round again, but he could not; took a fit, became insensible, and died about nine o'clock. My husband never applied to the relieving-officer here, as we did not belong to the parish, and I was afraid of being sent to Gateshead, as I knew they would not give us out-relief, but we should be put into the poorhouse, where I should have been parted from my little bairns, and I had rather starve than be parted from them.

"The jury returned a verdict of '*Died of poison, taken whilst in a state of temporary mental derangement, occasioned by want of the common necessaries of life.*'"

James Pemberton was a striker to the blacksmiths, which denotes the possession of muscular strength; he was 32 years of age, in the very prime of life; he was discharged from his work at Christmas last, and had only sixteen days' work from that time to his death. For several years the greatest depression has existed among the various trades carried on on the banks of the Tyne and the Wear. Capital has made no return of profit, labour has been almost valueless, and industrious men have sunk to pauperism. The years of Corn-Law dearth have been a time of heavy suffering in the seaports of Northumberland and Durham; the coal trade, the iron trade, the ship-building trade, all trades have languished, and all dependent on them have suffered, and among the rest James Pemberton. But, mark the progress of this case. "Only sixteen days' work since the commencement of the year. We pawned all our clothes and furniture, and for some weeks have laid on nothing but a bit of straw. "We lived very poorly; *I think we did not live, but only breathed.*" And whilst this horrible tragedy was being enacted, the nobles of England were battling for the bread-tax in the British House of Commons! "Many times the children cried for bread, and we were not able to give them any." And whilst these helpless infants thus cried for bread, and their parent was driving on to madness and despair, parliamentary majorities were turning the lock upon the world's granaries, which a bountiful Providence has filled with his

stores! And James Pemberton, after wandering over "the country side to seek work," after hearing his children cry for bread, when he had none to give them, sank beneath the burden; despair seized him, and the broken-hearted man became a suicide. It is truly an appalling history. It is published to the world, and we are startled by it; but in many of its features it is but one of thousands of cases which to the public eye are never revealed. And this is Christian England so called; and in it there exists a law which cannot work its purpose but in proportion as it is the dispenser of sorrow and despair, and the messenger of death to many of the weakest and the poorest among us. And the great champions of this law are lords and squires, men of large wealth, of high title, of boasted ancestry; and with them there are associated some men who are high in the pursuit of trade and commerce, and some men even who claim to be ministers of religion. Do these men consider how every commandment of Heaven is violated by the Corn Law, and how every right of their fellow-men is outraged by it? Do the magnates of our land ever think for a moment of the end of the path they are treading? Has history no instruction for them on her pages, and in the signs of the times can they discern no promise of the future? The hunger scourge which drove James Pemberton to death is guiding the torch of the Suffolk peasant. Reason flies the helm when there is no shelter from the pitiless pelting of the storm; and thoughts, dark and wild, take possession of the heart which, in other days, has been warmed with virtue and filled with generous and kindly sympathies. A Scotch weaver—Thoms, the poet of Inverury—recently describing the state of mind which, in his own person, destitution and the sight of his starving family engendered, eloquently says:—

"I felt myself, as it were, shut out from mankind—enclosed—prisoned in misery—no outlook—none! My miserable wife and little ones, who alone cared for me—what would I not have done for their sakes at that hour! Here let me speak out—and be heard, too, while I tell it—that the world does not at all times know how unsafely it sits—when Despair has loosed Honour's last hold upon the heart—when transcendent wretchedness lays weeping Reason in the dust—when every unsympathising onlooker is deemed an enemy—who THEN can limit the consequences? For my own part, I confess that, ever since that dreadful night, I can never hear of an extraordinary criminal, without the wish to pierce through the mere judicial view of his career, under which, I am persuaded, there would often be found to exist an unseen impulse—a chain, with one end fixed in Nature's holiest ground, that drew him on to his destiny."

"The world does not at all times know how unsafely it sits." This is true; and it is a happy thing that safety and injustice cannot exist together. There is a feeling now spreading in our country that we do sit "unsafely;" people have a consciousness that there is somewhat of a volcanic action going on; even the haughty and the indifferent, the noble and the mighty, think it worth while to inquire a little about it; and it may be that out of this uneasiness, if from no higher motive, something like justice may be obtained. The selfishness which is the essence of the Corn Law is not a cement which will bind a nation firmly together. The system of government under which men are driven to self-murder by the pressure of a famine made by law, can hardly be passed off as perfect. The sorrows of many victims call loudly for retribution, and in the day of reckoning the broken heart of James Pemberton will form a heavy item in the account.

DESCRIPTIONS OF REMARKABLE FARMS.

By Adam Brown.

No. III.—*Mr. Mechi, of Leadenhall-street, on his Estate; and Captain Rous, of Westminster, and Earl Stradbroke, on their Estates.*

In resuming my letters on "Remarkable Farms," I must continue my notice of Mr. Mechi's farm at Tiptree-hall, in Essex. It is not only remarkable as evincing a comprehensive practical knowledge of agriculture on the part of a man who has been all his life in trade, but it is remarkable and valuable as a lesson to those who have been all their lives engaged in agriculture; and especially those who are keeping up a continual outcry that the Free-Trade agitation has prevented the application of capital to land.

In the first place, let us see what Mr. Mechi's tenant is going to *save* and *gain* by having engaged, which he has done, to pay in yearly rent the sum of £210 for the 140 acres *over and above* the rent which he paid for the same 140 acres before Mr. Mechi became his landlord. I should like Lord Stradbroke, and his sporting relative, Captain Rous, M.P. for Westminster, who have been lately talking at a public meeting of an "extensive scheme of emigration," as the best means of relieving the superabundant population of their ill-cultivated estates in Suffolk, to read this. But perhaps the electors of Westminster will profit more by reading such instructive matter than their extraordinary tea captain. And that the electors of Westminster may be the better able to judge of their member, let me direct those of them who go near the family estates in Suffolk and Norfolk, to observe how completely opposed is the cultivation there to the order and economy pointed out by Mr. Mechi. And be it remembered that Lord Stradbroke has within these ten days been excusing the lowness of wages paid on his estate, and small number of persons employed, by saying that the large importations of foreign corn in 1842 unsettled agriculture and brought down prices. He who keeps game on every farm, destroying as much farm produce to the farmers as ten millions of quarters of wheat would be to the whole kingdom (and this is a moderate computation),—he who has all his farms overgrown with large wasteful hedges and bushes for the protection of game, covering and wasting ground, to say the least, at the rate of seven acres to each hundred, which are measured to the tenants, and for which they have to pay rent,—he who keeps game in such abundance that the very farmers are obliged to get the eggs of pheasants, and many of the leverets, destroyed secretly to be able to raise crops at all,—he who keeps game with such tenacity and resolution that the very gamekeepers cannot survive that secret destruction of it which they cannot prevent,—he who keeps about him a feeble tenantry in the thrall of yearly occupancy, and who cannot, if they were willing, employ more people and pay higher wages while holding such farms, upon such a tenure, under such a landlord:—he opens his mouth amongst those who dare not contradict him, and says the importation of 2,000,000 quarters of wheat have brought down the markets so far that farmers cannot employ so many labourers as they used to do.

He says this while he knows that over all his estate, when the quartern loaf was 10d. and 11d., three, four, and five years ago, wages were at the very utmost only 1s. a week more to an able-bodied man than now, when the same loaf is 6d. and 6½d. And to the greater number of men wages were no higher in those years than now. And while Lord Stradbroke talks thus, his relation, the representative of the trading city of Westminster, talks of getting rid of the extra population on the Suffolk estates by a comprehensive scheme of emigration; in other words, compulsory transportation. They want to get rid of those labourers whom such improvers as Mr. Mechi would employ. And they pretend that they cannot keep up their usual amount of employment on their fertile estates because of the importation of corn under the sliding scale; while under the same sliding scale the farmer at Tiptree-hall greatly increases the number of his labourers on a soil that is not naturally fertile. Observe how he employs his labourers and gets his profits:—

"STATEMENT OF GAIN OR SAVING.

	£	s.	d.
200 trees removed—estimated to damage by their roots and by their shade, 1s. each	10	0	0
950 linear rods (5½ yards each) of removed banks and fences (ditches filled up), averaging two yards wide—some were four yards wide, but the difference is set off against a few new ditches. It is estimated that each rod of these fences and banks damaged 6d. by their roots, their shade, their encouragement of weeds and vermin	21	5	0
1-6th saved in horse labour and wear. (This, in the Prize Essay of the Royal Agricultural Society's Journal, vol. iv., part 2, p. 336, is estimated at 1-4th)	21	0	0
1-8th ditto in manual labour	20	0	0
Seven acres gained in fences, banks, ditches, bog, and waste, which produced nothing, but cost the tenant, rent, rates, tithes, &c., 36s. per acre	12	12	0
Profit in cultivation of the above seven acres at 15s. per acre	5	5	0
105 quarters of wheat, threshed by machine, gain in quantity 1-28th, or 2s. per quarter	10	10	0
150 ditto spring corn, at 1s.	7	10	0
Saving in thatching, removing stacks and straw, waste by birds, &c.	5	0	0
Liquid manure tank, calculated to contain 120,000 gallons, but we only reckon upon 20,000 gallons, at 50s. per thousand (each 1000 gallons being equal to 4 cwt. guano)	50	0	0
Improved quality of solid manure	10	0	0
Increased value of stock, by warmth, dryness, and diminished consumption of food	15	0	0
General increase on 90 acres of corn and clover crops, arising from perfect drainage, at £1 per acre	90	0	0
Saving in quantity of seed sown	20	0	0
Twenty acres that used to be long-fallowed, at an expense of £5 per acre, now calculated to pay their expenses, if not a profit, by bean or root crops	100	0	0
A first-rate house to live in, with every comfort and convenience—the lower rooms eleven feet high, the bed-rooms ten feet high, and convenient rooms for the bailiff. (The tenant could not reside in the old dilapidated hovel, which was damp, unhealthy, and caused several deaths by fever)	30	0	0
	£428	2	0

"*To sum up: whereas the former gross annual return of the farm was under £5 per acre, we shall try to increase it to £10 per acre.*"

This is what a man of trade does to make his farm fruitful and profitable; while my Lord Stradbroke, and Captain Rous of Westminster, both men of law-making, expect their land to be profitable by act of Parliament. But Mr. Mechi calculates his profit from additional sources, which cannot be so well set down in figures. He says:—

"1st. The being able to fat at least 100 to 150 sheep more than before, of a better quality, and earlier lambs. The tenant could breed, but never thoroughly fatten a lamb or sheep on the farm in its former cold, wet, and exposed state, with its homestead open to the cutting north-east winds, without gutters or drainage.

"2nd. The facility of cooking and steaming food, and the economy of several acres that were required for horse-food, by growing lucerne, tares, &c.

"3rd. The very important benefit of early sowing and harvesting. We reckon we shall gain at least a fortnight in both, as proved last year, with superiority of sample, and avoidance of a catchy week in September.

"4th. A perfect independence (by our efficient drainage) of a very wet season, which has often ruined the crops on this farm. Witness 1842, when the oats yielded but three quarters two bushels per acre, and an inferior sample.

"Lastly. The agreeable feeling of having a complete farm, with good roads, comfortable homestead, and good crops, instead of the former dilapidated, beggarly, and poverty-struck land and premises.

"The saving of horse and manual labour is considerably underrated, when you consider the ready communication with each part of the farm, the abolition of all short lands, the facility of ploughing or carting at almost any time with less power, the land being firm and mellow, instead of putty-and-paste-like; no idle days in wet or cold weather, there being employment under cover for men and horses, grinding, chaff-cutting, or threshing; the facility, at harvest, of drawing the loaded carts into the bays of our large barn, and at once depositing the sheaves; the ease with which they are transferred from both barn and stacks to the threshing-machine, the straw being delivered by the machine into a gallery over the very sheds, yards, and stables, where it is required; no time lost, or accidents, in leading horses or cattle to water, there being tanks in every yard, and a yard to every stable—all the tanks filled simultaneously from a single pump.

"There is another advantage of which no valuation is taken—I mean the farmer or bailiff's time; whilst writing up his accounts, or arranging his plans, by stepping from one room to the other, he can at once see every man, boy, horse, or sheep, on *any* part of the farm, except about four acres. Any accident, mistake, neglect, maltreatment, or pilfering, is perceptible at a glance."

Lord Stradbroke speaks of the insecurity that arises to land from the agitation for Free Trade, and the evils that result from *insecurity*. Does he suppose that any tenant of his could, supposing him to have the requisite capital and the requisite knowledge, venture on any of those expensive, yet profitable, alterations mentioned here? What security have any of his tenants, who are told that if they do not like to have their turnips and clover eaten up with hares they may leave their farms and go elsewhere, they knowing well that they cannot get farms elsewhere, but by a ruinous competition for them, with fifty persons seeking each farm? Does his lordship think that the labourers on his farms ever can be well employed and well paid with tenants who lose a fifth part of their crops by game, and a tenth part by the timber and foulness that shelter the game; while, if they are themselves known to kill game—that which they feed on their own farms, at their own expense—they are prosecuted and dismissed from their farms?

"Insecurity," indeed! His lordship and Captain Rous are just the last men in England, of the landlord class, who should speak of insecurity to farmers, unless they have determined to put their tenantry on a very different footing from what they now stand on.

The captain sometimes indulges in jokes and puns in Parliament. There is a pun which is a standard on and around his family estate. It is, that when a farmer is ordered about his business, and told to seek a farm elsewhere, he is "*Rous'd* out."

AN INQUIRY INTO THE EFFECTS OF ENGLISH LEGISLATION UPON AGRICULTURAL WAGES, PROFITS, AND RENT.

By a Barrister.

(*Continued from page* 836.)

"Do you find tea do better for them than other things?—Not so well as water gruel.

"Do not you find it answer to keep a pig, having a garden?—I could not afford to buy one.

"If you had been able to afford to buy one, you think it would have answered?—Yes, it would have answered if I could have bought one and kept it.

"Have the poor felt any benefit from getting salt cheaper?—That is a great easement to us, we cannot do without it.

"Do you find you get it cheaper than you used?—Yes.

"Does it make much difference in your expense?—It makes a trifle.

"A man is able to salt a pig now that could not salt one before?—If he has got one it would come a good deal easier with the salt.

"Have you any idea what your clothes for yourself and your family have cost you in a year?—My shoes cost about 15s. a year, for a pair of strong shoes to go to work in, and the rest of my family makes it another £1. I dare say it stands me in £2 for shoe bills.

"Have not you sometimes known a farmer get his labour cheaper than he ought?—They give them 4d. a day when it is paid out of the round.

"Then the farmer gets a benefit by that?—Yes; the tradespeople help to pay it.

"Do you know any labourers with so large a family as you have, who have brought them up without assistance from the parish?—Never one but me.

"Do you not find tea much dearer than gruel for your children?—A good deal; but they are sickly sometimes, and they cannot have gruel always.

"What is the greatest number of children you have had alive at one time?—Eleven.

"Do you cut down much timber?—I do sometimes.

"Upon those occasions you have a right always to as large a fagot as you can carry home?—No; they will not allow us any now.

"Then you have it in pay, do not you?—No."—*Minutes of Evidence*, pp. 53—56.

In the nine years, 1815—1823, during which period the average price of wheat was 69s. 2d., the agricultural labourers had sunk to the condition of paupers. They did all that men could do to escape from the degradation, but it was of no avail against the combination of their employers, which the law of 1796 authorized. It was established beyond question before the parliamentary committee of 1824, that the employers of labour—landholders and farmers—combined, not in individual parishes but generally, to compel the small freeholders and copy-

holders to sell their holdings and become paupers. This effect of the Corn Law to make food dear, and of the poor law of 1796 to give the power of fixing the rate of wages at the pleasure of the employers, has been particularly noticed by continental writers. They view the disconnexion of the labourers with a property in the soil as pregnant with danger. The class of small proprietors, whether freeholders or copyholders, the race of the "bold yeomen,"—whose *stake in the country, small though it was,* had formed that country's best security in many a trying scene of political convulsion,—is now almost extinct. The poor law and the Corn Law have here done their work effectually; and though, undoubtedly, they have made the rich richer, and the poor poorer, the rich might do well to consider whether it might not be better, upon a cool calculation, and a long-sighted view of all the circumstances and chances of the case, to have moderate wealth in the midst of a population such as England's former yeomen, or small proprietors, than to have immoderate wealth amid a population, poor, hungry, and reckless, such as England's peasantry now, or France's fifty years ago.*

The process of converting persons possessed of a little property into paupers has been very distinctly stated by the Rev. Henry Walter.

"In December, 1822, on going to the parish of which I am rector, Haselbury Brian, in the county of Dorset, I found that some of the best workmen in the parish, who happened to be cottagers possessing land, property in gardens, and so on, had not been employed since September nearly; they were not employed in consequence of the arrangement made by the overseers for paying wages of persons employed on farms out of the poor rates; they told me they had had no quarrel with their employers, their employers were ready to give them good characters, but said, we cannot take you, since we can get others for nothing. I said, Do they hold out any hope to you of being employed soon? They said, No, they cannot employ us, for we cannot be put upon the poor's books; persons having property cannot; we must therefore wait till we are ruined."—*Minutes of Evidence,* p. 43.

There was much evidence to the same effect collected by the Poor Law Commissioners of Inquiry.†

Lister Ellis, Esq., who had resided both in the manufacturing and agricultural parts of England, and had been conversant with the management of the poor in both those districts, in his examination before the select committee of the House of Commons on the poor laws in 1828, stated, in reference to the wages and diet of agricultural labourers in the neighbourhood of Carlisle:—

"I paid no more, for several years, than 9s. a week, when I had ten ploughmen. The only perquisite they had was the use of a horse and cart to take for their coals, for which they paid, as well as all expenses on the road.

"Are not the habits of the working classes, in that particular district, such as to make them content with very humble diet?—Yes, very.

"What is the diet?—It is a mixture of oatmeal and barleymeal, made into bread, and potatoes; the salted trimmings of bacon (it is an extensive market for bacon), that is, the parings, the dressing; and they have no fresh meat, except on very rare occasions.

"Not wheaten but oaten bread?—Rarely ever wheaten bread."—*Minutes of Evidence, p.* 52.

The same witness stated it as the result of his experience in the manufacturing districts, that the price of manufacturing labour is never at all influenced by the price of food, further than that as the price of grain advanced, the price of weaving fell.—*Ibid.*, p. 51.

The evidence of Henry Drummond, Esq., cited above,—to the effect, that the general condition of the agricultural labourers had deteriorated,—is corroborated by the following evidence of Thomas Law Hodges, Esq., M.P., given before the Select Committee of the House of Lords, on the poor laws, in December, 1830:—

"Is any allowance paid in aid of wages in the parish?—Oh yes, in all the parishes, and must be so; that is the great grievance of the present time, that the wages that a man earns cannot by possibility keep his family, if that family exceeds three children.

"Twelve years ago, was there any considerable portion of your parish out of employment?—I have no doubt of it, but I cannot state the proportion; it has been so, I think, very nearly since the peace.

"Did the system of giving parish allowances in aid of wages exist at that time?—It has existed ever since the year 1797 or 1798, when corn rose to £30 or £40 a load; previous to that time, from the year 1783, which is the earliest time that I recollect the parish, to 1793 or 1794, or, perhaps, 1795, very little variation took place in the condition of the labourers. The labourers at that time were universally, without any exception, able to maintain themselves by the wages they received; and that can be proved by many witnesses as old as myself, and by reference to the poor rates at that time; the poor rates were such a mere trifle, that it is quite clear no part of the wages of the labourers could have been taken from that fund during that period.

"Are you aware what the average price of wheat was at that period?—No, I cannot tell.

"Was it much dearer at that time, or at all dearer, than it is at the present moment?—I think it was cheaper.

"Can you state what was the rate of wages at that time?—Less than now, considerably. I think in my parish there were three periods of the year, and they were paid, according to those periods, 1s. a day, 1s. 3d. a day, and 1s. 6d. a day; 1s. 6d. a day was the highest, and, notwithstanding that, there was scarcely an instance of any man ever going directly to the poor's rate; but in the event of a very large family, seven, or eight, or nine children, they had a few peas or a little barley given them about Christmas time, to fatten a pig; a little assistance might have been given towards the rent, but that could have been but trifling, the amount of the rate was so small.

"Is the disproportion between the rate of wages now and the price of wheat greater than it was at the period to which you have just alluded?—I cannot say; but, whatever that proportion may be, it will not show of itself the relative condition of the labourer, for the money went so much further at the former period than it does now.

"In what respect does it go further?—The taxation of the country was so much less. Money then bought more goods than it will now.

"What particular articles were bought at a cheaper rate then than they are at present?—Malt, candles, soap, and articles of ordinary consumption; tea, I remember, they never drank at all; I never saw a teapot in any man's cottage at that time.

"Do they drink tea now?—Universally.

"What is the price of the tea they drink?—I cannot say.

"Did they brew at that time?—Every labourer who kept house brewed then.

"Has the use of coffee been introduced among the labourers?—Not generally.

"Is that superseding the use of tea amongst them?—Not in that district.

"Was not the clothing* of that day much stronger, and did it not go much further than that of the present day?—Decidedly."—*Minutes of Evidence before Committee of Lords* (1830 and 1831), pp. 21, 22.

Mr. Richard Holloway, overseer of the parish of Shipley, near Horsham, in the Weald of Sussex, being asked, "Upon what do your labourers live principally?" replied, "They live very hard; they have had nothing now but bread for some time past." And again, being asked if the labourers lived as well then as they did ten or fifteen years ago, replied:—"No, they do not live so well."

"Does your answer apply generally to all descriptions of labourers?—They are not so well off, any of them, as they used to be.

"Do you mean to say that a man receiving 10s. a week is not as well off as he was fifteen years ago, when he received 12s.?—No. I can say that they are not so well off by some means as they were at that time of day; they do not get so much meat."—*Minutes of Evidence before Committee of Lords* (1830 and 1831), pp. 34-37.

Richard Pollen, Esq., Chairman of the Quarter Sessions of Hampshire, and a landholder in North Wiltshire, was asked:—

"Upon the whole, are the wages of labourers employed by farmers very much decreased within the last ten years?—Yes. I should think so." The witness being asked whether the reduction in the price of the necessaries of life during these ten years has been equal to the reduction in the price of labour, gave it as his opinion that upon the whole, the labourer then was worse off than he was ten years before."—*Minutes of Evidence before Committee of Lords* (1830 *and* 1831), pp. 53, 54.

Mr. Robert Chick was asked:—

"What are the rents of cottages in that neighbourhood? (*Mitcham, Surrey.*)—Rather high for small cottages; the rents have been doubled within forty years. I was born where I live now. They were £5 a year, and were raised to £10.

"Do you suppose that the poor are in a worse situation as to their comforts now than they were when the rate of wages was much higher?—They never were so badly off as they are now.

"You think that the necessaries of life have not fallen in price in proportion to the wages?—By no means; they used to have 10s. or 12s. a week upon the roads, and it is reduced to nothing almost now (1824).

"Supposing you or any other individual in the parish had to employ able-bodied men to perform work for you, is there any great difference in the wages of such a person during the last ten years? I should pay 2s. 6d. per day, and 3s., for labour.

"What did they ask for that ten years ago?—I do not think they asked much more ten years ago than they do now.

"Then your observation with respect to the decrease of the value of labour compared to the decrease in the price of provisions applies only to those persons who are employed by the parish upon the roads?—It is decreased in this kind of way: formerly masters used to keep men a number of years, probably till they died; but now, directly they get a little slack in work, they say, 'We have no employment for you,' and send them to the parish.

"Are the wages of those men who are kept decreased?—I do not think they are, a great many of them."—*Minutes of Evidence before Committee of Lords* (1830 *and* 1831), pp. 57, 58.

The Rev. James Beard, J.P., of Cranfield, in the county of Bedford, was asked:—

"How do you account for there being more out of employment now than when you first became acquainted with the parish?—The farmers are poorer.

"Yet you say the lands are equally well cultivated?—Yes.

"Are there any arable lands thrown out of cultivation?—No: the truth is, there is a great deal more labour got for the money.

"The poor people work cheaper?—Yes: the poor people work cheaper—a great deal cheaper—the competition of labour is so great.

"Have you formed any opinion whether there has been a proportionate diminution in the price of articles supplied to the poor?—I think there has in my neighbourhood.

"Then they are equally well off, in your opinion, with the low wages as with high?—Oh dear, no.

"If there has been a proportionate diminution in the price of articles which the poor require to that in the wages of labour, how do you account for their not being in the same state?—One great cause is, that the lace trade was an exceedingly good one, and now a woman must work very hard to get a halfpenny an hour—sixpence a day.

"You say there has been no land thrown out of cultivation that you are aware of in this parish?—None that I am aware of.

"Are there any other reasons for the labourers being worse off now than when the wages were higher and provisions dearer?—Formerly the labourer could get employment, now he cannot at any price.

"Have you any means of collecting from the farmers whether, considering the present price of produce, they should be able to continue these payments which you say is so good-naturedly proposed by them?—They, in a body, told me that they could not; and my answer to them was this—'Then, as the labourers have come to me in a body,' as they had ninety in a body at my house, 'you must go in a body to your landlords.'

"Have cottage rents fallen in proportion to the fall in the other necessaries of the labourer?—Decidedly not; and nothing oppresses the labourer more than the present price of cottage rents.

"From what cause do you suppose cottage rents have not fallen in proportion to the other payments of the labourers?—That as population has increased, the cottages have not increased in number so much, and therefore there has been a demand for them, and consequently 1s. a week is almost the least rent which a labourer can get a cottage for."—*Minutes of Evidence before Committee of Lords* (1830 *and* 1831), p. 10.

The Rev. George Wells, of Weston, Sussex, was asked:—

"Have you been long resident in the parish of which you are the clergymen?—Thirty years.

"Have you, during the whole of that time, had opportunities of inquiring into the mode of living and the condition of the poor?—It has passed under my observation.

"Has it appeared to you that, of late years, there has been any material difference in their mode of living?—I think there has been a deterioration of their condition, generally speaking; how far they have altered their diet I hardly know; I am afraid that is the last thing they will alter.

"In your opinion has their diet become more refined than it was?—No, I think it has not; the people of Sussex have always lived on a superior diet to those of the western and northern counties.

"Do you recollect what the wages were in former years?—The wages, during the high prices occasioned by the war, were 15s. a week for best labourers in the summer.

"What in the winter?—12s.

"Did the price of wages at that period bear the same relation to the price of provisions in the high times as it does at the present moment?—That would require a calculation into which I have not entered; but the price paid must have borne a greater proportion to the rate of wages at that period certainly.

"Is it your opinion that a labourer during the war when corn was selling at a high price, was in a better or worse condition than he is at present?—I think he was in a better condition than he is at present.

"Though he paid so much more for his food?—Yes.

"There were means for the wives and children obtaining something?—Yes; every one capable of gaining something was in the way of doing it.

"Where a good labourer is paid the regular price for his wages, and is in full work, is he not now as well off as ever he was?—I conceive that the individual labourer is."—*Minutes of Evidence before Committee of Lords* (1830 *and* 1831), pp. 113, 114.

Even in Lincolnshire, where, upon the whole, the agricultural labourer is probably better off as to food and lodging than in any other county in England, there is evidence of a deterioration in his condition. The Rev.

* In his examination before the Lords' Committee on the Poor Laws, in 1831, Earl Stanhope being asked,—"Does your lordship mean to say that the landowners ought to be bound to employ him (the labourer)?"—replied,—"I think they certainly ought, when those labourers have not, by allotments of land, or in other modes, other sources of support; and I would here observe, that in several, if not in all of the states of Germany, the labourers are copyholders, and derive great advantage from the occupation of land, which, however, in some states is heavily burdened by direct taxes, land-tax, and others; but that such are the advantages which they receive, that in those countries poor's rates do not exist; and as far as my experience, which is very considerable, extends, I am fully convinced that the labourers in those countries live in much greater comfort than they do in this."—*Minutes of Evidence,* p. 218.

† See some of this evidence, cited at pp. 78, 79, 80, of their Report, 8vo. edit.

* See note on this subject at page 835.

Edmund Dawson, of Alford, Lincolnshire, being asked, "Have the farms in your parish been increased in size?" replied, "I should suppose there has been a great diminution of cottages and small farms. I recollect only one or two that have been demolished since I came into it; one small farm has been laid to another which was a larger farm. There have been a considerable number that have, within the last sixty years, been demolished; as many as eleven, according to the report of the assistant overseer.

"Do you attribute the depressed condition of the labourers very much to the practice of laying small farms into large? The great cause of the distress I consider to be attributable to the demolition of cottages, and the accumulation of farms."—*Minutes of Evidence before Committee of Lords* (1830 *and* 1831), p. 200.

Edward Simeon, Esq., of Whitchurch, in Oxfordshire, in answer to the question before the same committee, whether the masters might not punish their labourers for misconduct by mulcting them of their wages, replied, "The mulcting them of their wages, where they are so very small, can hardly be done without starving them."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 287.

Rent of Cottages.—We have seen, as stated above in Mr. Drummond's evidence, the rents of cottages rising from 30s. a year before the war, as high as £5, £7, or even £10 per annum. The Earl of Winchilsea and Nottingham, in his examination before the Lords' Committee in 1831, being asked, "What is the rent of cottages in your neighbourhood?" replied, "from £5 to £6 and £7 a year. In a parish close to me the actual rent received for the house is more than the actual value of the house itself. There are five or six families in one house, and the rent they pay is 2s. a week for a single room, making £30 a year, and I do not think the house is worth £30; but those rents are, in fact, paid out of the poor's rates."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 157.

It is a mistake, however, to suppose that the highest rents are paid to the large proprietors. The Rev. Henry Foulis, a magistrate in Lincolnshire, being asked by the same committee, "To what cause do you attribute that great disproportion between two neighbouring parishes, the rent being £5 in the one parish and £3 in the other?" replied, "Because in the one parish it belongs to one landlord, who has the whole parish, and who wishes, of course, to have his labourers in a better state; and the other parish belongs to several small proprietors, who get as much rent as they can."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 73.

The lodging afforded for these high rents is of the most wretched description. So much has been published on this part of the subject of late, that it seems unnecessary to dilate upon it here. "It is impossible not to be struck," says Mr. Austin, in his Report in 1843 to the Poor Law Commissioners on the counties of Wilts, Dorset, Devon, and Somerset, "in visiting the dwellings of the agricultural labourers, with the general want of new cottages, notwithstanding the universal increase of population. Everywhere the cottages are old, and frequently in a state of decay, and are, consequently, ill adapted for their increased number of inmates of late years." And again:—"The want of sufficient accommodation seems universal. Cottages generally have only two bedrooms (with very rare exceptions); a great many have only one. The consequence is, that it is very often extremely difficult, if not impossible, to divide a family so that grown-up persons of different sexes—brothers and sisters, fathers and daughters—do not sleep in the same room. Three or four persons not unfrequently sleep in the same bed."*

As we are not garbling the evidence to make out a case, but endeavouring to follow it steadily and faithfully whithersoever it leads, we must not omit to notice the statements of the witnesses which differ from those hitherto cited as to the comparative condition of the agricultural labourer in 1830 and at former periods. The whole number of witnesses examined before the Lords' Committee in 1830 and 1831 was 33. In regard to some of these, the course of the examination did not lead them to express any opinion on the point above alluded to. Those who expressed a decided opinion that the condition of the agricultural labourer had deteriorated were in number, 9. Those who expressed a contrary opinion were in number, 5.

Thomas Partington, Esq., chairman of the quarter sessions for the east division of the county of Sussex, being asked—"Do you find that the cottagers who are in full employment have deteriorated at all in their mode of living of late years?" replied—"Certainly very much the contrary. I can remember them forty years ago, and the cottagers certainly did not live nearly so well as they do now (1831)."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 68. The witness considered the average earnings at 12s. a week.—*Ibid.*

Mr. Francis Sherborn, of Bedfont, near Hounslow, being asked—"Do you think the agricultural labourer is in as good a situation as he was during the war?" replied—"Quite so, I think."

"Has there been a reduction in necessaries and in provisions, corresponding with the reduction of wages?—Quite. I think more. I conceive that the poor men in our district now can get more of the necessaries of life; and clothing is very much cheaper."

"Altogether, you believe that the agricultural labourer enjoys more of comfort now, than he did in the high times?—In our district I think he does."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 85. The rate of wages here was 12s. a week.—*Ibid.*, p. 84.

The Rev. Thomas Whateley, of Cookham, Berkshire, being asked—"Do not you consider that the labouring classes are well off in your parish?" replied—"I think they are better off than I have ever seen them since I have known them. In the year 1793, and for several years before that period, the rate of wages was 8s. per week, and wheat sold at £16 per load; now wheat sells at from £17. 10s. to £18, and wages are 10s.; while all sorts of linen and calico are not a third of the price they were at in the above year of 1793."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 174.

We know enough of the character of the Rev. Thomas Whateley to place implicit confidence in any statement made by him of circumstances within his personal knowledge; but, taking Mr. Whateley's rates of wages for 1793 and 1831 respectively, and the prices of wheat at the same periods from the account of the average prices in England and Wales, as ascertained by the Receiver of Corn Returns, we find that, in 1793, the price of wheat was 48s. 11d. per imperial quarter, and in 1831 it was 66s. 4d. per imperial quarter; consequently, in the former period, the labourer with wages at 8s. could earn 85 pints of wheat per week; in the latter period, with wages at 10s., he could only earn 77 pints. Moreover, although, as Mr. Whateley observes, there has certainly been a great fall in the price of calico, the price of the labourers' shoes, coats, and frocks has nearly doubled;* and the rent of his cottage has more than doubled in most parts of the country. Therefore, the conclusion drawn by Mr. Whateley, however applicable it may be to the parish of Cookham, is quite inapplicable to England at large. We may here also add that a witness, examined by Mr. Chadwick, in Berkshire, in 1832, gives evidence to the contrary effect. The Governor of the workhouse of St. Lawrence, Reading, who had been a farmer many years before, being asked by Mr. Chadwick, "What is the present condition of the independent labourers, as compared with that of the labourers at the time you mention?" replied, "I think they are not quite so well off. To be sure they got less wages, and clothing was dearer; they only got 7s. a week. But then, on the other hand, they only paid 8d. for the gallon loaf. I think they were better off."†

The next witness on this side is the Rev. John Thomas Becher, of Southwell, in Nottinghamshire, chairman of the quarter sessions for the divisions of Southwell and Scrooby, who says, "He is convinced that the poor were never doing so well as they are now (1831), when they receive their just hire. But," he adds, "in the south wages are not allowed to rise to their proper level."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 262.

We must quote the grounds of Mr. Becher's opinion, as given in his own words. He says, "Having heard it repeatedly stated, both in print and in conversation, that the poor were suffering very severely in those times, and it having been stated by Mr. Lowe in his book on the present state of Europe, as well as by Mr. Barton, that from 1742 to 1752, the weekly pay was 6s., and the price of wheat per quarter 30s., and the wages in pints of wheat, Winchester measure, equalled 102; from 1761 to 1770, that the weekly pay was 7s. 6d., wheat per quarter 42s. 6d., and wages 90 pints; from 1780 to 1790, the weekly pay was 8s., wheat per quarter 51s. 2d., and wages 80 pints; from 1795 to 1799, the weekly pay was 9s., wheat per quarter 70s. 8d., and wages 65 pints; from 1800 to 1808, the weekly pay was 11s., wheat per quarter 86s. 8d., and wages 60 pints: the conclusion was, that the reduction of the labourer's ability had fallen progressively from 102 to 90, from 90 to 80, from 80 to 65, and from 65 to 60. I found, in Mr. Pitt's speech in the House of Commons, in opposition to Mr. Whitbread's bill to regulate the prices of labour, he regretted the circumstance of making wheat the mere standard of human ability, as several other articles had fallen in price. However, I have taken pints of wheat as the standard; and I will show that the poor have more ability now than they had at any former times. I take the returns of wheat as given by Parliament, from 1820 to 1829, and the prices of labour at 12s., or 11s., or 10s. a week. I will state the results to your lordships for ten years, specifying the pints of wheat which the labourer could purchase, and the pints of wheat in Winchester measure, supposing the weekly wages to be either 12s., or 11s., or 10s. From 1820 to 1824, 110¼ pints, 101 pints, 92 2-10ths pints; from 1825 to 1829, 101 6-10ths pints, 93 4-10ths pints, 84 9-10ths pints. Then the average of ten years, from 1820 to 1829, if weekly wages are 12s., will be 106 1-10ths pints; whereas a labourer could not have purchased more than 102 pints at any period from 1742 to 1808. Estimating weekly wages at 11s., the proportion would be 93 4-10ths pints; and if he earns 10s. a week, it will be 88 5-10ths pints. So that the smallest average quantity purchased weekly has been 88 5-10ths, even by the labourer who receives only 10s. weekly wages, which is considerably below our price of labour in Nottinghamshire, and consequently, according to my reasoning, below the just standard. Therefore the conclusion seems not less clear than satisfactory, that the labourer in the present times may support himself and his family with decency and comfort, if he be not pauperized by an artificial and illegal system.

[The witness delivers in the statement, which is read, and is as follows:—]

"A statement in the pamphlet of Mr. Barton on the condition of the labouring classes, showing the proportion between the wages of husbandry and the prices of corn during the last seventy years:—

Periods.	Weekly Pay.	Wheat, per Quarter.	Wages in Pints of Wheat.
	s. d.	s. d.	Winchester Measure.
1742 to 1752	6 0	30 0	102
1761 to 1770	7 6	42 6	90
1780 to 1790	8 0	51 2 (45. 9)*	80 (89)
1795 to 1799	9 0	70 8 (63· 9)*	65 (72)
1800 to 1808	11 0	86 8 (84·10)*	60 (69)

"Proportion between the prices of agricultural labour and corn from 1820 to 1829:—

Periods.	Weekly Pay.	Price.	Pints of Wheat.	
			Imperial Measure.	Winch. Measure.
	s.	s. d. £.		
1820 to 1824	12	57 2 = 2·858	107·4	110·5
1820 to 1824	11	57 2 = 2·858	98·9	101 0
1820 to 1824	10	57 2 = 2·858	89·5	92·2
1825 to 1829	12	62 1 = 3·104	98·5	101·6
1825 to 1829	11	62 1 = 3·104	90 7	93·4
1825 to 1829	10	62 1 = 3·104	82·4	84·9
Average of 10 yrs., 12s. weekly wages			102·9	106·1
Average of 10 yrs., 11s. weekly wages			90·4	93·2
Average of 10 yrs., 10s. weekly wages			85·9	88·5

"That is a much higher estimate of wages than they have in the south; 6s., 7s., and 8s. having been the payment in some of the counties?—Mr. Barton takes from 100 to 108. I am convinced that the poor were never doing so well as they are now, when they receive their just hire. In the south wages are not allowed to rise to their proper level.

"You conceive that, according to the prices of labour and the prices of the necessaries of life now, and ten or twenty years ago, a poor man can maintain himself with greater comfort than he did ten or twenty years ago?—I think I have demonstrated this in figures, and much to the disadvantage of the calculation, because twenty years ago apparel was much higher than it is now, and my calculations have been made in wheat.

"Considering the diminution of the price of salt, the price of beer, and other articles?—Yes; I consider that the poor are better off than they were in former times. The reduction in the price of the several articles above stated renders the calculation still more in favour of the labourer."—*Minutes of Evidence*, pp. 261, 262.

And in another part of his examination Mr. Becher gives it as his opinion that the improved condition of the agricultural labourer is nearly co-extensive with the manufacturing districts, and that a stagnation in manufacturing concerns leads to agricultural distress, and a reduction of the wages of agricultural labour:—

"It appears that the improved condition of the labourer is almost co-extensive with the northern, that is to say the manufacturing, districts; and that that which exists in Nottinghamshire applies in a great measure to Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland, and even Lancashire, in which counties agricultural labour is well paid?—This appears to be nearly the case.

"May not their improved condition have arisen in some measure from the connexion of manufactories with those counties?—I have known Nottinghamshire to a considerable extent pauperized. In the year 1812 there were at that time parishes in which the rental was scarcely equal to the expenditure of the poor, among which was one parish belonging to the Duke of Portland. Besides which, I have known freeholders come to me and declare that the produce of their land was not equal to the payment of their rates; but this arose from a stagnation in our manufacturing concerns."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 238.

We must now make some observations on Mr. Becher's calculations, and the conclusions he draws therefrom; but first it will be necessary to say a few words respecting Mr. Barton's Table. The most that can be obtained in such matters is an approximation to the truth. Besides the difference of wages in different counties, there are the variations through the various seasons of the year—winter, summer, hay-time, harvest. In a table which we have drawn up with great care, to show the comparative amount of wages, in pints of wheat, from the fifteenth century to the present time, we have taken the summer wages as the basis of the calculation, because that basis afforded greater facilities of comparison, from the fact that in the early rates of wages fixed at various times by the Legislature, or by the magistrates acting under the authority of a legislative enactment, a certain scale of wages is always given from Easter till Michaelmas (with the exception of harvest, when a somewhat higher rate is allowed). It appears from this table, which has been drawn from the best authorities, which authorities are cited at the foot of it, that wages were much higher in the fifteenth century than they have ever been since; but that, about the middle of the eighteenth century, they were higher than they have ever been since the sixteenth; that from the middle of the eighteenth century they declined till they attained a minimum about 1824; that, after the agricultural riots and burnings of 1830-31, they rose considerably, so as to be, for the time, higher than they had been for upwards of 50 years; and that they have fallen again since that time very considerably. Mr. Becher's conclusions depend for their accuracy altogether, first, upon the assumption of the accuracy of Mr. Barton's calculations; and se-

* "Report," pp. 19, 20.

* See the account cited above.

† Mr. Chadwick's Report from London and Berkshire, in the "Extracts published by Authority," in 1833.

* Mr. Barton has incorrectly stated the average price of wheat; it should be as given within parentheses.

coudly, upon the assumption of a rate of wages much higher than the general average, and of a great fall in the prices of clothes and other necessaries; whereas the price of some of the labourers' most important necessaries, such as shoes, coats, house-rent, &c., has risen greatly instead of falling. Certainly, considering the rate of wages and the price of corn about the time of which Mr. Becher speaks, or rather a little later, it is difficult to account for the answers of the witnesses which we are about to quote presently, without taking into account the much higher price of some of the prime necessaries of life above referred to. We subjoin in this place the table to which we have referred, with the authorities from which it has been drawn up:—

Year.	Wheat per quarter.		Summer wages, per week, not including haytime and harvest. In money.		In wheat.
	s.	d.	s.	d.	Winch. Measure
1495	6	3¼ (a)	2	0 (b)	163 pints.
1514	8	8 (c)	2	0 (d)	118 „
1545	18	8 (e)	2	6 (f)	68 „
1593	20	0 (g)	2	6 (h)	64 „
1610	34	1 (i)	3	6 (j)	52 „
1725	35	4 (k)	5	0 (l)	72 „
1750	29	2½ (m)	7	0 (n)	122 „
1763	33	1½ (o)	7	0 (p)	108 „
1770	41	4 (q)	7	4½ (r)	92 „
1792-4	46	9 (s)	8	5¾ (t)	94 „
1824	64	0	8	7 (u)	68 „
1832-3	55	9½	11	5 (v)	104 „

(*To be continued*).

NORTH LANCASHIRE ELECTION.

This election took place on Friday, the 20th inst., at the Town-hall, Lancaster. There was very little political excitement or exhibition of party feeling. The proceedings commenced a few minutes after ten o'clock with the usual preliminaries, and a short address from the High Sheriff.

Mr. Townley Parker proposed, and Mr. C. Swainson, of Preston, seconded, the nomination of Mr. John Talbot Clifton.

The Sheriff then asked if any other freeholder had a candidate to propose?

Mr. Livesey, proprietor of the *Preston Guardian*, amidst much interruption, proceeded to address the electors. After stating that it was his intention to propose another candidate, and expressing the respect he felt for Mr. Clifton, he went on to say that he had a strong feeling in favour of agriculture as one of the great interests of the country, and he was anxious to promote its prosperity; but he was opposed to the principle of protection. He was a Free-Trader, and he took that opportunity of asserting that the principles of Free Trade had progressed more rapidly since Sir R. Peel came into office than they had during the ten previous years. "What," said Mr. Livesey, "is the meaning of protection? It has been proclaimed to be necessary at 'protection meetings' a thousand times, but never defined. I will tell you simply what it means: although it may be brought about either by a sliding scale or a fixed duty, it means keeping up the price of food higher than it would be if the trade in corn were left perfectly free. (No.) If not, why pass a law to keep out foreign food? 'No,' say gentlemen. It is the first time I have heard this denied. There is not a gentleman here who can say that that is not the object of protection to agriculture. It is to prevent foreign food coming into this country and to lessen the supply. (No, no.) No doubt gentlemen mean to say it is for the protection of agriculture, and for the increase of the home supplies. (Hear.) If that had been its working I should not have been here to-day to quarrel with it. Have twenty-nine years' experience of that law of protection proved to you that protection has created improvements in agriculture? (Yes.) It is either the certainty of the approach or the fear of Free Trade which has done more within the last few years than all your 'protection' for the improvement of agriculture." Protection neither improved agriculture nor the condition of the labourer, nor saved the country from those frightful depressions of trade from which, owing to two abundant harvests, it was now recovering. "Protection," he said, "is put forward as a cry on behalf of the farmer and the agricultural labourer. They are always put forward as if there were an eternal sympathy for them; but the truth is—and it ought to come out—that the protection is not for the farmer or the labourer, but for the landlord. It is a protection for rents. Farmers are only middle-men; whatever they receive goes eventually to the owner of the land. You have heard many speeches about protection, but you have never yet been told the plain truth, that it means protection for rents." The farmers were injured by protection; for, during the last twenty-nine years, theirs was worse than almost any other business. Many of them had spent all their property to pay their rents, and a vast proportion were no better off now than they were thirty years ago. He wanted agriculture, like trade, to stand on its own merits; and that landlords should, instead of depending on "legislative protection," depend on their own enterprise, stay at home and improve their estates. Mr. Livesey concluded by proposing Sir Thomas Potter, of Buile-hill, Pendleton.

Mr. Alderman Brooks stepped forward to second the nomination; but on learning that he could ask questions of the candidate as an elector without seconding Sir Thomas Potter, the latter candidate was withdrawn, and the High Sheriff declared Mr. Talbot Clifton duly elected amidst the cheers of his supporters.

Mr. Clifton then came forward to return thanks. This was the proudest moment of his life. He had come forward at the request of a most numerously signed requisition—signed by the holders of land, and by men of all religions. He had already stated some of his peculiar political opinions in his address. He would support a Conservative Government, as long as it continued Conservative. That Government had supported Free Trade as far as it ought to go; it had maintained the revenues of the country; and, from the fact that trade was never so prosperous, it ought to receive the support of the commerce of England. He did not come to give pledges or promises; and if he did not maintain that independence which befitted the character of an English gentleman, he should be unworthy to represent one of the finest counties in England. He did not pledge himself to support any man or measure, but a Conservative Government that would maintain the constitution. (Much cheering, and a cry of "Give him time to read it," in reference to some notes at which the hon. gentleman was glancing during the applause.) Gentlemen, I will not have the impertinence to detain you so long as some people have here (loud hisses, met by cheers); they, at all events (renewed hisses)—they, at all events, in considering your mighty interests, have not given a thought to your precious time. (Ironical laughter, "Ay, ay," from Mr. Brooks, and another voice calling "Spake up.") Mr. Clifton then proceeded to notice some of Mr. Livesey's statements, and contended, in opposition to that gentleman, that in the Book of Common Prayer the words "cheapness and plenty" nowhere occurred: the words were "peace and plenty." He agreed with his seconder that the principles of Free Trade could not now be beneficially carried out; they could have no hope of such principles prevailing while England admitted foreign commerce, while foreigners would not admit hers into their ports. He also thought Free Trade would injure agriculture. He was not an advocate for withdrawing protection from it. "All the interests of the state ought to be protected, and agriculture most particularly so. (Cheers, and "No, no," from Mr. Brooks.) I am an advocate for eating our own corn, entirely independent of foreign markets. (Hear.) Only suppose we were dependent on foreign countries for corn, and we had a war, with all our land out of tillage, where should we be able to get food for ourselves?" (Hear.) (After this astounding supposition, which must have mightily terrified such of his hearers as could even imagine it, the hon. member proceeded to cheer their affrighted minds, like another *Herald*, by proclaiming—"The death of the League." This portion of his speech is so rich a specimen of monopolist-senatorial eloquence that we give it unabridged, dished up by the skilful pen of a *Times* reporter):—"Well, gentlemen, I perfectly believe that I am going to tell you a gratifying, and I am sure you will think it a happy fact. I believe, gentlemen, that the power of the League is upon the decay. (Cheers, and cries of 'No, no.') Where is their boast that they would contest every vacancy in Parliament? (Hear, hear.) I will tell you why they have not. They had no money (cheers)—and a very good reason why. (Renewed cheers.) I will tell you why they have no money—it is because you have all your eyes so open that you will not subscribe to them (great cheers); for you are perfectly aware, at this time, that the cry for cheap bread is only another cry for low wages (hear, hear); and which of you would like low wages? Where would be the advantage of the change if you could not get anything to eat? (Loud applause.) One thing more. To touch upon the subject of religion is, I allow, very delicate; but I may say, gentlemen, that I am a supporter of the Established Church of England; and yet I am an advocate for religious freedom. (Loud cheers.) I quarrel with no man for worshipping God according to his conscientious convictions. (Cheers.) And now, gentlemen, I take my leave of you. I thank you for the kind consideration and attention in listening to me; and I hope that though this is the first day I have been here it will not be the last. (Hear.) I tell you so now, and believe me when I say it shall not be the last, if I live. (Cheers.) For the first time in my life in the character of a representative of this great and mighty county, I take my leave of you." (The hon. gentleman then retired amidst much applause.)

Mr. Alderman Brooks then came forward amidst a storm of uproar from Mr. Clifton's supporters. After repeated interruptions,

The High Sheriff said: I must insist upon it that you give Mr. Brooks a patient hearing. He is a freeholder of the county, and has a right to put any questions he pleases to the new member. (Cheers.)

Mr. Brooks said he did not wish to stand there under false colours, and therefore he was much obliged to Mr. Parker for one observation, which afforded him an opportunity for a reply. Mr. Parker thought that he (Mr. Brooks) was a speculator. He was no such thing. He was a merchant and a manufacturer; and he paid in wages every fortnight no less a sum than between £1700 and £1800, a sufficient proof, he thought, to the public that he did not come within the description.

Mr. T. Parker explained that he had made no application of the expression to Mr. Brooks.

Mr. Brooks was very glad of it; and he would now ask his first question from the candidate. In his address Mr. Talbot Clifton said, "For the agriculturist I desire most undoubtedly to secure that full protection to his capital, his industry, and his enterprise to which the burdens he has to sustain justly entitle him." Now, he wished to know what protection Mr. Clifton would give to agriculture?

Mr. Clifton: Protection, by not allowing the duty to be taken off foreign corn. That is what I mean, Sir. (Cheers, and some hisses.)

Mr. Brooks: Show me that they require that protection. (Cries of "No, no.")

Mr. Clifton: I am here, Sir, to answer you any questions that you wish to put; but I am not here to be catechised just as long as you please. (Cries of "Bravo," and some cheers.

Mr. Brooks said he was very sorry to put any question that might be considered unpleasant. Mr. Clifton, in his address, had spoken of the burdens upon agriculture, but he had not enumerated them, and he (Mr. Brooks) did not understand them.

Mr. Clifton: If you cannot understand them, allow me to tell you that I think the fault is rather more in the dulness of your comprehension than in anything else.

Mr. Brooks: You may think so; but I never yet could find them out, and the Government cannot find out what those peculiar burdens are. Sir Robert Peel, in 1841, upon the hustings at Tamworth, stated they had poor-rates and church-rates.

Mr. Clifton: Put your question in a tangible shape, and I will endeavour to answer it. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Brooks: My question is, what burdens are they which the agriculturist has to sustain? You say, "the burdens he has to sustain," and that is no explanation.

Mr. Clifton: I do not say so alone. I am afraid the difficulty is in your own dull comprehension. (Cheers.)

Mr. Brooks: I am here to ask this question; and as there are perhaps many here who may be as dull as myself about it, we wish to have it explained.

Mr. Clifton: If you will put your question in a tangible shape I shall be glad to answer it. What is the question?

Mr. Brooks: Why, what are the burdens on the agriculturists?

Mr. Clifton: Why, tithes, poor-rates, and a great many others, which it would take me too long to enumerate. (Cheers.)

Mr. Brooks said he thought just the reverse of this; they were not peculiar burdens, inasmuch as tradespeople paid them equally with the other parts of the country.

Mr. Clifton: Mr. Brooks, has not every man a right to his own opinions upon that subject? I believe what I have stated—you do not; and here we rest.

Mr. Brooks: Yes. That is what you intend to rest upon, and they are your opinions. If I should prove——

Mr. Clifton: Oh, none of your ifs, if you please.

Mr. Brooks: Well, I will not put an "if" to it. Do you think these burdens should be taken off agriculture?

Mr. Clifton: That is a matter which would lead to a long discussion and inquiry in Parliament—the particular burdens.

Mr. Brooks: But are you willing to take off those burdens?

Mr. Clifton: I am not here to answer that.

Mr. Brooks: In another part of your address you say, "Not less important than the above, to which I have already alluded as demanding the care of your representative, I feel to be the welfare of the poor. I should consider myself bound to regard them equally with their wealthier neighbours." Will you be kind enough to tell me what you would do for the poor?

Mr. Clifton: What I can do for them is not the question; but every measure that comes before Parliament respecting the poor shall receive my fullest attention.

Mr. Brooks said, his next question related to sugar. Sugar was brought here worth 1½d. or 2d. per lb. The duty upon it was 4d. per lb., thus increasing the price 200 per cent. Did Mr. Clifton think this duty too high, or would he attempt to reduce it?

Mr. Clifton: Why, you are indirectly asking me to pledge myself, which I will not; certainly not. (Cheers.)

Mr. Brooks: Nay, I am not. I do not want to pledge you.

Mr. Clifton: Yes; you are asking me what I will do when I go into Parliament.

Mr. Brooks: Well, I do not think that is too much which I have asked of you.

Mr. Clifton: I feel myself at liberty to decline answering that question. (Hear.)

Mr. Brooks: Very well; we shall see what you will do when you get into Parliament.

Mr. Clifton: Yes; you must wait till then.

Mr. Brooks then retired; and three cheers were given for Mr. Clifton.

Mr. T. B. Crosse, after congratulating the county upon there having been no opposition, proposed the thanks of the assembled freeholders to the High Sheriff for his able and perfectly impartial conduct as president of the meeting. (Cheers.)

Mr. Livesey seconded the motion; and it was carried enthusiastically, followed by three cheers for the new member.

The High Sheriff returned thanks.

Cheers were then given for the mover and seconder, for Mr. Wilson Patten, and three for Mr. Livesey; after which the proceedings terminated, having occupied about two hours and a half.

The usual procession and ceremony of chairing took place in the course of the afternoon, and Mr. Clifton afterwards dined with a large party of his supporters at the King's Arms Hotel.

PUBLIC PARKS IN MANCHESTER.

The subscription towards this laudable object is progressing favourably. The Phœnix Fire-office of London has, unsolicited, forwarded a donation of £200, accompanied by the following letter to the secretaries:—

"The benevolent measure entertained by the leading merchants and manufacturers of your town, for the promotion of the health and comfort of its industrious population, by the establishment of public walks and gardens, has to-day come under the notice of our Board; and the Board feeling that, during its long and extensive connexion with the trade of Manchester, the Phœnix Company has had frequent experience of the good disposition of the labouring classes, when their personal services have been required in cases of fire, are desirous to avail themselves of the opportunity which the measure alluded to presents, of adding their assistance towards the success of a measure so well calculated to effect the object contemplated. I am therefore instructed to request that the name of the Phœnix Company may be added to the list of contributors for the sum of £200."

The Prince of Wales's Income.—It appears, from documents just prepared, pursuant to the order of Parliament, that the total revenues of the young Prince of Wales, the heir apparent to the British realms, amounted, in the year ending 31st December last, to no less a sum (from the two duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster) than £73,100 and upwards. This is a tolerable revenue for a three-year-old prince.

(a) Average of 10 years, in Sir F. Eden's Tables.
(b) Stat. 11, Hen. VII., c. 22.
(c) Average of the prices in Sir F. Eden's Tables.
(d) Stat. 16, Hen. VIII., c. 3. (e) Sir F. Eden's Tables.
(f) *Ibid.* (g) Average, or below it, in Eden's Tables.
(h) Rate fixed by justices of East Riding of Yorkshire in 1593.
(i) Eden, Appendix No. III.
(j) Rate of Rutlandshire justices in 1610.
(k) Eden, Appendix, p. lxxix.
(l) Rate of Lancashire justices, 1725.
(m) Eton Tables, cited Tooke, "History of Prices," i., 48.
(n) Tooke's "History of Prices," i., 65. The wages here given are the general mean for the whole year. The summer wages are very near the general mean, as appears by the proportions in Arthur Young's "Six Weeks' Tour," p. 353. The equality is produced by the excess of the summer wages over the winter's being balanced by the excess of the harvest wages over the summer. (o) Tooke, *ibid.*
(p) *Ibid.* (q) Parliamentary Return. (r) *Ibid.*
(s) Parliamentary Return.
(t) Summer wages, computed as above, from the accounts drawn up for the Board of Agriculture.
(u) Average of all England from Report of Committee on Labourers' Wages in 1824.
(v) Average of all the counties of England, from Appendix (B) to the Poor Law Commissioners' Report in 1834. This result has been obtained from a careful examination and analysis of the returns from more than 1200 parishes. But the average seems too high, even allowing for the temporary rise caused by the riots of 1830 and 1831.

FREE-TRADE SOIREE IN BRIGHTON.

A tea party, to promote the objects of the Anti-Corn-Law League, took place in the Town-hall, Brighton, on Wednesday evening last. Messrs. Fox, Thompson, and Moore attended as a deputation from the Council of the League. The large and elegant room of the Town-hall was well filled by a highly respectable party, including a large number of ladies. A public tea party being an entirely new thing in Brighton, many doubts were entertained regarding its success; but the attendance proved that in Brighton, as well as other parts of the kingdom, a *soirée* is one of the best means of bringing together a mixed and respectable audience for the advancement of Free-Trade sentiments. The chair was ably filled by Moses Ricardo, Esq., who, after some brief observations, introduced to the meeting W. J. Fox, Esq., who, by his cogent arguments, his brilliant eloquence, and great powers of sarcasm, kept the audience enchained for upwards of an hour, and sat down amidst great applause. Mr. Moore followed, and in a speech of considerable length, which was listened to with the most gratifying attention, ably analysed the late population returns, and refuted the monstrous assertions of the Pro-Corn-Law press in reference to the comparative value of agriculture and manufactures as the means of affording employment for the people. Mr. Thompson, who rose at a late hour, made a short speech, confining himself to an earnest appeal to all present to aid the cause of Free Trade by their personal exertions.

Mr. Isaac Bass announced, that several of the Brighton ladies had determined upon furnishing some valuable contributions to the great League Bazaar, amongst which would be some of the sea weeds, fossils, and agates, for which Brighton and its neighbourhood are famed. The meeting broke up about ten o'clock, and the proceedings appeared to have given great satisfaction to the company.

DR. BOWRING—FREE TRADE—THE ISLE OF MAN.

(From the *Manks Advertiser.*)

It becomes our pleasing task to note the reception of Dr. Bowring, M.P. for Bolton, by the Manks people at Douglas. It is well known that the worthy member has for the year past especially interested himself in behalf of the Isle of Man to procure for it a better condition for its trade than it had before *endured;* and, moreover, he has given some assurances that his future efforts shall not be withholden to bring about a reform in the House of Keys, and to improve our other institutions, according to the will of a great majority of the people. Now, for all these worthy acts done and promised, it is right, and our bounden duty, to bestow on him those hearty tokens of gratitude which good works merit; and hence we have had our heart and hand in this matter from beginning to end. *True, we are Conservative, and the Doctor Radical; yet, so far as Free Trade and Manks Reform go, we quite agree;* and, if we did not agree, still we should be no less ready to bestow honour on one who has manifested so much good will toward our little island. Well, our people at large, impressed with the sentiments above expressed, had been conveying to the Doctor for some time past repeated invitations that he would come over and visit us. At length the Doctor complied with those repeated requests, and he and his lady arrived here last evening by the King Orry. Previous to his arrival our Reform Committee had devoted themselves to the subject in such a manner as to give the Doctor a reception worthy the occasion, and the character and deserts of our guest.

Previous to the arrival of the King Orry, the whole of the shipping in the harbour had displayed their various flags at the topmast, overshadowing the whole harbour with coloured bunting of all hues, and representing several nations. Flags of public functionaries and distinguished individuals were seen floating in the air, among which those of Sir William Hillary and James Quirk, Esq., High Bailiff of Douglas, were most conspicuous. From half-past four o'clock, until the arrival of the steamer, well-dressed citizens and country people were seen flocking toward and along the pier, that they might all be present at the landing of our worthy friend. These anxious and patriotic friends filled up the pier, stretching from end to end, before the arrival of the various clubs which had volunteered to participate in the general demonstration. By about five o'clock the orders of the Artificers, Rechabites, Foresters, Odd Fellows, and others for what we know, marched down in gallant style, led by their bands of music, and, displaying the various flags and hieroglyphic emblems of their respective orders, occupied the centre from end to end. At length the steamer King Orry touched by the side of the pierhead, opposite the Observatory. Some gentlemen of the committee and others availed themselves of this occasion to step aboard and give the Doctor the right hand of fellowship. Among these were Sir William Hillary, the Douglas delegation, and, though last not least, our own self.

The Doctor very soon rendered himself portable; while the worthy Baronet, Sir William, bestowed his gallantry on Mrs. Bowring, to the admiration of all who witnessed it. As the Doctor put his foot on shore, another burst from the multitude rent the air, and the cannons responded in fine style. At this point, scientific marching, *en militaire*, was quite out of the question; the anxious multitude eschewing all order, rushed forward and became a real pressgang, until they saw our worthy guests safely seated in the coach, which was placed in front of the Victoria Hotel. Here the people, in the fulness of their gratitude and respect, persisted on removing the horses from the carriage, and drawing it themselves. This was prevented by the Doctor himself, who begged that they would be men, and not beasts. The carriage now moved on, surrounded by thronging multitudes on all sides, and before and behind as far as the eye could reach. Competent judges estimated the number of persons assembled at 10,000.

In leaving the market-place, a most splendid and tastefully decorated triumphal arch met the eye, illuminated by an hundred brilliant lights, its motto was "Welcome to Mona." At the Wellington Market another triumphal arch was sprung across the street, having this motto, "John Bowring, LL.D., a Friend to Mona."

At all the windows, on the walls, hedges, hills, and green knolls, as the procession passed along from the heart of the town to the Castle, clusters of human beings of both sexes were grouped, all anxious to raise their voices above the stormy multitude, or throw out some signal to attract notice. Our kind friend of course bowed to all these, and his recognition was especially marked when ladies were the parties concerned.

On arriving at the front door of Mona Castle, the carriage halted, the bands were still playing, and the countless multitude covered the lawn. The Doctor arose from his seat, and, after obtaining silence, addressed the people to the following effect:—"I wish my voice was ten times its real compass, that I might express to the immense multitude around me what I feel at this unexpected and unexampled demonstration. Some have said that man is naturally cold and ungrateful; but I have never found him so; and the present demonstration proves that such is not the character of the Isle of Man. I have done but little, very little for this island; and the return you make is wholly out of proportion to, and beyond my deserts; but I pledge myself hereafter to serve you to the utmost of my power. As we were coming along I heard some saying, 'Down with the House of Keys;' now I do not participate in that sentiment, neither can I do anything to destroy any part of your venerable institutions. The House of Keys, in my opinion, should not be destroyed—they are, to be sure, rusty keys, and need brightening, so as to harmonize with the progressive improvements of the present age. But you may feel assured that, at all times hereafter, I shall be most happy to render any aid in my power, either to any individual of this island who may need such aid, or to the whole island generally."

The multitude cheered the Doctor as he went along, and at the close of the speech rent the air with acclamations. In the evening fireworks were played off at the Castle grounds, and other parts of the town. Several houses were illuminated in the evening, and among the rest the houses of the London delegates especially. No disorder of any kind was manifested in any part of the display. All was harmony and good will; and, as far as could be seen, the entire mass of our population entered heart and soul into the affair, each one emulous of showing himself forward in bestowing respect and a welcome upon our worthy friend.

AGRICULTURAL GATHERINGS.

(From the *Times.*)

The games and festivals of the agricultural associations remind us of the gentleman who endeavoured to fatten his pigs upon sugar-plums. Country gatherings and merrymakings seem, really, in this utilitarian generation, to be tolerated only as stimulants for provoking people to "industry" who cannot find or procure work. And they remind us, as we have said, of the attempt to "encourage" an empty stomach into fulness by the simple administration of sauces without meat.

"One thousand five hundred and fifty pounds, ten shillings, and no pence"—records the chairman of one of these societies in Warwickshire, astonished, as it should seem, at the terrific aggregate of his own benevolence—have literally been spent by this society, since 1830, in prizes to "labourers and servants in husbandry!" Here are comfits and sugar-plums with a vengeance; but where is the substantial food upon which the unfortunate husbandman is thus bribed to fatten? The "labourers and servants in husbandry" have certainly been well coaxed into "*industry;*" but we are tempted to ask, have they had an equal supply of work?

We presume, indeed, of course, that in Warwickshire no one is unemployed, except by his own fault, and that workhouses are there, of course, either empty or unknown. The office of guardian of the poor is doubtless a sinecure in the county of Warwick. The whole agricultural population having been "encouraged" to "industry" at the cheap rate of 103*l.* and a fraction per annum, it is not to be supposed that any such thoroughly depraved and disreputable miscreant as a labourer "out of work" is to be met with in the county. For why? Are we not told, on the authority of the "Warwickshire Agricultural Society,"—a body which comprises, we observe, all the persons who are, or ought to be, most worthy of belief in the county,—that the sole and only thing wanted, in order to produce "industry" among the agricultural poor, is not "work," but *the will to do it?* "Give us only a willing class of labourers," seems to be the language of these prize-givers,—"give us only readiness and disposition to industry on the part of the poor,—and we want no more;—we are convinced that there is no such thing as any lack on *our* part to find the necessary work to keep them in employment."

We put it to our readers whether this is not a fair and impartial construction of the language held forth by these associations. We have instanced the Warwickshire Society as being one, whose manifesto, just now published, happened first to meet our eye; but there are others equally, some perhaps more, obnoxious to the inference which we think they all suggest. We published only on Friday the report of a grand association festival held at Banbury, in Oxfordshire, and we published yesterday an account of equally great doings at Buckingham; and in both places the whole proceedings were, from first to last (we except one speech at Banbury, to which we shall recur lower down), based upon the assumption, first, that it was the fault *exclusively of the labourer*, the result exclusively of *his* want of energy or capability, that he should be at any time out of work; and, secondly, that the institution of rewards, with the celebration of festivities over their distribution, was capable of supplying that deficiency and curing that fault.

We say advisedly, that never was a greater mistake committed than that which is involved in these assumptions. The agricultural labourer is destitute and starving;—his labour may be had at 9*s.*, or 8*s.*, or 7*s.*, or even 6*s.* a week;—and why? Simply because he *cannot* find a market for it, because people prefer supporting him in the workhouse,—which they *must* do,—to finding him work out of it, which they *may* or *may not* do, as they please. This, then, is the condition of the labourer; what is his treatment? Instead of work, you give him—prizes! Instead of holiday—the festival of their distribution. Instead of the rivalry of sport and pastime, you bid him make merry while he celebrates,—very possibly in compulsory idleness,—the victory which you award to his character for superior "industry;" or while he commemorates,—with a wife and children in the union workhouse,—the premium which you have granted to his pre-eminent thrift and frugality.

Let us not be misunderstood. We are far from feeling enmity against those country meetings and festivities which bring together and unite the squire and the peasant. It is with no feelings of contempt or derision, much less of mere political jealousy, of such societies as those in question, that we make these remarks. Quite the contrary. The union of the poor with the rich; the intercourse and sympathy of all classes of society one with another; the common ground where all may meet, in some sort, upon an equality; these have always appeared to us as among *the* things wanting in our social condition,—as among *the* great *desiderata* of the present age; and it is solely as promoting these objects that we could regard the agricultural meetings with anything like a favourable eye. But we do lament that this, the sole and only point of contact now remaining, should have assumed the shape which it has done. We do lament that, instead of the common festive meeting of the county—instead of union and festivity for its own sake, and openly,—we should be reduced, in order that we may indulge the poor with *any* recreation or merry-making at all, to celebrate with misplaced festivities what is in reality the greatest disgrace to all, viz., the necessity of securing the good conduct of the poor by artificial and secondary contrivances.

But the most obvious reflection which occurs on hearing or reading of these associations is, as we have already said, this:—Where is the common sense or common consistency in giving prizes for agricultural "industry," when you refuse to provide the labourer with WORK? We repeat that it is futile, and worse than futile, for landlords to interfere with the labourer's condition solely and only by giving paltry prizes to "encourage" industry, while he is left to find or make work where he can. This is *not* the way in which the interference of the landlord ought to be made. The labourer wants not the *will*, but the MATERIAL for employment. Let the landlord give him the latter, as he can do, if he will, and not seek to deceive himself and the country by these delusive societies for "encouraging" the former. The humbug is transparent, and cannot long deceive any one.

TRADE.

From present appearances, we may expect a continued good export demand for manufactured goods, with a better chance of remuneration to the shipper than for a considerable time past. In the import trade we can notice no improvement generally, and once more we have to report a very gloomy market for cotton. The accounts from America, in reference to the crop, are so universally in favour of the largest yield that has ever been produced, that speculation has not been thought of, and manufacturers, pressed by an eager desire to realize on the part of holders, have made their purchases this week at prices always ¼d., and occasionally ½d. per lb. below the rates current a fortnight ago, whilst it may be still quoted as a remarkable fact, that the spinners have taken less from this market for consumption this year than they did during the corresponding period in 1843. It can only be supposed that more labour and less raw material are now employed than were required for the heavy manufactures then produced. The West India news is not of a very agreeable nature. The planters had not recovered from the discouragement occasioned by the measures in reference to their produce passed in the last session. Here the prospect for them is improving, as sugar is daily becoming more valuable now that the first impulses have given way to calm reflection, and buyers and sellers both discover that they cannot all at once be overwhelmed with an import of foreign produce. The new trade in guano continues to be much talked of, and reports as varied as possible are in circulation in regard to the capacity of the islands to furnish an adequate supply. It is a new, and it may become an important trade, and we should regret to see it interfered with unnaturally by any premature speculation. From the manufacturing districts, in every direction, the most satisfactory statements of improvement continue to be received, and, with the present low prices of corn, the prospect is gratifying.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

PAISLEY.—STATE OF TRADE.—Trade still continues brisk, and all hands are employed. This remark applies to the whole of the different branches of our manufacture. The neighbouring villages also participate in this agreeable state of things. In the neighbouring town of Johnstone, cotton-spinning has not been so brisk for a good many years. The old mills are all busy, and some new ones are in course of erection. No doubt wages are small, but provisions are unusually cheap, and of excellent quality, so that the poor man's circumstances must be considerably improved.—*Glasgow National.*

THE SILK TRADE.—We understand the silk trade is a very depressed condition, notwithstanding the revival in other branches of manufacture. Several of the silk manufacturers in Leigh, West Houghton, &c., have made reductions in the wages paid to their weavers: 7200 satins are offered by one firm at one halfpenny, and 6100 satins at one farthing per yard less than the present prices; 3200 plain reeds are offered by another firm at one farthing per yard less. The committee of the "Rights of Industry Society" have issued an address to their members and the public generally, asking for suggestions as to the necessary steps to be taken to counteract the present attempt to reduce wages.—*Manchester Guardian.*

THE JEWELLERY TRADE OF BIRMINGHAM.—An effort is being made by the workmen engaged in the gold, gilt, and black jewellery trades of this town, to obtain royal notice and patronage, by which the very elegant and useful ornaments produced in the various departments of this manufacture may be brought into more general use. We understand that the employers are co-operating with their workmen in this very laudable movement, in which the interests of both are so intimately connected; and we have no doubt if our ingenious artisans can lay before her Majesty specimens of their skill, unrivalled in taste and elegance by the French or German artists, that Birmingham jewellery will obtain the patronage and favour of our most gracious Queen, and soon cease to become unfashionable amongst the nobles and wealthy of the land. Specimens are also about to be presented to his Royal Highness Prince Albert, who, from the readiness he evinced on a former occasion to patronise another branch of our staple manufactures—the gilt and plated button trade—will, we are sure, cordially second the efforts of a very numerous class of our artisans to improve a trade which, owing to the caprice of fashion, has suffered long and severe depression.—*Birmingham Journal.*

LEITH.—Trade at this port has materially improved.

During the last few months the Docks have presented a scene of interesting bustle and animation with vessels discharging cargoes of grain, timber, wine, and guano, &c. Owing to a scarcity of berth-room, vessels are lying three deep from the quay. The numerous take of herrings are now being prepared in great quantities for the Sicilian and other markets on the Mediterranean. The cheapness of price, and the early period of the season at which they will be ready for the market, almost ensure a profitable return. The receipts at the Custom-house, we understand, are continuing to increase. Leith, in our opinion, is often underrated as a mercantile town. As a port from which is distributed over the country all the luxuries, and even necessaries, of life, it is by far the first in Scotland. It may not be generally known, but it is nevertheless true, that the Custom-house revenue at Leith exceeds that of Glasgow by nearly £100,000 a year. As a proof of its increasing importance and general traffic, there are now twenty-two omnibuses plying regularly upon Leith-walk, a distance of a mile and a half, for twopence each passenger. We believe that they are yielding a fair remuneration to the proprietors. Twelve years ago two old stage-coaches were employed for the same purpose. They started once an hour, and charged ninepence! We believe they did not pay the proprietors at nearly five times the present charge.—*Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle.*

Returning Prosperity.—The *Leeds Mercury* gives from a correspondent the following flattering account of improvement in the state of some of the manufacturing districts:—"I have just passed through Lancashire, and found every symptom of prosperity. Indeed, I fear there is some danger of their 'going a-head' so fast. I saw several new mills, all apparently first-rate, under construction—three at Preston, two at Blackburn, one or two at Burnley, and some between Burnley and Todmorden; and there may have been others in the district I passed through which escaped my attention."

Advance of Wages.—The general, though quiet, proceedings of the factory operatives, throughout the cotton district, of which Manchester is the centre, with the view to obtain an advance of wages, affords an unerring sign that those hitherto misguided people have at last learned one of the first lessons in political economy—viz., that in order to secure their object it is of the utmost importance to select the *right* period for their operations to secure so important an object. In days gone by, strikes, as they are termed, were generally remarkable for occurring at a time of great depression in trade—in fact, oftentimes when many of their employers were thankful, rather than otherwise, for such demonstrations, because it enabled them to get rid of their immense stocks, and on better terms than they otherwise could have done. This was pre-eminently the case in 1842, when labour may be said to have ceased for some weeks in the manufacturing districts—a period which the operatives will have cause to remember for a long time to come. It is now generally understood that the operative spinners and power-loom weavers, indeed all hands employed in cotton mills, are seeking for an advance of wages; and as hands are really scarce, and in some places not to be had, a general advance of wages seems not only probable, but almost certain; but whether to the full extent of the operatives' demands, is another thing. In some towns, as at Preston, a few of the masters have, it is said, consented to an advance; and this example is likely to be followed at Ashton, Hyde, &c. The period seems favourable for such a step, seeing the demand that exists for goods and yarns, as well as the prospect of the staple continuing both abundant and low in value for a long time to come. The operatives, if successful in their applications, will, no doubt, learn *another* lesson—viz., that when a demand exists for their labour, it is no more possible for the masters to resist an advance, than it is possible for the workmen to resist a reduction when their labour is not required. The masses are generally, nay, always, slow learners—but better late than never.—*Leeds Mercury.*

THE COMMERCIAL MIDDLE CLASS.

(From the *Times.*)

Antique and aristocratical prejudices dispose many respectable minds to speak slightingly of the "middle classes," to hate commercial upstarts, to regard great towns as the gates of hell, and the smoke of factories as that of the bottomless pit. The village shopkeeper above all comes in for the fulness of their scorn. New, pushing, clever, smug, consequential, and prone to dissent, a canvasser for the Liberal candidate, and a collector for the London Missionary Society, he is about as unpleasant an object as can be imagined for the immediate nose of a noble, or still more a gentle but untitled family. How will the clergyman and his patron blow up one another's wrath at his expense! It would be strange if he did not deserve a little at their hands. But what is it which has made the middle classes so exclusively anti-aristocratical? That state of the landed property which reduces to a *minimum* the middle class, and every other class connected with it. The children of commerce are many; the children of the soil, except the very serfs, are few. The landed interest has now to speak with its enemy, or rather its rival, in the gate, and possesses not that confidence which can alone be imparted by the multitude of offspring. The upward tendencies of every lower class, instead of being enlisted on its side, are suffered to be estranged, nay, are driven into antipathy. In that vast primitive stratum of rural labour is many a vigorous aspiration. The stream of ambition cannot rise through the hard, veinless, impermeable mass which landed property now presents above. Here and there manufacture and commerce drive their shafts below; through which arise the imprisoned energies of the poor. Blame not their brackish or metallic flavour. They cannot but retain the traces of their only exit. Before you cry down our commercial middle classes, show us your own agricultural. Does the plough make better half-castes than the counter or the loom? You cannot produce your middle class. You have none. You may have £50 voters enough to turn your county elections, but not enough to fight the battle of opinion and sentiment. The towns are too many for that; the village shopkeepers are almost too many. Well, you have made your choice. You cannot have it all ways. You divide the land, and legislate for the labourer with a view to the greatest possible rent. Rent you have, but not hearts and men. They are irrevocably passed to the other side.

FREE TRADE IN THE CITY.

The election of an Alderman for the Ward of Portsoken presented for candidates Mr. Sheriff Moon, the advocate of the sliding scale, and Mr. David Salomons, well known as the author of a modified Free-Trade pamphlet. The Free-Trade Association in the ward is very powerful, and the members had refused to vote for either candidate. At the close of the first day's poll Mr. Salomons was only 24 a-head, and a half of the electors yet unpolled. On the morning of the second day's poll Mr. Salomons issued a placard inscribed with the words, "I am the constant advocate of unqualified freedom of trade." This had the effect of increasing his majority to 38. The Free-Traders have kept up the canvass, and Mr. Salomons has been returned by a majority of 32. Even Mr. Moon has been professing Free-Trade principles; and we hear that Alderman Wood is to declare himself a total and immediate repealer to help him to the mayoralty.

REGISTRATION.

The registration courts must be the future battle-ground of the League. During the last few months the almost exclusive attention of the Council has been devoted to a systematic revision of the registers in every borough where the slightest improvement could be calculated upon. We are now reaping the harvest that past exertion has prepared. Our efforts have been noiseless, but our progress sure. It has been a work of immense labour, the full fruits of which cannot be seen on a single revision. Not only has an immense amount of valuable information been diffused on the subject of registration, but a practical acquaintance with technicalities in the conduct of cases has been acquired in almost every constituency that will greatly facilitate the further efforts of the League in this all-important department of their future labours. We would urge upon our friends in every borough the paramount duty of continuing their exertions in this direction. The following returns have been mostly forwarded to us from our own agents or correspondents, and we shall continue to give a weekly summary of the progress made in the registration courts:—

South Lancashire Revision.—The silence of the monopolist journals as to the proceedings in the revision courts is more ominous than volumes of abuse, of the steady progress which the League is making in this division of the county. The result upon the *objections* alone, so far as the revision has been completed, is given below. In a future number we shall give the gain upon the claims, which is quite as great or greater than that upon the objections.

POLLING DISTRICTS.

Ashton-under-Lyne.—The number of Monopolists struck off at the revision at Ashton is, 130; Free-Traders struck off, 70; Free-Trade gain, 60.

Newton.—The revision of voters in this district remains unfinished. Up to the period when the Court broke up, the number of Monopolists struck off was, 110; of Free-Traders struck off, 21; Free-Trade gain, 89.

Ormskirk.—The revision of voters for this polling district finished on Tuesday. Monopolists struck off, 189; Free-Traders, 95; gain, 94.

Wigan.—Unfinished. Monopolists struck off, 39; Free-Traders, 6; Free-Trade majority, 33.

Oldham.—Monopolists struck off, 138; Free-Traders, 96; Free-Trade majority, 42.

Bury.—Unfinished. Monopolists struck off, 47; Free-Traders, 6; majority, 41.

North Lancashire.—*Hawkshead and Ulverstone.*—The registration agent writes:—"We have struck off 30 Monopolists, and are better by about 60 in the Hawkshead and Ulverstone districts.

Lancaster, Wednesday.—We have had a most successful day. Of 32 objections taken into Court, we struck off 29. Our adversaries made *two* objections, sustained *one*, and failed in proof of notice as to the other.

Rochdale Borough Revision.—Monopolists struck off, 46; Free-Traders, 19; gain to the cause of Free Trade, 27. With the new claims the Free-Trade majority in the event of an election will not be less than 150.

Revision of the Borough of Colchester was held on the 19th instant, at the Three Cups, by S. R. Bosanquet, Esq. The result was as follows:—

	Claims.	Allowed.	Objections.	Sustained.
Monopolists	0	0	0	0
Free-Traders	5	4	38	26
Claims				4
Majority in favour of Free Traders				30

Colchester, Sept. 21.—(From our Correspondent.)—It is with much satisfaction that I have to inform you that we have been able to do good service in the revision of our borough voters which has just taken place; and it seems due to the Council of the League, after the assistance which it has afforded, to state the result of our exertions. I am not able at present to furnish all the particulars; but we have succeeded, by establishing claims and objections, in improving our position by thirty votes, in spite of apparently an adverse barrister. This has been effected mainly by the omission in the overseers' lists of the double qualifications, *our opponents being ignorant of the point of law on the subject.* It is singular that the Monopolists made neither claims nor objections, and therefore could only act on the defensive at the revision. They are very angry at the result.

Kendal.—The court for the revision of the list of voters for the borough of Kendal, was held in the Town-hall this day (Friday), at one o'clock, and the business thereof did not terminate till near six. The following is an analysis of the result upon the several claims and objections:—

	Objections.	Allowed.	Failed.
Free-Traders	9	7	2
Monopolists	36	18	18

	Claims.	Allowed.	Failed.
Free-Traders	24	20	4
Monopolists	19	11	8

The Monopolists were fined 3s. 6d. each for five frivolous cases of objection.

State of list as compared with the list at the last election:—

	Votes lost.	Votes gained.
Free-Traders	8	11
Monopolists	2	4
Total gain for the Free-Traders		1

Kirkland.

	Claims.	Admitted.	Failed.
Free-Traders	1	1	0
Monopolists	1	0	1

Nethergraveship.

Free-Traders	1	1	0
Free-Trade gain		2	

—*Kendal Mercury.*

Andover, Hants.—The court was held on Tuesday, the 24th instant, at nine o'clock, at the Town-hall, by George Granville Kekewich, Esq., barrister-at-law, who revised the list of that borough. The day's result was as follows, viz.:—

	Objections taken.	Objections sustained.
Free-Traders	18	14
Monopolists	24	12
		2
Majority of Free-Trade claims		4
Majority in favour of Free Trade		6

Huntingdon.—The revision of the list of voters for the borough of Huntingdon took place on Monday, before Nathaniel Palmer, Esq., the revising barrister, at the Town-hall, Huntingdon. Mr. William Trott appeared for the Free-Traders, and Mr. G. F. Maule, agent to the Earl of Sandwich, appeared for the Monopolists. The Free-Traders sustained 29 objections against the Monopolists, and failed in six; they succeeded in establishing three claims, and did not fail in any. The Monopolists made three claims and one objection, but failed in all. Among the names struck off by the Free-Traders was that of the Earl of Sandwich. An agent from the League was present to watch the proceedings.

Castle Douglas, Sept. 18.—(From our Correspondent.)—The Registration Court for the Dumfries district of burghs is over, and, independent of a goodly number of Monopolists who are now Free-Traders, the registration lists prove that Mr. Ewart is safe, come an election when it may.

Burgh of Jedburgh.—The Sheriff, on purging the roll on objections, struck off *fifteen* voters who usually supported the Monopolist interest; and *six* who usually supported the Free-Trade party. Twelve new claims were lodged by the Free-Traders, and sustained; and three new claims were lodged and admitted on the Monopolist side. The entire *natural* increase of the constituency has always been on the Free-Trade side; and but for the corrupt and abominable system of creating fictitious voters, Jedburgh long ago would have been as independent in politics as any town in the three kingdoms.—*Kelso Chron.*

Sheffield.—E. E. Deacon, Esq., held his court at the Town-hall, on Thursday, the 19th inst., to revise the borough lists of voters. There were no objections. In the township of Sheffield there were 22 claims, chiefly, however, to correct existing entries, and they were all allowed but one. In that case, it appeared that the rates were paid by the landlord, and that the tenant was not named at all in the rate-book. The learned barrister said that it was the duty of the overseers to place all occupiers on the rate-book, whoever paid the rates, and he instructed the claimant to require the overseers to enter his name. For the townships of Brightside, Attercliffe, and Upper Hallam, there were no claims. For Nether Hallam there was one claim, but it was from a vote already registered. For Ecclesall there were five claims. Two of these were admitted; three were rejected, in consequence of the non-attendance of the claimants, and of the fact that they did not appear on the rate-book to be 10l occupiers. It has heretofore been the custom for the overseers, in making out each year's list, to omit such names as had disappeared from the rate-book in consequence of death, removal, &c. The learned barrister, however, stated that the overseers had no right to omit any name once upon the list. It was their duty, in all such cases, to write "objected to" in the margin of the list, opposite to the names, and then it would be for him to strike them out on the revision. The court concluded its sitting in less than an hour.—*Sheffield Independent.*

Sunderland.—The Revising Barrister held his Court here on Wednesday last, for revising the borough lists. The Free-Traders were supported by Messrs. A. J. Moore and Thomas Thompson; the Monopolists by Messrs. G. W. Wright and William Snowball. The following is the result of the registration:—

	Free-Trade Objections sustained.	Free-Trade Claims allowed.	Total.	Monopolist Objections sustained.	Monopolist Claims allowed.	Total.
Bishopwearmouth	10	15	25	0	0	0
Sunderland	3	1	4	8	1	9
Monkwearmouth Shore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	13	25	38	8	1	9
			9			
Majority for Free-Traders			29			

Exeter.—The business commenced on the 18th and terminated on the 25th instant. The number of objections was large, but very many depended upon the powers of the Revising Barrister to amend insufficient descriptions. The Court was of opinion he had that power, though not without some scruples. The Revising Barrister nevertheless stated that the objections were anything but frivolous or groundless; so that the torrent of abuse with which the Free-Traders in this city were assailed on that supposition is now set at rest. The Free-Traders were professionally assisted by Mr. Richards (Exeter), Mr. Tucker (Ashburton), and Mr. Aberdein (Honiton). The exact result is not yet correctly ascertained, but it is believed that above 100 have been gained by the registration to the Free-Traders and Liberals.

Taunton, Sept. 20.—Our registration has terminated gloriously for Free Trade. Some advice given us by the Anti-Corn-Law League has been the means of securing to us about 20 votes, which we should otherwise have lost *this year*, from not making the claim in time under successive occupation. On the other hand, we cut off a number of opponents.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, September 25, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

	£	s.	d.
R. L. and J. Fenning, Fenning's Wharf, Tooley-st.	£5	5	0
Charles Lushington, Esq., Chapel-place, Duke-street, Westminster	5	0	0
*J. H. Hutchinson, 19, Little Pulteney-street, Golden-square	5	0	0
F. J.	2	2	0
Alexander Gibbs, 3, Brunswick-terrace, Hackney-rd.	2	2	0
J. Scott, North-terrace, Camberwell	2	0	0
Thomas Weedon and Son, Loudwater Mills, Rickmansworth, Herts	1	10	0
A few Friends to the Cause, at Messrs. Truman, Hanbury, and Co.'s, Brick-lane, Spitalfields	1	5	4
Solomon Maw, 11, Aldersgate-street	1	1	0
James Scriven, 21, Barbican	1	1	0
*George Charlton, 21, Beaufoy-terrace, Edgware-rd,	1	1	0
*Edwin Plant, East Retford, Notts	1	1	0
*William Townend, 3, Brabant-court, Philpot-lane	1	1	0
*Henry Lloyd Morgan, 11, Langbourne Chambers, Fenchurch-street	1	1	0
John Donkin, Old Kent-road	1	1	0
John Ballard B. Byron, Canterbury Wharf, Belvedere-road, Lambeth	1	1	0
John Wells, 42, Perceval-street, Clerkenwell	1	1	0
Harwood Austwick, 1, Walbrook	1	1	0
John Noldwritt, Custom-house-court, Tower-street	1	1	0
J. Norman 4, Castle-court, Budge row	1	1	0
Thomas Bryer, 44, King William-street, City	1	1	0
Orlando Stone, do. do.	1	1	0
J. Craven, 18, Laurence Pountney-hill	1	1	0
*George Hyde, 61, Fleet-street	1	1	0
*Robert Davison, Brewery, Brick-lane, Spitalfields	1	1	0
James Laughton, 46, Mansell-st., Goodman's-fields	1	1	0
George Austin, 12, Blackmoor-street, Clare-market	1	1	0
James Pike, sen., James Pike, jun., Laurel Cottage, Grove-street, Holloway	1	0	0
Robert John Chaplin, 17, Red Cross-square, Cripplegate	1	0	0
Jas. Pennington, 4, St. Michael's-alley, Cornhill, 10s. and Friend 10s.	1	0	0
Edward Jackson, 51, Broad-street, Golden-square	1	0	0
The Rev. John Stevens, 15, Huntley-street, Tottenham-court-road	1	0	0
Samuel Roper, 121, Wardour-street, Oxford-street	1	0	0
*W. Box, Huddersfield	1	0	0
*Samuel Rigg, Canterbury	1	0	0
*W. G. Westrope, linendraper, Burford, Oxon	1	0	0
*Thomas Slater, 4, New Inn-yard, Shoreditch	1	0	0
*G. Warner, Berkeley, Gloucestershire	1	0	0
*Robert Thallon, Glasgow	1	0	0
*Instalment, No. 3, Hanley	1	0	0
J. H. West, brewer, Hackney-road	1	0	0
J. B. King, 3, Bartholomew-lane	1	0	0
*Thomas Nunn Gladdish, Pedlars' Acre, Lambeth	1	0	0
Samuel Fox, 37, Gracechurch-street	1	0	0
William Earnshaw, 68, Lower Thames-street	1	0	0
John Davy and Son, 15, Queen-street, Seven-dials	1	0	0
John Hargreaves, 21, Warwick lane, Newgate-street	1	0	0
* Frederick George Wood, Southgate, Wakefield	1	0	0
*Richard Holdsworth, New Wells, Wakefield	1	0	0
*Charles Marsh, at Mr. Holdsworth's, do.	1	0	0
Eli Lawrence, 76, Leadenhall-street	1	0	0
Septimus Read, 41, Jewin-street, Cripplegate	1	0	0
E. Bowerbank and Co., 77, Sun-street, Bishopsgate	1	0	0
J. Jerrom, 14, Fenchurch-buildings, Fenchurch-st.	1	0	0
William King, 36 and 37, Skinner-street, Somers-town	1	0	0
William Jackson, 45, Wilstead-street, do.	1	0	0
*James B. Bradley, Huddersfield	1	0	0
*G. P. Penney, Poole, Dorsetshire	1	0	0
A Friend to the Cause	0	10	6
W. H. Warton, Muswell-hill	0	10	0
William Eaton, 16, Jewin-crescent, Aldersgate-st.	0	10	0
Francis Cotton, 90, Shoreditch	0	10	0
Wm. Newton, 41, Brewer-street, Golden-square	0	10	0
James Williams, St. Martin's-court, St. Martin's-lane	0	10	0
William Knight, 292, Strand	0	10	0
Benjamin Gibbons, 18, Walbrook	0	10	0
Richard Duncan, Lime-street	0	10	0
A. Fraser, Gloucester-terrace, Commercial-road	0	10	0
Robert Meikle, 145, Aldersgate-street	0	10	0
Richard Hall, 7, Green-street, Leicester-square	0	5	0
George Baker, 139, Tottenham-court-road	0	5	0
Wm. Anderson, 4, St. Benett's-pl., Gracechurch-st.	0	5	0
John Wood, 112, Paul-street, Finsbury	0	5	0
B. R. Thomson, 15, Green-terrace, New River-head	0	5	0
Charles Lowe, 18, Little Pulteney-street, Golden-sq.	0	5	0
Samuel Wheeler, 53, Castle-street, Leicester-square	0	5	0
Theodolius Williams, 26, St. Martin's-le-Grand	0	5	0
John Woolmer, 73, Aldersgate-street	0	5	0
William Davey, 15, Walbrook	0	5	0
L. L.	0	5	0
W. Murray, 49, Compton-street, Clerkenwell	0	5	0
Thomas Ripton, 34, Coldbath-square, Clerkenwell	0	5	0
Edward Jackson, jun., 51, Broad-street, Golden-sq.	0	5	0
Thomas Constable, 36, King William-street, City	0	5	0
James Abbiss, 60, Gracechurch street	0	5	0
Peter Dow, bookbinder, 4 and 5, Staining-lane, Wood-street	0	5	0
Mrs. Mary Holland, 71, St. Martin's-lane	0	5	0
Charles Watson, 41, Barbican	0	5	0
William Parkins, 11, Hanway-street, Oxford-street	0	5	0
Edward Bax, 1, Charing-cross	0	5	0
John Clements, 21 and 22, Little Pulteney-street, Golden-square	0	5	0
Charles Hamilton, 15, Greek-street, Soho	0	5	0
William Snowling, 77, Wells-street, Oxford-street	0	5	0
John Nicholay, 82, Oxford-street	0	5	0
J. H.	0	4	6
Robert Backhouse, 2, Red Lion-street, Clerkenwell	0	4	0
J. and A. Crawford, 18, Peerless-row, City-road	0	3	0
A Friend, per Mr. Hutchinson	0	3	0
David Freeman, 126, Oxford-street	0	2	6
Daniel Portch, 50, Goodge-st., Tottenham-court-rd.	0	2	6
William Edwards, 13, do., do.	0	2	6
James Flood, 11, Charles-street, Middlesex Hospital	0	2	6
John Trovell, 3½, Castle-street East, Oxford-street	0	2	6
Frederick Tomkins, 3, Charles-st, Middlesex Hospital	0	2	6
H.	0	2	6
William Paisley, 22, Red Lion-street, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
Benjamin Ingram, jun., 38, Beech-street, Barbican	0	2	6
Thomas Brewer, 44, White Cross-street	0	2	6
William Hopkinson, 45, Barbican	0	2	6
William Temmison, 11, Shaftesbury-pl., Aldersgate-st.	0	2	6
Thomas F. Gatenby, 9, Edmund-place, do.	0	2	6
Daniel Shether, 23, do., do.	0	2	6
Robert Lee, sen., 108, St. Martin's-lane	0	2	6
Joseph Lawson, 198, Tottenham court-road	0	2	6
William Johnson, 188, do.	0	2	6
James Price, 150, do.	0	2	6
Walter Hutchinson, 157, do.	0	2	6
Mr. Phillips, 200, Shoreditch	0	2	6
John Owen, 99, Old-street-road	0	2	6
William Longhurst, 60, do.	0	2	6
William Young, 344, Oxford-street	0	2	6
William Bailey, 418, do.	0	2	6
John Shepherd, 412, do.	0	2	6
William Young, 383, do.	£0	2	6
Thomas Tyler, 164, Tottenham-court-road	0	2	6
John Rushbrook, 8, Exmouth-street, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
Francis Robert Wilson, 10, do., do.	0	2	6
William Harrap, 65, Paul-street, Finsbury	0	2	6
Joseph Henshaw, 83, Leonard-street, do.	0	2	6
Mr. Nesbitt, 73, Old-street-road	0	2	6
William Reynolds, 30, Paul-street, Finsbury	0	2	6
Thomas Dennis, 18, do., do.	0	2	6
H. Wales, 6, do., do.	0	2	6
Charles Stiles, 80, do., do.	0	2	6
J. Poole, 124, Wardour-street, Oxford-street	0	2	6
Isaac Stokes, 125, do., do.	0	2	6
Vincent Brooks, 421, Oxford-street	0	2	6
George Curry, 17, Brook-street, Holborn	0	2	6
Robert Rudland, 104, Shoreditch	0	2	6
C. Witt, do.	0	2	6
Richard End, do.	0	2	6
W. Yule, 31, Wilson-street, Finsbury	0	2	6
John Harding, 1, Half Moon-passage, Aldersgate-st.	0	2	6
S. Smith, 5, Beech-street, Barbican	0	2	6
Robert Spencer, 16, Bridgewater-square	0	2	6
William Overton, 20, Garford-street, Limehouse	0	2	6
James Rose, 18, Gower-place, New-road	0	2	6
William Robert Rowe, 6, New-street, Covent-garden	0	2	6
George Turner, 57, St. Martin's-lane	0	2	6
E. G. Muddock, 10, Clerkenwell-green	0	2	6
Thomas Henshall, 58, Compton-street, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
S. Hill, 62, do., do.	0	2	6
Thomas Bell, Laurence Pountney-lane	0	2	6
J. H. K.	0	2	6
James Ray, 7, Peerless-row, City-road	0	2	6
John Williams, 6, Cobham-row, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
James Bowell, 19, Little Pulteney-street, Golden-sq.	0	2	6
Thomas Cartmel, 59, King William-street, City	0	2	6
William O'Connor, 29, Church-street, Spitalfields	0	2	6
C. R. Smith, 5, Liverpool-street, Bishopsgate-street	0	2	6
John Kendrick, 4, Charlotte-row, Mansion-house	0	2	6
Eden Fisher, 33, Cannon-street, City	0	2	6
Philip Summers, 12, Tabernacle-walk, Finsbury	0	2	6
David Taylor, 11, Charles-street, Westminster	0	2	6
George Dumbrell, 50, Wardour-street, Oxford-street	0	2	6
John Tritschler, 405, Oxford-street	0	2	6
Charles Johnson, 4, Palace-row, New-road	0	2	6
Thomas James, 3, Skinner-street, Somers-town	0	2	6
John Purnell, 43, do., do.	0	2	6
Thomas Steward, 11, Rosamon-street, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
William Smith, 7, do., do.	0	2	6
W. Cutler, Ratcliffe-terrace, Goswell-road	0	2	6
George Ivory, 53, Compton-street, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
John Weston, 5, Garnault-place, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
Burford, Oxon, per Mr. Westrope: A Traveller who lost his Way	0	1	0
A Wellwisher	0	1	0
A Friend	0	1	0
W. Wiggins, shoemaker	0	1	0
W. H. Davis, baker	0	2	6
Small subscriptions	3	7	6

* Those names marked with an asterisk are renewed subscriptions.

Sept. 20, 1844.

SIR,—As my subscription to the League Fund is becoming due, I hasten most cheerfully to renew it. The liberating our native industry from the shackles of monopoly is looked forward to by thousands of anxious and suffering beings, who, with humble means, limited information, and time incessantly occupied in struggling for a scanty subsistence, are precluded from co-operating in this mighty effort against the greatest wrong ever inflicted on an industrious and confiding people. You will please to enrol my name again among the list of contributors, and acknowledge in the usual manner the receipt of the enclosed £5, being double my last year's subscription. With my hearty wishes for success to our great and enlightened cause, I remain, Sir, yours, respectfully,

19, Little Pulteney-street, Golden-square. J. H. HUTHINSON.

THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

The new Royal Exchange is almost completed, and although as a work of architecture we cannot give our unqualified approval to it in all its parts, still we must confess that it is on the whole a noble structure. Its massive proportions, and the commanding position which it occupies in the very heart of the City, are worthy of the great purposes for which it is intended. It rises from amongst the edifices that surround it as if conscious of the important affairs to be transacted within. Here—the appointed rendezvous for merchants in the commercial capital of the world—shall assemble the representatives of every clime under heaven. The spicy groves of Asia, the plantations of America, the snowy regions of the North, and Africa with its gold and gums, shall each have their delegates to assemble in the busy but peaceful assemblage that shall congregate within its walls. The unbending Spaniard, the subtle Greek, the vivacious Frenchman, and the speculative and dollar-loving Yankee, will here be found together, not for purposes of national exclusion, not to foster popular antipathies, and to excite the sanguinary feelings of military glory, but to advance the welfare of the whole brotherhood of man, in dispersing throughout the entire world, the teeming gifts of the beneficent Father of All. The wants in some respects, and the superabundance in others, of each portion of the human family will here be represented, and the varied blessings of Providence, so far as monopoly will allow, will be equalized and diffused. Here will be a true congress of nations. The high-titled plenipotentiaries appointed by courts, represent merely the dominant parties in the respective states that have despatched them; but here will assemble the representatives of peoples in their social condition and necessities. The merchant will here be the means of communication between the inhabitants of the most distant climes, and by his instrumentality the labour of one people shall be exchanged for that of another. Bonds of interest and amity between the inhabitants of different kingdoms, will here be formed and strengthened by means of commercial intercourse—the most effectual method of destroying national animosities, and of averting the horrors of war.

Her Majesty has graciously signified her intention of opening the new Royal Exchange in person. Considering the commercial greatness of England, it is fitting that the building intended as the place of meeting for her "merchant princes" should thus be honoured by the footsteps of royalty. It is, however, melancholy to reflect that her Majesty, after having in October opened an edifice erected for the purpose of facilitating the operations of commerce, in February will be called upon to open an antagonistic assemblage in St. Stephen's, in which commerce will be decried, merchants and manufacturers maligned, and every possible impediment thrown in the way of international exchange. An exchange in the City, and an anti-exchange in Westminster, present a strange anomaly, and a melancholy subject for contemplation. The fact is, we have a commercial people, but an agricultural and oligarchical Legislature, composed of men who, though probably well versed in the mysteries of horse-racing and grouse-shooting, are totally unacquainted with the simplest principles of business; and, what is worse, inherit with their titles and estates an aristocratic jealousy of commerce, an inordinate love of rent, and a notion that they can best serve the interests of their order by a continuance of monopoly. Under such circumstances, is it a marvel—that, whilst we have skilful and industrious operatives, and merchants famed for enterprise and intelligence, we have, at the same time, commercial laws the most absurd and suicidal?

It is a remarkable coincidence that the first Royal Exchange was erected during the reign of a female Monarch—Elizabeth, and was opened by that Princess. The present edifice has been erected during the reign of another female Sovereign, and will be opened in state by her Majesty. This coincidence, we trust, will be followed by another and a more important one. Elizabeth not only countenanced the trade and commerce of the country by honouring the Royal Exchange with her presence, she did more—she abolished the monopolies that then pressed on the industry of her subjects. This was the brightest feature in the reign of Good Queen Bess; and we trust that the reign of Queen Victoria shall be made illustrious by the demolition of the monopolies which now pauperize her subjects, impede the free action of commercial activity, and hang like a millstone round the energies of the country.

ADAM BROWN'S ACCOUNT OF ROBERT BAKER'S FARM.

To the EDITOR *of the* LEAGUE.

SIR,—I have received the copy of the *Morning Post*, containing Mr. Baker's letter; but, seeing that in that letter he denies everything that I said out and out, admits nothing—no, not a shadow of anything—I have considered whether it might not be as well to let the matter stand where it is. The public know pretty well what to think of such very strong replies as that of Mr. Baker. Moreover, it is so very, very full of ill temper and ill names, that a farther notice of it must be, at best, a sacrifice of self-respect. Still, as some of our friends expect that I should say once more whether I believe Mr. Baker to be, as a farmer, what I formerly said he was, I shall repeat it. I say, yes! his farm and farmyard had all the elements of confusion, wastefulness, and agricultural slovenliness about them when I was there.

But Mr. Baker says, "Their great object is to attack the character of individuals rather than their mode of farming." This is untrue; I never spoke of Mr. Baker's private character. I expressly stated that it was as a farmer I wrote of him. "Of his private character," I said, "I know nothing, nor is it my province to inquire into it; but he is, as a farmer, one of the most eminent slovens," &c. &c.

Well, he says he is not a sloven; and I will be sworn that slip-shod Betty, the housemaid, would say the same if some one dared to tell her she was a sloven.

Mr. Baker denies that he wastes his liquid manures, or that the rain washes the riches of his dunghills into the ditches and the ponds. I said, and again say, that he does waste his manures thus. He seeks to prove that he does not, by asking is it probable that an agriculturist occupying 1000 acres of land would act "so ruinously to his own interests?" But I ask, in return, if it is not as ruinous to the interests of other farmers to do so? The letters of Mr. Mechi, published in the *Essex Standard*, which seems to be a special farmer's paper of Mr. Baker's own agricultural politics, contain the following passages. The writer is speaking of a spring of water which he has conducted to his farmyard. The words printed in *italic* are marked by me. The letter is dated July 11, 1844:—

"This water formerly spoiled some acres, and caused the bog; but now it answers a much better purpose. *I do not like the usual custom of giving manure water to horses and cattle*, instead of to the land. I presume they are, like ourselves, all the better for drinking pure water, instead of filthy compounds."

And again, in the same letter, he says of the wasting and washing away of manure from the farmyard:—

"The iron gutters and pipes to our roofs may be found fault with on account of the expense, but I really cannot see the utility or profit of the *present custom*, that is, putting good and costly manure on straw, and then washing it all out again with tens of thousands of gallons of pure water off the roofs, *taking especial care that it shall poison the horsepond, and then run down to enrich some stranger's meadow at the first flood.* I hope, in fifty years time, the farmer who does this will be considered insane. *The idea of a man's throwing away his manure with his left hand, and with his right paying money to bring it back again, all the way from Peru or Africa, seems too ludicrous for the nineteenth century.*"

Thus, what Mr. Mechi says of all Essex, I said of

Mr. Baker. Has Mr. Baker or any other farmer denied that these accusations of wasting their manure and polluting their water, published in their own paper, are true? I have looked through the subsequent numbers of the paper, and there is no denial. But I have also travelled over Essex, and I know they cannot deny this charge of negligence and wastefulness, notwithstanding the argument of *self-interest* which Mr. Baker puts in his defence.

Yet, if the letters containing the imputation had been published in the LEAGUE, a denial would have been made for Essex in general, as is done for Writtle in particular. The truth is, Mr. Mechi either is, or is supposed to be, a political ally of the paper in question. And in those very letters which I have quoted, and of which in most parts I think so highly, he goes out of his way to have a fling at the Anti-Corn-Law League; finding it necessary, no doubt, to throw a bone to the "Essex Lion" to keep him quiet. Thus, it is only when a supposed enemy comes into the jungle that the "Lion" growls.

Mr. Baker, called by his friends the "Essex Lion," denies that his liquids run to waste, or that he has any horseponds. It was wet weather when I was there, as I intimated in speaking of the muddiness of the river; and doubtless there was more manure running away at that time than in dry weather. What I complain of is, that it should run away at all; and I tell Mr. Baker, and all whom it may concern, that when he or they come forward in print to contradict a nobleman of such great professional knowledge and moral integrity as Lord Ducie, by accusing him of "monstrous exaggerations," as Mr. Baker does; and when he or they give us statements of figures to prove that wheat costs *this* in production, and manure costs *that*, which we know to be unfairly stated, we *shall* go and see how the land is managed, and how the manure is saved or wasted, upon those farms from which the statements emanate.

The Lion demands to know how any one should *dare* to come upon his land to see what he is doing without, being asked. I answer, the Lion has asked for that which he has no right to; namely, that the shopkeepers and artisans of Chelmsford, who live by minding their own business, should pay a tax to keep up the cultivation of Mr. Robert Baker's farm, which he himself neglects.

As to the *horsepond:* the name is conventional. If we see a pond upon a farm, we are apt to call it a horsepond, even though it may be a goosepond. I saw ditches and pools of water into which the liquid washings of the farmyard were running to waste; and I saw cattle where there was no water but what the ditch so polluted gave them. Moreover, I asked a workman if the liquid from the manure always ran away in that manner when it rained; and he answered, yes. It was running out upon the public road.

But the "piece of plate." Let us get to the "piece of plate." Mr. B. quotes from my letter the following words:—"Mr. Baker has been laying the League prostrate and slaying it, and receiving the great token of the age—a piece of place—for having upset, and destroyed, and utterly annihilated the League—for so the inscription sets forth his labours." To which Mr. B. rejoins:—"Really, the mendacious Adam bears the palm from Mendez da Pinto; there is no such piece of plate in existence, and, consequently, there can be no such inscription."

And then, in the absence of the piece of plate,—the *alleged* absence of it, for I shall show, by-and-by, that Mr. B. is not so unacquainted with the "token of the age" as he would have us believe; that, in fact, he gets out of this by a quibble,—in the alleged nothingness of the plate, he goes on with all gravity to digest the extravagant mouthful which he has just swallowed, namely, the destruction of the League. If Robert Baker did not see that Adam Brown spoke in ridicule, he is the only person who read the sentence in question without seeing its meaning. The League prostrated! and slain! and annihilated! At the very time the piece of plate was being subscribed for, to reward the "Lion of Essex" for his slaying of the League, the League was in greater vigour than it had ever possessed; and it is more powerful and universal in its action now, even at this moment, than then, as the elective registers will one day testify, to the dismay of such lions of dear corn and poor agriculture as Mr. Robert Baker. But it may be that the League is yet alive—that the piece of plate is not forthcoming. However, here are the self-complacent reflections with which he receives Adam Brown's intimation that the League is destroyed:—

"That the establishment of Agricultural Protection Societies has laid the League prostrate, and frustrated its destructive purposes when nearly effected, is a matter of the highest gratification to every real friend of British agriculture. That *my* humble efforts, seconded by the powerful assistance of others, have tended to produce so beneficial a result, is to me the best reward I ever expected or desired to receive."

But is there really no piece of plate, after all the meetings, and speeches, and advertising for subscriptions? Have there not been articles in the local papers, articles native-bred, and articles borrowed from the *Morning Post*, inserted from time to time to remind the yeoman that the League was dead, and that the League's tombstone should be inscribed to Robert Baker? If Mr. Baker means, by his denial of the very existence of the plate, that there is no testimonial at all, I ask what have the meetings and the speeches led to? If he only denies that the testimonial is a "piece of plate," then I must blame his own newspaper for misleading me. Plate *was* mentioned in its columns, and nothing else has been mentioned since.

The gentleman who moved the resolution that a subscription should be entered into for Mr. Baker's testimonial said, that *guinea* subscriptions would be the most suitable; "for he remembered when the agriculturists of the county presented *a piece of plate* to Lord Western, the great mass of subscriptions were in that sum. And none, he would say, who contributed towards the testimonial presented to the noble lord, would withold their hands from supporting this," &c.

This is the only mention of the *kind* of testimonial given, or to be given, or once intended to be given, to Mr. Baker, which I have been able to discover. Moreover, a reverend gentleman spoke of *engraving* the motto. And all the speakers repeated again and again the object of the testimonial. The chairman spoke thus:—

"He [the Essex Lion] came forward at a time and in a manner which required no common nerve—when the League were getting majorities—*when the Cabinet was wavering*—and when the country teemed with Free-Trade nostrums from one end to the other. * * How successfully he had worked, *the present state of the League fully showed.* The fact was, the great fact was dwindling away; its influence was evidently sinking under the influence of the Protection Society," &c.

If all this did not mean a "piece of plate," plate was never foreshadowed by its symptoms. But it seems there is a screw loose. In fact, the League is not well enough killed yet.

Mr. Baker complains that I should have spoken of the little river which washes away his road, and called it *deep;* and more so, that certain figurative expressions should have been used about the slowness of its course. But Mr. Baker may get a key to that, by the speeches made at his "piece of plate" meeting. He who proposed the plate subscription said, the Protection Society was a deep slow river; but the League rushed like a torrent! &c. &c.

Mr. Baker says the houses are not *new* in which the office of the Protection Society is. Perhaps not; but they may have been done up *anew*. But whether so or not, the matter has little to do with his style of farming.

He has got a great case against me by my putting a toll-bar where there is none. I can only tell him that I sent a gig from Chelmsford to meet me at a point farther inland; that when I came up to Mr. Baker's corner I found the gig there; and, inquiring why it was there, the man said he had no money to go through the toll-bar. I gave him money, and walked away in another direction while he went into the village. I know there was some kind of gate there, and I was under an impression it was *the* toll-gate.

Still this does not affect the main question, which is, whether Mr. Baker's expense of growing wheat is a necessary expense. I shall return to that part of the subject again; as also his statement that he employs six men to each hundred acres. And more, I shall have something to say to him about the protection being for the good of the labourers, that is, *his* labourers.

He says he *is* an advocate of leases. Here I apologise to him. I had not seen then, nor have I yet, his advocacy of leases. But I had seen and heard, at a former time, his advocacy of what is tantamount to the destruction of all security of tenure.

He says that the sales of broken-up farmers do not pay auction duty, so I could not see the words "no auction duty" on the bills. I saw the words "no auction duty" on bills which related to property which I was told belonged to persons who had, at a former time, been flourishing farmers. On this I did not express myself so clearly as I should have done in the LEAGUE; and I humbly give Mr. Baker the benefit of it. When I saw his farm I did not know that he was an auctioneer. It was after I was fifty miles distant from Chelmsford that I was told that the Messrs. Baker and Son, whose name I saw in advertisements and placards, were the same as Mr. Robert Baker the farmer. I then called to mind that I had seen bills of property selling under distraint posted on the walls; and wrote to a friend to ascertain if any of the property belonged to farmers. As there are other auctioneers there, it is very likely that some of their sales were included in the account sent to me. All this I give up to Mr. Baker. He has been in the habit of telling us how severely and exclusively the land is taxed. But the understood exemption from duty of farming property sold by auction, of which he now makes a triumph in levelling me as he has so successfully levelled and annihilated the League, suggests new ideas. However, for the present, I bid him farewell, only reminding him that the real question at issue is the expense of growing wheat.

ADAM BROWN.

SALES OF LAND.—A considerable portion of the property purchased by the late Mr. Fairhurst, of Holt-hill, at Woodside and Birkenhead, at 2s. and 2s. 6d., has been disposed of by the heirs, at three guineas per yard, producing a return, in a few years, so enormous as to appear incredible. One field, between Woodside and Birkenhead, alone realized above £50,000. Such has been the rapid increase in the value of property in that bustling township, in a few years, that in some cases land has changed hands no less than four times, on each occasion leaving a handsome profit to the parties.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

REVIEW.

Arthur Arundel: a Tale of the English Revolution. By the Author of "Brambletye House," &c. London, Colburn.

Mr. Horace Smith has, through the medium of a very clever novel, directed attention to a portion of English history which has not received all the attention that its importance demands: we mean the period between the Restoration and the Revolution. It was during this epoch that the parties now called Whig and Tory were first organized and first baptized by their present names; but the student of history who endeavours to comprehend the difference between the systems of policy advocated by these opposite parties finds it difficult to discover anything like a distinct political creed adopted by either. Both were desirous to have a monarchical Government, but the Whigs wished to have a Sovereign with powers as restricted as those of a Venetian Doge; while the Tories, at least so long as they believed the Monarch to be on their side, preached the doctrines of passive obedience and non-resistance. Both were in favour of placing the chief political power in the hands of an oligarchy, but the Tories took for their oligarchic model the ancient system of feudalism, and the Whigs the more modern constitutions of the Italian republics, particularly that of Venice. Both advocated an established church, with a system of penalties and disabilities against Dissenters; but the Tories wished for a hierarchy on a feudal basis, and the Whigs were enamoured of the doctrine, discipline, and constitution of Geneva, as nearer approaching their ideal perfection of republican oligarchy. In the reaction against Puritanism in 1660 the Cavaliers, or Tory party, had the decided lead in the nation, and would have retained it, had Charles II. been less imbecile as a Monarch and less profligate as a man. Mr. Smith sketches a picture of his abandoned and licentious court, which we know from the memoirs of the day to be far short of the melancholy and disgraceful reality:—

"What signifies it to the novelist, the recreator, that stately palaces and solemn temples have passed away, slowly converted into dust by the withering blight of time, or suddenly smitten into smoke and ashes by one fell sweep of fire? He waves his magic wand, and they are conjured up again in all the integrity of their pristine splendour. Lo! look! behold you are gazing upon the magnificent, the gorgeous, the glorious gallery of Whitehall Palace, with its painted ceilings, gilded cornices, and rich tapestries.

"Mark you that swarthy, deeply-furrowed, saturnine, and yet sensual-looking man in the black flowing wig, with a ribbon and a diamond star upon his breast, the Order of the Garter round his knee, and a Bellonia spaniel in his lap? He is not yet sixty, though excesses of every kind have stamped an additional decade upon his haggard features. His looks may betoken the gravity of age; but even the folly and the wildness of youth would not excuse the depravity of his occupations. They betray the man, and apprise the gazer that he is contemplating Charles II. Where is now the plea of the witty Monarch, who, when he was told that he never said a foolish thing, and never did a wise one, rejoined that nothing was more likely, since his sayings were his own, and his doings were the work of his ministers? Is this scene of Sabbath profanation the suggestion of his Privy Council—is it they who have converted his palace into a sink of iniquity?

"Behold him where he sits playing at riddles, joking, not over delicately, about court intrigues, the favourite subject of his raillery, or indulging in frivolous discourse, which, with a more refined or less servile auditory, might well imperil his reputation for decency and good sense.

"Yonder bevy of patched, powdered, feather-waving rouged, diamond-sparkling wantons, duchesses though they be called, do they not tell us by their bold looks and levity of speech that they have been ennobled for their infamy? See how they crowd round one of their own body who is telling fortunes with a pack of cards, and promising them a succession of galas for the coming week.

"And who is yon dark-complexioned lady with the diamond tiara and the care-worn countenance, talking with a nervous rapidity, and endeavouring at times to conceal her mortification by a forced laugh? That is Queen Catherine of Braganza, who is compelled to receive her husband's mistresses as her ladies of the bedchamber, and his natural children as the highest titled and most conspicuous inmates of the palace.

"Were there then, at this period, no honest men or women at the court of England's Monarch? Heaven forbid that this question should be answered in the negative; though one cannot help suspecting that decent and respectable persons would almost be ashamed of appearing among such a contaminated crew. Yet such there were. Turn your eyes to yonder corner of the gallery, where, standing by the window that looks out upon Holbein's beautiful gate, you will see, amid a knot of strangers and visitants, Colonel Arundel, laughing and joking, and evidently seeing nothing objectionable in the scene before him; while the looks of his son Arthur attest how profoundly he is shocked at the wasteful luxury, the gross licentiousness, the shameless profanation, manifested in the orgies of which he is a spectator. Those nocturnal revels have already been frequently described; but we have sketched one of them afresh, because it had a marked influence upon the opinions and actions of Arthur's future life."

Yet it was to this Monarch that a sycophant clergy gave the title of "our most religious and gracious King,"—epithets the remembrance of whose origin ought alone to be sufficient to banish from the Anglican Liturgy. The Whig leaders, remembering that the death of Charles I. had been the signal for their ruin as a party, devised various

schemes to bring the second Charles into their power, and among these the Popish plot was at once the most extraordinary and most iniquitous. A popular frenzy was created; it burned out from its own intensity; reaction ensued; the Rye-house plot became the counter instrument against the Whigs, and the whole herd of spies and informers turned against their employers. In a former generation the rival oligarchies had met in hostile array to decide their differences in the battle-field;—their arena of strife was now changed to courts of justice; pious frauds and purchased perjuries were their weapons of war. Never, in the annals of mankind, was such a spectacle exhibited as England displayed at that moment: the country was "bribed by paupers, bullied by cowards, and duped by idiots." Men were hypocritical in their pretensions to vice as well as to virtue, "and not to be corrupted was the shame." Such a system could not have endured under any Monarch save one, who never scrupled to make any sacrifice that would procure an adjournment of difficulties. But at length the great Sovereign of miserable expediencies terminated his mortal career, and the closing scene of his unhonoured life is thus powerfully portrayed by our author:—

"See you yonder superb beauty with the dark brows and jetty hair seated in a saloon, gorgeous with tapestries, paintings, japan screens, and furniture of solid silver; and whispering to a powdered foreigner, who listens with rapt attention to her tidings? It is the Duchess of Portsmouth, one of the King's mistresses, revealing to M. de Barillon, the French Ambassador, the important secret just confided to her by the King, of his having recently embraced the Catholic faith. Testifying the most eager anxiety for the salvation of his soul, she urges her companion not to lose a moment in seeking the Duke of York, in order that his Majesty may have proper spiritual aid in his dying hours. Behold! the messenger hastens to the apartment of the King's brother, whose countenance, previously darkened with grief, assumes an expression of satisfaction as he receives the intelligence. Starting from a deep reverie of some continuance, he at length exclaims,

"'You are in the right; there is no time to be lost. I will hazard all rather than not do my duty: send instantly for a priest; but, as you suggest, it may be well that he should be led up the back stairs, and wear a disguise of some sort.'

"Father Huddleston, a Benedictine monk, who had assisted the King in making his escape after the battle of Worcester, being the first that was encountered, a hat was placed on his head, a cloak thrown over his shoulders, and, thus accoutred, he was brought up to the closet of the Duke, who let him into a magnificent chamber, where, upon a gorgeous bed, emblazoned with the royal arms, lay extended a forlorn wretch, whose cadaverous hue, sunken eyes, and look of haggard terror proclaimed him to be a dying man. That miserable object was King Charles II., the merry Monarch.

"Consulting the interests of his own order rather than those of his royal penitent, the monk began by exacting from him a promise to make open profession of the Catholic faith should he recover from his illness; and then proceeded to administer those religious offices which his Majesty had refused to receive from ministers of the Established Church. And now, amid the convulsions of nature, he gathers together his remaining strength, to speak his last wishes to the Duke, recommending to his care with a tenderness that is honourable to his memory, the Duchess of Portsmouth and her son, and desiring him to be kind to his other children, and not let poor *Nelly* starve.* But of his ill-used Queen, of the Government, of his people, of the interests of religion, and those of the nation, or of his servants, or of any other subject that should have been uppermost in a Monarch's mind at such an awful moment, not a syllable does he utter! He sinks—his senses fail him—he who never said a foolish thing, babbles idle balderdash—his tongue cleaves to his mouth—his eyes close—the joyous reveller of last Sunday evening, the merry Monarch is a corpse! Dong!—Dong!—Dong!—hear you not the great bell tolling for his death?"

The accession of James II. did not put an end to the reign of hypocrisy, but it rendered the position of the hypocrites exceedingly difficult. "No Popery" was the Whig weapon of war, but not a few of the Tories were ready to join in the cry so soon as James had shown any signs of a desire to meddle with the Anglican clergy. In a clever scene in the family of a Protestant Cavalier, whose lady had been a firm believer in the revelations of Titus Oates, we find a very probable picture of the perplexities which beset the minds of many of the Tory party:—

"'But after all, Madge,' cried the Colonel, 'why should you keep such an everlasting coil about Popery? You ask what would become of us if we were all to be mass-goers? Why, we should become what your ancestors were and mine;—what the whole nation was, till bluff King Harry got tired of his wife, and fell in love with a pretty girl, and quarrelled with the Pope because he couldn't get a divorce. Here was the whole good people of England, and no fools neither, all of 'em well contented to be Papists for I don't kn w how many centuries, up to the time when Harry had a crow to pick with the Pope, only about a divorce and a pretty girl, as I said before; and then when the King gives the word, 'right about face!' smack they all turn Protestants before you can say Jack Robinson! Well! only a hundred and fifty years are past, and here's the very same people frightened out of their seven senses about a Popish plot, and half ready to dethrone their lawful Sovereign because he goes to mass, and has a few dirty monks sneaking about the court. If that isn't a downright puzzler, I don't know what is.'

"'Shocking, my dear, shocking!' ejaculated the wife, lifting up her hands, 'I thought you were a better Protestant. Margaret! You will pull off that silk tassel, if you keep twiddling it so.'

"'Why, Madge!' rejoined her spouse, 'there isn't a better Protestant in all England than I am, nd that you know, or ought to know. Don't I go to church whenever I am in the humour; don't I hate Puritans and Roundheads, and Independents and Anabaptists, and all that kind of vermin; and don't I ask Parson Chudleigh to dinner, and get muzzy with him almost every Sunday? Chudleigh's a good fellow and a loyal, does his duty well, is beloved by all the parish, and understands how to draw a cover for a fox or a hare almost as well as old Buckthorn. Better Protestant indeed!' and he followed up this repetition of the phrase with an indignant oath.

"Mrs. Arundel had been so long used to these expletives, that they gave her no offence, and she had even ceased to notice them; but her daughter could not help exclaiming: 'Oh, papa! how can you call yourself a good Protestant, and yet swear so terribly?'

"'Zooks, girl, that's the proof on't. Why, the Cavaliers were all good Protestants, weren't they? and I never knew one that didn't rap out oaths by the dozen now and then. You wouldn't have them more mealy mouthed than the King, would you? Now, old Rowley, rest his soul! was a swearer, and so was his father before him; for when some canting fellow took him to task on the subject, he cried with a laugh, 'Oaths! why your Martyr was a greater swearer than I am!'"

Another picture of political perplexity and inconsistency, arising from the rebellion of the unfortunate and betrayed Duke of Monmouth, has all the verisimilitude of a real occurrence, and was no doubt actually exhibited in many varied forms during the time:—

"His father in return related the particulars of Monmouth's defeat and apprehension, the quartering of the dragoons on the Moat House, and other details—ending with the inquiry, 'Did your mother tell you that this madcap affair of Monmouth's brought us an unexpected visitor in the person of your uncle the Bishop? You won't forget him in a hurry; no, nor the rascally master of Luther House, whom you would not suffer me to horsewhip? Well, the invader having been proclaimed King at Taunton and Bristol, it was rumoured in London that the whole country, from east to west, was up in arms; that two regiments had gone over to him; and that the game was all up with King James. Whereupon the Bishop fell suddenly sick, was recommended change of air, and hurrying down to the moat, actually proposed that we should both hasten to the Prince's headquarters, and have the merit of being among the first to join him.'

"'You did not, of course, listen to so wild a proposal?'

"'My dear boy! when a fellow knows a great deal of Latin and Greek, I always take it for granted that he knows very little of other matters, so that I never had the least respect for his lordship's judgment. Besides, I had taken his advice once too often in sending you to school. Your mother wanted me to do as he advised. Any stick you know will do to beat a dog, and so she thought any invader, even an illegitimate adventurer, would do to put down a Popish King.

"'I need not tell you that I am a Loyalist to the back bone; a Loyalist upon principle, my dear boy! and besides, as an old soldier, I always wait to see which way the cat jumps before I decide for myself; so I counselled the Right Reverend to do the same, and remain for a short time at the moat. And lo and behold! one fine afternoon, as he had quite forgotten his illness, and was pouring down bumpers of my best Gascony, (how I envied him!) and I was making wry faces at this beastly barley water, comes an account of the battle of Sedgmore, and the flight of the Duke. Never surely did any medicine act like that. Instantly cured of sickness, his lordship jumped up from table, started in an hour for London, and for aught I know to the contrary has been among the very first to fly to court, and do all loyal homage to King James. Ha! ha! ha!'"

Mr. Smith has shrunk from delineating the meanness, the treachery, and the obliquity of political vision which distinguished the principal leaders who invited over the Prince of Orange. He has, however, intimated his opinion of their deficiencies rather than their demerits, by introducing his hero at one of their private meetings giving advice which never entered into the heads of any of these pretended patriots, and which assuredly would have been rejected, even more contumeliously than the novelist describes, if it had been tendered:—

"'I was in hopes,' said Lord Devonshire, 'that our zealous young friend, Mr. Arundel, would have favoured us with his information and assistance in this discussion.'

"'Not being a regular member of your conclave,' said Arthur, 'I did not feel authorised to offer an opinion. Such information as I can supply will be found in my letters to Mr. Sydney, which have doubtless been laid before you, and by which you will perceive that I have not been idle on either side the channel. What I would now most strenuously advise is, that, before you sign this all-important invitation to the Prince, you should annex to it, in the most formal and specific manner, the conditions upon which he is to govern us, if he succeed in his enterprise.

"'Extensive observation of the whole eastern coast convinces me that England is ripe for a revolution. Rarely indeed does it happen that the governed can dictate terms to their governors; but such will be our fortunate condition if our great undertaking be not frustrated. We have the crown of three kingdoms to offer; let us place our civil and religious liberties beyond the reach of future despotism; let us have a free and well-defined constitution that may save us from future civil wars and convulsions.

"'On the part of the people of England, I solemnly protest against your imitating the example of the traitorous General Monk, who, having the fate of the country in his hands, sold it to an arbitrary Monarch without a single stipulation for its liberties.'

"'We have no authority either to dictate terms, or to remodel the constitution,' objected Lord Lumley; 'that must be left to the Parliament.'

"'What!' exclaimed Arthur, 'to such a House of Commons as that which lately committed Mr. Coke to the Tower for saying, in allusion to the King's intemperate speech, "I hope we are all Englishmen, and not to be frightened by a few high words." No; I would stipulate beforehand for perfect freedom of speech and of opinion both in civil and spiritual matters; I would have a Magna Charta for the mind.'

"'I differ from you entirely,' said the Bishop. 'Religious liberty means spiritual anarchy, and I was therefore opposed to repealing the test, as well as to the King's declaration of liberty of conscience, for which, as you all know, I have suffered censure and official suspension. Besides, it is much too early to dictate to the Prince of Orange. It would certainly surprise and might probably offend him.'

"'With submission to your lordship,' replied Arthur, 'it would hardly take him by surprise, for I myself, with a premature rashness which I am most ready to admit, sought an interview with his Highness soon after the commencement of the present reign, when I proposed the enterprise which we are now planning; and ventured to state, that, as it would be no advantage to the nation to exchange one arbitrary ruler for another, I would wish to have it previously stipulated that the power of the Sovereign and the obedience of the subject should be defined and secured by equal laws and a free constitution.'

"'And what was the reply?' inquired the Bishop with a slightly supercilious smile.

"'I had no authority: the time had not yet come, and his Highness would not listen to me.'

"'To a certain extent we are in the same predicament now; and were we to dictate terms we might probably meet a similar rebuff.'"

The scenes which took place in London on the flight of the King are thus described:—

"The Government was thus dissolved; no power of any sort had been appointed as even a temporary substitute; the royal troops had mostly disbanded themselves; and the populace being masters for the moment, it is almost needless to add that they were committing every sort of excess. Bands of vagabond marauders, drunken soldiers, and disreputable women roamed about the country, pillaging the houses of the Catholic gentry, emptying the cellars of the publicans, laying travellers under contribution, bellowing in chorus the popular ballad of 'Lillibullero,' and swearing with ribald jests and execrations that they were ready to lay down their lives for the Protestant religion!"

Mr. Smith's opinions of the Revolution are given with great candour and boldness: they are more than justified by the secret history of the transaction:—

"To apply the word *glorious* to the revolution of 1688 is a curious infelicity. The nation could not furnish forth anything justly meriting that epithet. Its high and palmy days had passed away with the large-minded usurper who, by combining together the great elements of human power, religious enthusiasm, military skill, and sagacious policy, had raised up England from its fallen state, and made it the mistress of the nations. The reaction from fanaticism to indifference or infidelity, from Puritanism to gross licentiousness, from the wise and vigorous sway of Cromwell to the miracle of the feeble and profligate Charles, had again laid England prostrate in the dust, infecting the whole kingdom with such a mass of public corruption and private immorality, that a modern historian has branded this epoch as the *Nadir* of the national character and prosperity.

"King Charles himself, his ministers, his mistresses, and his courtiers took bribes from the French King for betraying the interests of their country. If Barillon is to be believed, a similar imputation rests upon the patriot, Algernon Sydney; and it was probably deemed an act of fastidious nicety on the part of Lord Russell, that he refused to participate in these degrading acts of venality. The revolution, so long prepared, and so long concealed from the King by a succession of the most monstrous falsehoods, perfidies, and treacheries, was finally accomplished by the defection of English, and the invasion of foreign, troops, circumstances which utterly repudiate its title to the word *glorious*.

"Not less discreditable was the hesitation of the nobility and gentry in joining the Prince on his first landing, when they feared the vengeance of the King; and their subsequent rush to his standard when they saw in the successful invader the sure dispenser of posts, titles, and rewards. What a sordid scramble there was for these distinctions is too well known!

"Betrayed on all sides, and the most shamelessly by those on whom he had lavished the greatest favours, and hunted into the toils by a grand *battue* of the whole nation, our sympathies become partially enlisted on the side of the fallen Monarch, whose mistaken but honest, open, straightforward bigotry assumes a certain aspect of respectability when compared with the duplicity, fraud, and fanaticism by which he was assailed.

"True, he was uxorious and yet inconstant, a slave to the forms and dogmas, a stranger to the spirit of Christianity, a laborious plodder in the details of king-craft, while utterly incapable of any comprehensive views of policy; but he possessed that perseverance which is only called obstinacy when it fails; and he was at least open, sincere, and honest. A sorry jester was he who, pointing to the King at St. Germains, contemptuously exclaimed, 'Behold the simpleton who sacrificed three kingdoms for a mass.'

"This sneer was an unconscious compliment, for in those days it must have been difficult to find a man who would make any sacrifice, however small, for any principle, however sacred. Had he evinced the same devotedness in a good cause that he did in a bad one, King James would have been hailed as a martyr, instead of being ridiculed as a self-immolated victim."

We have dwelt rather on the historical than the artistic character of this work, but viewed merely as a novel it is one of high merit. Few writers of fiction would have ventured on the introduction of a hero suffering under personal deformity, still fewer could have worked out of this defect such an analytic display of mental and moral formation as the author of "Arthur Arundel."

* "Nell Gwyn, the only one of the King's mistresses who refused to be ennobled, if a title so acquired can be said to constitute nobility."

Relics of Ancient English Poetry. By the Right Rev. Dr. Percy, Lord Bishop of Dromore. New Edition. London: Washbourne.

This very beautiful edition of Percy's relics deserves a word of commendation, as it places within the reach of persons of moderate income a work which led the way to the overthrow of the conventional school of poetry, and led us back from the corrupt streams of affectation and imitation to drink from "the pure well of English undefiled." Bishop Percy was among the first to reveal to the world that the Norman Conquest had not broken down the inherent energies of the Saxon mind, but that the bold foresters of Northern England maintained in their fastnesses a daring independence which, though often repressed, could never be destroyed. The old forest laws were the most galling badge of slavery imposed upon the English people; and, even in their present mitigated form of game laws, they have not ceased to be onerous and vexatious. But against these iniquitous forest laws the Saxon peasantry maintained a determined and indomitable resistance. They exhibited in their struggle against the petty tyrants of their fields the elements of those higher qualities of character which enabled them in every successive generation to extend the power of the English Commons, and secure for the English people a recognised position among the powers of the State,

The greatness of England is in no degree owing to Norman chivalry or Norman feudalism; it was the Saxon race, as it gradually reconquered its rights, which raised our land to its proper place in the scale of nations. Even now we find that the triumphs of industry and ingenuity are greatest and most signal in those districts where the bold Saxon foresters most sternly resisted Norman oppression. Unconquerable by the rigours of war, they have found their time for triumph by the arts of peace. It is because in the feudal ages that the forests of Rossendale and Pendle, of Sherwood and of Needwood, afforded shelter to the Saxon peasant, that these same districts now exhibit the triumphs of Saxon energy and the wonders of Saxon skill.

Viewed merely as a literary work, Percy's relics are evidences of the intellectual superiority of the Saxon race; let the spirit and vigour of the English ballad be compared with the lays of the *jongleurs* or the *sirventes* of the Troubadours, and it will at once be seen that the rough energies of the former are to the tameness of the latter somewhat in the same proportion as the statue of Hercules to chimney ornaments of porcelain. We trust that the success of Mr. Washbourne's edition will lead some enterprising publisher to undertake a complete collection of those ballads, which will historically illustrate the condition of the English people. It would be curious to trace the songs of the modern poachers in their various changes from the days of Robin Hood, when the barons kept the land a waste of forest to preserve their deer, down to the present age, when the lords of the soil sacrifice the interests of the farmers to the preservation of hares and partridges.

Prevention of Infection from Typhus Fever.—Dr. J. C. Smith obtained £5000 from Parliament for the following receipt:—"Take six drachms of powdered nitre (saltpetre) and six drachms of sulphuric acid (oil of vitriol), mix them in a teacup. By adding one drachm of the oil at a time, a copious discharge of nitrous acid gas will take place. The cup to be placed, during the preparation, on a flat hearth, or plate of heated iron, and the mixture stirred with a tobacco pipe. The quantity of gas may be regulated by lessening or increasing the quantity of ingredients. The above is for a moderate-sized room; half the quantity would be sufficient for a small room. Avoid as much as possible breathing the gas when it first rises from the vessel. No injury to the lungs will happen when the air is impregnated with the gas, which is called nitrous acid gas, and it cannot be too widely known that it possesses the property of preventing its spread."

Cricklade.—There happens to be a considerable extent of charity land belonging to the poor of this place, situate about two miles from the town, which has been usually let, and the rents divided among the poor according to their deserts and necessities. Through the praiseworthy and humane exertions of a few individuals, but more especially of their tried and unflinching friend, Dr. Wells, sufficient of this land has lately been appropriated and divided into allotments for every poor family to have one, in size according to the number of each family, at a small rent. It was truly gratifying to behold the splendid crops of wheat growing thereon, and to hear how the poor creatures, to whom this summer has been so barren of labour, consoled themselves with the prospect of their own little harvest. There happens, however, to be a Court of Requests at Cricklade for the recovery of debts under 40s., held under Mr. Joseph Neeld, of Grittleton-house, lord of the manor of the borough and hundred of Cricklade, of which Mr. Davenport Welsh Collyns, attorney-at-law, is the steward. It happens, also, that many of these poor creatures, most of them having large families, have been sued in this court, and being unable, owing to the scantiness of work afforded this summer, to pay the demand, for lack of household furniture, their little crops of wheat and potatoes, their sole dependence for the coming winter, have been seized, which, in many instances, will not be more than sufficient, after payment of the rent, to cover the steward and bailiff's charges. Truly the privations of the poor are not half known. A revision of these petty courts might profitably employ the meddling taste of Lord Brougham.—*Wilts Independent.*

AGRICULTURE.

HARK YE, FARMERS, NO POLITICS!

What inexplicable people are the landed advocates of the Corn Laws! How paradoxical are all the workings of the monopolist mind! At the beginning of the present year farmers were dragged or driven to "protection meetings," to listen to the ravings of the landed monopolists, and to be conjured to uphold the corn monopoly as the only salvation of the tenant-farmers and the farm-labourers. They were asked in varied accents of wild despair, "How they could bear English burdens with continental prices?" They were told, that if a declaration in favour of the Corn Laws could be extorted from the Government all might be well, and that farmers would become prosperous under the shelter of legislative protection; that Free Trade was the single object to be opposed, and that nothing but the machinations of the League prevented prices of agricultural produce from rising up to the point promised by the land-agents and the Corn Laws.

This, and much more to the same effect, was the theme of every political landowner's discourse some nine months ago. Where are these loud-voiced squires now? Have the latest promises of the protectionists been fulfilled, or have fresh delusions been imposed upon the farmers? Sir Robert Peel *has*, after his manner, declared for the maintenance of the Corn Laws; but has that declaration, which was asserted to be the one thing needful to let prices rise, given the farmer 56s. for his quarter of wheat? On the contrary, good wheat is now selling at 42s. and 43s. a quarter. The monopoly of the corn market by the home grower is complete, yet he is in a state of grievous distress. The provincial newspapers are crowded with advertisements of sales of farming stock. One man is "declining the farming business," another "is giving up dairying," a third "has discontinued breeding," and various similar polite phrases are used by the different auctioneers to cover the retreat and discomfiture of the unfortunate farmers who have been compelled to succumb; while some sales are broadly stated to be made "under an execution by the sheriff," or "under a distress for rent." The frequency of sales of farming stock was referred to by a farmer at one of the recent agricultural meetings as evidence of the present distressed condition of the tenant-farmers. The state of the farm-labourers is still worse. Already hundreds of able-bodied men are out of work in the rural districts, and wages are reduced to starvation point. Farmers themselves regard the coming winter, from the destitution of the peasantry, with anxiety and dread. Incendiarism has recommenced in Suffolk and Norfolk, and we observe with deep regret that it has extended into several other counties. Here, then, is a state of things wherein the "farmers' friends," their political advisers and their representatives in Parliament, might naturally be looked to for advice. The farmers having assisted the political gentry to achieve the objects they represented to be essential to the protection of agriculture, might have expected some intimation of the way out of their present labyrinth. They are discontented and exasperated by the failure of the protective system, and seek for information from their political leaders as to how it is all to end.

But there is one article of farming produce, and one only, which is selling well, and which, from so selling, will this year save many farmers from serious consequences; that article is wool. This only adds to the puzzlement in which the farmer has been involved by his political friends, for the abhorred principle of Free Trade has just been applied to wool. And with what result? Why, for the first six months of 1842, when wool was protected and the prices of English wool were at the very lowest point of depression, the quantity of foreign wool imported amounted to 15,342,343 lbs. only, while during the corresponding period of the present year, the first year of *Free Trade*, no less than 28,518,888 lbs. of foreign wool have been taken into consumption in this country. Still, with the large importation of foreign wool, the price of English wool has greatly risen!!! Thus, by means of protected produce, corn, the farmer is brought to the verge of ruin, from which he may be saved by the unprotected commodity, wool. This is enough to shake the faith of the farmers in the utility of protection, and it has more than shaken that faith with all the most intelligent of the body.

Yet all members of the farming class have been regarding the present season, when their county members and their landed grandees meet them at agricultural meetings, with anxious expectation. Some anticipated a new panacea for their present distress, and all wished to hear whether the landowners regard the actual condition of tenant-farmers as the sequel of the protectionist agitation. With these feelings farmers, who heartily despise the silliness of the county agricultural associations, have gone in great numbers to the dinners of such meetings; and they are there told by the landed magnates, who a few short months since were so rampant on the question of protection, that the rules of the associations forbid the introduction of politics! Not long since "protection" was not a political question. All sects of politicians—Whigs, Tories, Radicals, and Chartists—were invoked to protect "native industry." Whence this change? Simply because all the promises of the landed monopolists have failed, all their prophecies have been falsified, and their deluded victims, the farmers, are now paying the penalty of their folly in listening to men who have deceived them so often. The monopolists have no explanation, no plausible excuse to offer for the present state of things, and hence they shelter themselves by the subterfuge of "no politics." We know that farmers view such conduct with mixed sentiments of indignation and contempt; and justly, for when the political landowners have any personal or party objects to serve, this rule of "no politics" is as easily broken as lovers' vows.

A striking instance of this conduct occurred at the *Herts Agricultural Meeting*, held at St. Alban's on Wednesday last, where, according to the *Post*, some 300 persons sat down to dinner. Nowhere were the monopolist landlords more unmeasured and unreasoning, during the short-lived fever of the protectionist agitation, than in Hertfordshire; and in this very town of St Alban's some of the wildest and most incoherent nonsense anywhere used in support of the Corn Laws was uttered by the Hertfordshire gentry. Their determination to uphold monopoly, at all times and in all places, was invincible. Their opposition to Free Trade, and especially to the importation of foreign corn, was immoveable. Their hatred towards Free-Traders was unextinquishable. Then nobody talked for the Corn Laws more sillily than Lord Grimston; no one raved more furiously for short commons than Mr. Dudley Ryder. Now, to talk about protection is to infringe the rule of "no politics." What a change has come over the spirit of these men's dreams! Both have since given in their adhesion to Free Trade—in wool; what they say about corn we shall see presently. On the other hand, never were the questions which affect the condition of the farmer so much discussed and thought of as by the tenant-farmers on the show-ground in the morning. Much speculation was hazarded as to how the landed grandees would account for the existing state of things. Hence the large assembly at the dinner. The chairman, Lord Verulam, after stating that "these societies held out an inducement to agricultural labourers to become good servants, and stimulated their employers to become good masters"—at which every farmer present must have uttered to himself, "Fudge!"—said:—"This was a matter entirely dissevered from politics, and, *indeed, it was one of their rules that all political disquisitions should be avoided.* He hoped that feeling would prevail on that occasion," and so forth. This was a short way of escaping awkward explanations. Next Lord Grimston said, that "he considered these agricultural societies did a vast deal of real and *bonâ fide* good at once,"—how choice the language!—and that "they acted as a stimulus for exertion on the part of the farmers to produce good stock and good crops, and actuated the agricultural labourers also to equal exertion in the development of the produce of the soil! He (the labourer) *was full of hope*, and he (Lord Grimston) hoped that the establishment of agricultural societies generally *would be an incentive to hard labour*, and that not only they, but the whole community, would reap the fruit of that labour." Surely, in the present state of the Hertfordshire labourers, it was little short of mockery to talk of hope in connexion with them. Hope for them does not exist so long as the monopolists can succeed in upholding the Corn Laws.

Then, how profoundly ignorant of the springs of human action is this monopolist member for Herts! Farmers stimulated to exertion by such a miserable exhibition as that of St. Alban's, or labourers at 9s. a week, and sometimes half employed, "actuated to develop the produce of the soil," are notions so absurd that none but those whose intellects have remained in the schoolboy state could have seriously propounded them. These local societies are supported by two sets of persons, with different objects: the one consists of a few topping farmers and farming squires, who, having good stock, like to exhibit them to their neighbours and obtain the credit and glory of carrying off two and five pound prizes, where, in fact, there is no real competition. These men treat the agricultural associations as playthings: they are few in number, and have not been led to keep good stock by the societies' prizes, nor are they likely through the societies to influence other farmers by their example. The other and more numerous class of supporters of these societies are the political squires and landed magnates, who use them as instruments to serve their own party or selfish purposes. Here they sometimes lash their foolish dupes amongst the farmers into an agony of terror lest they should lose a shilling a quarter on the price of wheat by a Free Trade in corn; while at another time, when such topics might be inconvenient—when a fall in prices might lead the minds of the most gullable farmers to the idea that as prices had fallen, so

ought rents—they exclaim with prudish horror, "No politics."

But if one member's speech was unmeaning, that of the other, Mr. G. D. Ryder's, will be sufficiently significant to the observant agriculturist who has been taught to rely on "protection" for profit. Mr. Ryder said:—

"That these agricultural societies were of the greatest benefit to the whole community, *inasmuch as they tended to encourage the production of the largest quantity and the best quality of the staple articles of human consumption.* (Hear, hear, hear.) The object of agricultural societies was to encourage the produce of as much English corn as possible, for it was obvious that if there was not a sufficiency of English corn to supply the population of the country, then they must depend on foreign countries for a supply; and he would ask, where was the Englishman who would not prefer corn grown on English soil to that grown in a foreign land? (Hear, hear.) *With an increasing population of* 120,000 *per annum, if England did not increase in the produce of her wheat in an equal proportion, no alternative was left to them but to get their corn from abroad.*"

We all recollect this gentleman's short turn from a thorough monopolist to a Free-Trader on the wool question, and can any farmer doubt that he is now preparing himself for a similar gyration on the Corn-Law question? And then he declared that farmers must have leases if they are expected to improve their systems:—

"He thought that *great alterations were necessary in the present system, to render agriculture that assistance which it required. He must say that he thought the present mode of letting farms might be improved.* (Cries of 'Hear.') If, as under present circumstances, *the tenant held a farm simply as tenant from year to year, it was utterly impossible that he could feel himself justified in expending several pounds per acre in improving his farm.* (Hear.) He (Mr. Ryder) *thought the time had arrived* when the landlords should be somewhat more liberal, when they should come forward and take measures which would make the land more productive. *This was not only necessary for the advantage of the tenantry, but to alleviate the distress which existed amongst the agricultural labourers.* He (Mr. Ryder), as chairman of the board of guardians of his district, could speak to this fact, and he would ask *if even now the farmers were compelled, in the month of September, to discharge their labourers, what was to become of them for several months to come?* These labourers were the same as themselves, both in the sight of God and man, *and the law of England said they must not starve.* He would suggest, therefore, that there was never a time so opportune when the landlords should step forward in such a way as would not only assist their tenantry, but at the same time give employment to the labourers."

Now, some of our friends might suspect that this corn monopolist and free-trade-in-wool member for Herts had been studying our columns, and had become a convert to the opinion that self-dependence is that which alone can bring permanent prosperity to the cultivators of the soil. We, however, make no claim to the merit of this conversion. The English of it all is this—Mr. Ryder who, for a county member, is not an unintelligent person, finds that, unless farmers can be induced to adopt a better system of husbandry than heretofore, rents must come down, and a mass of pauperised labourers will besides be thrown upon the land. Monopoly has failed to keep up prices, and God's bounty—so unnatural is the operation of the Corn Laws—has reduced farmers of this country to the very verge of ruin. Mr. Ryder sees what the rest of his class will see ere long, that the game of monopoly is up; that high rents by the agency of bad farming and short crops are at an end, and that henceforth tenant and landlord must look to large produce both for profit and rent. We are glad to see even one protectionist coming to his senses and talking rationally on this question; but what will the farmers, who have been cheated and deluded, ay, and ruined during thirty years of monopoly, say to those who have led them this will-o'-the-wisp dance, and now coolly turn round and reiterate all which the advocates of Free-Trade have asserted with reference to the necessities of agriculture?

INCREASED VALUE OF LAND.

WHO HAS GOT THE LION'S SHARE?

Amongst the many significant symptoms of the spread of Free-Trade opinions which are now constantly appearing in various directions was the dinner of the *Wheathamsted Free-Trade Club*, which took place on last Wednesday se'nnight. Wheathamsted is a mere village in Hertfordshire, situate in a district exclusively agricultural, and in the very centre of the influence of the land-owning monopolists of that county; yet there were no less than forty intelligent persons assembled to promote the cause of "Free Trade." The chairman on the occasion was that consistent advocate of Free Trade, Mr. C. Lattimore, who during an excellent speech, in introducing the toast, "Commercial freedom all over the world," made the following comparative statement of the present value of a farm with its value nearly a century ago:—

"He thought that it was for want of attention to the amount of rental and tithes at the present day, compared with what it was sixty or seventy years ago, that the situation of the agriculturist was not understood. At that time there was a bounty of 5s. per quarter on wheat, and of 2s. 6d. on barley,—and if they considered these facts together, and then compared them with the present state of things, they would find there was very little mystery in the matter. *He held in his hands one of those very rare documents—a twenty-one years' lease—as rare as a black swan.* (*Laughter and cheers.*) This was a very rare and *unique* document; it was the lease of a farm within the parish of Wheathamsted, granted the 7th of October, 1748, by Mr. Thomas Garrard, of Mackery End; the terms were exceedingly fair, and evinced much of that good old English feeling which, he was sorry to say, was now nearly extinct. (Cheers.) There was no clause in the lease containing any mention of a penalty, or at most a very slight one, *and there was no mention made of the accursed game system.* (Cheers.) Could the present owner of that land say as much now? (Hear.) It provided for the interest of the tenant, as well as that of the landlord—and the rental was, for the first three years, £130, and for the remaining period to 1769, £140. He had been told by those acquainted with the fields specified in this document, that the extent of land was 300 acres, *so that the rental was 9s. per acre; and the tithe, from the best information he could obtain, was 2s per acre, which, added to the rental, would make the whole 11s. per acre. Now, the average price of wheat from* 1701 *to* 1766 *(which included the period for which the lease was granted) was* 32s. 1d. *per quarter. The average at the present time was about* 44s., *so that the difference in the price of wheat in the two periods was somewhere about* 25 *per cent.* Now, he came to speak about the rent of the same land at the present time; *the rent was about* 24s. *per acre, and the tithe charge was about* 6s. 6d. *per acre.* (A voice, 'You underrate it.') Well, he wished to be under the mark; he never wished to be over the mark in any of his statements, for that was a bad way of advocating a good cause. (A voice, '*They* are a good deal over the mark.') *Well, then, they had seen that the difference in the price of wheat, at the period of the* black-swan *lease and the present time, was only* 25 *per cent., while the increase in the fixed burden was about* 200 *per cent. There now, they saw what had become of the labour fund.* (Immense cheering.) They always found that, in discussing these subjects, a great deal of soreness was evinced by some persons when they came to *the rent*—but true it was that all the demands he had enumerated had to be satisfied before one shilling could be devoted to remunerating the skill and industry and capital of the cultivators of the soil. (Cheers.) He did not find fault with the landlord to whom the farm alluded to belonged making as much of his land as he could; but he did find fault with him for having, after that, endeavoured to injure a tenant for daring to think and act independently. (Cheers.) *He had now stated one of the causes why the remuneration of the farmer and the farm-labourer was so unequal to that which in justice they had a right to expect;* and, if protection societies would take such items as he had given into their consideration, they might then arrive at some conclusion as to the right method of making agriculture prosperous. That would never be accomplished until the Corn Laws were repealed—and then agriculture would adjust itself, and they would see a few more of these black swans in the neighbourhood."

Now, this is the sort of comparison which will be made wherever agriculturists and dwellers in rural districts fairly and fully discuss the operation of the Corn Laws on the condition of the farmer and farm-labourer. Everywhere it will be found that the value of land has increased enormously during the last century, and that in most cases the whole of that increase, and in many instances more, has gone into the pockets of the landlord.

The land has, undoubtedly, become more productive, but by whose capital—with whose sweat and toil has it been rendered so? Surely that of the farmers and the labourers. Landowners have ridden into wealth upon the shoulders of the industrious agriculturists, and then they have sought to appropriate to themselves, by means of the Corn Laws, a most undue share of the produce of the soil. At this moment the landlord is literally devouring the farmer and the labourer, for he is taking as rent the fund from which the profit of the one and the wages of the other should be derived.

At the same meeting, the Rev. Thomas Gilbert stated:

"He was much gratified to see so numerous a body of intelligent men present on this gratifying occasion, and he felt convinced that, although their numbers were comparatively small, they included a large majority of the men of intellect in the neighbourhood. *They knew well, and there was some pleasure even in this, that there were many who would rejoice to join their ranks if they dared.*"

We know that farmers are becoming daily more and more disgusted with the Corn Laws, the evils of which are now so obvious; and though many are restrained by habitual deference to their landlords, and by other motives, from avowing their sentiments, the monopolists are well aware that their influence over the farmers is rapidly waning.

AGRICULTURAL REVELATIONS.

The reports of meetings of those landlord-created clubs called agricultural associations now come upon us so thickly that we can scarcely find space to notice at the moment half the remarkable things which are there said and done. However, most of them tell, in substance, the same tale, namely, that the "protected" interest is the most helpless and distressed one of the whole community. The way in which this comes out fully confirms the arguments against monopoly which Free-Traders derive from the condition of agriculture and agriculturists. Amongst the recent meetings one of the most notable was that of the *Banbury Agricultural Association*, held on the 17th of September; and in the annual report of the committee of that society there are several passages which farmers will do well to treasure in their memory. After alluding to the progress of agricultural science, the report says:—

"Even the unaccountable drought which has prevailed during the year seems to have added a stimulus. Scarcely a month passes without the communication of some new fertilizer, *or some new provender, as if the goodness of Providence had ordained that they who strive should not be unrewarded.*"

Can those who penned that report avoid the conclusion that the law which excludes the best provender our stock could have, viz., beans, peas, oats, and so forth, and which imposes a heavy duty on oilcake, is a direct contravention of the ordinances of Providence and the dictates of common sense?

Again the report says:—

"The *growth of flax* was suggested by your worthy chairman as a means of supplying the deficiencies of other crops for which the demand is lessened by the introduction of railways. Your committee despatched a deputation from their body to inquire into the merits of the suggestion, a report was published, and it was followed up by a determination of several members of this association to adopt the plan. It has been partially acted upon, and some very fair crops of flax have been grown and secured, particularly when the drought of the season is taken into consideration. *In the course of next year it is understood to be the intention of many other farmers to have recourse to similar plantations.*"

Here farmers are advised to grow an article comparatively unprotected, to make good deficiencies caused by the growth of "protected" grain. How does that consist with monopolist theory?

Further on the

"Committee cannot refrain from adverting to the condition of the labouring classes; *they view with considerable alarm the great disinclination to give them employment apparent in many parishes.* It is true the very low prices of agricultural produce, on the one hand, and the deficiency of crops on the other, *make the situation of the farmer himself any thing but satisfactory, still, however, the poor are here and must be maintained, and it is become a question whether they shall be maintained in the workhouse, where they make no return, or on the land, where the benefit of their labour is felt.*"

True; but if the farmer's money goes for rent he cannot pay wages; while an increased poor rate forms at once a plea for a reduction of rent. This is the reason landowners are always in such a fright when labourers are likely to come upon the poor rates. The above passage bears evident impress of the landlord's hand. And the next more so, for it tries the now stale trick of asking the farmer to look to legislation for relief, when the report adds:—

"The answer is obvious. *Whether the farmer may not be relieved by some measure of the Government, may be worthy of consideration, for unquestionably the tendency of the measures of the present Ministers is to lower prices;* and low prices and high taxes cannot co-exist for any lengthened period."

However, the members having been prepared by this somewhat lugubrious report, went to dinner. As we are informed by the local newspapers:—

"The number who sat down was between 120 and 130. The president, Lieut.-Col. North, took the chair. Among those present were the Marquis of Bute; Lord Norreys and J. W. Henley, Esq., two of the county members; Colonel Cartwright, Henry George Hawtin, Esq., B. Aplin, Esq., Charles Brickwell, Esq., Henry Norris, Esq.; the Revs. John Ballard, W. C. Risley, F. Litchfield, Chas. Wyatt, Geo. Nelson, F. Clerke, C. Chichester, E. Paine, S. Y. Seagrave, and other clergymen; Messrs. Horwood, Jeffs, Hadland, Carpenter, White, Lovells, Pages, French, Gullivers, Neville, Stilgoe, White, Kilby, Boyes, Pearce, Wilsons, Greaves, Jones, Perkins, Barratt of Wicken, Cowper, Southam, Payne, Hitchcock, Godson, Gardners, and other eminent agriculturists; and of the townsmen, French, Potts, Goffe, Greaves, W. Rusher, Strange, Danby, Stanley, Barford, Hardwick, Ward, Merry, Abbotts, Floyd, Potter, Cowper, and others. As might be expected, there was a sprinkling of solicitors, *who would have been still happier than they appeared to be to have heard the probability of a revival of the good old custom of granting leases.*"

The necessity of leases has now become a canon in the agricultural creed; but the Corn Law forms the obstacle to the "revival of the good old custom."

The Marquis of Bute, the chairman, and the earlier speakers dealt chiefly in compliments to each other, and eulogies on the society as rewarding "male and female servants, not only for their skill in agriculture, but for remaining many years in the service of one master." This must be deemed mere cant in the mouths of those who cling to a law which restricts the demand for farm-servants, and lessens the value of their wages. Lord Norreys, *this year*, admitted the prudence of the chairman who had last year pulled him (Lord Norreys) up when entering upon politics. The Corn-Law question is just now an awkward one to discuss on protectionist principles before the farmers, and therefore monopolist M.P.'s take shelter under the plea of "no politics." But would not the farmers like one or two knotty points explained? As, for instance, how rents calculated according to act-of-Parliament prices are to be paid when real prices are 20 per cent. lower?

"Colonel Cartwright gave a brief account of a journey of 1000 miles which a friend and himself had made on the Continent. Leaving their partialities in favour of English agriculture behind them at Dover, they looked right and left, *and he could confidently repeat that the best of foreign farming was only on a par with the worst of English.* There were, however, some points which he could speak well of. The first was irrigation; and there they seemed as fond of getting water on their land as people were here of getting it off. *As to manure, that was most carefully collected and preserved, while an English farmer was generally most negligent in the matter.* In this country manure was to be seen on the side of the road, the essence draining down the ditches; and he even remembered a gentleman's bailiff putting a heap on the very road itself. *Stall-feeding cattle was more in use than in England; even in summer the cattle were stall-fed, much after the manner of cow-feeding near London, where every bit of grass the cow had was carried to her.*"

Yet with their inferior husbandry the unprotected farmers of the Continent make a living, while here the farmers only strive to pay high rents, often out of their own capital. And Mr. Boyes accounted for the seeming negligence of English farmers in regard to manures, and so forth, by saying:—

"He admitted the charge of negligence against the English farmer in the article of manure; but Colonel Cartwright must bear in mind *that in no country in the world are the homesteads so bad as they are in England.* (Hear, hear.) *On the Continent there was every convenience for stall-feeding, while in this country they were neglected by landlords as well as tenants; the landlords did not afford the conveniences they ought in proper homesteads for stall-feeding.*"

That was a home thrust for the son of the absent monopolist member, and to the assembled monopolists present! And the Rev. Francis Litchfield, himself an active protectionist, said:—

"He agreed with Mr. Boyes that the homesteads generally were not what they ought to be; and, talking before the wealthy of the land, *he would say that their land might be greatly improved by improving their homesteads;* but unfortunately the management of estates was not sufficiently looked to by the owners, but often left to the management of subordinates, *whose only thoughts are to make rents, and not to lay out money, either for the benefit of the landlord or tenant.* Houses should be built, barn added to barn, hovel to hovel, by landlords, *until every homestead shall be adapted to, and sufficient for, the farms from which they are receiving their rents.* A tenant on a well-arranged farm is better able to pay his rent, and he will do it with more heart and willingness. *It was of*

no use making and hearing of speeches on these occasions, without we think and consider of what we have heard when we have left."

This lets out the whole secret of the landowners' anxiety for high prices, by means of which they obtain rents four and five times higher than their predecessors of a century ago received, while the homesteads of their tenants have undergone no improvement whatever, unless the tenants have themselves improved their homesteads, and then, perhaps, have been charged a still higher rent. Mr. Litchfield also referred to the labourers' prospect :—

"He spoke of the coming winter, and the finding of employment, and that the best way of promoting the welfare of the poor was to encourage the poor in habits of industry. Labour was certainly redundant; *but he would say that money laid out judiciously in labour was the best investment.* He would remind the farmer that his labourer was not a wandering mechanic; he was bound to one spot, and the farmer must, in some way or other, support him. *No greater calamity could happen to an industrious labourer than to make him an idle man;* an idle man was a bad example to his children, and the example of an idle man was often the foundation of an idle generation. You say you don't want a labourer; but the time may come when you may want him, nay, must have him; *in the meantime, therefore, make his habits as good and perfect as you can, and continue him in them, that when you do want the man you may find him the man you want. Don't send the industrious labourer to break stones on the road, nobody asking, nobody caring what he does: such a practice undermines his habits, and has often ended in making an industrious labourer an idle and ruined man.* He (the rev. gentleman) had no disinclination to see men employed on the roads, *under proper superintendence, at fair wages:* bad roads were false policy; the saving of employing three horses instead of four was something, and the employment of labour on roads gave a profitable return not often thought of."

None admit all this more fully than the farmers; but with monopoly rents, uncertain tenures, and natural prices, how can they employ the labourers?

But the truth-telling speech of the evening was, as usual, that of a farmer, Mr. William Hadland, who said :—

"From many farmers, and particularly the smaller occupiers, *from what he* (Mr. Hadland) *knew, and from what he had heard,* THEIR LANDLORDS WERE TAKING THAT MONEY WHICH OUGHT TO GO TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE POOR. (*Hear, hear.*) Many of the rack-renting tenantry, unless the gentry come forward and give them time or allowances in the payment of their rents, must be ruined. *He would repeat that in many cases if the landlord was paid, the labourer could not be employed.*"

And every farmer, in every part of the country, who thinks fit to speak out, will unhesitatingly tell the same tale. It seems, however, that Mr. Hadland's dose was rather too strong for the sqirearchal stomach, for he is recorded to have been imperfectly heard, and the meeting was immediately after brought to a somewhat hasty conclusion.

FAITH AGAINST FACTS.

It is surprising how an individual, or a class, having submitted to believe in an error, "*hugs* the dear delusion to the last." Thus, in a leader of the *Morning Post* not many weeks since, we find the following passage :—

"Nothing is more evident than that the permanent establishment of a moderate *but efficient protective system would of itself give such an impulse to agricultural operations* as must put the country, even in unfavourable seasons, altogether beyond the necessity of importations of food from abroad."

Why, the *Post's* faith beats that of the followers of the Veil'd Prophet of Khorassan, as described by Moore. Have not the monopolists tried every imaginable "protective system" from the year 1815 until this day? And are not all the landed men of the nation now vigorously engaged in bribing the farmers by prizes and promises to take the very first steps towards good husbandry?

THE GAME LAWS IN FRANCE.—A conductor of the Messageries Royales appeared before the Correctional Police recently, on a charge of having, before the shooting season was opened, brought on his diligence a basket from Nantes containing two rabbits. For the defence it was alleged that the basket was marked "Fowls," and that the diligence company had no right to examine what the parcels committed to its charge did or did not contain; that, in addition, the shooting season had commenced at Nantes at the time the rabbits were transmitted. For the accusation the King's advocate argued that the Court had nothing to do with the measures taken or not taken by the company to ensure a proper observance of the law, and that it was not the locality from which the game was despatched, but that to which it was sent, where it was necessary to have the shooting-season open. The Court found the defendant guilty, and condemned him to 50f. fine and costs, making the company responsible for its payment.

MIDHURST.—The Earl of Egmont, who purchased the Cowdray estate about two years ago, very liberally made an abatement last year of 10 per cent. from his rents, in consequence, as his lordship then said, of the low prices of agricultural produce. At his audit on Monday, the 9th inst., the noble earl put on the 10 per cent. again, although he has filled the farms full of game and gamekeepers, producing such havoc among the corn as has never been seen hereabouts. Indeed, the farmers all agree in saying that since Lord Egmont has had the estate they are full 20 per cent. higher rented, taking the game, &c., into consideration; and they say that if he continues his present course they must all be ruined. This treatment of the tenantry is not, however, without its effects, for the eyes of the farmers are beginning to open. Some already wish the Corn Law was abolished, being now convinced that it is of no use to them. Many of the tenants would not go to the dinner, and speak both of landlord and his steward in no very measured terms; and, when the landlord's health was given, it is said that many among those who were present would neither "whoop nor hollos," while some few turned their glasses up with an unsavory expression which we care not to record. Such an audit, with such long faces and such discontent, is not within the memory of man on the Cowdray estate; and, to mend the matter, the noble lord has turned miller, and has, through his agent, just taken *the contract to supply the Eastbourne Union Workhouse with bread!!!* —*Brighton Guardian, Sept.* 18.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The acrostic on the name of Dan O'Connell is received, but we cannot insert it on account of its political bearing.

The letter of James Humphreys is hardly suited to our columns.

"A Borderer," writing from Liverpool, denies that the hinds' houses in Berwickshire deserve the name of *sheds*, as applied to them by "One who has whistled at the Plough." Will the "Borderer," or any other person acquainted with Berwickshire, favour us with a description of the hinds' houses? If so, he should state the dimensions, breadth, length, height, and the *conveniences* attached to them.

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

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POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, September* 28, 1844.

The daily papers contain an account of the meeting of the *Lichfield and Midland Counties' Agricultural Association,* of which Sir Robert Peel is president; and where he last year delivered the celebrated Tamworth speech which spread so much alarm amongst the monopolists. This year Col. Anson presided, in Sir Robert Peel's absence, and the affair was more tame than such meetings usually are. The great man was expected, but he came not, neither did he send any excuse. The recent illness of his daughter even could not, according to the chairman's apology upon hypothesis, be made to account for his absence, and the "duties of office" were perforce taken as the reason. But Sir Robert Peel is one of those men who never cross the street without some considered purpose, and we may be quite sure that if silence upon agricultural matters had not been most convenient to her Majesty's Administration, Sir Robert Peel would have found leisure from the "duties of office," to discuss guano, hares, rabbits, and Birmingham bulls this year as well as last. This silence is an ominous sign for the monopolists; and another, still more so, will be found in the startling articles which, during the week, the *Times* newspaper has directed against landlord and sugar-plum patronage of agriculture. The only remarkable thing said at this *Lichfield* meeting was Lord Hatherton's reference to an increased employment of children in agriculture, as an improvement at once beneficial to the farmer and the labouring classes; a curious illustration of the landlord-directed imputations against the employment of children in manufactures. His lordship said—

"He had had the opportunity last year of seeing in practical operation a system, the advantage of which had presented itself to his mind long ago. He had visited the Duke of Bedford, and his attention had been directed *to two sets of boys employed in picking stones, hoeing turnips, dibbling wheat, and other occupations in which women were generally employed.* He then formed the intention of establishing the same system upon his own farm, but he found that his steward, Mr. Bright, had been beforehand with him, *and there were now* 130 *boys so employed upon his farm, and the profit derived from their labour was greater than what the former system yielded.* Where women were employed, the children were unavoidably left without that maternal care which was so indispensable to their well-being, but by the system of employing boys, not only was this evil prevented, but the work was better executed. *The mother was then enabled to attend to the education of her young children, and the moral effect of the stimulus thus given to education was very great. He recommended the subject to the attention of all great farmers.* The credit of introducing the system rested with the Duke of Bedford, but its general adoption would be productive of the greatest possible benefit to families and to parishes."

This is all very well, and there can be no doubt that the only way in which large numbers of boys or women can be usefully employed in agriculture, is in sets *under strict and competent superintendence;* but, in order to exempt mothers of families amongst the rural labourers from field labour, the wages of the father of the family must be enhanced. The Corn Laws and the system engrafted upon them form, however, the chief obstacle to all enhancement of agricultural wages.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.—The *Journal des Débats* publishes the terms of the treaty now finally settled between the French Government and the Emperor of Morocco. He undertakes to outlaw Abdel Kader, and employ every means in his power to expel him from his dominions; or, should he fall into his hands, to confine him to one of the towns in the interior of Morocco. The Moorish chiefs who violated the Algerine territory are to be punished; the army on the frontier, under the command of the Caid of Ouchda, is not to consist of more than 2000 men; and the boundaries are to be the same as they were when the Turks held possession of Algiers. A new commercial treaty has been prepared, which will form the subject of future negotiations; meanwhile France is to be placed on the footing of the most favoured nations. The *Moniteur* announces the promotion of the Prince de Joinville to the rank of vice-admiral. The title of Duke d'Isly has been conferred by Royal ordinance on Marshal Bugeaud.

The Hospital steamer Cerbère arrived on the 18th inst. at Toulon from Algiers, which port she left on the 15th. She brought 255 passengers, 90 of whom were sick soldiers from the hospitals at Algiers. She has also brought cases containing the tents of the son of the Emperor of Morocco taken at the battle of Isly.

The *Revue de Paris* announces that the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London had written a most respectful letter to the King of the French, inviting him to an entertainment in the City. "The King," it says, "was extremely grateful for this mark of attention on the part of that celebrated corporation, but declined accepting the invitation, on account of his health and the shortness of his stay in England. His Majesty would have gone to London had it been possible to avoid the ceremony of a formal reception. The King wishes that, in the present circumstances, his journey to England should preserve the character of a mere visit from one Sovereign to another."

SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS.—The twelfth session of the Scientific Congress has just finished at Nismes, after its seventh sitting. The Congress voted the following recommendations to the Government:—A pension fund for workmen—an irrigation bill—the execution of the laws relating to workmen's *livrets*—the creation of a special ministry for agriculture—the alleviation of the wine trade—the suppression of the title of *officier de sante*—and the immediate abolition of negro slavery.

FRENCH NAVY.—The *Courrier Français* states that there are now building in the different French ports twenty-three ships of the line, nineteen frigates, two brigs, three schooners, and ten transports and store-ships, besides six steam-frigates, of 450 and 550 horse-power, eleven steam-corvettes of 220 to 320 horse-power, and seven smaller steam-ships of 80 to 160 horse-power.

THE KING OF THE FRENCH ON PEACE.—The *Journal du Cher* publishes the following speech, purporting to have been addressed by the King to M. Larochefoucauld Liancourt, who presented to him, as President of the Society of Christian Morality, various addresses forwarded to him by the English and American Societies for the Preservation of Peace :—"I am happy to receive these addresses, and feel particularly gratified to find that our American friends should do justice to the pains I have taken to maintain the general peace of Europe. There is no advantage in making war, even when a nation has attained the object for which it has fought, because ultimately the losses are always greater than the gains. I have ever professed that principle: when I was in America, 40 years ago, I was often asked to propose toasts at public dinners, and I almost invariably expressed the wish that universal and permanent peace should exist among all nations. I was then exiled from my country, and my anxious desire was that it should enjoy peace and happiness. This is what caused me to adopt that salutary precept. I could not then foresee that I should be called upon one day to exert my influence and act myself in favour of that great cause. May the Almighty accord me the maintenance of peace! War appears to me a malediction; and war in Europe, between civilized nations, I regard as an absurdity; if the smaller states desired it we should prevent them; and as peace between the great powers becomes daily more consolidated I hope, if I live a few years longer, that a general war in Europe will have become impossible."

According to letters from Rome of the 9th inst., the Pope had signed on the preceding day the dispensations necessary previous to the union of the Duke d'Aumale with Princess Caroline of Naples, his cousin-german.

The *Moniteur* contains a despatch from Rear-Admiral Gourbeyre, Governor of Guadaloupe, in which the damage occasioned by the late fire at La Basseterre is estimated at 2,500,000f. It had been ascertained that the fire broke out accidentally, and that no lives were lost.

A letter from Gibraltar of the 11th states that the frigate Belle Poule and three steamers sailed on that day for Mogadore, to take on board the French garrison left on that island. On the 12th the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires was to proceed in the Christina frigate to Tangiers, to terminate finally all the differences between Spain and Morocco,

SPAIN.—Letters from Bayonne of the 18th speak of the probability of an outbreak in the northern provinces. They state that several roving bands of desperadoes, calling themselves Carlists, have made their appearance in the mountains of Catalonia, and commit all sorts of outrages. These desperadoes will be soon amply provided with arms, for ten thousand muskets were landed on the 11th, near Barcelona, under a fire from Fort Monjuich. However, the contrabandistas managed to effect their object.

PORTUGAL.—One of those sudden and terrible falls of rain which make Portugal at times resemble the tropics occurred on the 3rd inst. in the Douro district. A cloud opened over Pelagao, and a torrent of water came down in a rush all abreast, not like rain, but a waterspout. Gardens, fields, and vineyards, were instantaneously swept away. The river of Povoa was swollen at once to such a height that five masons who were constructing a wall on its banks were hurried to eternity in the same instant. Their bodies were swept away with the speed of a whirlwind, and only two have been since discovered. The bridge of Povoa and all the neighbouring walls and boundaries were merged in a common destruction. Other lives were lost in different localities, but the sphere of the disaster was fortunately limited.

The Azores now rival Madeira and the north of Portugal in the eagerness with which the miserable inhabitants emigrate to Brazil, and there sell themselves into substantial slavery for a term of years, bringing with them no money nor means of subsistence. St. Michael's is especially notable for this gloomiest of self-transportations, but not more so than the northern provinces of Portugal. Thus it is in the best wine and fruit districts that the greatest misery prevails. In Madeira the finest wines are unsaleable at two or three dollars the barrel. To this outcry of nature for a reduced tariff with England is added much insecurity of life and property through the Douro district, where highway robbers now prowl in great numbers. A gang of 24 lately attacked several properties near Oporto, and only one of the number was arrested. —*Times.*

VIENNA.—The *Berlin State Gazette* states that there will be an exhibition of the products of industry next year at Vienna, but that it will be confined to the manufactures of Austria, whereas the Berlin exhibition includes the products of the whole of Germany. The Emperor of

Austria intends, it is said, to create a special order of merit for the manufacturers who shall be declared worthy of it, and the possessor of the decoration will be declared noble, but his nobility is not to be hereditary.

A letter from Munich, of the 13th, states that a company of English capitalists is now there, with the intention of establishing manufactories on a large scale.

The *Augsburg Gazette* states from Berlin that there is great probability of Bohemia joining the German Customs Union, but that the arrangement will in the first instance be made for a period of only five years.

THE ASSASSIN TSECH.—A correspondent writes, on the 16th instant, from Berlin:—"The announcement made a fortnight ago by the German journals, that Tsech had been condemned to be broken on the wheel, was premature, the judgment, in fact, not having been passed till the day before yesterday. The sentence is, however, the same, being the severest existing upon our code, and is commonly inflicted upon men convicted of one of the four following crimes, viz., an attempt upon the life of the King, high treason, parricide, and the murder of a Christian ecclesiastic exercising his functions in Prussia. Tsech received the notification of his sentence with perfect calmness, declined exercising his right of appeal, and has since not only retained an imperturbable indifference, but even assumed a haughty and arrogant demeanour. It is, however, reported that an *ex officio* appeal will be laid before the Royal Court of Berlin."

HANOVER.—A letter from Hanover states, that, in consequence of the numerous perjuries which have taken place in the courts of justice of that country, orders have been given by the Minister of Justice that in future no oath shall be administered except in the presence of a member of the clergy, who is to remind the person about to take it of the solemn nature of the obligation.

The *Hanoverian Journal* of the 18th inst. brings accounts of a dreadful fire at Clausthat (a town of 10,000 inhabitants), which took place on the night of the 15th. 1200 or 1300 dwelling-houses, and as many outbuildings, including many public institutions, were destroyed. Above 3000 persons are without shelter, and the loss of property cannot be less than 300,000 dollars.

BRUSSELS, Sept. 19.—There have been some disturbances at Verviers; some hundred persons of the working classes of that manufacturing town left their work for a time; they assembled in the square, broke some windows and cried "Down with the Jesuits!" under the windows of some of the principal inhabitants, whom they supposed to be favourable to that religious order. It appears that the disturbances have been put an end to, and some persons arrested.

The Paris *Globe* states that the Commercial Council of the Zollverein had rejected the treaty lately concluded with Belgium, because it did not contain terms sufficiently advantageous for the Union, particularly as respected the harbour of Antwerp.

TAHITI.—We have been favoured with the following extract of a letter, dated Valparaiso, May 31:—"I write in haste, as a vessel sails to-morrow morning. Mrs. Pritchard and family arrived here this afternoon in great distress and trouble at not finding her husband at this place. Tahiti is still in a dreadful state. The French seized Mrs. Sammon, the Queen's cousin, taking her for Pomare, took her on board the Uranie, when they found out their mistake. They also stole a man's wife, and took her on board a frigate; eight of her relations stormed a fort and killed 20 men. The French say the fort was stormed by 300 natives, who killed two men and wounded five, losing 15 of their own. In another action the Tahitians killed 90 French, losing 100 themselves, besides 109 muskets and 16 old guns, mounted on cocoa-nut logs, but taking two pieces of artillery from the French, who were conducted to a pass by Henry, son of the missionary. The Tahitians were led by two Englishmen, who were killed. The French have been awfully handled, having lost altogether upwards of 400 killed and wounded, amongst the former six officers, one of whom is the first-lieutenant of the steamer, which, it is said, when going along the shore, killed upwards of 100 natives; however, the French governor has had enough of it, and has issued a proclamation, to say he will not attack any more. A Tahitian, in the last agonies of death, threw a stone at M. Bruat, which missed him. It is said they (the French) have taken a lieutenant of the Hazard, and have been playing all sorts of games. It is also reported the troops refused to fight; 17 deserted one day and six the next, but two of them being caught were shot. These deserters, with some English and Americans, are of great service to the natives."—*Falmouth Packet.*

THE AFRICAN GUANO TRADE.—A letter, dated Sunday, received at Liverpool on Tuesday, from Falmouth, contains a statement of a very extraordinary character, the truth of which there seems no reason to doubt. It is as follows:—"The Sam Slick, of London, arrived off here (Falmouth), reports that Mr. W. Vaughan, master of the merchant brig Courier, of London, having touched at Bathurst (Gambia) on the 15th of June, whence the Sam Slick sailed on the 7th of August, made a declaration to the authorities there that nearly the whole of that vessel's crew, as well as the master, and some of the seamen of the bark Margaret, of London, including the captain, had been captured by the Moors at Arguin, upon the western coast of Africa, where they had gone to procure guano. Seven men, including the chief mate of the Courier, had been killed. The Africanus, of London, Captain Iremonger, lying off Portendick having heard of the tragedy, had ransomed a party of nine persons, including the captain of the Margaret, for £300; and six of the party arrived at Bathurst on the 6th of August, including the captain of the Margaret. Three remained behind, unable to travel in consequence of their wounds. The captain of the Margaret was three months in captivity."—*Manchester Guardian.*

SHIPWRECK OF THREE EAST INDIAMEN, AND LOSS OF LIFE.—Within the last two or three days much attention has been excited at the melancholy accounts recently received at Lloyd's, of the dreadful shipwrecks of several noble vessels while on their voyage to and from Bombay and China to England, attended with sacrifice of human life. The ships in question are the Candahar, an Indiaman, 612 tons burden; the Royal Admiral, a bark, 414 tons burden; the Columbia, a schooner, 180 tons burden, laden with treasures and jewels; the Amelia, of Sydney; and the Camaien, an East India packet ship, 388 tons burden, trading between Liverpool and Calcutta, all of which, we regret to state, with their rich cargoes, estimated at an enormous amount, are irrecoverably lost.

THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA.—The following appears in the *Courrier Français*:—"We learn, from a source upon which we can confidently rely, that the hopes which have been entertained relative to the cutting of the Isthmus of Panama cannot be realized. M. Garella is returned from making his survey, and the result of it is that the isthmus rises between the two oceans not merely to the height of ten yards above the level of the sea, as stated by the Franco-Grenadine Company, but in reality to 125 yards: so that, instead of a single trench or canal without any sluice, which would have been an artificial strait, as we had been given by the company's engineers to expect, nothing can be thonght of less than a canal with 60 locks, divided between its two sides. M. Garella is a distinguished mining engineer, employed by the French Government to verify the levels taken by the Franco-Grenadine Company."

ALEXANDRIA, Sept. 6.—Last week the first Government public auction of the new crops of Egyptian produce took place. The wheat fetched an average price, equivalent to 16s. 9d. per imperial quarter, and the beans 12s. 10d. per quarter, free on board, without freight. The wheat is fine and abundant. The crop of beans will be deficient, but the quality is excellent. Sesame seed found buyers for only a small portion of what was offered for sale, as the upset price was too high; and as this seed cannot be delivered before the end of the year, with interest &c., it will not cost less than 45s. per quarter free on board. Linseed is to be had in abundance from private hands, and fair quality may be obtained at about 28s. 6d. per quarter free on board. The crop of lentils is very small, and there will be very little for exportation this year. No important transaction has lately been made in cotton, the last sale being a lot of 500 bales of raw quality, at 7½ dollars per cantar. For selected qualities 8¾ dollars are asked. Yesterday there was to have been an auction of 5000 bales of the Viceroy's cotton, but his Highness suddenly changed his mind, having probably been induced to do so by interested parties, who are naturally anxious to get rid of their own stocks first. The Pacha has now upwards of 50,000 bales of cotton in store. British shipping is very much in demand.—*Correspondent of the Times.*

DOMESTIC.

The national banquet to Mr. O'Connell and the other liberated traversers took place at Dublin on Thursday the 19th instant, in the Music-hall. About 800 sat down to dinner. Mr. Smith O'Brien presided, and was supported by nearly all the eminent leaders of the Repeal movement. On Mr. O'Connell's health being proposed, the cheering for the honourable member was more than usually enthusiastic. His speech responding to the toast consisted of the usual topics, and was rapturously applauded throughout.

The weekly meeting of the Repeal Association was held on Monday at Conciliation Hall, which was densely crowded. Mr. F. Cumming, ex-justice of the peace, presided. Mr. O'Connell in the course of his speech stated, that the committee to whom the consideration of the question of holding the meeting at Clontarf had been referred, were of opinion that it was unnecessary, as the principle had been already vindicated. Further time, he said, would be needed to consider the formation of the Preservative Society. He thought it right again to state, that all Federalists were admissible to the association. Mr. Grey Porter had promised to mature his scheme of Federalism by next Christmas; and he (Mr. O'Connell) declared his readiness to acquiesce in any plan which would secure the people self-government. Referring to the question of impeachment, he said, he had a work now nearly ready detailing all the events of the trial; and when it was completed and published, he would then test the English people to see whether they would unite with the Irish people in demanding inquiry. The rent for the week was announced to be £600. 12s. 6d.

On Wednesday last Dr. Maunsell, a Conservative, brought forward, in the Dublin Corporation, a motion for an address to the Crown to convene a Parliament every third year in Dublin. The motion had no seconder, and therefore fell to the ground.

On Sunday evening a wherry containing nine persons was run down on the river, opposite Millwall, by the Ariel, a Woolwich steam-boat; a man named John Haywood perished; the other eight were all rescued.

On Saturday evening the granary of Mr. Silverstone, of Saxham, Suffolk, was set fire to, and before it could be got under, two large bean-stacks, a quantity of barley and barley rakings were consumed. This is said to be the third incendiary fire which has occurred in the parish within the last fortnight, and great fears are entertained that they are only the precursors of many others during the approaching winter.

On Sunday morning, a little before eight o'clock, a man named George Benson, a labourer, 22 years of age, was killed in a fight which took place by appointment, between him and a man named Henry Jones, aged 21, also a labourer, at a place much used for similar encounters on a Sunday morning, situate on the east side of the Kensington Canal.

A large and fine West Indiaman, the Codrington, belonging to the firm of Liggins and Co., arrived from the West Indies, and entered the Southampton Docks on Monday morning, to discharge her cargo of sugar. This is the first arrival in our docks of a West Indiaman homeward, and we hail it as the commencement of a new and extensive branch of trade at our port.—*Hampshire Independent.*

Great excitement has been caused in the town and neighbourhood of Reading, by a prophecy of some wandering fanatics, that the end of the world will be in the course of this year. Their frequent preachings have produced most mischievous effects on weakminded persons, not wholly confined to the uneducated ranks, and several ministers have thought it expedient to warn their flocks from the pulpit against the delusions of these *pseudo* prophets.—*Berks Chronicle.*

We perceive that hams cured with sugar are sent to the London market from Devonshire. This shows that sugar is as important as salt to preserve provisions, and ought to be as free from duty. The quantity of fruit that would be preserved, if sugar were duty free, would be ten times the present amount; and the quantities grown by gardeners, farmers, and others would be enormous; but fruit without sugar cannot be well preserved, or, if preserved, it is almost prohibited by the high price of sugar, without which it cannot be consumed.—*Brighton Herald.*

A few nights ago a destructive fire (which is supposed to have been caused by an incendiary) broke out upon the premises of Mr. Parsons, a farmer, at Bramley, near Basingstoke. In the course of less than an hour, a barn filled with barley, a stack of wheat, and a bean-rick were totally consumed.

The Earl of Harborough, at his recent audit at Melton Mowbray, caused the rents of the whole of the cottage tenants on his estates at Whissundine, Stableford, Saxby, and Teigh to be returned to them.

The tithe income of England and Wales will this year be about £5,000,000 sterling.—*Eclectic.*

The ship-carpenters of Sunderland struck last week for an advance of wages.

A commission *de lunatico inquirendo* was opened last week at the Ship Inn, Waltham Abbey, before Mr. Commissioner Winslow and a special jury of sixteen gentlemen of the county of Essex, to inquire as to the state of mind of Mr. Thomas Telford Campbell, aged 40, only son of the late poet, Mr. Thomas Campbell, described in the commission as of "Dr. Allen's Asylum, Highbeach, Essex, bachelor." After a lengthened investigation, the jury found a verdict—"That Mr. Thomas Telford Campbell was of sound mind."

We regret to state that the young man, Fife, who was so severely injured by his father a few weeks ago, sank under the infliction, and died on Friday last. The father, who, it will be recollected, in agony of remorse attempted to commit suicide, is, we understand, confined in the new prison at Alloa, and is slowly recovering.—*Glasgow Chronicle.*

On Thursday se'nnight an explosion took place at the gunpowder-mills of Mr. J. Wakefield, at Sedgwick, near Kendal. A man, named William Stewardson, was shattered to pieces, and the mills were completely destroyed. The unfortunate man was the only person about the mills at the time.

On the first of next month a very considerable reduction will be made in the fares on the London and Birmingham Railway. Third-class passengers will be carried at the rate of one penny each per mile.

Mr. Barry, one of the clowns at Astley's Theatre, performed, on Monday last, the feat of sailing in a tub drawn by a pair of geese from Vauxhall to Westminster. A great concourse of spectators witnessed the novel spectacle.

Lord Howick, M.P., spent a few days in Newcastle and neighbourhood last week. The noble lord has been engaged in promoting the objects of the proposed railway, upon the atmospheric principle, between Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Berwick.

Mr. E. James, the eminent barrister, has given it as his decided opinion that Derby clubs are illegal, and that persons in any way connected with them are liable to be proceeded against for heavy penalties, under the act for the suppression of lotteries.

Flour is now conveyed from Stockton to Sunderland by railway, and delivered in that town for 1s. a sack, saving to the millers and dealers the expense of insurance by sea, and securing a quick transit.—*Durham Advertiser.*

Information having been received by one of the customs' officers that a large quantity of gold watches, which had been illegally imported, were deposited at the premises of a watchmaker in the neighbourhood of Soho-square, he, two or three days since, in company with another officer of longer service and more experience in such matters, proceeded to the shop of the party, and were there but a very short time before they made a seizure of the whole of them, amounting, it is understood, in value to about £2000.

The Maidstone Branch Railway, connected with the Dover line, was opened to the public on Tuesday. The event was commemorated by a dinner given by the Corporation of Maidstone to the directors, of which about 300 persons partook.

On Thursday, the 19th inst., arrived in Falmouth harbour the Lord Bruce brig, Captain Poole, with a cargo of sugar from Pernambuco. A few mornings after the Lord Bruce left Pernambuco, a very fine Bongo black lad, about 18 or 20 years of age, made his appearance on deck, to the no small surprise of the captain and crew of the Lord Bruce. He is not able to speak a single word of English, but talks the Portuguese language tolerably well, from which we learn that he was a slave, and had been brought to the Brazils in a slaver from a far distant country. It appears he, with many other slaves, had been sent off to the Lord Bruce with barges of sugar, and again returned on shore, and the night previous to the sailing of the vessel he stole a craft peculiar to the South Americans, called a catamaran, taking with him a tolerable stock of provisions, and some very good clothes, and came on board, and stowed himself away unobserved amongst the cargo, and did not make his appearance until he knew the vessel was so far at sea that there was no chance of his being sent back again, thus effecting his escape from slavery. The captain treated him with every possible kindness, but, as the poor fellow seems rather unfit for the sea, he will be thrown on the parish of Falmouth until some means can be adopted to get him to provide for himself.—*Devonport Independent.*

The carpet-weavers and other manufacturers of Barnard Castle are all in full employment at advanced wages—a practical commentary on the doctrine that wages advance with the price of bread!—*Manchester Guardian.*

The Earl of Rosse's telescope, now complete, is open to public inspection four hours every day. His lordship has, within the last ten days, taken astronomical observations, which will be shortly given to the scientific world.—*Limerick Chronicle.*

The *Times* is informed that the writer of one of the letters dated from the Warspite, criticising the naval operations of the French squadron before Tangier, is the chaplain of that vessel, and that he has been reprimanded by the admiral on the station.

A new Liberal journal has been started in Kilmarnock, under the title of the *Kilmarnock Herald.*

The Gloucester Musical Festival commenced on Tuesday. The attendance was much better than that of previous years on the first day of the festival; but, as regards persons of "mark and likelihood," there was a great falling off. The sermon was preached by the Rev. F. T. J. Bayley, one of the stewards, from 2 Chronicles, v. 13. The collection made at the close, in behalf of the charitable fund, amounted to £163. 18s. 4d. In 1841 the sum was £130. 12s. 4d.

Mr. O'Connell was to have left Dublin early this week for Darrynane Abbey, with the intention, it is said, of not returning to the Irish metropolis until after Christmas.

Arrangements having been concluded between the

owners of the Great Britain and the Bristol Dock Board, it is expected that this magnificent vessel will be liberated about the 16th of October.

A ballot will take place this autumn to complete the English and Scotch militias, for which purpose it is expected an order in Council will be forthwith issued.

Mr. Sidney has been elected alderman of the Ward of Billingsgate.

The 50th anniversary of the London Missionary Society was celebrated at Exeter Hall on Wednesday by a crowded meeting. Sir Culling E. Smith presided, and was surrounded on the platform by a large number of ministers of various denominations. The Rev. Dr. Vaughan, Rev. E. Bickersteth, Rev. Dr. Bunting, Rev. Mr. Hamilton, and others, moved and seconded resolutions. The Rev. Dr. Liefchild, in reviewing the operations of the society, stated that the dozen missionaries which it had at first sent out had been multiplied to 400, and with native teachers, to 700. It had 85 stations in the world, each station having several outposts; it had caused to be translated and published sixteen versions of the Scriptures in the various languages of the earth, and since its establishment the society had expended more than a million and a half of money in furthering its mighty object; and they might fairly conclude that more than a million of individuals had been taught the Christian faith by the efforts of the society.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Duty on Flax.—According to Mr. Talbot Clifton, in his amusing speech at Lancaster, "flax is now almost a prohibited article in some countries, because of the immense tax put on its entering the ports." We are not precisely aware as to what countries the new member for North Lancashire here refers; but we are glad to know, that our Legislature has had too much regard for the prosperity of the linen manufacture to permit of its following so ruinous a course of policy. For some time past, the duty on all flax imported into Great Britain has only been 1d. per cwt., an amount of protection to the home grower so very trifling, that it need hardly to be taken into account; and yet we hear from various quarters, that the cultivation of flax is one of the most profitable modes in which the farmer can invest his skill and capital. At the last monthly meeting of the Society for Promoting the Growth of Flax in Ireland, it was stated that "the culture of flax continues to increase in a steady progression," and not a word of complaint was heard from any of the speakers regarding the danger of foreign competition, and the lowness of the import duty on the foreign article. At the annual meeting of the Arundel Agricultural Association, last week, several of the speakers endeavoured to impress upon the members of the society, that the home cultivation of flax was not only profitable for the farmer, but that it was exceedingly well calculated to furnish employment to the agricultural labourer. Mr. Clifton told the electors of North Lancashire, that the reason why he opposed Free Trade was because "he believed that Free Trade would be a great injury to agriculture;" but it does not appear that his belief is founded on a very secure basis. Were he acquainted in the slightest degree with the subject on which he affects to give an independent opinion, he would know that, as regards flax, on which he lays so much stress, we have already come to Free Trade; and yet so little has agriculture been injured thereby, that practical farmers find no difficulty in proving that the culture of that article, with a protecting duty of only 1d. per cwt., is much more profitable than that of wheat with a protecting duty varying from 1s. to 20s. per quarter. Here, then, is practice *versus* the "visionary speculations" of Mr. Talbot Clifton, Mr. R. T. Parker, and all such agricultural alarmists. This single fact, in our opinion, furnishes the most satisfactory reply to all the sophistry and declamation which has ever yet been uttered in favour of restrictions on commerce for the protection of agriculture.—*Manchester Guardian.*

Anti-Corn-Law Tracts.—Mr. William Grice, of Ulverstone, has been employed for several days past in distributing extensively in Ulverstone, and the surrounding neighbourhood, a variety of tracts and papers published by the League; and, while so engaged at Dalton, was accosted by an individual well known for his monopolist opinions, who asked what he had got, to which Grice replied, "Anti-Corn-Law tracts;" and said, "Will you have one?" "Yes," was the reply; and immediately on receiving it the person above mentioned tore it in pieces, saying Grice ought to be beaten out of the town with a stick. Grice civilly said he thought no one would venture to do that, and then coolly turned his back on this specimen of vulgarity and impertinence. This incident shows in some degree the limited amount of intelligence possessed by many of the Pro-Corn-Law men in this district. A repetition of suchlike occurrences will tend, however, more to arouse attention; and, despite every effort to suppress facts, they will show themselves with a bold front, and each and all existing "protection" fallacies must and will ere long explode.—*Lancaster Guardian.*

Fall in the Price of Bread.—In consequence of the large supply of wheat and flour at Mark-lane on Monday, and a general tendency to a decline in prices on Tuesday, the bakers throughout the metropolis fell the best bread to 7d. per 4lb. loaf, and the second quality to 6d. In Blackfriars-road, the New-cut, Whitechapel, Westminster, and other populous parts, many of them only charge 5½d. for the 4lb., weighed on delivery, and excellent bread. Wheat at market—Kent and Essex, 42s. to 54s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, 41s. to 51s.; Foreign, 42s. to 53s. per quarter (20s. duty paid). Flour—Norfolk and Suffolk, 34s. to 37s.; Town made, per sack of 280 lb., 42s. to 45s.

Election Trick!—Immediately after the announcement of a vacancy in the representation of South Lancashire, an agent of the Conservative party purchased from the clerks of the peace every disposable copy of the register for this division, which, in case of contest, would have very much inconvenienced an opponent, leaving him almost without the means of knowing who were the "free and independent electors" to whom he had to pay his respects. As there is no probability of a contest, the "sharp practicers" have gained nothing by this step, except the possession of an immense quantity of what will be mere waste paper. The trunk makers and butter merchants may therefore look out for bargains.—*Preston Chronicle.*

Consumption Reduced by Exorbitant Taxation.—The Flemish papers notice the fact, that for several years past there has been a sensible falling off in the manufacture, and consequently in the sale, of beer at Louvain, a city celebrated for the production of that beverage. According to a report upon the state of trade presented this year to the permanent deputation of the Provincial Council of Brabant, there was, in 1843, a decrease upon 1839 of 36,000 hectolitres of brewing ingredients, a circumstance which has produced a loss to the public treasury of 73,034 francs. The consumption of beer had become so general in Belgium as to have induced the Government to place upon the material a tax more than proportionately heavy; and this it is, from all that we can learn upon the subject, that has led to the marked change noticed in the quantities made at Louvain.—*Times.*

The Rumoured Treaty with Brazil.—Letters have been received from Pernambuco by the Priscilla, to the 12th of August, which repeat the rumours received both from Bahia and Rio, that a new commercial treaty between England and Brazil was about to be concluded, and that the packet (which is now very much behind her time) is detained in order to bring it. Surprising and unexpected as this intelligence is, it comes from so many quarters that it is just possible that there may be some truth in it, though, after the position taken by our Government with regard to slavery and the slave trade, it is difficult to conceive how a treaty can have been concluded by the present Ministry with a country in which both those evils are so deeply rooted. Still, where there is a will there is generally a way; and as it was evident in the course of last session, especially from some of Mr. Gladstone's speeches, that Ministers were anything but satisfied with their own policy with regard to slave-grown sugar, and as it is even still better known that the Brazilian Government has the strongest financial reasons for desiring such an arrangement with England as will improve its position in the money market, it is not impossible that the basis of a new treaty may have been arranged by mutual concession. The terms of this treaty (supposing it to exist) are unknown, but, to render it valuable, it must include the admission of British goods into Brazil, and of Brazilian sugar and coffee into England, on moderate terms. Any treaty that does not effect both these objects will be of little value; and the extent of the value of the treaty, which is said to have been just concluded, will altogether depend on the completeness with which these objects are effected.—*Liverpool Times.*

The Stanley Mausoleum.—Died, last month, universally condemned, the political career of Lord Stanley. The remains have been interred in the House of Lords.—*Punch.*

Airdrie.—A Conservative Trick.—A proprietor of houses at Langloan applied to the agent of the Conservative party in Airdrie, to prepare a claim of enrolment for him as a county voter, and to support it at the registration court. His title was complete, and his property was of far more than the requisite value. The Conservative agent undertook the business, and accordingly prepared and signed the claim of enrolment, and lodged it with the schoolmaster. But after doing so he discovered that the claimant was a Liberal, and, therefore, not wishing to object to his own claim, he got another of the Conservative agents in Glasgow to make the objection. When the case was called in the registration court, the agent who had prepared and signed the claim, and who was in possession of the claimant's titles, not only declined to support it, but actually withdrew it, and marked the withdrawal on the back of the claim. The claimant was thus nearly deprived of the franchise, and although he was in court, being a simple countryman, he did not observe what was going on. The agent for the Liberal party, however, saw him and called him to the bar, and, on being questioned, he stated he had given no authority to any person to withdraw his claim, but, on the contrary, he had given his titles to the Conservative agent, with instructions to support it, which he had engaged to do. The Liberal agent immediately took up the case, and called for production of the titles, which were accordingly produced, and the Conservative agent then, seeing that his manœuvre to keep the claimant off the roll was likely to be defeated, attempted to become the agent for the objector to the claim, which was prepared and signed by himself. This the sheriff very properly refused to allow, and, the case being clearly established, the claimant was admitted on the roll.—*Scotch Reformers' Gazette.*

Nothing like Contracting.—While the revising barristers were paid so much per day, it required three barristers two days to get through the registration lists for this city; but now that the work is done by contract, one barrister manages to get through the whole in one day. So much for contract *versus* day-work.—*Durham Chronicle.*

Sports for the People.—The March of Intellect.—The following are some of the "sports" provided at Stowe by the Duke of Buckingham on occasion of the coming of age of the Marquis of Chandos:—"Diving for silver in flour. Hands to be tied behind—the silver to be taken out with the mouth. 1s. or 6d. each time." "Treacled buns. Boys eating one in shortest time. First prize, 1s. 6d.; second ditto, 1s.; third ditto, 6d." "Boys eating cakes. Twelve each in shortest time. Prizes as before." "Bobbing for apples in water. Boy getting out four in shortest time with his mouth. Prizes as before." "Hot hasty pudding. Boys eating a basonful in the shortest time with a skewer. Prizes as before." "Smoking by men. Half an ounce each in shortest time. Pint of beer after third pipe. First prize, 1 lb. of tobacco; second ditto, half a pound ditto; third prize, quarter of a pound ditto." This is certainly one way of improving the condition of the labouring class. It must have delighted the heart of "Young England" to witness the refined and rational spectacle of human beings "diving for silver in flour," "eating treacled buns in the shortest time," "bobbing for apples in water," and eating "hot hasty pudding with a skewer." Well may Lord John Manners, the head of this enlightened school, sing:—

"Let wealth and commerce, laws and learning die,
But leave us still our old nobility."

Rochdale and Middleton Free-Trade Hall.—This splendid building, in Baillie-street, is now completed, and was opened on Wednesday evening by a public tea-party, which was numerously attended. In the evening a concert took place: the principal vocalists were Miss Hardman, Miss Kell, Messrs. Heelis, Cooper, Sheldrick, and J. W. Isherwood. Mr. Greaves presided at the pianoforte. The above hall, which has been erected in shares of £5 each, is said to have cost upwards of £3000. It is for the purpose of holding public meetings in.—*Manchester Guardian.*

Worcester.—The Poor Law Commissioners have decided that all occupiers of houses compounded for to the poor rates are entitled to have their names placed upon the rate-books. Occupiers of parts of houses, whose several rents amount to £10 per annum, are also, we understand, entitled to be placed upon the rate-book. We are told that this decision, if strictly acted upon, will have the effect of adding nearly 500 names to the register for this city.—*Worcester Guardian.*

The circular of an eminent firm at Hamburg, for the 13th of September, states that the weather had been remarkably fine for harvest operations, which, in addition to the reports from other countries, had the effect of causing a considerable reduction in the prices of wheat and rye. But even at the reduced quotations there was no disposition to buy in either of these two descriptions of grain. Barley was in more favour, and the purchase of 400 lasts of the best Saal barley was announced at an advance of 1s. per quarter.—*Hull Advertiser.*

The Farmers' Dependence.—While the successful operations of trade depend upon the good, healthy condition of customers, the prosperity of farmers is, on the contrary, made by legislators—who will not see that their interests are bound up with the welfare of others, and that, throughout the chain of being, all are mutually dependent on their neighbours—to rely on the contingencies of a demi-famine; their wealth being derived, like the luxuriance of a swamp, from the general decay and decomposition spreading and festering around them.—*Kendal Mercury.*

Deaths from Destitution.—It is a startling fact, well worth the attention of our Premier and Home Secretary of State, that, since January last, in six or seven instances, coroners' juries have returned verdicts—*Death by destitution; or, Starvation, from the want of the necessaries of life.—Bath Journal.*

Who are the Farmers' best Customers?—On the 8th instant the annual wakes commenced at Hyde, in Cheshire, which is situated in a purely manufacturing district, preparatory to which 122 cows and sheep, lambs, calves, &c., almost innumerable, were killed; and for Glossop wakes, which began on the 15th instant, 86 cows, and a proportionate quantity of sheep, lambs, calves, &c., were slaughtered. Query: How many purely agricultural parishes would it require to consume a similar quantity of animal food on a like occasion?—*Macclesfield Chronicle.*

Periodical Literature in 1844.—227 monthly periodical works were sent out on the last day of May, 1844, to every corner of the United Kingdom, from Paternoster-row. There are also 38 periodical works published quarterly: making a total of 265. The periodical works sold on the last day of the month amounted to about 500,000 copies. The amount of cash expended in the purchase of these 500,000 copies is £25,000. The parcels despatched into the country, of which very few remain over the day, are 2000. The annual returns of periodical works, according to our estimate, amount to £300,000. Mr. M'Culloch estimates them at £264,000.—*Knight's Weekly Volume.*

Foreign Cattle.—By the steam-ship Leeds, from Hamburg, 35 head of cattle have arrived, and by the Emerald Isle, from Rotterdam, 64 sheep. Thirty-seven head of fine large Holstein cattle were also landed on Wednesday from the Transit steamer from Hamburg, and 30 from the Helen M'Gregor, from Hamburg, on Tuesday.—*Hull Advertiser.*

Foreign Fruit.—The imports by the Emerald Isle, from Rotterdam, this week, have been 611 baskets walnuts, and 41 ditto plums; the Antwerp steamer brought none. By the Leeds, Captain Mowle, from Hamburg, we have had 900 baskets of fruit, of which 100 were walnuts, and the remainder plums. The Transit has brought 270 baskets plums, and 30 ditto filberts.—*Ibid.*

God save the King.—"God save the King" means, with too many loyalists, "God save my pension and my place—God give my sisters an allowance out of the privy purse, make me clerk of the irons, let me survey the meltings, let me live upon the fruits of other men's industry, and fatten upon the plunder of the public."—*Sidney Smith.*

The Public Press.—The moral power of the public press in this country is not the less absolute from being unacknowledged. "What will the newspapers say if we do so and so?" crushes in the bud many a promising job. The knave, the swindler, the profligate, and the debauchee are all more or less held in check by a salutary fear of seeing themselves reported in the newspapers. If the ambition of one-half the world is to keep out of the newspapers, the account is fairly balanced by the desperate efforts of the other half to get in. In fact, all people who court publicity through these, the great dispensers of it in our day, work upon the newspaper's blind side: they wish the paper to have no eye for anything but their claims, their abilities, and their virtues.—*Bentley's Miscellany.*

Polytechnic Institution.—Those who are disposed to learn what can be done by the combination of sciences, hitherto considered to have little or no connexion with each other, should go to the Polytechnic Institution, and attend the novel sort of concert which takes place in the theatre of that establishment. The concert consists of the words of Collins', "Ode to the Passions," set to music by Dr. Wallis, and sung by Miss and Mr. Herbert Gifford, &c., with an instrumental accompaniment. The words and music are illustrated by the reflection, on a very large disc, of heads beautifully drawn and coloured. First is seen the Goddess of Music, such as she might have been

"Whilst yet in early Greece she sang;"

and her appearance is accompanied by harmonious sounds, and the words of the ode denoting her characteristics and power. Then comes Fear admirably depicted on the disc, and such as the ode describes him:—

"Fear, his hand its skill to try,
Amid the chords bewildered laid;
And back recoiled, he knew not why,
Even at the sound himself had made."

He is followed in succession by Anger, and by all the passions which the poet has described, each appearance accompanied by vocal and instrumental music. The whole has been got up with great care, and much praise is due to those by whom this entertainment has been rendered so effective and complete. The theatre was crowded, and all seemed pleased; and the whole was received with much approbation.

THE HARVEST.

Looking at the country as a whole, it affords us the highest satisfaction that we can congratulate our readers on one of the most abundant harvests, in relation to the grand staple crop of the country—wheat—with which an indulgent Providence has ever blest this kingdom. It is not only abundant, but it is also, in its general characteristics, of excellent quality;—the exceptions to this description of it are not to a greater extent than usually occur in highly favourable seasons. Here and there, in some few districts, wheat may still be seen in the fields; and in Northumberland, and the northern parts of Scotland, considerable quantities still remain unhoused, and it would require another week of favourable weather to enable the farmers of those districts to secure it in good condition; but, whatever may be the ultimate character of the portions of the crop just referred to, it cannot materially alter the general result. No doubt can be entertained that the yield will be considerably above an average; and in one or two instances, in the East Riding of this county, where the wheat has been thrashed out, it has come within our knowledge that the yield has been double what it was last year, and the quality excellent.

The wheat crop in Ireland last year was the largest and best they had ever had; and the reports from that portion of the empire this year represent it as larger, and even better, than it was last season.

Extending our observation from our own country to Canada, the prospect there is equally cheering, or even more so.

In Lower Canada, where the ravages of the fly have almost every year proved so destructive as to reduce the yield considerably below the wants of that division of the colony, they have been happily exempted from its depredations; and this year the abundance and good quality of the crop leave them a surplus beyond the supply of their own wants.

In the Upper Province they have been equally favoured. The wheat crop there is the largest ever known in that country, and the quality is represented as exceeding that of any former year. Thus, instead of having to supply the inhabitants of the Lower Province with the amount of the deficiency of the crops there, as has been invariably the case hitherto, the whole of their large surplus, in addition to the surplus of the Lower Province, will find its way to this country, either as wheat or flour; and, added to our own abundant supply, will provide for our entire population a liberal provision of the chief necessary of life at a low price and unexceptionable in quality. The effect of this state of things on every interest in the country cannot fail to be of a very happy character—stimulating and giving scope to industry, and securing an adequate remuneration to all classes.

We may also mention that the harvest in the United States of America has been equally good and abundant as in our own country and Canada; the good effects of which we are sure to feel in our commercial relations with our transatlantic brethren.

Reports have reached us that the great wheat-growing country of Poland has not been so highly favoured in relation to its harvest as we have been; but those reports are not of such a nature, nor do they come through such channels, as to enable us to form a right estimate of them.

From what we can learn, the corn-fields of Germany are hardly, if at all, behind our own, although it is yet too early to speak very positively of them.

In Dantzig there are very large supplies of old wheat; and in consequence of our market not requiring any supplies thence, nor being likely soon to do, the price has given way considerably, and some minor houses have been ruined by the depreciation which has taken place in the value of grain, and it is feared that some other houses in the trade may be involved in the same ruin.

We wish we could report as favourably of the other grain crops as we have of wheat, but this we cannot. Oats, barley, and beans will all be short crops, and the weight is decidedly below that of last year. It is yet too early to give a more definite character of the harvest in relation to these three articles.—*Leeds Mercury.*

The late Falkirk Tryst.—As one proof of the loss sustained by the dulness of prices at the tryst last week, we will mention the following fact which we have from good authority. A gentleman, a dealer we believe, sold 100 beasts, and lost upon each 30s. of the purchase money, and, in addition, 7s. per beast of expenses, or 37s. on each, being a direct loss of £185 upon this one transaction. However much cause there may be to regret the loss of an individual in such a bargain, the public have great cause to rejoice at any fall in the price of cattle; for it is somewhat strange, in the working of our Corn Laws, that while we have had to pay, for many years, one invariable price for butcher meat—being from 5d. to 6d. the pound, according to the quality—we get sometimes the 4lb. loaf for 6d., and at other times we pay 9d., just in proportion to the goodness or badness of the crop—being a rise or fall, as the case may be, of 50 per cent. But with butcher meat, if there be any variation at all, it has hitherto been a rise only. How is it that, under the same law—and that a law enacted for the avowed purpose of keeping grain at a high and steady price—the grazing has such a uniform advantage over the arable farm? There must be something wrong when such is the undeniable fact.—*Stirling Observer.*

The Stade Dues.—The city of Hamburg has refused to ratify the Dresden treaty of the Elbe-bordering powers for settling the dues payable to the Hanoverian Government at Stade. This rejection may possibly not be final, but the Assembly of Citizens have three times refused to ratify the treaty when presented by the Senate. This is extremely natural, seeing that the treaty causes a serious augmentation of the dues. Even to England, which is to pay one-third lower dues than other countries, they will be raised as follows:—On woollen yarns, which now pay 7d. sterling per bale, the dues will be 1s. 1d. On woollen stuffs, which now pay 2s. 10d. per bale, the dues will be 4s. 8d.! The fact is that Hanover has no right to a due of more than 1-16th per cent. *ad valorem*, which was fixed by the treaty of 1691; and Lord Palmerston refused, in his negotiation for a treaty, to allow more than this 1-16th. But the present treaty has taken the actual tariff as the basis for the new arrangement, and in some particulars, as we have shown, the dues are greatly raised. In the article of "domestics" the duty even on English goods, instead of 1-16th, will be 2-3rds per cent. *ad valorem!* The treaty is a gross blunder on the part of our Government.—*Leeds Mercury.*

Reading Michaelmas Fair.—The annual September fair, on the 21st inst., was an unusually extensive one, there being a large supply of cheese, horses, cattle, and, owing probably to the fineness of the weather, a vast influx of visitors, dealers, &c. The quantity of cheese pitched was from 400 to 500 tons, being a full average supply. Business commenced with an animation which continued throughout, London as well as provincial dealers being numerous and free buyers at the following prices:—Fine Wilts, 52s. to 58s. per cwt., one fine dairy realizing 59s. Coward, 34s. to 38s. The average prices of good useful Wiltshire were from 40s. to 48s.; loaf, 46s. to 65s. Prices, generally speaking, must be quoted at from 3s. to 4s. per cwt. higher than last year—an advance which may be attributed to increased consumption, and this season's diminished produce occasioned by the extreme dryness of the season, and the consequent shortness of the grass crops. The supply of horses of inferior descriptions was very large, but they moved off slowly. Those of superior character were scarce, and realized, as usual, their full value. There was more than the annual average of booths, stalls, shows, &c., and the "pleasure folks" mustered in great numbers.

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. Sept. 21	Mon Sept. 23	Tues. Sept. 24	Wed Sept. 25	Thurs Sept. 26	Fri Sept. 27
Bank Stock for Ac.	207	208	208½	209½	209½	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	Shut.	—	—	—	—	—
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	99⅞	99⅞	99⅞	99⅞	100	100
3½ per Ct. Red. Ann	Shut.	—	—	—	—	—
3½ per Ct. Ann. new	Shut.	—	—	—	—	—
Long An. Ex. 1860	—	12 5-16	—	—	—	—
Cons. for Acc. ..	100	100	99⅞	100	100¼	100⅛
Exc. Bills, pm. ..	76	76	76	76	76	76
Ind. Bds. und. 1000l	93	94	—	—	95	—
India Stock	284½	285	281½	286½	—	—
Belgian Bonds ..	104	104	104	104	104	—
Brazilian Bonds..	88¾	89	90¼	90¼	89	—
Buenos Ayres....	37	37	37	37	37½	—
Chilian.....	105	105	105	105	105	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	14¼	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛
Danish	90	90	90	90	90	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	100¾	100¾	100¾	100¾	100¾	101
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	62½	62½	62½	62½	62½	62½
Mexican	37⅛	37⅛	37	37⅛	37⅛	37⅛
Peruvian	26	26	26	26½	26½	—
Portug. conv. ..	47	47	47½	48	48½	48½
Spanish 5 per Ct.	23½	23¾	23¾	24⅛	24⅛	24
Do. 3 per Cent. ..	34½	34½	34½	35	35½	35½

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Monday, Sept. 23.—The supply of English Wheat during last week was large; it chiefly came direct to the millers. There was a fair supply fresh up this morning from the Home Counties, and on the whole the condition was better than last week. The stands were pretty well cleared even of the inferior qualities, and the best samples sold at fully as good, and in some instances rather better prices than last week. There is a large arrival of Canadian Flour, but the quantity of Foreign Wheat which has arrived during the past week is very moderate; the demand is steady at former rates. The continuance of mild weather prevents the maltsters from buying Barley, and prices are in consequence 1s. lower than last Monday; in other descriptions of Barley, and in Beans and Peas, we have no alteration to report. The supplies of Oats are moderate, and there is no alteration in the value of any description except New, which are 6d. to 1s. lower. Fresh Old Foreign continue in request at fully former rates.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk Old Red	40 to 48	White 44 to 52
—— Ditto ..... New	— 40 — 45	— 40 — 50
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Old	— 40 — 46	— 42 — 48
—— Scotch	— 40 — 44	— 42 — 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire		Feed 21 — 22
—— Ditto ..... Ditto ..		Short 22 — 23 Polands 23 — 25
—— Scotch		Feed 22 — 24 Potato 25 — 26
—— Limerick		— 21 — 22 Short 22 — 23
—— Cork		20 — 21
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork Black		19 — 20
—— Westport.....		20 — 21
—— Galway		18 6 — 19 6
Barley, New		30 — 36
Beans, Mazagan .... 32 — 33		Tick ..... 34 — 36
—— Harrow ..... 36 — 38		Small..... — — 40
Peas, White, New		32 — 36
—— Grey ..... 30 to 31		Maple ..... 32 — 33
Flour, Town-made		per sack of 280 lbs.... 36 — 43
—— Norfolk and Suffolk		34 — 36

FOREIGN.

Per Imperial Quarter

		Free.	In Bond
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed	48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.	
—— Rostock	47 — 54		
—— Stettin	44 — 52		
—— Hamburgh	42 — 48		
—— Odessa	42 — 46		
—— Ditto ..... Polish	47 — 50		
—— Russian ..... soft	42 — 46		
—— Ditto..... hard	40 — 44		
—— Spanish ..... Red	45 — 49		
—— Ditto ..... White.....	50 — 54		
Barley, Grinding	26 — 29	—	— —
—— Distilling.....	30 — 32	—	— —
Oats, Archangel.....	19 — 20	13	— 14
—— Swedish	19 — 21	13	— 15
—— Danish.....	20 — 22	14	— 16
—— Stralsund	20 — 21	14	— 15
—— Dutch Brew	21 — 23	15	— 17
—— —— Polands	— — —	18	— 19
Beans, Egyptian.....	27 — 30	20	— 22
Peas, White	30 — 34	—	— —
—— Ditto Boilers	32 — 35	—	— —
Flour, Canada	per barrel of 196 lbs 27 — 29	—	— —
—— United States..	— — 27 — 29	20	— 23
—— Dantzig..	— — 26 — 28	—	— —

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Sept. 16 to Sept. 21, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	11983	4045	1095	1360	1558
Scotch	100	90	3191	—	—
Irish.....	—	—	18383	—	—
Foreign	4478	9935	4323	2484	123

Flour, 4992 sacks, 10313 bars.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending Sept. 24, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	4905	47s. 1d.	Rye	543	40s. 5d.
Barley.. ..	8059	37s. 0d.	Beans	962	34s. 0d.
Oats	16945	21s. 1d.	Peas	1160	34s. 1d.

Friday, Sept. 27.—The supplies of Foreign Wheat and Barley are considerable; of English Wheat and Barley moderate; and of English and Foreign Oats very scanty, while not a single cargo of Irish Oats has arrived during the week. There is not much activity in any branch of the trade, but the prices of all descriptions of Grain are well supported. Fine fresh Foreign Oats being now reduced within a small compass, and it not appearing likely that the quantity will be greatly added to, fully late prices are readily obtained, and in some cases buyers are compelled to give a trifling advance. The duty on Barley fell to 3s. yesterday.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 23rd of September to the 27th of September, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat.....	3310	—	6320
Barley.	2070	—	8710
Oats.....	1170	—	1190

Flour, 3630 sacks.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES Weeks ending

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
17th August ..	49 1	.. 34 6	.. 20 0	.. 35 11	.. 35 7	.. 33 7
24th „ ..	50 4	.. 33 3	.. 20 4	.. 36 8	.. 35 10	.. 34 0
31st „ ..	50 11	.. 34 11	.. 20 7	.. 34 2	.. 37 0	.. 33 10
7th Sept. ..	48 6	.. 35 9	.. 20 5	.. —	.. 38 1	.. —
14th „ ..	45 11	.. 35 11	.. 20 1	.. —	.. 37 9	.. —
21st „ ..	45 3	.. 35 6	.. 20 5	.. 35 7	.. 37 3	.. 33 1

Aggregate Average of the Six Weeks.—Wheat, 48s. 4d.; Barley, 35s.; Oats, 20s. 4d.; Rye, 35s. 5d.; Beans, 36s. 11d.; Peas, 33s.

Duty.—Wheat, 20s. 0d.; Barley, 3s. 0d.; Oats, 6s. 0d.; Rye, 7s. 6d.; Beans, 6s. 6d.; Peas, 9s. 6d.

Stock of Corn in Bond, Sep. 5, 1844.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.	Flour. Cwts.
In London,	110652	81918	36442	—	—	213	59755
Unit. King.	330892	164084	86873	—	4810	2962	269958

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, September 20.

BANKRUPTS.

F. SHOTTER, Portsea, grocer and tea dealer. [Baylis, Devonshire-square.

W. COLLIER, Cambridge, grocer. [Ashurst, Cheapside; Hunt, Cambridge.

F. BATES, Shoreditch, linen draper. [Moger, Paternoster-row.

B. NICOLL, Rufford's-row, Islington. [Fisher, Bucklersbury.

T. MARSH, Canterbury, miller. [Smith, Southampton-buildings; Walker, Canterbury.

W. SCOVELL, jun., Chilworth, Southampton, brick maker. [Paterson, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street.

E. BURNETT, Riches-court, Lime-street, City, merchant. [Reed and Shaw, Friday-street, Cheapside.

J. GRUNDY, Ramsbottom, Lancashire, woollen manufacturer. [Clarke, Medcalfe, and Gray, Lincoln's-inn-fields; T. A. and J. Grundy, Bury, Lancashire.

J. BALL and W. BALL, Langley, Cheshire, silk manufacturers. [Meredith and Reeve, New-square, Lincoln's-inn; Parrot, Macclesfield.

J. HIGHAM, Liverpool, provision dealer. [Cornthwaite and Adams, Doctors'-commons; Fisher and Stone, Liverpool.

A. PATTERSON, Liverpool, livery-stablekeeper. [Moss, Liverpool; Sharpe, Field, and Jackson, Bedford-row.

I. ALDERSON, Warley, Yorkshire, worsted spinner. [Jaques and Edwards, Ely-place; Edwards, Halifax; Cronhelm, Leeds.

DIVIDENDS.

Oct. 12. S. Younger, Great Tower-street, merchant—Oct. 12. J. Adnum, Dorrington-street, Clerkenwell, upholsterer—Oct. 12. J. L. Foster, Jewry-street, Aldgate, harness maker—Oct. 12. M. Coe, Goldsmith-street, Wood-street, Cheapside, laceman—Oct. 12. G. Fendall, Woodstock-street, Oxford-street, butcher—Oct. 19. E. Mayo, Craven-buildings, Drury-lane, woollen-draper—Oct. 11. W. Bull and F. Turner, Birmingham, printers—Oct. 11. J. Nicks, Warwick, carpenter—Oct. 11. W. Turton, West Bromwich, Staffordshire, coal and iron master—Oct. 11. J. Ward, Nottingham, tailor—Oct. 11. J. Bent, Dudley, Worcestershire, grocer—Oct. 12. T. Evans, Denbigh, scrivener—Oct. 11. J. Whitley, Liverpool, money scrivener—Oct. 12. J. Hill, Seacombe, Cheshire, brewer—Oct. 24. R. Phillips, Exeter, chemist—Oct. 11. P. Walters, Neath, Glamorganshire, timber merchant—Oct. 11. M. Llewellyn, Neath, Glamorganshire, timber merchant.

CERTIFICATES.

Oct. 12. T. Scott, Colchester, baker—Oct. 12. J. Willis, Spring-street, Portman-square, greengrocer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

F. RAE, Glasgow, upholsterer—CAMPBELL, RAE, and JOHNSTON, Glasgow, clothiers—A. FRASER and C. FRASER, Milntown, general dealers—R. CHARLES, Glasgow, chemist.

TUESDAY, September 24.

Crown-Office, September 24.

MEMBER RETURNED TO SERVE IN THIS PRESENT PARLIAMENT.

County of Lancaster (Northern Division).—John Talbot Clifton, Esq., in the room of Edward Geoffrey Smith Stanley, commonly called Lord Stanley, who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

DECLARATION OF INSOLVENCY.

A. KNOTT, Brighton, miller.

BANKRUPTS.

C. R. WILLERT, Church-court, Clement's-lane, merchant. [Jones, Sise-lane, Bucklersbury.

D. J. MACKENZIE, Chambers-street, Minories, provision merchant. [Lawrance and Plews, Bucklersbury.

W. A. MEARNS, Acre-lane, Clapham, brewer. [Fyson and Curling, Frederick's place, Old Jewry.

J. W. SNELL, Ramsgate, lodging-housekeeper. [Stephen, Skinner-place, Sise-lane.

H. GIBBONS, Wolverhampton, chemist. [Phillips and Bolton, Wolverhampton.

W. BOWEN, Merthyr Tydvill, grocer. [Jarman, Bristol.

P. ROBINSON, Warrington, Lancashire, bottle manufacturer. [Oliver, Old Jewry; Evans, Liverpool.

T. M. MONCKMAN, Bradford, Yorkshire, tobacconist. [Wiglesworth and Co., Gray's-inn; Barwick, Leeds.

DIVIDENDS.

Oct. 15. T. Thorpe, Chertsey, Surrey, plumber—Oct. 16. B. Brown, New Windsor, oilman—Oct. 22. S. Jevons, Lincoln, shoemaker—Oct. 4. E. Hilton and N. Walsh, Over Darwen, Lancashire, paper makers—Oct. 4. H. and E. Hilton, Over Darwen, bleachers—Oct. 16. J. Howarth, Rochdale, Lancashire, woollen manufacturer—Oct 8. J. Bennett, Manchester, calico printer—Oct. 23. T. Slugg, Manchester, merchant—Oct. 17. T. Southern, Gloucester, grocer—Oct. 19. T. Hebblewhite, Liverpool, wine merchant—Oct. 17. J. Lindon, Plymouth, merchant—Oct. 17. F. Plank, Plymouth, perfumer.

CERTIFICATES.

Oct. 18. H. Lake, Cheltenham, printer—Oct. 15. W. Thompson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchant—Oct. 15. J. Smith, Bacup, Lancashire, calico printer—Oct. 15. J. S. Austin, Bedford, surveyor—Oct. 15. H. H. Fisher, Bury-street, St. James's, tailor—Oct. 15. J. Ward, West Bromwich, Staffordshire, coach-maker.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. HERRIOT, Glasgow, wine merchant—A. MURRAY, Edinburgh, farmer—R. STEVENSON, Glasgow, accountant.

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THE LEAGUE.

No. 54.] SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1844. [3*d*.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All Subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive, a copy weekly of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and addresses to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

We beg to inform our subscribers that bound volumes of the LEAGUE *newspaper, containing the whole of the first year's numbers, may be had on application at the Offices either in London or Manchester.*

LABOURERS' FRIENDS IN WEST SUFFOLK.

The county of Suffolk has long been in high repute as a Labourers' Paradise—a sort of model farm for the exhibition of the beneficence and wisdom of landlordism. Its industry "protected" by the parliamentary votes and speeches of its representatives, and "encouraged" by extra-parliamentary associations, with annual distribution of prizes; its poverty relieved by coal and blanket societies without number; its ignorance enlightened by the unceasing exertions of such a staff of clergy as few other counties of England can boast; with a corps of gentry unremitting (we have their own authority for it) in their "anxiety to promote the welfare of the lower classes,"—really one does not see what Suffolk can want more to make it go on well. As Lord Henniker told Parliament, no further back than the 19th July last, "He could make the House ring with applause were he to read—but time would fail him—the number of institutions which had been established in the county of Suffolk for the benefit of the labouring class." With the exception only of some hundred and more of incendiary fires within the space of six or eight months, every thing has seemed to go on as it should in that favoured district. And even these fires were not nearly so serious a matter as people at a distance were led to suppose. What they did arise from was not very obvious, but clearly not from lowness of wages; for Lord Henniker found that "in most places where they had happened *the wages of agricultural labourers were nine shillings per week.*" However painful might be the almost nightly spectacle of blazing wheat-stacks and farm-houses, it was plain that the state of the county could not at bottom be much amiss; for Sir James Graham—himself a high authority—told the House that "he had been told on the highest authority that *no symptoms had been displayed of a generally diseased state of society.*" The grand jury gave their minds very anxiously to the subject, and had "great satisfaction in presenting, that in very few cases the plea of inadequate wages had been instrumental to the commission of the offences in question:" nay, it was "some satisfaction to find," as Mr. Baron Parke told them, "the great bulk of such crimes were committed by children, by boys and girls of tender age." So that, on the whole, it seemed philosophical to conclude that, as the fires came of themselves by spontaneous combustion, they would go out of themselves; at any rate there was nothing very wrong in the general state of society in the county of Suffolk.

Unfortunately, however, the fires have not gone out of themselves. The brief sunshine of harvest work and wages is no sooner over than midnight incendiarism blazes up again in glaring refutation of the logic of judges and juries, and the *dicta* of the highest authorities. It would appear that, after all, something is wrong somewhere in the social condition of this much protected and encouraged labouring population of Suffolk; and accordingly our indefatigable bucolic philanthropists are again in the field, establishing new "institutions for the benefit of the labouring class," armed with a host of new schemes, or old schemes brushed up to look like new, for "bettering the condition of the labourer."

The meeting held at Bury St. Edmund's on Friday, September 27th, is a sign of the times well worthy of even more attention than has yet been bestowed on it. The spectacle of a hundred of the nobility, gentry, and clergy of a county, meeting by special appointment to discuss the means of bettering the condition of the labouring classes, is certainly, so far as it goes, a pleasant one to see. Such a meeting is a not insignificant homage to the doctrine that "property has its duties as well as its rights." It is a distinct recognition that something is wrong in the condition of the labouring classes, which it is the business of the nobility, gentry, and clergy to put right; that wide-spread crime has deep-rooted causes, ascertainable and removable by human means. It is a confession of failure, and a promise of amendment. It is saying that parliamentary protection, and charitable institutions the mere mention of which (only that they are too numerous to mention) would make the House ring with applause, have not resulted in producing a safe and healthy condition of society, and that there is still something to be done, or undone. If we cannot look forward with very sanguine hope to benefits to be achieved by the future operations of the West Suffolk Association for bettering the Condition of the Labourer, we may note with satisfaction some characteristics—of the negative sort, at least—of their first day's proceedings. There was no ill feeling shown towards any class or party. There was not a word of abuse spoken of the Free-Traders and the League. No mention was made of Colonel Rushbrooke's specific of *more gallows*, as the cure for all social maladies; nor did any speaker echo the suggestion of a writer in the *Bury Herald*, that "bloodhounds" should be employed in aid of the rural police. That the crimes by which Suffolk and the adjoining counties have been of late disgraced are caused by grievous and grinding misery; that this misery is remediable by wise social arrangements; and that it is the business of the nobility, gentry, and clergy, to devise and apply the remedy,—these are great facts, of which we hail the recent West Suffolk meeting as a distinct public recognition.

And here, we are sorry to say, our praise of this philanthropic demonstration must end. Anything more vague, unbusinesslike, and futile than the views and proceedings of these labourers' friends could not well be. The whole thing has a namby-pamby, *dilettanti* air and tone about it. It is the blind leading the blind, at the obvious and imminent risk of both falling into the ditch. The real question at issue—how to make labour valuable, and the labourer's bread cheap—was studiously blinked by every man who spoke. The plainest common-sense rudiments of economical science were resolutely ignored; all sorts of crotchetty, fantastical experiments were pompously recommended as grand healing measures, complacently discussed, and half decided on; the unanimous sense of the meeting was, try anything and everything for the improvement of the condition of the labourer that the wit or folly of man can devise, except the simple and natural thing—the just and honest thing—untying the labourer's hands, and giving him leave to do what he will with his own.

The object of the meeting, as stated by the chairman, Sir HENRY BUNBURY, was—

"First, to promote more constant and extensive employment; secondly, to provide small allotments of land for the labourer; and, thirdly, to establish and promote parish clubs, schools, benefit societies, and so forth."

Truly, a most excellent "first;" so excellent that, if we could but get it, the "secondly" and "thirdly" might very well be left to shift for themselves. "More constant and extensive employment." What can labourers or labourers' friends desire better than this, and that which is implied in this? Constant and extensive employment means constant and extensive wages, constant and extensive supply of food, and everything else that wages purchase; it means money in the savings' bank, and schooling for the children; it means personal self-respect, political and social independence. But "constant and extensive employment" is a dangerous text for West Suffolk landlord philanthropy: it smacks too much of Free Trade and the League; it suggests foreign competition, to stimulate that constant and extensive improvement in the cultivation of the soil, without which there can be no increase in the demand for agricultural labour; and it suggests manufacturing and commercial prosperity to draft off from the over-crowded agricultural labour market the teeming population of which agriculture has no need. Accordingly, Sir Henry Bunbury has next to nothing to say about "promoting more constant and extensive employment." He begins his speech with putting his "first" last, and giving his hearers something else which he thinks "more important." Will our readers believe it—at least, would they believe it of any other man than a Suffolk landlord?—Sir Henry Bunbury has a crotchet in his head, which he thinks more important than the improvement of the labour market; and that crotchet is—"*allotments*." "Allotments" is Sir Henry Bunbury's panacea for all social evils. Great are the virtues of allotments! Lord Rendlesham has tried allotments with a success than "which nothing could be more decisive." Mrs. Gilbert, in Sussex, the same, "with the best effect." Mr. Paling, in Cheshire, the same, with "astonishing success." Twenty years ago, allotments saved Long Newington, in Wiltshire, from being eaten up with poor-rates; though how Long Newington is off now we are not informed. Once upon a time a parish in Buckinghamshire—name and date unknown—where all the inhabitants were paupers, recovered itself by allotments. There is "no end" to the evidence of the excellent effect of allotments, "if he were to turn to the newspapers, and to publications of every sort, and to letters which he has received." He has practised allotments himself, "and, with only one exception, it has produced the most beneficial effects." Allotments are even better for the landlord than the for the labourer—provided always that the landlord gets his "*rent in advance*." It is the most lucrative philanthropy going. Allotments turn "very unprofitable" land into "extremely valuable" land: £8 per acre is the allotment price for "inferior" land. Altogether, nothing can be more marvellous than the virtues of the allotment system, except that it is not universally carried into effect. The thing is so simple—the only conditions for its success being rent in advance, and the absence of any "excess of population;" where this exists, indeed, Sir Henry "sees no resource but emigration." And then Ireland, too, as another baronet observed, is so encouraging a precedent:—"Ireland might be called a nation of allotments; for every cottage had its garden, and, though the Irish were poor, yet the union houses were deserted."

Having disposed of the allotment question in the style of a Morison's-pill advertisement, the president of our West Suffolk College of Health "arrives to what stands first among the propositions for us to discuss—the extension of employment." He "feels that this is a great deal more difficult question." It is satisfactory to think that it is a great deal less important question. Still "he thinks it is in the power of the landlords to do a vast deal, and in a way that would benefit the whole community." If landlords would only *borrow money at four per cent., and lend it to their tenants at five*, to be invested in the improvement of farms, the thing would be done—the tenant "would receive an ample return in the increased value of his crops;" the landlord "would not only receive the difference in the per centage, but would be benefited by the improved condition of his farm;" and £200 so laid out "would employ twenty labourers at 10s. a week for many weeks in the year." Or, perhaps, "district farms" might be established, "to which every able-bodied man, woman, and child out of work should be sent every Monday morning, with a ticket authorising their employment in spade husbandry;" but he "only mentions this for the information of the meeting." By the adoption of some one or other of these schemes he hopes that the labourer "may be enabled to obtain *those little comforts of life* which they all, he is sure, desire that he should have (hear, hear), *such as* MEAT, and little comforts of various kinds." For the rest, he thinks benefit clubs, coal clubs, clothes clubs, and medical clubs good things when well managed; but "the meeting will excuse him from going into any further details."

The Rev. H. HOLLINGSWORTH confirms the opinion of the worthy chairman as to the great advantages of the allotment system. He would even carry it further, and "give the labourers three or four acres of land—in fact, render them *small farmers, and independent of their parishes altogether*." Not but what there would be some "difficulty in elevating the labourer to that position;" for, unluckily, it would require that he should be "*a man of some small capital*." "A gentleman at Stowmarket" had recently adopted the system of al-

lotments of "from three to nine acres," which allotments were most "thankfully received." "*The only difficulty* he found was in the selection of those tenant-labourers who had *sufficient capital*—some £20 or £30 beforehand." How mortifying that so fine a scheme should be hampered with an "only difficulty" of this sort! If the paupers were "only" capitalists, the thing would work. *First catch your hare* is as valuable a maxim in political as in culinary science. Catch your capitalist labourers, with their £20 or £30 beforehand, and then it will be time enough to consider the best means of cooking them into tenants paying rent in advance.

The next speaker, Mr. H. Wilson, differs point blank with his predecessors. He holds "more constant and regular employment" to be the "*great desideratum*," and puts no faith in allotments. The evil, in this gentleman's view, is not unemployed labourers' capital at a loss for investment, but unemployed labourers at a loss for work and food. For this he "conceives there is no remedy but emigration," which he pleasantly tells us "*he has tried himself*, with the most perfect success"—*i. e.*, by proxy. We wonder whether it ever occurred to Mr. Wilson that immigration of food and work would be a cheaper, simpler, easier, and somewhat more humane solution of the difficulty than emigration of mouths and hands. Of one thing we are sure, that, if Mr. Wilson should ever try the experiment of emigration otherwise than by proxy, he will appreciate, in its extent, the iniquity of that protection to British industry which first drives British industry off to the antipodes, and then excludes its products from British markets.

Mr. Bravan, too, throws cold water on allotments, and is all for emigration. The allotment system would only "increase the evil, because *if they bettered the condition of the poor it was a known fact that they would increase*. There was not a fact more fully confirmed by the statistics of any country: as they improved the condition of men they increased, and *nothing but starving would diminish their increase*." It is but just to the meeting to add that this indecent escapade elicited "some hisses," which made the speaker retreat on a self-contradiction: "that was no reason why they should not try to better their condition."

The gentlemen seem now to have got tired. A variety of random, desultory suggestions followed from different speakers—some of them ridiculous absurdities, some inane truisms—not one, we will venture to say, by which any human creature to the end of time will ever be bettered one atom in body, soul, or estate. One sagely recommended that gentlemen should "look after the poor properly," and "see that their tenants properly employed the poor;" another was for getting rid of the redundant *horse* population, and employing the labourers and their families in the lighter descriptions of horse-work, recommending, at the same time, that the landlords should dabble a little in manufactures, by "setting up spinning for the poor;" a third was of opinion that the landlords would do well to combine the retail of groceries with their other avocations, by establishing "emporiums to retail to the poor at prime cost," leaving the whole shopkeeping class to the chances of allotments or emigration; and, that nothing might be wanting from the general hotch-potch, a Rev. Mr. Haggitt "recommended education as the only way to elevate the condition of the poor," taking care not to mar the effect of his counsels by one single syllable on the knotty questions of the "How and What" of education.

And so the *sederunt* ended; and West Suffolk philanthropy—having duly "organized" itself with treasurer, secretary, and "provisional committee for making the necessary arrangements" for doing nothing—went home to its dinner; its head sadly muddled with allotments, emigration, district farms, coal and blanket clubs, spinning-wheels, prime-cost emporiums, and education in the abstract; its heart, however, beating high with the proud satisfaction of having added one more to the number of those institutions the bare mention of which were enough to make Parliament ring with applause; and, we suppose, its conscience undisturbed by one passing twinge for the sordid and wicked bread monopoly that is the root of the whole mischief, against which it makes mock fight in twaddling speeches and a ten-shilling subscription.

A CONTRAST.

A few days since, the following letter, which had been forwarded by a London insurance-office to the committee for raising a fund for public parks, was published in the Manchester newspapers:—

"The benevolent measure entertained by the leading merchants and manufacturers of your town, for the promotion of the health and comfort of its industrious population, by the establishment of public walks and gardens, has to-day come under the notice of our Board; and the Board feeling that, during its long and extensive connexion with the trade of Manchester, the Phœnix Company has had frequent experience of the good disposition of the labouring classes, when their personal services have been required in cases of fire, are desirous to avail themselves of the opportunity which the measure alluded to presents, of adding their assistance towards the success of a measure so well calculated to effect the object contemplated. I am therefore instructed to request that the name of the Phœnix Company may be added to the list of contributors for the sum of £200."

By a singular coincidence, within a fortnight of the date of the above well-merited tribute to the morality of the operatives of Manchester, another letter of a very opposite tendency was issued by the fire-offices to their agents in the *agricultural* districts; from which we subjoin an extract, premising merely, for the credit of Scotland, that the printed circular is headed "England and Ireland."

"England and Ireland.

"Insurance Office, Sept. 1844.

"Sir,—I now annex a copy of the rates which the several London and country fire-offices, at a meeting held on the 26th of July last, agreed to charge for insurances on farming property.

"In all new proposals which may be made to you for insurances on farming stock, you will satisfy yourself—

"1st. That the party has not received any threatening letter.

"2nd. That he is not unpopular with the labouring class.

"3rd. That there has not been any fire, supposed to have been the act of an incendiary, in the neighbourhood of the farm proposed for insurance.

"In transmitting the instructions to the office, you will always state—

"1st. The number of acres constituting the farm, over which the insurance is to extend.

"2nd. Whether a steam thrashing-machine is used on the farm.

"3rd. The numbers of any policies, and the amounts thereof, which the party proposing the insurance may already have in this office, distinguishing those on farming stock from other property.

"You will be cautious in accepting insurances on farming stock for parties who do not insure other property with this company.

"Existing insurances on farming stock, if no thrashing-machine worked by steam power is used on the farm, may be renewed at 3s. per cent.; and you will endorse each policy to the following effect:—

"*Mem.*—No thrashing-machine worked by steam power being used on the within-mentioned farm (or farms), the rate on this policy is raised to 3s. per cent., and the future annual premium will be £ " "

"On renewing a farming stock policy you will ascertain if a thrashing-machine worked by steam power is used on the farm; and where so used, the following form of endorsement will be necessary:—

"*Mem.*—A thrashing-machine worked by steam power being used on the within-mentioned farm (or farms), the rate on this policy is raised to 5s. per cent., and the future annual premium will be £ " " "

A volume might be written to describe the comparative morality and intelligence of the manufacturing and agricultural labourers, and yet fail to give half as much information as is conveyed in these brief but significant letters. In the first we have an expression of thanks, backed by a more substantial acknowledgment, for the exertions of the Manchester operatives in preventing the destruction of their employers' mills and manufactories, *filled with machinery and set in motion by the steam-engine;* in the next, the peasantry—the *protected* peasantry—are held up as objects of suspicion, as persons likely to fire the property of their neighbours if they should happen to be unpopular; and 40 per cent. additional insurance is charged if a thrashing-machine worked by steam power be found upon the premises. This 40 per cent. extra, then, is the measure of the risk which the farmer runs who ventures to do what every manufacturer and millowner in Lancashire does, viz., employ a steam-engine. How is it that, whilst the Manchester operative elicits reward and commendation for his willingness to rescue, even at personal risk, the machinery of his employer from an accidental conflagration, the chances are, according to the calculation of the fire-offices, 40 per cent. in favour of the Suffolk or Essex labourer burning his master's stackyard if his barn should happen to contain a thrashing-machine? We were wrong probably when we said it is to be accounted for by a comparison of morals. There is no proof that an Englishman on the farm is less honest or more malicious than another in the factory. It is purely referable to the dense ignorance, and prejudice the offspring of ignorance, which prevail in the rural districts upon the question of machinery; and nothing has done so much to foster and strengthen this blind antipathy as the speeches and writings of the Protectionists.

We happen to have lying before us a tract, issued by the *Essex Agricultural Protection Society*, entitled "Facts relating to the Corn Laws," from which we give the following extract upon the subject of machinery:—

"Machinery as far as it *aids mankind* is beneficial, but it may be used to such an extent as almost to supersede hand labour, and thus become injurious. The manufacturing of cotton and iron by the application of machinery has been carried at some periods to such an extent as to overwhelm the market beyond the demand, thus producing the greatest injury and distress to the workmen, by putting it entirely out of their power to obtain 'a fair day's wages for a fair day's work.'

"If men could live *without labour*, then machinery to an unlimited extent and Free Trade would be beneficial, but whilst men must *live by their labour* it would be ruinous."

This writer deals with the question of machinery in a more guarded manner than many of the protectionist speakers and writers. He does not denounce it as the curse of the country, like Colonel Sibthorp or Mr. Ferrand; yet what does his argument amount to but a justification of the hostility which the distressed farm-labourers entertain against steam-engines and thrashing-machines? He is dealing with the grievances of the manufacturers, who complained of want of work, and consequent privations, caused by the Corn Laws. "Your idleness and misery are occasioned by the free use of machinery," is virtually the writer's answer. *Now*, the farm-labourer, in his turn, finds himself unemployed and starving, and he turns to the protection pamphlet, where he is told that machinery stood between the factory man and "a fair day's wages for a fair day's work;" and what so natural as that he should apply the argument to his own case, and carry the precept into practice by destroying his employer's thrashing-machines? He does not refine like a special pleader upon the matter; he looks broadly and bluntly at the arguments; he sees that the self-styled "friends of the agricultural interest" are opponents of machinery, and he treats as his enemy the farmer who attempts to thrash by steam power.

We repeat that the farmer must thank the protectionist orators and writers for the ignorance and prejudice which prevail upon this subject in the rural districts, and for the dangers which, in consequence, environ his peace and property. It is not our intention now to go over the argument to prove that the freest use of machinery, so far from diminishing the demand for manual labour, tends only to call it into increased and more profitable employment. Lancashire, with its population exceeding that of any county in the kingdom, and its wages so much above the rates of the agricultural districts, is the readiest answer to the protectionist party. It might be easily proved that the use of the steam thrashing-machine need not be an exception to this rule. The saving which the farmer effected in his thrashing would, unless it were absorbed in increased rent, be expended in reproductive labour upon the soil, as is the case in the best parts of Scotland, where they enjoy the advantages of long leases and corn rents, and where the labourers are too intelligent to make warfare upon steam-engines. We advise the English farmers to endeavour, by employing public lecturers in the agricultural districts, to counteract the mischievous effects of the protectionist doctrines. They may even find a pecuniary advantage in the diffusion of knowledge; for, so soon as their labourers shall have become as enlightened upon the question of machinery as the Manchester operatives, they will be able to insure their property at 40 per cent. less than at present.

FLAX—A PUZZLER.

The duty on foreign flax is one penny per cwt. A hundred-weight of good flax is worth about 43s., which is the average price of the quarter of wheat in Lincolnshire for the last week. Wheat enjoys a protection of 20s. a quarter at this moment, which is 240 times more than the *ad valorem* duty on flax; and the question may be fairly asked of the farmer—do you find this protection reach you in the shape of extra profit upon your wheat as compared with your flax? This inquiry is answered by our old acquaintance, Mr. Warnes, of Norfolk, who we see has been paying an agitating visit into Sussex, to stimulate the farmers to grow flax instead of wheat; and Sir Charles Burrell, under whose auspices he appeared at the Arundel and Bramber agricultural meetings, is urgent in recommending his tenants to enter upon the cultivation of this *unprotected* article. The wheat-growing farmers in Sussex, as Mr. Ellman informs us, are in a distressed plight; let us see if we can draw an argument or two for their instruction from the remedy prescribed for the cure of their ills by Mr. Warnes and Sir Charles Burrell.

The *protectionists* (as they facetiously call themselves) tell the farmers that the unprofitable price of wheat is caused by the importations from abroad. Now, the whole of the foreign wheat and wheaten flour entered for home consumption this year amounts to about 750,000 quarters, or less than a tenth part of the whole consumption. During the same time, 800,000 cwts. of foreign flax have been imported, or more than a third of the whole consumption.

Again, we are told that the English farmer cannot compete with the *serf-labour* in Russia. Yet it is a notorious fact that a great portion of the flax is imported from Russia.

Then, Sir Robert Peel tells us that the English farmer has heavy burdens, such as poor's rates and highway rates, to bear, to which Lord John Russell has added county rates: but are not these all borne by the flax-grower as well as by the cultivator of wheat?

The national debt of this country, we are told, prevents the English farmer from competing with foreigners; but does the tax-collector pass by the door of the flax-grower?

The Duke of Richmond assures us that the Corn

Law is for the protection of the labourers: does the peasant who ploughs, sows, and harrows in the wheat field earn higher wages than his neighbour who works for Mr. Warnes in rearing flax? Your answer, my Lord Duke!

We have said that a hundred-weight of good flax is now worth as much as a quarter of Lincolnshire wheat, which weighs upwards of 4 cwt. It follows, then, that the freight upon a cargo of wheat from Russia will be four times as much as upon flax of the same value; so that in the item of carriage the British farmer enjoys only one-fourth as much protection upon flax as wheat.

We are told that we must not take corn freely from foreigners unless they take our manufactures; yet we make no such stipulation about flax.

A duty of 1d. per quarter upon foreign wheat would be as high a protection as is now enjoyed by the flax-growers of this country. We are willing to agree to this amount of fixed duty for the sake of registering the imports at the Custom-house. The protectionists say that this would ruin the farmers; but they have not shown us why it would be unprofitable to grow wheat on the same terms as flax. We hope that the next time Mr. Warnes, or his patron Sir Charles Burrell, addresses a public meeting he will be called upon candidly to explain how it is that flax can be cultivated without protection, whilst wheat is unprofitable with a protecting duty of 20s. a quarter. It cannot be because less manual labour is required in raising flax, for one of its chief recommendations is the increased employment which it affords in the growing, steeping, bleaching, heckling, &c. In short, we have tried to look at the matter in every point of view, and, for the life of us, we cannot discover the consistency or common sense of the men who rave against the League, and at the same time offer the best practical illustration of the soundness of our views by exhorting the farmers to place their reliance upon flax and Free Trade, in preference to wheat and Protection.

THE DOMESTIC CUSTOMS OF ALL WORKERS IN AGRICULTURE.

Chapter I.

An Introductory Glance at several English and Scotch Counties.

There seems to be a general desire at present for information on all matters affecting the condition of that portion of our people who live by the skill of their hands and the sweat of their brows. Since I wrote an account of a visit to Earl Spencer's estate, and made the remarks with which my account concluded relative to the improved dwellings of the working people there, and the unimproved dwellings of the working people elsewhere, it has occurred to me that an inquiry into the domestic comforts and customs of the working population throughout the kingdom would be interesting and useful; and having visited most parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and observed rather closely the various circumstances affecting the comforts of the working people, I think I can presume to offer an analysis of their domestic economy.

I propose that the progress of agriculture, the rent of land, and other contingent subjects shall be noted and remarked upon at the same time.

But which is the proper way to arrange this analysis? If we begin geographically, taking county after county, or district after district, we must repeat and renew many of our inquiries and remarks, because there is a sameness in some things over many counties; and if, to avoid that repetition, we take only one county or district as a specimen of others, we shall omit some matters important to be known; for every district of country differs in some things from another district, though it is similar in other things. A geographical rule will, therefore, not suit us.

I propose to take some prominent domestic custom or article of food, as the distinctive mark of counties or districts; and, to follow out that idea, I thought at first of such a classification as the oatmeal eaters, the cheese eaters, the hard-pudding eaters, the wheaten-bread eaters, the dried-bacon eaters, and so forth. But none of these are distinct and restricted enough for the marking of localities; the oatmeal eaters, for instance, include all Scotland and the north of England as far as the Derbyshire Hills. But it appears to me that the different customs in the preparation and the cooking of food are sufficiently distinct and local. Thus, continuing the oatmeal eaters, we have districts of country which may be called crowdy districts, brose districts, water-porridge districts, milk-porridge districts, and so on. The crowdy district, for instance, takes in Northumberland, Durham, Westmorland, Cumberland, and North Riding of Yorkshire; yet we shall find some more distinctive articles of food and customs of domestic economy in some parts of these counties than the eating of crowdy.

In Lancashire we have the oatmeal eaters, using oatmeal in the shape of jannock—a very peculiar kind of bread. In the west of Scotland oatmeal is also used for bread, but it is made in a very different way from the jannock. In the counties lying north of the Yorkshire Hills, oatmeal bread is seldom used until we get westward of the Lothians in Scotland, taking a line of march out of Lancashire to Edinburgh, so as to cross the Tweed between the Cheviot Hills and Berwick. In the district of the Lammermoor Hills, oatmeal bread may be seen occasionally; but it is very rare on the shores of the Firth of Forth at the bottom of these hills. Other kinds of bread vary in a similar way.

To some this may seem unimportant. But on investigation it will be seen that the former condition of a district, as regards soil, rent, and style of cultivation, may be traced and compared with its present condition by inquiring into the kinds of food used. For instance, there is a class of oatmeal-crowdy eaters in the county of Durham, and a class of wheaten bread and beef eaters. We shall find that the wheaten bread and beef eaters are the pitmen in the collieries, and the crowdy eaters are the farming men who plough and sow the land. In Lancashire we shall find that those who plough and sow the land, eat the oatmeal jannock of their forefathers, which was used in the days of old because the county produced nothing better than oats; and because it is never the custom of any county to have other bread than its own staple for the growers of bread to eat. So we shall find that there is a class of wheaten bread and beef eaters in Lancashire—a class of working people, who, for their number, eat more wheaten bread and butchers' meat than any other class in the kingdom. They are the working people engaged in manufactures of various kinds. The millions of pounds sterling paid by these people in a year for flour and wheaten bread and butchers' meat—which are brought into the county, not produced there—is one of the most astounding facts that the mind can contemplate in connexion with the progress of British manufactures and commerce. These eaters of wheaten bread and butchers' meat, in an oatmeal-jannock county, will give rise to reflections at once curious and instructive.

And when we come to the cheese eaters we shall see some curious facts of another class. Cheese is an article of diet, less or more, over all the kingdom; but in some counties it is, with bread, the chief article of diet. We shall see that in Staffordshire, the workers in iron and the workers in potters' earth are the eaters of wheaten bread and butchers' meat; while the workers on the farms subsist, more particularly, on a very curious kind of cheese. In the southern part of the county, near Tamworth, we shall find the cheese of such a nature that it can be cut, and is sometimes cut, in derision, into plough wedges by the farming men; that is to say, the coulter of the plough, which is usually fastened in, elevated or depressed, with iron wedges, is wedged with slices of cheese by some of the young men who live in the farmers' houses, and are victualled by the farmers; not because cheese is given to them in such abundance that they cannot use it at all; but because it is so impracticably tough and hard, it is thus exhibited by the young wits of the plough as a thing to be laughed at. I was myself guided to a field near Fazely, on a farm belonging to the estate of the Prime Minister, this year, where I saw cheese thus used in mockery.

In Suffolk there is a population of cheese eaters; and there, too, the cheese is exceedingly hard. It is locally denominated "Suffolk bang." Robert Bloomfield, in an apostrophe to *Giles*, the Farmer's Boy, describes the cheese of this his native county, and also the causes which make the cheese what it is. Bloomfield, having been a farmer's boy, became a shoemaker, and worked in a densely-populated district of London, where he found himself able to get—and saw the common inhabitants getting every day—that kind of food brought direct from Suffolk which neither he nor any other farmer's boy could partake of in Suffolk; and that for this reason—that then, as yet, the best of everything was sent to the great towns for money to pay the rents of the farms. What Bloomfield says of "Suffolk bang," and of the London demand for butter, may be said of the plough-wedge cheese near Tamworth, and the demand for the butter and the best of farm produce in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, &c. And it is worth remarking that, since there was railway communication from Tamworth to Birmingham, the farming men who are dieted in their masters' houses complain that it is more difficult than ever to get a bit of butter or anything else to eat that will sell in Birmingham. Everything brings ready money there, and is carried to the market.

Thus we shall find that a good butter district is generally a poor cheese district; and, by tracing causes backward, we shall find that the butter-making districts did not become so from any superior natural advantages in making butter. Suffolk, for instance, made its butter in such abundance as to accommodate its manufacturing population; and when its manufactures decayed and died away, it sent its butter to London. Had there been no London to send it to, then the farming Bloomfields must have ate it at home. In that case they might have been better fed; but where would the rents of land have come from? But as they became shoemaking Bloomfields, and crowded into shoemaking towns, the butter, and beef, and mutton followed them. They exercised their skill and their strength in making articles of human comfort, which they sold for money, and with which money they bought other articles of human comfort; to wit, wheaten bread, good butter, beef, mutton, and so on. And the money received for shoemaking and paid for these articles of food went down to Suffolk to pay the rents of the farms.

In all this there is nothing but straightforward trade; and it is only mentioned here to show the exceedingly natural channels through which trade runs. I do think that neither the "Suffolk bang" nor the Staffordshire plough-wedge cheese is fit to be a staple article of food for men employed so laboriously in the production of food as the Suffolk and Stafford ploughmen are; yet I do not mention it to rail at those who give them such food; I only write of it to show what the customs of domestic life are, and what has given rise to those customs; therefore I quote Bloomfield's poem of the "Farmer's Boy," to show why the cheese of Suffolk is so hard that "pigs grunt at it, the dogs bark at at, but neither of them dare bite it," as the local saying is:—

"Unrivalled stands thy country cheese, O, *Giles*,
Whose very name alone engenders smiles;
Whose fame abroad by every tongue is spoke,
The well-known butt of many a flinty joke,
That pass like current coin the nation through;
And ah! experience proves the satire true.

"Provision's grave, thou ever-craving mart,
Dependent, huge Metropolis! where Art
Her pouring thousands stows in breathless rooms,
'Midst poisonous smokes, and steams and rattling looms;
Where Grandeur revels in unbounded stores;
Restraint, a slighted stranger at their doors!
Thou, like a whirlpool, drains't the countries round,
'Till London market, London price, resound

Through every town, round every passing load,
And dairy produce thronges the eastern road;
Delicious veal, and butter every hour,
From Essex lowlands, and the banks of Stour;
And farther far, where numerous herds repose,
From Orwell's brink, from Weveny or Ouse.
Hence Suffolk dairy-wives run mad for cream,
And leave their milk with nothing but its name.
Its name derision and reproach pursue,
And strangers tell of 'three times skimmed sky blue.'
To cheese converted what can be its boast?
What, but the common virtues of a post.
If drought o'ertake it faster than the knife,
Most fair it bids for stubborn length of life,
And, like the oaken shelf whereon 'tis laid,
Mocks the weak efforts of the bending blade;
Or in the hog-trough rests in perfect spite,
Too big to swallow and too hard to bite."

Bloomfield goes on to praise the cheese of Cheshire and of "Severn's flowery meads" (the Glo'ster); but, had he been as well acquainted with the banks of the meadows of the Dee and the Severn as he was with the meadows of the Stour and the Orwell; he would have found that Cheshire and Glo'ster cheese is like Suffolk butter, made to be sold and taken off the farms, not to be eaten by the farm labourers. When we come to speak minutely of the domestic economy of the cheese-making counties, we shall see that they are not cheese-eating counties. Suffolk is a cheese-eating county; but it is not known in the cheese trade for cheese-making. It only works up the refuse of its dairy produce, the "three times skimmed sky blue," into cheese to feed its own labourers.

One of the most interesting subjects of inquiry—the most painfully interesting—will be how far, in certain counties, the food of the common people is retrograding in kind and quantity. We shall find that south of the Yorkshire Ouse and the Trent the food of the labourers is very considerably changed to the worse within these last seventy years, while the land on which they labour has in that time increased very much in rent. We shall find some apparent exceptions to general rules in Lancashire, and in that district of Yorkshire about Goole. But on close investigation the exceptions will disappear, and we shall find the causes which give the labourers a superior dietary there to be the same causes that have deteriorated the dietary in other agricultural counties.

With this outline of the scope and purpose of our inquiry into the domestic condition of the people, I shall proceed to one single locality, and thoroughly investigate it before introducing the reader to another. I shall call it the Boiled-porridge district. I might call it the Water-porridge district; but, though water porridge is the staple food, there are also milk porridge and whey porridge made within the same limits. These last are not said to be boiled: they are called scalded milk, and scalded whey; but the scalding is in reality a kind of slow boiling. This district might be called the Kail-pot country, as the making of broth, or *kail*, so broth is called there, is very common. But kail is only made about three times a week in a labourer's family, probably in one-half of them not more than twice, while boiled porridge is made once a day all the year round, and twice a day for five or six months in the year.

One who has Whistled at the Plough.

AN INQUIRY INTO THE EFFECTS OF ENGLISH LEGISLATION UPON AGRICULTURAL WAGES, PROFITS, AND RENT.

By a Barrister.

(Continued from page 5.)

The fifth witness who states that the condition of the poor has improved, is the Rev. Francis Joseph Faithful, of Hatfield.

"You have stated that the condition of the poor has been very much improved within the last few years, at the same time that the condition of the farmers has become worse; how do you account for the improved condition of the poor?—By the reduced price of provisions. I conceive that the rate of wages to the poor has not fallen in proportion to the price of all the necessaries of life."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 279.

But it appears that the circumstances of this case are special; that, besides the earnings of the head of the family being above the average, the children's earnings by straw plait are considerable.

"What is the general rate of weekly wages in Hatfield parish?—From 9s. to 12s.

"Have they, out of these earnings, been able to make any considerable savings?—Not out of these earnings; but I conceive that they have out of their general earnings, because in most instances in a large family they add considerably to their weekly earnings by straw plait.

"Can you state the sum that has been put into the savings' bank, or into any place of deposit, during the last year?—I received £375 in the last year from the poor.

"What portion of that has been returned?—It was all returned to them at the end of the year. It had been deposited in the Sunday bank.

"Have any of them any considerable sums now in the savings' bank?—Not any considerable sums in the savings' bank.

"Are there any particular instances which occur to your knowledge of large families having been brought up without any assistance from the parish?—Several. There is one in particular, a poor man with nine children under 14 years of age, who has not received relief for several years from his parish; his earnings during that time have been 11s. and 12s. a week, and his children have been enabled to earn from 5s. to 8s. by their plait."—*Minutes of Evidence*, p. 276.

CHAPTER VI.—*Section* 2.

It has also been asserted by some writers of authority, that the labouring classes generally have never been so well off as since 1815. Thus the writer of the article on the Corn Laws in the "Encyclopædia Britannica," says:—"The improvement in the condition of the labouring class since 1815 is, indeed, too obvious to admit of dispute. It is true, that in some districts of the south, where the pernicious practice of mixing poor rates and wages has been adopted, the situation of the lower classes is far from satisfactory. This, however, is only a local, and, it is to be hoped, also a temporary evil; for it has been shown again and again, that a stop may be put to its further progress, and that it may be rooted out, by merely reverting to the system of poor laws established previously to 1795. Throughout all the north of England, in Scotland, and wherever, indeed, the practice of eking out wages by allowances from the poor rates has not obtained, the poor are decidedly better off at this moment than at any former period of our history."*

In regard to the observation that "the poor are decidedly better off at this moment than at any former period of our history," we must, first, remind the writer of what he had himself stated only a few pages before, that in the reign of Henry VII. a labourer could earn a quarter of wheat by 20 days' labour, a quarter of rye by 12 days' labour, and a quarter of barley by 9 days' labour; and, secondly, although it is undoubtedly true that the wages in the northern counties which were least affected by the operation of the poor laws were very considerably higher than in the midland and southern counties, yet it is by no means clear that even in those northern counties the condition of the agricultural labourer had materially, if at all, improved even with respect to the period immediately preceding the rise of prices after 1792; while, with relation to the period before 1765, it certainly had deteriorated: and we must beg to call his attention to the following evidence as to the agricultural labourer's condition in the north of England at the time of which he speaks. It is from the Appendix (B) to the Report of the Poor Law Commissioners of Inquiry (made in 1834), which appendix is characterised by the Commissioners themselves in their said Report (p. 2, 8vo. ed.) as "the most valuable part of their evidence." One of the queries issued by the Commissioners was, "Is the industry of the labourers in your neighbourhood supposed to be increasing or diminishing; that is, are your labourers supposed to be better or worse workmen than they formerly were?"† The following are among the answers to this question from the four principal northern agricultural counties:—

CUMBERLAND.—*Alston.*—"The labourers here are obliged to use much greater exertions than formerly, and, indeed, much more than is consistent with health; but in doing this they are quite unable to provide for their families, and they seem altogether in a most deplorable state."

Bewcastle.—"They wish to be employed; but, as the farmers often cannot employ them in the winter, some try smuggling and poaching."

Kirkland.—"The labourers are supposed to be less toilsome than formerly, which may arise from their mode of living, which is less substantial now than formerly."

Walton.—"Better workmen in general, and equally, if not more industrious; but owing to the hazard of missing employment, and the scanty wages they receive, compared with the advanced price of provisions, and not being allowed victuals as formerly by their employers, their hilarity of mind is exchanged for distrust and gloom. Their appearance and conduct are nearly the very reverse of what a few years ago they were; while the distance at which they are held by their employers has nearly, or perhaps wholly, broken the tie of attachment which once existed between the farmer and his labourer."

DURHAM.—From this county many of the answers are of this kind:—"Much the same;" "No alteration;" "Labourers are as good as ever." But there are also indications of a change for the worse: as, "Rather worse;" "A great deal worse;" and the following answers—though one describes industry to be increasing, the other diminishing—agree in bearing testimony to a deterioration upon the whole:—

Framwellgate.—"The industry of the labourers round here is not supposed to be increasing, but rather diminishing. From the want of sufficient encouragement to agriculture, the farmer is not able to give employment to so many as formerly; there are, therefore, more children apprenticed out to trades, so that the class of real good farming labourers is on the decline. Many who now labour have been brought up to other trades, which failing, they fall back on labour as a last resource; hence they are more deficient in the work."

Winlaton.—"I think they are increasing in industry; but it is not considered any disgrace to apply for parish relief, as it used to be formerly."

NORTHUMBERLAND.—*Whitfield.*—"Diminishing; the labourers avow it themselves, because the wages do not keep pace with provisions."

WESTMORLAND.—*Hartsop.*—"Worse as workmen; less strong and striving; more delicate in body; perhaps worse fed than formerly."

Kendal, and surrounding country.—"There are many good labourers who work hard and do not apply to the parish; but there are many more who are idle, and go to the parish for relief in the winter; which class is on the increase."

YORK, EAST RIDING.—*Beverley.*—"Agricultural labourers are much less industrious from the miserable state they are reduced to by low wages, together with aid from the poor rates. Mechanical labourers are not less industrious; they are more scientific and skilful."

YORK, WEST RIDING.—*Barnsley.*—"For want of employment the price of labour is much reduced; the workmen are as good as can be; much superior to what they formerly were." The same witness (the assistant overseer) had before said, in answer to the question "on what food could the family subsist?"—"Very little animal food is consumed by this description of persons in proportion to what was formerly. They subsist principally on potatoes."

Stanley cum Wrenthorpe.—"As industrious as formerly; but, owing to the diminution in wages, have become spiritless and dejected. They can neither procure sufficient substantial food to enable them to work as heretofore, nor raiment suitable to attend a place of worship. The farmers are so overwhelmed with national, local, and parochial taxation and tithes, that some of them are fast verging to the condition of labourers."

But a still more grave authority has pronounced upon this question:—"We can state," say the Poor Law Commissioners of Inquiry (in 1834), "as the result of the extensive inquiries made under this commission into the circumstances of the labouring classes, that the agricultural labourers when in employment, in common with the other classes of labourers throughout the country, have greatly advanced in condition; that their wages will now produce to them more of the necessaries and comforts of life than at any former period. These results appear to be confirmed by the evidence collected by the Committees of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the condition of the agricultural and manufacturing classes, and also by that collected by the Factory Commissioners. No body of men save money whilst they are in want of what they deem absolute necessaries. No common man will put by a shilling whilst he is in need of a loaf, or will save whilst he has a pressing want unsatisfied. The circumstance of there being nearly fourteen millions in the savings' banks, and the fact that, according to the last returns, upwards of 29,000 of the depositors were agricultural labourers, who, there is reason to believe, are usually the heads of families; and also the fact of the reduction of the general average of mortality, justify the conclusion that a condition worse than that of the independent agricultural labourer may, nevertheless, be a condition above that in which the great body of English labourers have lived in times that have always been considered prosperous. Even if the condition of the independent labourer were to remain as it now is, and the pauper were to be reduced avowedly below that condition, he might still be adequately supplied with the necessaries of life.*

One would imagine from reading this passage, that the English agricultural labourer was in an absolute plethora of prosperity; but one would not imagine that the evidence upon which this report is grounded did not fully bear out the above assertions—that, on the contrary, it proved the direct contrary. Before entering on the question of how far this conclusion is borne out by the evidence on which it professes to be founded, it is proper to observe that the assertion, that the wages of the English agricultural labourer "will now (1834) produce to them more of the necessaries and comforts of life than at any former period," is in direct opposition to the fact proved by the most unexceptionable evidence, and recognised by many writers of authority, among others by Mr. Senior, in his Lectures on Wages, delivered before the University of Oxford in 1830, that "the labourer in the reign of Henry VII. earned two pecks of wheat a day, and now (1830) earns only one."†

But, let us now examine this string of statements and endeavour to learn how far they are supported by the evidence.

The first statement is, that "the agricultural labourers throughout the country have greatly advanced in condition; that their wages will now produce to them more of the necessaries and comforts of life than at any former period;" and this statement is expressly announced "as the result of the extensive inquiries made under this commission."

It does certainly appear, taking together the price of wheat and the returns of agricultural wages from more than twelve hundred parishes in England, printed in Appendix (B. 1.) to the Report of the Poor Law Commissioners of Inquiry, that in the two years, 1832 and 1833, the wages of the agricultural labourers would procure them a larger quantity of wheat than at any time since 1794, when in consequence of a succession of bad seasons, as has been shown above, a rise took place in the price of food, unaccompanied by a corresponding rise in wages. According to the above-mentioned returns the average *summer* wages (11s. 5d.) taken for the whole of England, would, at the mean price of wheat for the years 1832 and 1833, purchase 104 pints of wheat per week. Now, according to the returns in the Report on Agricultural Wages in 1824, the average wages at the then price of wheat would only purchase 68 pints of wheat weekly. The fall in the price of wheat in the interval will not account for the difference, but it is fully accounted for by the following fact. One of the questions issued by the Poor-Law Commission of Inquiry was, "Can you give the commissioners any information respecting the causes and consequences of the agricultural riots and burning of 1830 and 1831?" In a large proportion of the returns the respondents assign low wages as the cause. But, whatever difference of opinion might exist as to the causes, there could be none as to the effects; and in 99 cases out of 100 the witnesses state a rise of wages to be the consequence, generally about 2s. a week, and never less than 1s.* And if for the words, causes and effects, we substitute the words, antecedents and consequents (as merely indicative of matter of fact, without any admixture of opinion), we may state it as a fact, supported on the most unquestionable evidence, that in all the counties where wages were lowest a rise took place after those riots sufficient to account for the comparatively high general average of 1832-33, but by no means sufficiently *stable* and *natural*, to be assumed as a correct index of an improved condition of the agricultural labourer. Moreover, the preceding account must be taken with the following qualifications as expressed by some of the witnesses:—"It is difficult to take an average for the district, for the labourers not constantly employed are nearly the whole winter and early part of the spring upon the parish; and often, when employed at other times by the farmer, are paid at a lower rate of wages than other labourers."† It is also to be borne in mind, that the sum put down as wages does not constitute all that the labourer's family have to subsist on through the year, an addition being made to it either by the earnings of the labourer's wife and children, or by an allowance from the parish, or perhaps sometimes by both. It will be found, on examination, that the whole sum on which the labourer and his family subsist through the year varies considerably in different places, varying from £20, £25, and £30 to £50 a year, and even, though very rarely, somewhat higher.

We often find the labourer's whole year's earnings stated at from £20 to £26, or £28, and those of his wife and children at from £5 or £6, to £8 or £10;‡ in some places at £15 and £20, and at £4, £5, or £6 § respectively; in other places the man's earnings are stated at from £20 to £30, with very little or no employment for his wife and children;‖ and a witness states that, at Bewcastle, in the county of Cumberland, "the cottage labourer has 10d. or 1s. per day, and 1s. 6d. in harvest, with victuals; but, as employment is not constant, no cottager makes more than £10 or £12 a year, upon which they live economically without relief, except in sickness."¶ The same witness states that, as soon as a boy is fourteen, he generally engages as a house servant (*i. e.*, with a farmer who finds him in lodging and victuals, with wages). He adds, "As there is no manufacture in the parish, the wife and young children earn nothing in winter; but they get employment in summer."**

The statement of other witnesses from other parishes in the same county are very nearly to the same effect.†† How, then, can it be asserted that the agricultural labourers' wages will produce to them in 1834 more of the necessaries and comforts of life than at any former period, when £26 a year has been shown to be not very unfrequently the whole amount of those wages; and when it is borne in mind that Sir Matthew Hale computed the necessary expense of a labourer's family of six individuals in Gloucestershire‡‡ about the time of the Restoration at

* Page 348. † Appendix (B. 1.), part 3, question 37.

* Report, pp. 228, 230, 8vo. edition. † Lecture 1, p. 2.

* The evidence given before the Lords' Committee in 1830, is to the same effect, a rise of 2s. a week, and in some instances much more, viz., from 2s. 6d. to 5s.—See *Minutes of Evidence*, pp. 13, 20, 34, 87, 95, 99, 105, 110.

† Appendix (B. 1.), question 10, p. 54 *a*.

‡ See Appendix (B. 1.), questions 10 and 13, pp. 8 *a*, 13 *a*, 16 *a*, 28 *a*, 29 *a*, 295 *a*, 329 *a*, 87 *a*, 34 *a*, 36 *a*, 82 *a*, 93 *a*, 141 *a*.

§ Appendix (B. 1.), questions 10 and 13, pp. 57 *a*, 93 *a*, 181 *a*, 424 *a*.

‖ Appendix (B. 1.), questions 10 and 13, pp. 130 *a*, 176 *a*, 188 *a*, 189 *a*, 216 *a*, 286 *a*, 314 *a*, 320 *a*, 398 *a*, 536 *a*.

¶ Appendix (B. 1.), p. 99 *a*.

** *Ib.* See also pp. 106 *a*, 113 *a*.

†† See pp. 106 *a*, 113 *a*.

‡‡ The returns from some places in Gloucestershire make the whole of even the *money* amount of wages very little more than in the time of Sir Matthew Hale. Thus the return from Tewkesbury gives for the labourer's whole year's earnings £23, 4s., and those of his wife and children £7. 16s., making

£26 a year; and when it is also kept in view that the average price of the Winchester quarter of wheat for the twenty years from 1686 to 1705 was £1. 16s. 3d. 1-9th, whilst the average price of the imperial quarter of wheat for the ten years, from 1825 to 1834, was £2. 19s. 10¾d.?

The fact stated in the evidence by the churchwarden and overseer of the parish of Great Henny, in Essex, that when flour was at 2s. 9d. per peck, the wages in that parish were raised from 8s. to 9s. a week,* certainly indicates a lower standard of subsistence than that of the period extending over no inconsiderable portion of the first three quarters of the preceding century, during which the day's wages of the labourer amounted to rather more than the price of a peck of wheat. But there is much positive evidence to the effect that the condition of the agricultural labourer had deteriorated even within the memory of the witnesses. We have already quoted some portions of this in the preceding pages, and shall have occasion to quote more before we have done. We shall here only add one or two passages where the witnesses distinctly make the comparison between the periods before and after 1794.

"They are worse workmen than formerly; for they have not now strength sufficient to perform their work properly."†

"Not such good workmen generally as formerly, which must be attributed to their not living so well as they did some years since, that is to say, *previous to the last war.*"‡.

Upon the whole view of the evidence collected under that commission, we should conclude that, at the time of the reform of the poor laws in 1834, not only the moral, but the physical condition of the English agricultural labourers had fallen considerably below what it was down to within a few years of the commencement of the present century.

The next statement is, that "these results appear to be confirmed by the evidence collected by the Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the condition of the agricultural classes." Now, we have shown, a few pages back, that the evidence collected by the Committees, both of the House of Lords and the House of Commons, so far from "confirming these results," is in the proportion of about two to one against them.

The next statement is, that there were "nearly fourteen millions in the savings' banks, and that upwards of 29,000 of the depositors were agricultural labourers, who, there is reason to believe, are usually the heads of families." This statement is grounded (we presume, for reference is not made to any authority in the Report, and the Parliamentary returns do not classify the depositors according to occupations) upon information communicated by Mr. J. Tidd Pratt, who is officially engaged for the savings' banks, to Mr. Chadwick. In his report from London and Berkshire, Mr. Chadwick says:—"Mr. Pratt has examined for me the official returns made in the year 1827 from 273 savings' banks in England and Wales, from accounts made up to November, 1826. The total number of depositors in these banks was 288,798. Among them were 9082 small farmers, and 29,020 agricultural labourers."§ Mr. Chadwick concludes, from the answers to the inquiries he made on this subject from the persons connected with savings' banks, that the greater proportion of the agricultural depositors were married men. Mr. Chadwick goes on to say:—"So far as I have been able to examine the answers to the query circulated by his Majesty's Commissioners, whether the family of a labouring man in full work could lay by anything? it appears that a great majority of the respondents state positively that the labouring man cannot save anything. About half the respondents from Devonshire make no answer to the query. W. J. Coppard, the minister of Plympton St. Mary, says:—'*A few* have trifling sums in the savings' bank.' The other respondents either express a strong doubt whether anything could be saved by a labouring man, or declare positively that he could lay by nothing; yet we find upwards of £70,000 saved, under all obstacles, by 2000 labourers, or by one out of every ten heads of agricultural labourers' families in this same county."‖

Notwithstanding this, however, many of the respondents from various counties answer the question evidently with a full practical knowledge of what they are writing about. The Rev. Philip Serle, J. P., Oddington, Oxfordshire, says:—"I fear there are few instances of a labourer with a family laying by anything. I know cases of single men and married labourers without children who have saved considerable sums."¶

"Few persons are enabled after marriage to lay by anything, though many make deposits in savings' banks previous to marriage."—*George N. K. Lloyd, rector and J. P., Selattyn, county of Salop.*** ;

"I do not think that a married labourer with a family can lay by anything; and the single man, or the married man without a family, seldom does."—*John Woodford, Chilton, J. P., Chilton Cantelos, county of Somerset.*††

But the following evidence of the Rev. William Otter, vicar of Kinlet, Salop, who states the average wages of a family, consisting of a man, his wife, and four children (the two eldest able to earn something), to be about 14s. a week in his parish,* is conclusive as to the operation of savings' banks in parishes not demoralized by the poor laws.

"In the early and later stages of a cottager's life, if he enjoy good health, he is able to lay by from 6d. to 2s. per week. In the course of fifteen years we have had 150 accounts in a population of about 550 persons, some of which have been so high from savings as £20 or £30; and though many of these have been closed in consequence of removals from the parish, deaths or marriages (in most of which cases it had effected its object), yet others have come in, so that the average number of members is now about as great as it was at first (about 60). I know one or two families which, before they had children, or when they had only one or two, were able to subscribe, which ceased altogether when their children became more numerous and burdensome, and which have now resumed their subscriptions, their children being grown up and employed. There is no difference in the wages of the married or unmarried, either when employed by individuals or by the parish. There are no able-bodied men receiving an allowance from the parish, either on their own account or that of their families. The saving bank described above has done some service in this respect, being in the village, and solely for the village; it is brought home to them very closely; and having the landlord and the vicar, &c., as trustees, they have quite confidence in it."†

And the following evidence points to the distinction between the power to lay by to any purpose, and such a power as the agricultural labourer has:—"In agriculture, little or nothing, depending on the number of the family. A pitman can, and does, lay by a good deal, which forms a fund to enable him to strike work, and contend with his employer for an increase of wages."—*William Loraine, J.P., Chester-le-street, county of Durham.*‡

It is evident, even from the statement of the Report itself, that the agricultural labourers do not lay by to anything like such an amount as to enable them to contend with their employers for an increase of wages. The returns cited show the depositors among the agricultural labourers to be one-tenth of the whole; they also show the agricultural depositors to be about one-tenth of all the depositors. Is that the proportion which the agricultural labourers bear to all the other classes of people who are depositors in savings' banks? Surely not.

As to the "fact" of the increased duration of life amongst the agricultural labourers, we should require two conditions in order to derive from it the conclusions assumed here. 1st, That it is a fact. 2ndly, That though it should turn out to be a fact, and, as such, proving a removal of some of the agencies which are fatal to human life, by improvements in medical science, and by some of the same means which have raised rents—the drainage of marshes and stagnant pools, and the clearing out of receptacles of filth for manure—it may be quite coexistent with a life of great hardship and privation, not only of comforts, but necessaries. There is nothing paradoxical in the supposition, that by help of the parish doctor, and the decrease of pestilential exhalations around them, they may drag out a wretched existence beyond the period allotted to their grandfathers or great-grandfathers. Some of the witnesses have fully expressed the sort of life we allude to.

"The wages they receive will not support them properly to hard work. When a man has worked hard all day, to come home at night to potatoes and bread, it lingers him along; it is not living."—*Wm. Gardener and F. Elton, Enstone, county of Oxford.*§

"Both body and mind are enfeebled, so that, when called on to do a good day's work, they are incapable, being unused to work or eat. This is melancholy, but true, and is rapidly increasing."—*George Robinson, Chediston, county of Suffolk.*‖

"The labourer is ill-fed and spirit-fallen; and his children, from being ill-fed when young, must be a puny race, not even so stout and robust as himself."—*John Amphlett, churchwarden, Stone, county of Worcester.*¶

"Low wages, and consequently bad food, which does not give the requisite strength. Food is worse now than formerly, owing to the labourer's not living in his employer's house."—*Sir Harry Verney, Bart., J.P., Steeple Claydon, county of Bucks.***

There is much of the evidence that goes against the fact itself.

"Their morals are more corrupted; and, from bad living, their strength and constitution are impaired. Agues and low fevers are prevalent amongst them."—*Robert Kirbolt, Wymondham, county of Norfolk.*††

All this is corroborated by the evidence of the medical witnesses, published in the recent Reports on the Employment of Women and Children in Agriculture, which will be more particularly noticed in the next chapter.

We can only make room for two more extracts from the evidence on this point. The first is from the Rev. J. Jordan, curate of Handborough, Oxon, and contains some important observations.

"By a careful examination of the past and present state of the labouring classes, I find that now they are in a much worse condition than they formerly were. I believe that, previous to the American war, they were well provided and paid, compared with their present condition, and that they enjoyed many comforts from which they have been excluded by the many subsequent enclosures. I believe that they were far better paid then, in proportion to what money would provide, than they now are. I believe that the unjust operation of the poor laws, which prevented labour rising in proportion with the necessaries of life during the war, has been the chief cause of their depression and consequent disaffection. I think that these circumstances ought to be fairly inquired into and examined, and that, if it be necessary, labourers themselves be heard as witnesses, of what their condition once was. If these statements be found true and correct, then let justice be done to the labourers. At any rate let it be fairly inquired into, and candidly stated, whether the labourers are properly paid; that is, whether they are paid in the same proportion in which they once were, when a man could maintain a family without application to the parish on the birth of every third and fourth child."*

The next is from William Steele, a Cumberland labourer (Walton, Cumberland).

"As the present unprecedented mode of inquiry into the real condition of the agricultural labouring class induces a belief that the present Administration really wish to render it relief—though I can scarcely hope that the observations of one, who, born in that low but useful and once respected walk of life, and with whose habits and education he has alone been made acquainted, can hope to merit your attention—I would gladly, if you will permit me, offer through this medium (contracted as it is, yet forming the only opening available) an opinion, which, however humble the source from whence it originates, may not be altogether unworthy of notice, as possessing what legislators cannot always obtain—the unsophisticated statement of a sufferer.

"To the present distress, which has rendered the agricultural labourer the very reverse of what a very few years ago he was, no public administration, however wishful, can perhaps afford immediate benefit. To the internal policy of agricultural affairs—to the relation between master and servant, which no public ordinance can, perhaps, effectually reach—is to be traced the germ of the evil. The monopolization of land into large farms has thrown a threefold quantity of labour into the market. When farms were small, the same quantity of land which maintained, because differently cultivated, three, four, or more families in comparative plenty, and produced to the proprietor as much rent, and more assessed taxes to the state, now aggregated into one, supports one family, the habits of which very little resemble those of the plain unaspiring country farmer of other times. The displaced families, with, perhaps, little or no capital to embark in any business of a commercial nature, are reduced to labourers, and, without any resource than the labour of their hands, become totally subject to the present occupier, who, knowing that there is no *minimum* of hire, excites competition amongst those whose only alternative is to labour, and that, if competition be great, for the smallest remuneration, or be totally deprived of the means of subsistence.†

"The farmer thus co-operating with his neighbours, the labourer has no appeal, no resource, no redress for his grievance; but whatever the farmer deems proper to allow him as a reward for his labour, he must accept or be reduced to all the sufferings of real want."‡

The Cumberland labourer then goes on to point out as among the secondary causes of the deterioration in the condition of the agricultural labourer—viewing the aggregation of lands into large farms as the primary—the payment of the labourers in money, and the enclosure of commons.

"The practice of paying in cash the wages of labourers, by subjecting their fixed allowance to all the fluctuations of price in the corn market, is another cause. In some parts of Scotland, and in the county of Northumberland, a much better mode exists; there the labourer, always resident on the lands of his employer, obtains, as a part of his stipulated hire, a portion of corn, vegetables, and milk. These, besides rendering the fluctuations of price of these indispensable articles of no moment to him, give him an interest in the prosperity of the crop, of which he is himself a sharer; as if such crop is properly managed and secured, his own part is of more value. From that county, his Majesty's Commissioners will, I have no doubt, receive very satisfactory accounts of the state of the agricultural labouring population; and these, when contrasted with other counties where no such plan is acted upon, will show forcibly the superiority of the system.

"The enclosure of commonages, too, has been a severe blow to the prosperity of the agricultural labourer. These commons, when used as such, and open to all resident near them, were a high benefit to the labourer, allowing him the privilege of at least keeping one cow for the use of his family, nearly free of expense to himself, and with certainly very little accounted loss to the real proprietors, who seldom reckoned of much value such un-

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together £31. 4s. From Rudford, £19. 10s., and £12. 0s. respectively, together £31. 10s. From Iron Acton, £27. 0s., and £7. 16s., together £35. 2s. From Doddington, £23. 8s., and £10, together £33. 8s. From Clifton, £30, and £5, together £35.—See Appendix (B. 1.), questions 10 and 13, pp. 201 *a*, 199 *a*, 195 *a*, 194 *a*, 193 *a*.

* Appendix (B. 1.), part 1, p. 179 *a*, question 8.
† Appendix (B. 1.), question 37, p. 191 *c*.
‡ Appendix (B. 1.), question 37, p. 248 *c*. The italics are in the original.
§ Extracts, p. 231. ‖ Extracts, p. 233.
¶ Appendix (B. 1.), p. 378 *b*, question 15.
** Appendix (B. 1.), p. 393 *b*, question 15.
†† Appendix (B. 1.), p. 400 *b*, question 15.

* Appendix (B. 1.), p. 390 *a*, question 13.
† Appendix (C), p. 506.
‡ Appendix (B. 1.), p. 147 *b*, question 15.
§ Appendix (B. 1.), p. 372 *c*, question 37.
‖ *Ib.*, p. 431 *a*, question 37.
¶ *Ib.*, p. 500 *c*, question 37.
** *Ib.*, p. 33 *c*, question 37.
†† *Ib.*, p. 330 *c*, question 37.

* Appendix (C), p. 452.
† Some of the witnesses attribute the incendiary fires of 1830-31 to "revenge of many, whose ancestors or themselves have been renters of small farms, which are now thrown into large ones, and which consolidation has rendered them beggars and labourers."—*App. (B. 1.), p. 402 a, question 54. North Curry, Somerset.*
‡ Appendix (C), pp. 453, 452.

enclosed portions of land, and the pasturage of the poor man's cow was totally overlooked."*

He concludes with the following recommendation:—

"The subdivision of land into smaller portions as farms; the payment of labourers on those farms more in corn than in specie; and the not allowing any cottage to be let in agricultural districts without a small portion of land attached to it."†

Upon the whole, we have very carefully examined the evidence collected under the Poor Law Commission of Inquiry, and, though undoubtedly there are some witnesses who state that the labourers "are better off now than formerly," the proportion of these to the witnesses who state the contrary is less than one to ten. In attempting to estimate the precise value of this evidence, we are not unaware of the propensity in the old to be *laudatores temporis acti*, or, to use the words employed by one of the witnesses themselves, to "undervalue the present in comparison with the past." There the evidence is, however, and the reader may take it for what it is worth. If it proves nothing else, it proves that a very large majority of the witnesses who gave evidence under that commission gave it with a strong conviction that the physical as well as the moral condition of the English agricultural labourer had very generally deteriorated.

But the voluminous Appendix to the Poor Law Report of 1834 supplies collateral evidence which leads to results still more conclusive respecting the condition of the agricultural labourer. One of the questions circulated by the Commissioners through all the agricultural districts of England was this:—"Is the amount of agricultural capital in your neighbourhood increasing or diminishing?" Now, out of the 1172 parishes throughout the different counties of England which have answered this question, 41 have stated agricultural capital to be increasing, and 14 have stated it to be stationary, while the other 1117 state it to have diminished—to have very much diminished—and to be diminishing every year. And the Population Returns for 1801, 1811, 1821, 1831, which are printed in Appendix (B. 1.), for each parish or district, making returns to the queries, exhibit a very large increase of population throughout the period thus marked by such a decrease of agricultural capital. Now, if it be true, which we see no reason to doubt, that the average rate of wages, or the share of the capital or fund appropriated to the employment of labour falling at an average to each labourer, must depend on the extent of the fund compared with the number of labourers among whom it has to be divided; and if the fund to be distributed has decreased, while the number of those among whom it is to be distributed has increased, the conclusion is inevitable, that the share of each will be diminished.

The whole of the evidence taken together (we might print volumes of it) is corroborative of the conclusions given above as the result of the evidence before the Committee on Labourers' Wages in 1824, before the Poor-Law Committees of the Commons in 1828, and of the Lords in 1830 and 1831, that, taking all the circumstances affecting the case into account at the period of which the Report speaks, the agricultural labourers had not greatly—had not at all—advanced in condition; that their wages, even when in full employment, would not produce to them so much of the necessaries and comforts of life as at many former periods.

(*To be continued*).

MEETINGS.

PLYMOUTH FREE-TRADE ASSOCIATION.

(From the *Devonport Independent*.)

The first meeting of this association for the ensuing season took place at the Mechanics' Institute, Princes-square, on Thursday evening, C. B. Calmady, Esq., the president of the association, in the chair.

We observed upon the platform, among others, J. S. Trelawney, Esq., M.P.; J. Rundle, Esq., Tavistock; W. Burnell, Esq.; J. Bayly, Esq.; W. Bryant, Esq.; Dr. Hamilton; J. Tanner, Esq.; Dr. Tyndall; C. B. Calmady, Esq.; George Frean, Esq., &c.

The President having briefly opened the business of the evening,

Mr. Symons, the secretary of the association, read the report, which, after stating the objects of the association, and its progress from the commencement, announced the intention to supply lecturers throughout the various districts in the county, in order that farmers and others might become better acquainted with the actual operation of the baneful Corn Laws, and the urgent necessity which existed for their removal. After the report had been read,

J. S. Trelawney, Esq., M.P., rose to propose the first resolution. He said:—Ladies and gentlemen, I rise for the purpose of moving a resolution, which, I am confident, when I shall have submitted it to you, will receive your cordial support. The resolution is, that the report which has just been read be received and adopted. The proposition, then, which I have just submitted to your notice affords me an opportunity of addressing you on the present occasion, and of expressing my sentiments upon the subject which has caused you to assemble here this evening, and my views in reference to the object which you are met to promote. The present condition, then, of this question is such as should encourage us all to renewed exertion, and little doubt exists that our efforts will be crowned with success. The principle for which we contend is a good one; for what can be better than free trade in corn, free trade in all the necessaries of life, and the removal of every commercial restriction? (Cheers.) I would ask, what better thing we could desire than Free Trade by a Free-Trade Cabinet, and what more can we ask for? My reply is, immediate and unconditional repeal of every existing law which restricts the operations of commercial industry. But in what way have our representations hitherto been met? Why, it is that whatever has been urged as beneficial for the interests of the people our enemies have not deigned to regard, but have skulked out of their baseless fabrics of argumentation like so many rats from falling houses. Even that formidable and truly Roman plea of mortgages, marriage settlements, and younger sons, has been unaccountably forgotten of late. (Hear, hear.) Perhaps it has been found out that labourers sometimes have younger children, though they have not yet learned the luxuries of marriage settlements. (Hear, hear.) Another reason which has been advanced why we should not have a Free Trade in corn is, that land possesses peculiar burdens. God knows it does. The bad management of their property by landlords themselves is a peculiar burden under which it is a miracle land has not sunk long since. (Laughter.) It could have wanted little extrinsic aid if it has survived even that. But, whatever their peculiar burdens be, perhaps, hereafter, when the sagacious pamphleteerers of the monopolist party shall have discovered them, their employers will not object to a committee of inquiry to enable the public to judge of the pressure of such burdens upon landed property. Whatever they may be, they must have been imposed by the landlords themselves, as they have monopolised the legislation; and this, perhaps, is a new proof of their disinterestedness. We have heard a great deal about Free-Trade reciprocity on the part of foreigners. We are told that, by removing our own protection laws, our example would not be followed to the same extent by our foreign relations, and that, consequently, we shall inflict an injury upon ourselves for the advantage of others. And so, by this argument, one portion of the world is to be deprived of the advantages of Free Trade, until the whole is disposed to embrace the principle. This is as bad as it would be to keep a whole school from breakfast because some of the scholars were lazy. (Laughter.) Such a state of things cannot, I am confident, long exist; and you must rally round, and do your best to support those who have done their best to support you. There are symptoms existing highly favourable to the realization of your wishes. The supporters of Lord Ashley and his Ten Hours Bill have evinced symptoms indicating that at no very distant day we shall have their support in obtaining the abolition of laws which press so heavily upon the poor man. I perfectly well recollect the auspicious cheer in the House of Commons which followed the sentiment that, "If the Corn Laws stood in the way of shortening the hours of labour, let them perish for ever." I well remember that cheer, and the occasion out of which it emanated, and I am inclined to think that at no distant day there will be no lack of supporters of the principles we now advocate, and that there will be plenty of others to advocate them, and to come here and address you upon the necessity of abrogating laws which are confessedly bad in principle and operation. In the mean time you will all do your duty, and seek by every means in your power to advance the interests of the many against that of the few. I am disposed to think Sir Robert Peel himself will not be found unwilling to proceed with measures which will strike at the root of monopoly. He only requires compulsion. Unlike *Falstaff*, he has no objection to give reasons upon compulsion. (Laughter.) I believe in his secret soul he is dissatisfied with the tardiness of popular discontent. Like the lady in the town which was stormed, I doubt not he frequently asks within himself, "When will the excesses begin?" However, be this as it may, the days of so glaring an absurdity are numbered. Like belief in astrology, witchcraft, magic, cure of disease by royal touch, and many other things with respect to which it is now only our marvel that so many were ever taken in by them, the Corn-Law folly will pass away, and Free Trade will dawn upon the horizon, dissipating with its genial ray the troubled clouds of monopoly and restriction, which result in poverty, misery, and war, and kindling the earth to its highest degree of productive energy, ensuring by natural causes what it were idle to expect from any positive enactment—a fair day's wages for a fair day's work. (Cheers.)

R. P. Collier, Esq., seconded the resolution, expressing his pride and satisfaction at seeing the town of Plymouth entering the field in the good cause of Free Trade.

Mr. Blackmore, a Chartist, who sat in the body of the room, desired to say a few words before the resolution was put from the chair. He was very glad to find the working classes had not been forgotten by the two last speakers. He was sure if the two gentlemen were to adopt the principles which they had introduced at the conclusion of their speeches—"that a fair day's labour should receive a fair day's wages"—they might rely upon the assistance of the working classes. He contended that the working classes had not the power to agitate. The speaker here referred to the support given by the Free-Traders in opposition to the Ten Hours Bill of Lord Ashley, but was called to order by the President, who reminded him that the meeting had assembled for the transaction of business, and not for the purpose of discussing political questions.

The resolution was then put from the chair, and carried unanimously.

W. Burnell, Esq., proposed the next resolution, which was, that the best thanks of the meeting be presented to Charles Biggs Calmady, Esq., for the ability and kindness with which he has filled the office of president of this association since its formation, and for the interest which he has always evinced in its proceedings, and that he be earnestly invited to retain the office for the year ensuing.

T. Cater, Esq., seconded the resolution, which was put by Mr. Collier, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Calmady briefly returned thanks.

Votes of thanks to the vice-president and secretary were then put and agreed to.

Mr. J. Nicholson, in a long speech, proposed the thanks of the meeting to the council of the association, for their efforts in the cause of Free Trade.

Mr. H. Tucker seconded this resolution.

Mr. Robertson, who sat in the body of the hall, offered some observations upon the method of conducting the operations of the association, contending that it was imperative upon the council to exert themselves, in order to the moral regeneration of the people, before they could hope for any beneficial results. This gentleman inveighed most bitterly against the monarchical system, which, with the domination of the aristocracy, was the primary cause, he asserted, of the present lamentable condition of the people. The speaker further argued that the best means of ridding themselves of the grievance would be by abolishing parliamentary property qualification, and paying representatives for their services.

The resolution was finally put and carried.

J. Rundle, Esq., said he had great pleasure in moving the next resolution. In his opinion, the present moment was the most favourable for considering the great question under discussion, because they could now approach it entirely divested of that feeling which too frequently accompanied discussion. This was the time when it behoved the public to call for the abolition of the monopoly code, because now it could be removed without causing any serious difficulty, or affecting any interests. He perfectly concurred in the course chosen by the gentlemen connected with the association, and he would take that opportunity of complimenting them for having come forward as they had done. He would also beg to compliment their president for the course he had pursued. He believed that he was only following the bent of his own self-interest, for he (Mr. Rundle) was satisfied that no class was more interested in the abolition of restrictive duties than the landowners themselves. They had a larger stake in the general prosperity of the country than any other party, and it could not but be supposed that they were proportionately interested in all that concerned the welfare of the country. The last speaker alluded to the repeal of the Corn Law, as if the tax had been imposed for Government purposes. Now, his (Mr. Rundle's) complaint was, that it was not levied for the purposes of the Government itself—that is, to provide for the necessities and expenses of the Government—but was simply the taking money out of the pockets of one portion of the population to put into the pockets of another portion. (Cheers.) He thought the principle of Free Trade had made great progress during the past year. One of the chief arguments used against the removal of these duties was that, if the restrictions upon imports were removed in this country, other countries would still maintain their prohibitory duties. They said Free Trade was a good thing if all countries adopted it. He contended that all restrictive taxes were injurious ones, and it was the duty of the Legislature to impose only such taxes as were necessary for the purpose of carrying on the public business of the country. They should at all times be laid on as lightly as possible, and they had no right to inflict them more heavily upon one portion of the community than another. They had no right to compel one man to buy his goods of any particular party. The principle was bad, and the sooner it was abolished the better. If prohibitory laws were good, and Frenchmen were told they should not bring their goods to this country because they were not upon the same footing of equality in regard to cost of production, it would be equally just to say to the Cornishmen, you shall not bring your commodities to this Plymouth market, because you are not rated so heavily as ourselves, and, unless you consent to have the same burdens put upon you as we bear, we will hold no communication with you. The speaker here proceeded to illustrate the fallacy of monopoly as beneficial to general interests; but we regret that want of space compels us to very much curtail our report of his arguments. Having inveighed against the impolicy of continuing monopoly, and urged the Plymouth Free-Traders to renewed exertions, the honourable gentleman resumed his seat.

Other resolutions followed that proposed by Mr. Rundle, and thanks having been moved to the president for his able conduct in the chair, and duly acknowledged, the meeting separated.

Free-Trade Lecture at Kingsbridge.—In consequence of the invitation of some leading individuals of Kingsbridge, Robert Collier, Esq., kindly undertook to deliver an introductory lecture on the subject of Free Trade. A meeting was held at the Golden Lion, Kingsbridge, on Friday evening the 27th ultimo. The large room was crowded by a respectable assemblage. Mr. Collier came from Plymouth, accompanied by a deputation from the Free-Trade Society established in that town. The chair was occupied by Mr. Pearce, a landed proprietor, who, after opening the proceedings, introduced the former gentleman to the meeting. The lecture, which lasted more than an hour, was warmly received. At its close, Dr. Hamilton, at the request of the chairman, made some observations. Some appropriate remarks were also made by Mr. Nicholson and Mr. James. A gentleman having requested an explanation of some of the statements made by the lecturer and one of the speakers, received from them a reply with which he expressed himself satisfied. After the usual vote of thanks to the chairman, the meeting broke up. Since the meeting several registration sheets have been filled up with the names of persons desirous of becoming members of the League.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDUSTRY!

(From the *Examiner*.)

The experimentalist of Hierocles had nearly taught his horse to live without oats when the animal died. The horse wanted encouragement. Had a prize for living without food been in prospect, he would have known better than to die.

We do not despair of seeing the time when associations of country gentlemen will be giving prizes to labourers for living without food—a silver fork to Thomas Dobson, who has not tasted meat for forty years; a gilt knife to another, who has left off bread for half a century; a gold medal to a third, who has discovered the art of living on cabbage broth, *i.e.*, the water in which cabbage has been boiled, without the vegetable.

It is amazing how little people can live on if they will but try. Franklin and his fellow travellers on the North Pole expedition fared on a pair of leather breeches for many days. We do not throw out this for imitation, for leather breeches would be too expensive a diet for rural labourers, and, if taught to indulge in it, they might have a hankering for the squire's nether garments; but it shows what may be done, and as gentlemen could breakfast, dine, and sup on a tender piece of doeskin, surely coarser feeders might contrive to make a meal of old harness, saddles, and such like. A prize to a labourer, aged 26, who had lived a week on an old shoe, would be of excellent example. A horse trace might be ate, like Epping butter, by the yard.

The keys of an old spinet or pianoforte, filed to powder and boiled to jelly, would support a man for weeks; and it would be good to see encouragement given to John

* App. (C), p. 453. † *Ibid.*, p. 454.

Thomson, field-labourer, who had lived on a C natural for three weeks. Glue is nourishing diet, but too dear.

We agree with the *Times*, that Societies for the Promotion of Agricultural Industry are as much out of place in present circumstances as associations would be for the encouragement of great eaters in a besieged place short of provisions. "Too much of water hast thou, poor Ophelia." The misfortune is, that there is far more industry than work.

A society more to the purpose would be one for the encouragement of small wages, giving twopenny-halfpenny prizes to labourers who had worked for the longest time on the lowest wages. This association would lead the way to the other we have suggested, for the promotion of living without food.

The Societies for the Promotion of Industry have, however, the excellent tendency of keeping up a redundant supply of labour, as every candidate for the prizes must have a large family of children to exhibit and exercise his economy on.

A few extracts from the list of prizes of the South-east Hants Society will illustrate the working of the encouragement:—

"A premium of £5 to Coker, of Fareham, aged 39, in the employ of H. P. Delmé, Esq., for having supported *eight* children without parochial relief. Candidate pays for the schooling of two of his children, is a member of a friendly society, and also of a burial club.

"A premium of £4 to David Gregory, of Westmeon, aged 36, in the employ of the Hon. T. W. Gage, for having supported *eight* children under fifteen years of age without parochial relief, except at the times of his wife's confinements. His employer adds that he has only spent 2d. in beer since Whitsuntide.

"A premium of £1. 10s. to Thomas Ballard, of Titchfield, aged 42, in the employ of Mr. Thomas Mondey, for having supported *nine* children with only £1. 2s. 7d. relief, the greater part of which sum was received during severe illness. Candidate's family has been much afflicted, and he has paid for medical attendance on many occasions himself; he has been a member of a benefit club twenty-five years.

"A premium of £1 to Joseph Laishly, of Blendworth, aged 39, in the employ of Mr. Richard Gale, for having supported *seven* children without parochial relief except medical attendance. He is a member of the Hambledon benefit society.

"A premium of £3 to William Ferris, of Titchfield, aged 32, in the employ of Mr. Edward Norris, for having supported six children, under 13 years of age, without parochial relief. He has never been out of employ since he was seven years of age, *he fats a pig* every year, and is a member of a benefit society."

William Ferris supporting only *six* children would hardly have got a prize, but for his fatting a pig, which of course is the only creature he does fatten. The pig is honourably contradistinguished from the children.

All these children are of course reared most suitably for future circumstances. From their earliest hour they have been practised in priration, and in due season will compete for employment on the lowest wages. The country gentlemen who give these premiums thus lay them out at good interest, throwing the sprat to catch the herring, for the tendency is to keep the labour market handsomely overstocked, so that wages may be low, and the labourers well accustomed from their infancy to starvation.

But here is a fine example, without the claim of children:—

"A premium of £2 to Robert Aburrow, of Eastmeon, aged 73. About twenty years ago he was obliged to discontinue labour from infirmity; he has supported himself and wife ever since with what he had previously saved from his earnings, and his wife kept a little school to within the last four years. The candidate *used often to commence work in summer as early as three o'clock, and keep on till dark, to make double time.*"

At 53 he was disabled. For forty years this man toiled, in summer, for eighteen hours a day! And as a noble reward for this agony of industry he has a premium of forty shillings, precisely one shilling a year for his time of labour, or about the seventh of a farthing per day, or in round figures a farthing a week!

Oh, had but Robert Aburrow foreknown his good fortune! Could he but have contemplated, when working eighteen hours a day, that the munificence of the country gentlemen would, twenty years thence, add a farthing a week to the price of his labour, and give it the handsome name of a premium, surely he would have cried—

"Visions of glory, spare my aching sight,
Ye uncoined farthings, rush not on my soul!"

And this is the reward of industry! A labourer must work eighteen hours a day to make a provision for his old age; and with his double toil, what privations and self-denial he must have practised! and the reward of all this is retrospectively the magnificent addition of a farthing a week to his wages.

Is not a society which blazons such a case, and so deals with it when exhibited for honour, virtually an association for the encouragement of indolence? A stronger moral for idleness could hardly be enforced.

And, by the way, we should rather like to see a society for the promotion of idleness instituted. Instead of showing how a man who worked eighteen hours a day for forty summers laid up enough to keep him from the workhouse, it would set forth how such people as six clerks, or sixty clerks, and the like, who had never worked at all, had their thousands and tens of thousands a year as provisions for their days of idleness to come, in compensation for the nothing to do, and the large pay for it, which had been taken from them.

* * * * *

The system of rewarding labourers for living on their wretched wages reminds us of Mr. Disraeli's Lady C——, who, having stuffed the page under the seat of her crowded carriage, gives him a sugar-plum for being so good a boy as not to be suffocated.

THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

(From the *Spectator*.)

Two years ago the agricultural societies of this season attracted great notice by vague and ambiguous words of apparent concurrence in the financial reforms that were then under discussion; last year the country gentlemen busied themselves chiefly in qualifying and unsaying their liberalisms; this year they are conspicuous for a still more negative characteristic—general incompetency to grapple with the perils that beset their rustic homesteads. They are energetic and outspoken in meeting the distant perils of Free Trade, but keep remote from the contest with the imminent dangers of incendiarism: for the future and contingent danger they are quite prepared—for the present visitation they have only speculation, future and slow-working remedies, placid despair, or trivial coaxings. With the brisk and profitable employment of the harvest, incendiarism abated; the work of the harvest ceases, and incendiarism blazes anew. What are the country gentlemen about? Read the many inane reports of agricultural after-dinner speeches, seldom noticeable except for their inanity. The country gentlemen meet, show each other stock and tools, dine, clamour for continued "protection," and congratulate themselves on improvements. And how does the condition of the labourer benefit? Little, if at all. The improvement is in the beasts and the machines; the peasantry remain poor, as stolid, as comfortless, as dangerous as ever. And are they quite neglected at the dinners? Not quite: the diners preach good fellowship between landlords and tenants and labourers; but the practice falls very short of the preaching. At the meeting of the East Cumberland Agricultural Society, Mr. G. H. Oliphant complained that few landlords attended:—"Had the *petty* price of the dinner frightened them? was it because they did not like to see their tenants at the same board? This might be so; but where was the landlord who did not receive his tenant with a smiling look when he went to pay him his rent?" Ay, the vaunted companionship between the gentleman and his tenant is hollow: the landlord asseverates that their interests are one—that they are to be united hand and soul; but the hand is only cordially taken on rent-day; and at a dinner the salt-cellar must stand between their souls, or the lord of the soil is like to have his appetite spoiled! So suspects Mr. Oliphant. The labourers are treated with a yet more distant pride. Look, for instance, at the South Derbyshire dinner. Certain labourers had money-premiums for meritorious services: they came into the feasting-room, not to sit at the board, but to take their money, to drink *a* glass of wine apiece, and to receive a didactic encomium from the chairman. All very affable and condescending; but where is the community of feeling? "This," says Mr. Colville, in substance, to the labourers, "is the virtue that you are to learn—to serve us well: waste not *your* time, for it is *our* money; it is your duty, and ought to be your wish, to serve us; and, if you do not attain to that perfection of servile piety, we will give to a picked few of you, once a year, when we celebrate our own triumphs, a little money, a glass of wine, a nod of approval, and a lecture." The prize-labourers, it is said, looked pleased; but that they should be pleased does not indicate the independent and intelligent state of mind which makes a man most diligent, able, and moral. The annual chuckling of a calculated largess—an investment in insurance on good conduct—to a few labourers, *de haut en bas*, is not Christian and humane fellowship; the mind that is content with that bounty must be little elevated above the trained domestic animal—contented when well fed, ready to bite when hungry. There is nothing in this selfish affability of the employer to endear rank to the poor.

REGISTRATION.

City of London.—The business in this court is proceeding slowly, and will occupy still a considerable time. The state of the revision up to Wednesday night leaves parties in the following position:—

Free-Trade claims allowed	76	
Free-Trade objections sustained ..	334	
		410
Monopolist claims allowed	3	
Monopolist objections sustained	269	
		272
Majority for Free-Traders		138

Manchester Borough.—After all the outcry that was raised in this borough by the Monopolists and their press against the League on the ground of taking frivolous objections, *in not one single case did the revising barrister feel called upon to award costs to Monopolist voters.* The borough revision has closed, and the following is the result:—

	Monopolists.	Free-Traders.
Objections struck off	139	0
Claims substantiated	6	248

Salford.—The Free-Traders struck off between 30 and 40 Monopolists, and established about a dozen claims.

Warrington, Oct. 1.—(From our Correspondent.)—"I have pleasure in forwarding you the following result of our borough revision:"—

		Gain.
Township of Warrington—		
Monopolists struck out	24	
Free-Traders do.	6	
		18
Free-Trade claims allowed	7	
Monopolist do.	2	
		5
Township of Latchford—		
Loss to Monopolists by destroying overseers' lists	6	
Loss to Free-Traders by do.	0	
		6
Gain to Free-Traders by do.	4	
Do. to Monopolists	3	
		1
Free-Trade claims allowed	3	
Monopolist do.	1	
		2
Total gain to Free-Traders		32

South Lancashire Revision (*Bolton* District).—The Free-Traders have succeeded here in striking off 24 names, whilst the Monopolists have not succeeded in doing so in one single instance.

Rochdale District.—The results of the revision have the same gratifying aspect here as in the other districts of the division, the total gain to the Free-Trade party being upwards of 230.

North Lancashire Revision.—*Chorley*, Oct. 1.—This day the Free-Traders have sustained 58 out of 68 objections, independent of what have been struck off on the overseers' objections.

Preston, Sept. 30.—In the court held this day in Preston we have sustained 62 out of 72 objections.

Garstang.—At the revision of the lists for this district on Friday last, the Free-Traders sustained 16 out of 26 objections.

Poulton.—The barrister held the court for this district here on Saturday last, when the Free-Trade party sustained 28 out of 45 objections, in addition to 61 struck off on the overseers' objections.

Leigh.—The revision has been very favourable to the Free-Trade cause in Leigh. We are informed that, whilst the Monopolists have only succeeded in striking four Free-Trade voters from the lists, the Free-Traders have sustained no less than fifty-five objections against their opponents.

Bury, Lancashire.—The revision of the list of voters for the borough of Bury took place on Saturday last, September 28th, at the Eagle and Child Inn, before the Honourable Richard Denman. The following is the result:—

	Claims.	
Free-Traders	5	
Monopolists	2	
		3
Free-Trade objections sustained	12	
Monopolist do. do.	0	
		12
Majority for Free-Traders		15

Bridgewater.—The parliamentary list of borough voters was revised by Charles Saunders, Esq., barrister-at-law. The following, we hear, is the result:—Objections by Free-Traders, 7; sustained, 2. Objections by Monopolists, 23; sustained, 7. Struck off the list for non-payment of rates, &c.: Monopolists, 16; Free-Traders, 5. Gain to the Free-Traders, 6.

North Durham.—In North Durham the Liberals and Free-Traders have had a clear majority of 61 on the claims and objections.

Cheltenham.—The result of this year's revision appears to be highly favourable to the Free-Trade party, as the following analysis will show:—

Objections by Free-Traders.			Objections by Monopolists.		
Sustained.	Failed.	Total.	Sustained.	Failed.	Total.
99	19	118	61	20	81

From the numbers sustained by each, 12 should be deducted, that being the number of those struck off upon objections by *both* parties. Then the number which the Free-Trade party will gain by objections is 87, and the Monopolists 39, giving a majority upon the objections in favour of the Free-Traders of 48. There were 26 new claims established by the Free-Traders, and 12 by the Monopolists; majority of claims in favour of Free-Traders, 14. The total result is as follows:—

	Objections.	Claims.	Total.
Free-Traders' gain	87 ..	26 ..	.. 113
Monopolists' gain	39 ..	12 ..	.. 51
Majority by Free-Traders ..	48 ..	14 ..	.. 62

We believe the correctness of the foregoing figures is not disputed by either party, so that 62 is the admitted majority upon the registration in favour of the Free-Trade party.

The original list contained		2186 names.
From these were struck out upon objections	138	
Deaths	6	144
		2042
To which must be added new claims		38
The register will then contain		2080

The old register contains 2121 names; but we believe, although a larger number of names, there were not so many *voters* upon the register as the new one will contain by 40 or 50.

West Riding.—Among other objections taken by the Free-Traders for this revision were four against Lord Lowther, and the Honourables Cecil, Arthur, and Henry Lowther. In the two former cases the objections succeeded, and the names were struck off. In the two latter, after a very long argument, the court reserved its judgment.

Maldon.—(From our Correspondent.)—Both the South Essex and Maldon borough registration are concluded. In South Essex we had a majority of 112 objections sustained. In the borough we had a majority of objections sustained of 45, and of claims 6; making a clear gain of 51.

Carmarthen, Sept. 21.—(From our Correspondent.)—"I have this week attended the registration court for the borough of Carmarthen. The result has been favourable to the Liberal and, I may safely add, to the Free-Trade cause; the particulars are subjoined on the next leaf. The general result is a gain of 42 by the Liberal and Free-Trade party."

	Loss.		Gain.	
Llanelly ..	Monopolists ..	4	Monopolists ..	1
	Free-Traders ..	0	Free-Traders..	1
Carmarthen..	Monopolists ..	4	Monopolists ..	0
	Free-Traders ..	0	Free-Traders..	34
Total gain of Free-Traders				42

Borough of Devizes.—The Free-Traders made 10 claims and 3 objections, of which the claims were all allowed; 2 objections withdrawn, 1 lost. The Monopolists made one claim and one objection. Objection withdrawn, claim allowed.

Frome.—J. N. Oxenham, Esq., the revising barrister, appointed to revise the list of voters for the borough of Frome, held his court on Monday last. The following is the result of the revision:—

Free-Trade claims allowed..	14	
Monopolists expunged from list	12	
		26
Monopolist claims allowed	3	
Free-Traders expunged from list.. ..	8	
		11
Majority for Free-Traders		15

Mr. Henry Miller appeared for the Monopolists; and Mr. Fairbanks and Mr. Huggett, of the Anti-Corn-Law League, for the Free-Traders.

Bradford.—The revision for this borough commenced on Wednesday. The details are not yet published, but the result showed a decided increase in favour of the Free-Traders.

Wakefield.—The revision in this borough is greatly in favour of the Free-Traders.

Oxford.—The revision in this borough shows a gain to the Free-Traders of 13, independent of a considerable gain in the new names on the list unobjected to.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, October 2, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

		£	s.	d.
Stockport, 13th Remit.	Alfred Orrell, ex-mayor	£200	0	0
	Higson & Littlewood, Heaton Norris	40	0	0
	James Ogden, Portwood	40	0	0
Friends to Free Trade at Bridgewater		17	0	0
Balance of the St. George's Association Subscriptions, per H. White		6	17	10
James Waterman, brewery, Stony-lane, Tooley-street		5	0	0
The Workmen of Molineaux, Webb, and Co., Flint-Glass Works, Manchester, per D Wilkinson		5	0	0
Thomas Paul, 10, Mansion-house-street		2	2	0
*Arthur Morgan, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars		2	2	0
*William Manner, Hertford		2	0	0
Assistants of Messrs. Shoolbred, Cook, and Co., 155, Tottenham-court-road, per Mr. Bowen		2	0	0
*George Lawrence, farmer, Ocle Pitchard, Herefordshire		2	0	0
*Joseph Strutt, 84, Gower-street, Bedford-square		2	0	0
*J. Barefoot Prince, 27, Bread-street		2	0	0
*Timothy Thorne, East Dulwich		1	1	0
James Harrison, 26, Gutter-lane, Cheapside		1	1	0
S. B. Morris, 99, Wood-street, do.		1	1	0
*W. C. Withall, 4, Featherstone-street, City-road		1	1	0
*Mrs. Jane Goodwin, 7, Augusta-terrace, Clapham-road		1	1	0
William Moseley Baker, 2, Botolph-alley, Botolph-lane		1	1	0
*Robert Little, 4, Somerset-place, Commercial-road East		1	1	0
Thomas Hornby, 31, St. Swithin's-lane		1	1	0
*John Cowburn, Settle, Yorkshire		1	1	0
James Younger, 39, St. John's-lane, Clerkenwell		1	1	0
John Edward Powell, 12, Mortimer-terrace, Kentish-town		1	1	0
William Sanderson, 9, Clare-street, Clare-market		1	1	0
John Lilea, 9, New-street, Covent-garden		1	1	0
*A. Wright, Kirkham, Lancashire		1	1	0
Thomas Wagstaff, 25, New North-street, Finsbury		1	1	0
*Samuel Collard, 13, Jeffrey's-street, Camden-town		1	0	0
*William Townsend, Forty-hill, Enfield		1	0	0
Samuel Robert Walker, 7, London-terrace, Hackney-road		1	0	0
Briggs and Lees, 71, Kingsland-road		1	0	0
Henry S. Adams, 52, St. Martin's-lane		1	0	0
Hopkins and Purvis, 20, Greek-street, Soho		1	0	0
Edmund Ronalds, 109, Upper Thames-street		1	0	0
E. M. Williams and Co., 1, Star-court, Bread-street		1	0	0
*J. C.		1	0	0
Conservative Elector		1	0	0
Two Friends		1	0	0
John Bowcher, 30, Bush-lane, Cannon-street, City		1	0	0
Thomas Ross, draper, Landport, near Portsmouth		1	0	0
*Frederick Farrand, Priory Villa, Peckham		1	0	0
John Dodd, 68, Farringdon-street		1	0	0
Richard Mott, 8, Gordon-square		1	0	0
Thomas Harris, Eagle Brewery, Hampstead-road		1	0	0
Henry Court, 26, Brook-street, Holborn		1	0	0
*R. F. Teschemacher, 2, Park-terrace, Highbury		1	0	0
Philip Hemery Le Breton, 7, Bloomsbury-square		1	0	0
*James Browning, 113, St. John-street, Smithfield		1	0	0
Christopher Jordeson, solicitor, 2, St. Mary-at-hill		1	0	0
*D. Anderson, Driffield		1	0	0
*C. H. Millar, 8, Union-place, Montrose		1	0	0
*Samuel Lawrence, farmer, Stoke Lacey, Herefordshire		1	0	0
*One who dares not give his name		1	0	0
*James Gurney, 18, Farringdon-street		1	0	0
J. Brushfield, oilman, 198, Kingsland-road		1	0	0
*John Cox, 27, Charlotte-street, Bloomsbury		1	0	0
*F. Place, 21, Brompton-square		1	0	0
W. G. Aimé, 1, Belmont-terrace, Wandsworth-road, Vauxhall		1	0	0
*Joseph Grisbrook, draper, Woolwich		1	0	0
*William Mills, 430, Oxford-street		1	0	0
James Grumbridge, 42, Poland-street, Oxford-street		1	0	0
John Buckland, 6, Crosby-row, Walworth, 10s. And a Friend, 10s.		1	0	0
Charles Comyns, 14, Cook's-row, St. Pancras-road		1	0	0
George Mudie, 28, Upper King-street, Bloomsbury		1	0	0
C. E. Mudie, 28, Upper King-street, Bloomsbury, (2nd subscription)		0	10	6
Thomas R. Keles, 23, Cursitor-street, Chancery-lane		0	10	0
Wm. Waters, 1, Arthur-street West, London-bridge		0	10	0
C. Nicholls, 20, Church-street, Soho		0	10	0
A Friend to the Cause		0	10	0
Mr. Cadoux, 2, Norway-place, Hackney-road		0	5	0
Colin Matthews, 52, St. Martin's-lane		0	5	0
John Matthews, 52, do.		0	5	0
Philip Matthews, 52, do.		0	5	0
William Wilkinson, 64, Gracechurch-street		0	5	0
Friends		0	5	0
Edward Goodyear, 11, Rosoman-street, Clerkenwell		0	5	0
J. S. Prockter, Grange-road, Bermondsey		0	5	0
A. W. Penrose, 5, Amwell-street, Pentonville		0	5	0
J. Cumming, 28, do., do.		0	5	0
Henry Wm. Hardy, 17, Seymour-place North, Euston-square		0	5	0
Benjamin Wright, 1, Judd-place East, New-road		0	5	0
Anthony Whiteley, 34, Frederick-place, Hampstead-road		0	5	0
J. Crosland, 2, Penchurch-street		0	5	0
John Snell, 10, Harp-alley, Farringdon-street		0	5	0
Francis Bawler, 19, do., do.		0	5	0
Theophilus Noble, 70, Fleet-street		0	5	0
J. R.		0	5	0
Richard Madiren, 23, Poland-street, Oxford-street		0	5	0
Robert Snowden, 7, Plumber's row, City-road		0	5	0
J. P.		0	5	0
Bullmore & Patrick, 17, Bedford-st., Covent-garden		0	5	0
Augustus Henry Farwig, 1, Salisbury-court, Fleet-st.		0	5	0
Orlando Crease, 12, Amwell-terrace, Pentonville		0	5	0
William Voller, 8, Martin's lane, Cannon-street		0	5	0
William Meggs, 22, North-place, Kingsland-road		0	5	0
Henry Bennett, 39, Upper North place, Gray's-inn-rd.		0	5	0
Thomas Glanville, 12, Bell's-buildings, Salisbury-sq.		0	4	0
J. H.		0	3	0
H. Walker, 90, Great Titchfield-street		0	3	0
Thos. Abraham, 39, Frederick-place, Hampstead-rd.		0	3	0
James Webb, 4, Norway-place, Hackney-road		0	2	6
O. T. Attwell, 102, Kingsland-road		0	2	6
J. and E. Langhurst, 153, do.		0	2	6
Owen Kelly, 51, Gracechurch-street		0	2	0
Wm. Woodman, 28, Great Cambridge street, Hackney-road		0	2	6
E. B. Watson, 24, Greek-street, Soho		0	2	6
R. D. Smith, 74, London-wall		0	2	6
John Bremner, 209, Piccadilly		0	2	6
George Tattersall, 40, Noble-street, Cheapside		0	2	6
John Lucas, 32, Cowper-street, City-road		0	2	6
George Sharp, 30, Fleh-street-hill		0	2	6
D. Arnell, 30, Skinner-street, Clerkenwell		0	2	6
J. Rawley, 10, Rosoman-street, do.		0	2	6
John Greenwood, 10, Arthur-street West, London-bridge		0	2	6
Charles Williams, 22, Walbrook		0	2	6
M. Rhodes, 8, Rahere-street, Goswell-road		0	2	6
R. Peter, 53, Amwell-street, Pentonville		£0	2	6
A. Craven, 16, Adam's-row, Hampstead-road		0	2	6
John Roberts, 1, Sol's-row, do.		0	2	6
Joel Rowsell, 7, Holborn		0	2	6
H. M. Bealby, 21, Charing-cross		0	2	6
Thomas Owen, 28, Red Lion-street, Clerkenwell		0	2	6
John Lawrence, 38, Hart-street, Covent-garden		0	2	6
Charles Throssell, 13, Harp-alley, Farringdon-street		0	2	6
Henry Brooks, 113, Wardour-street, Oxford-street		0	2	6
Thomas Merry, 380, Oxford-street		0	2	6
T. Gravell, 33, Red Cross-street, Cripplegate		0	2	6
William Walton, 93, Long-acre		0	2	6
Charles Dixon, 86, Crown-court, Dorset-st., Fleet-st.		0	2	6
C. Matthews, King's-head-court, Fleet-street		0	2	6
A. R. Jacobs, 145, Regent-street		0	2	6
William Reid, 51, Conduit-street		0	2	6
William Brookes, 44, Baker-street, Lloyd-square, Pentonville		0	2	6
George Conch, 46, Clerkenwell-green		0	2	6
Thomas Bren, 18, Union-street East, Spitalfields		0	2	6
Thomas Skinwell, 19, do., do.		0	2	6
Edmund Dinham, 226, Tottenham-court-road		0	2	6
William Lickfold, tobacco pipe maker, 13, Fox's-lane, Shadwell		0	2	6
J. H. Hunter, Dial Tavern, Long-alley, Eldon-street, City		0	2	6
John Pike, 63, Brill-row, Somers-town		0	2	6
James Freeman, 24, Church-row, St. Pancras-road		0	2	6
Chas. London, 23, Aldenham-street, do.		0	2	6
B.		0	2	6
Henry Fish, 58, Charles-street, Westminster		0	2	6
Charles Gill, 24, Little Windmill-street, Haymarket		0	2	6
John Bamber, 34, do, do.		0	2	6
Wm. Thornton, 18, Little Pulteney-street, Golden-square		0	2	6
Uriah Mucey, 27, Great Titchfield-street		0	2	6
William Pether, 93, do.		0	2	6
Mr. Dames, 347, Oxford-street		0	2	6
Mrs. Ouchterlony, 13, Prospect-place, Kingsland-rd.		0	2	6
William Patient, 12, Bride-terrace, Liverpool-road, Islington		0	2	6
George Mitchell Bateman, 17, Took's-court, Cursitor-street		0	2	6
William Kettle, newsman, 13, Little Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields		0	2	6
Edward and Wm. Powell, 10, Wilson-street, Finsbury		0	2	6
John Emslie, 6, Upper North-place, Gray's-inn-road		0	2	6
Artisans in the Factories of Messrs. Collard and Collard. — In Tottenham-court-road:—				
John Stone		0	2	6
Henry Cousins		0	2	6
Joseph Williams		0	2	6
David Telfor		0	2	6
William Hales		0	2	6
Christopher Winkworth		0	2	6
T. Hellyar		0	2	6
Robert Grosvenor		0	2	6
Richard Wood		0	2	6
Robert Grosvenor, jun.		0	2	6
William Parsons		0	2	6
Joseph Bannister		0	2	6
Small subscriptions under 2s. 6d.		0	7	0
In Camden Town:—				
George Murphy		0	2	6
William Smith		0	2	6
John Romans		0	2	6
George Chamberlain		0	2	6
Christopher Hopper		0	2	6
Small subscriptions under 2s. 6d.		0	4	0
In Hampstead-road:—				
Small subscriptions under 2s. 6d.		0	2	0
Small subscriptions		5	4	0
Truro. R. Barrett		0	5	0
T. Solomon		0	2	6
Mr. Robyns		0	2	6
A Friend at Birmingham		0	1	0
Robert Dickson, Bramsley-hall, Otley, Yorkshire		1	0	0
Peter Garwood,	Hertford	0	3	0
S. Darling, West-street,	do.	0	2	6
James Smith, do.,	do.	0	5	0
James Coll, do.,	do.	0	2	6
Richard Shillitoe, Castle-street,	do.	0	2	6
Thomas Wenham, Railway-street,	do.	0	5	0
Mrs. Young, Ramsgate		0	4	6
Small sums at Hertford		1	2	0
Mr. Snowden, Alfred street,	Bath	2	0	0
Mr. Wilson, 12, Paragon-buildings,	do.	1	0	0
Mr. Pearson, 29, Kingsmead-terrace	do.	0	10	0
William Mitchell, 3, Cheap-street,	do.	0	10	0
A. Barry, Norfolk-buildings	do.	0	5	0
Mr. Hancock, Westgate-street,	do.	0	5	0
Mr. Ball, Kingston House, Abbey-yard,	do.	0	5	0
Rev. Mr. Monk, Corston, near	do.	0	2	6
Mr. Northmore, 1, Walcot-buildings,	do.	0	2	6
Mr. Pike, 7, New King-street,	do.	0	2	6
Mr. Butt, 5, Stanhope-street,	do.	0	5	0
A Friend, by do.	do.	0	5	0
A Friend, by do.	do.	0	5	0
George Major, jun., Union-street	do.	0	5	0
Thomas Gill, Sydney-place,	do.	0	5	0
H. Morgan, 7, New Bond-street,	do.	0	5	0
George Hunt, Somerset House,	do.	0	5	0
Alderman Spencer, Gay-street,	do.	0	5	0
Alderman M. Harris, Lyncombe,	do.	0	5	0
Benjamin Hunt, 65, Pultney street,	do.	0	5	0
W. H. Pierpoint, Bathwick-hill,	do.	0	5	0
R. H. Hellings, 19, Old Bond-street,	do.	0	5	0
J. Passmore, Oxford-terrace,	do.	0	5	0
Mr. Walsher, Pound-street,	do.	0	2	6
Mr. George, 1, Burton-street,	do.	0	2	6
Mr. Hadden, Great Stanhope-street,	do.	0	2	6
Mr. Mayer, 11, Kingsmead-terrace,	do.	0	2	6
Mr. Stone, Kingsmead-street,	do.	0	1	0
Mr. Cheston, 12, Monmouth-street,	do.	0	1	0
Mr. Sherman, Kingsmead-street,	do.	0	1	0
Mr. Stringer, do.,	do.	0	1	0
A Friend, by do., do,	do.	0	1	0
Small sums from Bath		0	17	6
Workmen in the employ of Mr. J. Bryden, Alportown, Manchester		2	0	0
James Sidebottom, 22, High-street, Manchester		20	0	0
Joseph Leese, jun., Ardwick Printworks,	do.	40	0	0
J. Nelson, at Messrs. Watts's, Fountain-st.,	do.	1	0	0
A Friend, per Wm. Birkham,	do.	5	0	0
James Fisher, Bilston		5	0	0
Mrs. Fisher, do.		2	0	0

* Those names marked with an asterisk are renewed subscriptions.

THE LOWER AND THE UPPER CLASS.—In the city of Durham the number of miners is nearly double that of the labourers employed in the cultivation of the surface.

THE IRISH CHARACTER.—Many indolent, do-nothing politicians contend that it is of little use to legislate for Ireland, as nothing can remedy the greatest evil which afflicts that country—the character of its people. How false this notion is may be seen from the following testimony borne by Dr. Durbin, an American traveller, to the habits and disposition of the Irish in the United States. After describing that people at home, he says, "But the Irishman in America is another being. With the prospect before him of securing a bit of land, even a farm and a comfortable home, he soon shakes off his idle habits, works as diligently and saves as carefully as any of his neighbours. The truth seems to be, then, that nothing but *motive* is wanting to make the Irish industrious and economical."

LETTERS ON THE CORN LAWS, No. I.

TO THE RIGHT HON. LORD ASHLEY, M.P., &c.

MY LORD,—You aspire to be regarded as the Friend of the Working People. It is one of the most respectable forms of ambition. Nor is its gratification difficult, so far as a large proportion of those who labour is concerned. Their alleged suspiciousness of the higher classes is a very superficial feeling. A few symptoms of sympathy will win their hearts. They do not scrutinize severely. Much more is needful to deserve their confidence than to obtain it. At this higher mark I would have your lordship aim. I give you credit for a kindly and noble nature. The concession is too large, should you content yourself with the plaudits of that credulity which looks to "Young England" for leadership towards intellectual progress, and to Feargus O'Connor for guidance to political emancipation.

You advocate a Ten Hours' Factory Bill, and you oppose the repeal of the Corn Laws. There are many with whom the advocacy gains you a popularity which the hostility does not, for the present, materially impair. Those who feel are more numerous than those who think. It is easier to sigh over the sadness of prolonged labour than to trace the operation of the causes by which labour is mercilessly prolonged, in order to earn the means of subsistence. But this is required of the true friend of the working classes. Stopping short of this, as your lordship has hitherto stopped short, you may render yourself the idol of those who mistake soft heads for tender hearts, and be canonized as the patron saint of a sickly sentimentalism; but history will not award you the enduring honours of a genuine philanthropy.

Reconsider, my lord, the incongruous combination in your conduct to which I have just adverted. You are anxious to diminish labour, and yet to preserve undiminished a tax upon the food which that labour has undergone to earn. You introduce a bill which proclaims to the poor man "thou shalt not work so long;" other things remaining the same, your bill actually says, "thou shalt not eat so much." The limitation of work can only fail of being the limitation of wages when coupled with other measures which unshackle trade, and leave food to its natural price in the world's market. Your Ten Hours' Bill, alone, is but a one-sided benevolence—benevolence with only its weak and blind side; it would have proved itself a bill of pains and penalties. I dispute not the sincerity of your humane professions; I address you now in the faith that you meant well; but "the road to hell is paved with good intentions," and the hovel of starvation and crime is a house of call by the way, erected by a blundering legislation.

Your Factory Bill is yet untried, and likely to remain so unless advocated with a sterner disregard of party interests than you and your supporters evinced last session; but your act for regulating mines and collieries is in full operation. Mr. Tremenheere's report contains items on which, with reference to your adherence to monopolist principles, it is well that your attention should be fixed. In the main object you have, thank Heaven! succeeded. Young children are no longer immured, through the livelong day, in dens of darkness. Dependent women are not now degraded into filthy beasts of burden. Blessings on you for that; and the honest heart will pour them forth unsparingly. The forced employment of the young and helpless, in ways beyond their strength or debasing to their nature, is not Free Trade but slave labour; and its abolition an occasion for universal satisfaction. But, my lord, even in this rejoicing, who pays the piper? The collier families were poor enough before; and very many of them now are poorer still. The female form was then debased by dirt; now it is attenuated by starvation. Again and again do we read, in Mr. Tremenheere's report, of the expelled women "stealing" down into the pits for employment; and steal down they must, or be driven to steal above ground. Prosecutions are commenced, and more are threatened. Here is a new version of the law, "thou shalt not steal." Such legal punishment as usually awaits the thief impends over those who only sought to steal into the way of earning an honest livelihood. Does it not strike some misgivings into your mind, when the judicial terrors of our tribunals are invoked for the suppression of this novel criminality?

On "women of mature or advanced age," Mr. Tremenheere says, "the provisions of the act have fallen with *great severity*." (P. 2.) In truth, the provisions of the act seem scarcely to have left them any other provisions. In all parts of the coal districts where women had been employed, complaints were numerous of the hardships that the act had occasioned to elder females, widows, orphan daughters of mature age, families where there were no sons to aid a father who was old or ailing; and other similar cases." (P. 2.) These poor creatures, my lord, were unluckily on the blind side of your benevolence. Their numbers are not few. In one parish, Newton, in Mid Lothian, the report mentions that of 180

females excluded from the coal-pits, only 49 had since obtained permanent employment. Some of these unquestionably are suffering greatly, having been reduced from a position in which they could feed and clothe themselves in comfort and decency, to the necessity of resorting to the most humiliating employments, such as *collecting manure on the roads*, &c. The minister of the parish mentioned two instances, which may be taken as representing the difficulties to which many of the same class must have been exposed :—

"The daughters, of the ages of 49 and 40 respectively (of a father aged 75), have been left to shift for themselves, and have had recourse to making and vending camstone (a kind of white clay used far washing the earthen and stone floors of houses), since they cannot hope to be received as domestic servants, after having been for so long a period nothing better than beasts of burden. In this occupation, when the weather admits of their going abroad, they make on an average *about three*-pence a day, and to do this they have sometimes to travel as far as Haddington, a distance of 14 miles." (P. 4.)

Think upon this, my lord; and remember that it is *your doing*. Remember also that, besides the privations inflicted directly upon those ejected from their former occupation, there is a large atmosphere of injury in the reduction of wages amongst those who are subjected to this sudden competition. This too, my lord, is your doing. The good you achieve is tainted. The fountain of your beneficence "sends forth sweet waters and bitter;" very bitter indeed to many of the most helpless and most deserving in that class of which you claim to be the legislative friend and champion.

The accident of Mr. Tremenheere's report enables the public to see distinctly, in this instance, the evil which is inseparable from your mode of dealing partially and superficially with the miseries to which working people are liable. That evil will corrode all your efforts, so long as you avoid going to the bottom of the question, and probing the depths of the disease. Your application mitigates the eruption on the skin, while the vital organs are losing their functionary power. People work hard and long, and set their wives and children to work, when they can, not from the cravings of a wicked cupidity, but from the drivings of an inexorable necessity. More work in proportion to their numbers—that is what is wanted; and more work can only be created by more trade. Your lordship upholds the system by which the trade of the country is restricted.

The association founded by your lordship for the benefit of the poor sempstresses of the metropolis boasts, by advertisement, of having mitigated their condition. Very good, so far; but I ask, again, at whose expense? If at that of the inmates of the workhouses, losing thus their hard-earned but welcomed little privileges of tea or snuff; or at that of the ragged wretch for whom a very cheap shirt was the only chance of not going shirtless; why then, assuredly, the drawback upon the good done is not inconsiderable. There is a removal of the heavy burden from some weak shoulders to other weak shoulders. The pressure passes from poverty to poverty, but not from poverty to wealth; it passes from industry to industry, but not from industry to monopoly. You change its distribution; and, so far as you change it for the better, I give you heartfelt praise. Inasmuch as in these changes you still leave it upon the poor and working classes, and allow no atom of it to touch the monopolist landowner, I praise you not. To keep women and children out of mines, is well; to keep class taxation out of the bread-basket, is better. "These things should you have done, and not leave the other undone."

Even during the present comparatively cheap and prosperous season—prosperous because cheap—there is too little of food and of employment in the country for the wants of its working population. Of this pervading evil the forms of suffering that elicit your lordship's sympathy are only different phases or modifications. With more food and more work many of the mischiefs which you deprecate would of themselves disappear; others might be removed by judicious interposition; and injurious results, like those inflicted in the coal and mining districts, be altogether avoided by that rapid opening up of new sources of employment which Free Trade, by extending commerce, would not fail to realize. Compensation would thus be provided for the victims of your reforms. Had those victims belonged to a more powerful class in society, your lordship knows very well that "compensation" would have been the first word uttered in Parliament on the introduction of your propositions, and have stood in the margin of the first clause of any bill that you expected to carry through the House. Parliamentary justice dreams not of compensating the poor and helpless. No, not when, as in the present case, the best and most appropriate compensation is a measure at once of simplest equity and of national policy. Whatever else may be said of the Corn Laws, it can scarcely be contended by any that they do not enhance the price of food and limit the extent of trade. Humanity is against them; humanity, which your lordship takes politically for your guiding star. By implication, you acknowledge their mischievous character. In your various efforts, whether the mine or the factory be foremost in your view, it is with the results of the Corn Laws that you are struggling. And how long can your head be satisfied with your heart for feeling strongly some of the miserable results of a cause which you leave not only unassailed, but prolonged for the further multiplication of wretchedness by your support? For shame, my lord; abandon your palliatives of petty wrongs, or wage your war with the monster mischief. Be not a pedler in the small wares of partial charity, while you help to blockade the island against the admission of justice. Have some regard for your consistency and good name. The working classes are willing to be your grateful debtors for the most trifling improvement in their condition. But they know they are wronged. In their name I demand the impartial application of your principles of humanity. Abate the great source of evil in the cupidity of your own class, and its abuse of the sacred trust of legislative power. Become a Corn-Law repealer; or sink into a renegade to the philanthropy which has been the solitary and honourable distinction of your political career.

A Norwich Weaver Boy.

AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENCE.

We receive an immense number of letters from the agricultural districts, and they are all written in the same tone, expressing dissatisfaction with the present state of things, and describing the lamentable condition of tenant-farmers and agricultural labourers. We give below a few extracts as specimens.

"Ashburton, Sept. 24, 1844.

"I believe the time is fast coming when anything but the present scale will be caught at. Sale after sale of agricultural stock and produce bespeak the wretched state of the farmer, who is ready to throw up all in despair. Nor can it be better under the present system."

"Faversham, Sept. 27, 1844.

"The greatest distress prevails in our district, and bills announcing sales of farming property are daily crowding on public attention, and in almost every instance the parties walk out much worse men in pocket. We are persuaded that nothing can substantially benefit the farmers but long leases and education, combined with *Free Trade*."

"Colchester, 9 mo. 20, 1844.

"The farmers now are many of them in a state of great distress, owing to the low price of corn and high rents; yet, at the same time, they are afraid to complain, whether of high rents, the ravages of game, or the operation of the sliding scale, for fear of being served with notice to quit. The competition for farms is so great, that if a farmer is turned out it is scarcely possible for him to obtain another. About three weeks ago there was a farm to be let in this neighbourhood, and I have been told that there were fifty-eight applications for it in a very short time. One great cause of this competition is the baneful system which prevails here, of annexing small farms to large ones as the tenants are sold off. Large tracts of land thus come into the occupation of a single individual, who fancies that the larger his farm becomes, the greater will necessarily be his facilities for cultivating his land with profit. But here is his great mistake. His acres are too extensive for his capital, his land is not half cultivated, and not only himself but the public at large are the losers."

"Malmesbury, Sept. 26, 1844.

"I can assure you that there are very many farmers here fast progressing towards our cause. From the experience of the last few years they have learnt that pauperism and crime have made rapid progress, whilst under their much-vaunted "protection" they have scarcely kept their capital together. Hitherto the great dread they have had of Free Trade has been derived from the exaggerated statements of interested individuals, of the boundless supplies of foreign stuff ready to inundate our market on the repeal of the restrictive laws. On that point argument has not been without effect, and the maxim 'that goods cannot be bought unless by labour,' is fast making ground amongst them."

"Buckover, Thornbury, Gloucestershire,
"Sept. 21, 1844.

"The farmer's condition—miserable in ordinary times—will now become so intolerable as, in all probability, to make them cast about for some remedy."

"Quidhampton, Salisbury, Sept. 21, 1844.

"I have no doubt but that many of the farmers in this district are Free-Traders at heart, and wish the cause success; but they DARE NOT SPEAK, as they are all under the dominion of the Pembroke family. The farm-labourers too, they see that the abolition of Corn Laws would be to their advantage in every respect; but with their present wages they are mere serfs and slaves, compelled to do that which in reality they abhor."

"Knaresborough, Yorkshire, Sept. 27, 1844.

"A farmer said to me the other day that he and his fellow-farmers had signed an Anti-League petition, and that as soon as they had all signed it he said to his brother farmers, 'Well, we have just been cutting our own throats.' 'Well then,' said I, 'why did you sign it?' 'Oh, what could we do? The landlord sent his steward, and if we had not signed it we should soon have had notice to quit.'

"You may make what use you like of this. Everywhere I find the farmers afraid of their landlords; and some who at first seem most violent against the League, when they can express themselves freely, are no friends to the monopolist landocracy."

"St. Ives, Hunts, Sept. 28, 1844.

"The farmers are very poor, and I think they will ask themselves a few questions at another election. My own opinion is, the sooner we have Free Trade the better. I look upon the Free-Traders as the liberators of the farmers, for they dare not liberate themselves."

"Oxon, Sept., 1844.

"A friend of mine, in conversation, said, 'You have lived here many years, surrounded by the tenantry of the Earl of Macclesfield.' 'Yes, I have,' I replied, 'between forty and fifty years.' 'Can you tell me how many you recollect having made a competency under his lordship's farms or lettings?' I was staggered at first by the novelty of the question. I considered about five minutes, and then said, 'Give me another five minutes and I will tell you of at least twenty that I remember who came to breaking stones and other day labour, who were once his tenants, and who lost their all; and further, I know of but one now who is considered to be possessed of property, and that one is indebted to deceased relatives for it.'"

"Newport, I. W., Sept. 30, 1844.

"The farmers are beginning to discharge their men, and some, I am assured, have not cash sufficient to pay the labourer his small pittance of 8s. or 9s. weekly."

"Berkeley, Sept. 22, 1844.

"There is that fierce competition for farms which places the farmers entirely at the mercy of their landlord. I have heard numbers of them declare solemnly they shall not make half their rent of the land this year. And it is no uncommon thing to hear a farmer say that £40 would not repay him for the damage he sustains in one season from game. I heard a farmer in my shop a few days since tell the steward that £20 would not compensate him for his loss on one field of wheat. Another farmer told me that of two acres of wheat and six bushels of barley, he had not a single handful—it was all devoured. This is not confined to a few farmers, the complaint is general; and yet they must not complain aloud, or they would be noticed out.

"There was a Pro-Corn-Law petition secretly sent round the parish last session, and signed by the friends of Mr. H. Berkeley, who is pledged for total repeal. There was one at Dursley also, but they could not get more than about 30 names."

"Shepton Mallet, Sept. 27, 1844.

"The farmers say, 'What are we to do? If we oppose the landlord, his agent, or the parson, we are warned out, and the competition for farms has been such that the landlords have been able hitherto to carry out their scheme of monopoly with the assistance of a landlords' Parliament.'"

"Pocklington, Sept. 26, 1844.

"It is very evident that too much dependence is placed on the protection supposed to be afforded by the present law, which, if removed, would tend greatly to induce the farmers to rely more on their own exertions."

"Ross, Sept. 24, 1844.

"I think the present, or rather the ensuing winter will tend to open the farmers' eyes. Providence has blessed us with bountiful crops, the prices of which will, of course, be low; that under the present system is ruinous to farmers."

"Ellingham, Sept. 30, 1844.

"The farm we occupy is 210 acres, under a lease; it is mostly arable. We took it under Corn-Law protection. We should rejoice to see Free Trade to-morrow, because we see that our burdens would be lowered in proportion as the labourer found constant employment and good wages."

A TRUE "FARMERS' FRIEND."

(From the *Sussex Advertiser*.)

The late Earl of Leicester, beyond all comparison, was the earliest, the best, and stanchest friend to agriculture as an art, and to the farmer as the artist. He first raised farming to the high character it assumed, and, but for the elevation he introduced and encouraged, the great probability is, that England would have fallen, if she had not perished, under the prohibitory policy of Bonaparte. But for the vast impulse given to farming in the few previous years, famine must have subdued the spirit and the enterprise of the country. This was doubtless, in a great degree, attributable to the supply being always below the demand; and to the attendant elevation of the price. But Coke of Norfolk, by enlarging his farms, building excellent houses, and other incitements, chiefly his personal attention, allured men who possessed adequate capital, great knowledge, and no less activity and enterprise, to become his tenants. *Rent* with him was secondary—the improvement of his estate, and the advancement of the art, the first objects; and at his death his average rent per acre was perhaps lower than that of any Norfolk proprietor. We have heard him express his opinion a hundred times that no land was so barren as not to pay for skilful cultivation. But what was his panacea, his universal provision? A LONG LEASE. He *secured* the farmer against all risk of outlay. He inquired rigidly into the personal character and pecuniary means of all who offered for his farms, and he admitted no man who had not sufficient capital and adequate skill. He could estimate the worth of land as well as the best judge in England; and once, during a visit we made him, he valued a farm of 1400 acres against his tenant in contemplation of a renewal of a long lease: the tenant's valuation exceeded the landlord's by the small sum of eight pounds, and, when both had finished, the tenant jocosely refused to have the farm at Mr. Coke's, but insisted on paying the rent he himself had fixed. On another and similar occasion a tenant came to him (it was in the year of agricultural distress, 1834), when the following colloquy took place:—

"Squire, you let me my farm ten years ago, on a fourteen-year lease; I marled and manured it, according to your recommendation. It has repaid me very well, but I think it has run out a little sooner than I expected. If you will now renew my lease for fourteen years, I am ready to pay an advanced rent."

"An advanced rent, Mr. G——! What now? In these times of agricultural distress? This is rather unexpected. But open your mouth."

"And he did open his mouth," said Mr. Coke, "and my reply was, 'You shall have a new lease directly, Mr. G——;' to which Mr. G—— replied, 'Since you are so kind, Sir, let the new rent begin from last Michaelmas.' It was then the month of February."

Such were the methods by which this true friend to agriculture raised not only the value of his property and the cultivation of his estate, but his character, estimation, and regard amongst his tenantry, to the high pitch it had attained—the very highest, perhaps, of any landlord in the empire; and we must also mention another trait. When a tenant died he invariably offered the farm to some branch of his family. Mr. Hudson, of Castleacre, the agriculturist whose name appeared in the late report of the Glynde sale, and one of the first farmers in Norfolk and in the kingdom, is a living proof of this principle and its importance.

FACTS *versus* FALLACIES.

(From the *Preston Guardian.*)

Passing events, we think, cannot fail to convince the operatives of the unsoundness, not to say absurdity, of the position in which too many of them once joined, that cheap food would reduce wages. It is now demonstrated that, if the price of food have any influence in the matter, the very opposite is the effect, and must be so, except the supply of labour was unlimited. Engaged, as a great majority of the working people are, in manufacturing clothing, bedding, furniture, and all the extra comforts and luxuries of which working people are fond, and in which they have a right to indulge, nothing can be plainer than this, that if they begin to save in food, they begin to spend money in other things, and consequently, by creating an extra demand, they increase the rate of wages.

The remarkable activity in the cotton manufactures cannot be accounted for by the increase of *exports*. The export of cotton yarn in the first six months of this year, is *less* in value by £51,773 than in the first six months of 1841; while the increase in cotton manufactures in the same periods is only £972,487, being short of two millions for the year. But while this will not account for the increase of work and the increase of wages, the saving in the price of food betwixt the two years, putting it down only at *thirty millions*, will fully account for the change.

Another delusion which passing events will dissipate is, that masters have the power of fixing wages, instead of wages being fixed by supply and demand. If they *have* the power, we must allow that during the past year they have exercised it somewhat generously, for, instead of dropping wages with cheap food, they have advanced them, and in some trades, such as moulders, for instance, wages are almost doubled. But masters have no such power, and hence every advance is not to be attributed to their generosity, but to the regular control of supply and demand. When profits are good, other capitalists are tempted to enter the trade, and, in order to get hands, are obliged to advance wages; and if a number of masters in one town combine, masters in other towns always look with jealousy upon any who are giving lower wages, and will be more ready to support the men than the masters, to prevent themselves being undersold. Competition among the masters is as sure to bring the wages up, as competition among the men is to bring them down. Labour finds its value in the market as certainly as corn or potatoes, though the changes are not so rapid or frequent. We always wondered how any political leader, who constantly cried up the supremacy of the people, should at the same time maintain that the wages of the operatives were under the absolute control of the masters, and that upon the return of cheap food they would inevitably drop them. Many clever men, we think, must now feel ashamed of having been the dupes of such misguided leaders. The *Preston Chronicle* undertook some time ago to show that cheap food almost invariably occasioned low wages. Where will it now find a corroboration of so preposterous a position? Evidently not in the experience of the present day. The *Chronicle* itself has lately recorded several instances of advance of wages in this town and neighbourhood, and at the same time the prices of food exhibited a downward tendency! How, then, can cheap food produce low wages?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *TIMES*.

Sir,—The *Sussex Express* of last week contains the unprecedented number of 70 advertisements for the sale by auction of farming stock. Ten of these are mere general notices of sale, and furnish no particulars, but the remaining 60 give the following immense quantity of live stock (to say nothing of agricultural implements and household furniture) to be brought to the hammer within the space of a week or ten days:—388 horses, 1098 neat cattle, 8927 sheep, and 557 swine. If some two or three of these are sales of "fancy" stock, on the other hand there are the ten advertisements which are not brought into the account.

But what an index is here afforded to the state of the country! Can any one fact show more clearly the "form and pressure" of the times on farmers and the agricultural population? It is all very well for landlords and the clergy to prate about "high farming" and giving employment to labourers, but farmers, as a body, are a poor class; and if all the produce of their farms is required to meet the payment of rent, tithes, and taxes, the labourer must go unemployed. The farmer is fully aware, and needs no telling, that no outlay of money on his farm is so beneficial to himself as that spent in the employment of labour—it stands to reason; and he must be hard up, indeed, if he does not secure a sufficiency of it. Therefore, you may be quite sure, Sir, that when the labourers are out of work, it is because the farmers are too poor to pay them.

I have read your reports about the unsettled state of Suffolk, and they remind me a good deal of what Arthur Young says about the condition of France before the great French Revolution,—the poverty to which the farmers were reduced, and the want of employment for the people—so much so, that the labourers were lying idle about the roads and villages without work and without food, and the land was either insufficiently tilled, or the landlord had to supply stock and tackling to keep his farms in cultivation, dividing the produce with the tenant. This he calls farming on the "Metayer" system; and he goes on to say he was quite at a loss to account for all this until he read the "*cahiers*" presented to the National Assembly, detailing the *heavy rents*, taxes, exactions, and oppressions under which agriculture groaned. I think it would do some folks good to read Arthur Young.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Sept. 25. A Sussex Farmer.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ANTI-LEAGUE TRACTS.

To the Editor *of the* League.

Chelmsford, Sept. 19, 1844.

Sir,—I much admire the ability with which you continually bring the Anti-Leaguites to witness against themselves; but your quotations being often only from careless reports of careless words, they may say they were misunderstood. There is, however, a copious store of their deliberate statements no less to our purpose, namely, their tracts; and, indeed, these call for notice in themselves. Your neglect of them cannot have been lest you should be thought to think much of them. Nor do I wish them noticed fearing their influence. On the contrary, they are in themselves so utterly absurd and self-contradictory, that we could not fail to help our cause by merely assisting in their distribution; but, unless exposed, the knowledge of the mere fact that the Anti-League has extensively printed (which really is all that most of their nominal adherents appear yet to know, or likely to know), cannot but strengthen their position; as it is only natural to assume they would not take so much trouble unless they had *something* to say for themselves. And, from the extremely trashy nature of their publications, the Anti-League have themselves furnished us with weapons against them, which we shall be to blame if we neglect.

I have now before me all of these tracts that I have been able to procure here. They consist of the two pamphlets of the Central Society by Mr. Cayley and Mr. Alison, and ten local tracts. I have long hoped our Council would publish direct replies to the two first, and then circulate them together. This could not fail to greatly assist us. Though some misstatements in the first were at once exposed, yet these were not n arly all. I have been at the trouble of hunting out all the professed quotations from Smith, and, *without an exception, in every instance is the meaning perverted;* and as Mr. Cayley is a gentleman of character, this clearly shows how grossly ignorant of his subject he must be. To give two more instances:—At page 8, Mr. Cayley professes to find authority for excluding foreign competition on account of our taxation, "because taxation increases the price of labour." Now, there are no such words in Smith (B. 4, c. 2), and, though the sentiment is there, *it is only put into the mouth of an opponent to be refuted;* and this Smith does at length, observing, that "taxes upon the necessaries of life have nearly the same effect upon the circumstances of the people as a poor soil and a bad climate;" in which case "it would be absurd to direct the people in what manner they ought to employ their capitals;" and "to lay a new tax on them because they are already overburdened with taxes," "is certainly a most absurd way of making amends."

Then at page 10 Cayley professes to quote Smith as saying that the high character of our farmers is due to the protective laws; when, in fact, he attributes it to our liberal political laws *rather than the Corn Laws* (B. 3, c. 2), *which*, he says, "*are altogether illusory.*" (B. 3, c. 4.) How pointed are his preceding remarks:—"All for ourselves and nothing for the people seems in every age of the world to have been the vile maxim of the masters of mankind;" and "the laws relating to land were all calculated for what they supposed the interest of the proprietor;" but "avarice and injustice are always shortsighted, and," as one instance, "they did not foresee how much" making tenants' tenure uncertain "must obstruct improvement, and thereby hurt, in the long run, the real interest of the landlord." (B. 3, c. 2.)

Alison's tract professes to refute the Free-Trade doctrine, and he does not even know what it is. Instead of stating it to be that, if we take care of the imports, the exports will take care of themselves; and all we have to do is to buy in the cheapest markets, and not absurdly trouble our heads lest the seller should take nothing in exchange, as that could only be by his giving us his goods for nothing, Alison supposes we assert that, if we lower our duties, foreigners must lower theirs; and that we admit the former to be an evil till compensated by the latter, when it is obvious that foreigners keeping up their duties can only *lessen the benefit* by checking our imports to whatever extent it checks our exports, or, in other words, limiting our purchases by disabling us from paying for them. The major part of the pamphlet is occupied with disproving this supposition of his own.

His next head is evidence in support of his assertion that Free Trade ruined Rome, which, doubtless with inadvertent candour, he says "*well might*" excite our indignation. Having referred to his authority (Gibbon), I do not find him the least supported, but, on the contrary, that his quotations are shamefully garbled.

Then he persists in the assertion that the price of labour is regulated by that of food; and (will it be believed?) *to get rid of the complete disproof of this in America and our colonies, he actually denies the facts.* I can only expect to obtain credence by giving his very words; they are:—"*Provisions of all sorts are extravagantly dear in every part of America, Canada, and Australia.*" (P. 37.)

Leaving these pamphlets to abler hands, I must add a few words on the local tracts. These are entitled to some notice in your columns, from Essex boasting that it originated the Anti-League; and as you probably know, the Duke of Richmond heading the subscription, a piece of plate is about to be presented to the principal mover, Mr. Baker, for having killed the League.

First, for a specimen of consistency. The above assertion being made to mislead the labourer, to frighten the farmers too, three of these tracts state the direct contrary. *They assert that wheat may be bought in America for 22s. per quarter, and sold here for 32s.* Which statement do they expect their dupes to believe?

I cannot give better evidence of their insanity than by mentioning their repetitions, and particularly what are their favourite statements. Thus, short as they are, several ring changes on 7-9ths of the population being agriculturists; or point to the smaller proportion of goods sent direct to the countries whence we import most corn than to other countries. Nothing can be added to the power with which, and with no less humour, Mr. Cobden has exposed this nonsense. Then five of them point to the low rent abroad; and actually six repeat the tale of £120,000,000 of our manufactures being consumed at home, £99,000,000 of them by the agriculturists, and only £47,000,000 being sent abroad; and of our agricultural produce being sold for half as much again, and for twice what it would fetch abroad. One really is at a loss to guess what they fancy these their crack topics prove for them. Do they think to act the big bully by letting us know they are seven to two? Were it the fact, it would only make the sure victory of our righteous cause the more signal; and, let me tell them, the more forward they put such arguments the worse for them. Or do they think to enhance their importance to the nation by proving that it takes seven farming men to do half as much again as two manufacturers? And that without their monopoly their produce would fetch even less? *Or do they not know that in pointing to the pound and more per acre left over in England for rent, after paying for cultivation, while there is but from 3d. to 8d. in Poland, they are themselves exposing that most utterly absurd of their allegations, that they cannot compete with the foreigner?* And one would almost think they were trying to show their wit (though how sadly misplaced, with our million and a half of paupers and starving sempstresses!) when they proclaim for themselves that their monopoly enables them to wring from the people £300,000,000 for what would otherwise fetch a much smaller sum; and that the landowners really have the kindness to the manufacturers, in payment for their food, to relieve them of £100,000,000 worth of their goods! Could self-stultification go beyond this?

I had intended to add a word or two on their tracts on wages and prices, which are most grossly dishonest, but the length of this warns me to break off.

Yours, &c.,

A Free-Trade Farmer's Son.

Rights of Labour.—The rights of labour are definite and definable: they consist in the freedom of the labourer to work in his own way, and on terms of his own approval, and to exchange the fruits of his labour, at his own price, in the best market he can find.—*P. Harwood.*

Signs of the Times.—We understand that contracts have been taken for the South Stoneham and Southampton Unions for the ensuing quarters at the following rates:—South Stoneham, bread, 10d. per 8lbs.; Southampton, 10¾d. Best ox beef at 4½d., by the long fore quarter; mutton, by the carcase, 4½d. Good fine flour, at 32s. per bag.—*Hampshire Independent.*

Poor's Allotments.—The following is a report of the advantages of the allotment system upon the estate of Mr. Daniel Sutton, in the parish of Wigginton, near Tring:—About 12 months since a field of arable land in a convenient situation was divided into 34 allotments, varying from 20 to 80 poles each, and let to labourers for £2 per acre, including tithes, rates, and taxes. The land to be cultivated after the first time by spade husbandry. The land was in a foul state, although naturally good corn land. The rent to be paid once a year. Monday last being the day appointed, the tenants assembled and paid their rent, with one exception, and that was a case where a man took rather more than he could manage late in the season, and had not been able to gather any of the produce. After the rents were paid, and the tenants had partaken of some good old English cheer, prizes were distributed for the best specimen of the produce, and for the best cultivated allotment. The whole of them expressed their thanks for the benefits conferred, and the tenant who gained the latter prize, Charles Smart, who has a wife and five children under 15 years of age, thus alludes to it:—"I consider my rood of land has done me a great deal of good and filled up my leisure time, and I hope next year to do still better. This year I have gathered peas for my own use, and having dug up several rows of potatoes, by which I can safely say I shall have 70 bushels altogether, which I consider worth 1s. 4d. per bushel; besides this, I have part in turnips, which I would not take £1 for, making the value of one year's produce upon a quarter of an acre between £5 and £6." The parish of Wigginton has ranked foremost in the list of thieves and poachers, and gained the appellation of "Wicked Wigginton," but it is gratifying to observe that not one of the occupants of the allotments has been convicted of a theft or misdemeanour; and the parish has been very quiet and peaceable, and great improvement is visible.

Condition of the Farm-labourer.—Look, for instance, at the condition of the farm-labourer; who will venture to say that it is in any one respect what it ought to be; that it has kept pace with the march of improvement—that the introduction of new modes of husbandry or of new manures have brought any increase of comforts to the field-labourer? This is the season for agricultural dinners and festivities of all kinds; this is the time for farmers' meetings and discussions; now fat oxen win prizes, and well-bred wethers carry off rewards; it is now the virtues of guano can most appropriately be celebrated, and irrigation and sub-soil draining most effectively enforced; but amidst all these new methods for increasing the fruitfulness of the soil, and calling forth its latent properties—amidst all this attention to the precious secrets of agricultural chemistry, and to the improvement of horses, oxen, and sheep, where can he look for any corresponding efforts to ameliorate the condition and brighten the prospects of the farm-labourer? Agriculturists at their feastings and in their more sober moments affect a great horror of the doctrines of political economy, but act upon these doctrines with rigid exactness in their dealings with agricultural labourers. With them as with every other class wages are governed by the rule of supply and demand; and consequently, while the lord and the esquire chant the praises of the protective duty and the sliding scale, the labourer is handed over to the rigorous logic and unsympathising philosophy of Adam Smith. And herein lies, we think, the secret of incendiary fires and other nightly outrages; herein lies the source of that sullen and sultry vindictiveness which is come over the spirit of our rural population, converting cheerful cottages into dens of gloom and discontent, and their soured and poverty-stricken inmates into midnight incendiaries. What to the wretched labourer, unable out of his scanty earnings to keep his wife and family from wanting the common necessaries of life, is the "agricultural interest" or the sliding scale? Low and inadequate wages when employed, short commons and brooding thoughts when idle, are his portion, dashed it may be at times with a view in the distance of the union workhouse, and yet noble lords and sagacious senators are utterly at a loss to account for the *phenomena* of burning ricks and blazing homesteads which glare around them, and obstinately refuse to recognise in them indications of the reckless hopeless misery that oppresses so large a portion of the labouring population.—*Cambridge Advertiser.*

REVIEW.

An Aide-de-Camp's Recollections of Service in China. By Captain A. Cunynghame. London, Saunders and Otley.

This work is written in a plain, soldier-like style, making no pretensions to literary excellence, but exhibiting considerable powers of observation and reflection. We are not disposed to follow the author through the thrice-told tale of the Chinese war, which was throughout a mere repetition of slaughter rather than of fighting; but shall rather select those illustrations of Chinese character and manners which best serve to illustrate the nature of the extraordinary people with whom we are brought into increasing commercial contact. Neither shall we now discuss the justice, the policy, or the wisdom of the Chinese war: it is over, and we trust that the bonds of mutual interest arising from the extension of trade will effectually prevent its repetition. Whatever lessons the natives of the Celestial Empire may have learned from the valour of British soldiers, they are but as dust in the balance when compared with the lessons which we trust will be derived from intercourse with British merchants. Commerce has been justly described as the great agent of civilization, not merely because it leads to a free circulation and communication of knowledge, but because commerce necessitates the establishment of moral principle. It soon teaches that fraudulent bargains are the ruin of trade; that no traffic can be permanent which is not based on the highest principles of honour; and that credit, which is the very soul of commerce, can only be maintained by the most unswerving integrity.

Captain Cunynghame informs us that many leading persons in the expedition lamented that, when we had the power of dictating our own terms, we did not stipulate for the possession of some territory, instead of the privileges of commerce. Such complaints show very little knowledge of colonial history: in almost every instance the occupation of a country is infinitely less profitable than an open trade with it. Colonization of a country already inhabited involves more or less of injustice; and injustice cannot be maintained without entailing heavy expenses, and returning little or no profit. India is far less profitable to England than it would have been if its natives had been left independent; and even now its value as a consumer of British commodities would be progressively increased if means were taken to prepare the Mussulmans and Hindús for the task of self-government. We shall at an early opportunity compare the relative advantages of commercial intercourse and territorial occupation; but we cannot forbear expressing our approbation of the conduct pursued by the British Government, in steadily rejecting every proposal made for seizing on any of the maritime provinces of China.

In extracting from these pleasant volumes some characteristic traits of Chinese manners and customs, we shall follow the desultory course of the author himself, who merely noted down his observations as they occurred to him, following no order but that of time. We shall first extract an account of the value placed on that whimsical appendage of a Chinese head, "the tail":—

"A Chinaman's love for his tail is proverbial, and it is truly amusing to see the pains and trouble they take concerning them. Most of them are dressed and plaited with singular neatness and care, and are of such a length that they sweep the ground when walking. Those, however, who are not sufficiently fortunate as naturally to possess a very handsome appendage borrow a portion from their barbers; and, should it get disengaged from his head, the owner has to bear the same ridicule as an unfortunate dandy does who, in Europe, by ill luck, should chance to lose his wig. The front portion of the head is very carefully shaved, for which purpose they make use of a curious and very peculiar description of razor, resembling in miniature a butcher's chopper. This love of their tails produces a very easy method of restoring order and restraining personal violence, when any cause of dissension or dispute may arise among them. The *peons*, or government police, catching some half-dozen of the crowd by these handy ornaments, deliver them over to one of their force, who, with a drawn sword, holds them in check, threatening, upon the slightest unruly movement, to *raze* their honourable appendages. The intense love for their old friend and companion, that has grown with their growth, speedily overcomes their passions, and, rather than run the chance of parting company, they submit with patience and resignation to the dictates of the authorities."

Turn we next to the description of a quarrel between Chinese boatmen:—

"The personal appearance of the Chinese themselves, as well as their language and manners, cannot fail to strike the stranger with the conviction of how totally different they are from the nations of the West—every action, every word, being at variance, as day is from night, with our own. One of the most amusing scenes which I ever witnessed was from the deck of our ship; it was a quarrel amongst the boatmen who surrounded her with vegetables, &c., for sale. One unfortunate boat, having incurred the displeasure of the rest by offering its wares at a reduced price, was in consequence attacked by them *en masse*. At first they commenced by pelting the owner with pears, eggs, and the like missiles; their fury increased in consequence of some opprobrious epithets which were applied to them; they next sent a volley of china plates, dishes, &c., such as many a fair lady would have been envied the possession of; these either smashed about their ears or sank in the water. They were all soon devoid of missiles, and, the boats coming into closer contact, the stronger party boarded the weaker, attacking them with long bamboo poles, armed with sharp iron points, with which they are all provided, to defend themselves from the attacks of the pirates who infest this coast. The unfortunate crew thought it high time to decamp, and sought shelter in the water; the boat being now deserted, with the exception of one poor woman, it was reckoned the fair booty of the victors, who, jumping on board, without any hesitation, thrust their long spears into the body of the poor creature, wounding her in many places.

"Matters having arrived at such a desperate stage, one of the ships' boats was sent to stop the disturbance, and render assistance to the sufferers, which she effectually did in a very few minutes; all the remaining ones taking to flight, as fast as their oars could carry them, for fear of the consequence, when called up before the police, and the possible, nay, probable, loss of the tails of their owners."

All travellers have borne testimony to the great care bestowed by the Chinese on the cultivation of the soil, and particularly on the attention given to the collection and preservation of manure. Captain Cunynghame informs us that they have long been acquainted with the value of guano, and pays the following tribute to their agriculture:—

"Nothing can exceed the high state of cultivation which the whole of this group is under, every inch of land being occupied with some description of kitchen-garden stuff. All is tilled with manual labour alone, with the exception of the low, wet paddy fields at the base of the valleys, which are occasionally ploughed by the assistance of the ox. We were much surprised to see so much cultivation, evidently the work of a large population, but so few houses; and I am still of opinion that this, in a great measure, is to be accounted for by reason of the people living so constantly in their boats, that they have no necessity for other habitations, being husbandmen and fishermen alternately, according as the different seasons grant them employment in either of these separate avocations.

"The greatest degree of pains and care is taken by this thrifty nation to improve their soil by constantly manuring it, thus enabling them always to obtain two crops, and very constantly three, from the same land in one year. They have for centuries been in the habit of transporting manure from the large towns on the sea-coast to the fertile districts in central China, made up and pressed into a form very much resembling our oilcake. A laughable circumstance occurred to some of the sailors in H.M.S. C——, who, at the blockading of the river leading to Ning-Po, espying some of this composition on board a junk, and taking it to be patent preserved soup, immediately appropriated a portion of it. Notions of bird's-nest soup, sharks' fins, and other Chinese dainties flitting across their minds, they determined to revel in luxury for many a day, and a large portion was boiled in the ship's coppers. The dainty was not much relished at the time, but judge their disgust when made acquainted, some days subsequently, with its real nature; it ever after assumed the name amongst the expedition of C—— soup."

Our readers will be both surprised and entertained by the description of a Chinese junk:—

"On our way towards the landing-place we visited a gigantic junk which had been captured by H.M.S. Columbine, near the Rugged Isles. She was laden with silks and copper, and was supposed to be from Japan; she was awaiting condemnation as a lawful prize, it being generally set down that she would prove a rich one. After peace had been established, she was eventually given up again, to the unexpected delight and happiness, no doubt, of her owner, she having been proved to be the property of a private individual, and not that of the Government, it being considered politic to show that we were not at war with the Chinese people, but solely with the authorities at present ruling over them.

"This huge box (I cannot bring myself to call it by any other name) was far the most extraordinary thing of the kind I had ever seen, although, after being constantly accustomed to see them, the novelty soon wears off; yet, the first impression cannot fail to be that of wonder, how any people could dream of navigating the trackless ocean in this huge coffin. She must have far exceeded 500 tons burden, according to a rough calculation, which by eyesight alone we made of her. The upper part of her poop was at least as high as that of a seventy-four, with curious staircases and passages communicating to the different portions of the ship, more after the fashion of a house; her mast was a magnificent spar, eleven feet in circumference, and of prodigious height; her cables, composed of coir, made from the outer covering of the cocoa-nut, for durability and lightness unequalled; and her wooden anchors, although primitive in their construction, would, I doubt not, have answered perfectly well in any but a rocky bottom, which is scarcely ever to be met with on the coasts or harbours they are accustomed to anchor in. Her sides were painted with a rude imitation of ports; and with her numberless flags and streamers, her huge, unwieldly mat sails, her gigantic rudder, and antediluvian-looking crew, she presented a novel and striking sight; but certainly she could in no way merit the term of 'walking the waters like a thing of life.'"

A new method of levying "black mail," devised by the soldiers of the British expedition, deserves notice:—

"Great lenity was invariably shown towards the inhabitants of the different towns which we occupied, strict orders being given by the heads of departments not to molest or interfere with the people in any way, and by no means despoil them of anything they had in their possession. Some of the soldiers were, however, far better financiers than their chiefs imagined; and, being placed as sentries at the different gates of the towns, politely requested—and, it is needless to add, were seldom refused—a sum of money from every Chinese who passed through. In times of alarm this species of black mail amounted to a considerable sum, it being almost impossible, when discovered, to make the people themselves understand that this tax was not levied by authority. Upon one occasion an officer of very high rank was stepping through the gate as this impost was being levied, and, in the hurry and confusion of presenting arms, the sentry let his whole bag fall to the ground. An inquiry was immediately made into the circumstance; and, upon examination of his purse, it was discovered that, although the man had only been at this post half an hour, no less a sum than forty dollars was found in it, clearly showing what a good harvest he had reaped from the financial speculation which he had undertaken."

Such depredations, however, formed but a small part of the horrors of this war. We reluctantly extract the description of the fearful scenes exhibited after the storming of Ching-kiang-foo; the details are perfectly sickening:—

"Every house was plundered, and an immense portion of the town, in various places, had been set on fire: this was principally the work of the Chinese rabble, who are the readiest at conveying away property, and the most disorderly of any in the world, and were frequently known to set fire to both ends of the street, in order that they might more effectually, and with less chance of being disturbed, plunder the centre. As to putting any effectual stop to these depredations, that was utterly impossible, for many reasons: first, considering the great extent of the town; and secondly, its immense population, which was stated to be between one and two hundred thousand: moreover, in some few instances, the very property which was carried off was that of the owners themselves, to have deprived them of which was contrary both to instructions received from head quarters and also to our own wishes, it being the constant desire of our chiefs to impress upon all the troops that the war was not directed against the Chinese people, but against their present rulers. Tartar and Chinese soldiers were lying dead in all directions—women, either poisoned or with their throats cut by the hands of their own husbands and fathers, and children by that of their own mothers; while many a poor little infant lay helpless upon the ground, deserted by its unnatural parent, who, from fear of the dreaded barbarians, had terminated her own existence, either by hanging herself in her own house, or drowning herself in one of the small wells in the courtyard of her once happy home. Indeed, to such an incredible extent did this horrid system arrive, that I was assured, by an individual upon whose word I could implicitly rely, that in one house alone he had counted no less than sixteen women and children, some dead from the effects of poison, but the majority with their throats cut from ear to ear. It would be superfluous to say that I thanked God I had not seen this last sight, so complete or extensive a tragedy not having fallen under my own observation. It is difficult to state the precise reason for this wholesale murder; the only way in which I could account for it was, that the mandarins had taken care to impress upon the people the most outrageous and absurd ideas of the monstrosity and savageness of all our actions, declaring in proclamations, which they had caused to be freely distributed through the town, that no crimes were too black, no cruelties too great, for us to perpetrate; thus hoping to terrify the people, in which they but too well succeeded, and make them to resist us to the last extremity, trying to make them believe that they had nothing to hope for, upon the capture of the town, but the most cruel of deaths. Many of the soldiers fought with the most determined bravery, hand to hand conflicts being very common; indeed had it not been for the watchfulness of a marine, the admiral would, in all probability, have met his death from a Tartar, who, utterly regardless of himself, had approached close to his excellency, and was only bayoneted when in the act of discharging his matchlock. Every means had been used to stimulate their courage; large bribes of money had been given them, and silver medals, according to Chinese custom, had been distributed *before* the action to the soldiers, rather to stimulate their courage than as a reward and distinction after it should have been completed."

The Chinese nails are scarcely less remarkable than the Chinese tails:—

"In a secluded hermitage at Po-too-ee we found a man who probably had seen some eighty summers—a venerable-looking priest, his beard white as driven snow. Our attention was, however, immediately distracted from all other portions of his person to that of his left hand, the examination of which, so far from being opposed to his inclination, on the contrary, afforded him infinite pleasure and pride. To use a nautical phrase, we perceived "lashed" at the back of each finger a narrow slip of bamboo, as a means of defending the nails from any casual blow: indeed, without this, they could not have lasted, without breaking, even for a week. At our request, he carefully removed one or two of these splints; he said he had cherished these feline weapons he knew not how many years, and through dint of great care, during the whole time, without accident. It is needless to add, that his hand was totally useless to him. We had the curiosity to measure the longest, and found it to exceed eleven inches in length; they tapered considerably towards the point, and at the extremities much resembled shrivelled quills.

"I heard of an old man, at Amoy, who possessed a nail seventeen inches in length, but, not having seen it myself, I cannot vouch for the fact; if so, it beats my Po-too-ee friend by half a foot. This elegant habit, as you will readily believe, is confined solely to those whose manners of life are entirely free from manual exertion; but so common is the practice, that the very fact of not possessing what some would call these hideous talons is here as sure a mark of a man being devoid of neatness, or rather perhaps, I should say, dandyism, as a splaw foot, a badly cut coat, or a dirty glove would be at home.

Our next extract shall be the ceremonial of a Chinese oath:—

"The mode of administering an oath in the court of justice is far too extraordinary to be omitted to be mentioned. The Chinese, upon being placed at the bar, are not sworn to tell the truth, either by reverence or fear of their gods, but by the formality of cutting a cock's head off. Thus, upon any doubt being had in regard to what they state, they are instantly tested by this, to them, the severest of all trials, and which I was assured they would, on no account, undertake, provided they were not thoroughly certain that what they were then stating was the fact—their asseverations of the truth of their statements being couched in the following terms—'I hereby swear I am ready to cut the cock's head off to the truth of what I now say.' This is the form of a Chinaman's oath now used in the courts of justice at Hong-Kong."

An amusing military incident is too good to be lost: it is introduced by a paragraph which gives strong proof of civilization:—

"No higher proof, perhaps, may be adduced of the high state of civilization to which they have arrived than that the military profession, so far from being considered the most honourable, is, with the exception of their priesthood, considered the lowest: the first station in society being given to men of letters, the second to merchants, and the last to the paid military defenders of their country.

"Upon the conclusion of the war, the most friendly feelings were evinced by the Chinese of all classes, as I have often mentioned, towards us, and in no place were they more so than at Amoy. English pony-races and other sports got up by the officers of the garrison were duly attended by the mandarins, and interchanges of complimentary visits were constantly made between both parties. Upon one occasion a party of young Chinese gentlemen were inspecting the military barracks of the Royal Irish. Of a sudden, the harmony of their visit was interrupted by the cries and screams of one of their number, who was seen flying across the barrack-yard, loudly calling for help, pursued by no less fearful a personage than a certain Meg O'Flanigan, terribly *en deshabille*—a second Molly Maloney—with an immense broomstick, and, by no means contenting herself with the demonstration alone of this ugly weapon, she was applying it with extreme vigour, and screaming at the height of her voice—'I'll teach the long-tailed blackga-ard to spy upon the Irish girls.' It appeared that, prompted by a vain curiosity to view more narrowly a Fanqui-fo (a foreign devil-wife), he had been sufficiently rash to peep through the aperture of a half-closed door, where the said Mrs. O'Flanigan was in the act of performing her toilet, when, much to her surprise, she perceived a reflection in the glass of a long-tailed gentleman looking over her shoulder. The sequel is readily understood: to use her own expression—''Faith, I made the long tailed blackguard get out of that.' 'No wonder,' said the affrighted mandarin, on recovering himself a little, 'that the men are such devils, when they are begotten by such she-dragons.'"

A very singular traffic has sprung up at Hong-Kong which we must leave our author to describe:—

"The harbour at Hong-Kong was generally very crowded with Chinese native craft. The gayest and most highly decorated boats which arrived at our port were those which brought from Canton a mercantile commodity very commonly trafficked in by the Chinese. These were young ladies who were bent upon the speculation of marriage, being brought from the exuberant population of the interior towns to supply this deficiency amongst the numerous settlers who had come from the continent to our new colony, so many of every trade and occupation having already flocked in vast numbers to the island. These boats arrived with drums and gongs beating, and colours flying, generally coming to an anchor immediately under my own window; tea-tables were soon arranged, and the young ladies, from twenty to forty in number, arrayed in their smartest jackets and trousers, might be seen endeavouring to bewitch those visitors who flocked to the boats. I was informed that the price, generally speaking, averaged from 100 to 200 dollars, the greater portion of which money was transferred to the mother of the young lady, a due proportion being charged for the expenses attendant upon the voyage, together with commission, &c., upon the bargain. I have known instances of some of the natives of India becoming purchasers; but in that case they would obtain solely the refuse of the community. Upon one occasion, a bitmutgar, or table-servant, a native of Bengal, complained to me, and entreated my interference, stating that he had entrusted a friend of his own, who had gone to Macao, with 100 dollars, all his savings, for the purpose of buying him a nice comely wife; but, when she arrived, she by no means answered the description given of her, being too short and too old, and by no means a 100 dollar wife, but not more than a thirty dollar one; when, much to his grief, as well as surprise, he only got laughed at by me for his pains."

The following brief description of the occupation of the Company's servants at Canton, in "the good old times," was given to the author by one who had been initiated into the service:—

"Upon one occasion I asked him how, in these halcyon days, did so large a body of the Company's servants as then existed in China employ themselves? 'Sir,' said he, 'they spent six months in Macao, having nothing to do, and the other six months in Canton, sir, doing nothing. Ah! sir, those were fine days in the time of the Company.'"

Here we shall conclude, but we recommend the volumes to such of our readers as find time heavy on their hands, and wish to while away a couple of hours by a lively representation of some of the most striking peculiarities in the manners of an original race, whose system of civilization has been completely developed from within and owes nothing as yet to external aid.

Representation of Bedfordshire.—There is a question we independent advocates of "measures not men" feel it our province to touch upon. It is the parliamentary representation of this borough and county, which has been resigned to a party for the benefits which the electors would receive from that party. As far as we are concerned we may ask what are those benefits; as far as the farming interest, the manufacturing interest, and labouring classes of this county are concerned, we may ask where and what are the benefits they have derived by exclusive party representation. The fluctuations in the price of grain and of bread have been greater, as was seen in a table published a few weeks ago, and the remuneration of labour has been gradually decreasing, whilst pauperism and crime have been increasing. Where are the benefits of one party to represent Bedfordshire? When we look at the condition of the borough of Bedford our question rolls to and fro, leading us to hope that echo will furnish an answer; but no, its silence says *none!* The usual expenses of the county representation are *now not paid*, and the expenses of the registration are unprovided for. Where then is the use of one party representing the town and county of Bedford? What does echo say?—*Bedford Mercury.*

AGRICULTURE.

A REAL FARMERS' FRIEND.

The reader may recollect a speech delivered about a year ago at the *West Herefordshire Farmers' Club*, by Col. Powell of Hardwick, in which he strongly insisted upon the necessity of leases for the security and welfare of tenant-farmers. That speech elicited the warm approval of the farmers and of all others of the district who desire to see the tenant-farmer a thriving and an independent man, and it was at once determined to present to Col. Powell a testimonial of the sense in which his honest and public-spirited conduct was held by his neighbours. A committee of private gentlemen and farmers accordingly commenced a subscription, and on the 10th of last month a splendid piece of plate was presented to Col. Powell, at a dinner held in the town of Hay for that purpose. The inhabitants of the district seem to have spared no trouble to do honour to the occasion: triumphal arches, banners, and a procession, composed of the yeomanry and various societies of the industrious classes, "occupying the road for a mile," gave evidence of a general and spontaneous movement of the middle and humbler classes. No titled lord was present,—

"But school children of the National Schools of Hay, Llowes, Dorstone, Clifford, the Hay Wesleyans, Independents, Baptists, and Welsh Methodists, each headed with neat flags, with the mottoes to which they belonged, and the words 'Colonel Powell, Patron,' on them, rendered the scene still more soul-stirring, and such a sight numbers declared they never saw before. It is calculated that upwards of 1000 children walked in procession, being joined by vast numbers of Sunday-school children. The worthy chairman, A. H. Wall, Esq., attended by John Tomkins, Esq., of the Weir; W. Bridgewater, Esq., of Glasbury; William Higgins, Esq., of Hay; W. Acton, Esq., High Bailiff of Hay, followed in Mr. Wall's private carriage, drawn by four beautiful horses, splendidly decorated, ridden by postillions; and all marched in procession to the upper lodge gates of the Moor estate, where the gallant colonel was met in his private carriage, from which he stepped into the carriage of the president, with whom he returned to Hay. The air was literally rent, as it were, with the shouts of the assembled thousands, and as the loud huzzas went along the line of procession, upwards of a mile, the effect was beautiful in the extreme."

At the dinner the same absence of high and titled names is apparent; but three hundred hearty and earnest admirers of the REAL FARMERS' FRIEND are reported to have been present; a great number of ladies also graced the gallery with their presence. The chairman, Mr. Wall, in proposing the health of Colonel Powell, after remarking that, "This is not a meeting for any class of dependents to pay homage and respect which they do not feel, or to bend the knee to the rich aristocrat or grandee, but to show our worthy guest that his public utility, as well as his private worth, is not only felt but acknowledged by us;" and, after referring to his general charitable and philanthropic character, said:—

"Great as these are and have been, there is one that calls for especial notice. I allude to a public declaration made by him at the late anniversary of the West Herefordshire Farmers' Club, and which at that time extensively engrossed the attention of the public press of this country. It was a speech characterized by sound sense and liberality of sentiment, and not only did honour to him but also to the society. There are circumstances upon which men may differ; some say this plan is best, some that; *but there is one point on which we all agree, viz., that a lease will give to the farmer security and confidence, that in laying out his capital he will reap the advantages arising therefrom, and when he goes into his farm he may expect to remain in it for life, and may call it, as it were, his freehold and his castle.* We all know that the tenure of a tenant-farmer is a very uncertain one, and a man knows not how long he may live under his landlord; *he may be in his farm to-day and have notice to quit to-morrow.* There are others employed by landlords who are sometimes more oppressive than those for whom they act; *sometimes the tenant has almost a hundred parties to serve, and, unless he pays proper respect to all, he frequently has to leave his farm in consequence.* The plan of the gallant colonel would give him comparative independence, and gladden his eye at the prospect of success, and of securing to his family a decent and respectable livelihood. Many entertain these views, but have not boldness publicly to give them utterance."

Such expressions are common enough amongst farmers in private, but the novelty is to hear them made openly and in public. It is a sign that the thraldom in which tenant-farmers have for years been held is shaken, and needs but the removal of the Corn Laws to come to an end. Colonel Powell, in returning thanks, spoke with no less effect than upon the occasion which gave rise to the present tribute of respect. He said:—

"I have likewise to return my thanks individually and collectively to the members of the West Herefordshire Farmers' Club, *particularly for the firm and manly example continued by them during this manifestation*, and also to the general body of contributors, I beg to return my most sincere thanks. There is one subject closely connected with this day, to notice which I would humbly beg your attention for a short time: *it is relative to the present and future state of agriculture, and the views different parties have taken for bettering the condition of the farmer.* There are three most powerful parties, each anxious to be considered the farmers' friend; but the means they take to obtain that distinction are as wide and as distant from each other as the poles are separated."

These parties he thus described:—

"In the first place, there are the fixed-duty men—cautious, prudent, and very wary, saying little and doing less, taking especial care not to follow the example of others in clapping their hands into their breeches pockets to back their opinions, and, did we not know to the contrary, we might be led to believe that they were natives of the north side of the Tweed. Then come the League, who are honest, straightforward people, no doubt, if you listen to their statements, *who want cheap bread to obtain cheap wages, to enable them to produce cheap manufactures.* And what cheap bread, cheap wages, and cheap calicoes have to do with bettering the condition of the farmer, they leave you to find out. Then comes the third and last, and by no means the least party in their own estimation—another section of protectionists, who tell you positively that, unless the farmers obtain the protection which they term the sliding scale, both tenant and the labourer must inevitably be ruined; but they take especial care not to let you know what is to become of the landlord. *If the farmer and labourer were to be ruined, the landlord, I think, would be treading pretty closely upon their heels.*"

If Colonel Powell had applied his sound manly sense to facts which are notorious, he would have seen the error he had fallen into in attributing to the members of the League the desire to obtain cheap bread, for the sake of obtaining also cheap wages; for, whenever bread is cheapest, manufacturing wages are highest, and on the other hand, when food is dear, wages are low. If men like Colonel Powell are content to receive upon trust the misstatements of the monopolists with regard to the objects of the League, it is plain that the monopoly could never have been successfully assailed otherwise than by the copious information and widely-extended inquiries which the exertions of the League have induced. Does this gentleman recollect the price of corn in 1840, when wheat touched 80s. a quarter? What was the rate of wages then? We ask him and other unprejudiced and clear-headed men to contrast the wages of 1840, when bread was dear, with the wages of the manufacturing districts at this moment, when bread is cheap. With wheat at 43s. a quarter, the operative is receiving much higher wages than he received when wheat was 80s. a quarter. Can there be a more complete demonstration that the manufacturing members of the League *cannot* seek Free Trade to lower wages? So much for the fallacy of cheap bread lowering wages; we shall see presently that the means proposed by Colonel Powell for improving the condition of the farmers and farm-labourers are identical with the constant recommendations of the League for the same objects. Speaking of the protection societies, Colonel Powell said:—

"The farmers in general look upon the newly-formed protection societies with a cautious eye. You will rarely see the name of a tenant-farmer attached to either of their lists—*they know their own position too well. The only protection they want is to be put in a position to be able to protect themselves* (CHEERS); *and this they could easily do* IF FARMS WERE LET ON LEASES AND CORN RENTS."

We have often pointed out the absence of all independent farmers from protectionist meetings, and the active interference of the half farmer half land-valuer, as unerring tests of the real character of those landlord-created meetings.

But to the point. What has the League always said?—that the farmer wants no other protection than the power of reaping what he has sown, security of tenure, and rents calculated on real, not fictitious, prices. Have not nearly a million copies of Mr. George Hope's tract, recommending *long leases and corn rents as the true protection for the farmer, been circulated by the League?*

We are right glad to find the same recommendations so well supported as by Colonel Powell, who said:—

"The additional quantity of grain that would be produced would in a very few years, *by improved system of husbandry*, be more than would be required for the consumption of the population of this kingdom; and instead of being, as we are now, and, unfortunately, have been for a long time, an importing, we should become an exporting, nation."

It is by no means improbable that we might in favourable years become large exporters of wheat if a large part of our land was well cultivated; but to any general extension of improved husbandry the uncertainties and fluctuations occasioned by the Corn Laws present insuperable obstacles.

Colonel Powell then stated an instance of improvement under a secure tenure:—

"There are many cases that have come within my own knowledge to prove these facts. Twelve years back I knew a tenant-farmer that took to the off-growing crop at a valuation taken by two neighbouring farmers at ten bushels to the acre; the coming-in tenant had a lease of fourteen years, and at the expiration of his fourth year he had 18 bushels of wheat and 23 bushels of barley to the acre; and for the last seven years, down to the present period, his average wheat crop has been from 18 to 23 bushels, and from 25 to 30 bushels of barley. That is one advantage, amongst many, of the consequences of a lease without a corn rent."

Then as to a corn rent:—

"Now, let us see what will be the advantages of a lease with a corn rent, and we will take the corn rent from the wheat crop only, and we will put the price at 6s. per bushel; and *whenever wheat is at that price, or a fraction under, in this country, neither the factor nor the foreign grower can compete with the English farmer in the home market.* (*Hear, hear.*) We will take a farm of 200 acres, 120 of tillage and 80 of meadow and pasture, of fair-quality land, that had been let for the last twenty years at £1 an acre, and which have been known to produce, within the last ten years, 20 bushels to the acre. The custom of this county we know to be one-third of the tillage as the odd mark for wheat. The third of 120 will be 40. The average of the present tenant's wheat crop for the last ten years has been from 12 to 15 bushels per acre. Now, we will take it at 15, the maximum; 15 bushels from 40 acres would be 600; take

away 80 for seed, would leave 520; 520 at 6s. would be £156; that appears to be the average value of the present tenant's wheat crop for the last twelve years, according to the tenant-at-will system. Now, let us see what would be the value of the tenant's wheat crop on the same farm, on a lease and corn rent for 17 years out of 21, allowing him the first four years for getting his farm into that state of cultivation that would ensure him that return. Now, this farm has been known to produce, within the last ten years, 20 bushels per acre under the bad system of tenant-at-will; and, if it has done that, we have a right, surely, to take credit for what we know it to have done, if not for more, under a better system. We will take it for what we have known it to produce, 20 bushels per acre; 20 bushels for 40 acres would be 800; and at 6s., taking away 80 for seed, would leave 720, which would be £216. This would appear to be the average value of the tenant's wheat crop on that farm under a lease, at a corn rent, for 17 years out of 21, leaving him, as I said, the four first years, with some allowances, for the purpose of getting it into that state of cultivation which would ensure him that return to which I have alluded."

And Colonel Powell recognised the fact, that improved husbandry would benefit the farming labourers, when he said:—

"It would be equally beneficial to the labourer, inasmuch as, in all probability, only one labourer would have previously been employed on the farm during the year; and *if a tenant had a lease upon a corn rent, he would likely keep three or more labourers.*"

But it may be objected that a lease won't give a farmer capital, and the want of capital is usually the reason why too few labourers are employed. The answer is short and simple, and it was thus made by Colonel Powell:—

"It may be asked, what use would a lease be to a farmer who had not capital for the purpose of carrying out those improvements that would cause an increased production? There are some gentlemen sitting on my right who would readily answer, *that the beneficial interest he has in the lease would be sufficient to enable him to borrow the money, provided the lease was made good to his family.*"

This is one of the most important points to which the attention of landowners should be directed. Instead of encumbering their leases with restrictions on assignment, it should be their object to render the lease beneficial, which would afford them far more security than any restrictive clauses. A simple covenant, that one-fourth of the land shall every year be applied to growing green or root crops to be fed off, would prevent any deterioration of the land, far more than all complex restrictions now in use, which, in fact, never prevent a bad or a poor farmer leaving his farm in most wretched condition. One of the great obstacles to good farming at this moment is the great expense a moderately good farmer must incur to repair the damage done by his predecessor; and without leases this difficulty will never be generally overcome.

Colonel Powell stated that, notwithstanding the great local advantages for obtaining lime, the tenant-at-will system prevents farmers of that district from availing themselves of them. Upon that miserable plan of temporary abatements he said:—

"There are many great, good, humane, and excellent landlords, who had shown a willing inclination to relieve their tenants, by returning to them 10 or 15 per cent., and certainly they deserve very great credit for so doing. But what says the tenant the moment he quits the room? He says, 'It has done me good just now; I have been returned 10 per cent., which I am very grateful and thankful for; *but I am thinking, if wheat get up to 10s. per bushel, my landlord will clap it on again.*'"

Moreover, the abatement is a mere pittance in comparison with the sum the farmer loses when the Corn Law fails to keep up prices to the act of parliament level. Landlords, as Colonel Thompson has pithily said, "take with the bucket but give with the spoon." The abatement by per centages illustrates this. Of Sir Robert Peel's *last year's* exhortations, Colonel Powell observed:—

"We all know that Sir Robert Peel is a great landed proprietor, and if, instead of supplying his tenants with Birmingham bulls (immense laughter), he would set the example to the great landed aristocracy of the kingdom *of letting his farms on leases at corn rents, he would be the greatest benefactor to the agricultural community this kingdom ever received;* the landlord would be satisfied, the tenant happy, and the labourer comfortable, and we might all whistle at free trade in corn."

The injury the actual system—which be it remembered is the offspring of the Corn Laws—does to the labourer is thus graphically described:—

"We often hear at public meetings observations made relative to the condition of the agricultural labourers of this kingdom, as compared with men of their class in other countries, and some will go so far as to say that our agricultural labourers are better fed, better clad, and better housed, than any others of their class abroad, and that they generally get a hot dinner most days of the week. *Now, if these gentlemen who make these assertions at these meetings, for political purposes, to deceive others, would only, when they are taking their morning rides, and paying their morning visits; when he is partaking of his midday meal, they would then see the man, and his wife with three or four children, around the table, with a huge bowl of smoking hot potatoes and salt; no bread, no butter, no bacon.* Such is his meal, in many instances, when working near home: but let them watch that man when he goes to work at a distance, and is compelled to take his meal with him; in the middle of the day he may be observed retiring to rest himself under the shelter of a thick hedge protecting himself from a strong north-easter, and taking from a little bag a piece of bread, often of very ordinary quality; when he has done pecking it he may be seen directing his steps to the nearest place where he may obtain a draught of clear water. *Such many of you know to be the case with many an honest, hardworking labourer.* Let those gentlemen, when they are travelling abroad, condescend to alight from their carriages, and taking a little more than a bird's-eye view from the roadside, let them thoroughly explore a little of the interior of the agricultural districts they pass through; *and then they will see that the foreigner is often better off than the agricultural labourer of this country*—THE DESTITUTION OF THE LATTER IS MAINLY CAUSED BY THE INJURIOUS AND IMPOLITIC SYSTEM OF LETTING LAND."

And the Colonel concludes this part of the subject by the following statement with reference to his own experience:—

"Whenever the time arrives that the contract between landlord and tenant is based on leases and corn rents, then the agricultural labourer will become a comfortable and happy man; he will have plenty of employment, which is all he requires to make him so. I have been a landowner and occupier upwards of forty years, my income is derived entirely from land, and I am a decided advocate for leases and corn rents, *as the only means of restoring that kindly feeling and reciprocity of action that formerly so happily subsisted, but, unfortunately, of late years has been so deplorably defective, between landlord, tenant, and labourer.*"

Well might Mr. Tompkins, in allusion to this speech, say:—

"As an agriculturist, I have frequently attended Hereford agricultural dinners, and have as frequently upon such occasions had an opportunity of listening to the observations of many of the landlords of this and other counties. Some of them, who are legislators, tell us that great experiments have been made in a change of the laws which protected our interests, and that we must now put our shoulders to the wheel, and look to ourselves; lay out more capital in draining, and in the purchase of artificial manures, with other such like advice; *but I have never heard any observation made by them calculated to give confidence to the farmer, when compared to the declaration of our honoured guest.*" (GREAT CHEERING.)

Such sentiments as those of Colonel Powell will have a great and wholesome effect upon the minds of the tenant-farmers of the country, who will not fail to remark that not a single monopolist or political landlord was present at this most gratifying demonstration of respect to A REAL FARMERS' FRIEND!!

PREACHING WITHOUT PRACTICE.

At the meeting of the *North Staffordshire Agricultural Association*, Lord Sandon, the monopolist member for Liverpool, gave expression to the following liberal sentiments in relation to agriculture, which contrast strongly with his illiberal votes in Parliament:—

"At the shows of the Royal Agricultural Association of England nothing afforded more gratification than the implements. It pleased him (Lord Sandon) to see the two great branches of the industry of the country as they were upon that occasion shaking hands together. There was the genius of the mechanist employed to assist the cultivators of the land. He hailed with pleasure anything which could bring these two classes of the population cordially together."

Does his lordship suppose that the best way of bringing them together is to tax the industry of the one class to foster the indolence of the other? Such is the practical operation of the Corn Laws he so strenuously upholds in Parliament. He afterwards said:—

"He was one of those who did not look despairingly at the difficulties attendant upon the growing population of the country. He believed that England had within herself resources quite equal to the difficulty. So far from improvements in agriculture superseding manual labour, he believed it would promote and increase its employment. The farmer, enlightened as to the best mode of cultivating land, and encouraged and enriched by superseding manual labour in one direction, would gladly find new sources for it in another; sources which his enlightenment would point out; which the increased means put into his pocket by mechanical invention would enable him to avail himself of, and which no mechanics could ever exceed. *He had seen something of it in Lincolnshire, where mechanical inventions in agriculture had been introduced to a great extent, and in no county in England was labour better employed and better paid. Labourers in that county did not stand in the market-place asking for employment.* (Cheers.) No; the farmer had to go and look for the labourer. The farmers competed for labour, and not the labourers for employment. The labourer was consequently paid higher wages, and the farmer was enabled to do this because, being enriched by the application of machinery, he was enabled to look round for new sources of labour for the improvement of his land."

Does not this monopolist perceive that the successful agriculture of Lincolnshire is owing to the farmers seeking to raise a large produce by a liberal outlay? And can he not imagine that there is something more than mere want of "interest" and excitement amongst farmers which prevents the general adoption of good husbandry as he seemed to imply when he said:—

"He besought the farmers there assembled not to let the interest excited upon agricultural subjects evaporate with the occasion of their being then called together. It was by following up the subjects referred to at such meetings that the practical good was to be effected. Do but make them the fashion and they must succeed. Whatever Englishmen fancied to do they did well. *Now they wanted to make it a fashion, instead of horse-racing, for landlords to look after their land.* Let them make their land their hobby, and they would act wisely. They (the landlords) did not grudge much for other hobbies, whether in pictures, books, &c. 'It is only a few hundreds, or a few thousands, lost this year,' said they; but if they lost on their year's farming they thought themselves hardly used. This they had no right to think. They ought to make the land their hobby, and let others profit by their experiments."

Nothing is more absurd than to suppose that landlords can benefit agriculture by making it their "hobby" and the "fashion;" yet such is the namby pamby nonsense a member for the second commercial city in the world has to offer to the agricultural capitalists of Staffordshire. Then of what value to the farmers are landlords' experiments which cause them "to lose on their year's farming"? Thanks to monopoly rents and Corn-Law created fluctuations, the farmers have made somewhat too many experiments of that sort for themselves.

MR. CHARLES BARCLAY AND THE AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

At the Surrey meeting, held on Friday week at Capel, Mr. Charles Barclay, being in the chair, is reported to have stated his opinion that the labouring population were better off at the present time than they had been at any period during the last century. He said his attention had been called to the "*fact*" that in the year 1744, just a century ago, wheat was the same price it was at present, viz., 5s. 6d. per bushel, and at that period the wages of labourers were 6s. per week, and they were now 10s. per week. We have printed the word "fact" in italics as being the important word in Mr. Charles Barclay's speech. The great difficulty in this world is to get at facts. The difficulty is not to draw correct conclusions from correct premises (any chop-logic can do that), but to obtain correct premises; that is, correct facts. Mr. Charles Barclay has not informed us on what authority the assertion "that, in the year 1744, wheat was 5s. 6d. per bushel," claims to be enrolled in the category of facts. The best authority, as far as we know, for the price of wheat at the time specified by Mr. Barclay, is that of the Audit Books of Eton College. The prices of wheat at Windsor market in the year 1744, set down in those books, are £1. 4s. 10d. per quarter, nine gallons to the bushel; and £1. 2s. 1d. per quarter, reduced to the Winchester bushel of eight gallons. Now, if we take the larger measure, we find the price per bushel to be 3s. 1d.; and if we take the smaller or Winchester measure, we find it to be 2s. 10½d., a fact certainly a little different from 5s. 6d., as stated by Mr. C. Barclay. Moreover, according to the best authorities on the subject (see Tooke's "History of Prices," vol. i., p. 65), the labourer's wages at the time specified were not 6s. per week as asserted by Mr. Barclay, but 7s. a week. From which it appears that at that time the agricultural labourer's daily earnings were equal to somewhat upwards of a peck of wheat. Now, the agricultural wages are at present surely nearer 7s. a week than 10s. as an average, though they may be as high or higher than 10s. in some localities. Consequently the labourer in 1844 is worse off than the labourer in 1744 by about three pecks of wheat a week; that is to say, he is worse off by one half, in other words, he is not only getting lower (in spite of Mr. Charles Barclay's assertion to the contrary), but he now receives less than one-half the quantity of produce for his labour, whilst the landholders obtain about four times the rental for the same fields as in 1744; a FACT, which leaves no doubt as to the true causes of the present distress of the agricultural labourers.

CHEAPNESS AND PLENTY.—Mr. Talbot Clifton insisted last week that the words "*cheapness and plenty*" are not to be found in the Common Prayer Book. This comes of reading such papers as the *Standard*, which hates the first, and the *Post*, which daily laments the second. Mr. Clifton should read his Prayer-book, where he will find those words so obnoxious to monopolist ears. Let him enter into the spirit of the beautiful prayer for "Plenty," and we shall then have hopes of his conversion to our views.

UNEQUAL PROTECTION OF THE AMERICAN TARIFF.—The *Rochester Daily Advertiser* gives a specimen of the unequal protection of the present tariff—viz., for example, striped shirting for the labourer pays a duty of 65 per cent., while gold-edged cambric pays but 33 per cent. Iron chains used by farmers pay more than 100 per cent., while gold watch chains for the rich are taxed only 7½ per cent. Common brown sugar is taxed 70 per cent., and the wines of the rich but 60. The hammer of the blacksmith pays 70; the saw of the carpenter 75; the irons of the hatter and tailor 150—but the silks of the belle pay only 40, and the cigars of the beau not 20. Common carpets pay 103 per cent., while the finest Brussels and Wilton pay 30 to 50. Coarse cotton goods pay 100 per cent., and the finer only 33. The cheap calicoes pay 100 per cent., and the dearer ones 33. Common flannels pay 88 per cent., and fine ones for the rich only 35. The low-priced velvets pays 150 per cent., fine velvets only 40 per cent.—*New York Paper.*

PURITY OF ELECTION.—It is a notorious fact that on the nomination day about 400 "free and independent" non-electors were hired to join Mr. Clifton's tenantry in hooting down any speaker whose observations might be unpalatable to the youthful ex-cornet of Dragoons, and his squirearchical supporters. How these men fulfilled their disgraceful duty is well known to every one who was in the Shire Hall on that occasion. They hissed, hooted, yelled, and clamoured to perfection, in obedience to signals from a certain Conservative attorney, who acted as fugleman. The "consideration" for which they made such a liberal use of their "sweet voices" was 3s. a head, which was publicly paid them within an hour after the proceedings terminated, by Nicholson, the town's-sergeant, on behalf of the Conservative attorney above-mentioned. Who will ultimately "pay the piper" few of our readers, we imagine, will be at a loss to conceive. Whilst we regret that men in a humble walk of life can be found base and foolish enough to lend themselves to such a despicable purpose for a little pelf, language is inadequate to convey our detestation of the authors and abettors of this wholesale system of demoralization. The barefaced manner in which they went to work is not the least remarkable feature in this scandalous transaction, and proves them to be as destitute of shame as they are deficient in common fairness to political opponents.—*Lancaster Guardian.*

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POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, October* 5, 1844.

Politics are asleep, and politicians in general are taking their ease. There are, however, politicians of one class who are doing a little business on their own account in the midst of their rural enjoyments. These are the political landlords. They are everywhere busy in persuading, or trying to persuade, farmers to employ more labourers, to use guano, and establish liquid-manure tanks; but with remarkable tact they contrive to steer clear of the word rent—as that real farmers' friend, Colonel Powell, said a year ago, "that little word seems to have fallen out of their vocabulary." Some of them even go so far as to advise leases, but they forget that the great body of farmers dare not take leases in the present unsettled state of agricultural affairs; and these protectionist squires will find themselves egregiously mistaken if they suppose their present laggard liberality in relation to leases can now set them right with their tenantry. No, rents must be readjusted—not merely lowered, but reconstructed and recalculated to meet a new state of circumstances, in which farmers will look for profit from moderate prices and large produce. Then as to the labourers. The landlord notion that the allotment system can form a remedy for the existing depression is a fallacy so transparent, that even its most earnest advocates at the late meeting at *Bury St. Edmund's* were obliged to append a proviso to their nostrum, that in the event of its failure they had no resource but immigration. Monstrous absurdity! Hear what the *Times* of yesterday, in one of its stinging articles on the present aspect of rural affairs, says upon the subject:—

"So, as long as the call to emigrate is merely a rude demand of wealth upon poverty—a sacrifice to be made by the many for the convenience of a few—we can hardly desire it to receive much attention. Wealth is always able to take care of itself, and needs not our superfluous sympathy. So we are rather disposed to retort upon wealth its own complaint—Why do not *you* emigrate? Wealth, of course, replies that it has no need to do so, and would rather stay at home. Our answer is, that it is wealth which constitutes no small part of the pressure, by its enormous power of turning the resources of the country to the luxury of a few instead of the necessaries and comforts of the many. *At present, however, we wish to suggest a friendly caution, that, while landlords are urging emigration, they may possibly find their advice followed too far.* They who are charged with the stewardship of great benefits are under a temptation to administer them only just as far as suits their own purposes; and perhaps would, most of all men, abhor an excess beyond their own control, and the demands of their private convenience. *Under such a temptation confessedly are our landowners, who seem very little aware how much their wealth, as well as their pressure, arises from the numbers crowded in these islands.*

"There is one dire contingency, more fearful some will say than probable, more possible we are disposed to think than imminent, of which it is well to give due warning to agricultural England. What say they to the chance of a mania for emigration seizing the rural labourer? At present no man is more home-tied. * * * Suppose the labourer to have a little more knowledge of geography than he has now, and, consequently, a little more expansion of mind. * * * A familiar acquaintance with maps and descriptions of our colonies would greatly help a taste for emigration. Many clergymen and other good people, in all simplicity, are taking pains to communicate this useful knowledge. Suppose, further, a good strong contagion. * * * * * Villagers now receive letters from their Canadian relatives at a very trifling postage, only a fortnight after date. To the above conditions add one or two more:—*A little less demand for labour;* a little more of the workhouse test; one or two such bad harvests as we had 20 or 30 years since; *and such a check on our commerce and manufacture as to close that outlet of rural poor.* Put these ingredients together, and you have a receipt for a good scouring emigration—a gulf stream of labourers to America.

"Imagine the affair once set in motion. The mania would spread till checked, and there is nothing in the ordinary course of nature and Providence to check it.

"One single season could easily carry off a quarter of our agricultural poor, in the strictest definition of that class. *Think how wages would rise. Wo to long leases, rents, settlements, and otherwise embarrassed properties.* A rise of wages, it is true, would cut both ways—as a reason for contentment at home, and as rendering it easier to acquire funds for the passage. But, arising from so permanent a cause, it would tend wonderfully to make Englishmen more precious than they are, both in the eyes of their employers and their own. *It must be remembered, too, that the cost of emigration is much more within the compass of a young labourer's savings than he commonly supposes; while it is really almost the only way in which a mere labourer can invest a small saving so as to secure a good return, and help him on in the world.*"

These are views of the subject which it becomes every reflecting man to consider. For ourselves, we believe that nothing is more to be deprecated than the encouragement of emigration as a system amongst our agricultural population. To this let us add the testimony of Mr. Robert Peel (cousin of the Premier), who, when presiding a few days since at the *Burton Agricultural Society*, said, "Nothing would repay them [the farmers] better for money laid out than agricultural labour judiciously applied. It had become a song throughout the land, that they had too many agricultural labourers; that they *were being compelled to leave the country for want of employment,* although he was quite certain *there was not an agricultural labourer in the country for whom permanent employment could not be found.* It was all very well to encourage agricultural labourers by prizes. They were useful things in their way, and calculated to stimulate their efforts; *but what was the use to give encouragement to those people to labour if they did not find employment for them? What was the use of encouraging them in habits of industry if they did not afford them an opportunity of exercising their industry?*"

These are truths which must lead every man of common sense, even though he be a deeply-mortgaged squire, to that point of the inquiry where he will find the Corn Law is "the lion in the path." Monopoly bars the way to all general improvement.

DREADFUL COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

HASWELL COLLIERY.—A dreadful explosion of fire-damp occurred at this place on the afternoon of Saturday last, when the lives of 95 men and boys were sacrificed. Haswell Colliery is situate in the very centre of the great Durham coal-field, about seven miles from the city of Durham, and nine from Sunderland. It is the property of Messrs. Clark, Taylor, Plumer, and other wealthy coalowners connected with the district. It is 150 fathoms deep, and the workings are in the well-known Hutton Seam. The character of the mine in respect of ventilation has always stood high. During the pitmen's strike a few of the off-hand men were employed as hewers, and a few new men introduced; but since the termination of the strike none but experienced workmen have been employed under ground, the others being employed at bank. It is unnecessary to enter into the heart-rending details of individual suffering caused by this dreadful calamity: the reader must be left to his own imagination. Not a soul has been left to tell the mournful tale of how the accident occurred, the whole of the men employed in the working having been swept into eternity without a moment's warning. Four men, who were at the bottom of the shaft, escaped by the fire having burned itself out before it reached them. The inquest was held on Monday before T. C. Maynard, Esq., and a respectable jury.

Cornelius Brown, an under-hewer at Shotton Colliery, examined:—On Saturday last, with other men, I went down the pit at Haswell, having heard that an accident had happened at half-past four o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Scott, another person, went down with me, and we found, about 300 yards from the shaft, that an explosion had taken place, as a number of tubs were upset, and a horse and rolly driver were found dead. We proceeded a certain way, and, on reaching the "Meadows," we found a boy lying dead. We went up the Meadows branch for about 250 yards, when we found the air so bad from choke-damp that we were compelled to return. We came down to the end of that branch, and Scott returned into it again, and I went up the Brockley Whins-way to within 50 yards of the station at the sidings, where the air was so bad that I could proceed no further. I was then satisfied there could be no person in the pit alive. Seeing that nothing could be done to save life, we immediately began to put in air-stoppers, and had to wait till a current of fresh air was got in. After getting the air in, we proceeded on to the Flatts station in about three hours after, where we found 14 dead bodies, which we laid aside. We took 95 dead bodies out altogether. The explosion took place in the ninth headway course of the Meadows way. I saw that a jud had been drawn there by the deputy overman. A jud is part of a pillar of coal left to support the roof after the working, and is afterwards removed; and I think the removal of the jud had caused the explosion, as the effects of the fire were more visible there than in any other place. Three men had been working there, and were found dead. Did not find their Davy lamps. Saw nothing which indicated the cause of the explosion. The deputy, Williamson, had been in the act of taking the jud away, and was found within twenty yards of the place, dead. He had been at work at the jud when the explosion took place. The gas in some cases is found in considerable quantity, sometimes suddenly on the removal of the coal. That part of the mine was worked by Davy lamps. There was not a candle used there. It was not considered a dangerous pit; but, indeed, one of the safest in the trade. Had known it from its commencement, and up to the 14th of August was in it for about three months, almost daily. Have not been in the pit since that time, till after the explosion. I am of opinion the ventilation had been good up to the time of the explosion. In my opinion this explosion would not have taken place if a Davy lamp had not been injured. At the jud some stone had fallen from the roof caused by its removal. The lamp might be injured by the fall of stone, and that was probably the way in which the accident occurred.—This witness was cross-examined at much length.

James Scott, under-viewer at Haswell Colliery, said:—About three o'clock on Saturday afternoon I was in the colliery-office, when one of the off-putters came and said he believed the pit had fired. I went as quickly as possible down the pit, and along the North Rolly way, about 30 yards, leading into the "Little Pit." I tried the air with a candle, and found it good. I then got a safety-lamp, and went along further, and I found the air good all the way to the mouth of the Stone Drift. At this point I found a great deficiency in the quantity of air, and the current was not in a right direction. On proceeding along the Stone Drift, the two-man-hole drifts at the end were blown down; also the air-crossings beside it. The fresh air which ought to have gone along the main line was escaping at these two places. Along the main-way, from the mouth of the Stone Drift, I came to a set of rollies with empty tubs on them. The horse at the end of the rollies was dead, and its driver, a boy. I proceeded on with the overman, John Miller, whom I met, about sixty yards, and came to a set of rollies in a siding laden with tubs. The horse at the out-by end of the rollies was dead, and also the drivers. We went forward other fifty yards, and at the Meadows'-way end we found another body dead. For want of air at that point we were obliged to return. We went back about 300 yards, where there was more air, and we considered the best thing we could do was to get in the stoppings, to carry the air forward. From what I saw I was quite convinced that all the men in the pit when the explosion took place were dead.—This witness was further examined and cross-examined, as were also several others. An adjournment of the investigation to the following day (Tuesday) took place.

Several of the unfortunate victims were interred on Tuesday in the Sutton Hetton Churchyard; thousands of spectators, many of them from a considerable distance, attended the funerals.

The inquest was resumed on Tuesday, continued on Wednesday, and further adjourned to Wednesday next. The pit is to be left in its present state in order to afford every facility for arriving at the most correct conclusion as to the origin of the explosion, with a view, no doubt, of adopting such additional means of security as will lessen, if not altogether prevent, these terrible calamities.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.—Sunday being the day appointed for the ceremony of placing the Morocco trophies in the Church of the Invalides, the occasion was celebrated by a grand review of the troops in garrison in Paris, and a military procession to the church, where all the trophies taken by the French (with the exception of the 3000 destroyed by Marshal Marmont before the entrance of the Allies in 1815) are now placed. The King was present, accompanied by his two sons, the Duke de Nemours and the Duke de Montpensier, and a brilliant staff. The Queen, Princesses, and Court were also present. Active preparations for the King's visit to England are in progress.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS.—The *National* states that the receipts of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, of which the head-quarters are at Lyons, amounted during the year 1843 to the sum of 4,163,065 francs. The society supports with its funds 139 bishops and 4220 missionary priests, who are at present preaching the gospel in Africa, America, and the Pacific Ocean.

SPAIN.—Letters from different parts of Spain give deplorable accounts of the depredations committed by banditti. Among the sufferers is the Count de Varennes, Minister of France at Lisbon, who was stopped, on the night of the 15th, by five robbers, between Valdepenes and Santa Cruz de Mudela. He was travelling by the Seville diligence, and he and M. de Ceuto, the Secretary of the Spanish Embassy at Lisbon, were stripped of everything, including 16,000 reals and a quantity of jewels.

A terrible accident happened at a bull-fight, at Roa, near Valladolid, on the 19th instant. There were about 1000 persons on a platform, raised three yards from the ground, and which commanded a view of the area where the bull-fight took place. About six p.m., in the midst of the bull-fight, this platform gave way, and above 200 persons were more or less injured: three were killed on the spot, eight others being mortally wounded, and 20 others very severely so.

RUSSIAN TOLERATION.—The *Presse* mentions the publication of a recent ukase at St. Petersburgh, enacting that in future when a synagogue or an Israelite school is to be erected in a street where a Greco-Russian church exists, it must be separated from it by a distance of 100 khattens (200 yards). "Whilst this measure," adds the *Presse*, "was being adopted in St. Petersburgh, the Polish Government at Warsaw decreed the addition to the form of the oath required of Israelite recruits on their entering the army of the following paragraph—'I swear to be faithful to my colours, and never to desert, even were the Messiah to descend upon earth.'"

THE ZOLLVEREIN.—A Palermo journal of the 4th announces the departure for Germany of the Duke de Serra di Falco, charged with the negotiation of a treaty of commerce between the kingdom of Naples and the German Customs' Union.

BOLOGNA.—Letters from Bologna of the 24th ult. state that the utmost anarchy pervaded the Legation. Every day fresh accounts of robberies, murders, incendiary fires, and collisions between the people and the military reached from various parts of the province; no less than five assaults occurred in the streets of Bologna during the night of the 22nd.

UNITED STATES.—The British and North American Royal mail steam-ship Hibernia, Captain Ryne, arrived in the Mersey at 10 o'clock on Sunday night. She left Boston on the afternoon of the 16th inst., and Halifax early on the morning of the 19th. The run from the latter port may therefore be called nine days and a half. She brought between 40 and 50 passengers.

It appears from a statement, entitled the "Epistle of the Twelve," that the Mormons have no further election or selection of a prophet as head of the church, but that the succession to Joe Smith is given to a band of 12 men, whom they call apostles, and who are appointed to preach to the sect throughout Europe and America.

The *New York Journal of Commerce* announces that the British Government has taken formal possession of the Mosquito territory, the British flag having been hoisted at head-quarters, Blewfield, the 6th July with the usual ceremonial. "Great Britain," says the above paper, "attaches great importance to this portion of the American continent. It is fertile, salubrious, and beautiful, possessing some of the largest natural harbours in the world (the Cheripul Lagoon can hold 1000 ships of the line at anchor safe). It has 19 large rivers, some of them navigable 100 miles from the sea."

THE COTTON CROP.—By the arrival of the Hibernia steamer at Liverpool, on Saturday evening last, we are are put in possession of the usual annual statement of the growth and disposal of the cotton crop of 1843-4; which, after an almost unexampled series of fluctuations in the estimates of its produce, has proved to be 2,030,409 bales, being about 400,000 bales above the estimates of the more sanguine of the American speculators, and about 100,000 beyond the average amount which we had deduced from a comparison of the progressive receipts in this and former years. With respect to the prospects of the coming crop,

all the accounts from the United States concur in representing them as most favourable. The estimates of the crop vary from 3,200,000 to 3,500,000 bales.—*Manchester Guardian.*

WAGES IN CANADA.—Common labourers are now receiving 3s. a day, but they have turned out for 3s. 6d., and some of them want 4s. The *Gazette* thinks that 3s. 6d. is not an unreasonable price for a day's work; but we believe we are correct in saying that it is an unprecedented price in Canada, and we doubt whether contractors will receive money enough on their contracts to pay it. Taking into consideration the low price of provisions of every kind, wages are decidedly high at 3s. a day for common labourers.—*Montreal Herald.*

MEXICO.—In Mexico, the governors of the several departments have received an official notification of the number of troops to be raised by each towards the army of 70,000 men intended for the reconquest of Texas.

The Governor of California has applied to Santa Anna for a force to enable him to drive off some American emigrants lately settled on the Rio Sacramento, with the intention, it is said, of usurping the lands of the republic.

The *Jamaica Despatch* of the 10th ult. states that letters from St. Juan de Nicaragua report an awful earthquake, by which almost the whole of that city was destroyed. The blockade still continued.

BRAZILS.—The Peterel packet arrived on Saturday at Falmouth, from the Brazils. The packet, which left Rio on the 28th July, had been detained there 14 days beyond her usual time. It was expected that she would have brought home the new treaty of commerce, but it is understood that it has not been signed. A material reduction in the Brazilian tonnage dues was announced to come into operation on the 6th of November next.

TAHITI.—Two interesting lettters from Tahiti to the 25th of April, giving particulars of a murderous conflict between the French and the natives, were published in the *Times* of Wednesday. According to the writer it appears that the natives to the number of about 1000 took up arms, and with considerable military skill intrenched themselves at a place called Mahaena. They mounted on their rude fortifications six guns. The French commenced landing near this place on the morning of the 18th of April, under cover of the guns of the Uranie frigate of 64 guns and the war-steamer Phaeton; and about 10 o'clock they moved forward under the guidance of an individual named Henry, the son of a missionary, and headed by Governor Bruat in person. The French were enabled to gain possession of a hill which commanded the Tahitian encampment, and, having planted some field-pieces upon it, caused much havoc among the natives. The attack on the trenches then followed, and a dreadful struggle ensued, the natives fighting with great determination; and the writer is of opinion that had they all been armed with muskets not a French soldier would have escaped. As it was, armed with spears, and about one-half with firearms, they killed and wounded upwards of 100 of their enemies. One man in the agonies of death picked up a stone which he aimed at Governor Bruat, who barely avoided it. The Tahitians at length retreated into a wood in the rear, with the intention, as subsequently added by the writer, of drawing the French into an ambush; but the latter thought it more prudent not to pursue them, and withdrew on board their ships, carrying their wounded with them. The conflict has been disastrous to both parties, and the Tahitians, burning with vengeance, have declined the offers of peace made to them by Governor Bruat, having replied to his overtures "that before any propositions would be considered the French Governor must restore the lives of their murdered countrymen." The writer states that the property of the missionaries, nearly all of whom had left the island, had been seized and confiscated by the French.

SYDNEY.—The papers from Sydney to the 30th of May represent the markets there as having recovered from their recent depression. Wheat and domestic provisions were abundant, and the value of stock was increasing.

INDIA.—The Indian mail to the 27th of August has arrived, bringing intelligence from Bombay to that date. Sir H. Hardinge had arrived there on the 23rd of July, and was immediately sworn into office. Lord Ellenborough had taken his departure on the 1st of August, on board the steamer Tenasserim, which had started for Suez. The rainy season in the north-western provinces had prevented all military movements. The detachments of troops sent into the territory of Shikarpoor had been compelled to retreat in consequence of the want of water and the intensity of the heat.

The mutiny of the 64th Regiment of Bengal Infantry, which had been repressed, had produced the most stringent proceedings on the part of Sir Charles Napier, the Governor of Scinde. The colours were taken from the regiment, and the trial of the 40 ringleaders of the mutiny was going on with the greatest care; and a strong example would, it was expected, be made of those who should be proved guilty.

The news from the Punjaub represents that country as a prey to anarchy and confusion, and the lowest intrigues of assassination and plunder by the chiefs.

An expedition was being prepared in Cabul against the King of Bokhara. It is to be commanded by Ukbar Khan.

Sir Henry Pottinger embarked at Bombay on the 27th of August, on his return to Europe.

There has been considerable discussion respecting the cruel mode in which some of the sick Coolies who were sent back from the Mauritius to Bombay had been put on board, without any comforts, or even the common necessaries for the voyage. One of them died, and the coroner's jury warmly expressed their dissatisfaction at the manner in which he had been put on board.

There was considerable satisfaction felt at Bombay in consequence of the mails from London having arrived there in twenty-eight days and sixteen hours, and it was expected that the voyage would be performed in much less time by powerful vessels placed on that station.

CHINA.—The intelligence from China represents that considerable excitement prevailed along the sea-coast, in consequence of the appearance of an American man-of-war, and several French vessels of war in the Chinese waters. Riots had occurred at Canton between the populace and a party of American sailors, owing to an attempt on the part of the former to pull down the American flag, after having forced their way into the square of the American factory. The Chinese authorities sent the military to clear the square, in which they succeeded; but they appear to possess but little power over the populace. It is said that, unless prompt measures are taken by the English, there will be little security for either life or property.

ALEXANDRIA, Sept. 21.—The Geyser sailed hence early yesterday morning for Malta, having on board Lord Ellenborough. The Berenice, from Bombay, arrived at Suez on the 17th instant, with the mails and twenty-five passengers, amongst whom is Sir Henry Pottinger, who proceeds this day to England by the Great Liverpool.

DOMESTIC.

Her Majesty and Prince Albert landed at Woolwich on Thursday afternoon, on their return from their recent visit to Blair Athol.

On Sunday afternoon, during a gale of wind off Yarmouth, a large foreign schooner was seen to capsize suddenly and disappear. She had signals of distress flying, and was apparently running for the land when the catastrophe happened; it is feared that every soul on board perished.

On Wednesday last, at Salford, a large steam-boiler in the Islington mill exploded, blowing away a portion of the building, and killing a man named James Atkins.

Died, on Saturday last, at Euston-hall, in Suffolk, his Grace the Duke of Grafton, in his 85th year.

Mr. Alderman Gibbs was, on Saturday last, elected to the office of Lord Mayor; and William Hunter, Esq., and Thomas Sidney, Esq., have been chosen sheriffs for the ensuing year.

The annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science commenced at York on Thursday se'nnight. The attendance of eminent men of science from all parts of the empire was very large. The Dean of Ely was elected president.

Mr. Jacob Smith, a Wesleyan minister, was drowned last week at the North Sands, Monkwearmouth, while bathing.

This week a large reduction in the fares on the great northern lines of railway, including the London and Birmingham, Grand Junction, York, and North Midland, has taken place.

The munificent sum of one thousand pounds has been bequeathed by the late Rev. Henry Tudor Barnwell, of Bury St. Edmund's, recently deceased, to the institution for the Indigent Blind in the city of Norwich, which sum has just been paid to the treasurer of that establishment, free from any legacy duty, by the executors of the late reverend gentleman.

The registration for the borough of Southwark commences on Tuesday next at the Town-hall, and for the borough of Lambeth on the 10th of October. In the latter place the list of voters will be greatly augmented, in consequence of a number of lodgers occupying apartments of £10 per annum claiming to be inserted on the registry.

A numerous meeting of members of the medical profession was held on Monday at Exeter-hall, when resolutions condemnatory of Sir James Graham's medical reform bill were unanimously agreed to.

Since Mr. O'Connell left Dublin, on his intended visit to Darrynane, he has met with a triumphal reception on his line of route. "In Naas, Kildare, Monastereven, Maryborough, Mountrath, Borris-in-Ossory, the people decorated their houses with laurels and flowers, and threw triumphal arches across the road, whilst they poured forth abundant blessings for their friend, advocate, and champion." At Roscrea he was presented, amidst an immense concourse of people, with a congratulatory address. At Limerick the people attempted, much to the learned gentleman's annoyance, to take the horses from his carriage, and, as he said, "wanted to make beasts of themselves."

The Repeal Association met at the Conciliation Hall on Monday. In the absence of Mr. O'Connell nothing particular occurred. The rent for the week was announced to be £349. 18s.

Lieutenant Puddicombe, who was charged with having stolen a quantity of silver plate from the house of Captain Warren at Cork, was on Friday se'nnight tried in that city, and unanimously acquitted by the jury amidst loud plaudits from a crowd of spectators.

Last week, William Humble, a private in the 61st Regiment, having committed an outrage by breaking the shop window and destroying property to the amount of nearly £10, belonging to a Mr. Coleman in Cork, with a view, as he declared, to get transported, he was handed over to the military power, and was sentenced by court-martial to receive 150 lashes, and to be put under stoppage to the amount of 6d. per day until the damage he caused should be liquidated. The unhappy man has undergone the first part of the dreadful sentence, from which he has suffered severely.

Several attempts at incendiarism have lately taken place in the vicinity of Lymington, and last week the Mayor, Mr. Hicks, received an anonymous letter in which destruction was threatened to the barns and stacks of several persons. On the 23rd ult. an incendiary fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Thomas Ivatt, of Rampston, in Cambridgeshire. The flames burst forth simultaneously from two stacks, at a distance from each other, and speedily communicated to twenty others, and to the farm buildings, the whole of which were completely destroyed, nothing escaping but the dwelling-house. The value of the property destroyed is estimated at £4000, only £2000 of which are covered by insurance.

It appears by a return to the House of Commons that the Middlesex and Westminster magistrates have the patronage of 220 places, the aggregate annual income of which is £22,250. 8s. 2½d.

The whole of the effective military force now in Ireland amounts to 26,000 men.

The deaths in the metropolis last week amounted to 932, being an increase on the weekly average for the last five summers of 32, but a decrease on the average of the last five years of 14.

On Monday last, a boat containing a party of five persons from Plymouth, namely, Mr. Fowler, cabinet-maker, and his wife; Mr. Knowles, shoemaker; a Miss Ryder, and a Mrs. Morgan, who had been to visit a brother of the latter on board her Majesty's ship the Queen, capsized when nearing Riding Point, Mount Edgcombe, when the whole party perished.

The subscription towards the fund for providing public pleasure-grounds for the people of Manchester now exceeds £21,000, and is daily swelling in amount.

THE LEAGUE-SLAYER.—The *Herald* says the League is not quite dead, but announces its speedy dissolution because it is *illegal* (ill-League-all).

MISCELLANEOUS.

GLASGOW COTTON-SPINNERS.—The operative cotton-spinners of Glasgow have presented a memorial to their employers, requesting a small advance on their present rate of wages. The applicants ground their claim upon the present comparative prosperous state of trade, and the example recently given by the English masters, who have considerably raised the wages of their workmen. Several of the principal millowners in the vicinity of Glasgow have already acquiesced in the prayer of the memorialists.—*Glasgow Examiner.*

Mr. BASHALL'S NEW MILL, PRESTON.—On Thursday evening week a sumptuous supper was given to upwards of 200 of the workpeople, at the Shelley Arms Inn, to celebrate the above occasion. Mr. Stephenson was called to the chair, and the evening was kept up with great spirit. Messrs. R. and W. Bashall, Boardman, Snell, and several other gentlemen, attended upon the guests, and afterwards adjourned to another room, where a splendid dinner was provided.—*Preston Guardian.*

ANTIQUE ENACTMENTS.—In 1721 an act was passed imposing £5 on the wearer, and £20 on the seller, of a piece of cotton cloth. In 1726 calicoes were tolerated, "provided the warp thereof was entirely of linen yarn." In 1774 the Legislature tolerated calico! both weft and warp!! at a duty of 3d. a yard; but in 1806 the Legislature, alarmed at its liberality, added ½d. to the protective 3d., together with some salutary stamping on the calicoes, to legitimise them. In 1813 madness ended, and calicoes were freed.—*J. C. Symons.*

VENTILATION OF COURTS AND ALLEYS.—The London parks have been called the *lungs* of the metropolis, but they are lungs placed *outside*; the Town Council of Manchester wish to place them *inside*. Parks are breathing places to those who can walk to them; the opening up of close courts and alleys will permit air and light to visit the sick and helpless in their wretched abodes. Public footways are a legacy from our ancestors which ought to be carefully preserved; parks and places of recreation are to be the rich legacy from the present to succeeding generations; and the ventilation of obstructed streets and blocked-up courts is for the present and future health of the over-worked and the poverty stricken. Benevolence may take a more showy but not a more useful direction. Next to the removal of poverty is the removal of the inflictions which unnecessarily fall upon poverty.—*Manchester Times.*

OVERSEERS CALLED TO ORDER.—PARISH OF ST. MARY, ISLINGTON.—In this extensive and populous parish it has been the practice of the overseers to rate the *owners* only of all the smaller tenements, so that the humbler classes of society have been deprived of the parliamentary franchise. This custom of compounding has been pursued notwithstanding the 23rd clause of 59th Geo. III., cap. 12, which provides that nothing therein contained shall be held to authorise the assessing of any owner *not being an occupier* in any borough where the right of voting for a member of Parliament shall depend on being rated to the relief of the poor. The omission of the occupiers from the rate is also in direct defiance of the order of the Poor Law Commissioners of June 22, 1837. Under the advice and with the assistance of the Registration Committee of the League, the Islington Free-Trade Registration Association intimated a prosecution against the parish overseers for the penalty for disobedience to an order of the Poor Law Commissioners, under the influence of which "persuasive force" the overseers have placed 1017 compound householders on the rate-books, who will all next year be qualified to be registered.

THE KILMARNOCK HERALD.—We are glad to welcome this new ally in the cause of Free Trade; and, judging from the two numbers which have reached us, we think it merits, as we trust it will receive, the support of the friends of Free Trade in Scotland, especially in Ayrshire. We take the following extract from the editor's preliminary article:—"Free Trade.—Holding the cause of Free Trade to be the most urgent political question of the day, we shall labour to give it a constant and vigorous support. Few articles of a Reformer's creed are of equal importance—not one of them is, for the time, in so vigorous and *workable* a condition—as Free Trade; and we shall therefore give to it that prominence to which, both by its intrinsic importance and present position, it is so justly entitled. Refusing to pledge ourselves to the policy or the particular acts of any party or confederation, we shall, nevertheless, accord to the National Anti-Corn-Law League that hearty support and cordial trust which every good Reformer feels to be due to the leaders and members of that body for the unparalleled energy and skill with which they have so long and so well fought the good fight."

CHINESE AGRICULTURE.—We passed the batteries which had so recently been the scene of such dreadful slaughter, and, stemming a strong current, proceeded rapidly up the river. The country through which it wends its way was a perfect flat as far as the eye could reach, and in as high a state of cultivation as the market-gardens around London. Small farmhouses stood in every direction, neatly encircled with flower-gardens, the whole presenting a perfect picture of wealth, fertility, industry, and comfort; and when we were informed (a circumstance we had every reason to believe perfectly true) that the same state of things existed, not only throughout the whole of this, but of all the neighbouring provinces, any one of which, as regards extent, would make a handsome kingdom for a European potentate, some slight idea may be formed of the endless internal agricultural wealth of the Chinese empire, and the little concern the Emperor of this mighty country has been accustomed to bestow on foreign nations, their commerce, trade, or anything else concerning them. Numerous implements of agriculture, which we supposed only to be known to the most scientific and highly-instructed European nations, were discovered in great numbers, and in constant use among them, from the plough and common harrow to the winnow and thrashing-machine, with which scarcely any farmhouse, however small, was unprovided. Added to which, for the purpose of irrigation, scarcely any considerable field that did not possess its chain-pump, for the purpose of irrigating their crops by drawing water from the lower levels, with comparatively small labour to themselves; from which models I have not the least doubt those at present in use in our navy or merchantmen were taken.—*Recollections of Service.*

BULLS AND BLUNDERS.—Neither Sir R. Peel nor his *bull* was present at the Tamworth gathering of farmers this year. The latter say that the cause is owing to the honourable baronet's legislative *blunders.*

THE PRICE OF WHEAT.

(From the *North Devon Journal.*)

With the assurance of abundance, the price of wheat becomes a point of anxious interest both to the producer and the consumer. The farmers, to whom, from the deficiency of the barley and oat crops, and the scarcity of winter fodder grievously depreciating the price of stock, the value of the only good crop—wheat—becomes of still greater importance, are affrighted by predictions of a current rate so low that, even in the rare coincidence of an abundance of all the grain crops, it would scarcely be remunerating. We have seen a figure even lower than 40s. per quarter quoted as the probable price of wheat during the winter, and adopted by papers pretending to authority in agricultural affairs; and in the last week's number of the "Bankers' Circular," a periodical justly regarded as of first-rate information, and remarkable for the general soundness and correctness of its views, we were surprised to observe a deliberate opinion pronounced, that the price of wheat during the six months ensuing the 1st October would range between 40s. and 45s. per quarter; and the latter limit was given as very unlikely to be reached. We confess that there appears to us to be no sufficient data for the adoption of this opinion, which we rather look upon as a hasty conclusion formed from a review of the results of the wheat harvest, instead of a mature judgment arrived at after a due consideration of collateral circumstances which affect the value of the article scarcely less than its scarcity or abundance. We refer particularly to the failure of the oat and barley crops, and to the unwonted activity which prevails in the manufacturing districts. As to the produce of barley, although we do not find that it is either so defective in amount or so inferior in quality as the long drought and untimely rains induced the growers to forebode, there can be no question that it is materially under an average, and the price will infallibly rule high, because it is not liable to be so extensively acted upon by importations from abroad as is the price of wheat, to which the attention of foreign growers is chiefly confined. The same remark applies to the oat crop, in which the produce is still more decidedly defective. The value of the minor grains, therefore, will be so much higher than the relative proportion which they ought to bear to the price of wheat, that instead of being resorted to, as they usually are, as cheaper bread stuffs to substitute for it, the better crop will be called in to supply uses which generally belong to barley and oats, and the necessary and natural consequence of an increased demand will be witnessed in the maintenance and improvement of the price of wheat. But a yet stronger agency to counteract the extremely low price predicted is the prevailing activity of the manufacturing districts. The distressing depression which so long clothed the great marts of industry in the habiliments of mourning, and in which commerce and agriculture painfully sympathised, has happily given place to a brighter era; and reports agree in representing the staple branches of woollen and cotton manufacture to be exceedingly buoyant and prosperous, with a fair prospect for the winter trade, which the favourable harvest at home and abroad will materially assist. A state of active employment in the principal departments of industry must operate favourably on the value of agricultural produce. Two years ago the price of wheat was low, because there was no consumption; the supply was not excessive, but the demand was lamentably deficient. The markets were stagnant, for the consuming millions had no employment and no money; and the farmers painfully felt that they could not prosper while manufacture was depressed. We believe the mutual dependence of the great interests of the country will be illustrated this year, but in a more pleasing result: the activity of the manufacturers will give animation to the agriculturists, by stimulating the demand and checking an unnatural decline in the price of corn. Nor must it be forgotten that, ample as the produce is, it comes upon us with no large stock of last year's grain remaining on hand, either of home growth or of foreign importation; and the moderate rate at which the price must certainly rule will offer little temptation to foreigners, excepting from the Canadas, by which, by the bye, the Premier has opened a back door to the United States which threatens in the course of a few years to render the trade in corn with this country entirely free to the world. From the considerations we have adduced, we incline to the opinion that the staff of life, though at a low rate (and low from the most legitimate and acceptable cause—the bounty of a gracious Providence), will not be depressed to so extreme a figure as is predicted, but will rather support a quotation of from 45s. to 50s. per quarter, at which we believe the excellence of the produce will enable the growers to render it.

French Statistics.—The *Reforme* states, that during the last census taken by order of Government it has been ascertained that there exist throughout France 6,042,416 dwelling-houses, 82,575 mills, 4412 furnaces and forges, and 38,030 manufactories. Total, 6,767,433 properties, belonging to 10,282,946 individuals. "There remain, consequently," observes the *Reforme*, "24,717,050 non-proprietors or passive citizens."

Registered Electors for Ireland.—The grand total of registered electors for cities and counties of towns in Ireland, of all qualifications, stood on 1st February, 1837, at 26,693; on 1st February, 1835, it had been 20,285. Between Feb. 1, 1837, and Feb. 1, 1844, there was an increase of £10 householders, 1839; of rent-chargers, 2; of freemen, 1632. In same interval the increase was, of £50 freeholders, 25; of £20 freeholders, 450; of £20 leaseholders, 29; of £10 freeholders, 130; of £10 leaseholders, 350; of 40s. freeholders, 1025. Registered electors for boroughs in Ireland, of all qualifications, on Feb. 1, 1835, were 11,576; on Feb. 1, 1837, 15,355. Grand total registered between Feb 1, 1836, and Feb. 1, 1844, inclusive, 15,078. Total decrease of electors registered between Feb. 1, 1837, and Feb 1, 1844, 277. The total number of electors now entitled to vote for all the counties of Ireland is 57,169; and there have been registered since passing of the Reform Act, 65,437. Total number of electors registered on Feb. 1, 1844, 50,312. Grand total of registered electors for counties, cities, and boroughs of Ireland, on Feb. 1, 1844, 117,448.

Living in Paris.—The competition amongst tradesmen in Paris is very great, though there is less "ticketing" of goods than in London; but it is begun, and competition will soon compel the Parisian tradesmen to ticket quite as much as the London tradesmen. As to the comparative terms—cheapness and dearness—some explanation will be necessary. All sorts of jewellery, watches, clocks, &c. &c., are certainly cheaper—that is, sold at a lower price than in England: but cotton goods of all kinds, particularly stockings, shirtings, &c., &c., are decidedly dearer, nor could I find, after considerable inquiry, that silk goods of any kind are cheaper in Paris than in London. Gloves "made to measure," and clothing of all kinds, about the same as here. Bread is cheaper and some of it beautiful; but, as with us, there are two sorts used even by respectable families, and a kind is used by the common people and soldiers so dark—not to say absolutely black—that I never saw anything so bad in this country—not even the soldiers' "brown tommy." Poultry of all kinds is nearly as dear in Paris as in London: so is fish. I saw some excellent fat beef, some beautiful veal; but it was as dear as in London—16 and 18 sous a pound. The mutton, though good sound meat, was poor, and though I saw some pork, butchered and hung up in an ugly fashion, it was rare, and could not be judged of during hot weather. Vegetables are cheap and abundant, and, with bread, form, I learned, the chief food of the working classes; but they have a better and greater variety of ways to cook them than we have. In some of the poor districts over by the Garden of Plants, for instance, you see large cauldrons at the shop-doors, full of fat, in which they boil vegetables and sell them ready cooked. Almost the only thing I thought really cheap were the wines and brandies. These are sold at most, if not all, of the grocers' shops as well as at the public-houses and cafés. Wine may be bought in Paris as low as fivepence a bottle, and good brandy for ninepence-halfpenny, or a shilling, including the bottle. This is the ordinary price. The common people usually go into a wine or brandy house, and have a small beer-glass of wine, or a small wine-glass of brandy, either for two sous, or about one penny. This, with bread, fruit, or vegetables, keeps the French tolerably contented.—*Brighton Herald.*

A statement is made in the Jamaica papers, that the sugar shipped up to the present period from that colony was about 20,000 hogsheads, being 3500 short of the same period last year.

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. Sept. 28	Mon. Sept. 30	Tues. Oct. 1	Wed. Oct. 2	Thurs. Oct. 3	Fri. Oct. 4
Bank Stock for Ac.	208½	209½	210½	210½	211	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	Shut.	—	—	—	—	—
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½
3½ per Ct. Red. Ann	Shut.	—	—	—	—	—
3½ pCt An. nw. ex. d	102½	102½	—	—	102½	—
Lg. An. ex. 1860 ex. d	—	12⅞	—	—	12½	—
Cons. for Acc. ..	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½
Exc. Bills, pm. ..	76	76	76	76	76	—
Ind. Bds. and 1000l	—	—	93	98	91	—
India Stock	289½	290	289	290	289½	—
Belgian Bonds ..	105	105	104½	105½	105	—
Brazilian Bonds..	90	90	90	—	—	—
Buenos Ayres....	37½	37½	36½	37	37½	—
Chilian.....	106	102	102	103	103	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½
Danish	90	90	90	89½	89½	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	100½	100½	—	—	—	—
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	62½	62½	62½	62½	62½	62½
Mexican	37½	37½	—	37½	—	—
Peruvian	26½	26½	26½	26½	26½	—
Portug. conv. ..	48½	49	48½	—	50	50
Spanish 5 per Ct.	24	24½	24½	24	24	24½
Do. 3 per Cent. ..	35	35½	35½	35	35½	35½

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Monday, Sept. 30.—Our market this morning was well supplied with Wheat from the neighbouring counties; a clearance was effected early in the day at 1s. advance on last Monday's rates. There was also an improved demand for Free Foreign at the same advance. The weather being colder than last week, there was more demand for the best samples of Malting Barley, which sold in consequence at rather better prices: the sale for other descriptions was slow at former rates. Old Beans fully as dear as last week; no alteration in the value of New Beans or of White Peas. Maple Peas were 1s. lower. Only one cargo of Irish Oats was reported last week, but three or four cargoes arrived in time for market this morning; there were also a few small parcels of New Black and White Oats from Lincolnshire; the trade was firm for all descriptions, but was principally confined to buyers from the country.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk Old Red	40 to 48	White	44	to 52
—— Ditto ..... New	— 40 — 45	—	40	— 50
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Old	— 40 — 46	—	42	— 48
—— Scotch	— 40 — 44	—	42	— 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Feed.....		Old	21	— 22
—— Ditto ..... ditto .. ditto		New	19	— 20
—— Ditto ..... ditto .. Polands.....		New	21	— 23
—— Scotch Feed.....	Old 22 — 24	Potato	25	— 26
—— Limerick	do. 21 — 23	New	20	— 21
—— Ditto	do.....	Short	22	— 23
—— Cork	do.		20	— 21
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork	Black Old and New		19	— 20
—— Westport.... Old			20 6	— 21
—— Galway .... do.			18 6	— 19 6
Barley, New			30	— 36
Beans, Mazagan	Old 32 — 33	New	29	— 30
—— Harrow .. do. 30 — 38		do.	32	— 34
—— Small .... do.			40	— 42
Peas, White, New			32	— 36
—— Grey	30 to 31	Maple	32	— 33
Flour, Town-made		per sack of 280 lbs....	38	— 43
—— Norfolk and Suffolk			34	— 39

FOREIGN.

		FREE. Per Imperial Quarter.	IN BOND
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed		48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.
—— Rostock		47 — 54	
—— Stettin		44 — 52	
—— Hamburgh		42 — 48	
—— Odessa		42 — 46	
—— Ditto	Polish	47 — 50	
—— Russian	soft	42 — 46	
—— Ditto.....	hard	40 — 44	
—— Spanish	Red	45 — 49	
—— Ditto	White.....	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding		26 — 29	— — —
—— Distilling.....		30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel.....		19 — 20	13 — 14
—— Swedish		19 — 21	13 — 15
—— Danish.....		20 — 22	14 — 16
—— Stralsund		21 — 22	15 — 16
—— Dutch Brew		21 — 23	15 — 17
—— —— Polands		— — —	18 — 19
Beans, Egyptian.....		27 — 29	22 — 23
Peas, White		30 — 34	— — —
—— Ditto Boilers		32 — 35	— — —
Flour, Canada	per barrel of 196 lbs	26 — 28	— — —
—— United States..	— —	26 — 28	18 — 20
—— Dantzig.....	— —	26 — 28	18 — 20

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Sept. 23 to Sept. 28, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	3695	2714	325	977	1085
Scotch	—	98	934	—	—
Irish.....	—	—	1000	—	—
Foreign	6426	9724	2382	317	—

Flour, 4540 sacks, — barrels.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending Oct. 1, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	4196	47s. 11d.	Rye	443	41s. 7d.
Barley.. ..	6233	36s. 6d.	Beans.. ..	1185	33s. 5d.
Oats	13909	21s. 3d.	Peas	1043	34s. 1d.

Friday, October 4.—With the exception of Irish Oats, of which there is a fair arrival, the supplies of all grain since Monday are short. The Wheat trade, both English and Foreign, is firm, though but little business doing. There is rather an improved demand for Barley at the prices of last Monday. Oats fully support late prices. In Beans and Peas no alteration. The duty on Beans fell yesterday to 5s. 6d.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 30th of September to the 4th of October, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat.....	7680	—	—
Barley.....	5570	—	—
Oats.....	2040	12790	—

Flour, 3890 sacks.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES Weeks ending

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
24th August	50 4	33 3	20 4	36 8	35 10	34 0
31st „	50 11	34 11	20 7	34 2	37 0	33 10
7th Sept.	48 6	35 9	20 5	——	38 1	——
14th „	45 11	35 11	20 1	——	37 9	——
21st „	45 3	35 6	20 5	35 7	37 3	33 1
28th „	45 9	34 5	20 5	37 3	36 8	33 0

Aggregate Average of the Six Weeks.—Wheat, 47s. 9d.; Barley, 35s.; Oats, 20s. 5d.; Rye, 35s. 7d.; Beans, 37s. 1d.; Peas, 33s. 8d.

Duty.—Wheat, 20s. 0d.; Barley, 3s. 0d.; Oats, 6s. 0d.; Rye, 7s. 6d.; Beans, 5s. 6d.; Peas, 9s. 6d.

Stock of Corn in Bond, Sep. 5, 1844.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.	Flour. Cwts.
In London,	110652	81918	36442	—	—	213	59755
Unit. King.	330892	164684	86873	—	4910	2962	269958

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, September 27.

DECLARATION OF INSOLVENCY.

T. W. BUTTERWORTH, Hulme, Lancashire, draper.

BANKRUPTS.

E. M'LAUGHLIN, Long-lane, Bermondsey, Surrey, hair and glue merchant. [Reddell and Baker, Lime-street, City.

F. B STACK and W. STACY, Lawrence-lane, Cheapside, warehousemen. [Crowder and Maynard, Coleman-street, City.

J. G. WEBB, Rosamond-street, Islington, mineral water manufacturer. [James, Basinghall-street, City.

T. ELDRIDGE, Upper North-place, Gray's-inn-road, coach builder. [Chamberlayne and Meaden, Great James-street, Bedford-row.

W. WILLIAMS and J. SAWTELL, Newport, Monmouthshire, corn and provision merchants. [Prothero, Newport.

J. LEYBOURN, Bradford, Yorkshire, provision shop keeper. [Foster, Bradford; Nethersole, Essex-street, Strand.

J. LAMBERT, New Elvet, Durham, grocer. [Crosby and Compton, Church-court, Old Jewry; Thompson, Durham; Hoyle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

DIVIDENDS.

Oct. 19. Thomas Hill the younger and William Brookes, St. Mary-axe, merchants—Oct. 24. Thomas Kearsley, Tyldesley, Lancashire, cotton spinner—Oct. 23. Joseph Phillips, Leicester, banker—Oct. 22. Thomas Smith, Leicester, banker—Oct. 22. John Andrew, Maryport, Cumberland, banker—Oct. 22. Robert Lamb, Stockton, Durham, iron merchant.

CERTIFICATES.

Oct. 21. Thomas Wallace, Pentwyn Iron Works, near Pontypool, Monmouthshire, grocer—Oct. 21. Joseph Bass, Brecon, Brecknockshire, draper—Oct. 22. John Andrew, Maryport, Cumberland, banker.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. WATT, Edinburgh, toy merchant—D. MILN, Dundee, grocer—H. LEEK, Glasgow, manufacturer.

TUESDAY, October 1.

BANKRUPTS.

C. K. NICHOLLS, Bridge-road, Battersea, banker. [Townshend, Howland-street, Fitzroy-square.

H. HAYNES, Scole, Norfolk, wine merchant. [White and Borritt, Lincoln's-inn-fields; Muskett, Diss, Norfolk.

R. ROBINSON, Strand, coal merchant. [Yonge and Hancock, Tokenhouse-yard, Lothbury.

M. MASLIN, Croydon, coal merchant. [Ashurst, Cheapside.

E. ASHWELL, Yeldon, Bedfordshire, butcher. [Clarke and Co., Lincoln's-inn-fields; Beckwith and Co., Norwich.

J. T. MAUND, Birmingham, lacemen. [Reed and Shaw, Friday-street, Cheapside.

F. DEFLINNE, Manchester, check manufacturer. [Milne and Co., Temple; Crossley and Sudlow, Manchester.

R. J. WEBB, Bath, wine and spirit merchant. [Dimmock and Co., Size-lane; Hassell, Bristol.

R. WATSON and R. MORRIS, Liverpool, brokers. [Vincent and Co., Inner Temple; Minshull, Liverpool.

DIVIDENDS.

Oct. 25. E. A. Whytt, Fenchurch-street, City, drysalter—Oct. 28. R. D. Newman, Leeds, cornfactor—Oct. 25. T. Millar, Liverpool, hosier—Oct. 25. W. L. Hilton, Holywell, Flintshire, banker—Oct. 25. L. L. Halls, Taunton, Somersetshire, tea dealer—Oct. 25. R. Hitchcock, Taunton, Somersetshire, miller—Oct. 25. R. Hurst, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, draper.

CERTIFICATES.

Oct. 22. E. A. Haw, Moorgate-street, City, tavern keeper—Oct. 28. R. Williams, Bristol, dealer in butter—Oct. 24. R. Hetherington, Ellen-grove, Cumberland, tanner—Oct. 25. J. Walton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, saddler—Oct. 24. J. Holdroyd, North-moor, Northumberland, farmer—Oct. 23. H. C. Walton, Liverpool, surgeon—Oct. 23. W. May, Liverpool, commission agent—Oct. 24. W. Wyrill, Bradford, Yorkshire, ironmonger—Oct. 23. J. Hewdon, Wakefield, Yorkshire, ironfounder—Oct. 24. J. Fothergill, sen., Selby, Yorkshire, apothecary—Oct. 22. T. Griffiths, Stoke-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, tailor—Oct. 24. W. France, Wigan, Lancashire, grocer—Oct. 22. C. Cope, Edgbaston, Warwickshire, wine merchant—Oct. 22. J. C. Burton, Nottingham, lace manufacturer—Oct. 22. J. Carruthers, Blackburn, Lancashire, linendraper—Oct. 22. T. W. Green, Leeds, bookseller—Oct. 22. J. A. Forrest, Liverpool, glass merchant—Oct. 22. J. Fairfield, Liverpool, corn merchant—Oct. 22. T. J. Swaine, Newland-street; Eaton-square, Pimlico, innholder.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. VALLANCE, sen., J. VALLANCE, and J. VALLANCE, jun., Edinburgh, coal merchants—S. FRASER, Strathconmore, Ross-shire, store farmer—A. BREUK, Edinburgh, slater—D. GILL, Corsemill, Renfrewshire, calico printer—D. MOIR, Devonside, woollen manufacturer—A RENNIE, Glasgow, grocer.

London: Printed by Robert Palman (of Providence-place, Upper Kennington-lane, Lambeth, in the County of Surrey) and Joseph Clarson (of Number 330, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at their Printing-office, Number 10, Crane-court, in the Parish of St. Dunstan in the West, in the City of London, and published by Abraham Walton Paxton (of Number 27, Norfolk-street, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at the Office of The League, Number 67, Fleet-street, in the said Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West.—Saturday, October 5, 1844.

THE LEAGUE.

No. 55.] SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1844. [3d.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All Subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive, a copy weekly of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and* addresses *to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

We beg to inform our subscribers that bound volumes of the LEAGUE *newspaper, containing the whole of the first year's numbers, may be had on application at the Offices either in London or Manchester.*

WHY HAS TRADE IMPROVED, AND WILL THE IMPROVEMENT BE PERMANENT?

There are periods when those in pursuit of truth, with the view of testing their principles, may pause with advantage to review the experience of the past, to consider the present, and to reflect upon the prospects of the future. Such a period has arrived with Free-Traders. We are emerging from a season of appalling distress unparalleled in our commercial annals for duration and intensity. When we look back to "the report of the conference of ministers of all denominations on the Corn Laws, held in Manchester in August, 1841," and read the heart-rending details of suffering furnished by all parts of the country, and compare it with the existing state of things, we can scarcely realize the amount of misery from which we have so recently escaped. What are the causes of these changes? Have they been satisfactorily explained by the monopolists? Are they reconcileable with the principles of Free Trade? "The knowledge of a disease," says the Father of Medicine, "is half its cure." What knowledge of the causes of the late distress have the monopolists exhibited? We cannot forget that for some time after its commencement the monopolist Government boldly denied the existence of the distress in the manufacturing districts; then they said it was partial and exaggerated; but the rapid increase of pauperism and crime, the crowds of starving operatives filling the streets instead of the manufactories, became too notorious to be longer trifled with, and the same Government, which a short time before denied the sufferings of the people, ordered sermons to be preached, and collections to be made in all the churches to relieve it.

Being obliged at length thus to acknowledge the existence of the distress, it is instructive to call to mind the reasons they assigned for it. There was one point in which the Government and its monopolist supporters were all agreed, and that was that the Corn Laws had no share in it. No. They attributed the wide spread distress to over-population, to over-production, and to too great an increase of machinery.

Now, the causes they assigned are perfectly irreconcileable with any change for the better so long as population, production, and machinery continued to increase, and yet, happily, the distress *has* been changed into prosperity, notwithstanding that a million of souls have been added to the population since the monopolists complained that the people were too many. Distress is passing away, not from the production of manufactures being diminished, but by its increase to a greater extent than at any former period. There is now more machinery than ever was known, notwithstanding the monopolists said that there was previously so much that it displaced labour and caused distress, by throwing the people out of employment. Mr. Horner, the Factory Commissioner, in his last report, says, "I not only do not hear of any persons being out of employment, but that in some places hands are scarce."

It is clear that the arguments adduced by the monopolists will not bear the test of examination or experience. The existing state of things proves that we have neither too many people nor do we produce too many manufactures, nor have we too much machinery. What, then, were the real causes of the late distress? We have always attributed it to the scarcity and high prices of provisions; let us see how far facts warrant this view of the question. The years 1834, 1835, and 1836 were years of unparalleled prosperity, which was shared equally by the working classes and by the manufacturers. Mark, *they were years of low-priced provisions:* the average price of wheat in 1834 was 46s. 2d. per quarter; in 1835, 39s. 4d.; and in 1836, 48s. 8d. per quarter. In 1837 the change commenced: the average price of wheat rose to 55s. 10d. In 1838 it rose again to 64s. 4d. Here began the distress. In 1839 it rose still higher, to 70s. 6d. Distress increased. In 1840 the price was 66s. 6d.* Distress was sore in the land. In 1841 the price was 64s. 5d., when the distress increased almost beyond endurance; and why? Because in the last four of these years the people had paid upwards of £200,000,000 more for their food than in the four preceding years. During this distressing period of dear provisions the earnings of the labouring classes were nearly all absorbed in obtaining necessary food; they had little left to spend in clothing; hence those who were engaged in manufactures for supplying the working classes were thrown out of employment; and their distress was aggravated by the like falling off in the foreign demand for manufactures, because our inability to consume foreign as well as home productions disabled foreigners from consuming our manufactures; and thus high-priced food produced bad trade in the foreign as well as in the home market, and was the source of all the suffering which the people endured in that memorable and never-to-be-forgotten period from 1838 to 1842.

But why has trade improved? Is it the result, as some contend, of the wisdom of a Conservative Government? Or is it caused, as Mr. Gladstone boasts, by Sir Robert Peel's tariff and new sliding scale? We shall demonstrate that neither the one nor the other has had the least share in our returning prosperity. We had prosperity in 1834, 1835, and 1836, greater than that which we now enjoy, and yet during those years we were neither blessed with a Conservative Government, nor the new tariff, nor the new sliding scale. It is not then the change from a Whig to a Conservative Government that has wrought the improvement of the last two years; it is *the change from scarcity and dearness to "cheapness and plenty."* The decline in the price of food has left money in the pockets of the mass of the people (who are at all times the great consumers of commodities), which has enabled them to purchase clothing and foreign produce, and thus employment has been created for our artisans and manufacturers. In the first number of the LEAGUE (September 30, 1843) we pointed out the causes and the process by which trade was then improving, and we refer to it as an evidence of the correctness of our views at a period when the improvement was beginning to manifest itself:—

"Nothing (we observed) affects the condition of the people of any country so much as the price of food, because food is indispensable to our existence; and to obtain it we must, if needful, lay aside luxuries of every kind, and for a time even many necessaries. The consumption of grain in this country is estimated at 20,000,000 quarters of wheat, and 40,000,000 quarters of all other kinds of grain. It appears from the *Gazette* returns of the average prices of grain, that the price of wheat, during the four years, 1838 to 1841, was about 20s. per quarter above the average price of the first six months of the present year, and the price of all other kinds of grain was about 8s. a quarter higher; it follows, therefore, that the additional cost of *grain* in each of those years would be, say,—

20,000,000 quarters of wheat at 20s.	£20,000,000
40,000,000 ditto all other grain at 8s.	16,000,000
on 60,000,000 qrs. total additional cost ..	£36,000,000

"But it is also estimated that the consumption of potatoes, meat, cheese, and all other kinds of agricultural produce, is equal to the total quantity of grain consumed (say 60,000,000 quarters); and as the price of one is governed by the other, taking the advance in price in these as equal to 8s. per quarter, we have a further addition of £24,000,000 to make to the cost of grain, making a total of about £60,000,000 per annum paid by the people for *food* in each of the years from 1838 to 1841 more than the same food cost during the first six months of the present year.

"Here, then, is the secret of the present improvement in trade. During the first six months of this present year (1843), the people have paid £30,000,000 less for food than for the same period for five years past. The enormous sum of £5,000,000 a month has been left in their pockets to spend in other things; and this sufficiently accounts for an increased demand for cotton, linen, and woollen clothing, for stockings and shoes, for hats and bonnets, for mutton, beef, and bacon, for sugar, tea, and coffee. This accounts for the increased demand for labour for providing the clothing for home consumption, and also for divers manufactures to be exported to foreign countries in payment of the various commodities for which the demand has increased. This accounts for the increased demand for shipping, and for the increased traffic on our canals, roads, and railways, carrying to and fro goods imported and exported. This accounts for the increased demand for labour in the manufacturing districts; the advance in wages, and the consequent increase in the comforts of the people. This accounts for the increased demand for the thousands of empty houses, people quitting the workhouse to live at home, or from being huddled three or four families together, to live in decency, each in a house of their own. This, in short, accounts for that improvement of which all are partaking, from the highest to the lowest, each sharing more or less in the £5,000,000 a month saved by the decline in the price of food."

Since the above was written, a year ago, the people's food has cost from £50,000,000 to £60,000,000 less than in each of the five years of calamitous distress from 1838 to 1842 inclusive. This enormous sum, having been expended in clothing and other necessaries and luxuries, sufficiently accounts for the increased employment and comforts which the people have enjoyed during the past year of abundance.

Now, what the good harvests of the last two years have effected would be permanently established by the adoption of Free Trade, because Free Trade would give us *at all times* that abundance which we only now enjoy in those seasons when the effects of the Corn Laws are mitigated by good harvests. *We can never have prosperity without plenty.* We challenge monopolists to show a single period of prosperity from the passing of the infamous Corn Law of 1815 to the present time which was not a season of abundance. But, when we *are* blessed with prosperity, by what a slender thread it hangs! We have the authority of one of the most extensive corn-merchants in the kingdom for the opinion that at the commencement of the present harvest the stock of corn was probably not more than equal to seven or eight weeks' consumption; and, if instead of good we had had a succession of bad harvest weather, the price of corn would probably have risen 50 per cent. in the course of the following two months! Only seven or eight weeks' stock of corn on hand with a population of 27,000,000 of people to feed!! Such are the results of the corn monopoly.

Sir Walter Raleigh, in remarking on the effects of freedom of trade in Holland, and its great trade in corn, relates that when he was at Amsterdam there were no less than 700,000 quarters of wheat stored in the warehouses there. Now, the population of Holland at that time (250 years ago) could not have much exceeded a million, and, reckoning the consumption of wheat there to be the same as our consumption at the present time, the stock of wheat in Amsterdam alone was sufficient to supply the whole country for nearly twelve months. Such were the results of Free Trade in corn in Holland, and such would doubtless be the results of Free Trade in corn in England, because such *are* the results of Free Trade in every other article. At the very moment that we had only eight weeks' stock of corn on hand we find that we had on hand of other articles in which the law imposes no impediment to a *regular* (Free) Trade as follows, viz.:—

Cotton, a stock equal to		40 weeks'	consumption.
Cocoa	.. ..	40	do.
Rum	.. ..	40	do.
Saltpetre	.. ..	40	do.
Rice	.. ..	35	do.
Tea	.. ..	50	do.
Sago	.. ..	50	do.
Indigo	.. ..	60	do.
Coffee	.. ..	70	do.
Nutmegs	.. ..	70	do.
Mace	.. ..	100	do.
Cloves	.. ..	100	do.
Ginger	.. ..	100	do.
Pepper	.. ..	130	do.
Cinnamon	.. ..	160	do.

What a striking contrast to the above do the stocks of monopoly articles present:—

Of corn, stock equal to		8 weeks'	consumption.
Colonial sugar	..	10	do.
Foreign sugar (prohibited)		13	do. in bond.

We have a larger stock of foreign sugar on hand, although the law prohibits us from consuming a single pound in England, than we have of monopoly sugar. Every pound of the foreign sugar on hand must be exported, and yet, notwithstanding these

* The *average* price of wheat during these years affords no criterion of the *real* price of wheat fit for human food. Owing to the wet seasons great quantities were sold for pigs' meat as low as 30s. per quarter, whilst sound wheat was worth 80s. per quarter.

obstacles, so powerful are the principles of Free Trade in providing abundance, that, if foreign sugar were allowed to be consumed in England as well as foreign coffee, there is no reason why, instead of our present stock equal to 10 weeks' consumption of consumable sugar, we should not have a stock equal to that of coffee, viz., 70 weeks' consumption.

Can any rational man doubt, with such facts as these before him, what have been the causes of our recent distress, and of our returning prosperity? Looking to the experience of the past, and reflecting on the present state of things, can he doubt that the principles of Free Trade—the law of the Almighty—are founded in truth? If, then, these principles be true, looking to the future, what ought we to expect? Will the improvement in trade be permanent? We answer decidedly, "No." We have no more security for the continuance of prosperity than there is for exemption from the eruptions of a volcano. The same elements which have produced disorder and distress before are still in existence, and, like the volcano, only await the operation of the same train of events to break forth again. Insufficient harvests will again bring with them all the derangement in the currency and in trade which we have before experienced, and its concomitant distress. There is, and there can be, no security for the future but in the total repeal of the mischievous and iniquitous Corn Laws. We call, therefore, on every reflecting mind in this season of calm to weigh well the consequences of a perseverance in the existing corn and other monopolies; and we earnestly urge upon those who see the insecurity of our present position to redouble their efforts to abolish monopoly and to emancipate industry as the only means of placing our trade and commerce on that permanent footing which can alone lead to the prosperity and happiness of all classes of the people.

SOIREE OF THE MANCHESTER ATHENÆUM.

The great assembly in the Free-Trade Hall of Manchester, on Thursday, October 3, was an event of too much significance to be dismissed in a hasty paragraph. A collection of more than 3000 persons, belonging to every variety of political party and religious persuasion, brought together for the promotion of a common object, is a phenomenon too rare in our days of angry controversy and dissension. A meeting for the promotion of intellectual culture and mental recreation in the great metropolis of manufacturing industry recalled to the mind the glorious days of the merchant-princes of Italy, under whose sway the progress of taste kept pace with that of trade; the fine arts and commerce advanced together, and every fresh acquisition of physical wealth was accompanied by a corresponding development of intellectual greatness. The hall itself, one of the largest and most elegant rooms devoted to the use of public meetings in England, was an honourable testimony to the spirit and enterprise of the men of Manchester; it had arisen almost as suddenly as Aladdin's palace, at the spell of the League, and had been the scene of some of the most important meetings connected with the great cause of Free Trade. Plain and simple, yet highly effective in its decorations, constructed on the best acoustic principles, and so laid out as to afford the greatest possible convenience, it seemed a structure peculiarly suited for the meeting of those who are ardent to promote the social improvement of their fellows, irrespective of all selfish considerations. In the vast multitude that filled it there was an obvious unanimity of sentiment; the desire of each and all was to secure for Manchester a career of mental and moral greatness worthy of the position it has already obtained by the development of physical and industrial resources. When the chair was taken by Mr. Disraeli, he was regarded less as a literary wonder than as an able instructor, who had sketched in the character of Milbank the true ideal of an independent merchant and manufacturer. His "Coningsby" was the only work of modern fiction which showed a thorough appreciation of the ideal in the commercial character, and of the ennobling tendencies which are latent in mercantile pursuits. His address was chiefly directed to this point; he showed the young men of Manchester the resources that were within them and around them, and he eloquently portrayed the advantages, both moral and intellectual, to be derived from such institutions as the Athenæum. After a brief description of the institution, he said:—

"It is difficult to conceive how a nobler purpose could have animated your intentions. When we remember the class of your community for which this institution was particularly adapted; when for a moment we conceive, difficult as it is to conceive, surrounded as we now are with luxury and pleasure, the position of a youth, perhaps of very tender years, sent, as has frequently been the case, from a distant district, to form his fortunes in this great metropolis of labour and of science; when we think of that youth, tender in age, with no domestic hearth to sooth, to stimulate, to counsel, or to control—when we picture him to ourselves, after a day of indefatigable toil, left to his lonely evenings and his meagre lodgings, without a friend, without a counsellor, falling into dissipation from sheer want of distraction, and perhaps involved in vice before he is conscious of the fatal net that is involving him—what a contrast to his position does it offer, when we picture him to ourselves entering, with a feeling of self-consciousness which supports and sustains him after his daily toil, into a great establishment, where everything that can satisfy curiosity, that can form taste, that can elevate the soul, that can lead to noble thoughts and honourable intentions, surrounds him! When we think of the convenience and the comfort, the kindness and the sympathy, which, with a due decorum of manners, this youth, who, but a few hours before was a stranger, is sure to command, one looks—viewing it only in this limited sense—upon an institution like this as to a great harbour of refuge, I would say a great harbour of intellectual refuge and social propriety."

The advantages of intellectual culture were thus eloquently described:—

"It is knowledge that equalizes the social condition of man, that gives to all of us, whatever may be our political position, possessions which are in common—enjoyments which are universal. It is like the ladder of the patriarch's mystic dream: its base rests upon the primeval earth; its crest is lost in the shadowy splendour of the empyrean; while the great authors, that through traditionary ages have kept the chain of science and philosophy, of poesy and erudition, are like the angels ascending and descending on the sacred scale, and maintaining, as it were, the communication between man and heaven."

Mr. Cobden was the next speaker; he dwelt emphatically on the fact that the Athenæum was a self-supporting institution, created because the necessity of intellectual culture was felt, and maintained because the advantages of such culture were appreciated. He had himself taken a leading part in the establishment of the institution, and he spoke of it with an earnestness of affection which was almost parental. The manly lesson of self-dependence was most appropriately given when the institution was profiting by the sympathy of strangers, and the young men of Manchester throughout the audience were taught and felt that in the meeting of which they formed a conspicuous part there were duties to be learned as well as enjoyments to be shared.

Lord John Manners then addressed the meeting on the importance of combining intellectual amusements and healthy recreations with mental culture and literary instruction. He referred with just commendation to the honourable exertions which have been recently made to provide parks and public gardens for the town of Manchester, and concluded with the following eloquent appeal:—

"Be it yours to remove the reproach which, I trust, now has become obsolete,—that manufactures must produce a dry, unpoetical, and material spirit. Be it yours to refute the terrible contrast which has been drawn by the master architect of the day between a supposed Manchester of 1480 and a real Manchester of 1840. Be it yours to soften and elevate the tastes of those by whose exertions the wealth of this great metropolis has been made. And beyond all this do I know well enough that there remains a still higher and a still more difficult task to perform. But do this, and you will have done a great somewhat; and believe me that your children's children will bless those evenings which were spent, as this evening is being spent, in good fellowship, in the interchange of sympathies and of kind wishes between the various classes of the community, and in an endeavour—I trust it may be a successful one—to soften the harsh tendencies of toil and wealth by the gentle influences of literature and the fine arts."

Mr. Milner Gibson directed attention to the democratic constitution of the Athenæum, which gives every member a share in its government, and a consequent personal interest in promoting its prosperity. He contrasted its position with that of the many educational institutes in our land, which have been founded by patronage and perverted by peculation. In conclusion he said:—

"Men of all political and religious creeds were agreed as to the refining influence of intellectual pursuits, and that with education we should become a better and a happier people. He cordially wished prosperity to the Manchester Athenæum. He trusted that similar institutions might spring up over the length and breadth of the land, extending their benefits far and wide. Let them hope that with the progress of education a desire to acquire knowledge would be aroused amongst all classes, and that the humblest peasant might be brought under the humanizing influence of intellectual and moral culture. Then would the sacred maxim, 'Honour all men,' be a living reality, and England would become as remarkable for the mutual respect, gentle manners, and social happiness pervading her families, from the most exalted to the most humble, as she was now eminent for that manufacturing skill and commercial enterprise which had placed her in her present elevated position among the nations of the earth."

Many circumstances conspired to render the Hon. Mr. Smythe's address the most remarkable speech of the evening. Young, ardent, and enthusiastic, he had shown in his history fancies a power of entering into the feelings and appreciating the best impulses of men the most opposite in all the external circumstances of political association. He had proved himself equally capable of estimating moral principle in the Vendean Loyalist and the Parisian Jacobin. Just returned from a tour through the Rhenish provinces, where the ruined castles of titled robbers attest at once the crimes and the ruin of aristocratic tyranny, he found himself in the midst of a flourishing mercantile community, which nothing but the high principles of commercial justice and commercial honour could hold together. He felt himself in a land of contrasts; and not the least of these contrasts was the honour paid by Manchester to literature, represented in the person of the chairman, and the position which literature holds in the hierarchy of the English state:—

It seems to me that you, to use the words of your chairman, represent a great necessity,—that you, men of Manchester, have arisen to do honour to letters. (Hear.) It seems to me that, with a spirit worthy of a younger and freer age, you have resolved to offer to the author and the man of letters a reward of a simpler and less sordid character than the mere hire of this newspaper or the pay of that review; or, with intentions yet more far-sighted and profound, you may have resolved to correct some of these, the anomalies of a country which is governed by its journals, but where the name of its journalists are never mentioned; of a country where, by the most unhappy of inversions, it is the invention which makes the fortune, and it is the inventors who starve; of a country where, if the men of science aspire to the highest honours which you have to bestow,—the suffrages of their fellow-citizens,—those men of science will poll by units, where mere politicians will poll by hundreds. And it seems to me especially meet, and right, and fitting, that you, the men of Manchester, should redress these evils; because there is an old, an intimate, and a natural alliance between literature and commerce.

After having dwelt strongly on the honour paid to literature by foreigners, and the almost implied reproach to England which the ambassadors to our court, selected for their eminence in letters, present, he continued:—

"I will venture to predict for the literature that shall result from such a meeting as the present, that shall derive its impulse from such a meeting as this, that shall be fostered and encouraged by such sympathies as yours—a destiny yet more lasting and auspicious; because it will not, as Mr. Gibson has said this moment—it will not lean upon the reed of patronage; it will not be patronized by monarchs; it will not be fashioned by nobles; it will not be confined to classes. It shall be free, independent, universal, and, above all, tolerant as your own free, independent, universal, and tolerant commerce. [Applause having broken and interrupted the conclusion of this passage, the hon. gentleman said], I ventured to ask you to let me finish my sentence, because that will explain the diffidence which I feel at this moment—the awe which I feel at having penetrated this, which I believe to be the elemental idea of this meeting: it brings me face to face with a great thought, which carries me down, amongst future generations, into the very presence of immortality."

He then referred to the great man on whom the hopes of the intellectual and the generous were once fixed, the lamented Canning, and did justice to his memory in a burst of resistless eloquence, resistless because it came from the heart and went direct to the heart. Years have passed since this great man was taken from us, but his memory is yet green in the souls of those who shared his aspirations for the moral greatness of England, and who hoped to see her banner ever in the van of civilization, ever in the first rank of the march of human improvement. The tribute to his memory was worthy of the speaker and the hero:—

"Remember for a moment the fate of our last great man; remember how he was branded and proscribed as an adventurer, because he was born to no hereditary fortune; and then, when the gentle judging and the generous, when men with large thoughts and large feelings, when men such as I see around me this evening, when the few gathered about him, to fight his battle against the many, he was again branded and proscribed, because they were a few, as a caballer and an intriguer. Remember how through his life his views were thwarted, how his spirit was crushed, how his genius was blighted, how his heart was broken, how he was hunted to his grave; and then you may well understand how, amidst calumny and detraction, how, amidst small men's envy and the insults of men yet smaller, he must often have pined for some such neutral ground as this, to which his harassed spirit might have flown away and been at peace. (Applause.) And you, with eloquence such as you have heard this evening, there are none, with the prospect of this happier hour of toleration of which this meeting is the guarantee—there are few, even in this hour, now that fifteen years have passed over his grave, who will hesitate to exclaim with me, 'Oh, for one hour of George Canning!'"

But the part of his speech which made the most thrilling impression was his description of the contrast between the catholic spirit of British commerce and the narrow selfishness of aristocratic oligarchies:—

"There is nothing small, there is nothing exclusive, there is nothing partial, there is nothing—to use the words of my friend the chairman—there is nothing sectarian in the spirit of British commerce. It was out of a temper as catholic, as universal, that the humanities first sprung; it will be out of a temper as catholic that here, in the metropolis of English enterprise, great things will again be done. Even at the risk of fatiguing you, I will venture to illustrate my meaning. There is a city, which is, as it were, the capital of literature,—at once the capital of free letters and of free commerce;—it was at Mayence, in a time of darkness and oppression, that *a simple citizen arose, strong in justice, strong in the despair of the many, strong even in the wickedness of the few, who resolved to confront those knightly highwaymen who exacted a toll upon every article, even those of first necessity, which passed through their dominions.* That simple citizen was seconded by an enlightened Sovereign, pledged to just principles of commerce. That simple citizen and that enlightened Sovereign prevailed. They became the founders of free commerce—I use the word in no partial or party sense—they were the founders of the Rhenish and the Hanseatic Leagues; and the ruins of those knightly fortresses upon the banks of the Rhine still inform the traveller what is the fate of the unjust. But what followed? Out of the impulse thus given, out of the spirit thus

awakened, out of free commerce, there sprung free letters. It was in the same Mayence that Gutenberg invented printing—it was, then, the destruction of monopolies in trade that proved the destruction of monopolies in knowledge—the emancipation of the one proved the emancipation of the other."

The allusion to the Rhenish League was naturally and, perhaps, involuntarily suggested by the locality in which the speaker was placed. The hall in which he stood had witnessed the exertions of simple citizens, "strong in justice, strong in the despair of the many," and "strong," we may add, "in the selfishness of the few," who have banded together to deliver themselves from an unhallowed impost levied upon the first necessaries of life. The injustice of the bread-taxer is hardly less palpable, and is certainly more oppressive, than that of the titled levier of black-mail or knightly plunderer on the highway. In the same immense proportion as the commerce of Manchester exceeds that of Mayence does the amount of population dependent on free commerce for the means of subsistence exceed that which was supported by trade in the middle ages. Monopoly then counted its victims by scores, it now reckons them by myriads; every restriction is paid for not only in money but in life; and every commercial crisis which monopoly produces is scarcely less fatal to the manufacturing districts than the visit of the destroying angel to the camp of the Assyrians. Mr. Smythe was labouring under the consciousness of this great truth, but he regarded it with hope and trustfulness. He said:—

"Here, then, in a country as free,—and with a Sovereign, let us hope, no less anxious to give active relief to the misery of her poorer subjects than was Rodolph of Hapsburg,—here, with merchant-princes around me, animated with a munificence as large as Walpoldens, there shall be to Manchester a renown as great as that of Mayence. I speak not of your local munificence; but I see your argosies and vessels daily laden, not with bales of cottons and silks and cloths, but with goods which have no declared or official value,—they are laden with truths borne from this free island which tend to elevate the character of man; they are laden with principles which tend to unite all men in one fair confraternity of reciprocal assistance. And when out of a spirit so catholic, a power so universal, the old world shall again have received one of those moral shocks which, like printing or steam, throw it one stage forward on its career, when civilization shall be one hour nearer its meridian, you will remember that this meeting, too, had some share in the work of progress; because here, even at this very hour, we are proclaiming the banns of a marriage which represents the primeval alliance between the spirit and the matter; for this, too, is an alliance between spirit and matter,—it is a marriage between the industry which has conquered the world and overspread it 'as the waters cover the sea,' and an intellect which is young, of the people, and which by God's help, shall continue pure."

The other addresses were merely formal, and the rest of the evening was devoted to festivity and social enjoyment.

There may be some disposed to think that we have taken too high an estimate of the importance of this meeting, because many are led to undervalue the enunciation of great principles unless they be followed by an immediate and practical application. There is some truth, but there is also much error in this objection; it is true that theory may be held independent of practice, but it is not true that theory can be propounded without leading to practice. When Mr. Smythe eloquently vindicated the principles on which the Hanseatic League was founded, he showed that those of the Anti-Corn-Law League were based on recognised and immutable truth. We see that the identity is perfect; he may need further research before he reaches such a conclusion. We do not claim him as a convert, but we do claim him as an eloquent expounder of that eternal truth which forms the justification of all who associate against social injustice, that monopoly is in itself ignorant, and the perpetrator of ignorance; that it widely injures communities, and yields little profit to individuals; and that, having exhausted its powers of evil on its victims, it turns in the end upon its authors, and involves them in a common ruin. On the other hand, the emancipation of industry, itself derived from intelligence, becomes in its turn the propagator of intelligence, and fixes the foundations of social prosperity at once on mental strength and moral excellence.

YOUNG ENGLAND AT MANCHESTER.

(*From a Correspondent.*)

We do not wonder at the "difficulty" and "embarrassment" expressed by Mr. Cobden and Mr. Gibson on rising to speak at the brilliant *soirée* of Thursday week in the Manchester Athenæum. Though the occasion was not of a kind on which men earnestly and heartily interested in the people's cause usually find thought difficult and utterance embarrassing; and though it is not characteristic of these gentlemen to deliver themselves with difficulty or embarrassment before assemblies, whether of friends or foes, in Manchester or elsewhere, we can readily understand that at the particular meeting in question the difficulty in which our Free-Trade leaders found themselves must have been great, and the embarrassment formidable and perplexing. So difficult, to avoid saying the exact thing which ought not to be said! So impossible, to rise after such speeches as those of Mr. Disraeli, Lord John Manners, and Mr. Smythe, without being full of thoughts of which the courtesies of the occasion forbade the utterance. The thing which we will venture to say was uppermost in every Free-Trader's mind after hearing those speeches—the thing which it would have been easiest to say, and must have cost a strong effort to keep unsaid—was precisely the thing that could not be said without disturbing the harmony of the meeting, injuring its object, and violating the rites of hospitality to the strangers who had so handsomely given it their presence and co-operation. We would not willingly, even in appearance, turn to a party use the proceedings of a meeting which was in itself a strong practical protest against every kind and degree of party spirit; which had nothing to do with party except to illustrate, by contrast, the mischief that party does in sundering good and true men whose real, ultimate aims are the same; but we must confess we have found it impossible to read the speeches of this Manchester *soirée* without being reminded, at every turn, of our own special question. There is Free Trade, by implication, all through every speech that was spoken. Every speaker seems full of Free Trade, though no one names it. Every speaker goes within a hair's breadth of Free Trade, though no one quite touches it. It was, in fact, a magnificent Free-Trade meeting—as good, for practical, substantial service, as the best of the Covent-garden ones—though the word was, by tacit and honourable compact, carefully left out.

The object of this *soirée* was, as our readers will recollect, to celebrate the success of the members of the Manchester Athenæum—an institution founded in 1836, for the purpose of affording "to the youth of the middle classes those intellectual advantages which can only be obtained by wealth, or the combination of numbers"—in their efforts to liquidate debts that had been accumulating in former years to an amount that not only limited its usefulness, but menaced its existence. The debts have, it seems, been paid off—the institution is saved—and the number of its members trebled or quadrupled. Now, if we ask *why* this noble establishment was ever thus imperilled, and why it is at present safe and prosperous, we are answered by the chairman, Mr. Disraeli, in the opening sentences of his admirably eloquent and philosophical speech:—

"When I last had the honour of addressing the members of the Manchester Athenæum, they were *struggling for the existence of their institution.* It was a *critical moment in their fortunes.* They had incurred a considerable debt in its establishment; *the number of its members had gradually*, and even for some years *considerably, decreased;* and in appealing to the sympathies of the community they were, unfortunately, appealing to those *who were themselves but slowly recovering from a period of severe and lengthened suffering.* A year has elapsed, and the efforts that you thus made to extricate yourselves from those difficulties may now be fairly examined. That considerable debt has been liquidated; *the number of your members has been trebled—I believe quadrupled*—and I am happy to say that *your fortunes have rallied; while that suffering and surrounding community once more meet together in prosperity and success.*"

Nothing simpler. Manchester Athenæums, and other such civilizing and humanizing institutions, dwindle and decay, or live and thrive, with the power that gave them being—the trade and industry of the people. This fine institution was at death's door during the years that the Corn Law was in operation, famishing the industry and crippling the commerce on whose superfluities it subsists; it lives and flourishes again for a while, because a good harvest has, for a while, repealed the Corn Law. Exactly what Mr. Cobden said at the last Covent-garden meeting, in his prophetic sketch of the ensuing six months:—

"You will find mechanics' institutions thriving and increasing in numbers, and Lyceums and book-clubs also extending. * * * You will find the energy and activity of the masters and the middle classes in Manchester devoted to the extension of education, and the founding similar institutions to the Athenæum there; promoting religious and scientific establishments, *and giving to moral objects that energy and exertion which, during three years past, they were obliged to devote exclusively to the miserable contest for bread.*"

A most safe prophecy was this, founded on the simplest *data* of cause and effect. Material and industrial prosperity is the indispensable condition preliminary of intellectual and spiritual civilization. The "miserable contest for bread" must end before anything better can begin. Manchester left off improving her mind for years together, because bread rose and trade fell under bad harvests and the Corn Law. Manchester begins again improving her mind, because bread falls and trade rises under a good harvest, which suspends the Corn Law. Mr. Disraeli, we see, would have the prosperity of Athenæums independent of these things. He laments that "this institution has been looked upon in the light of a luxury, and not of a necessity." He regards it rather "as part of that great educational movement which is the noble and ennobling characteristic of the age in which we live;" and, "viewing it in that light, he cannot content himself that it should be supported by fits and starts." We fear that such suggestions, however well and wisely meant, can be of little practical avail. Athenæums, and all other such agencies of popular improvement, will, we are afraid, continue to be supported only by fits and starts so long as the resources on which they depend come and go by fits and starts. These things are, no doubt, in a sense, "a necessity," but not quite in the same sense in which food and clothing are necessities; they are just the kind of things on which struggling tradesmen and pinched artisans practise their first lessons in domestic economy. The "great educational movement" itself will be a movement by fits and starts so long as fits and starts remain an established condition of commercial and industrial life in England. If our civilization is to go on otherwise than by fits and starts, we must have our food and trade emancipated from their dependence on the fits and starts of the barometer and weathercock during certain critical weeks of the British summer. Will Mr. Disraeli and his friends help us here? Will he and they add to the good service which they have so gracefully and generously rendered by their speeches at Manchester the yet better service of voting in Parliament that civilization shall not be kept on the see-saw of a sliding scale, nor put in the vice of a fixed duty; that, when the next cycle of cold summers and bad harvests comes, it shall find us and our great educational movement independent—with that independence which Providence designed when it made the ocean navigable—of the chances and changes of the most changeable climate under heaven?

We own we have our hopes, even of this. When we read those speeches of Mr. Disraeli, Lord John Manners, and Mr. Smythe—speeches charged full of generous sentiment and fine thought, expressed with the grace which only sincerity can give; speeches recognising so heartily the beauty and grandeur of that which monopolists vilify that they may get a plea for crushing it—we cannot but believe that the pledge thus virtually given will be handsomely redeemed. That the speakers of such speeches will ever again be found voting in "another place" for chaining and starving the industry to whose worth and nobleness they have so eloquently done homage, is what we will not believe till we see it. Party feelings, we know, are strong, and party ties not easily rent, even by clear-sighted and right-minded men. But these are not party men. Mr. Disraeli tells us, that "the period has arrived when a great effort must be made to emancipate this country from the degrading thraldom of faction;" to which Mr. Smythe responds:—"This meeting is an earnest and guarantee that these absurdities (of faction) shall cease, and these barbarities have an end." We do not as yet know precisely what and how much this denunciation of "faction" means; but we should think it cannot mean that Mr. Disraeli and Mr. Smythe will again give their sanction as legislators to a system which holds the whole industrial power of this country in thraldom to a miserable, monopolizing, factious "interest?"—which perpetrates the absurdity of protecting production by prohibiting exchange, and the barbarity of interdicting starving men from earning their bread where they can get it.

We do feel that we have a right to ask of men who thus avow and manifest their superiority to class and party influences, something more than speeches, however eloquent, sentiments however noble and nobly uttered, sympathies however earnest and generous. We have a right to ask for their parliamentary votes, and their extra-parliamentary influence as public men, to emancipate, from the iniquitous oppression of their order, the commercial and manufacturing energies of which Manchester Athenæums and the like are the natural product. We cannot believe that the evening of the 3rd instant will be quite without its effect on future legislation. Oxford and Manchester, Conservation and Progress, Aristocracy and Industrialism, Coningsby and Milbank, have met and shaken hands; have we not a right to look for JUSTICE as the first fruits of this treaty of peace and amity? The representatives of the "ancient civilization" of Aristocracy and Church have formally recognised (we use Mr. Disraeli's words) the "new powers" that are at work in the manufacturing districts, developing and organizing a "new civilization:" will they not give these new powers fair play? They have done homage to Knowledge, as the "basis" and "moving principle of society;" they have frankly recognised the "immense revolution" in the midst of which we are living, now that Knowledge is "no longer a lonely eremite, but is found in the market-place, a citizen and a leader of citizens." Will they withhold their sympathies and co-operation from a social movement which is nothing else than the diffusion and practical application of one large and important branch of knowledge? They have seen with their own eyes, and eloquently attested with their lips, that which monopoly most insolently and angrily denies—the worth of Manchester to the empire, the grandeur of that civilization of which it is the focus. "Every Englishman may claim a share in the greatness of Manchester," says Lord John Manners; though we think he might have excepted those Englishmen who legislate to make Manchester little. The "old, the intimate, the natural alliance between literature and commerce," proclaims Mr. Smythe, in a speech which justifies the hope that he means this alliance to be not a mere "historic fancy," but a living fact. This gentleman says further:—

"It is impossible to study our history for the last half century, and not perceive that *Manchester has always been foremost in the great work of national advancement.* It is not because you did as much, perhaps, as all our subsidies, or all our arms, in our long war with Napoleon—it is not because, since the peace, you have done far more than all our Ministers to promote the common wealth—but it seems to me that you, who have carried your national triumphs to the remotest corners of the earth, have yet remembered that there was another world to conquer. *Nor will your triumphs in the spiritual world be less remarkable*, because they

same creative power which in the world of action is called invention, and ministers to man, this same creative power in the world of thought is called genius, and governs and provides for man. But in either sphere, whether of thought or action, it is your high and holy mission to benefit mankind. *There is nothing small, nothing selfish, nothing partial, nothing exclusive in the temper of British commerce.* It was out of a spirit as catholic that the humanities first sprang. It will be out of a temper no less catholic that here, in the metropolis of English enterprise, great things will again be done."

From which we think ourselves entitled to infer that Mr. Smythe does not approve, and will not henceforth by word or act sanction, the smallness, selfishness, partiality, and exclusiveness of the temper of British landlordism. He certainly does not approve of the fundamental landowning dogma, "Independence of Foreigners;" for he makes it the climax of his eloquent eulogium on Manchester commerce, that it "tends to unite all nations in *one fair confraternity of reciprocal assistance.*"

We have often been sorely disappointed in public men. Unredeemed pledges, broken promises, forgotten and disowned opinions; high-sounding professions of political truth and public virtue "in the abstract," with dirty and shuffling acts in the concrete: with these and the like we are familiar enough, and we know of no reason for indulging the hope that we have yet seen the last of the tribe of recreants and shufflers. But our political experience is not as yet sufficiently extensive to furnish an instance in which the deliberately-formed and earnestly-expressed opinions of men of refined, cultivated, and independent intellect and large sympathies have been altogether falsified in their after career. For the present, we respectfully ask Mr. Disraeli, Lord John Manners, and Mr. Smythe to reconsider—in the light of the truths to which they gave so eloquent utterance on the evening of Thursday, the 3rd instant—their votes of last session on Mr. Villiers's motion.

A VISIT TO THE BIRTH AND BURIAL PLACE OF WILLIAM COBBETT.

If any person who has the convenience or the inclination will look at a map of the county of Surrey, it will be seen that on the right-hand corner, at the top, there is the mark of London. Proceed to the left hand, up the river Thames, and come round by the border of Berkshire; then down the border of Hampshire until the point is gained where the one county is dovetailed into the other, and there will be found in the Surrey dovetail the mark of a town called Farnham. That Farnham is the birth and burial place of the late William Cobbett, who said that, rather than see the working people of England reduced to live upon potatoes, he would see them all hanged, and be hanged with them, and would be satisfied to have written upon his grave, "Here lie the remains of William Cobbett, who was hanged because he would not hold his tongue without complaining, while his labouring countrymen were reduced to live upon potatoes." I lately paid a visit to Farnham and its neighbourhood; to the farm which Cobbett occupied at his death, to the house where he was born, and the grave where he is buried; and believing that many readers of this paper would have willingly shared in such a journey had all circumstances permitted, I shall endeavour to take them with me, by briefly describing to them how I went, and what I saw.

On a lovely morning, the sun so bright that the fog which at first showed itself durst show itself no more, I was seated on a stage-coach, and bounding at a sound rate out of London over Putney-heath. We had just taken up the last of the passengers and the luggage, and the coachman said he hoped there were no more people waiting with luggage to be taken up, for he had no more room, and he was behind time. So away we went, competing with the railway, which has not swallowed up all the traffic down through Surrey and Hampshire.

We had sometimes a heathy common, sometimes a mansion and a park, occasionally a village, and very frequently the enclosed fields of a farm, and the farmery itself, on each side of us. We rattled over the heathy downs, through the lofty woods, and athwart the grassy meadows. We saw the churches and the beershops, had a glimpse now and then of a policeman sauntering along, saw occasionally a hog with six or eight or ten or twelve pigs, which were eating the acorns that fell from the branches of the oaks that overhung the road, he at the same time shaking such branches with a long rod to force them to drop their fruit to his hogs; all such things we saw, and many more.

We were in due time in the town of Guildford, thirty miles from London, and were dragging—oh! such dragging—to keep the coach from taking a leap to the bottom! down that most singular of streets, before we could see what a very curious old town Guildford is. Surely there is no other town in England nor in Scotland that has such a street. Berwick-on-Tweed has a street that very nearly stands on the crown of its head, but acts of Parliament do not allow Berwick to belong to either England or Scotland. Neither is the Berwick thoroughfare to be compared with that of Guildford. It stands as if it leaned against the hillside, or as Tom Scott did when he stood against the wall on the crown of his head, his master, Dick, being from home. But Guildford thoroughfare is more like a long Tom Scott standing with its head on the [illegible] and its feet leaning against the height above that a stranger is constrained to say he never saw anything like it of town kind, before.

Everybody and everything answerable for the safety of passengers is used to it, however; and the drags allowed us to come down safely enough. But where to go seemed the next puzzle. There was a river in the deep valley, the river Wey, and there seemed to be no room up nor down by its banks for coaches. But, by some quirk to the right and again to the left, our coachman managed to get his horses' heads turned up a road that might well make us congratulate ourselves on not being coach horses. Yet on they go; and up, up, never halting. On each side the land is cultivated, but the soil is whitefaced and ill-looking. If we look behind there is a fine view of Guildford clinging to its hill-side, and looking over to us as if it laughed at rather than pitied our poor horses. Below, in the valley, is a railway making, to connect Guildford with a station upon the South Western seven or eight miles distant. Across the country, over two or three miles of farm-fields, hedgerows, and thickets of forest timber, and beyond that, over two or three more miles of open heath, we can see a long earthy-coloured line intersecting the heath for several miles, which line, we are told, is the South Western Railway. We are with our faces to the west while thus looking to it; and far to the north-west, as far as the horizon, we can see some dots of white upon a dark ground, and these dots of white, we are told, are the stands and other erections upon Ascot racecourse.

There is a twinkle in the eyes of some of our fellow-passengers, who have travelled this road often, who point out those places to us, and who agree that the view westward and round to the north is broad and fine. They seem to indicate that something is coming. What can it be? The railway goes almost in the same direction that we go, and keeps at that respectful distance; and they tell us that the country through which it goes continues to be the same brown heath which we now see it; what is it, then, that we are to see? We have been kept with our eyes turned to the west for some length of time looking to the right of the coach; let us wriggle ourselves round, and look to the south and the east; for surely we must now be to the top of that whity-brown hill which stretched up to our left awhile ago.

Great heavens! what sight, what scene, what enchantment is that? A new world—a fairy land—lies down below us. What is there elsewhere on the earth to compare it to? We are on a high narrow ridge. Our road is along the summit of this ridge—along its very back bone; and there, on either side, we might almost leap down into those woody countries which lie below. This narrow hill, so long, so thin, so bare-sided, is seven or eight miles in length. We might fancy it some enormous reptile; if so, its huge head has been cut off, and Guildford has been disgorged. We got up somewhere about the shoulders; and now we are travelling at the rate of ten miles an hour, until we shall get off at the tail, which tail ends imperceptibly in that low country between our vision and the smoke which issues from a hollow. That smoke comes out of the chimneys of Farnham, and Farnham is lying in that richly-wooded valley, out of which this vast hill seems to have crept before its head was cut off, and it could go no further.

But before we descend by the tail let us look upon that great twenty miles broad stretch of woody country. It is all below us, but it is not a level. It is a succession of hills and valleys of several sizes and many shapes. If we could imagine a garden twenty miles in breadth, all turned up by the snout of some monster which would do to twenty miles of country what a sow would do to a bed of onions, then we may have some idea of the shapelessness and brokenness of this mass of fantastic little hills below us.

Descending by the tail, I found myself, in the course of three or four miles, forty-one miles from London, in the town of Farnham. It consists principally of one street, from a half to three quarters of a mile long. It is stretched in a valley, or rather a gentle hollow, by the side of a stream. Some green meadows with cows in them separate the main part of the town from the stream—I am not sure but it is called a river; if so I beg pardon—a river; it is separated by the meadows from the main town; and the meadows are somewhat broken and disjointed by gardens and hop grounds.

The cultivation of hops is the great staple of this neighbourhood; and a good staple it is. The soil is exceedingly rich, and the hops are said to fetch in the market a price one-third over that obtained for hops grown elsewhere. One grower will sell £10,000 worth of hops this year. Land is very high-rented, and much money is paid in wages for labour. As much as £500 per acre has been paid of late for the purchase of prime hop ground; and an annual rent of £10 per acre is said to be common. The wages of labour is higher here than in the corn-growing districts. The work is all done by the piece; but the men average 12s. a week, besides which their children and female relatives work with them. At the present season the chief thing to be seen in connexion with hop-growing is the setting up of the poles upon which they grow singly in summer, in piles formed by a quadruple alliance. Four pillars of poles of fifty or more each meet at top and form a mutual support; and, as they are from twelve to twenty feet long, these piles studded over some miles of country look singular to a stranger.

There is a great fair for the sale of the Farnham hops at Weyhill in the second week of October. All that I saw of the hops was when being packed into long bags called "pockets." This seems to be a serious piece of work for the men who pack. They must not put less than two hundred-weight and a quarter in each; to effect which, the empty bag is slung up and kept open by a hoop at the mouth. A man goes in naked, or nearly, with an iron weight to which is attached a rope. This weight keeps the centre, and he tramps and dances all round it, pulling it up as the hops rise; and these are let down upon his head in small quantities at a time by some of his children, or other young assistants. It is most suffocating work the packing of these bags.

Though I did not see I was told of the other processes of hop-growing and gathering and preparing; but I shall not at present say more on that head.

COBBETT'S GRAVE.

Having ascertained at the Bush Hotel, where I took up my quarters, what the various *sights* in the town and neighbourhood were, I walked out to see some of them. There was the Bishop of Winchester's residence; the castle, standing aloft among old forest trees on the north-west or right-hand side of the town, our backs being towards London; there was Waverley Abbey two miles off, and there was More-park not quite so far; and in More-park there was Mother Ludlam's Cave, in which Swift wrote some of his works; and there was the house close by in the town where Cobbett was born.

Nothing was said of where he was buried, but I knew he lay in that churchyard; and I had heard in London that there was a tombstone; so, without any questions, I set out to the churchyard. It is rather spacious, is well filled, and has a great number of neat headstones of various shapes. As there are paths through it, I saw several people of whom I might have inquired for the particular stone I wanted to see, but I preferred reading my way to it. I was, after much reading and several journeys round the church, obliged, however, to inquire, and a person led me to it, almost close to the front door of the church. It is a flat stone, seven or eight feet long, and about three wide, laid upon some coarse brick-work, which raises it about 20 inches high. It occupies a triangular point of ground at the junction of two paths, and is most conveniently situated for a seat. And what between being used for a seat by the lazy and the tired, and as a platform for the boys to leap on to, and off from, it, being a soft stone, is wearing rapidly away. Some carpenter or painter of ploughs and waggons has rested himself on it with his blue paint, and has amused himself while he sat by daubing his broad brush upon some parts of it. Others have chipped out part of some of the letters; and one corner is chipped away two inches or more, the last time the roads had been muddy, some youngsters had been jumping on to it from a certain distance, for the mud from their nailed shoes stuck to the edges where they had got their feet to, but lost their balance from, preparatory to their falling backward.

I asked why it was not better protected, and was answered that it first had been the intention to put a railing round it; but that for some reason it was not done. Perhaps this notice of its present condition will remind the relatives or political friends of the deceased of this unperformed duty. In the course of a very few years, if it remains exposed as it is to the ruthless feet of the young "chopsticks," the inscription will be illegible and the stone a wreck. The inscription is as follows:—

"Beneath this stone lie the remains of

WILLIAM COBBETT,

born in the parish of Farnham, 9th March, 1762. Enlisted into the 54th Regiment of Foot, 1784; of which he became Sergeant-Major in 1785, and obtained his discharge in 1791. In 1794 he became a political writer. In 1833 was returned to Parliament for the borough of Oldham, and represented it till his death, which took place at Normandy Farm, in the adjoining parish of Ash, on the 18th of June, 1835."

Next to this stone and grave is an upright stone bearing the name of George Cobbett, who died at the age of 59, in the year 1760. I did not see the name on any other gravestones.

I found the house standing near the stream of water aforementioned, where report says Cobbett was born. It is at present a public-house, and bears the sign of "The Jolly Farmer." Across the stream, amid some houses which skirt the road leading up to and over the high ground between us and Waverley Abbey, I saw a mean-looking beerhouse, bearing the sign of "*The Farmers' Retreat.*" I remarked that, if the Corn Law continued, the workhouse was more likely to be the farmers' retreat, as it had been to many of them and their labourers' during the last thirty years. The delusion practised upon the farming class by that most treacherous thing called Corn-Law *protection* has made the whole labouring population, with but a few local exceptions, paupers, or poorer than paupers, and it has brought the farmers to the verge of insolvency. Where was there, or when was there, in this country or in any other, a whole class, and so large a class, spread all over the kingdom in such difficulties? Who ever saw master tailors or master shoemakers, or shopkeepers of any class, so universally and so very often, so almost continually, in distress as the farmers are? Can they have any doubt that something must be wrong? Yet many of them think they must not, not a few dare not, listen to any instruction which would explain to them why and by what means they are kept in distress; they must not listen to anything affecting their condition but what comes from the gatherer in of the rents.

Whether the little beershop has been the retreat of some

broken farmer who has become its landlord, as is very often the case with beershops and broken farmers, or whether the sign indicates that any farmer, vexed with the world's cares, may hide his head in that little hole, and pour beer into his throat to kill care, as water is poured into rat-holes to drown rats, I cannot say; farmers, amid all their difficulties, generally find a better place to drink their beer in than that now referred to at the bottom of the hill. But from what I saw of the game, and from what I heard of its destroying practices to the farmers occupying land on the hill and over the hill, I should deem it the most natural of consequences if they, whose crops are so destroyed, were to rush down and hide themselves in this or in any other hole, and never go near the farm again. It is, in short, enough to break the heart of any man whose heart is not cast iron, to see his crops destroyed by vermin bred there, and preserved for the pleasure of some one who bears no part of the expense.

But of this hereafter. Bad as it seemed there, I have since seen it worse elsewhere.

WAVERLEY ABBEY.

Having come over this high ground, instead of coming round its elbow and down the valley, I descended by a steep road into this valley, and by a road overhung with lofty trees, the trees towering on the sides of the bold height on my right hand; a succession of green meadows lying to my left, with the river in the centre, or sometimes loitering in the shady places by the side; with deep, heavy woods rearing their heads beyond the meadows, I journeyed downward to the south, and at last found a gate, which I was told led into Waverley Abbey.

This was a famous settlement of Cistertian monks, who dispensed their hospitality to all comers, and their bounty to the poor, previous to the spoliation by Henry VIII. Cobbett gives a glowing account of the monks' garden in his "English Gardener." It continued to exist in the time when he was a boy, and he says it was the first garden in which he "learned to work, or rather to eat the best kinds of garden fruit." It has since been, as he expresses it, all pulled to pieces. The old Abbey still remains; but a new house is built, and the old gardens made into a lawn. It has changed proprietors several times since the monks' garden was destroyed, one of whom was the late Poulett Thomson.

MOTHER LUDLAM'S CAVE.

Leaving Waverley on the right, I crossed the river, and turning into the dark shady woods on the east side, turned up by a path which I was told would lead back to Farnham by the bottom of the woods and the verge of the meadows. The greater part of this way was within the enclosures of More-park. The cave is in the bottom of a sandy hill overgrown with branchy trees; and a spring of water issues from it, and crossing the path, falls down to the river.

Dean Swift used to visit Sir William Temple at More-park, and was fantastic enough to come (so tradition says) and study and write in this cave. I went into it as far as I could get, and drank of its water. As a cave it is nothing better than a sand-pit. It may be twelve feet high, and twenty feet wide at the mouth, and fifty or sixty feet lengthways into the hill. It was probably dug out to collect the various springs of pure water which ooze through the sand into one. Or probably it was dug out for the purpose of putting good Mother Ludlam's story into it. Being in the bosom of a forest, secluded from every human eye, it answered the purpose of those who had an interest in keeping up a belief in ghosts and witches exceedingly well.

Mother Ludlam was reputed to be a spirit of rather amiable temper, a kind of benevolent witch *in profession*. She was to the villagers of Farnham and people round Waverley in those olden days what the Corn Law is to the farmers in our days. At great trouble to themselves, and at the cost of much dread and terror, they, when they wanted assistance,—when, for instance, they wanted to borrow some utensil of domestic service, which their own want of skill or their poverty—poverty caused by those who deluded them—had prevented them from acquiring in a more direct and reasonable way,—they went here at midnight to ask Mother Ludlam to help them, or to lend to them. It was of course absolutely requisite to profess not to be afraid of her. They were obliged to call upon her by saying, "*Good* Mother Ludlam, come and give me" so and so. If they had no faith in her *goodness*, or if they spoke evil of her, some *agent* of hers punished them. If they were not punctual to the very letter of time in repaying her for the assistance lent, she was very severe with them.

Her manner of lending was this:—They called upon her at midnight; and, if they spoke her kindly enough, she put what they wanted at the mouth of the cave, which they found waiting for them in the morning. The whole was beyond question an imposture on the part of those who had an interest in keeping up a spiritual terror over the common people. To keep the *good* Mother Ludlam from doing any harm there was enough to be paid to the priesthood. And as those visiting the cave to borrow from her had to be prepared by faith and prayer with some priest, it was always known beforehand what they wanted to borrow; consequently the article was procured and conveyed to the cave.

So much for Mother Ludlam. And so much for the delusion of the Corn Law.

ONE WHO HAS WHISTLED AT THE PLOUGH.

P.S. Cobbett's farm, and other particulars of this district, will be given next week.

NOTES OF A TRAVELLER IN THE SUMMER OF 1844.

No. IX.

I fully expect that some of the statements in my last letter will surprise many English readers, and even possibly alarm some, who have been induced, by a wrong train of reasoning, to imagine that England had other advantages which caused her to be successful in manufacturing besides the security which we long *comparatively* enjoyed for such undertakings. It is of the greatest possible importance to undeceive all such as are of this opinion. The manufacturer must be undeceived, because it will direct his attention to the true objects that deserve it, and will give certainty to his calculations respecting supply and demand. The merchant requires correct information on this point, because, without such, he cannot know the extent and nature of the competition that he has to expect in foreign markets. The legislator must, by all possible means, seek to obtain clear views on the relative powers of different countries, for this will alone enable him to perceive the case with which he can do mischief, and the extent of practical information he requires to enable him to serve the trader, by interfering to regulate his proceedings.

In my last letter I sought to make two points apparent. The first was, that coals and iron abound in Southern Belgium, and in the Rhenish province of Prussia, to an extent that offers every facility for manufacturing on the largest scale. In this I shall endeavour to show that these advantages (which are again met with in Silesia) are supported on all these points by a dense population, that offers, as is well known, a large supply of labour at a cheap rate. The difference between the view that I have taken of these circumstances and that taken by the writers who have gone before me on the same ground is, that Mr. Emerson Tennent, Mr. Sykes, Dr. Bowring, and other inquirers, have chiefly confined themselves to calling attention to this abundance and cheapness of labour, and to the pains taken to educate the working classes, and consequently to render their aid available for the manufacturer. All that these writers have advanced deserves the most careful study; but it is only one side of the extensive question, in the proper treatment of which the trader and producer (and no less the consumer) are interested.

The second point that I endeavoured to illustrate was, that these manifold advantages, which contain germs of inestimable wealth, and of material as well as moral benefits for the countries that possess them, are repressed in their development and stunted in their growth by the foreign and domestic political relations in which these countries stand. I am no hunter after peculiar forms of government, and am far from thinking that, in the present varying state of progress of the different countries of Europe, any one description of government, whether constitutional or not, would equally suit the wants of every land. But one thing the manufacturer and trader must demand of all governments, which is, that they shall encourage him to exertion, which they may in a great measure do by leaving him the use of his judgment, and protecting him in the enjoyment and employment of his earnings.

Of the nature of the risk to which the manufacturer and trader in every European country (not excepting England) are now exposed, we found a practical illustration in the recent proceedings between the courts of Berlin and Brussels. Since I first alluded to this subject, a new phase has occurred in these transactions, which gives us reason to reflect seriously upon the nature of this commercial warfare. Belgium has replied to the decree of the Prussian Monarch in a manner that shows it looked upon that decree as much in the light of an insult as of an injury. The court of Brussels has thrown itself upon the protection of France, and has taken steps indicative of its intention to enter into a cordial commercial alliance with France, in proportion as it feels itself pressed or abandoned on the side of Germany.

That this was altogether a wise move on the part of the Belgian Cabinet may be doubted. As far as the details have transpired of the new French treaty of alliance, the hostile measure applied to English and German yarns under the last treaty is now to be extended to English and German printed calicoes; French stuffs are to be exceptionally favoured. In return for this, Belgian coals are to be exceptionally favoured on their entrance into France. Much as the removal of any restrictions on trade anywhere is to be desired, yet the dispassionate observer cannot look upon these proceedings without a presentiment that such an exceptional mode of framing commercial regulations cannot lead to good. Nearly the whole of these steps have been taken since the prorogation of the Belgian Chambers. The manufacturing and mercantile classes are not represented in the Cabinet, and are thus deprived of even the slight support which they could expect from the Deputies. We need not expect that on the present occasion similar remonstrances will be made by the provincial councils to those which followed the appearance of the Berlin decree. The prospect, however distant, of an intimate commercial alliance with France is alluring for the Belgians; but the general effect upon the trader and the capitalist of this mode of revolutionizing the interests in which they are most concerned cannot but have the discouraging effect on which I have laid so much stress, as being the disease under which the industry of these countries labours. How many commercial houses are interested in the present state of the trade between France and Germany no one thinks it necessary to inquire. The Bavarian Government, we are told, having purchased at a rather dear price 10,000 tons of rails from the Seraing Company, intend exempting this quantity from the operation of the decree, which lays 50 per cent. additional duty on Belgian iron. As no private person could claim such an exemption, and the same liberty could scarcely be taken by a small state without its being noticed by the more powerful members of the Zollverein, we have an explanation of the reluctance with which individuals undertake the responsibility of such undertakings abroad, and why it really is advantageous under present circumstances, when the state originates such improvements. On this chapter I shall have hereafter more to say. I return to my descriptions.

The "British and Foreign Review" some years back called attention to the fact, that in many parts of Germany the density of the population favours or prescribes manufactures, and that, instead of seeking an interchange with those countries, in order to prevent them from manufacturing, we should find that a free commercial intercourse with England would, for its first effect, call manufactures, on a larger scale than now subsist, into life. In No. 22, a survey of the population of the manufacturing districts is given, commencing with the part of Germany in which I now am; and, although it compares the population with that of England in 1831, yet it will still apply. The increase has been a proportionate one in the two countries.

The most populous portion of all Germany is the circle of Elberfeld, which contains 883 inhabitants to the English square mile, or considerably more than the average of Lancashire. We should, however, do wrong if we compared the two absolutely; for this circle has an extent of but 116 square miles. As in the Ardennes the manufacturing population accumulated on the banks of the small but rapid Vesdre, so here a small stream that traverses the circles of Elberfeld and Solingen forms the centre of the manufacturing activity of the district. The face of the country is highly varied without being picturesque, but the rapid undulations of the ground form a series of steep declivities of no great elevation, enclosing small valleys that send their brooks into the Wupper. The traveller who follows any small path that leads through the fields is sure, on reaching an eminence, to see some miniature factory situated where the brook can be collected into a pond, and allowed to drop into the valley over one or two wheels of small power that are mostly overshot. The mill-pond and the brook are usually shaded by groups of alders; and the landscape effect of such a mill is very pretty. The level country which surrounds Dusseldorf is cut up into the small patches that are characteristic of German husbandry; but in the hilly part the small properties are kept better together, and are in few hands, for reasons that I shall presently explain. This country has for centuries been a seat of manufacturing industry. Elberfeld was known in the 15th century for its trade in yarn and its bleaching-grounds. The silk manufacture, and the method of dyeing with Turkish red, were introduced in the last century; the latter by Greeks, who had also been encouraged to teach the art to the manufacturers of Rouen. A merchant of this town invented at that early period a loom for weaving staylaces, for which, and all kinds of tapes, Elberfeld has since been famous. The silk manufacture is here the most extensive within the Zollverein; but, notwithstanding the favourable position for the choice of the raw material as it passes the Rhine on its way to the Dutch and Flemish ports, it can attain to no real importance under present circumstances.

The reasons for the languishing state of the silk manufactures in these parts are two. The first is the dearness and scarcity of cottons, linens, and woollens in Germany, which prevent the inhabitants from requiring silks. The second is the refusal of Russia to admit the superior manufactures of the west of Europe to supply her Asiatic trade, which is in consequence of no importance, the Chinese not requiring any but the finest articles of European make at the price which a long land transport puts upon them. The objects of which the people of Elberfeld are now, therefore, proudest are their establishments for printing with cylinders. These factories are on a comparatively small scale, and being reduced to depend for cloths in a great measure upon hand-weaving, or in imported goods subject to a high duty, cannot look for large profits. By unremitting industry and great economy, however, they thrive, and Elberfeld counts many wealthy citizens. The workmen receive for daily wages the sum usual in these parts, about one shilling; but the custom of piece-work is very general, at which a man easily earns four dollars, or 12s., per week. The largest house is that of Simon and Co., who keep 1400 out-door looms employed. The customer has to furnish the weaver with the loom and all materials, and he is paid for the mere weaving by the piece. A great article of production is the half-silk neck-handkerchief worn by the peasantry. For large shawls, 1½ yard square, in the Jacquard loom, one dollar and five gros (3s. 6d.) are paid to the weaver. The designs of the finer articles are pretty; but for silk as well as cotton the patterns are borrowed from France, and the execution, especially the combination of colours, is inferior to the French. The workmen help themselves by cultivating small gardens in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, which the masters endeavour to supply them with on moderate terms. For about four dollars (12s.) a plot of ground

can be rented that will furnish vegetables for a small family. Bread is dear for the reasons I before alluded to; but it may be expected that the railroad planned through Westphalia will cheapen it. In 1840 (when we were importing corn), the pound of wheaten bread cost at Elberfeld 2½d. The two-pound rye loaf sold then for 6d., and it is not now much cheaper. These prices may be considered as generally applicable to the Rhenish province. It is inconceivable that Prussia has not been more energetic in prosecuting the construction of railroads, and especially that the Government has refrained from taking the lead in these undertakings; but I believe I gave in a former letter the probable reason for this tardiness, which those alleged in the commencement of this letter in favour of a contrary course are not likely to outweigh. This fine manufacturing district is, however, suffering under the pressure of dear provisions, which is the more sensibly felt in proportion as competition increases.

Elberfeld is a beautiful town, with all the appearance of being a contemporary in its bloom of the manufacturing towns of England. The best houses are not built in clusters or in continuous rows, but stand isolated from each other by small gardens that surround them, and which give them an airy and cheerful look by means of the groups of flowers, the taste for which is universal. If the efforts of several very meritorious men, who are anxiously working in the cause of the poor, are successful in pointing out means of employment and comfort to the rapidly-growing class of labourers, this little town would be a *beau-idéal* of a manufacturing capital. Elberfeld counts 160 mercantile houses, 60 dyeing establishments, 10 bleach-grounds, 6 cotton-spinning mills, an iron foundry, and 3 machine factories. There are 2000 silk-looms worked within the town: 266 weave cottons, and 260 make tapes and laces. But the whole surrounding district is like one large manufacturing village, and the clank of the loom or the sound of the hammer proceeds from every cottage and group of trees you pass.

Elberfeld and Barmen, which now form one town, contain nearly 60,000 inhabitants, and form the centre of a district which joins on the north the coal and iron district on the Ruhr, described in my last letter; on the south it joins the circle of Solingen, the seat of another more remarkable and more celebrated manufacture—of the cutlery, especially sword blades. The whole manufacturing district of the Lower Rhine is divided by that river from the duchy of Cleves and Juliers, whose names are often met with in history as the cause and the seat of desolating wars, but which now are progressing in the peaceful arts. Large silk manufactories, although few in number, are found in those towns.

Solingen lies in the country I have already described as accompanying the course of the Wupper, and, like Elberfeld, forms a centre for the manufacturing activity of a large district. The circle of Solingen has 58,000 inhabitants, or about 500 in the English square mile. The Wupper, with its brooks and mill-ponds, traverses this circle, but here turns only iron hammers, grinding and polishing mills, turning lathes, &c.

The origin of the famous cutlery and armourers' trade is traced up to the period of the Crusades. Count Adolphus of Berg, who accompanied Frederick Barbarossa in 1147 to the Holy Land, is said to have brought some skilful artists in steel home with him, and to have enriched his country with the arts of Damascus. Another version of the story ascribes the introduction of the famous mode of tempering to some Styrian ironfounders. But there is no reason why both may not have some foundation in truth. The superiority of the Solingen blades (the foils are in the greatest demand) rests upon the quality of the Siegen iron, which, like the celebrated Styrian ore, is highly carbonated, and when smelted with charcoal yields native steel of fair quality. The art of tempering has, however, been brought to perfection at Solingen, and even the Styrians can produce nothing to equal a Solingen foil. Napoleon, who was ambitious of possessing everything remarkable, transferred a great number of the cutlers of Solingen to Paris; but there they were not able to produce blades of the quality that were made at Solingen. The experiment proving a complete failure, it was supposed that the water or the sand of this district possessed peculiar qualities that are indispensable in the tempering. We are thus reduced to wonder at one of nature's innumerable veiled mysteries, if we do not believe that the traditions upon which the cutler's skill rests being handed from father to son in a merely practical manner, and without any help from science, or the slightest attempt at theorizing, are more easily lost when they are applied to a different locality where the surrounding objects do not aid the manufacturer's memory.

These cutlers, with the accompanying grinders and polishers, form a curious caste amongst the workmen of this district, and appear to regard themselves as entitled to more respect than the working men of the other branches of industry. In the present state of the trade a cutler must be the owner of one of the little mills that I have described. I visited several of them in a walk I took from Elberfeld to Solingen, and found they generally commanded from three to eight horse-power water-wheels which blew the bellows, and worked hammers of the small dimensions required for the fine cutler's wants. A great division of labour is observed, and the rules of the trade are strict in prescribing adherence to a custom which is unquestionably beneficial. All work is done by contract, and it is usually bespoken by the large houses, which stand in connexion with all the War-offices, and not seldom with the insurgent chiefs, of the Continent. The latter, who of course do their business through mercantile houses, are, I hear, the best paymasters; and a considerable activity amongst the forges of Solingen has generally been the precursor of military operations in Greece, Spain, Italy, and Poland.

It is probable that the labours of the smithy, that are now simplified and alleviated by the use of machinery and the aid of association, were at one time not to be practised without attracting the robber of high or low degree to share in the gain of this industrious class. Some of the customs of the cutlers remind one of the laws by which secret associations for self-defence were in former times kept together and held in respect. Unhappily similar rules and observances have prevailed in our times, and accompany the strikes of English labourers, and the American custom of Lynch law. If any stranger attempts to intrude on this little community by purchase or otherwise, he is by various means made to feel that he is looked upon as an intruder, and even unusual efforts of competition are said to be visited with warnings or ill treatment that repress excessive zeal. In making this statement I should much regret creating any unfavourable impression respecting an industrious and struggling class of citizens, but the accounts that I heard were not told as secrets, nor did there seem to be any reserve in the declaration that no one who had not "grinder's blood" in his veins, or who had not married into a grinder's family, could hold a grinding-mill. It is impossible not to regret here, as in Belgium, that the want of confidence in the commercial views of Ministers and Governments should have become so essential a principle of self-defence with a large portion of the industrious classes as to leave them apparently no alternative but to abandon occupations for which they are fitted, or to guard their individual interests by means so subversive of the general security of society as some that I have heard mentioned. Freedom of exertion and security of enjoyment would have long since rendered combinations of this kind obsolete.

It is impossible to wander through this interesting district, with its secluded and busy mills, its emerald meadows, and active population, without feeling the full hardship of the case of men who are menaced with all the evil results attendant upon the growth of competition for which no preparation has been made. As I stood in a magazine belonging to one of the largest merchants and contractors, and looked over a large lot of side-arms and bayonets that he had collected to execute an order, I could not help thinking how ill-applied the ingenuity of the many master-cutlers, and the nice distribution of property were, which had for its result a product that the veriest clowns, with the aid of a steam-engine, could produce. Had it never entered into the head of a Minister to protect these Solingen artists, what a market might they not have commanded! Instead of making common soldiers' arms, their skill would have been devoted to the production of instruments or fine blades, the demand for which would have increased in proportion to the cheapness with which Birmingham and Liege furnished articles of common use. As it is, we need no prophetical inspiration to tell their doom. Not allowed the benefits of competition, they will sink under its pressure; and in the foolish struggle to produce on the banks of the Wupper what can be better made on the banks of the Meuse, the social arrangement which was so eminently adapted to suit itself to the progress of the country to prosperity, and to open a field of art in proportion to the growth of circumstances discouraging for mere handicraft skill, will be destroyed, and who shall restore it? The attempt to induce these small millers to compete with the steam-engines and capitals of a country like England, when they possessed skill and the means of using it that we should have gladly purchased at any price that could be set upon it, is the true cause of the distress that has now for years been felt in this district, and that will probably soon change its character. In industrial matters a step that does not advance, retrogrades.

I may add that, last year, the Chamber of Commerce of Elberfeld drew up a memorial, while the augmentation of the duties was under discussion at the congress at Berlin, that was a masterpiece of sound judgment and practical knowledge. It made a great impression upon those provinces, but was disregarded at Berlin.

If we pursue the manufacturing districts of the Zollverein, without regarding the much larger intervening agricultural tracts of country, we find in the third coal and iron district of Rhenish Prussia five circles of the Government of Treves, those of Saarburg, Merzig, Saarlouis, Saarbruck, and Ebbweiler, containing 161,000 inhabitants on 602 square English miles, or about 270 per mile. The population is in reality denser than appears from these figures, as the forests are very extensive. The coal and iron beds in these circles form a part of the subterraneous deposits that stretch far into Alsace, and furnish materials for the numerous factories in that province. The numerous streams that fall from the three mountain chains that meet near the Upper Moselle are covered with mills, factories, and hammers. Some of the iron and lead works are on a large scale, but the former are unable to compete with England, or even Belgium, in cheap production. Favourable as the course of the Rhine would appear for manufactures (and the Swiss have proved that it can be turned to account), these are the only spots that have endured the experiment on a large scale. The eastern range of the Westerwald, on the western side of which the district of Siegen is situated, as has been described, belongs to the Duchy of Nassau, and is rich in iron ore, the management of which is very well understood by the inhabitants. Two English companies endeavoured to obtain possession of a part of this district, but from want of due appreciation of the knowledge and experience of the Germans, and an overweening confidence in agents who did not know the country, they both led to no result. The British Nassau Mining Company has at length wisely given up its mines, and will, I hear, confine itself to working up the metal which is produced around them, of superior quality, into bar and sheet iron. These are cases which prove the usefulness of spreading correct notions on these points. The cause of the poor success made by Germans in these undertakings does not lie in their inability to manage the resources with which nature has enriched their country; but in the state of trade, which deprives them of a market, and of the stimulus to exertion and economy on which the success of all manufacturing depends. That there is nothing national in such results from these causes is most clearly proved by the conduct of the two above-named English companies, who had, moreover, the previous experience of the Germans to guide them.

With the exception of a large spinning and weaving factory at Ehbweiler, near Carlsruhe, erected and managed by a joint-stock company, the whole of the vale of the Rhine may be characterised as agricultural. The inhabitants of the Bavarian palatinate into which the coal fields and iron veins extend from Alsace and Prussia are more disposed to manufacture, and the first successful attempts are likely to be made in that quarter, where great intelligence and industry prevail. But the repressive causes must first be removed to enable them to progress beyond the mere handicrafts.

Where no more alluring prospects are held out to a district, the handicraft industry is itself capable of refinement. In the mountainous districts of Switzerland, whose soil and climate are not very propitious for agriculture, and coals and iron are scarce, we know that watchmaking, which demands a great deal of hand labour, has arrived at an extraordinary development, inasmuch as the excellence and cheapness of the Geneva watches has made all Europe tributary to that city. Something similar has taken place in the valleys of the Black Forest, which runs parallel to the Rhine from near Manheim to the frontier of Switzerland. Under the influence of a national instinct, which is generally correct, the dwellers in the valleys of this range turn the wood, of which they can dispose to the best account, in the manufacture of the wooden clocks which are hawked about in the streets of all the capitals of Europe. Toys, carving in bone and ivory, and objects of turnery, are produced in every village of this industrious but very poor district. And here again is a country waiting for that emancipation of exertion that would confer upon it well-deserved wealth. All it produces belongs more or less to the class of luxuries (such at least they were in the last century), and every object would rise in value by the cheapening of articles of first necessity. Should foreign trade not be encouraged by those who undertake the regulation of, and consequently the responsibility attending failure in, industrial speculations, the only hope of these people must be, that the progress of the home industry will soon overtake the growth of population. With the best wishes for the accomplishment of this expectation, I must confess my opinion to be, that the fulfilment of their hopes is likely to be long deferred. Upon this point more in my next letter.

LECTURES ON THE CORN LAWS.

Devizes.—On the evening of Tuesday last, a lecture was delivered at the British School-room by Mr. Falvey, from the National Anti-Corn-Law League, before a most respectable audience, consisting of upwards of 300 persons. R. Biggs, Esq., was called to the chair. Mr. Falvey then came forward and delivered a most lucid and argumentative address, which was heard with marked attention and interest; at the close of which votes of thanks to the chairman and to Mr. Falvey were carried by acclamation, and the meeting separated. Mr. Falvey gave notice that on Thursday evening he would deliver a second lecture on the evils of the colonial monopolies.

Market Lavington.—On Monday evening a public meeting was held at the Parsonage-house, Market Lavington, to hear a lecture on the Corn Laws from Mr. Falvey. About 200 persons were present. The Hon. Admiral Bouverie having been called to the chair, after an appropriate introduction, called on Mr. Falvey, who proceeded to address the meeting. As Free-Traders (he said), they desired merely that the dispensations of God should be carried into effect; that the countries of the world should be allowed to interchange their respective commodities in proportion to the requirements of their people. He was a Free-Trader because the principles of Free Trade were in accordance with the law of God, with the Christian dispensation, and with the best interests of all classes, but more especially of the humblest classes, whose only income was their wages, whose only property was their labour. (Cheers.) By the Corn Law of 1815, passed when every commodity was at war prices, and rent in proportion, the price of everything was suffered to find its proper level, except *rent*. By that law 80s. per qr. was promised to the farmers; in 1821, prices fell below 60s. per qr.; and in the following year, the average price for the whole year was only 43s. 3d. What made this change? The price was fixed by law; but the law could not give people the money to pay it; it was therefore unjust for the Legislature to interfere to prevent men from

obtaining the largest wages for their labour, and laying out those wages in the cheapest market. (Loud cheers.) Mr Benett, at a recent agricultural meeting, said the farmers had been "fleeced like sheep." Ay, he would add, and squeezed like sponges too. (Hear, hear.) But who fleeced them? Not the manufacturers; for the landed interest had held the Government for the last 80 years; it must, therefore, be the landed interest who had fleeced the farmers; and they had done so under the pretence of "protecting" them. Truly it was such protection as the monkey afforded the cat when he took her paw to reach the chestnut from the fire because he feared to burn his own. (Laughter and cheers.)—Mr. Falvey's lecture lasted nearly two hours, and was listened to throughout with the greatest attention, interrupted only by frequent applause. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Falvey; and on the motion of that gentleman, seconded by Mr. William Smith, thanks were carried, by acclamation, to Admiral Bouverie, for his kindness in taking the chair.—*Abridged from the Wiltshire Independent.*

THE REGISTRATION.

South Lancashire Registration.—(From a Correspondent.)—Although the revision for the southern division of Lancashire is not quite finished, enough has been done to satisfy *both* parties that the doom of monopoly is sealed in this important electoral district. We have gained largely in every revision court; and the result will be the sweeping away their boasted 600 majority of last election, and placing the League in a majority of nearly 1000. The total gain will certainly be from 1500 to 1600 upon the register. This is our first *county* triumph, and it will show the Free-Traders in the West Riding, Middlesex, East Surrey, and some other counties that I could name, what may be done by a systematic effort. The Leaguers in Lancashire never worked half so hard when they were making the country resound with their public demonstrations as they have done upon the registration during the last two months; and right nobly have they done their work. You shall have the particulars of each district as soon as they are made up; but in the meantime be assured that the sceptre has passed from the Stanleys, Egertons, and Scarisbricks into the hands of the Leaguers of South Lancashire. Hurrah for Corn-Law repeal!

North and South Lancashire.—As we expect next week to give a complete analysis of the revision in this county, we forbear to furnish any details of the week's proceedings, except to inform our readers that the whole of the Monopolist objections for the Liverpool district have been declared void, in consequence of an informality. The number of objections that existed is about 750.

Liverpool.—It appears upon a revision of the list of Parliamentary voters for the borough of Liverpool, that the Free-Traders have gained a considerable accession of strength, by the weeding of the list of several defunct and otherwise disqualified Monopolist freemen. The number thus struck off is no less than 452. This will make a contest very close at the next election.

Close of the City Registration.

Claims.

	Free-Traders. Allowed.	Monopolists. Allowed.	Neutral. Allowed.
Household ..	99	7	0
Livery ..	3	0	0
	102	7	0

Objections.

	Free-Traders. Sustained, name expunged.	Monopolists. Sustained, name expunged.	Double. Sustained, name expunged.
Household	210	395	68
Livery ..	192	53	70
	408	448	138
Claims ..	102	7	—
	510	455	138

The Middlesex County revision concluded on Wednesday. The names of three judges, the Attorney and Solicitor General, also 65 barristers and attorneys residing in the Temple, were struck out of the register: all these at the last election voted against the Free-Traders. Not one single farthing was awarded against the Free-Trade party, during the whole of the revision, for costs; this shows that their objections were fairly taken, and were neither groundless nor vexatious. The following is the result:—

	Free-Trade objections. Notices proved.	Free-Trade objections. Sustained.	Monopolists objections. Notices proved.	Monopolists objections. Sustained
Bedfont ..	9	6	17	11
Brentford	0	0	26	19
Bethnal-green	36	25	28	22
Edgware ..	15	7	2	2
Enfield ..	7	7	33	15
Hammersmith	29	22	51	30
Hampstead	0	0	5	5
King's-cross	67	56	95	62
London	306	227	49	34
Mile-end	61	38	118	59
Uxbridge	13	12	2	2
Westminster	35	27	46	36
Total ..	578	427	472	297

Majority in favour of Free Trade, 130.

Brighton.—The following is the result of the revision:—For the borough: Free-Traders, objections made, 37; sustained, 19; disallowed, 4; failed, 14.* Monopolists, made, 14; sustained, 11;† disallowed, 3. Doubtful claims, 7.—For the county: Free-Traders, claims made, 105; claims failed, 6. Monopolists, claims made, 29; claims failed, 5. Majority in favour of the Free-Traders, 75 votes.—* These claims were lost on account of the lists being sent away. † Four out of the eleven are on as double claims, the gain only eight, leaving a majority of eleven in favour of the Free-Traders.

Dover.—The following is the result of the revision in this borough:—Free-Trade objections, 49; sustained, 43; failed, 6. Claims, 29; admitted, 25; disallowed, 4.—Monopolist objections, 29; sustained 19; failed, 10. Claims, 25; admitted, 19; failed, 6. An analysis of the above shows a considerable gain to the Free-Traders:—

Number of Monopolists struck off ..	43	
Ditto of Free-Traders	19	
Free-Trade majority on objections ..		24
Ditto added by claims	25	
Monopolist ditto	19	
Free-Trade majority on claims	6	
Total Free-Trade majority ..	30	

North Durham.—The following is a complete account of the revision of the register of electors for the northern division of this county:—

New Claims.

	Free Trade.	Monopolist.
Durham district ..	39	42
Lanchester ..	54	31
Hetton-le-Hole ..	26	32
Whickham	7	10
Gateshead	58	22
Chester-le-Street ..	18	11
South Shields ..	26	4
Sunderland	90	36
Castle Eden ..	11	10
	329	198

Objections sustained.

	Free Trade.	Monopolist.
Durham district ..	13	52
Lanchester	20	25
Hetton-le-Hole ..	17	32
Whickham	6	2
Gateshead	10	19
Chester-le-Street ..	10	14
South Shields ..	14	5
Sunderland	63	56
Castle Eden ..	7	15
	160	220

Presenting in the aggregate a Free-Trade majority of 71, viz.:—

Free-Trade majority of claims	131
Deduct—Monopolist majority of objections	60
	71

Devonport (Borough).—

Claims by Free-Traders	26	
Corrected and allowed	18	
New claims	6	6
Disallowed	2	
Claims by Monopolists	21	
Corrected and allowed	4	
New claims	2	2
Disallowed	15	
Free-Trade gain		4
Objections by Free-Traders 151		
Expunged	90	
Objections by Monopolists 69		
Expunged	35	
Free-Trade gain		55
Total Free-Trade gain in Devonport ..		59

Township of East Stonehouse.—

Claims by Free-Traders	4	
Allowed		4
Claims by Monopolists	15	
Allowed	2	2
Disallowed	13	
Free-Trade gain		2
Objections by Free-Traders	24	
Expunged		22
Objections by Monopolists	24	
Expunged		15
Free-Trade gain		7
Add claims		2
Total Free-Trade gain		9
Free-Trade gain, Devonport ..	59	
" , Stonehouse	9	
Total gain in both	68	

Rochester.—The following is the result of the revision for this borough:—Monopolist claims, 43; sustained, 33. Monopolist objections, 53; sustained, 27.—Free-Trade claims, 62; sustained, 38. Free-Trade objections, 96; sustained, 33.

Free-Trade gain on claims ..	5
" objections ..	6
Total Free-Trade gain	11

Cambridge.—The following is a statement of the result of the registration, which may be relied on as correct:—Liberal and Free-Trade claims allowed, 32; Monopolists struck off, 43=75. Monopolist claims allowed, 30; Liberals and Free-Traders struck off, 36=66. Majority for the Liberals and Free-Traders, 9. Our correspondent closes a very interesting letter by stating that "Mr. Foster's return for Cambridge is certain whenever an election may occur. At the same time, at a general election, with a good colleague for Mr. Foster, there is good grounds to suppose that both would be returned. The Hon. George Denman, eldest son of Lord Denman, a thorough Free-Trader, is spoken of as a colleague for Mr. Foster. Should he be the man, his success is certain. He is a fellow of Trinity."

Harwich.—Essex.—The revision has concluded, giving a majority of two on the objections and four on claims, making an advantage in favour of Free-Traders of six votes.

Lewes.—On Thursday the revision of the borough list was concluded. The Free-Trade interest was supported by A. R. Briggs, Esq., and the Monopolists by W. P. Kell, Esq. The Free-Traders made 16 claims, and sustained the whole; the Monopolists made 12, and sustained 10. The scot and lot claims and objections in St. Ann's were withdrawn by consent of both parties. The Free-Traders made 22 objections, withdrew 2, sustained 6, and failed in 14. The Monopolists made 23, withdrew 2, sustained 12, and failed in 9. In this borough the Free-Traders have an advantage on this revision of 13, owing to some of the Monopolists being left off the register for non-payment of rates; and the Free-Traders being on the alert, have qualified themselves, and are on the register.

Cockermouth.—(From a Correspondent.)—Free-Trade objections made, 28; sustained, 10. Claims, 5; allowed, 5.—Monopolist objections made, 33; sustained, 9. Claims, 4; allowed, 2. Free-Trade majority on objections, 1. Free-Trade majority on claims, 3=4. Our total constituency is as follows, and those in support of the Free-Trade candidates are as under:—

	Total Voters.	Free-Traders.	Against.	Doubtful.	Cannot Vote.
Cockermouth	200	120	59	18	3
Bugham	43*	11	32	0	0
Englesfield	30*	12	17	1	0
Popcastle	25	15	7	3	0
Budekirk	11*	2	9	0	0
Total	309	160 +	124 +	22 +	3=309

* Chiefly farmers and agricultural labourers, or employed by owners of limekilns in leading lime.

Frome.—Free-Trade objections, 14; sustained, 12. Claims, 16; allowed, 14.—Monopolist objections, 11; sustained, 8. Claims, 4; allowed, 3. Free-Trade majority on objections, 4; on claims, 12=16. The correspondent to whom we are indebted for the above statement informs us that, since the general election, the Free-Trade party have put on the register about 80 or 90 persons, the Monopolist party only about 30 or 40; and as the majority in favour of the Monopolist candidate was only 29 at the late election, there is no doubt of the return of a Liberal and Free-Trade member at the next vacancy. He also informs us that there is a most gratifying change in the minds of many who voted at the late election for the Monopolist candidate, and who, on any future occasion, would support a Free-Trader.

Walsall.—Free-Trade objections, 14; sustained, 13. Claims, 25; allowed, 17.—Monopolist objections, 0; sustained, 0. Claims, 0; allowed, 0. Free-Trade majority on the objections, 13; Free-Trade majority on the claims, 17=30.

Colchester.—(From a Correspondent.)—Free-Trade objections, 38; sustained, 26. Claims, 5; allowed, 4.—Monopolist objections, 0; sustained, 0. Claims, 0; allowed, 0. A clear gain of 30 to the Free-Trade party.

Lichfield.—Free-Trade objections, 54; sustained, 24. Claims, 33; allowed, 26.—Monopolist objections, 23; sustained, 12. Claims, 6; allowed, 5. The correspondent who has favoured us with the above, adds, "that the new register will not be better than the present one by more than 4 votes, supposing that an appeal against a decision affecting 11 votes, objected to by the Free-Traders and not expunged, should fail. The comparison between the present register and that on which was the election of 1841, may be stated thus:—At that election the Free-Traders polled a little more than 9 parts out of 20 of the whole constituency, which gave a majority of about a sixty-ninth part of the actual voters. On the present and next register (increased more than 100) we should succeed by a majority equal to a sixteenth part of the actual voters."

Wakefield.—Free-Trade objections, 48; sustained, 25. Claims, 12; allowed, 10.—Monopolist objections, 44; sustained, 22. Claims, 9; allowed, 7. Free-Trade majority on objections, 3; on claims, 3=6. The correspondent who sends us the above, has also favoured us with the following analysis of the register as it now stands:

Voted for Free-Trade candidate at the late election		328
Of these there are dead and disqualified since ..		90
		238
Voted for the Monopolist candidate ..	300	
Of these are dead and disqualified since ..	104	196
		42
New Free-Trade voters since late election..	144	
New Monopolist voters since ditto ..	101	43
Present Free-Trade majority ..		85

Perth.—Our correspondent writes thus:—"The voters at present on the roll stand thus:—Free-Traders, 548; Monopolists, 289=837. There has never been any contest in this burgh to bring out the pure question of Free Trade; but from the known sentiments of Mr. Maule, and the attachment of the constituency to him, there is every reason to think that this is decidedly a Free-Trade burgh. The last revision of the list in the burgh made no material difference. It was, however (as it has been for some years back) in favour of the Liberal party."

Knaresborough.—From the letter of our correspondent we learn that the revision of the list in this borough has terminated in a gain to the Liberal and Free-Trade party of six votes; and he adds, that from a careful analysis of the register, and from an extensive knowledge of the constituency, he has no doubt of the return of two Liberal members at the next election.

Monopolist Defeat in Flintshire.—Notwithstanding the great preparations made by the Monopolist party to swamp the Free-Traders in the present registration, they have met with a signal defeat, principally through the blunders of Mr. C. Ingleby, their great legal authority. At the Mold court, held on Thursday se'nnight, before Leigh Trafford, Esq., Mr. Parry, one of the objectors on the Monopolist interest, proved the posting of the notice of objection against the vote of Mr. Batterbee, who was on the list of voters for the parish of Flint. Mr. Eyton, the advocate of the Free-Traders, raised an objection to the form of the notice, which omitted to state which list of voters was meant, as required by the schedule to the Registration Act, 6 Victoria, cap. 18. Mr. Rupert Smedley argued on the other side; but the barrister held the notice to be bad, and the consequence of this is, that the whole of the Monopolist objections will be void, as all the notices are in this form precisely, and the consequence will be a large gain to the Free-Trade party. The registration closed at Mold on the 8th inst. The Free-Trade gain on this registration places the Monopolists in a considerable minority, and leaves no room to doubt the issue of the next contest.

State Responsibility.—The state which, without the command of justice and God, sends out fleets and armies to slaughter fellow-creatures, must answer for the blood it sheds as truly as the murderer must answer for the death of his victim.—*Channing.*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, October 9, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

	£	s.	d.
Joseph Dawson, 19, Dale street, Liverpool	£20	0	0
Isaac Atherton, Coalpit-street, Sheffield	0	10	0
George Linley, do., do.	0	10	0
*Wm. Sheffield, 113, Oldham-street, late of Oldham-road, Manchester	1	0	0
Wm. Popple, 17, River-street, Ardwick, Manchester	0	5	0
Small subscriptions from Darwen, Lancashire, per C. H. and E. Potter	3	14	9
Wm. Lees, Duke of York, Newton-heath, Manchester	1	0	0
Thos. Chatterton, Bull's Head, Failsworth, do.	0	5	0
*Thomas Johnson, Lancaster	3	3	0
*Wm. Brown, 5, Kent-street, Pall-mall, Manchester, late of Bank-field, Broughton	1	0	0
*Richard Stone, 8, Oxford-terrace	5	5	0
R. S. Rintoul, 9, Wellington-street, Strand	3	0	0
John Reynolds, jun., 57, New Compton-street, Soho	2	2	0
*Joseph Phelps, 44, Paternoster-row	2	2	0
Probus	2	0	0
*Henry Le Keux, Hocking, near Braintree, Essex	2	2	0
The Frequenters of Prosser's Barley Mow Brewery, Commercial-road East, 5th subscription, making £5	1	10	0
*Joseph Chamberlain, 36, Milk-street, Cheapside	1	1	0
*Richard Chamberlain, Deal	1	1	0
H. P.	1	1	0
Caput	1	1	0
*Thomas Ritchie, 23, Middle-street, Cloth-fair	1	1	0
George Hall, Brewery, 12, Red Cross-st., Cripplegate	1	1	0
Thomas S. Bradbury, 2, Moor-lane, Fore-street, do.	1	1	0
*Oliver Willcock, 36, Bush-lane, Cannon-street, City	1	1	0
Joseph Leech, 31, Duncan-terrace, City-road	1	1	0
*J. Williamson, 1, Winterslow-place, Vassall-road, North Brixton (4th subscription)	1	1	0
*Lowe Wheeler, 45, Gloucester-place, Kentish-town	1	1	0
*James Lowe Wheeler, 45, do., do.	1	1	0
*William Swepson, 68, Cannon-street, City	1	1	0
*John Buckmaster, Swan Tavern, Hungerford-market	1	1	0
*Thomas Mailgwick, 11, Finsbury-pavement	1	1	0
Lewis Jones, Squirrel's Heath Farm, Romford, Essex	1	1	0
*John Clark Stevenson, 6, Ryder-street, Chelsea	1	1	0
Thomas S. Nichol, 2, King's-place, Commercial-road East	1	1	0
*Edward Henry Back, 91, Watling-street	1	1	0
Edward Mountcastle, 41, King William-street, City	1	1	0
Thomas Everett, 287, Holborn	1	0	0
David Davy, 1, Coburg-street, Euston-square	1	0	0
*Ebenezer Shackleton, Moone Hills, Ballitore, county Kildare, Ireland	1	0	0
W. H. Gamlen, Hayne, near Tiverton	1	0	0
*William Lincoln, Halesworth	1	0	0
*W. H. Jones, 9, Barbican-terrace, Barnstaple	1	0	0
*Markes Lambe, Yeovil	1	0	0
*John Paxton, Berwick-on-Tweed	1	0	0
*Charles Dear, 78, Watling-street	1	0	0
*T. B. James, 18, King-street, Cheapside	1	0	0
*Wm. White, jun., 108, Cheapside	1	0	0
*Richard Nelms, Maidstone	1	0	0
*H. Y. Brace, bookbinder, 11, Crown-street, Finsbury	1	0	0
*William Holmes, 91, Watling-street	1	0	0
*George Webb, 10, Bridge-road, Lambeth	1	0	0
*John Underwood, Clapham	1	0	0
*Thomas Temple Silver, Woodbridge	1	0	0
Thomas Wire, Maldenburgh-street, Colchester	1	0	0
Henry Teasdale, 21, Cannon-street, City	1	0	0
Robert Feast, 16, Finsbury-pavement	1	0	0
Wm. Bartholomew, 8, John's-terrace, Hackney-road	1	0	0
George S. Cundell, 17, Finsbury-circus	1	0	0
James M. Arnott, 2, New Burlington-street	1	0	0
*Wallake and Gould, Ludgate House, High-street, Barnstaple	1	0	0
A Friend from Somerset	1	0	0
*George Francis White, 45, Gloucester-terrace, Commercial-road East	1	0	0
*Thomas Pitts, 8, Melina-place, St. John's-wood	1	0	0
*H. Acland, Southwood Cottage, St. Lawrence, Ramsgate	1	0	0
*J. A. Bennett, 27, Peckham-grove, Camberwell	1	0	0
*James Spowers, 24, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square	1	0	0
*William Kendit, Marylebone	1	0	0
*George Walter, 29, Chalton-street, Somers-town	1	0	0
Nathaniel Whisson, 37, Judd-place West, New-road	1	0	0
James Graham, 26, Kingsland-crescent	1	0	0
Augustus Fischer, 10, do.	1	0	0
*John Massey, 25, Dalston-terrace	1	0	0
*J. W. Barr, 11, South Cottages, Wellington-road, Camberwell	1	0	0
Alexander Hatfield, 45, Minories	1	0	0
*John Hunt, 31, King street, Cheapside	1	0	0
*Richard Jackson, Pitman's Arms, Pitman's-buildings, St. Luke's	1	0	0
*Joseph Allen, 16, Tooley-street	1	0	0
*The Rev. W. Turner, White House, Hindley, near Wigan, Lancashire	1	0	0
*Caleb Angus Newlyck, Driffield	1	0	0
John Jarvis, 6, Circus-road, St. John's-wood	1	0	0
*W. W. Dodwell, 33, Queen-street, Ridgware-road	1	0	0
J. B. H.	1	0	0
*Wm. Jeffrey, 36, Charles-street, Hampstead road	1	0	0
*Edwin Cox, 9, Glasshouse-street, Regent-street	1	0	0
*Henry Line, shoe manufacturer, Daventry	1	0	0
*W. D. Bates, 129, Whitechapel-road	1	0	0
W. C. Westcott, 31, Church-street, Commercial-road East	1	0	0
James Williams, 4, Beer lane, Tower-street	1	0	0
*James Haughton, 34, Eccles-street, Dublin	1	0	0
John Martin, 22, Kingsland-crescent	1	0	0
Robert Williams, 25, Thornton-street, Hull	0	10	0
H. Catt, Blackheath	0	10	0
John Lipscombe, 93, Regent-street	0	10	0
W. R., Hammersmith	0	10	0
Isaac Dunn Le Mare, 38, Basinghall street	0	10	0
J. S. Wilson, 11, Maiden lane, Wood-street	0	10	0
J. T. Campart, 10 and 17, Burlington-arcade	0	10	0
Nathaniel Bendell, 114, London-wall, and his family, being eight subscriptions	0	10	0
George Whybrow, 5, Minories	0	10	0
John P. Makeham, 15, Queen-street, Finsbury	0	10	0
Thomas Woodhouse, corn dealer, 58, Worship-street	0	10	0
Samuel May, 51, Myddelton street, Clerkenwell	0	10	0
A few Friends at Mr. Thorpe's, 10, Charlton-street, Fitzroy-square	0	6	0
From five decided enemies to monopoly at Ebley Mills, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, per John Shipway	0	5	0
Wm. Price, 20, Eaststreet, Lamb's Conduit-street (3rd subscription)	0	5	0
W. Goring, 14, Pall mall	0	5	0
Isaac Ridley, 24, Poland street, Oxford-street	0	5	0
Wm. Price, 14, do., do.	0	5	0
Jeremiah Peck, 41, Fetter lane	0	5	0
Henry Hurrell, 7, Whitechapel High street	0	5	0
Richard Sharpe, 4, Gough-square, Fleet-street	0	5	0
Henry Groves, 65, Greek street, Soho	0	5	0
G. and E. Bugard, 10, Finsbury pavement	0	5	0
John Rowe, 14, Market-street, May-fair	0	5	0
Thomas Wells, 26, New Church-street, Lisson-grove	0	5	0
William Hall, 19, Southampton-place, New-road	£0	5	0
William Eustace, 155, St. John-street-road	0	5	0
C. S.	0	5	0
James Pitt, 12, King's-terrace, Clerkenwell	0	5	0
William Harrowin, High-street, Kingsland	0	5	0
Lady Ann Playters, 28, Beauvoir-terrace, do.	0	5	0
William Rowles, 32, Clifton-street, Finsbury	0	5	0
Johnson and Day, 23, Eldon-street, Finsbury-circus	0	5	0
Joseph Walters, 16, Moorgate-street	0	5	0
Francis West, 83, Fleet-street	0	5	0
John Cogger, 9, Wharton-street, Pentonville	0	5	0
William Holesgrove, 66, Burlington-arcade	0	5	0
W. S.	0	5	0
Richard Draper, 76, Cornhill (2nd subscription)	0	5	0
Thomas Walter Tarratt, 9, Finsbury-pavement	0	5	0
Leonard Harrison, 121, Great Portland-street	0	5	0
J. S.	0	5	0
George Page, 30, Wardour-street, Oxford-street	0	5	0
John Teetgen, 10, Bishopsgate-street Without	0	5	0
George Turner, 12, Kingsgate-street, Holborn	0	5	0
William Linnett, 23, Brick-lane, St. Luke's	0	5	0
J. Scudamore, Frome	0	5	0
P. L.	0	5	0
A Friend	0	5	0
Israel Henry Ash, 66, Aldgate High-street	0	5	0
Joseph Miller, 49, Whittlebury-street, Euston-square	0	5	0
Henry Besemer, Baxter House, Old St. Pancras-road	0	5	0
Frederick Heincke, 103, Great Portland-street	0	5	0
Christopher Cross, 1, Kingsland-green	0	5	0
Wm. Carter, 7, President-street East, King-square	0	5	0
Joseph Wright, 48, York-street, St. Luke's	0	5	0
A Friend	0	5	0
Frederick Cleaver, 7, Vine-street, Bloomsbury	0	5	0
Messrs. Hone, 43, Newman-street, Oxford-street	0	3	0
F. Freethy, 23, Great Sutton-street, Clerkenwell	0	3	0
Jown Rowlands, Railway Company's Works, Kingston-street, Hull	0	2	6
Edward Page, 95, St. John-street, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
C. Greenhill, 12, Great Sutton-street, do.	0	2	6
George Howarth, 27, do., do.	0	2	6
Charles M'Lean, 25, Poland-street, Oxford-street	0	2	6
John Wickwar, 6, do., do.	0	2	6
Richard Sibley, 10, Dufour's-place, Golden-square	0	2	6
James Tarleton, 113, Gray's-inn-lane	0	2	6
Patrick Clare, 144, Fetter-lane	0	2	6
Thomas Bradshaw, 6, Poppin's-court, Fleet-street	0	2	6
John Bowen, 2, Tichborne-street	0	2	6
William Tracey, 15, Brewer-street, Golden-square	0	2	6
George Smith, Belle Sauvage-yard, Ludgate-hill	0	2	6
Robert Trevett, 6, Finsbury-place South	0	2	6
Frederick Heming, 19, Pitt-street, Tottenham-court-road	0	2	6
Charles Brook, 4, New Church-street, Lisson-grove	0	2	6
Henry Gibbs, 7, do., do.	0	2	6
Henry Pusey, 72, Lisson-grove	0	2	6
Leonard Brook, 34, Chapel-street, Somers-town	0	2	6
George Wedlake, 25, Cardington-street, Hampstead-road	0	2	6
Isaac Gray, 114, Drummond-street, Somers-town	0	2	6
Henry Hester, 1, Ratcliffe-terrace, Goswell-road	0	2	6
John Glennie, 6, Beauvoir-place, Kingsland	0	2	6
William Hart, 14, Beauvoir-terrace, do.	0	2	6
Robert Smith, 1, do., do.	0	2	6
Jacobs and Son, 64, Crown-street, Finsbury	0	2	6
John Sykes, 157, Bishopsgate-street Without	0	2	6
Henry Chang, 34, Clifton-street, Finsbury	0	2	6
James Baster, 30, Primrose-street, Bishopsgate	0	2	6
Josiah Bionnington, 29, do., do.	0	2	6
Thomas T. Price, 79, Minories	0	2	6
George Bradford, 99, do.	0	2	6
Edward Gritten, 2, Abchurch-yard	0	2	6
William Graham, 2, do.	0	2	6
Robert Hack, 174, Fleet-street	0	2	6
H. Davis, 11, Great Sutton-street, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
F. B.	0	2	6
Thomas Parker, 49, Crawford-street, Marylebone	0	2	6
Alfred Essex, 22, do., do.	0	2	6
Thos. Edw. Heaton, 122, do., do.	0	2	6
George Renvoize, 23, Robert-street, Bedford-row	0	2	6
Geo. Tremain, 34, Southampton-row, Russell-square	0	2	6
Henry Rose, 146½, Leadenhall-street	0	2	6
William Clayton, 18, Sherrard-street, Soho	0	2	6
James Appleton, 174, Drury-lane	0	2	6
John Newman, 9, Plumtree-street, Bloomsbury	0	2	6
A Teetotaller, Charles-street, Hampstead-road	0	2	6
George Gellatly, 27, Brick-lane, St. Luke's	0	2	6
Richard Greenwood, 35, Old Compton-street, Soho	0	2	6
John Bishop, 3, Poland-street, Oxford-street	0	2	6
G. N. Bailey, 6, Dufour's-place, Golden-square	0	2	6
Robert Johnson, 17, East-street, Lamb's Conduit-st.	0	2	6
John Le Mare, 7, Houndsditch	0	2	6
Simeon Deller, 133, do.	0	2	6
Henry Campkin, 14, Little New-street, Shoe-lane	0	2	6
John Henry Gardner, 19½, Popplin's-court, Fleet-street	0	2	6
J. F. Hall, 90, London-wall	0	2	6
Samuel Read, 95, do.	0	2	6
Thomas Carpmael, 5, Vine-street, Minories	0	2	6
Thos. Lawrence, 26, Cardington-street, Hampstead-road	0	2	6
William Ryton, 25, Osnaston-street, Somers-town	0	2	6
Francis Bell, 10, Northampton-street, King's cross	0	2	6
Daniel Eaton, 55½, George-street, Hampstead-road	0	2	6
P. Curtis, 6, Rose and Crown-court, Eldon-street, Finsbury	0	2	6
William Harris, 122, Curtain-road	0	2	6
Thomas Brown, 49, do.	0	2	6
James Morris, 59, do.	0	2	6
Robert Hughes, 52, Clifton-street, Finsbury	0	2	6
J. C.	0	2	6
S. W.	0	2	6
John M'Evilly, 25, Great Portland-street	0	2	6
Thomas Hall, 85, High-street, Portland-town	0	2	6
Joshua Dukes, 7, Kingsland-place	0	2	6
Thomas Gamage, 8, Wood-street North, King-square	0	2	6
H. Treverton, 49, York-street, St. Luke's	0	2	6
William Dunsmore, 20, Middle-row, Holborn	0	2	6
John Yardley, 5, Thorney-street, Bloomsbury	0	2	6
Edwin Napoleon Normington, 29, Kenton-street, Brunswick-square	0	2	6
William Dent, 26, Everett-street, do.	0	2	6
Alfred Smith, 27, do., do.	0	2	6
Artisans in Messrs. Collard & Collard's factories in Tottenham-court-road, Camden-town, and Hampstead-road. — Thomas William Kemp	0	5	0
Nathaniel Paine	0	2	6
Justin M'Carthy	0	2	6
Thomas Pugh	0	2	6
A. R. Gray	0	2	6
H. Lauder	0	2	6
George Row	0	4	0
Twenty-three subscriptions under 2s. 6d. each	1	3	0
Subscriptions under 2s. 6d. each	5	15	7
Ditto	0	17	0

* Those names marked with an asterisk are renewed subscriptions.

PORTUGUESE "INTELLIGENCE."—The *Correio*, a Portuguese paper, calls Queen Victoria's youngest son, who was christened the other day, "the Prince of Kork!" Then gliding naturally into an Irish subject, it eulogizes Mr. "Smitt O'Brien," and dilates on the "Reppell."

CIVILIZATION—The civilization of no race can be perfect whilst another race is degraded. It is a doctrine alike of the oldest and of the newest philosophy, that man is one, and that you cannot injure any member without a sympathetic injury to all the members. America is not civilized whilst Africa is barbarous.—*E. W. Emerson.*

LETTERS ON THE CORN LAWS, No. II.

TO THE RIGHT HON. LORD JOHN RUSSELL, M.P., &c.

MY LORD,—A Parliamentary Leader has no vacations. For you this is no season of rest and relaxation. Although the night does not summon you to debate, and the day is free from official cares, yet have you that upon your mind which must frequently task severely your thoughts and faculties. The House of Commons is still sitting in your brain. The next session has already commenced in your imagination. You must observe intently the course of events. The position has to be marked out which the party will occupy with whose guidance you are intrusted. The campaign must be planned. And never, perhaps, had chieftain, political or military, greater reason than yourself, while his followers reposed or sported, for anxiety and watchfulness.

You are the leader of an old party in new circumstances. Much difficulty might not be presented by that fact to an intelligent politician, were the circumstances such as to bear the application of party principles. In the present case it is not so; and hence the difficulty of your deliberations and the importance of your decisions. Whig principles have nothing to do with political economy. They might as well be brought to the determination of a controversy in chemistry or geology. No common measure exists between what constitutes your party, and what interests the public mind. The star by which that party has been steered belongs to a different hemisphere from the present horizon of public affairs. A Whig leader of Whigs, you contemplate a legislative campaign in which the only strife that the world cares for is between the cause of Free Trade and that of Monopoly. This will never do, my lord.

The battles of Whig and Tory are matter of history. There is no fighting them over again. They have followed those of Greeks and Trojans, and of Guelfs and Ghibbelines, to the land of shadows. What single Whig question, of any practical moment, exists between you and Sir Robert Peel? By what test can you unwhig Lord Stanley? The old party demarcation has dwindled to a geometrical line; it may retain historical length, but it has neither breadth nor thickness. You have shown yourself, and may again, an acute critic on the *measures* of the present Government; you are not the opponent of its principles.

No imputation on your consistency is intended by this assertion. Few public men have more of that quality. Nor does that concession imply the inconsistency of those Whigs, and they are not a few, who swell the ranks of your opponents. Whiggism never affected to be Anti-Conservative. Nor does Conservatism, as described on various public occasions by Sir Robert Peel himself, show any necessary antagonism to Whig principles. The practical differences are questions of degree; or questions foreign to the party distinction. That distinction represents nothing in the nation; absolutely nothing. It is a tradition, a conventionalism; the thin ghost of a departed reality.

Whiggism began to die out with the death of the Pretender, and the birth of popular democracy. The secessions from its ranks occasioned by the predilections of George III., the outbreak of the French Revolution, the second French war, and the growth of Radicalism, are the stages of its decomposition. Only the premature death of George Canning prevented the remains of the Whig party from being swamped in a Canning party. Catholic Emancipation, Parliamentary Reform, and Corn-Law Modification have been successively caught at; but they were not properly Whig questions, and at most they merely served to shed a flitting light over inevitable decay. Peace to the departed! You, my lord, are a living statesman, expected to do something for a living people. Come out from among the tombs; look abroad over fields and factories; ask what actually divides the nation, what it wants, and how its strifes may be healed, its wrongs redressed, and its prosperity advanced. Throw off the trammels of defunct faction. That power is gone; why wear its collar, or hoist its banner? Rise to the emergency of the times. It took Sir Robert Peel ten years to construct a party without a principle; you may create a party *by* a principle in a single session.

The country is divided by the disciples of the Free Trade and the monopolist systems. These would relieve distress and obtain wealth by unshackled commerce; those, by the agency of restrictive legislation. No other difference, whatever the topic to which it relates, touches people's thoughts and feelings with the force which this exercises. These are the antagonist principles of the public mind. Ought they not also to be the antagonist principles of the legislative body? Here is a real struggle; no field-day or sham fight, exciting only scorn or suspicion. Here are watchwords sure of the response of millions. A statesman fitted for the times should boldly and frankly take his stand upon one or the other, and work it out into the appropriate legislative results. I need not put the supposition both ways; you have, I be-

lieve, read Adam Smith too well for that; and if so, you have also read your own destiny to combat in Parliament for the new and glorious post of Free-Trade Minister; or to sink into the last of the Whigs, the evanescent point, which finishes the party's half century of tapersings towards impalpable tennity.

The future Free-Trade Minister! that will be something in the world, my lord, hereafter. There is not many a nobler niche in history. None so noble that is waiting, vacant, and saying, "Come and fill me." What is more to the purpose, it would be something now; everything to the existing generation. It is encouragement for the enterprising, bread for the hungry, and wages for the industrious. Even for the monopolist-landlord class in the Legislature, it would surely be more welcome to confront avowed hostility than to live in the everlasting suspicion of treachery. Till such a divarication ensues, how many on both sides of the House must feel the hollowness of their seeming union with real foes! Both you and Sir Robert Peel are at the head of followers that trust neither you nor each other. The air is rife with insincerity. Men speak of comrades, and think of conspirators. It is time for this age of fallacies to pass. Let the members divide not on the frivolous but the important; not on the nominal but the real; not on the obsolete quarrels of extinct parties, but on the great questions of national policy.

All things are ripening for a new distribution of the contending forces in the Legislature. Take the journals of this very day (Wednesday, October 9). The organ of your own party confirms my assertion of the extent to which it now coincides, in principle, with the opposite political party. It wages war on the past, not on the present. The *Morning Chronicle* says, "It is *not to the objects*, but to the sinister and dishonourable course which has been pursued by the Tory party that we object." Again, "In most cases Governments are wrong and Oppositions right; but *the Tory Government is often right;* whereas, the Tory Opposition was always wrong." It is only, then, to "let bygones be bygones." From the Whig journal I turn to that of the Ministry, the *Morning Herald*. There I find the editor balancing between the hypothetical repeal of the two sets of taxes, and advancing towards his conclusion by the aid of such facts, principles, and objects as form the staple of many of the League speeches at Covent-garden Theatre:—

"The evils and inconveniences of the malt tax are undeniable; but it affects agriculture only indirectly. It is paid by the consumers, and the consumers of ale and beer are, as a body, the least wealthy parts of the community; it is, therefore, *raised mainly from the working classes. It is a tax on what is more than a luxury to the* poor man—on what is, considering the staple of his sustenance, a necessary; it is, therefore, a tax which seriously diminishes the available value of his wages. But this is only its primary defect; by its severity it diminishes the consumption of beer, and, consequently, the production of barley. Now, whatever diminishes the production of barley must, in some degree, lessen the demand for labour; and, *whatever lessens the demand for labour, lowers wages.* And thus not only does the malt tax diminish the available value of wages, but it also diminishes the demand for labour, and thereby lowers the rate of wages. The malt tax is, then, clearly much more of a labourers' question than a farmers' or a landlords' question.

"Still, it is equally undeniable that other indirect taxes have the same tendencies as the malt tax; and it may be doubted whether there are not several that might be repealed or greatly reduced with more advantage to the working classes, and, at the same time, with less inconvenience to the revenue than the malt tax. The existing weight of *taxation on tea, sugar, and coffee* precludes those wholesome and nutritious articles of food from being staples of poor men's sustenance out of large towns, and forces them, where those articles are used, on inferior, adulterated, and frequently hurtful sorts. Beer is within the constant or general reach of the very poorest; but from the habitual use of tea, coffee, and sugar, a very large class of the working people are excluded, and that mainly by the amount of taxation imposed upon those commodities. Now, fully acknowledging the evils of the malt tax, still the inducement to attempt to bring tea, sugar, and coffee into the habitual use of all the labouring classes is, we think, greater than the temptation to extend the consumption of beer, did even the finances of the country render the latter alternative possible. Of the wages farmers are able to pay their labourers, *much too large a share goes to the revenue*, and too small a proportion to their actual maintenance; and in no instance is this more the case than when the poor man ventures to purchase tea, coffee, and sugar."

No matter for the consistency or the immediate object of these lucubrations. They show how economical truth is diffusing itself through the political atmosphere. It is present like the electrical fluid in the air. The first leading statesman who shall adopt it for the spirit of his public policy will be a conductor to give it form and power.

Whig and Ministerial, there is a journal which is neither—*the* journal which is at once the greatest of powers, and the truest and most sonorous of echoes. I need not name *the Times*. Whether as power or as echo, its voice is an indication for public men to heed. The following passage, from its leader of the same date as those just cited, is by no means the least worthy of being heeded:—

"The 'condition-of-England' question, as it has been affectedly called, is fast becoming a question indeed. People are now beginning to allow that it *is* a question. They confess that it is a question which MUST be attended to—that it is *one which is growing, and strengthening, and deepening, and which cannot any longer be paltered with or avoided.*—It is true that they have been forced rather than persuaded to this admission. Wales and Suffolk have been in a blaze before it could be extorted. But we apprehend that it is coming at last. *Men of all parties* are beginning to see that the dry, mechanical, routine party principles of the last half century are unable to cope with the altered circumstances and increasing and overpowering exigencies of this great empire. Something more on the one hand than mere conversation, and something else on the other than simple levelling or cold utilitarianism, is required to meet and remedy the great social evils under which we are labouring. This is a truth which is now beginning to spread."

And thus, my lord, do all the elements conspire and cry out for a new political combination, a new political demarcation. We want a warfare with the Richmond and Knatchbull monopoly; not with the Peel and Wellington Ministry. The best portion of the Ministry would be with such a movement in their hearts; they would continually own its influence in their measures; and would not improbably be driven by the monopolists at their back into decided and active co-operation. It is their natural position; and many of the arguments in this letter might have been addressed with as much propriety to Sir Robert Peel as to yourself; but that he is too much fettered by the possession of office to originate such a movement, while you are perfectly free to do so. Your only fetters are in party associations and old habits; cobwebs, to a man of moral courage.

And what else, my lord, can you undertake, that will be either glorious for yourself or useful for your country? You cannot refit the shattered hulk of the old Whig party again, and make it sea-worthy. You may turn Irish politics to some temporary account in Parliamentary warfare, but Whiggism is pledged not less deeply than Toryism against repeal. You may play off the Monopolist section of the Ministerialists against the Liberal section; but such manœuvring will gain little of power or credit. I would not see you sink into a trickster; and with such a grand career open to you and inviting you to its pursuit. Above all, it behoves you to avoid tampering with the Free-Trade question as an instrument of party purposes. You have already had one lesson on the vanity of that endeavour; or, if not so, then of the peril of being suspected of such an endeavour. Your fixed duty was the demolition of the late Administration. It will never serve to construct another Whig Administration. You and your colleagues are the martyrs of the Free-Trade principle; without being, as yet, its confessors and champions. Your conduct has incurred the penalty without winning the prize. You bear the brand without wearing the laurel. Like the Windsor Castle steamer, you made shipwreck upon the beacon. Look at the compass and change your course.

To form a Free-Trade party in the House, courted and feared by both sides on all close-run questions, would not be difficult. All purposes of personal importance would be more answered thereby than by the broader course now recommended; and many subordinate benefits would, at intervals, be gained. But this is far below what the exigencies of the time demand. By almost universal consent, Free Trade or restriction is the turning point of the policy by which the country must be governed. There needs but some leading statesman to say so, and the new arrangement of parties, representing (what is not represented now) the real division of opinions and interests in the community, will form itself around him. Genuine affinities and antipathies would displace the shadows that are still perversely treated as substances. The hour is come—where is the man? Art thou he?

A NORWICH WEAVER BOY.

DANGEROUS STATISTICS.

RENT, LAND-TAX, AND POOR IN SCOTLAND.

(From the *Manchester Times*.)

In the year 1792 Sir J. Sinclair sent circulars to every parish minister in Scotland, requesting communications on the civil history, the antiquities, the population, the agriculture, the gross produce, the rent, the provision for the poor, the rate of wages, &c., of their respective parishes; and the answers appeared in the "Statistical Account of Scotland," which was published in successive volumes in 1793, 1794, 1795, and 1796.

A similar work was projected in 1833, in accordance with a resolution of the General Assembly; the publication was commenced in 1834, and has only recently been concluded.

Had both works been well executed, a mass of information, not only of the actual state of Scotland at both periods, of the highest importance to the statist and the legislator, would have been accumulated, but materials would have been furnished for an accurate comparison of the condition, either improved or deteriorated, of each parish after an interval of forty very eventful years.

Neither work has been equal to what might have been expected from an educated body of men, each well acquainted with his own locality. Probably the fault lay in having no judicious editor to prune what was redundant, and to call for additional information where it was deficient. For want of this general supervision there is little unity in the design. In many notices the reverend pastors run riot on geology, botany, antiquities, meteorology, &c., according to their favourite studies; and thus it requires considerable labour to collect such general results as ought to have been seen at a glance.

Notwithstanding, there is much to be gleaned from the heterogeneous mass; and out of the first ten half-volumes which we have examined we have found some important facts as to the advance in the rent of land, the proportion between the rent actually obtained and the valuation on which the land-tax is assessed, some approximation to the proportion between rent and gross produce, and the amount paid to the poor from collections at the church door and assessments upon the land. The result shows that if English landowners, notwithstanding all the acts passed to *protect* themselves, still suffer under certain so-called *exclusive burdens*, their Scotch brethren have contrived wonderfully well to keep them off *their* shoulders.

The following statements relative to fifty parishes have not been selected, but taken as they presented themselves in a search through successive half-volumes from No. 1 to No. 10:—

MARYTON, Forfarshire:		
Rental of the parish in 1833		£4,880
Valuation on which land-tax is paid,	£3000	
Scots, or in sterling money		250
Gross amount of produce		14,508
12 persons on the poor's roll average 3s. 9d. monthly each		27
KIRRIEMUIR, Forfarshire:		
Gross produce, 1833		56,615
Poor and parochial funds		290
KIRKMAHOE, Dumfriesshire:		
Gross produce, 1833		20,000
Rental	£9000 to	10,000
28 persons on the poor's roll average £2. 10s...		68
KIRKMICHAEL, Dumfriesshire:		
Rental in 1795		2,500
,, 1834		6,475
Gross produce		20,997
Parochial funds		35
CLOSKBURN, Dumfriesshire:		
Rental in 1795		3,500
,, 1834, above		12,000
Gross produce		40,000
For the behoof of the poor		71
MOFFAT, Dumfriesshire:		
Gross produce		16,105
Rental, 1834		8,000
Assessments and collections for poor, less than one-half from the land		130
ST. MUNGO, Dumfriesshire:		
Rental in 1746		373
,, 1794		1,800
,, 1834		4,000
RUTHWELL, Dumfriesshire:		
Gross produce		10,100
Support of the poor		55
CUMMERTRees, Dumfriesshire:		
Rental, 1834		8,000
Support of the poor		78
KIRKPATRICK FLEMING, Dumfriesshire:		
Rental in 1792		2,870
,, 1834		7,369
Poor collections	£30 }	180
Assessments	110 }	
BROUGHTON, Peeblesshire:		
Gross produce		21,231
Expenditure on poor		42
MANNER, Peeblesshire:		
Rental in 1795		1,685
,, 1834		4,145
Poor and parochial funds		15
KIRKURD, Peeblesshire:		
Rental in 1834		1,900
Valuation on which land-tax is paid £1,108 Scots, or in sterling money		92
EDDLESTONE, Peeblesshire:		
Gross produce in 1834		13,693
Rental		6,364
Contributions to the poor		64
LINTON, Peeblesshire:		
Rental in 1795		2,350
,, 1834		6,560
Expenditure on the poor		100
LESMAHAGOW, Lanarkshire:		
Land bought in 1750 for £2700 yielded in 1834 £283 rent.		
,, ,, 1768 ,, £2700 ,, 1834 £345 ,,		
DOLPHINTON, Lanarkshire:		
Rental in 1792		£ 600
,, 1834		1,700
Valuation on which land-tax is paid		71
CREICH, Sutherlandshire:		
Rental in 1834		3,700
Valuation on which land-tax is paid		248
Distribution to the poor		20
DURNESS, Sutherlandshire:		
Gross produce, including herrings, salmon, lobsters, kelp, &c.		8,000
Rental in 1834		2,550
Distributed to the poor		40
ECCLES, Berwickshire:		
Rental in 1793		11,000
,, 1822		20,000
Valuation on which land-tax is paid		1,300
WESTRUTHER, Berwickshire:		
Rental in 1834		5,000
Collections for the poor £20. 5s. 4d. / Assessments .. £91. 16s. 1d.		.. £112. 1s. 5d.
CHANNEL KIRK, Berwickshire:		
Rental in 1834		5,400
Collections for poor £ 7 / Assessments 50		57
BUNKLE AND PRESTON, Berwickshire:		
Rental under previous leases		3,200
Under leases in 1834, above		8,000
Assessment for poor, one-half paid by landowners and one-half by tenants		76
CHIRNSIDE, Berwickshire:		

"It was matter of astonishment to the writer of the late statistical account that the rents of land in this parish should have risen from 2s. to 12s., and from 5s. to 20s. How much more astonishing to find that those rents have risen to 35s., 40s., 50s., 75s., 80s., 84s., and sometimes even more per acre!"

Hutton, Berwickshire:
"Since the last statistical account rents have more than doubled."

Rental in 1795	£3,080
" 1834	7,526

St. Boswell's, Roxburghshire:

Rental in 1794	1,700
" 1834	3,080

Roxburgh, Roxburghshire:

Gross produce	22,268
Rental	9,000
Assessment for poor on landowners and tenants	160

Makerstoun, Roxburghshire:

Gross produce	10,423
Rental	4,000
Poor's fund	14

Smallholm, Roxburghshire:

Gross produce	8,850
Rental	4,000
Poor	47

Linton, Roxburghshire:

Rental in 1794	2,113
" 1834	5,514
Poor	60

Yetholm, Roxburghshire:

Rental in 1797	2,104
" 1834	5,600
Assessments	252

Kinettles, Forfarshire:
"In 1792 the best arable land in the parish was rented at £1. 5s. per Scottish acre; but now it is rented at £2. 11s. 5d."

Craig, Forfarshire:

Rent in 1795	£4,000
" 1835	9,500
Contributions to poor	136

Logie Pert, Forfarshire:

Rent in 1835	5,000
Valuation on which land-tax is paid	309

Dunse, Berwickshire:
"The most remarkable variation between the present state of the parish and neighbourhood, and that which existed at the time of the last statistical account, is in the rent of land; land which then let at 15s. and 7s., now lets at £2. 10s. and £1. 5s. per acre."

Edrom, Berwickshire:

Rental in 1794		£6,493
" 1834		15,200
Assessment for the poor	£150	
Collections	25	175

Crawford, Lanarkshire:

Rental	8,500
Contributions to the poor	85

Culter, Lanarkshire:

Rental	5,210
Collections for the poor	36

Biggar, Lanarkshire:

Rental	4,671
Valuation on which land-tax is paid	213
Assessments and collections for the poor	169

Knockando, Elginshire:

Rental, 1835	3,000
Valuation on which land-tax is paid	165

New Spynie, Elginshire:

Rental	4,764
Collections for the poor	31

Alves, Elginshire:

Rental in 1795	3,000
" 1835	6,000

Preston Kirk, Haddingtonshire:

Rental		10,500
Assessments	£120	
Collections	15	135

Whitekirk, Haddingtonshire:

Rental when wheat is at 56s.	9,727
Valuation on which land-tax is paid	640
No assessment for the poor.	

Whittinghame, Haddingtonshire:

Gross produce		17,275
Rental		7,596
Assessment	£70	
Collections	18	88

Dunbar, Haddingtonshire:

Rental in 1792	8,666
" 1833	23,409
Valuation on which land-tax is paid	1,412

Humbie, Haddingtonshire:

Rental in 1795	2,700
" 1835	6,300
Assessments	80

Yester, Haddingtonshire:

Rental in 1795	2,000
" 1835	8,000
Valuation on which land-tax is paid	380

Newburgh, Fifeshire:

Rental	2,400
Valuation on which land-tax is paid	162

Minnigaff, Dumfries-shire:

Gross produce		26,000
Rental		10,000
Assessment	£100	
Collections	22	132

Canonbie, Dumfries-shire:

Rental in 1793	3,000
" 1835	7,462

We do not attach much importance to the returns of gross produce as many of the Ministers seem to have known little of the manner in which the calculations ought to have been made. In pastoral parishes, where there is little expended in labour, the rent is fully *one-half* of the produce; in others which are arable it is about *one-third*, and in a very few others, very highly and expensively cultivated, it is little more than *one-fourth*. The average in ten of the above-named parishes is more than *two-fifths*, the produce being £157,322, and the rent £60,390. Thus of *fifty shillings* worth of wheat, oats, barley, beef, and mutton, twenty shillings seem to go to the landowner as rent.

When the LAND-TAX was substituted for feudal services its amount was equal to *one-third* of the whole expenditure, but as there has been no new valuation since, its amount now is only about *one-twenty-fourth* of the aggregate amount of taxation, or one-eighth of what it ought to be. In Scotland the proportion paid to what is justly due is still less. In twelve of the above parishes the rent amounts to £88,383, while the valuation on which land-tax is paid amounts to only £5278, or *one-seventeenth part* only of what it ought to be. The landowners of those parishes who pay only 1s. from the 17s. which they ought to pay, cannot, we think, have much reason to complain of the weight of their *exclusive burden*.

In twenty of these parishes it is shown that land which was rented at £67,695 in 1794-5 had so much increased in value during forty years, as to bring £167,774 in 1834-5, money being of the same value in both periods.

In only thirteen of the fifty parishes named is there any assessment for the poor, and even in those few the assessment is only to the amount of about twopence halfpenny in the pound! Next week we shall give a statement of the manner in which the poor are *relieved* in a pattern parish.

THE INTERESTS OF THE RICH.

(From the *Sentinel*.)

One species of agitation has given place to another. The daily papers are no longer filled with semi-reports of Anti-Corn-Law League meetings, or garbled quotations from the speeches of Chartists and Complete Suffragists. The great and the noble are now in the field; they point to the work of their own hands; they sit round the wine-cup and congratulate themselves upon their virtues and success; they rise and say, "Are we not a blessing to the country we live in? Was it not well said by Sir Robert Peel (then Mr. Peel) in 1828, that it is 'the policy of the country to maintain the aristocracy and magistracy as essential parts of the community?'"

They do not say this. We would, for the sake of consistency, that they did say it. It is true, that each daily paper contains an account of a meeting or two, where the aristocracy and the magistracy have met together to talk over their own interests, called by them the interests of the country; but, strange to say, we do not catch in their speeches the triumphant tone of the champions of the League—we do not recognise in what they predict the spirit of prophecy which has alighted upon the claimants of the suffrage and the defenders of the rights of the citizen. Their orations are not laments alone, they are downright self-accusations. They proclaim, "What we are doing is not sufficient; we fall short of our duty; *we must find work for the labourer*. It is the interest of the rich to look a little better than we have done after the interests of the poor."

What is it that has produced this humility of mind? What is it that has brought the all-powerful landlord-agriculturists into so public a confessional as the columns of a newspaper? It is simply this, and we say it in one sentence, the blessing of Providence has given grain to the sower, and allowed the earth to yield her increase. Did we hear any of these distressful appeals when wheat was at 70s.?

We could prompt a better method of speedy relief to the landlord than any which has been suggested by their own body. We would say, "Money is cheap, lend to your tenants; enable them to hold; let them starve the people for a few months, and perhaps a kinder Providence may give them a scanty harvest next year."

Let no one suppose that it is the vast importation of foreign grain which has brought this sad state of things to pass. The spontaneous growth of all those vast continents where grain can be grown for almost nothing, and from whence it can be brought for almost nothing (as we have been told it can), has not been able to compete with the teeming furrows of our own tax-laden country; and, of all trades, the unrighteous, because at present speculative, trade in foreign corn has this year proved most unprofitable to the merchant and importer.

Emigration is again, as it has been before, a favourite remedy. A country which has subsidised nations to fight battles to support legitimacy in the persons of pet Catholic sovereigns—a country which can support royalty with a pomp which throws all other courts into the shade, and an aristocracy which gives a *sobriquet* to the possessor of wealth (for a rich man is a Milord whenever he sets foot on other soils)—a country, moreover, which hires teachers of a single and distinct set of religious opinions at a rate which would make glad the heart of an Abbot or a Pope—this same country cannot support the poor wretched labouring man, who asks but room for his arm and no protection, to feed himself and eight other individuals by his unassisted management of the spade and the pitchfork.

The landlord has long chosen to have a great deal of his land in thistles. He has thought proper to leave the choice of the live stock upon his land to the unassisted ignorance of his needy and uneducated tenants. He has intrusted the supervision of the whole to a bailiff or land-steward, who has known how to colour his reports of "the sadly wet state of the soil," or the "terrible blight," in order to account for any deficiency of receipts; and, what is worse, it would seem that the landowner has been content to get the same return as formerly from his acres, receiving it rather from the increased price of each quarter of grain than from the increased number of quarters from each acre. This is certainly the worst of all; for if the possessors of the soil, being also legislators, have any one duty more than another clearly incumbent upon them, it is to see that that soil is turned to the best account to meet the growing wants of the people. When the city of Rome numbered its greatest population, it was almost the whole work of the Senate to see the town supplied with food. Had the Senate possessed the wisdom of our days, it would have talked of nothing but emigration.

It was said, a little while ago, that it would be to the interest of the country, and therefore of the rich, to sweep the land clear of manufacturers, and purge it from machinery and coal smoke. Had this been done, it would have been clearly necessary for the land, from that day, to have taken upon itself the burdens of the state, and pay the interest of the national debt. The land, which so short a time ago proposed to raise, unassisted, a revenue of above £50,000,000, is deadly anxious now to rid itself of the cost of a few shiploads of labourers. Let the land for one year bear the whole burdens of the state, and the untaxed manufacturer will undertake not only to support the superfluous agricultural labourers, but to take them to their work in neat postchaises.

The aristocracy and magistracy have at last found out, and themselves declared at their agricultural assemblages, that it is their "interest" to employ the labourer. Is it not strange that they have not passed a single vote of thanks to the vast body of manufacturers who are employing hundreds for their tens, and are ready to employ more, if it be to the "interest" of the aristocracy and magistracy to permit them? The little gleam of sunshine which has fallen lately upon the busy districts of Lancashire and Yorkshire is already beginning to drain the agricultural enclosures round about. In one town, that of Preston, in North Lancashire, we hear of 7000 looms in the course of erection, giving employment to 2300 additional people, at the rate of a workman to three looms. This alone is as good as three large emigrant ships, and no clever young farmer is required to expatriate himself to lead their steps to the banks of some distant stream, where they may forget their country and hasten to cease all connexion with the mother who sent them heartlessly from her bosom.

It is, then, the interest of the rich to find employment for the labourer! When did ever a Chartist body arrive at a conclusion equal in wisdom to this? Does it not show us in whose hands we are, when we see the all-powerful aristocracy and magistracy listening, with grave faces, to such a declaration as this? They have found out, at last, that the poor do not wish to live on alms, or in workhouses! After shaking their impotent fists, for half a century, at the industrious manufacturer who has employed their labourers for them, they find out at last that they themselves would have done better had they become manufacturers too—manufacturers, at least, of agricultural machinery and improved implements.

But let them, from this time, begin to do the best for their own interests, now that they have discovered what will contribute to them. Let them unshackle that which will give employment to more labourers than they can spare. And, moreover, let them carefully look over their legislative enactments, lighted by this new light which has so suddenly fallen upon them. Perhaps they may arrive at the fact, that the intellect which has been so long blind to the most obvious of all necessities, is hardly competent to legislate for a mercantile and manufacturing nation. We will return to this another time.

STRIKES FOR ADVANCE OF WAGES, &c.

Wigan.—Three young men, Thomas Tunstall, Samuel Ashurst, and William Blinston, were brought before the magistrates of Wigan, on Monday, on a charge of absenting themselves from work that morning without having given the usual notice required by their agreements. From the evidence of Thomas Hesketh, an overlooker or manager for Messrs. William Woods and Son, it appeared that the defendants were throstle spinners, employed at Trencherfield Mill, and that they belonged to a body of hands who had struck for an advance of wages. The magistrates advised the defendants to return to their work. It was evident they had been selected as an example to the rest of the spinners, and they were told that, unless they chose to complete their agreements, a heavy penalty would be inflicted. All obstinately refused to comply with the recommendation of the bench, unless an advance of wages was given. This, of course, under the circumstances, was not likely to be the case. They were each fined 20s. and costs, and, in default of payment, to be committed for a month. The latter alternative was chosen, and the parties were taken to the lock-up, from whence, if the fines were not paid, they would be removed to Kirkdale yesterday morning.—*Manchester Guardian.*

Stockport.—In reference to the spinners and self-acting minders, it may be stated that matters still remain in *statu quo*. A meeting will be held this evening (Wednesday), when, if the masters should still persist in refusing the rise demanded, it is expected that the hands will determine upon giving notice, this week-end; and if that should be the case, and no arrangement be previously made, a general turn-out of this class of operatives may be expected in a fortnight.—*Ibid.*

Leeds.—A turn-out of the persons employed at several of the principal flax mills in Leeds has taken place, owing to the operation of the New Factory Act, which came into effect on Tuesday se'nnight. The persons who have struck work, amounting to about 3000, are nearly all girls and women, classed as "young persons;" but they have caused 300 or 400 male adults also to cease work, through the consequent stoppage of the machinery at the different mills. By the new act, no factory can run more than five hours without an interval of at least thirty-five minutes as a meal time, during which period the machinery must be stopped, and the hands leave the mill. Hence half an hour must be allotted for breakfast, and half an hour for tea. Heretofore, in some of the flax mills, breakfast and tea have been taken during the time that the machinery was running and the work proceeding, and in others the mills have been stopped only a quarter of an hour for breakfast, and a quarter of an hour for tea; and thus, by the new act, the factory hours have in each case been made to extend over a longer period of the day, though the actual hours of labour remain the same. As the factory owners announced their intention to adhere—as it was indeed imperative in law that they should—to the new provisions, the hands turned out at several of the mills, and refused to work on Tuesday and Wednesday last. We understand that at Messrs. Marshall's mill, at Holbeck, a plan like that required by the new act has long been in operation; and therefore no strike has taken place at that extensive establishment. The number of hands employed at the mills brought to a stand are about as follows:—Messrs. Hives and Atkinson, 1000; Messrs. Briggs and Co., 900; Messrs. Wilkinson and Co., 700; Messrs. Holdsworth and Barrett, 400; Messrs. Boyles and Gill, 250. Of these, however, the hands employed by Messrs. Briggs and Co. returned to work yesterday, on the old system; the hands employed by Messrs. Hive and Atkinson have also agreed to resume their work on being paid the same wages as before, and allowed for holidays; and we understand that such other arrangements are pending as will probably soon bring the strike entirely to an end.—*Leeds Mercury.* [The differences between the workers and their employers have amicably terminated.]

South Australia.—Amongst the articles which we are told are likely, ere long, to be manufactured in the colony, we may mention washing soda, alkali, turpentine, and resin. We have seen specimens of the two former articles, which, so far as we can judge, were of very fair quality. A person called on us a day or two ago, who stated that he could make turpentine in any quantity at two shillings a gallon. Thus, piece by piece, will our resources be developed.—*Adelaide Observer.*

REVIEW.

The Castellans of the Rhine (Les Burgraves). By Victor Hugo. London: Courier Office.

The beautiful allusion to the history of the Rhenish League, in the speech delivered by the Hon. Mr. Smythe in the Free-Trade Hall of Manchester, to which we have adverted in another part of this paper, has directed our attention to Victor Hugo's admirable trilogy, and led us to examine it in its double relation to historic truth and dramatic art. It is only within the last few years that the character of the middle ages has begun to be appreciated, and that students have found in the chronicles and legends of their Teutonic ancestors as rich mines of philosophic and poetic interest as in the annals of Greece and Rome. Victor Hugo justly remarks that the age of feudalism bears about the same relation to modern civilization that the Titanic epoch bore to the classical period of the Grecian mythology; those who look back in both cases might well exclaim "there were giants in those days." Our history has reproduced what Grecian fable invented; the reality of the middle ages reflected as faithfully as a mirror the sublime wonders of Titanic fiction. Feudal tyranny, impersonated in more multitudinous forms than the monstrous progeny of Cœlus and Terra, watched every free tendency with the hundred eyes of Argus, and crushed every nascent effort of liberty with the hundred hands of Briareus. Long, terrible, and arduous was the conflict in which this gigantic despotism was cloven down; vast, massive, and melancholy are the memorials of the conflict which still mark every field of battle. The strife was fiercest on the banks of the Rhine, and there the ruins which attest the desperation of the fight possess a gloomy grandeur scarcely less terrific to the imagination than the traces of destruction left by a volcano or a deluge. On the banks of that river—the richest in historical associations which the world holds—every rock *was* a fortress and every fortress *is* a ruin. Extermination has passed over the robbers and their strongholds, leaving colossal fragments as evidences of colossal strife. Atè and Clio, the demon of destruction and the muse of history, are here identified:—

> "And thus the record of their lot
> Reads—THEY WERE—and—THEY ARE NOT."

The Titans were ideal creations; the Burgraves were men. The giants who

> "Strove to rise
> By mountains pil'd on mountains to the skies,"

are separated from us by an abyss which the imagination is wearied in endeavouring to fly across; but we may count the generations which separate us from the feudal oligarchy that once held Europe in its iron grasp. We can admire them because they were great, we can comprehend them because they were real, we can detest them because they were tyrannical. In their fearful history crime rises above crime in all the tremendous majesty of a forest of guilt; the shudder which involuntarily thrills the frame at such a prospect is a real emotion; the gratitude at escape from such an aggravated Reign of Terror is a genuine feeling; we see that there was a possible future for Christendom worse than destruction, deeper than perdition, blacker than despair. Threefold was the panoply which fenced these feudal tyrants: they had indomitable courage, it was the armour of their heart; the armour of iron fenced their person; the armour of granite secured their homes. But over all these defences, commerce—aided by the intelligence which commerce alone develops—triumphed completely, decisively, and everlastingly. Trade worked out its own liberty, and Free Trade generated because it necessitated free institutions and free literature.

Engaged as we are in a holy strife to secure for industry its rights and for labour its reward,—associated together to prevent a pampered oligarchy from supporting its idleness, its luxury, and its extravagance, by filching away the wages dearly earned by the sons and daughters of toil,—we cannot without emotion survey the fields where our forefathers girded themselves to the battle against feudal injustice, and smote down the edifices of feudal tyranny. In the record of the strife we recognise with grateful humility the intervention of a superintending Providence, to weaken and divide the banded hosts of injustice.

> "God of armies! did thy stars,
> In their courses smite their ears,
> Break their arms and burst their bars?"

"Verily there is a God that judgeth the earth," else simple justice could never have forced its way through the threefold panoply of feudal despotism. Let us, then, never despair of the triumph of a righteous cause; let us ever see that we have strength in the memories of the past as well as in the hopes of the future. England has had a Marston Moor as Greece had a Marathon.

But while we survey, with mingled feelings of gratitude and exultation, the battle-field on which our predecessors won the victory of civilization, let us in mercy call the attention of modern wrong-doers to the fearful lesson of retribution imprinted on these prostrate castles and mouldering walls. It is as legible as the MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN, which predicted the approaching destruction of Babylon. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries the lords of the Rhenish castles were possessed of royal power; "the title of Burgrave," says Kohlrausch, "ranked next to that of King;" but their past determined their future; crime has a genealogy more certain than any preserved in the records of heraldry. Violence procures power, power begets profligacy, profligacy engenders corruption, and corruption is the parent of decay. Such has been ever the fixed law of descent; Nimrod was the ancestor of Sardanapalus. Injustice is doomed to destruction by a double fate: it is menaced from without and from within; it may obtain temporary triumphs over avowed foes, but then it is foredoomed to perish by its own offspring.

Victor Hugo seems disposed to push the parallel between the Titans and the Burgraves to an extreme which is not consistent either with the poetic character of the one, or the historic truth of the other. He has fallen into an error shared by many modern scholars that Æschylus, his great master, was an opponent of the popular cause in Athens because he everywhere evidences a passionate reverence for antiquity. This is an error of the same kind as the classing of the admirers of our old Saxon institutions with the defenders of the abuses of Norman feudalism. In the gods of Olympus Æschylus recognised a *new* oligarchy such as has been formed in England since the accession of the Tudors on the ruins of the nobility of the Plantagenets. He went back to the old Titans as a more just, a more placable, and a more popular dynasty; his greatest hero was the greatest foe to monopoly; it was because he struggled with the people and for the people that Prometheus was chained to the Caucasian rock. In that unparalleled exhibition of the powers of intellectual endurance, of mental energy triumphant over physical suffering, of the prospect of a bright but distant future countervailing present and immeasurable torture, all the sympathies of Æschylus go with the oppressed, all the intensities of his energies are directed against the monopolist. The great moral of the drama may be stated in few words: "Limits of duration are assigned to oppression, but justice is eternal."

In the character of Count Job, Victor Hugo has essayed to portray the Prometheus of guilt; he has, therefore, abandoned the chief feature in the character of the Æschylean creation, for the Prometheus Vinctus is an incarnation of rectitude. Milton, who moulded his Satan, to a great extent, on the Æschylean prototype, everywhere takes care to bring out the distinction between the resistance of the fallen Archangel and the upright Titan. He saw Æschylus did not present Jupiter as the type of Providence; for, in fact, Providence forms no element in the ideality of the Greek drama, its place there is occupied by Destiny. For the endurance of Prometheus, Hugo has substituted remorse—the remembrance of a fearful moment of guilt so vivid, that—

> "Though a long time ago, it is yesterday still."

The hoary bandit has no point of identity with the benevolent Titan beyond that of obstinacy; but it makes all the difference in the world whether the unbending will is the result of conscious rectitude or of obdurate guilt.

The catastrophe of the Burgraves in the drama is singularly inartistic, and is not less a violation of history. Frederick Barbarossa is evoked from his grave to pronounce the pardon of Count Job. Had the brave old emperor really survived his Syrian expedition, he would have acted a far different part; he would, as in the earlier period of his reign, have sent the titled plunderers to the gibbet, and left the ruins of their castles to be the sepulchres of their names, and the memorials of their crimes.

The Hand-book for the Piano-Forte. By J. A. Wade, Esq. London: Whittaker and Co.

This is one of the best works of musical instruction which has been brought under our notice; the author unites an earnest love of music with sound knowledge of the art, and has therefore given a life and animation to his lessons which relieve the dry and technical details of teaching. We think, however, that he overrates the value of his favourite instrument, and we are far from being disposed to recognise its popularity as a proof of its excellence.

EMPLOYMENT OF LABOURERS.—At the late meeting of the Arundel and Bramber Association, the chairman, the Duke of Norfolk, proposed to give a premium of £50 this time next year to "that farmer who shall have proved to the satisfaction of a committee that he has employed the greatest number of labourers, according to the size of his farm, during the ensuing winter." His grace added, "I offer this simply as an experiment for one year, and I trust it may be found to answer the purpose intended, and, if it do, I beg to call upon all my friends to join in the speculation. If it should answer, I shall most readily continue the premium."

AGRICULTURE.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO TENANT-FARMERS AND FARM-LABOURERS.

Although we are inundated with lengthy reports of the proceedings at agricultural associations and cattle shows, there is such a strong family likeness between the speeches made in one place and those delivered in another that we have not deemed it useful to reprint them. Yet there is much worthy of observation in the tone which pervades all these discourses. Public opinion has evidently begun to act upon the landowners, who are, with a few exceptions, the only speakers on these occasions. The truculent ridicule of the *Times*, and the sarcastic wit of the *Examiner*, have gone far to render these meetings a by-word and a jest. And fairly so; for nothing can be more absurd than the assertions of the squires as to the effect of such associations. Much is now said about improvements in husbandry, and the necessity of growing a large arceable produce; while "protection," if mentioned at all, is referred to with a proviso. Thus, Mr. Tollemache, M.P., at the *South Cheshire Agricultural Association*, said, "he would take the liberty of expressing a *strong* opinion, that though he was more than ever convinced of the absolute necessity of affording British agriculture every protection, *yet he was also no less convinced that their* [the farmers'] *prosperity mainly depended upon their own exertions.* They had a great and increasing population, whose wants must be supplied; and it was their duty, as agriculturists, to take care that the increase of the means of subsistence kept pace with that increasing population; and he spoke the more confidently on this point, because he was of opinion that, instead of that population being a burden on the soil, *the soil, if properly cultivated,* was capable of raising food for four times the amount that now existed upon it." This is a large qualification of the "absolute necessity of protection," and, as coming from a monopolist adherent of the Government, affords a tolerably plain indication that the pressure of public opinion is in operation.

So again, Lord Combermere, as chairman on the same occasion said:—"They need not be afraid of American cheese. They could easily get rid of it. The Americans could not make an article that could compete with the Cheshire, and he hoped they never would. *But the proper way to defeat them was to make better cheese than they.* The grumblers were those who made bad cheese, and who, consequently, could not get good prices." And the only practical remedies his lordship appears to have suggested was the abandonment of mechanical improvements lately introduced into the process of cheese-making, and a return to the inferior bread of longhorned cows!!! Nor could the noble chairman's offhand assurance that the American cheese could never compete with that of Cheshire afford much comfort to the cheese-makers present, for the judges of cheese, men practically engaged in the trade, distinctly stated that the American cheese did enter into direct competition with the inferior kinds of Cheshire cheese. Another of the judges told the farmers present, "that, unless they kept their land clean, they could not pay their rents." But why is not the land kept clean? Is it not from the expense required to clean strong land? Now, Cheshire is a county notorious for the inferiority of its husbandry, the wetness and heaviness of its soil, and the absurdity of the restrictions imposed by landlords upon the cultivators—circumstances not very favourable to competition with anybody. Yet not a word was uttered by the landowners which could imply an intention of doing their part towards the improvement of agriculture. Mr. Tollemache told them it was the duty of the agriculturists—meaning the tenant-farmers—to take care that food kept pace with population; but all he had to offer for that purpose was, the "good fellowship, praiseworthy emulation, and stimulus to mutual instruction," afforded by agricultural meetings. A slight glimpse of the necessities of Cheshire agriculture, however, appeared in the remarks of Mr. Carter, one of the "inspectors of farms," for he is reported to have "made some very sensible and pertinent remarks on the restrictions of tillage which exist in that county, *in obstruction of agricultural improvement;*" and stated, "that it was most injurious to the interests of the tenant-farmers that they should be confined to tilling a small portion of their farm. He was of opinion that the rotation of crops, to fully benefit the farmer and improve the land, should go through the whole of the farm, and not be confined to one section of it only." And he referred to the improved state of a particular farm as an example of the advantages of abandoning the old-fashioned restrictions.

The Cheshire tenants, however, are usually men of small capital, and the landowners seem afraid to trust them to break up old pasture land. Nor does the existing system of dairy farming in that county seem to be one likely to tempt men of capital to subject themselves to its annoyances; for Mr. Carter said, "He did not like the county to be so depreciated; therefore he stood up for the farmers. *Their wives were most industrious, and worked hard at the cheese*

vats from six in the morning till ten at night, which was a great contrast to the lady lives of the tillage farmers in the corn-growing countries." Now, a system of husbandry which requires the farmer's wife to work at a most laborious occupation for sixteen hours a day is not one which would induce men of ordinary intelligence or moderate capital to undertake Cheshire farms; and therefore it may be safely predicted that, unless the Cheshire landlords abandon their restrictions, they and their tenants must suffer great and constantly-increasing depression; and the longer the delusion of protection is kept up, the longer will their time of suffering be prolonged. And here we may mention that the competition with American cheese, to which the Cheshire farmers have recently been exposed, has not grown out of the new tariff or any change in the duty on cheese,—for the duty on foreign cheese remains unaltered, and no colonial cheese has been imported,—but simply from the increased importation of an old article of commerce. The nearest approach to a remedy was that of Lord Combermere, who *liberally* said—

"He could not say that Cheshire farming was as good as in any part of England, though the Cheshire farmers were going on improving. He hoped they would study both theory and practice; and if they did, they could not fail to accomplish as much as in other counties. In some districts, however, Providence had been more bountiful—*for in Cheshire the land was very wet*. He would say a word or two on draining. He was sorry to say, that what he and others did in this line, many years ago, was done injudiciously. He hoped, now that they were more enlightened, the draining would be done more effectually. *So anxious did he feel on this point, that he had proposed to Mr. Smith, of Deanston, the great draining authority, to come here to give a course of lectures; and he should be happy to have the attendance, not only of his own tenantry, but also of his neighbours.*"

Is not this something like inviting a parcel of hungry farm-labourers to look through a grating at a well-served feast? Something besides lectures on draining is required to enable farmers to drain their land. There must be security of tenure, steadiness of price, and self-reliance; which cannot coexist with the Corn Laws.

At *Tyneside Agricultural Show*, Mr. Bigge, who stated he was not a "practical agricultural man, though he was the son of one of the most successful agriculturists in Northumberland,"—"I am not the rose, though I dwelt near the rose," says the oriental poet,—also roundly called upon the farmers to drain; saying:—

"There could now be no doubt of the advantages which draining conferred upon clay land; it exceeded every expectation which had been formed of it, and there was no doubt that, if it were fully carried out, *so far from what was predicted by Cobden and the League, we would be able to support our own population with grain, and, in no short time, become an exporting instead of an importing country.*"

Now, the prediction of the Free-Traders with reference to draining and other improvements in agriculture is, that such is the capacity of our soil for increased production, that it may be practically deemed indefinite; but that so long as agriculture is hampered by protection, and the errors and burdens which grow out of it, such improvements will not and cannot become general.

Our limits will permit us only to refer to one other meeting, but that is an important one, for there a tenant-farmer fully laid bare the false pretences of the landowners at these agricultural meetings, and his sentiments were warmly applauded by a great majority of those present. The meeting we allude to is that of the *South Beds and North Herts Agricultural Association*, held at Luton, the Marquis of Bute in the chair. After the usual routine toasts and adjudication of prizes had taken place, Mr. T. Partridge, of Langrave, one of the judges, in returning thanks, said:—

"If he might be allowed also to trespass a moment upon general matters, he would venture to say, *that, if the aristocracy would come forward and hold out a prospect of liberal rents and long leases, the tenant-farmers would do very well*, and he hoped they would see the diabolical spirit which induced incendiarism extirpated."

This was a home-thrust, but it passed off without observation. Afterwards Mr. Brett, one of the stewards, said:—

"They (the agricultural associations) brought together the landlords and tenants; and, if these classes would pull fairly together, the tenants and labourers would yet see better times. The tenants were anxious to do all they could to meet the wants of the labourers, and follow the views of the landlords; *but they could not do this alone; they must be helped by their leaders.* He had, in his avocation, seen a good deal of agriculture, *and he was sure there was nothing wanting on the part of the tenants to make the land bear twice as much as it now did; but they must be helped by their landlords.* (Hear.) A great outlay was required for improvements, *and the benefit was not felt for three or four years; and really tenants were not in a condition to lay out the money without a stable guarantee.* He was at the St. Alban's agricultural meeting last week, and he heard Mr. Ryder speak, certainly very well."

This also, being general, was well received. Mr. William Bennett, a farmer and land-valuer, who has tried to make himself conspicuous as an advocate of the Corn Laws, in referring to incendiarism tried to show that it was not caused by deficient wages, and he attributed it to the "invention of the abominable lucifer matches." Such are the explanations the monopolists are driven to make!! The chairman subsequently proposed, "Prosperity to Agriculture;" and, as an indication of the feeling which is lurking in the minds of the farmers, a loud and general call was made upon Mr. Charles Lattimore, whose Free-Trade opinions were known to every man in the room, to respond to the toast.

Mr. Lattimore, after some time, having been induced to rise—

"Begged to assure the noble chairman and gentlemen present that the sentiment conveyed in the toast was engraven upon his heart. But he held the opinion *that the mere expression of good wishes, according to the mere fashionable custom of the day, was insufficient to promote it.* He believed that something more was requisite at the present time, when he knew from experience and incontrovertible evidence *that the capital of the tenant-farmer was sadly diminished.* (Cheers.) With respect to the indissoluble connexion between agriculture and commerce, referred to in an early part of the evening, he apprehended this was now so universally acknowledged, in consequence of the public advance in political economy, that no one appeared with the hardihood to decry it. (Cheers.) He was happy to perceive the great advance in intelligence upon this point. But he deemed it a duty on the present occasion to state openly that a question had been frequently put to him, viz., *for whose benefit and advantage are these agricultural associations established—for the landlords, or for the farmers and labourers?*

"Mr. W. Bennett: For all.

"Mr. Lattimore continued: He wished that all had the benefit, *but he doubted it.* (Hear.) He had not himself been able to give a satisfactory answer to the question, *and he hoped that the present meeting would solve the doubt.* (Cheers.) *For, until this matter was decided, these associations would continue to be viewed with great suspicion as mere machinery for enhancing the fixed burdens upon the land, whereby the energy and skill of the cultivator and the labourer would be proportionably deprived of their reward.*" (Cheers.)

Mr. Lattimore then referred to an old lease of a farm in his own parish, Wheathampstead, which had been granted for a term of 21 years, from 1748 to 1769, and from which it appeared that, while the rental had increased nearly 200 per cent., the fund for payment of labour had diminished; that the average price of wheat during the currency of that lease was 46s. 1d. per quarter, while the *Gazette* price of the past week was only 45s. 11d. This comparison was received with cheers and approbation. Mr. Lattimore then, in reference to Mr. Ryder's speech at St. Alban's, which had also been alluded to, *with approval*, by a former speaker, said:—

"That he felt that the farmers were degraded by honourable gentlemen *recommending them to do that which, with the ability, he knew they never lacked the will to do, viz., give employment to the labourers.* (Cheers.) And it was not a little singular to find gentlemen giving advice to the farmers as to their practical proceedings in husbandry, *who professed themselves so thoroughly unacquainted with the principles of agriculture as not to know how to benefit their own tenantry; yet would kindly proffer recommendations to the practical farmers.* (Cheers.) He thought there was something ludicrous in hearing one of their county members thus expressing his utter incompetency, yet proffering his advice respecting the quantity of seed-corn most desirable to be sown, and the necessity of saving the drainings from their farm-yards; *can advice thus given to a meeting of practical, and part sexagenarian, agriculturists, in the style of a mincing gentlewoman, be considered but as a sorry unpalatable remedy for the present depressed condition of the farmers* (cheers)? Would the landlords help them in reality? *would they pledge that they will not take advantage of improvements when they are made? would they guarantee leases? would they take care that the crops were not devoured by game? If so, then the landlords might come to these societies with sincerity, shake hands with the tenants, and go to help the labourer.*" (Cheers.)

Here poor Lord Bute, who had long been fretful and fidgetty, became furious, declared he would leave the chair, tried to stop Mr. Lattimore's remarks—which seem to have been *too much* to the point—and called upon the meeting to support the chair. The majority of the meeting, however, though duly oppressed by the presence of the great man, seemed more disposed to support Mr. Lattimore, who said:—

"He bowed to the chair, but he would add, *that if landlords were sincere they should give security to their tenants.* (A voice—"*No politics*," and great noise.) He was sure that all thinking people must admit that a *hopeless despair was not the thing to stimulate exertion.* (More noise.) *He could not be that hypocrite to support agriculture on any other than sound and just principles.*" (Cheers.)

The noble chairman, after rapidly giving one or two complimentary toasts, made his escape, when of course all the rest of the landlords likewise departed. But then occurred a most ludicrous scene. Mr. W. Bennett, the land-valuer, who was most conspicuous in reprobating Mr. Lattimore, and in trying to put him down by noise, stated that, "as a tenant-farmer, he fully concurred with Mr. Lattimore." This was too much for the audience; and after a few observations by Mr. Lattimore on Mr. Bennett's liberality "when the aristocracy was out of the room," the consistent valuer was fairly driven from the company by the scoffs and contemptuous jeers of the farmers. Mr. Brett also stated that he agreed with Mr. Lattimore.

It is impossible that the diversity which really exists between the farmers and the landowners can be more strongly marked than it was on this occasion, or that a more complete exposure of the delusive character of most of the agricultural societies' meetings could have been made.

THE GAME LAWS.—MORE HELP FOR THE HOME OFFICE.

Notwithstanding the official notification put forth through the agency of the *Morning Herald*, we had from the first serious doubts as to the good faith of the Ministerial intention to reform the game laws. We still entertain those doubts, for it is quite obvious that the magistrates, who were so emphatically cautioned to temper the administration of the forest code during the present autumn with "mercy," feel that the Home-office injunction is mere moonshine, else such scenes as those it is our duty to record could not have occurred. If there is one district more notorious than any other in England for the frequency of convictions for "offences against the game laws," and the severity with which those offences are visited upon the half-starved offenders, it is Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire; and if there be any two persons whose names are more frequently connected with these crimes than any others, they are the Duke of Buckingham and the Rev. George Chetwode, *his* clerical magistrate. These game preservers have not mitigated the fierceness of their prosecution of poachers; they understand the influences at the Home-office too well to heed its make-belief cautions. And mark the iniquity of the system which the following cases indicate:—At the *Ashendon* petty sessions, on the 23rd of September, in the presence of Mr. T. T. Bernard and Mr. John Stone, both game preservers, and the Revs. George Chetwode (a most inveterate game preserver) and T. Martyn, as magistrates, the following cases are reported to have occurred:—

"The Game Laws.—Lawrence Eborn, a quiet, inoffensive-looking man, a labourer, belonging to Oakley, was charged, on the oath of Jacob Saunders, of Chilton (*a looker-out for the Rev. George Chetwode*), with having, at about four o'clock in the morning of the 15th of September, used a snare for the destruction of game on land occupied by George Mortimore, in the parish of Oakley. Saunders said, 'I, and Thomas Edwards, of Chilton (*another of Mr. Chetwode's lookers-out*), were watching some snares during the night of the 14th; at about four o'clock on Sunday morning the 15th, Eborn came up, knelt down, and untied the string of a snare; the snare had not caught; we then immediately took him, while he was kneeling; am sure he untied the snare, but do not know what became of it; other snares were set in the locality; took him in custody to Chilton; he went very willingly; when at Chilton I allowed him to go back home; he said he hoped I would do what I could in his favour, for he had never caught a hare on Mr. Chetwode's liberty in his life; *never saw him out before; he has a large family, and I believe it is his first offence.*' Eborn cried and begged for mercy. He told the magistrates he had had thirteen children, had now four alive, three of whom were at home, the youngest being an infant. *He had only had ten days' work for the last month, was never before a magistrate before, was in great distress, and his children had not a bit of bread to eat.*—Mr. Stone said no farmer would employ a poacher if he could help it, unless it was in harvest or hay time. *Night poaching was poaching in its worst form;* for the offence of which he stood convicted he was liable to three months' imprisonment; *but, as it appeared to be the first time he had been brought before them, his sentence was six weeks' imprisonment, with hard labour in the house of correction, and at the end of that time to enter into a £10 surety himself, with two other sureties in £5 each, or one in £10, for his good behaviour for 12 months;* and in default of his so doing, then to be further imprisoned for six months!"

Here we find Mr. George Chetwode, the clerical game-preserver, sitting as a judge upon a poor half-starved peasant caught by his (the magistrate's) keepers in his own preserves; and then assisting to inflict a fearful and cruel sentence upon the offender. Upon this case the *Aylesbury News* observes:—

"Mr. Stone intimated that Eborn's want of labour was because he was considered a poacher. This we do not believe. He has never borne the character of a poacher; *and we know that some of the farmers of Oakley detest the game-preserving doctrines of Mr. Stone, from the ravages done by the hares and other wild animals and birds of the 'game' class.* Again, it is notorious that for the greater part of the year not more than half the labourers of Oakley can find employment at the hands of the farmers; and those with large families, and whose support in the poorhouse would be expensive, are many of them set to work on the roads at miserable starvation-point wages—the highest wages being seven shillings per week! *At these wages Eborn was employed during the winter.* Those with small families, and whose expenses, if in the house, would not be so severe, are, in many instances, told to do as they can. Then comes misery: we have witnessed it. The workhouse is, in many instances, avoided till the circumstances of the poor wretches become desperate. We have been informed, by a person likely to know, *that Eborn and his family have of late been half-starved, and that he is a man of good character.* The misery at Oakley would be greater than it is, were it not that Mr. Henley and others let portions of land in small allotments."

We believe the farmers in the neighbourhood of Oakley do not object to a man merely because he is a poacher, for not many weeks since we received a pamphlet, industriously circulated in that district *by the farmers*, in which

the evils of the game laws are admirably summed up. To the tract we shall have occasion hereafter to refer. Now we must proceed with the practical illustrations of those evils offered in Buckinghamshire. Here the Duke of Buckingham is the prosecutor, Mr. Chetwode sustaining the character of judge only :—

"William Slade, a roughly-clad, *hungry-looking* young man, of Waddesdon, was charged by Edward Guntrip, one of the Duke of Buckingham's gamekeepers, with having, on the 12th of September, shot at a covey of partridges, with intent to kill them. George Tarry, one of the Duke's lookers-out, was called to prove the charge. He declared that, about twelve o'clock on the day in question, he was in Mr. Deeley's field, and saw Slade, who was in Mr. King's 'mead,' shoot at a covey of partridges. He was not 100 yards from him. Slade denied the charge, and called George Tack, who said that, at the time stated, he was at the gate in the middle of Mr. King's ground, when a gun was fired into the hedge, but not at the birds, which were behind the person who fired the gun; who the person was he could not say. *While this witness was giving evidence, Tarry interrupted him in an unfair way, which should not have been allowed. Mr. Chetwode said the bench considered the offence proved; and as this was not Slade's first offence,* the sentence was, that he pay a fine of £5, and 10s. costs forthwith, and in default, three months' imprisonment. Slade was committed. Mr. Chetwode said, if the extreme penalties had been sought for, he (Slade) might have been imprisoned for nearly twelve months, in default of the payment of about £30. He was liable to a £20 penalty and costs, or six months' imprisonment; then, for trespass, to £2 penalty and costs, or two months' imprisonment; and then to the £5 penalty and costs, or three months' imprisonment."

So in the next case the Duke is the *complainant*. We use the word for lack of another, though it suggests unpleasant recollections of the tale of "The Wolf and the Lamb" :—

"Thomas Ridgeway, a young man of Haddenham, was charged by the above Edward Guntrip with having shot at a hare, on the 20th of September, in the parish of Haddenham. The above George Tarry was called to prove the charge. He said that between eleven and twelve o'clock on the day in question he was on Mr. J. Langdon's farm, and he saw Ridgeway and Slade; Ridgeway shot at a hare with a gun, but did not kill it; and that both of them ran after it, he at the time of shooting being about 70 yards from Ridgeway. The prisoner denied the offence, and said he was at the time at work for Mr. Wm. Berry; and called Tacks, who said he was at work with the prisoner at the time. Under these circumstances the case was adjourned for a week."

On the following week, the 30th of September, *the Revs. George Chetwode*, T. Martyn, and J. S. Baron, and T. T. Bernard, Esqrs., being the administrators of forest law :—

"Thomas Botley, a young man of Grendon Underwood, was brought up, '*handcuffed*,' by the Brill constables, and placed at the bar in that state, charged, on the information of Thomas Plested, of Chilton, *one of the Rev. George Chetwode's gamekeepers*, with having, on the 18th of October last, at Boarstall, used a gun for the destruction of game, whereby he had forfeited a sum not exceeding 35. Botley had been apprehended, *by warrant signed by the Rev. T. Martyn*, on the previous day (Sunday), at his father's house at Grendon. Prisoner denied the offence. Thos. Hopcraft, of Arncott, a looker-out for the Rev. George Chetwode, deposed to his having seen the prisoner, between six and seven o'clock in the morning of the day in question, shoot a hare in 'Barn-ground,' Boarstall, in the occupation of William Blake; was sure it was him; another man who was with him picked up the hare and put it in a bag; when he fired witness was not more than fifty or sixty yards from him. Prisoner said it was not him; he was innocent of this; he had two brothers, and they were all so much alike that a person could hardly tell them apart when close together; he was not there at the time, and the man who had sworn to him had sworn to the wrong; *when he was guilty he did not mind suffering, but he did not like to suffer for that which he had not done;* it was so long ago, or he might have brought witnesses to prove where he was at the time; his brother had told him that he was there, but he said that Hopcraft was further off than he had said he was. *It appeared that the prisoner had been previously convicted of an offence against the game laws. Sentenced to pay a fine of £5, and 10s. costs, forthwith, and in default, three months' imprisonment in the house of correction, with hard labour. Botley said he had not been summoned, nor had he seen the warrant by which the parties now said they apprehended him.* Stuchfield said he told him he had a warrant when he went to apprehend him, and that he should have read it, but the resistance immediately offered by the prisoner, his father, mother, wife, and sister, was such that it was impossible to do so. *Botley was committed to prison forthwith.*"

Here the Rev. Mr. Martyn grants the warrant, and concurs with his brother clerical justice in the vindictive punishment of this poor labourer. But this is not all, for the prisoner's family, stung beyond endurance by the injustice of the law and apparent informality with which its myrmidons executed its behests, resisted the capture of poor Botley. The result is thus reported :—

Martha Botley, an elderly female (the mother of the above prisoner), Martha Botley (his wife, who had an infant in her arms), and Elizabeth Botley (his sister), were next brought into the chamber, charged by Henry Stuchfield with having, on the previous day, assaulted him, and with having endeavoured to rescue the above Thomas Botley from his custody. The mother appeared to be a very determined woman; the sister sobbed loudly, and appeared to be in hysterics. From the statement of Stuchfield and Thomas Goddard, who had acted as his assistant, it appeared that, on their going to apprehend the above prisoner, he, with his father and the three prisoners offered a violent resistance, beat the complainants with stones, &c., and endeavoured to rescue the young man. The mother, who spoke with much energy, declared that the daughter did not interfere; *that the two men who came to take her son did not produce either summons or warrant; that one of them (Goddard) merely said he had got 'a bit of paper,' which was the reason why she tried to prevent her son from being 'torn to pieces;' that the complainants kicked her about shamefully.* The wife said she stood in her husband's defence, and did not take up a stone till she had been kicked. *Mr. Chetwode said constables must be protected in the execution of their duty.* If Stuchfield merely said that he had a warrant to apprehend the man, that was sufficient: if he apprehended without a warrant, he was amenable to the law. This was a serious charge, one which they could not deal with summarily, but which must be sent to the quarter session. *It was notorious that the whole family set the law at defiance.* It was a distressing case; he should be sorry to commit them all for trial, but he could not see what else could be done, unless they could find bail for their appearance. *The wife of the young man said she had two children, and at times they had not a bit of bread for two days together.* The mother said her husband, when at work on the road, had 6s. per week. The parties were liberated on entering into a bond for their appearance at the quarter session. *Mr. Chetwode said a warrant would be forthwith issued against Daniel Botley, the father, and if resistance were again offered, they would be deeper in the mire than before.*"

On this occasion Ridgeway's case, which had been adjourned the previous week, was gone into. Ridgeway did not appear, and the farmer for whom he had alleged that he was at work at the time of the offence, sent to say that that was not true.

"It was stated to the bench that Ridgeway had been *twice before imprisoned for game-law offences;* and he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, in default of the payment of a penalty of £5, with costs, 10s."

No one who has read the foregoing reports will be surprised that the man did not appear, for it is plain that prosecution and conviction for game-law offences are convertible terms; and a labourer who had been "twice imprisoned for game-law offences" knew that for him there was no mercy. This man, then, has been compelled to become a starving vagabond; will it not be wonderful if he does not become a desperate criminal?

AGRICULTURAL SALES.

Judging from the large number of agricultural Michaelmas sales advertised in some of the country papers, the farming interest under the Corn Laws, and notwithstanding an abundant harvest, would appear to be at a very low ebb. In the *Norwich Mercury* of the 21st and 28th of September, and 5th of October, we find not less than 140 sales of farming stock; and in the *Suffolk Chronicle* of the 28th of September and 5th of October, 73. The following is a summary for Norfolk and Suffolk :—

	Horses.	Neat Cattle.	Sheep and Lambs.	Swine.
Norfolk.....	1277	1722	13,075	1946
Suffolk.....	443	474	2729	873

While the above figures include, to some extent, stock sold in the ordinary course of business, or in consequence of the deaths of occupying tenants, in other cases the stock is not enumerated; so that the figures, all things considered, fall rather below than above the actual amount advertised by parties quitting or who have quitted their farms. Besides farming stock, the sales include an abundance of farming implements and household furniture.

Cotton Grown in Cheshire.—On Wednesday se'nnight, a fine specimen of Sea Island cotton was exhibited in the Exchange news-room. It was grown by Mr. Maury, at his residence in Liscard, and the specimen exhibited consisted of two bulbs, one open, exhibiting beautiful cotton, the other closed. The cotton looked so natural, so much like a sample taken from a bag, that several gentlemen refused to believe that it belonged to the plant to which it was attached; and one of them was so pertinacious in his scepticism, that Mr. Jones tore open the closed bulb, and exhibited to his astonishment similar cotton in its natural prison. Mr. Maury, we believe, will be glad to show the cotton tree to any gentleman calling. It is kept in a temperature of about 80°.—*Liverpool Journal.*

Public Parks and Baths for the People.—Some attention has been directed within the last few years to the adoption of an improved sanitory system with reference to the dwellings of the less wealthy classes occupying large towns. Parks for their recreation have been commenced in Manchester, London, and other extensive congregations of the human family. One of the earliest benefactors to the working classes in this respect was the late Mr. Strutt, of Derby, who set apart for the recreation of the inhabitants of that town some twelve or twenty acres (we think it was) as an arboretum. Magnificent donations have been made towards the proposed Manchester Parks, as large a sum, we perceive, as twenty thousand guineas being now subscribed for that purpose. Another eminent benefactor of his fellow species in this respect was the late Sir John Ramsden, who has left a large sum by will for the improvement of the borough of Huddersfield. It is only a few months since that extensive baths were begun in Edinburgh for the comfort of those who are not able to pay dearly for that wholesome luxury. The foundation of the new works was laid with all due pomp, the noble, the dignified, and the wealthy combining to give eclat to the proceedings. We are glad to find that London is at length awakening from its slumbers on this point, and that the Lord Mayor, acting on the requisition of some of our most eminent bankers and merchants—amongst whom we find foremost the Governor of the Bank of England, the Rothschilds, Baringe, Gurneys, Wigrams, Hoares, Goldsmiths, &c. &c.—has named an early day for holding a public meeting within the Mansion-house, "for the purpose," as they express it in their requisition, "of promoting the establishment of warm and cold baths and washing-houses for the labouring classes." We hope a numerous attendance of those whose wealth and public spirit enable and induce them to do good to their fellow beings will demonstrate that they are not void of sympathy for those who have hitherto been denied the means of furnishing themselves with that which is almost an indispensable requisite for the due maintenance of health—a cold or warm bath.—*Globe.*

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

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POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, October* 12, 1844.

Cheap food has produced its natural result, an increased revenue. The monopolists declared that a high price for corn was essential to the prosperity of the country; but facts have demonstrated that when provisions are dear commerce decays, and the income derived from commerce is of course diminished. We have not had Free-Trade in corn, but an abundant harvest has alleviated the evils of artificial scarcity, and allowed larger scope to the industrial energies of the country. The wages of labour have risen as food has fallen; and thus the gross fallacy of the "Quarterly Review," presented to the world in the form of an algebraic axiom,

Cheap Bread=Low Wages,

has been decisively refuted by undeniable and irresistible facts. The increase on the excise is the consequence of improved wages; it would have been greater but for the increasing diffusion of temperate habits among the people. Still we have not yet attained that height of financial prosperity which we had reached in 1836, and the revenue does not present such a result as should induce us to relax in our efforts for commercial freedom, which can alone afford security for the permanence of even our present degree of prosperity. Our population is too great, our political position too critical, for further dependence on the precarious chances of a variable climate and uncertain harvests. Now that we are just emerging from a period of severe depression, it behoves us to take precautions against the probable, or rather the almost certain, recurrence of a similar crisis. A new race of operatives is coming into existence, immigration into the manufacturing districts is rapidly on the increase; the Legislature will, therefore, incur a fearful responsibility if it leaves to the chance of the weather the means of support for these accumulated and accumulating masses. Another period of scarcity would bring a crisis the results of which no man can calculate. The present state of comparative prosperity is on all hands admitted to be the result of comparative abundance and consequent cheapness of food; our rulers are, therefore, without excuse if they again expose us to the perils of artificial scarcity.

We take the following abstract of the state of the revenue from the *Times* :—

"The return of the Quarter's Revenue has one distinguishing feature of a most cheering description—an increase in the Customs—compared with the corresponding period of 1843, on the year of £1,723,165, and on the quarter of £473,347. This is the true pivot of our national prosperity, and is the more gratifying when the bold reductions are considered which the Minister was encouraged to make when supported by so grand a reserve as the property-tax. Swift's remark, that in the arithmetic of the customs two and two do not always make four, could not have a more apt and definite application. In this case Sir Robert Peel's subtraction has been turned into addition, and he has proved finance to be his stronghold, whatever errors are to be found in his general system of policy.

"A trifling decrease in the Excise on the quarter is to be ascribed rather to growing habits of temperance in the lower orders than to any diminution of means. It will bear, in fact, no other construction, for activity reigns in almost all the departments of trade, and the wages of labour in the manufacturing districts have probably doubled in amount within the past year.

"It is consolatory also, and another good omen, to find that the Post-office—the great accumulation of pennies—has advanced £82,000 on the year, and no less than £40,000 on the quarter.

"The property-tax, which shows an increase of £106,413 on the year, and a decrease of £89,193 on the quarter, may be said to have found its level, and to provoke no remark, except to hope that, under circumstances of such promising augury, we may soon get rid of it. In the present account is to be seen, moreover, the effect of the judicious application of the surplus revenue in paying off deficiency bills; only about £2,500,000 will be wanted to meet the charge on the Consolidated Fund for the quarter just ended.

"The total increase of the revenue for the year is £1,395,349, and on the quarter £520,014. But for the disadvantageous effect of the strange item termed "miscellaneous," which has no proper place in this account, the increase on the year would have been returned at about £2,160,000."

ARRIVAL OF THE KING OF THE FRENCH.

(From the *Morning Post.*)

In whatever point of view it may be estimated, the arrival of Louis Philippe will have a marked place in our chronicles. For ages no kings of France have visited our shores, unless driven away from their kingdom, like our Kings Charles and James. Whilst all the great potentates of Europe have experienced the hospitality of this country, no King of France has received on our shores the greeting due to his rank—the homage cheerfully tendered to a great reigning sovereign—unless it were the chivalric King Jean, when he came to surrender himself a prisoner

to admiring enemies, after his liege had refused to fulfil the conditions upon which he was liberated from durance. The visit of our gracious Sovereign to Louis Philippe last year, considering the sex, the power of the august visitor, and through its thoroughly amicable intention, and the political results that must naturally follow, has obliterated all the chivalrous splendour of the Field of the Cloth of Gold, and imposed upon the King of the French the obligation, as a man and a sovereign, to return the compliment as early as might be. Such being the circumstances, it is of course with feelings of deep satisfaction that we announce that King Louis Philippe has just reached our shores with such splendid accompaniments, both on his and our part, as should herald the arrival of a great king, and such mutual courtesy and friendliness as cannot but improve the reciprocal feelings of the two nations. We must now hastily record the circumstances.

At Portsmouth, at six o'clock on Monday evening, a French steamer, and next a brig of war, hove in sight, and it was soon discovered that the latter was the Royale Amélie, King Louis Philippe's sailing yacht, preceding the squadron of steamers escorting the King. It was found to be commanded by the Comte d'Harcourt, who had his noble father, the Duc d'Harcourt, with him on board. The Captain immediately came ashore, and waited on the Admiral, to whom he announced that King Louis Philippe would embark at Tréport on Monday, between seven and eight o'clock p.m., and would probably reach Portsmouth between ten and eleven o'clock the following morning. However, at six o'clock, a.m., Tuesday, the whole town of Portsmouth, as well as the diplomatic and consular authorities who had come down to receive the King of the French, were awakened from their sleep by loud reports of artillery. The town, in a moment, became the scene of the most amusing hurry and confusion, which lasted until it became known that the battery ashore was saluting the Ambassador of France, and the Royale Amélie, the Admiral's flag—this having been omitted on the previous evening, as it is against military etiquette to fire salutes after sunset. The calm which ensued was not of long duration. Hardly had the townspeople and the authorities finished their *toilette* and taken their breakfast, before the guns of the Queen, 110 gun-ship, at Spithead, began to boom in the distance, announcing the coming in sight of the squadron of the eagerly-expected Sovereign. This occurred at a quarter to eight, and King Louis Philippe might have arrived much earlier. The wind and the weather were so fine and favourable that he neared our shores at seven o'clock, but knowing that his Royal Highness Prince Albert would not reach Portsmouth until nine or ten o'clock, the steam squadron was ordered to stand out to sea once more. The firing of the Queen brought out the three regiments of the line and the division of Royal Marines from their quarters, with their bands playing and colours flying, whilst the whole population thronged the beach. This general movement, combined with the display of flags streaming in every direction in the town, and covering the yachts and ships of war in the port, presented a scene of animation beyond all power of description. Every moment this scene increased in interest. The French squadron came on slowly and majestically, each ship of war saluting as it advanced, and each battery in turn taking up the salute; the climax, however, was when the armed steamers entered the harbour; then the cheers of the population on the shores, and of the sailors who manned the yards, struggled in intensity of sound with the reports of the cannon fired by the batteries, by the Excellent, and by the Victory (Nelson's renowned ship), moored within the harbour. Whilst the French steam squadron was coming to the moorings which Admiral Lasusse, its commander, had fixed upon a few days previously, the troops took up their position. They were disposed in two lines, each three deep, from the Royal Dockyard to the railroad terminus. At the inner and outer gates of the railroad station at Gosport, and in other favourable spots along the line of the royal progress, tasteful triumphal arches of laurel and other evergreens, with complimentary mottoes, had been erected. From the moment she anchored, the Gomer, which bore his Majesty, was an object of riveted attention; round her crowded every disposable boat or small craft about the port, whilst the most distant spectators examined her with their telescopes. Nor was this steam-frigate unworthy of their curiosity. She presented an aspect at the same time imposing and interesting. Her form is admirable, the wide expanse of her spotless deck, her masts, yards, and rigging show she has been the pet handiwork of the French shipwrights, and that she is the favourite of her captain and crew, who manœuvred her in silence, and with a most seaman-like celerity and ease. Below she has all the character of a floating palace—the drawing-rooms are as convenient as they are magnificent; that in which the King received his visitors has its sides lined with crimson velvet; whilst in every direction you behold tables of the rarest woods, and luxurious *causeuses* and sofas lined with yellow satin. On the deck could be easily discovered, on one side, the French Marines in their peculiarly picturesque uniforms, with their officers and the band of the Prince de Joinville at their head; the aides-de-camp of the King, Generals Athalin, de Rumigny, the Colonel Count de Chabannes; Captain Thiers attending the young Prince; the physician, Dr. Fouquier; the surgeon of the King, M. Pasquier; his secretary, Baron Fain; the Commissary-General of Havre, &c., all in splendid uniforms of bright and of different colours, were constantly seen crossing and re-crossing, ascending and descending, in the execution of orders. Amidst these moving groups were conspicuous the slight and elegant figure of the Admiral in command, M. Lasusse; the burly giant form of Admiral Mackau, with his aides-de-camp Captains Pellon and Page standing behind him; nor was the more diminutive figure of the great Minister of France, M. Guizot, the least anxiously observed. The personage who, however, perhaps attracted the greatest admiration was his Royal Highness the young Duke de Montpensier, above the middle height, with a noble countenance. This youthful prince (nineteen years of age) combines a handsome appearance and a manly bearing with a gracefulness of the most striking character.

As soon as the Gomer had anchored, Sir Charles Rowley sent a boat to take aboard the French *corps diplomatique*, which consisted of the Ambassador (his Excellency the Comte de Ste. Aulaire), the Counts de Jarnac and de Noailles, the Baron de Talleyrand, MM. de Rabaudy, de la Balinaye, &c. Hardly had they been introduced to their royal master than the corporation of Portsmouth came aboard to present their address. Their ingress created much amusement amongst the crowd, not from any disrespect to the mace-bearer and the beadles, the mayor and the aldermen, but because their numbers were so increased by curious gentlemen termed liverymen for the occasion, that their line of march was interminable, and their visit had more the appearance of an attack than a compliment. They, however, received a most gracious reception, and a splendid extempore answer to their effusions of eloquence. By this time the two Admirals, General Sir Hercules Pakenham, Captain Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence, and several naval officers, had arrived on board, and were presented to the King in the presence-chamber below. Next came the French consular body, consisting of M. de St. Andre, consul-general; M. de Gautier, his *chancellier*; M. Laisne, consul at Liverpool; M. de Serres, at Edinburgh; and M. Dillon, at Newcastle. After these presentations all further visitors were excluded from the royal presence, and the King was left to enjoy his privacy, and, probably, to write letters to his relations at Eu, which, we heard, one of the smaller steamers was to convey to the coast of France. At half-past ten the arrival of his Royal Highness Prince Albert at the railway terminus was signalled. All the officers and dignitaries aboard the Gomer were then assembled on the deck. The King and his son shortly after appeared from below, and the approach of the Prince was announced by the shouts and cheers of the crowd. In an instant the yards of the Gomer were manned by the crew, and flags as suddenly displayed from all points. The Prince reached the main-deck closely followed by the Duke of Wellington, who came as lord-lieutenant of the county to compliment the King. His Majesty embraced Prince Albert *à la Française*, and repeatedly shook hands most cordially with the Duke of Wellington, which raised the most deafening shouts amongst the crowds in the boats surrounding the Gomer. Without descending to the saloon, the King and the Princes immediately proceeded to the railway terminus. The Admiral's barge, containing only Louis Philippe, his son, Prince Albert, and the Duke of Wellington, started for the shore, the band of the Gomer playing "God save the Queen," and the sailors who manned the yards shouting "Vive le Roi," to which the crew of the Victory responded by hearty British cheers, both ships at the same time firing royal salutes. The *coup d'œil* at this moment was magnificent. The Princes, with their brilliant suites, were seen steering across the harbour to Clarence Dockyard, the well-plied oars of the crews of the Admiralty barges keeping time to the music of the bands. The regiments were seen on the quay drawn up in military array, with the staff of the General Commanding at their head. The water was covered with boats, amidst which the ships of war reared their giant forms, while the shores were covered with crowds in their holiday suits. On the one side, you beheld in the background the renowned naval dockyard, presenting a tableau like Canaletti's magnificent picture of Venice Arsenal. On the other side were seen Portsmouth, the entrance to the haven, and the Isle of Wight in the distance. To the effect of these objects must be added the shouts of the crowds, the cheers of the sailors, the ringing of bells from every steeple, and the booming of cannon from every ship and battery. Through the double line of the military, the King, Princes, and suites were soon wafted by the royal carriages to the terminus. There but little delay intervened before their departure; and the cheers of the ladies and gentlemen assembled were so constant that all we could overhear was the observation of the royal traveller that the present was his first journey by a railroad.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.—The *Moniteur* of Tuesday contains the names of the 59 political prisoners liberated in virtue of the royal ordinance of the 4th inst. They are for the most part obscure persons, implicated in the insurrection of the 12th and 13th of May, 1839, in Paris; in the Republican plot of Marseilles; the expedition of Louis Napoleon to Boulogne; and the attempt of Quenisset against the lives of the Dukes of Orleans and Aumale.

The *Journal des Débats* publishes a letter from Cadiz of the 25th ult., mentioning the complete evacuation of the island of Mogadore by the French, and the arrival at Cadiz of the garrison and the remainder of the squadron. The Moorish envoy sent from Tangier, in the Cuvier, to inform his countrymen of the conclusion of peace, was unable to meet in the town a single inhabitant to whom he could communicate that pleasing intelligence. Ever since the bombardment, Kabyle marauders daily entered Mogadore to search for booty among its ruins. On the 12th, these plunderers accidentally set fire to a mine, which had been opened under one of the forts, commanding the channel between the island and town, and the battery situate at the gate of the Marine. The latter was blown up by the Moors; but, the fuse leading to the powder magazine under the fort having been extinguished, no explosion took place. On the 12th the French garrison was awoke by the report of an explosion which completely destroyed that fort.

CALAIS, Oct. 6.—Doctor Thorne, an English surgeon, who had been drinking on Saturday night in company with M. Sailor, commissioner of police for passports, while on his way with the latter to his office, had a quarrel with him, when M. Sailor stabbed him to the heart with a poignard. Dr. Thorne died instantly. The murderer was immediately taken into custody, and now awaits his trial.

A strange fact occurred at the late fair of Arlon—no purchasers presented themselves at it. All the country people of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg applied to defray the expenses of a journey to Treves, to see the famous robe of Christ, the savings which they usually devoted to amusement and purchases at this fair.

CORN TRADE.—The *Moniteur* publishes the returns of the corn trade in France, from which it appears that the quantity of wheat imported during the month of August last amounted to 1,600,477 metrical quintals, whilst the exports amounted to 47,917 metrical quintals, and the stock remaining in the bonded stores on the 1st of September last amounted to 56,214 metrical quintals.

UNPLEASANT AFFAIR AT GIBRALTAR, Oct. 2.—A circumstance occurred yesterday, shortly after the departure of the Great Liverpool, which has caused no little sensation in this place, and will doubtless induce severe comment, if not disagreeable consequences, on the part of the Spanish authorities. A Spanish war-schooner, in close chase of a coasting vessel (whether or not engaged in the contraband trade is unknown), passed Europa Point yesterday afternoon, about three o'clock; when having failed to show her colours, as is always customary, as well as imperative, in such cases, a shot was fired over her from the signal battery, to remind those on board of the neglected observance. This failing to produce the desired effect, a second gun was fired with more direct aim; but as the Spanish vessel found herself considerably out of range of the shot, she continued her course, disregarding both intimations and (it is currently reported) still refusing to show her colours. A gun of much greater calibre was then brought to bear on her from the battery, when so correct was its direction that the shot told with fatal effect, and she sunk shortly afterwards, whilst vainly endeavouring to make for Algesiras. Very fortunately a Portuguese vessel was not far distant, and with its timely aid, as well as some of the boats of the war vessels in the bay, the crew were saved.—*Herald.*

LEIPSIC FAIR.—Accounts from the Leipsic fair to the close of last month give a favourable statement of the business doing there as far as it had progressed, although the supplies of cloth fabrics were very large. The railroads were bringing an immense number of persons to this great trading locality; and will, no doubt, have a wonderful effect hereafter in sustaining the importance of the fair, which, notwithstanding its advantages, scarcely offered a sufficient temptation to merchants to undertake the ordinary stage journey. The demand for calico, cloth, and cotton manufactures was brisk.

THE JEWS OF POSEN.—We learn from Posen, 25th ult., that a strong spirit of persecution on the part of the inhabitants generally against the Jewish inhabitants having been manifested, the authorities have received orders from the Government to give all possible protection to the Jews, and to punish with severity persons who are guilty of this persecution.

BADEN.—The Minister of Finance of Baden has published an order, dated the 14th ult., by which the importation of coals is to be free from the 1st instant.—*Galignani.*

SWEDEN.—Letters from Stockholm of the 24th ult. represent nearly all the Swedish provinces to have suffered severely from inundations, but in the greatest degree the country bordering on the river Roeyo, which rose 13 feet in less than an hour, rushing in torrents upon the large village of Konradsfont and its environs, which were quickly submerged; sweeping away all the houses and factories, and 22 windmills, and, in fact, leaving nothing but a mass of ruins. About 500 persons are said to have perished, and the loss of property is estimated at 800,000 rix-dollars, 1,200,000 francs. Subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers have been opened at Stockholm, at the head of which stand the names of the King and Queen, with considerable contributions annexed.—*Paris paper.*

The *Journal du Havre* states that accounts have been received by the India mail of the murder of the captain and two of the crew of the French merchant vessel l'Indien, by the natives of one of the islands in the Gulf of Bengal. The captain and two men had left the vessel in a boat to take soundings of the coast, and not returning, they were sought for by the rest of the crew, who found them lying murdered on the shore, and stripped of their clothing.

TAHITI.—There arrived at Falmouth on Saturday, the bark Arachne, from Sydney, New South Wales, whence she sailed on the 6th of June for London. She landed here her mails and passengers, among the latter of whom was Lieutenant Rose, of her Majesty's sloop Hazard, who is the bearer of some important intelligence to the Government, in connexion with a fresh outrage committed on the British flag at Tahiti, on the 4th of April, by the French commodore, Bruat, in command at that island. From what we can gather, it appears that the Hazard, Commander Bell, on her passage from the Sandwich Islands to Sydney, received instructions from Admiral Thomas, of her Majesty's ship Dublin, lying at the former port, to touch at Tahiti, with despatches for the acting British Consul there. At the same time Captain Bell was specially charged by the admiral not to recognise the French authority in the execution of this mission. Accordingly, on the date above-mentioned, the Hazard arrived off Tahiti, and having despatched a boat and four hands, under the command of Lieutenant Rose, to her Majesty's ship Basilisk, lying at anchor in the roadstead, they were interrupted in their passage thither by a large armed barge belonging to one of the French frigates, the officer on board of which stated that he had orders to take the British boat and crew to his commodore. This act Lieutenant Rose protested against, when, the French being about to use force, Lieutenant Rose at once surrendered his sword, and stated that he considered himself their prisoner. They were then taken alongside the French frigate and detained some hours, after which they were released and allowed to go on shore, the French admiral afterwards sending an apology to Commander Bell, of the Hazard, for the interruption. On Lieutenant Rose's return to the Hazard, she immediately sailed for Sydney; and we understand Lieutenant Rose has come home expressly with despatches to the Admiralty, detailing the affair.—*Times.*

WEST INDIES.—The West India files received on Monday convey intelligence of a very decided shock of earthquake felt in several of the islands, Jamaica excepted, but more especially in Demerara, being also violent in Barbadoes. Fortunately, however, no particular damage appears to have been done, as far as is known, although it is feared that in the direction of Caracoas, famous for volcanoes, the effects may have been more severe. Writing from Demerara, eye-witnesses state that the wind, which usually blows from the east, deviated on the 29th of August in a most uncommon manner, and that in the night a tempest of thunder and lightning, of a very alarming character, forewarned the inhabitants of the awful visitation. At half-past three in the morning the shocks commenced, lasting no less than three minutes; and although no buildings were destroyed or lives lost, small fissures were made even in the alluvial soil of Demerara; and the reverberation of waterspouts, &c., was so violent, that by the mere force of swinging, and without the vessels themselves being overturned, they were found nearly emptied of their contents when the shocks subsided. The prison, built on a rock, was shaken to a most alarming extent, and the prisoners were clamorous for temporary release. In the town some of the most accurate clocks were found stopped the next morning. As usual, preparatory to occurrences of this nature, the weather previously was very sultry. In

Trinidad the earthquake was also felt, and in Barbadoes it was very violent, the people running out of their houses in affright.

DOMESTIC.

Mr. Bright, M.P. for Durham, has, without the slightest solicitation, generously sent the sum of £50 for the relief of the families of the sufferers by the dreadful explosion at Haswell colliery.—*Gateshead Observer.*

The various branches of machine makers in the Huddersfield district of the West Riding are in a flourishing state, chiefly with orders for home use. Considerable orders are also on hand for abroad.

On Saturday night a railway train left Croydon for London with about 700 persons, followed closely by a second, having also a large number of passengers. In consequence of the light in the rear of the first having gone out unperceived, a collision took place between the two, attended by an awful crash, which greatly alarmed the passengers. Two carriages were much injured. Several of the passengers suffered severe contusions, but no life was lost.

On Monday evening a destructive fire broke out on a large space of ground behind the London-road, Southwark, on which was erected a number of shops, occupied by various tradesmen, and known as St. George's Market. The flames continued to spread from one house to another for several hours, notwithstanding every exertion made by the several fire brigades, and were not completely got under till nine o'clock, at which time upwards of thirty tenements were either wholly or partially destroyed.

A meeting of several influential agriculturists took place on Monday, at the York Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars. Mr. James Ellis, of Kent, in the chair. Mr. Baker, of Writtle, was also present. A resolution, condemning the malt-tax as unjust and oppressive, was passed; and it was also resolved to take the requisite steps to procure the abolition of the duty in the ensuing session of Parliament.

The will of the late Mr. Beckford, author of "Vathek," has been proved at Doctors'-commons. At ten years of age he succeeded to the enormous income of £100,000 a year. He expended £273,000 upon Fonthill, which he made a place of unparalleled magnificence.

On Monday week the farm-buildings of Mr. Cooke, of Lyde, near Holmer, were set fire to. Five hundred bushels of wheat in the straw were destroyed.

The *Gazette* of Tuesday night notifies the elevation of Lord Stanley to the House of Peers, under the title of Baron Stanley, of Bickerstaffe.

The Repeal Association met on Monday in the Conciliation Hall, Dublin. The attendance was small, and the proceedings of little interest. The rent for the week amounted to about £616.

Some of the Irish Conservative newspapers are advocating a triennial Parliament to be held in Dublin. Federalism appears to be on the increase.

A convocation was held in the University of Oxford on Tuesday, for the election of Vice-Chancellor, when Dr. Symons was elected by a majority of 699—the numbers being, for Dr. Symons 882, and against him 183. The rev. gentleman is opposed to the Puseyite doctrines.

Lady Heytesbury died on Sunday last at the Vice-regal Lodge, Phœnix-park, Dublin, of gastric fever.

A gigantic scheme is said to be under consideration at Liverpool, to connect the opposite shores of the Mersey by a stupendous chain bridge.

On Monday last Lord Ashley paid a visit to Bolton, for the purpose, it is said, of ascertaining the working of the new factory act, which has just come into operation. He visited several of the large establishments.

At the dinner lately given to Mr. Clifton, the new M.P. for North Lancashire, covers were laid for 300, but only 67 gentlemen attended, a significant exemplification of public opinion in the district.

A polytechnic institution is proposed to be formed in Dublin on the plan of that in Regent-street, London. Mr. Grey Porter, whose pamphlet on Federalism has recently attracted so much notice, is announced as secretary to the founders.

The Windsor Castle steam-boat, having on board nearly 250 passengers, was wrecked on Tuesday se'nnight while on her return home from Dundee to Granton. The vessel struck on the beacon of the North Carr Rock, and instantly began to fill with water; the passengers, as might be expected, were in a state of terror and confusion; but providentially the vessel grounded between two rocks near to the shore; and by the aid of her own and other boats which came to their assistance all were safely landed. Most of them found shelter for the night at Crail from the farmers and cottars in the neighbourhood. The vessel was built of iron in 1838, and was considered a safe boat. It is believed that she is irretrievably lost.

On Saturday afternoon an inquest was held before Mr. John Charsley, one of the coroners for Bucks, at the tap at the railway station, Slough, on the body of Miss Jane Buckstone, a young lady 29 years of age, the niece of the late Mr. John Travers, who met with her death by falling from a window of the Royal Hotel. The deceased, it appeared in evidence, was found outside the window of the hotel early in the morning in a dying state. The jury returned a verdict that "the deceased came by her death in consequence of a fall from a window; but whether that fall was the result of accident or not does not appear."

LINCOLNSHIRE.—At Swaley, in the night of the 30th ult., a fire broke out in the stackyard of Mr. Roger Sharpley, of Great Carlton, and fifteen stacks of corn were destroyed, but the probable value of which has not yet been ascertained. We understand that this is the second incendiary fire to which Mr. Sharpley has been subject.

Early on the morning of the 2nd inst., a fire was discovered in the thatch of the house of Mr. Wm. Neville, farmer, at Wistow, which, however, before it had gained much strength, was happily extinguished. This was about one A.M.; very shortly after the family of Mr. Wm. Dixon, a small farmer, were alarmed by the discovery of flames of fire on their premises bursting out of the barn, and rapidly spreading to other parts of the homestead. Before the fire could be subdued it had destroyed two wheat stacks, one small oat stack, about sixty loads of wheat, and a quantity of barley in the barn, two foals, and, with the exception of the cowhouse, the entire range of farm-buildings on the premises. The whole is now a mass of ruins. From various circumstances, there is reason to believe that both these fires originated with some incendiary. The estimated damage to the tenant is £150. 11s.

Mrs. Pritchard, wife of Mr. Pritchard, late consul at Tahiti, has arrived in England with her three daughters. Mrs. Pritchard left Tahiti towards the end of April. Before leaving, she had gone on board the Basilisk, where she had an interview with Queen Pomare.

We understand that the late respected James Heyworth, Esq., of Everton, has bequeathed a legacy of £10,000 to his principal clerk, as a testimony of the value which he placed on that gentleman's faithful services for a number of years.—*Liverpool Times.*

In the county of Huntingdon, containing a population of 58,699, there is only one savings' bank.

A serious accident occurred on Tuesday morning on the line of the Brandling Junction Railway, by which one of the passengers named John Brown was killed, and 15 others more or less injured. The accident arose from the collision of two engines, one of them attached to a carriage full of passengers on its way from Shields to Newcastle, or rather Gateshead, where the line terminates.

Parliament was on Thursday further prorogued by Royal Commission until Thursday the 12th of December. The Commissioners were Lord Wharncliffe, Earl Dalhousie, and the Lord Chancellor.

DR. DALTON.—At a meeting of the inhabitants of Manchester the following resolution was come to:—"That it is desirable that a simple and suitable memorial should be placed in the cemetery at Ardwick, over the mortal remains of this illustrious philosopher and exemplary Christian; and that it is most desirable to found a professorship of chemistry in some public institution in Manchester, to be named the 'Daltonian Professorship,' one object of which shall be to illustrate the atomic theory, and the discoveries of Dalton in connexion with other branches of physical science."

The total number of deaths in the metropolis for the week ending last Saturday, as made up by the Registrar-General, was 961; showing an excess over the weekly average of the last five years of 15.

At the Battle petty sessions, on Tuesday, a boy named William Ralph, aged only nine years, was found guilty of having set fire to a faggot stack, on the 1st instant, the property of a farmer named Stapley. Mr. Stapley valued the stack at £5, in which amount and costs the bench fined the delinquent, who, in default of payment, was committed to the house of correction at Lewes for two months' hard labour.

On Wednesday evening last, a numerous and respectable meeting of the members of the Metropolitan Drapers' Association was held at Exeter-hall, in order to forward the movement, now so general, in favour of shortening the hours of business. Resolutions to that effect were unanimously agreed to.

Incendiarism in Suffolk appears at the present time to be alarmingly on the increase. A most destructive fire took place on Wednesday evening last in the parish of Whepstead, on a farm in the occupation of Mr. Holden. It was discovered in the stackyard, and in a short time ten stacks of different kinds of produce were burning at once, illuminating that part of the country for many miles. The fire raged with such unchecked fury, that it was useless to attempt to save the stacks. The dwelling-house, which was within a short distance, by continual damping, was saved from any material damage. This makes the fourth incendiary fire which has taken place in the neighbourhood of Bury St. Edmund's since last Friday—a fire taking place that day at Cheveley-park, belonging to the Duke of Rutland; one at Waltham de Willows, on Saturday; another at Hengrave (which we believe was extinguished), on Wednesday afternoon; and a fire at Whepstead on the evening of the same day. The inhabitants, generally speaking, are in a state of great alarm, and the destruction of property is immense.—*Times.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE REGISTRATION.—Many people ask "What is the League about now?" The short answer is, "Fighting the battle of Free Trade in the registration courts." And successfully is the League engaged in this arduous contest. Already has it made sure that both the representatives of South Lancashire shall, after the first vacancy, be Free-Traders. In Cheshire also, and other neighbouring counties, the constituencies are so much improved by the efforts of the League that the next election, come when it may, will exhibit a vast increase of liberal and independent voters; and it is not too much to expect that within a few years all the manufacturing counties will be thoroughly emancipated from the thraldom of monopolist majorities. Great numbers of decent operatives are availing themselves of the 40s. freehold qualification, and getting their names on the electoral roll by purchasing cottages worth 40s. of yearly rent. These can be bought or built for about £40 each, and such a sum is easily borrowed on the security of the property. The purchaser, therefore, if he has not the money of his own, pays interest for the loan of it, instead of paying rent, and thus becomes entitled to vote at elections on the simplest and most ancient of all existing qualifications.—*Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle.*

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE LEAGUE PERPETUAL.—"The League is dead!" exclaim the monopolists as often as they can get any one to hear them; but they know and feel convinced that the principles of the League are not dead. They may try the vain attempt to break up the organization of the League, but eradicate the principles they never can. These have been so elaborated in the mind of the nation that they have become identical with "common sense." How can a people pressing severely upon the food supplies of their own country ever conceive that it is better for them to endure short allowance than to open their gates and allow abundance to flow in? How can a manufacturing country, capable of producing more than it needs, ever consider that it is better to discontinue its connexion with the wide world where alone it is sure to find customers? The idea of "independence!" Separation of nations! "Eating our own food alone," instead of following the teachings of nature and reason, which lead us to regard the world as one common home, and the whole people as one family! Sufficient, however, of the sweets of commerce have already been enjoyed to explode all such exclusive notions.—*Lancaster Guardian.*

THE DISCOVERY.—It has been a subject of some perplexity and annoyance to the Suffolk squires of late, how they will put an end to incendiarism and make the labourers happy. But the discovery has at last been made. Professor Henslow, of Hitcham, is the great man who goes about—crying, *Eureka.* The Doctor says, "The subject of incendiarism is a very serious one,"—so it is. But he has discovered that the *exhibition of fire-works is the cure for it!!!* As an argument against its expense, he says (writing to Sir Henry Bunbury on the subject):—"I am treated 'as one of the trade' by a maker of fireworks, as well as by a toy merchant, and one or two others in London, who furnish me in a wholesale way, at a very considerable discount, with sundry articles for our little annual exhibitions and the school children's festivals." He then says, explaining the feasibility of his plan:—"Where a village or a neighbourhood may happen to possess a taste for them, a very trifling subscription from the pockets of the public-spirited will furnish sufficient funds for the articles that are required (in a rough state), and which a little ingenuity will soon arrange in a manner to afford a good display. I never recommend any one to compound the ingredients for fireworks, which is a dirty as well as rather dangerous employment. The great saving of expense consists in procuring certain 'cases' ready charged, but unarranged. These may then be arranged in pleasing forms and devices. I am myself pretty expert in arranging 'fixes,' attaching 'turning cases,' and most of my family have tolerable skill in 'clothing speckles.'" This communication was actually made to a meeting of Suffolk gentlemen last week, and solemnly talked of as a panacea for the ills of the labourer's lot! A proposal to distribute gingerbread would be a trifle more rational.—*Economist.*

REORRATION OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—On Saturday evening last, Messrs. Cooke and M'Minnies, cotton-manufacturers, Warrington, gave their work-people a treat; upwards of 400 of them sat down to dinner, which took place about four o'clock, in a large shed just erected in connexion with the Hope Mill, Town's-end. B. Cooke, Esq., occupied the chair. John Rylands, Esq., briefly addressed them, and was followed by N. Cooke, Esq. The chairman then introduced Mr. J. P. Edwards, who was received with loud applause, and delivered a powerful address, of nearly an hour's duration, on the moral and intellectual education of the people, and the tendencies of the present age. The tables were then cleared away, and Mr. Thornley's band being in attendance, dancing immediately commenced, and was kept up for some time with great spirit. Coffee was afterwards served; and song, recitation, and dancing again alternated with each other during the remainder of the evening, until nearly twelve o'clock, when they finally separated.

FOREIGN CATTLE.—Fifty-five head of horned cattle have been imported from Hamburgh since our last—thirty-two by the Hanseatic steam-ship Leeds, and twenty-three by the Helen M'Gregor.—*Hull Packet*, October 4.

GUANO.—The sales of African guano at Liverpool during the past week have reached from 200 to 300 tons; the price obtained averaging £6. 2s. 6d. per ton. On the one hand, buyers are offering £6, and sellers want £6. 5s.; Peruvian is commanding £10 to £10. 10s. per ton.

THE CORN LAWS DEFINED.—The Corn Laws may be defined to be, the prohibition of foreign trade by act of Parliament for the benefit of the owners of land, who, by means of the imperfect state of the representation, have contrived to acquire a majority of votes in the House of Commons.—*Col. Thompson.*

THE HARVEST IN IRELAND.—The corn harvest in Ireland is very nearly brought to a close all through the country. The wheat crop is the finest and most abundant for several years; but oats and barley are scarcely an average. Potatoes, notwithstanding the early failures, promise a good crop. Altogether, the harvest is excellent in quantity and quality. A letter from Fetherd, county of Tipperary, says, "Last year wheat was a good crop, but the produce this year is from 20 to 25 per cent. over it. The price here at present is 23s. 4d. per barrel of 20 stone."

BALLINASLOE FAIR.—A letter dated on Saturday last says:—"The number of sheep at this year's fair was short; the amount sold on both days will be but little over 60,000. This day, wethers met a dull sale; Mr. Burton Persse sold a large lot at prices ranging from 37s. to 45s. each; and the same gentleman obtained £3. 15s. for a choice lot of two-year-old maiden ewes. At the sale by auction on Thursday, of the late Mr. Bernard Browne's sheep, very high prices were got for animals of the coarsest description."

FALL IN THE PRICE OF BREAD.—On Tuesday two men drove a light cart, laden with bread and covered with placards, through the northern districts of London, announcing that they sold "the best wheaten bread for 6d. a quartern." They made several stoppages on their journey, at which they had an auction of their bread. The fame of this novel mode of forcing sales anticipated them in many villages; and the bakers residing therein, resolved upon foiling their efforts, actually labelled their bread for 5d. the quartern, which appeared to have had the desired effect, as the itinerant bakers afterwards found few or no purchasers.

WISE BRUTHER.—Mr. Dick, a native of Forres, in Morayshire, was born in 1743. He went to the West Indies, where his talents and industry soon enabled him to amass a large fortune. He returned to England, and, dying in 1829, left a capital of £113,147 sterling, to be invested as a fund for increasing the salaries of schoolmasters in the three counties of Moray, Banff, and Aberdeen. Here is a lesson for foolish men how to leave their money wisely.—*Tait's Magazine.*

ADVANTAGES OF SAVINGS.—A calculation has lately been made by an actuary of a savings' bank, by which, if the labourer could be prevailed on to save two shillings a week from the age of twenty to thirty, he would be enabled, with a trifling assistance, to purchase an annuity of ten shillings a week after he arrived at the age of sixty.—*Savings' Bank Circular.*

SOUTHAMPTON.—The annual entertainment of Mr. Andrews to his workmen was given on Tuesday se'nnight. Mr. Beste, of Botleigh-grange, announced himself a candidate for the representation of Southampton at any future election, in compliance with a numerously signed requisition of electors that was presented to him the day before.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—We are informed that great progress has already been made towards the establishment of an agricultural college in the vicinity of Dublin, under the superintendence of the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland. It has long been an object with Mr. Purcell, the founder of that society, and with the council, to have such a college established. The importance of such a college cannot be over-estimated; it would confer lasting benefit on the country.

THE ANGLESEY FARMER AND HIS LABOURERS.

To the Editor of the Carnarvon Herald.

Amlwch, Oct. 2, 1844.

Sir,—I was happy to find, among other objects of public interest connected with the last agricultural meeting at Llangefni, a hint thrown out by Mr. Stanley on the propriety of encouraging the general improvement, and of ameliorating the condition, of the agricultural class of labourers in Anglesey. I much admire the philanthropic view the worthy gentleman has taken in urging this important inquiry. It may lead the farmers to look for a more general manifestation of the principles of this philanthropy, and to hope that landlords will take the high rental of their land as a first point for consideration; for, if an amelioration takes place in this respect, the farmer, in justice to his labourer, will follow so good an example. It is well known that small farmers in this island have, to a great extent, found themselves unequal to their late rents, and it is much to be feared that several will be unable to bear up by the next rent audit. Nothing can be easier than for gentlemen landlords, who are allowed to assume their own data, and thence to draw their own inferences, to satisfy themselves by most plausible arguments of their accuracy; but the farmers of Anglesey are sufficiently sceptical to doubt this mode of reasoning, and will require them to establish the premises before they agree to the conclusion. Perhaps Mr. Stanley is not in full possession of facts as regards the actual state, resources, and capabilities of the Anglesey farmer to meet the exigencies of his agricultural labourer.

In a general point of view, the resident agricultural labourer, in ordinary employment, earns from 7s. to 8s. per week; but in harvest they get 10s. per week without victuals. When food is furnished, 10d. per diem is allowed. The principal labourers are allowed their cottages, others their meal and milk, and some their potatoes, according to their competency and the size of the farms they are engaged on; but most of them are maintained in the farmhouses, with wages averaging from £8 to £14 per annum. Their victuals are substantial and good. On Sunday a large piece of beef or pork is boiled, in some cases accompanied by a joint of fresh meat. On Monday and Tuesday what remains of that is served up cold. On Wednesday, herrings, or bread and butter and warm milk. Thursday, pork or beef boiled. Friday and Saturday same as Wednesday. The staple vegetable, potatoes, forms a material dish at every dinner, a bason of which they partake of in milk before the meal. For breakfast they have uniformly barley-bread and warm milk or soup. For lunch, bread, cheese, and milk. For supper, boiled groats, or potatoes and milk, with bread and butter; and a profusion of each at every meal. The farmer and his sons eat at the same board with the men, and generally work in the same ditch. This occurs in ordinary farms of 50 to 120 acres. It is not to be expected that in every farmhouse in the county an equal prosperity can be supposed to prevail, as some, either from disposition or from necessity, may not live so liberally as their neighbours; but the general habit and routine of the week you will find as above stated. In this case, query, which is the better off, the farmer or his labourer? It is very far from my feelings, as a farmer, to believe that Mr. Stanley ever meant to captivate the cupidity of the agricultural labouring class at the expense of the poor farmer; but I sincerely hope that, while he holds out the prospect of ameliorating the condition of the labouring classes, he will speedily put the farmer in possession of a remedy, which must consequently be sought *for in a reduction of our rents.*

I am, Sir, yours, &c., P. P.

Weyhill Fair, Hampshire.—This fair, which is the most important in the south of England, was held yesterday in an extensive range of fields three miles from Andover. The fair continues for six successive days, for the sale of sheep, horned cattle, and horses, the supply of which this year was very large, and exceeding that of the preceding years. The sheep-pens covered many acres, and the trade was rather brisk, the best ewes making from 28s. to 33s., and good Southdown wethers obtaining good prices. The supply of horned cattle was large and the trade dull, the prices being 12 per cent. lower than the average of last year. The horse field was large, and prime cart colts made high prices. Most of the influential agriculturists and farmers of the adjoining counties were present.

Gloucester Barton Fair.—Saturday last being the great annual fair for the sale of cattle of all descriptions, was, if anything, more plentifully supplied than it has been for some years past, but the sale very dull. The cheese fair was not so full as on former occasions, the average price for best making being about 54s. to 56s. per hundred. Onions, of which there were great samples, 1s. 6d. a peck. The number of shows and gambling tables, from the highest to the lowest description, was very great; the latter of which seemed to have had their share of gain from the weak and unguarded. And, according to a very long-standing custom, this celebrated fair has not lost its character by the annual visit of the light-fingered gentry, who were in attendance to a very great extent; and their harvest, though not so abundant as in former seasons, was extensive, and would have been more so but for the vigilance of the police. The statute fair or mop was held on Monday, and never was it more fully attended, from the highest situation in agricultural pursuits to the cart and plough boy; but hiring, on the whole, was remarkably flat, and good and tried servants retained their situations. Several trains arrived from Bristol and Birmingham, so that the streets of the old city was due animated scene.—*Cheltenham Examiner.*

Brough-hill Fair, Westmorland.—This important and largest of all the fairs in the north of England was held on Monday and Tuesday last, in the extensive place of waste ground about a mile distant from the market town of Brough. There was a tolerable supply of Scotch and Irish cattle, considerable lots of which were sold for wintering, at prices fully 8 per cent. below the prices of last year's fair. A goodly number of English cattle of all kinds were exhibited, but the sales effected were at declining prices. Practical agriculturists affirm that fodder for cattle during the approaching winter will be scarce, by reason of the oat and barley crops being so short in the straw, and the turnip crops scarcely average ones. There was a good deal of business done among the Scotch and other kinds of sheep, but the prices, like those of cattle, were looking downward. The horse fair was a very thronged and brisk one, and a large number of very superior animals were shown for sale.

The Welsh Cattle Fairs.—Our cattle fairs during the month of September have been but thinly attended by the drovers who usually purchase for the purpose of driving cattle to the English fairs and markets. The failure of turnip crops, together with the short crops of hay and straw all over the kingdom (with very few exceptions), are alleged as the reasons. Compared with the business usually transacted at this season of the year, the amount of transactions has been small. Cattle fit for slaughtering were scarce, and in demand at from 40s. to 50s. per cwt. to sink the offal; prime sheep were worth 5d. per lb., also to sink the offal. Pork and bacon pigs are a little on the advance, while small ones and bare stores are at very low prices. Good horses are scarce and in demand, while poor ones are nearly unsaleable. At Abergwilly fair, on Wednesday last, the show of beasts was very indifferent, and few changed hands. Horses ruled nearly the same as at the September fairs.—*The Welshman.*

British Navy.—The number of ships of war composing the British navy, either in commission, ordinary, or building, is 681, carrying from 1 to 120 guns each.

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. Oct. 5	Mon. Oct. 7	Tues. Oct. 8	Wed. Oct. 9	Thurs. Oct. 10	Fri. Oct. 11
Bank Stock	211	210	209½	210	210	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	Shut.	—	—	—	—	—
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	100⅝	100⅝	100⅝	100⅝	100⅝	100⅝
3½ per Ct. An. new	102¼	102¼	103	102¼	101	102¼
Long. An. Ex. 1860	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cons. for Acc.	100⅝	100⅝	100¾	100¾	100⅝	100⅝
Exc. Bills, pm.	76	76	77	77	77	—
Ind. Bds. und. 1000l	—	96	96	96	—	—
India Stock	—	289	—	283	289	—
Belgian Bonds	104½	103¾	104½	104½	101½	—
Brazilian Bonds	87	87	86¾	85¾	86	—
Buenos Ayres	—	37½	37	36½	37	—
Chilian	—	103	103	103	103	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	14⅝	14⅝	14½	14¾	14½	14½
Danish	—	88½	88½	88½	88½	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	98¼	98¼	98¼	98¼	98¼	98⅝
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	62¾	62¾	62⅝	62¾	62¾	62½
Mexican	—	37½	—	—	—	—
Peruvian	—	26½	26½	26¼	25¾	—
Portug. conv.	49½	50½	50½	51⅝	51	51
Spanish 5 per Ct.	24	23⅞	23⅝	23⅝	23½	23½
Do. 3 per Cent.	35	34⅝	34¾	34¼	34½	34½

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Monday, Oct. 7.—We have a good arrival of English Wheat and Barley to this morning's market, a large supply of New Irish Oats, Beans and Peas a moderate supply. The New Wheat comes in better condition than of late; the finest qualities sell freely at last week's rates, inferior sorts meet a dull sale. The transactions in Foreign are very limited. Fine samples of Barley sell freely at 1s. advance from this day week, in inferior qualities there is no alteration. We have a good demand for Old Oats at last Monday's prices; the quality of the New Irish is inferior to the first shipments last year; the sale has not been brisk, though we do not quote any reduction in [illegible] remain much the same as last week.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk Old Red	40 to 48	White 44 to 52
——— Ditto ..... New	— 40 — 45	— 40 — 50
——— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Old	— 40 — 46	— 42 — 48
——— Scotch	— 40 — 44	— 42 — 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Feed		Old 21 — 22
——— Ditto ..... ditto .. ditto		New 19 — 20
——— Ditto ..... ditto .. Polands		New 21 — 23
——— Scotch Feed		Old 22 — 24 Potato 25 — 26
——— Limerick	do. 21 — 22	New 20 — 21
——— Ditto	do.	Short 22 — 23
——— Cork	do.	20 — 21
——— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork	Black Old and New	19 — 20
——— Westport .... Old		20 6 — 21
——— Galway .... do.		18 6 — 19 6
Barley, New		30 — 36
Beans, Mazagan Old 32 — 33	New ....?	29 — 30
——— Harrow .. do. 36 — 38	do.	32 — 34
——— Small .... do.		40 — 42
Peas, White, New		32 — 36
——— Grey ..... 30 to 31	Maple	31 — 32
Flour, Town-made	per sack of 280 lbs	36 — 43
——— Norfolk and Suffolk		34 — 36

FOREIGN.

		Free.	In Bond
		Per Imperial Quarter	
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed		48 to 56	The same as free ten the duty.
——— Rostock		47 — 54	
——— Stettin		44 — 52	
——— Hamburgh		42 — 48	
——— Odessa		42 — 46	
——— Ditto	Pollah	47 — 50	
——— Russian	soft	42 — 46	
——— Ditto	hard	40 — 44	
——— Spanish	Red	45 — 49	
——— Ditto	White	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding		26 — 29	— — —
——— Distilling		30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel		19 — 20	13 — 14
——— Swedish		19 — 21	13 — 15
——— Danish		20 — 22	14 — 16
——— Stralsund		21 — 22	15 — 16
——— Dutch Brew		21 — 23	15 — 17
——— ——— Polands		— — —	18 — 19
Beans, Egyptian		27 — 29	22 — 23
Peas, White		30 — 34	— — —
——— Ditto Boilers		32 — 35	— — —
Flour, Canada	per barrel of 196 lbs	26 — 28	— — —
——— United States	— —	26 — 28	18 — 20
——— Dantzig	— —	26 — 28	18 — 20

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Sept. 30 to Oct. 5, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	8004	5310	1915	1453	1682
Scotch	—	520	407	—	—
Irish	18	—	22852	—	—
Foreign	750	2544	2894	—	—

Flour, 4693 sacks, 950 bars.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending Oct. 8, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat	4709	49s. 5d.	Rye	606	41s. 2d.
Barley	3363	36s. 0d.	Beans	1109	37s. 0d.
Oats	11821	21s. 4d.	Peas	1047	34s. 0d

Friday, October 11.—The supplies of all grain since Monday are very moderate. English Wheat sells but slowly at last day's rates. The Foreign Wheat trade is very inactive, although we cannot quote any reduction in price. In Barley the transactions are limited, owing to the short supplies. There is a good demand for Old Oats at Monday's prices, but New are more difficult of disposal. There is no alteration in Beans and Peas. No change has occurred this week in the duty on any article.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 7th of October to the 11th of October, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat	3610	—	—
Barley	3630	—	1520
Oats	100	20190	370

Flour, 3170 sacks.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES Weeks ending

	Wheat. s. d.	Barley. s. d.	Oats. s. d.	Rye. s. d.	Beans. s. d.	Peas. s. d.
31st August	50 11	34 11	20 7	34 2	37 0	33 10
7th Sept.	48 6	35 9	20 5	——	38 1	——
14th „	45 11	35 11	20 1	——	37 9	——
21st „	45 3	35 6	20 5	35 7	37 3	33 1
28th „	45 9	34 5	20 5	37 3	36 8	33 0
5th Oct.	46 1	33 9	20 6	37 5	36 8	33 5

Aggregate Average of the Six Weeks.—Wheat, 47s. 1d.; Barley, 35s. 1d.; Oats, 20s. 5d.; Rye, 35s. 9d.; Beans, 37s. 3d.; Peas, 33s. 7d.

Duty.—Wheat, 20s. 0d.; Barley, 3s. 0d.; Oats, 6s. 0d.; Rye, 7s. 6d.; Beans, 5s. 6d.; Peas, 9s. 0d.

Stock of Corn in Bond, Sep. 5, 1844.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.	Flour. Cwts.
In London,	110652	81918	36442	—	—	213	59755
Unit. King.	330892	164684	86873	—	4810	2962	269958

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, October 4.

BANKRUPTS.

L. D. SMITH, H. SMITH, and G. F. SMITH, Dulverton, Somersetshire, and Gutter-lane, crape manufacturers. [Kirkman, King William-street.

A. TULLEY, Hackney, grocer. [Norton and Son, New-street, Bishopsgate-street.

F. HOWARD, Tonbridge-place, Hoxton, publisher. [Bird, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

J. METCALF, Macclesfield, silk manufacturer. [Milne, Parry, Milne, and Morris, Temple; Ainsworth, Macclesfield.

G. CROXTON, Manchester, glass dealer. [Jaques and Edwards, Ely-place; Chew, Manchester.

G. ALEXANDER, Beaminster, Dorsetshire, innkeeper. [Raven, King's Bench, Temple; Terrell and Roberts, Exeter.

DIVIDEND.

Oct. 26. J. Porter, Barnsley, Yorkshire, callenderer.

CERTIFICATES.

Oct. 29. E. G. and W. Plowright, Wells-next-the-Sea, wine merchants—Oct. 29. R. Musgrove, Birmingham, woollen draper.—Oct. 25. R. Norman, Cheltenham, ironmonger—Oct. 25. C. Killick, Blackman-street, paper-stainer—Oct. 25. J. L. Loraine, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, wine merchant—Oct. 25. E. B. Lamb, Burton-crescent, St. Pancras, builder—Oct. 25. I. Munro, Princes-street, and Manchester-buildings, Westminster, builder—Oct. 25. T. Cox, Porchester-street, Connaught-square, fruiterer—J. Young, Aldermanbury, laceman.

TUESDAY, October 8.

BANKRUPTS.

A. PELLISSIER, Bentinck-terrace, Regent's-park, lodging housekeeper. [Christmas, Raymond-buildings.

F. H. WEST, High-street, Shoreditch, licensed victualler. [Swan, Great Knightrider-street.

N. WANOSTROCHT, Blackheath, boarding housekeeper. [Thomas, Fen-court, Fenchurch-street.

A. AKEHURST, East Malling, baker. [Selby and Mackeson, 5-Serjeants'-inn, Fleet-street.

D. PUGSLEY, Great Distaff-lane, warehouseman. [Sole, Aldermanbury.

J. DANCASTER, Brighton, painter. [Galsworthy and Nichols, Cook's-court, Carey-street.

J. PRIOR and H. BRADY, Kingston-upon-Hull, brush manufacturers. [Willis and Company, Tokenhouse-yard, City; Colbeck and Thompson, Hull; Horsfall and Harrison, Leeds.

J. TRISTRAM, Basford, Nottinghamshire, beer housekeeper. [Baxter, Lincoln's-inn-fields; Wells, Nottingham; Payne, Addison, and Ford, Leeds.

T. W. BUTTERWORTH, Holme, Lancashire, draper. [Johnson, Son, and Weatherall, Temple; Hitchcock, Buckley, and Tidswell, Manchester.

S. A. FLEETHAM, Hartlepool, Durham, grocer. [Meggison and Pringle, King's-road; Wilson and Turnbull, Hartlepool.

E. RIGMAIDEN, Liverpool, wine dealer. [Chester, Toulmin, and Chester, Staple-inn; Hodgson, Liverpool.

N. ROSKELL, Liverpool, merchant. [Sharpe, Field, and Jackson, Bedford-row: Lowndes, Robinson, and Bateson, Liverpool.

J. J. BREZ, Chester, tailor. [Norris, Allen, and Simpson, Bartlett's-buildings, Holborn; Thompson, Liverpool.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 1. J. Young, Aldermanbury, City, laceman—Oct. 31. W. Hill and W. K. Wackerburth, Leadenhall-street, City, ship agents—Nov. 6. T. Harvey, Wandsworth, innkeeper—Nov. 2. R. Barham, Emsworth, Hampshire, linendraper—Oct. 31. J. Senior, Kirkheaton, Yorkshire, fancy cloth manufacturer—Oct. 31. J. Meadows, Wavertree, Lancashire, miller—Nov. 1. J. Vernon, Monk's Coppenhall, Cheshire, licensed victualler—Nov. 1. J. Darcy and R. Dierden, Sutton, Lancashire, alkali manufacturers—Nov. 6. W. Dickinson and T. Throp, Blackburn, Lancashire, ironfounders—Nov. 1. J. Mallalieu, Saddleworth, Yorkshire, woollen manufacturer—Nov. 1. G. Sadler, Cheltenham, linendraper—Nov. 4. W. Monk, jun., Nottingham, currier—Oct. 31. A. Gallimore, Stone, Staffordshire, printer—Oct. 31. G. Hocknell, Stone, Staffordshire, innkeeper—Nov. 7. W. H. Bates, Birmingham, factor—Nov. 14. J. Hilton, Tipton, Staffordshire, currier—Oct. 29. H. J. and J. Dixon, Aldermanbury, carpet manufacturers—Nov. 5. W. J. Holt, Grantham, Lincolnshire, tea dealer—Oct. 29. R. B. Robinson, Nottingham, printer.

CERTIFICATES.

Nov. 2. W. Harding, Southampton-street, Camberwell, grocer—Nov. 5. T. Harvey, Wandsworth, innkeeper—Nov. 5. W. R. Dray, Heathfield, Sussex, grocer—Nov. 5. R. Marks, Union-street, Southwark, victualler—Nov. 5. S. Southey, South-street, Finsbury-market, furniture manufacturer—Nov. 1. T. G. Thorn, Southampton, builder—Nov. 2. J. Smith and H. Titford, King-street, Snow-hill, engravers—Oct. 29. G. T. F. Johnson, Norwich, chemist—Oct. 29. J. Todd, jun., Bury-street, Bloomsbury, ironmonger—Oct. 31. J. Crowder and J. Green, jun., Macclesfield, trimming manufacturers—Nov. 1. J. Else and W. Dixon, Kingston-upon-Hull, millers—Nov. 14. J. Pemberton, Knostrop, Yorkshire, soap boiler—Oct. 30. R. Jackson, Leeds, engineer—Oct. 29. T. Ashley, Lyonshall, Herefordshire, builder—Oct. 29. H. J. Dixon, Aldermanbury, City, carpet manufacturer—Nov. 11. T. and R. Barrs, Worcester, tobacco manufacturers—Oct. 29. J. Ball, Salisbury, cabinet maker—Oct 29. M. and R. Ramsay, Scotswood, Northumberland, paper manufacturers—Oct. 29. J. Avery, Minclug-lane, colonial broker—Oct. 29. J. Burkill, Louth, Lincolnshire, merchant—Oct. 29. R. S. Saxby, Old Fish-street, City, wine merchant—Oct. 29. R. Drew, Compton-street, Regent-square, licensed victualler.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. SCOTT, Perth, ironmonger—J. COLSTON, Greenock, physician—T. SINCLAIR, Eskside, Musselburgh, hair manufacturer—G. D. Tait, Leith, dealer—R. TULLOH, Fort George, merchant.

London: Printed by Robert Palman (of Providence-place, Upper Kennington-lane, Lambeth, in the County of Surrey) and Joseph Cleaver (of Number 320, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at their Printing-office, Number 10, Crane-court, in the Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West, in the City of London, and published by Abraham Walton Paveson (of Number 39, Norfolk-street, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at the Office of The League, Number 67, Fleet-street, in the said Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West.—Saturday, October 12, 1844.

THE LEAGUE.

No. 56.] SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1844. [3*d.*

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All Subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive, a copy weekly of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and addresses to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

We beg to inform our subscribers that bound volumes of the LEAGUE *newspaper, containing the whole of the first year's numbers, may be had on application at the Offices either in London or Manchester.*

WHY ARE THE FARMERS IN DISTRESS?

In our last, we endeavoured to point out the cause of the present revival in trade and manufactures; let us now try to explain why the farmers are so generally embarrassed and distressed.

We have watched, somewhat carefully, the proceedings of the many agricultural associations which have met during the last month, but in scarcely one instance has an attempt been made to go into the causes of agricultural distress. Numberless have been the remedies prescribed, from tile draining down to that latest nostrum—the cultivation of the sunflower; but nobody has seemed to think it necessary to feel the pulse of the patient, and ascertain the nature of his disease. *What is the matter with the farmer?* This would be an excellent question for discussion at a farmers' club, and it would be followed, no doubt, by a unanimous vote of "low prices." Generally speaking, farmers attribute all their distress to the state of the markets. They are apt to confound *price* with *profit*, and to consider that low prices and low profits are one and the same thing. To prove the erroneousness of this view of their case, we need only point to the manufacturers, who are making, generally, fair profits, now, when goods sell for a lower price than at almost any former time. It is an unquestioned fact, that all the fortunes accumulated in trade and manufactures during the last thirty years have been the result of selling cheaper than previously. But, then, whilst the manufacturers have been selling cheaply, they have been also buying cheaply. If calicoes have fallen in price from twelve shillings a piece to six, cotton wool has dropped from eightpence a pound to fourpence. It is evident, then, that other trades have been profitable with low prices, but why has farming been the exception? Let us turn to the other side of the bargain, and inquire whether the farmer has not been buying dearly whilst he has been selling cheaply. The money outgoings of an English farmer are principally for rent, tithe, and wages: these constitute more than four-fifths of his payments. Wages, we are universally told, rise and fall with the price of corn in the agricultural districts, *they* cannot, therefore, interfere with the farmer's profits in periods of low prices; tithes, under the Commutation Act, also follow the price of corn; and next we come to the item of RENT, which constitutes nearly one-half of the farmers' money payments.

Rent to the farmer answers to the cost of cotton and wool to the manufacturer; they constitute the raw materials out of which the articles of calicoes and corn are manufactured. Does the price of the land—that is, rent—rise and fall with the price of corn; or have they, as a rule, borne a proportion to each other like raw cotton and calico? One fact will give a satisfactory answer to this question. For thirty years, beginning with the middle of the last century, wheat averaged 46s.* a quarter, a higher price than for the present week; and yet, in the meantime, rents and tithes have increased at least threefold. Not only have not rents followed the market prices of corn during the last thirty years, but a totally different standard has been set up. Parliament, ever since the war, has professed to regulate the price of corn, with a view to keep it above the natural market level, and the land-agents have valued their farms according to this ideal standard. In 1815 it was to be 80s. a quarter, and the farmers took their land at a corresponding rent; but in 1822 the market price was down to one-half the act-of-Parliament price. In 1828 it was to be 64s.; but again, in just seven years, the markets set the Legislature at defiance, the current price being 39s. 4d. In 1842 Sir Robert Peel gave the cue to the land-valuers, by naming 56s. as the price aimed at in his new sliding scale; already are the markets 20 per cent. under the Premier's quotation, and they threaten a still further decline.

We are aware that the landowners *now* deny that Parliament can fix the price of corn. But have not the farmers for thirty years acted upon an opposite belief, and did not the landlords take advantage of their credulity; nay, were not many of the landed proprietors sharers in the delusion? Did not Mr. Benett of Wiltshire state before the committee of 1814, that wheat could not be grown for less than 80s.? What says Mr. Cayley, the member for North Yorkshire, in the account of his own opinions furnished to "Dodd's Parliamentary Companion for 1841"? Let the reader turn to the alphabetical list of members, and under the name of Edward Stillingfleet Cayley, he will find, appended to a personal description of his family connexions, the following declaration of his opinions—"*Is in favour of* the preservation of the Yorkshire registry, the mitigation of the criminal code, and *such a course of legislation with regard to agriculture as will* KEEP *wheat at 64s. a quarter, new-milk cheese at from 52s. to 60s. per cwt., wool and butter at 1s. a lb. each, and other produce in proportion.*" Here is the great authority of the Protection Society, himself, avowing his faith in the power of Parliament not only to fix the price of corn, but to *keep* it at 64s., with wool, butter, cheese, and all other articles in proportion. But the fact will not be denied, that, up to the last two years, until the thing was exposed by the Leaguers in and out of Parliament, a general belief prevailed amongst the farmers that the Legislature could regulate the price of corn. Their rents were adjusted, not with reference to the market value of their produce, but according to an imaginary act-of-Parliament price; they are still paying these artificial rents, AND HENCE ARISES THEIR DISTRESS.

Scotland furnishes evidence in corroboration of this opinion. At the close of the war the Scotch farmers, sharing with their brethren in England the belief that Parliament would secure them 80s. a quarter for wheat, entered into engagements with their *lairds* to pay rents in proportion; and when, in 1822, the price fell to 42s., they partook of the general ruin that befel the tenantry of this country. Some of the more acute of the Scottish farmers now hit upon the scheme of corn-rents, agreeing to pay the value of a fixed quantity of grain, instead of a fixed amount of money. By this arrangement the rent rises and falls according to the price of the produce. If the average of the year be high, the rent is in proportion; if low, the landlord's share is reduced by a self-acting process. This system, which has been lately so strongly recommended by Colonel Powell in Herefordshire, has been extensively in practice amongst the best farmers in the Lothians, and other parts of Scotland. We lately had the opportunity of conversing with one of them, and he declared that the most profitable year he had ever experienced was in 1835, when his wheat sold for less than 40s. a quarter, and when the farmers in England, paying money rents, were plunged in terrible distress.

At the present time these farmers of Scotland who pay corn-rents are enjoying prosperity—and why? Their rents, payable in a fixed number of quarters of wheat, are more easily paid with an abundant crop than in a season of scarcity. We adduce this case of the corn-renting farmers as a conclusive proof that low prices are not injurious, provided rents be fairly adjusted.

Our whole argument may be summed up in the words of the Welsh farmer, John Jones, of Bryn Ammon:—"The landlords," said he, at a meeting last year, "fix the price of corn by act of Parliament, and they let their land accordingly; but when we offer our corn for sale, we find that the market price is far below the act-of-Parliament price, and so we are unable to pay the rent. But does the landlord suffer any loss? No; for he has passed another law—the law of distress,—by which he can sweep away everything upon the farm; no other creditor shall be paid, not even the man who sold the seed from which his crops have grown."

* See M'Culloch's "Commercial Dictionary."

ROYAL VISITS.

Peace has been preserved in Europe for nearly thirty years, and under its influence many new and material interests have been developed, each of which is an additional security against the recurrence of hostilities. We have learned by bitter experience that wars only enable nations to purchase repentance at an enormous cost. The principles which Mr. Pitt enunciated on the 12th of February, 1787, are now beginning to be universally recognised; and those who wish it to be believed that his mantle has fallen on their shoulders find it necessary to take him in the earlier part of his career, ere his enlightened views of finance and commerce were warped by panic and distorted by party. Without laying claim to the miraculous powers of penetration claimed by our brother journalists of Paris, who far outstrip *Puff* in the "Critic," when he deduced a long and complicated argument from the shake of Lord Burleigh's head; without pretending, as they do, to discover a whole system of political intrigue in a royal cough or an imperial sneeze, we cannot help regarding the recent visits of continental Sovereigns to the English court as auspicious events likely to promote the amity of nations, and to substitute for existing feelings of rivalry a mutual anxiety for the development of their several resources. In the *Times* of October 16 there is a very powerful and well-reasoned article on the relations between England and Russia, taken in connexion with the Emperor's recent visit to this country. Our contemporary justly observes:—

"In the midst of a profound peace, whilst the elements of disorder are at rest, and the projects of the most sanguine ambition must at least be indefinitely adjourned, the alliance of two great states naturally turns upon those questions of policy which are incidental to this state of things. War brings with it its treaties of concert, its subsidies, its combined armies, and its coalitions; but the success of all these things is uncertain, and their duration is limited to the efforts of a campaign. The alliances of peace are as different in their means of operation as they are in their objects: they must be based on the permanent interests of states, and, above all, they must be cemented by COMMERCE."

This truth is not less applicable to France than it is to Russia; an increase of commercial intercourse between two nations which steam is fast bringing into federative alliance would soon put an end to that rancorous feeling of jealousy which statesmen encourage for purposes of selfish ambition, but which good men deprecate as a serious obstacle to the improvement of both countries. The continuance of this jealousy is mainly owing to the prevalence of the fallacy of reciprocity; and this fallacy mainly rests on the recognised error that gold possesses some inherent and occult quality which gives it a value over and above its exchangeable value. Any one who has ever ventured upon the analysis of any single mercantile transaction must at once have detected the absurdity of the fallacy of reciprocity. Let us suppose that a foreign merchant sends a cargo of wheat to England; he has no means of compelling Englishmen to purchase it unless they want it more than that which he demands in exchange, and he would not sell it unless Englishmen possessed something which he wanted more than the wheat. Now, let us take the worst case put by those who make the absence of reciprocity a ground for resisting Free Trade; let us suppose that the foreigner demands to be paid in gold; it is a clear case that Englishmen will not purchase unless they happen to want the wheat more than the gold; but, furthermore, Englishmen must have previously bought this gold, which is not found in their country, by exchanging for it articles of their own production; they will consequently sell that gold at the same exchangeable value to the foreign importer of wheat which it has cost them; and, supposing the foreigners to persevere in refusing goods, the obvious result of their policy will be to raise the price of money and lower the price of their own produce in the English market.

In no trade would this result be more apparent than in that of corn, if it were an article of free commerce, left to regulate its own price by the natural standards of demand and supply; but unfortunately the corn trade under the sliding scale is an unnatural commerce, stimulated by one set of circumstances into an unhealthy energy, and thrown by another set of circumstances into an equally unhealthy lethargy. It is easy to show that the

authors of this fallacy of reciprocity assume that what is true of this trade under this system of fits and starts will remain true when the trade is freed from those aberrations which are the natural and necessary results of restriction, and which are caused by restriction alone. When food under present circumstances becomes scarce, as it must occasionally do when we are limited for supply to a single set of markets, themselves dependent upon the most variable of climates, prices begin to rise towards the starvation point, the want of provisions is severely felt, and a supply must be had at all hazards. In fact, we have ourselves prepared the way for a crisis which unnaturally lowers the exchangeable value of our money, and unnaturally raises the exchangeable value of the foreigner's corn, for it renders our want to buy far more pressing than his want to sell. At such a crisis gold *does* go out of the country; but then it is a crisis of our own making that drives it out. We first create an artificial famine, and then complain of the cost at which the consequences of this famine are averted. We produce a state of things in which the country is made to want wheat more than gold, and then complain that in order to satisfy that want we are compelled to part with our gold. All commerce when left free has its own elements of self-adjustment: a system of protection perturbs this adjustment, and the country which fosters such a system has to pay the price of the adjustment, which would have cost nothing if left to itself, but which involves an enormous expenditure when it has to be set right by artificial means. The country which adopted the principles of Free Trade would throw upon those countries which rejected reciprocity the whole peril and expense of financial adjustment.

Our contemporary, in the able article from which we have already extracted, forcibly continues the Free-Trade argument:—

"No doubt it is within the power of the Emperor Nicholas to unite this country to his own more firmly than when the hosts of England and Russia were marching with one accord to the banks of the Seine; and the visit of 1814 might be the symbol of a friendship not less glorious, and infinitely more beneficial to mankind, than that which thirty years ago restored the peace of liberated Europe. The secret of such a union lies in no clandestine stipulations or diplomatic arts; in one word, *let the artificial barriers which now restrain the commercial relations of the two countries be removed; let the industry, the capital, and the natural resources of the two states be left to find their own markets and to cultivate their own respective advantages*; and, since Providence has intrusted the destinies of so prodigious an empire to the judgment and the will of a single man, let him advance boldly in the course from which other nations are withheld by their ignorance or by the conflict of jealous interests. An open trade with England would have the immediate effect of raising a large revenue to the Russian exchequer, from a judicious system of import duties. It would enrich the proprietors of the soil, and extend the market for their produce; it would supply the wants of the community, and furnish it with the inventions of mechanical genius and the commodities of more genial climates or more civilized communities, at a far lower price than they have ever reached in Russia. It would convert the great lines of water communication which intersect the empire into the channels of trade between Europe and Northern Asia, even to the confines of China. The force which would accomplish these vast and happy changes is here. It lives amongst us, incessantly stimulating the world by its example, and imparting motion to the ends of the earth."

This is admirable advice to the Emperor Nicholas; but we should be glad to know whether the lesson has been so thoroughly practised at home as to justify us in preaching the doctrine to foreign states? Is there no chance of the retort—"Physician, heal thyself?" Are there no artificial barriers against the importation of Russian timber, of Russian beef, and of Russian corn? These are the chief means of payment for English goods which the Russians possess; and is it quite reasonable to ask them to buy when we have laws to prevent us from receiving the only coin which they have to offer? Free Trade is clearly necessary to the extension of the prosperity of the Russian as well as every other empire; but is there not a country with a population infinitely denser than that of Russia, to which the employment derived from commerce has become a requisite of existence? It is not enough to complain that nations are withheld from the course of equity and "the plainest dictates of common sense" either "by ignorance or by the conflict of jealous interests." It is the duty and the interest of every man who wishes well to his country to denounce the selfishness in which monopoly was established, and the ignorance by which it is permitted to continue. We quite agree with the *Times* that an extension of commerce between England and Russia would open an immense and increasing trade between Europe and Northern Asia—a trade which would spread the blessings of civilization into those lands which have heretofore sent forth the worst scourges of the earth. We equally agree with the able writer that "the force which would accomplish these vast happy changes *is here*;" but we find the energies of that force fettered, crippled, and contracted by restrictions and monopolies which not merely prevent it from exertion, but sap the vitals of its strength.

The remarkable article on which we have been commenting thus concludes:—

"The case is a clear one, and the solution will eventually arrive. But we must add, that the ruler of Russia who should have the wisdom and the resolution to meet the commercial policy of England halfway, and who should associate his power with that spread of mercantile intercourse which is the true guarantee of peace and prosperity in the world, would accomplish a measure worthy of the greatest of his race, and would augment the resources of his dominions infinitely more than by the unprofitable excess of territorial dominion."

The ruler of Russia might reply, that he cannot meet England halfway until England has given unequivocal symptoms of a disposition to advance on the road to the complete emancipation of industry and deliverance of commerce from its fetters. The statesman who would base his power on the full development of Great Britain's industrial resources, and the consequent development of the resources of those countries willing to be customers for the produce of British industry, would accomplish a measure "above all Greek, above all Roman fame;" for he would not only incalculably augment the prosperity of his own country, but would lay the foundations of permanent tranquillity for all the nations of the earth. It is the interest, and it would be the glory, of England to set the example of opening her markets to all the nations of the earth, and to denounce the international war of protective duties and hostile tariffs; such an example is demanded of her by the position which she holds, and the destinies she has already accomplished. She may be summoned to take the lead in pacification by the same appeal that was addressed to Cæsar:—

"Tuque prior, tu parce, genus qui ducis Olympo."

THE *POST'S* PHILOSOPHY OF WAGES.

The *Morning Post* of Tuesday, in answer to the queries of a Manchester "Admirer," whom recent daily experience and observation have "considerably staggered" in the orthodox protectionist doctrine that "cheap bread means low wages," and who modestly solicits "fresh arguments" to keep him sound in the faith, devotes an elaborate two-column article to an exposition of the law of wages. Considering that the "Admirer" is certainly a heretic, and possibly a wag, we cannot but honour our contemporary's patience, as well as the adventurous chivalry with which he rushes to the rescue of the most ricketty and battered of the whole corps of monopolist fallacies, now expiring in conflict with facts. The doctrine that wages rise and fall with the price of bread—in other words, that the less bread there is in the country, the more will come to every man's share; that the more the people spend on necessaries, the more they will have left to spend on comforts and luxuries, and to remunerate the labour employed in their production—is one which it must be difficult enough to argue for at any time. In the present state of things in the manufacturing districts—full employment, successful strikes, and rising wages, with wheat at 46s.—one might have supposed that even the *Post* would think the subject better let alone.

We notice our contemporary's lucubrations, which otherwise might be safely left to find their own way to all whom they concern, first to correct a misrepresentation of League doctrine, and next to make an admission to which we consider him entitled.

The misrepresentation is as follows:—

"Does our correspondent dispute the proposition that wages are (speaking generally) regulated by the price of food? If he does, then our correspondent differs from the champions of Free Trade as much as he does from the advocates of protection.

"*The Leaguers maintain most stoutly that the price of food regulates wages*—regulates them *inversely*. When food is dear, then, according to the Leaguers, wages are low; while, as food falls in price, wages rise in amount.

"This doctrine has been repeatedly propounded by Messrs. Cobden, Bright, and Fox. At one of the League meetings held at Covent-garden Theatre last session, Mr. Cobden, when adverting to the increased briskness of trade, exclaimed—'Holding the opinions which I do, I should be ashamed to appear before you if trade had not improved. For six months past the average price of wheat has been 46s. per quarter. In that fact you must look for the cause of our improved trade.'

"Mr. Cobden, then, not less decidedly than the *Morning Post*, proclaims that wages are regulated by the price of food."

Mr. Cobden proclaims no such thing; nor have the Leaguers, that we know, ever maintained, stoutly or otherwise, the doctrine which the *Post* discovers in the words quoted. The Leaguers have been stoutly maintaining, these five years past, with the facts of each successive month to back them, that price is regulated by supply and demand;—the price of food by the relative supply of, and demand for, food—the price of labour by the relative supply of, and demand for, labour. Not whether bread is high or low, but whether two men are looking for one master, or two masters for one man, is what, on League principles, determines the rate of wages. The Leaguers have always stoutly denied any direct and immediate connexion between the price of the one commodity called food, and the other commodity called labour; but they have at the same time stoutly maintained that there is an indirect and mediate connexion between the two. The cheapness of food, when (as now) the result of plenty, and not (as in the winter of 1842-3) of national poverty and inability to buy, indirectly and mediately raises wages, by liberating so much of the nation's capital from the purchase of food, and adding it to the general wages-fund of the country. The doctrine is, not that cheapness of food raises wages of labour, but that the plenty, of which cheapness is commonly a sign, tends to raise wages, by increasing the demand for labour and its products. This is the doctrine of the League, as it is the doctrine of common sense; and the recent revival of trade and manufactures exactly agrees with it. Successful strikes, after a good harvest, with wheat at 46s., constitute one of those many-fulfilled predictions on which the League go before the country as testing and verifying the soundness of their principles.

But then, asks the *Post*:—

"How comes it that *wages are falling so fearfully throughout the agricultural districts?* According to the doctrine of the League, the agricultural labourer ought to be now in the enjoyment of a larger measure of comfort than ever fell to his lot before."

Without stopping to scrutinize too closely the startling allegation of a "fearful fall" in agricultural wages—we were not aware that agricultural wages could fall—we freely give the *Post* the benefit of the admission, that the doctrine of the League, the common-sense doctrine, of the regulation of wages by demand and supply, *does not apply to the English agricultural labourer*:—and this is precisely the worst fact in the English agricultural labourer's condition, the root and rationale of all his miseries—except at harvest times, and in certain favoured counties in the vicinity of manufactures, the agricultural labourer is out of the law of demand and supply. If demand and supply were the law of his condition, he would die. But the poor law comes in the way, and says he shall not die—that the parish, *i. e.*, the landlords and farmers, must keep him alive; and the cheapest way of keeping him alive is, not in the union-house as a pauper, but out of it as an independent labourer, at seven shillings a week, with forty shillings at the end of forty years, if he behaves well. Speaking generally, the wages of labour in the agricultural districts are not regulated by the natural wages-law, but by the Parliamentary poor law—not by the real market value of labour, which is often *nil*, but by the *minimum* of sustenance which the labourer can be got to live upon. As the *Post* says:—

"In England there exists—almost perpetually—intense competition for employment on the part of labourers. On the actual existence of this intense competition is based the Malthusian dogma as to the existence of 'a surplus population.' Intense, however, as may be this competition, still *there are limits to its power*. These limits are determined, ultimately, *by the price of food. The competitors for employment must still be supplied with food sufficient in amount to sustain their animal energies.* The price of their labour will, therefore, be directly dependent on the price of food. As food falls in price, so will fall wages in amount."

We are afraid the *Post* is right. The theory, though ridiculously false for Manchester and Leeds, has a terrible truth in it for Dorsetshire, and Suffolk, and Buckinghamshire. In the agricultural districts wages really do, to a certain extent, rise and fall directly with the price of food, on the same principle on which the keep of cattle and slaves varies in cost with the price of food. The English peasant's wages are not wages, but *keep*—what will keep him in working condition, and off the parish. He is habitually on the verge of starvation, and consequently when bread rises to famine prices he must have an extra shilling a week; but it is the poor law that gives him this extra shilling, not the law of wages. In the worst of times his wages are enough to keep him alive, for the law of the land says he must and shall be kept alive; in the best of times they are not more than enough, except when the vicinity of prosperous manufactures, or (as in 1835 and 1836) their vast and rapid extension, thins his market of competitors, and gives his labour a real marketable value. There he is, from one year's end to the other, with nothing to enjoy, nothing to hope, and nothing to lose,—kept steadily down at starvation point by a protective legislation which supersedes the necessity of farming improvements that would bring him into request, and chokes up the channels into which his labour would otherwise naturally flow—kept, however, from falling below starvation point by a poor law, which says he shall be fed though the whole rental of the country go to pay for it,—his so-called wages rising and falling by no other law than that which determines the cost of a horse's keep in my lord's stable.

The *Post* is right, then, in its wages-theory, as applied to the agricultural labourer in purely agricultural districts. If we have ever erred on this subject we are sorry for it, and will take care to be more exact in future. We frankly admit, for ourselves in particular and Leaguers in general, that, when we talk of the wages of labour being governed by supply and demand, an exception should be made of that protected agricultural labour whose wages

are governed by the bare *minimum* cost of the labourer's keep. And, when we ridicule the nonsense of wages rising and falling with the price of food, we should not forget that the English peasant does get eight or ten per cent. added to his wages when food rises 50 or 60 per cent.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE WITH THE LABOURERS?

The reports of county agricultural meetings, which daily crowd the columns of the newspapers, teem with evidence of the hollowness and rottenness of the protective system, and give abundant signs that the time is near when it must break down under its own weight. We are sorry these meetings come so thick upon us that we are unable to notice them as they deserve, for most of them exhibit some special features worthy of comment. But, however they may vary in detail, in one important result they all agree—one great fact they all proclaim as with one voice—the landlords of England are beginning to feel that they have got an enormous difficulty on their hands, and they know not what to do with it. A certain tone of uneasiness, anxiety, hesitation, and bewilderment is in these meetings. The landlords are somewhat frightened, and excessively puzzled. After the loyal and constitutional toast-drinkings, the prize-givings for honesty, the compliments to one another, and the cajolery of the farmers are gone through with, there always comes the question—*What shall we do with the labourers?* They have been legislating for, and protecting, the labourer these thirty years—and there the labourer is still, ill-fed, ill-clad, ill-housed, ill-tempered, discontented, and dangerous. It all ends in the labourer being their "chief difficulty."

"Employ them, you farmers!" is usually the first—as it is the easiest and simplest-looking—solution of the problem. Farmers should "remember," says Mr. Fellowes, at Huntingdon, "that, by the regular employment of the labourers, they took away one grand ground of discontent; every man was worthy of his hire; let the labourer be constantly employed and fairly paid, and then he would have no cause for discontent." Only employ the labourers at good wages, and all will go well:—"The best way of *preventing incendiarism* was to keep the labourer employed, and give him those fair wages to which he was fairly entitled." To employ the labourer is more than a virtue—it is a necessity:—"They should remember, moreover, that the agricultural labourer, if not employed, *must still be maintained, if not by the labour of his hands on the farmer's land, at any rate in the union-house.*" Never talk of difficulties, bad markets, unremunerating prices, and the like; if corn is lower than ever, grow more than ever, farm higher, pay more wages:—"He had observed that during the last twelve months there had been a diminution in agricultural labour in some districts, and he had been told that the reason of this was the low price of corn; now, he presumed to say that the argument was totally false, the principle was a wrong one to go upon; when prices were low, they should be met by improvement in quality and increase in produce; not by a diminution of labour, but by an increase of labour." No questions asked, as to where the farmer is to get the capital to set all this labour in motion, or where the profits are to come from by which the outlay is to be remunerated. Nothing said about aiding the farmer in his philanthropic enterprise, by means of lowered rents liberating a portion of his capital, and long leases securing him in the profit of his own exertions. Farmers must be above all such sordid considerations. As the Rev. Mr. Dunne says, at the North Staffordshire meeting, "It must be the duty of the occupier to *give employment to the labourers of the parish*, and *not, for the sake of saving a few pounds, to throw their poorer neighbours out of work;*" that is to say, it is the duty of the farmer, casting aside all fear of the *London Gazette*, to employ the poor of the parish in farm labour, not because he wants their labour, but partly out of charity, and partly out of fear of having his house burned about his ears, and partly because he must pay for their keep, at any rate. It is pleasant to see that the farmer has some friends to stand between him and these preposterous exactions. At Colchester, Mr. J. G. Rebow "was grieved to know that it was useless to say, 'employ the labourers;' he would say, *where were they to get the money from to pay them?*" And Sir G. H. Smyth added, "It was *most important to employ the labourer*, but it was *an insurmountable difficulty to know how it was to be done.*" An insurmountable difficulty, we venture to say, it will remain, till the farmer gets that which only Free Trade will ever give him—low rents, long leases, and a steady market.

The allotment quackery is the next grand panacea for the ills of the agricultural labourer's condition. We call it "quackery," not because the thing is bad in itself, but because it is ridiculously inadequate to the evils for which it is propounded as a remedy, the results of good which are absurdly expected from it, and the justice for which it is impudently offered as a substitute. Of course, we of the League can have no quarrel with allotments, as allotments, any more than with savings' banks or benefit clubs. Where labourers are independent, *i.e.*, where their labour bears a substantial market value, irrespectively of charity, caprice, and poor rates, allotments, *i.e.*, kitchen-gardens, of a reasonable size and at reasonable rents, afford a useful help to the domestic finances, and a wholesome recreation and profitable investment for spare hours. Allotments seem by all accounts to be working well at Bingley. But the Bingley experiment is no case in point for the labourers' friends. Bingley is in the heart of a great manufacturing district. Bingley is a place of power-looms and tall chimneys. The allotment tenants of Bingley are not pauperised seven-shillings-a-week farm-labourers, but self-respecting and self-supporting factory operatives. The shilling or two per week which a Bingley operative's allotment may be worth to him is *his own;* it is not sliced off his factory wages on Saturday night, but goes into the household exchequer so much clear gain. The working of an allotment system in the agricultural counties would give results as different as possible from those shown at the Bingley dinner of the 11th instant. The weekly value of a farm-labourer's allotment would be taken out of his wages; for the farm-labourer's wages are not ruled by the law of supply and demand, but by the poor law. They are the *minimum* on which he can manage to exist, and anything added to his means at one end would be presently cut off at the other. Allotments are compared, we see, to money in the savings' bank. The comparison is a tolerably correct one. To an independent factory operative, working at supply-and-demand wages, a savings'-bank deposit is an unmixed good, something over and above all he has besides. To a pauperised farm-labourer, found in work to keep him from the union-house and the lucifer-match box, a savings'-bank deposit is almost an unmixed evil; the only consequence of his having it is, that the guardians take care to keep him off the parish pay list while a shilling of it remains, and the farmer turns him off and employs a "chargeable" labourer instead, to save the rates. Nothing can really mend the case of the farm-labourer, which does not first repeal the radical curse of his lot—dependence on charity, intimidation, or poor laws, for the means of existence. Allotments would leave him, in this respect, exactly as they found him. The labourers' friends do not want to make him independent, or self-dependent; nothing can be further from their thoughts. The supporters and the opponents of the scheme are alike agreed here: some advocate it as tending to make the labourer more completely dependent on his betters; others object to it as tending to a dangerous and disagreeable independence. At Colchester, Mr. Rebow "was in favour of the allotment system;" it would be "a means of rewarding good conduct," and of teaching the labourer to respect the game laws—a part of the system being, that "*for any breach of the laws he should be ejected.*" But some of the other gentlemen did not see the thing so strongly in this light. Mr. Hobbs cautioned the meeting against giving the labourer too much allotment; it would *occupy his time*, and "might turn out a curse and not a blessing." Mr. Round, the same: "He quite agreed that the allotments *should not be permitted to interfere with the employer's time*; nor should they be of such an extent as to *turn the labourers into small occupiers*, which, he feared, would end in discontent." Sir G. H. Smyth, too, "did not quite like the allotment system; *it occupied too much of the labourer's time*, and, if he had much land, might make him become *indifferent as to his employer;* and perhaps he might say, if he did not please his master, '*I have land to go to.*'"

On the whole, it is pretty clear that the allotment system, should it ever be attempted on a large scale, will meet with a strong opposition, will excite infinite jealousy, and, if effectual, will only become an engine for breaking the labourer's spirit into a more thorough subjection to the landlord yoke, docking a shilling or two off his wages, and perfecting him in the art of living on turnips and potatoes.

The true source to which all rational and honest labourers' friends must look, for the social and industrious emancipation of the victims of landlord protection, is well suggested by Mr. Ralph Carr, at the Northumberland agricultural meeting—a meeting honourably distinguished from all the others we have noticed of late, by nothing being said about allotments, and very much about leases, draining, and the dependence of agriculture on commerce and manufactures. Mr. Carr said—in giving the toast of "the Peasantry of Northumberland"—

"He need not trouble himself with that which generally was most prominent in the minds of those who considered the matter, that was, *lowness of wages*. That source of regret *did not apply to this county*, throughout which the general condition of the labourer was more prosperous than in other counties, parts of Lincolnshire, perhaps, excepted. Far be it from him to fall into a mistake which he was sure none would be more ready to detect than that company, viz., that this was all owing to any superior humanity or any superior sense of justice over the rest of England. They did not give higher wages because they felt more strongly that the labourer deserved them. No; the solution of the question lay in *the very close proximity to the prosperous collieries* in the southern parts of the county, to the collieries in the county of Durham, *to the great extent of shipping upon our coasts*, and to *the consequent great drain and demand for labour which took place*, and which carried off from the agricultural districts all that superfluous labour, which, if allowed to remain on the spot, would weigh down the agricultural labourers."

The "great drain and demand for labour," which the happy accident of geographical position creates in Northumberland—and which Free-Trade, with its concomitants of prosperous manufactures and improved agriculture, would create in every county of England—would be our best help towards a practical solution of all the most difficult questions that affect the condition and prospects of the agricultural labourer.

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY.

By the late arrivals from America it would appear that a considerable change is taking place in reference to the prospects of the two candidates for the presidency. The friends of Mr. Clay seem to be less confident, but more violent in their language, which for vituperation certainly eclipses anything we have ever read in Europe. We observe that their newspapers have been forging "political capital" by spreading the report that the Free-Traders in England have subscribed £100,000 to assist in carrying the election of Mr. Polk. We expect to hear next that we are setting up a new dynasty at Pekin. By the way, the inventor of this story—the editor of the *New York Republic* newspaper—ought to be whipped by his employers for the clumsiness with which he has forged what Sheridan calls the "endorsements to the lie." He pretends to give a report of the public meeting in Manchester, at which this subscription was commenced, and puts the *Lord Provost* in the chair! Be it known to all interested that Manchester has no such functionary; and we need hardly add that the persons over whom he presided, a long list of whose names is given in the *Republic*, have no bodily existence there. Really if the monopolist press in America has any regard for the reputation of its citizens it will change its course. The arguments in favour of protection which some leading orators and newspaper writers in America are now putting forth are the thousand-times-refuted fallacies of the Duke of Buckingham's party, and the *Morning Post*. It is bad enough for the reputation of American democracy in Europe when we are told that there are any large number of persons in the United States to be deluded by such trash; but what must be thought of the readers of the *Republic* and other protectionist prints who can be gulled by raw-head-and-bloody-bones stories such as the above! Why, English school-children would be proof against such clumsy attempts upon their credulity.

COBBETT'S FARM AT NORMANDY.

The name of Farnham is said to be derived from the abundance of *fern* that once grew there. I doubt not but the fine deep soils where the hops now grow were at one time covered with fern. That plant is to be seen yet in great quantities on some parts of the Surrey and Hampshire heaths. I have observed that, in all parts of the kingdom, wherever the heath and the fern grow vigorously together, the soil, if broken up and planted with potatoes, brings forth first-rate crops.

Thus it is at Farnham. Notwithstanding all the prejudice and passion of Cobbett against potatoes and potato eaters, the finest specimens of this year's crop which I have seen in any part of England, I saw at FARNHAM. And in the country lying between that place and Normandy, where he had his farm, I saw some pieces of potato-ground bearing excellent crops; pieces of ground newly reclaimed from the heaths which, in the natural state, did not produce 1s. for each 20s. produced now; besides not employing labour then as now. And there is much good land of that description still lying unreclaimed. Talk of emigration! of sending people to Canada or Australia, to get rid of a superabundant population! our superabundant people there have to make war upon primeval forests, and waste half a lifetime in making corn-land, wasting more than a whole lifetime in getting a good market for the corn, the good market at best being a low-priced market compared with the lowest in England! Talk of the backwoods in Canada when there is so much of Surrey in England to cultivate: not the shallow heaths, but the good land.

But, unhappily, the parish of Ash, or a very considerable portion of it, cannot be cultivated as it should be because of lawsuits arising out of mortgages, which mortgages and lawsuits arose out of the Corn Laws. But of this presently.

Having seen the birth-place and the burial-place of William Cobbett, and the place where he first learned to

work in a garden and to eat garden fruit, I was desirous of seeing his farm. I knew it was a considerable distance from Farnham; but could not call to mind the name of it, although in the latter part of his lifetime every person that at any time glanced at his publications, or by any chance listened to one of his lectures, must have heard the name of *Normandy Farm*.

I had seen it in print and had heard of it many a time; yet, could not recollect it now. So I was about to inquire, when, passing along Farnham-street, I read the following among other advertisements of farm property for sale:—

"*Normandy Farm, in the Parish of Ash, Surrey.*—All the live and dead farming-stock, and part of the household furniture, comprising three useful cart horses; waggons, dung carts, and raved cart; three Guildford swing ploughs, and light and strike furrow ploughs; drags, harrows, rollers, ladders, corn lines, trace, thill, plough, and foot harness; Bennett's seed machine, corn screen, barley chomper, chaff box and knife, pair clasp drags, sieves, prongs, shovels, sheep bells, &c. The household furniture comprises fourpost and stump bedsteads, beds and bedding, chairs, glasses, card and other tables, fenders, fireirons, butter tumbler, mash and tun tubs, barrels, copper, pots, tubs, kievers, stools, and a variety of very useful effects, which will be sold by auction, by Messrs. Thomas Baker and Sons, on the premises, Normandy Farm, on Tuesday, the 1st of October, 1844, at eleven o'clock precisely."

The tenant now selling off is the *second* since Mr. Cobbett's decease in 1835; and he told me he was very glad to get out of it—he was losing money. He paid £40 a year more for the 160 acres, which is the extent of the farm, than Mr. Cobbett paid. Cobbett's rent was £160; this tenant's rent was £200.

It was the evening before the sale that I saw the advertisement, so I resolved to go to it next day. Next day having come, I hired a conveyance, which bore the dignified name of a "fly," but which was rather a primitive machine of the fly kind, and jogged away at a rate which was by no means too fast for making inquiries about land, cultivation, tenures, lawsuits, mortgages, wages, potatoes, and so forth, as we went along.

THOMAS PAINE'S BONES.

When we arrived at the village of Ash, I stopped to make some inquiries of a general kind, or rather, to talk with anybody I met on any subject, to see what kind of topics might be introduced. Those to whom I spoke supposed at once that I was going to the sale at Normandy Farm, so that was the readiest subject of conversation. I inquired if the present tenant had been long in the farm, and also how long Mr. Cobbett had been in it. To which it was replied, that no one had been long in that farm since Mr. Weston left it; that he had been 21 years in it, and left it when Cobbett came. We then spoke of Mr. Weston's present farm; and, on my saying I would like to see that gentleman, they told me that I had nothing to do but to drive on a mile and a half and stop as I came to his door (I would know it by the new barn), and I would not only see himself, but see "Tom Paine's bones" as well, if I chose.

It was, as every person old enough knows, a matter of public notoriety once, that Cobbett brought Paine's bones from America. I believe it was this that caused some public writer, in a fit of that ill-nature which was so characteristic of Cobbett himself, when he had an opponent to deal with, to call him the "bone grubber."

The bones were found in a chest at his death, and would have been sold at the public auction that followed, but the auctioneer would not offer them. They told me at Ash, that the auctioneer said "he had never sold any man's bones *as yet*, and he would not begin now with Tom Paine's." The chest and the bones, on everything else being cleared away from Normandy by the purchasers at the sale and by Mr. Cobbett's family, were removed for a temporary deposit to Mr. Weston's house, about half a mile off. And there, I was told, they still remained.

I proceeded to Mr. Weston's accordingly. I would have done so for the sake of a conversation with him on farming affairs, especially on his olden recollections of farming in Surrey. But all these became secondary to my desire to see the chest and the bones, to see the skull of "Common Sense" and the "Rights of Man."

I knew Mr. Weston's farm and residence when I saw it, as I had been told I would, by the *new barn*. There were a pair of sawyers sawing boards, and carpenters nailing up the boards, for all the barns are wooden ones; and Mr. Weston was in the barn also. On his being sent for to the house, I found him a most willing and intelligent informant on many matters; but, by my not knowing precisely how to introduce the subject of Paine's bones, I felt myself in a difficulty. At last I became bold and asked the question broadly, if it was true that he had such curious relics in his possession. At which he shook his head, and said, "Not now." He had them up to about six months ago; but at that time a gentleman came from London and got them away to bury them there. He seemed unwilling to say more; and, as I had no right to inquire, I did not pursue the subject. But I was told elsewhere in the neighbourhood that this was correct. I heard names mentioned; but, as it seems some secrecy had been enjoined, I do not repeat the names. I think the parties performed a very proper duty if they really did take the bones to London *to bury them*.

NORMANDY FARM—RENTS AND MORTGAGES.

The fact of there being a *new barn* and other new wooden erections in progress on Mr. Weston's farm, as also on some other farms which I had seen in the neighbourhood, led to conversations between myself and several parties on matters connected with the tenures and ownership of land.

An estate here had fallen into ruin through a mortgage which swallowed up its rents. The landlord, or a relative, his predecessor, had borrowed about £30,000 on mortgage of the rental. The borrowing, as was too often the case in mortgages of the last thirty or forty years, was a Corn-Law speculation. The money-lenders, depending on the power of the Legislature to keep up prices of corn and rents of land, had lent more money than enough. The owner, depending also on legislative prices, borrowed more money than he could pay the interest of.

Normandy Farm is on this estate, as is also Mr. Weston's present farm next to Normandy. In the year 1811 Mr. Weston commenced his occupation of Normandy at a yearly rent of £210. At that time the war and the political fictions which accompany war had raised prices, and he got on pretty well. So he hoped to do when the Corn Law of 1815 was passed to keep wheat up to 80s. a quarter *at least*; but that Corn Law, like all others, was a delusion, and up to 1822 Mr. Weston had a continued struggle for bare life. Having paid everything in rent, and more than everything—for, owing to the depreciated currency of 1819, he paid in the three succeeding years a rent much higher than he contracted for in 1811, as all farmers did—he paid at least £250 a year instead of £210, and he did this with low markets—with wheat down to 40s. a quarter in one year, while he had contracted to pay a rent which the stupid and most treacherous delusion of the Corn Law had caused him to calculate to pay, with wheat at from 80s. a quarter upwards;—having, as all other farmers had at that time, paid away everything derived from the farm in rent, and more than he derived—having paid away all spare cash, the savings of the years of war prices—he could not keep on at such a rent. He got an abatement, and for the next nine years paid £170 a year.

Mr. Cobbett came after him, and had the farm four years, at an annual rent of £160. He must have entered upon it, I presume, in 1831, as he died in 1835. No person, since 1811, has had a chance of doing much in it save Cobbett, not unless they had a good capital. It is a farm capable of great improvement. Had Cobbett been long enough in it to have done much, I would have been exceedingly surprised to see it as it is now, even nine years after his death; but he had not time to do much. Yet Normandy farm, as it is now, and was when he took it, is a proof of his sagacity. It is an excellent piece of land, which, from the day that the dove went out of Noah's ark to the day that the Farnham "fly" conveyed me to it—namely, the 1st of October, 1844—has never been treated in a manner deserving the name of good cultivation. Mr. Weston had nothing but a continual struggle with difficulties, paying everything away in rent. Besides, I must take the liberty of doubting whether either he or the present generation of farmers in Surrey are likely to do all they might do for themselves and their land, supposing them to have the money power.

Cobbett was not long enough in the farm to do much for it; and if he had been long enough, he was at best a crotchety farmer. In small things upon the farm, he was great. He was a radical reformer in things political, but not in things agricultural. He had only his own experience to work upon. His inordinate self-esteem debarred him from profiting by the experience of others. In four years, only three of which it is fair to reckon upon as years in which he had an opportunity of doing anything, he could not have effected great changes; but to have been three years in power in such a farm as Normandy, it requiring such a thorough revolution, and nothing to have been done, as is shown by what it is now—its faults, deficiencies, and inconveniences of the present time being the growth of a century—all this proves little for Mr. Cobbett's reputation as a farmer. Indeed, we have only to read his own works—his tour in Scotland particularly—to find that he knew little of agriculture out of the breadth of a kitchen-garden. Still he was a keen-sighted man, and proved his acuteness in pitching upon so good a soil as Normandy, where there was room to do so very much at a moderate expense.

Next to Cobbett came a Mr. Thompson, or rather, a company, with Mr. Thompson at its head. The rent was now £200, a higher rent than that of the war prices of 1811, be it remembered, yet a rent which such land should easily afford where there is sufficient capital, good security of tenure, liberality of covenants, and *no game*; that accursed game is the ruin of these counties.

BEETROOT SUGAR.

It is said that Mr. Thompson began well, would have continued well, and would have found his rent of £200 an easy rent, as his intention was to grow beetroot, and manufacture sugar. Just, however, as the apparatus was got ready, and much expense incurred, the West India sugar interest took the alarm, and said to the Government, it will never do to make sugar in Surrey and refine it into loaf sugar to compete with us; it must be taxed.

The owners of land naturally said, why is beetroot sugar to be prohibited by this tax? Shall we not be allowed to produce what we choose from our own land, if we can make a profit from it? To which the sugar interest replied, you cannot make a much larger profit of your beetroot sugar than you can of your wheat. If you make sugar in competition with us, we will not help you to keep up the Corn Law. Give up sugar-making to us, and we will help you to maintain your Corn Law.

And accordingly Mr. Thompson, who had no doubt but he could easily pay £200 a year for Normandy Farm if allowed to make sugar, was prevented from making sugar, and left the farm; and a Mr. Wood, believing that the Corn Law would be kept on, and that it would keep up the rising prices of 1837 and 1838, undertook to pay as much rent as Mr. Thompson had undertaken to pay, namely, £200 a year.

Thus, taking this farm as a specimen, the landed interest seemed all right. The attempts to make sugar had increased the rent from 20s. to 25s. per acre; while the alliance with the India sugar monopoly, which promised to maintain the Corn Law inviolate, obtained for the land the continuance of 25s. an acre—the sugar price.

But the Corn Law never did and never will keep up prices. So far as the sliding scale is concerned, it unsettles prices, and unsettles them to the farmer's disadvantage; while the whole law tends to make the whole nation poorer and less able to buy and consume that which the farmer has to sell. The Corn Law has cheated every farmer, and it cheated Mr. Wood of Normandy like others. He found the Corn Law did not keep up prices, and yet he had £200 a year to pay, with £30 a year of other burdens, tithes, rates, and taxes.

THE CORN LAW INJURIOUS TO LANDOWNERS.

Moreover, he not only paid all he had away in rent, but he suffered part of that evil which results to the owners of land from the Corn Law. The estate had been mortgaged. A lawsuit ensued. It was for several years apprehended that the mortgagees would get possession of the estate, when, in order to take legal possession, they would eject the tenants who held from the landlord. This the mortgagees have at last done. And during the years of dispute, the tenants dared do nothing that required an outlay of capital. Barns and other buildings, and fences and gates, went to decay; no draining was done; no means taken to make the land fruitful to pay the rent. Yet the rent had to be paid. Receivers had been appointed by the courts of law, and to them the rent had to be paid with rigid punctuality.

And all this arose from the landlord and the mortgagees having expected that the Corn Law would be able to keep prices and rents at an extravagant height. The landlord has lost his estate; the mortgagees saw it fall into dilapidation, and must now bear the expense of comprehensive repairs. The tenantry suffered for the want of suitable conveniences, and also because they had no security in laying out money in properly cultivating their land. All of them lived from hand to mouth by reason of the Corn Law, hoping for something better; and all of them were cheated. Mr. Wood had an agreement for fourteen years, and must have remained until that time was out, or until he became insolvent and was sold out, had not the success of the mortgagees given him the chance of escape, which, being cheated by the Corn Law, he was but too glad to avail himself of. He was served with a notice of ejectment, and he took that opportunity of quitting so bad a bargain as he found Normandy Farm to be at £200 a year.

A neighbouring gentleman named Warren has taken it at £180 a year from the mortgagees. But it is said the dispute is not yet settled, as the landlord is to make one more effort to regain possession.

But this is a rare instance of a farm being at present let for less than the old rent. I have been assured by several farmers who are now offering for farms that there is no chance of getting a new holding but at an advance on present rentals. This may not be so with the very large farms, for which there is not so great a competition; but for small ones, or those of moderate size, for which the competition is great, an increase of rent is asked everywhere. Some landlords, Lord King for one, near Guildford, are reducing the size of their farms and getting a higher rent.

This reduction of the size of farms will become universal in the course of a few years. From the discoveries in chemical science, and other circumstances, tenants cannot cultivate farms of from 600 to 2000 acres properly: they have not capital. A farm of from 150 to 300 acres is far more likely to be profitable than one of 1000 acres to a man of moderate capital. The desire for the reduction of farms is extending rapidly in the southern counties of Scotland at present, especially among the sons of farmers. The young men find they cannot get farms at all, the parcels of land are so large and so few. And they find that, to carry out the comprehensive new system of tillage requisite in such a district as the Merse of Berwickshire, they should not encounter more than 200 or 300 acres, even if they could get more. The sum of £4000 laid out in draining thoroughly; in subsoiling and in trenching with the spade; in saving and applying every particle and drop of home-made manure; in the raising of superior green crops and in stall-feeding; they understand quite well that £4000 would bring a larger profit out of 400 acres than that sum would out of 1000 acres. Yet 1000 acres is a medium-sized farm in Berwickshire.

Not so in Surrey, unless where there is a wide range of heath, and not even there, so far as I have seen; but on some estates there are large farms in Surrey, and, as already said, some landlords are reducing them, and, from the competition that exists, are obtaining higher rents.

OUTWARD APPEARANCE OF NORMANDY FARM.

It is but a humble-looking place. The farm-house and

offices stand at the top of a common, removed from the farm land, which to a good farmer is a great annoyance, and to any farmer is a loss. A wide range of heath, variegated with furze, gravel pits, and tracks of absolute sterility, extends for many miles behind the farm-house; and on either side, right and left, the heath extends for several miles, variegated only with a few clumps of pine trees, chiefly Scotch firs.

In front lies a heathy common, in complete disorder as commons usually are, and beyond it to the front, looking eastward, is the farm land, enclosed in small fields, with very badly-kept fences. There are trees in the hedgerows; and in some parts more of them than should be upon a farm where there is a tenant bound to pay rent.

The land is wet, and wants at least £1000 expended on it, to be repaid out of a lease of twenty years, before it can develop fully its natural good qualities. At present it is poisoned with weedy foulness, and the sour wetness of its subsoil. Nothing has been done to cure this effectually, not even by Cobbett; yet, had he lived longer, he would have, doubtless, had it in a much better condition than it is now in.

It is an excellent soil for potatoes. I never saw better potato-land in the kingdom than in this parish of Ash. In Farnham the land is more profitably employed in hop-growing, by far, than it could be in potato-growing. But were the farmers in those parishes who occupy that land which was originally heathy and ferny, and which is not used for hops, to turn their attention to the culture of *seed* potatoes, they could make an excellent profit. The railway is near; the London growers of potatoes are always in want of changed seed; the soil in this part of Surrey is that kind of soil which produces the best seed-potatoes. I mean by *seed* the potatoes that are to be planted again, not literally the seed of them from the apples.

ONE WHO HAS WHISTLED AT THE PLOUGH.

ANTI-CORN-LAW MEETING AT TOOTING.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

We had a capital meeting here last night (Thursday the 17th). Our large room at the Rising Sun was crowded to excess. Mr. Marchant, who became an abolitionist when the military paraded in Palace-yard in 1815, occupied the chair. A vote of confidence in the League having been moved by one of our local gentlemen, and seconded by James Crofts, Esq., and carried unanimously,

Mr. GEORGE THOMPSON proceeded to show cause why the Corn Laws should be immediately abolished. Among other reasons, because they raised the price of all descriptions of food, to the serious loss of the consumer; made the corn trade a system of gambling, or, at best, of hazardous and censurable speculation; baffled the calculations of the grower, and often turned his brightest prospects into gloom and barrenness; made the tenant-farmer the serf and slave of the landed proprietor; worked the most injurious effects upon the money market, and were the causes of periodical derangements, and distressing and general panics; circumscribed the operations of almost every branch of manufactures, and hence restricted the amount of employment, and brought about misery and starvation to the home labourer; were iniquitously unjust, by reason of their unequal pressure, augmenting the wealth of the rich, and filching the earnings of the poor; were contrary to the patent designs of Providence, and at war with the interests of nations; a legal robbery for the benefit of a few, and an abomination that should not be suffered to exist. (Mr. Thompson was warmly applauded.)

Mr. ROBERT R. MOORE took up the question of *Free Trade* generally, and very eloquently expounded the principles of commerce and the rights of industry. He answered in the most satisfactory and convincing manner the cry, "The League is dead;" and then proceeded to exhibit, for the amusement of the audience, a few of the stupendous lies of the Pro-Corn-Law press, contrasting the assertions of the monopolists with the real facts of the case. He also laid bare the falsehoods respecting the numbers, condition, and importance of the agricultural population, and concluded by an earnest exhortation to steadfastness and perseverance in the cause of repeal.

A vote of thanks to the deputation was moved and carried, and the meeting separated with three cheers for Free Trade.

ANTI-CORN-LAW LECTURES IN WILTSHIRE.

CHIPPENHAM.—On Friday evening, the 11th inst., Mr. Falvey, from the Anti-Corn-Law League, delivered a lecture on the evils of the Corn Laws in the large room, White Lion, Chippenham. The room was quite full, and the audience appeared to enter fully into the spirit of the subject, and to appreciate the value of Free Trade by their repeated and hearty cheering.

MALMESBURY.—Mr. Falvey lectured in the large room of the White Lion Inn, on Saturday evening, the 12th instant. A good number of farmers attended, and the room was quite full. H. Gale, Esq., was called to the chair, and explained the object of the meeting. After a short speech, which was very well received, he introduced the lecturer, who spoke for about two hours in defence of industrial freedom. The people present appeared to be delighted, without exception. After passing votes of thanks to the chairman and lecturer, it was resolved that there should be a Free-Trade Association formed for the borough of Malmesbury.

GOATACRE.—A meeting, consisting principally of farm-labourers, was held in the Independent Chapel, Goatacre, on Monday evening last, when Mr. Falvey delivered a lecture. Many of his statements were substantiated by some of the labourers present, who, when he had concluded, warmly greeted him.

FOREIGN MANUFACTURES.—A national exhibition has just been opened in Stockholm, in the Palace of his Royal Highness Prince Gustavus, for the productions of Norwegian and Swedish manufacture. Nine hundred articles have already been deposited there, out of which one-third are Norwegian, and two-thirds Swedish.

AN INQUIRY INTO THE EFFECTS OF ENGLISH LEGISLATION UPON AGRICULTURAL WAGES, PROFITS, AND RENT.

BY A BARRISTER.

(*Continued from page* 22.)

CHAPTER VI.—*Section* 3. *Operation on Profits.*

Hitherto we have directed our attention chiefly to the operation of legislation on wages and rents; on the condition of the agricultural labourer, and on that of the landlord; the present section will be entirely devoted to the business of tracing its operation upon agricultural profits, that is, upon the condition of the tenant-farmer or agricultural employer of capital. It has often been asserted that the Corn Laws were made and are kept up for the benefit of the farmers and the farm-labourers. If such really was the object of those laws, that they have signally failed in their object as regards the labourers we believe we have already shown. We must now endeavour to discover what has been the result as regards the tenant-farmers.

If the Corn Laws were, as has been often asserted, beneficial to the farmer, the result ought to appear in some tangible shape. We have seen that, whether related in the way of cause and effect or not, poor laws, corn laws, and high rents—we mean an increase of rent—have come together. We have seen also that, with the exception of a period of not very long duration about the middle of the last century, the period of poor laws has not been a period of high wages, and that the addition of corn laws has had at least as little effect to raise wages as poor laws without corn laws had. We have shown that, whatever might be its effect in other directions, one effect of the poor law of 1796 (which authorized the allowance system) was to throw part of the payment of the wages of labour upon persons other than the employers of labour. And we suppose we may assume that one effect of the Corn Law of 1815 was to raise the price of agricultural produce. It might appear that both these effects would be beneficial to the employer of agricultural labour, would tend to produce a rise in his profits, and a consequent increase of his capital. The fact, however, is not so. We have already noticed the general tenour of the answers returned to the question issued by the Poor Law Commissioners of Inquiry in 1832-3—"Is the amount of agricultural capital in your neighbourhood increasing or diminishing? And do you attribute such increase or diminution to any cause connected with the administration of the poor laws?" The latter clause of the question naturally directed the attention of the respondent to the administration of the poor laws as the sole cause of the diminution of agricultural capital which he was there called on to consider. Notwithstanding this, a very large proportion of the answers referred to other causes, and many, while they distinctly affirm the fact of diminution, simply deny that such diminution is at all attributable to the poor laws. With regard to the competency of the witnesses to speak to the mere question of fact, we may observe that they are nearly all persons having a practical knowledge of agriculture — landlords, farmers, land-agents, and land-surveyors. Most of them are men speaking of their own circumstances; and it does not seem very likely that a large number of practical men should be mistaken as to the fact whether they are getting rich or poor, are prospering or ruined. Whatever cause they may assign, the important feature is the *fact* of the diminution of capital; or, to avoid any ambiguity there may be in the expression, the increasing poverty of the tenant-farmer. As we have before shown, that fact is affirmed by the witnesses in the proportion of 1117 to 55. We shall now, by examples from all parts of England, enable the reader to judge for himself of the nature and value of this evidence.

"Diminishing rapidly. A great dealer in artificial manures told me lately that the farmers in Cambridgeshire purchased of him no more than £2000 worth of such manures last year (1831), whereas the usual annual amount has been £4000. Consequently the soil much deteriorates."—*Robert Withers, land-agent, Wimpole, county of Cambridge.**

"Agricultural capital has greatly diminished since the year 1814; not, I think, in any way from the poor laws."—*Wm. Evans, an old farmer, tenant to G. T. L. Blenkinsopp, Esq., South Bedburn, county of Durham.*†

"Capital decreasing for some time past, but certainly not in any way connected with the poor laws."—*Overseers, Wisbech, Isle of Ely.*‡

"Diminishing, but not attributable to any such cause." *Overseers, Eastham and Hooton townships, Chester.*§

"Rapidly diminishing, although this is not at all to be attributed to the administration of the poor laws."—*W. H. Howgill, Burtholme township (Lanercost Parish), Cumberland.*‖

"Rapidly diminishing. The causes appear to be rents far too high, heavy taxes, high poor rates, and the prices of agricultural produce too low in proportion."—*Overseer, Caldbeck, Cumberland.*¶

"There was a great decrease in agricultural capital for some years after the peace, arising from causes, in my opinion, quite unconnected with the administration of the poor laws. The great and rapid fall in prices ruined many farmers, and reduced some of them to the condition of labourers, others to that of paupers. The more fortunate ones have, I trust, during the last two or three years, seen those portions not reduced further, though I fear not increased."—*E. W. Hasell, Dacre, Cumberland.**

"Rapidly diminishing, though not at all to be attributed to the administration of the poor laws."—*W. Steele, vestry-clerk, Walton, Cumberland.*†

"Diminishing; as proof, we have been obliged to distrain for poor's rates; but the diminution is not owing to the poor laws, but to high rents."—*Overseer, St. Budeaux, Devon.*‡

"Diminishing; arising from very large outgoings, consisting of high rents, exorbitant tithes, and other parochial expenses."—*Assistant Overseer, Thorverton, Devon.*§

"Diminishing rapidly, by reason of the low prices of corn and cattle, and the rent of land being not sufficiently abated."—*Rowland Burdon, churchwarden and J. P., Castle Eden, county of Durham.*‖

"Decreasing from the depreciation of money, and the continuance of rent, taxes, &c., at the old value."—*Overseer, Prittlewell, Essex.*¶

"Not increasing. Causes, taxes, tithes, and rent still the same, and produce of less value."—*Assistant Overseer, Thornbury, county of Gloucester.***

"It is exceedingly diminished, and I attribute the diminution chiefly to the non-reduction of rent and taxes; when I say taxes, I include poor and road rates, which has not taken place in proportion to the altered value of produce."—*Charles Share, vestry-clerk and acting overseer, Ledbury, county of Hereford.*††

"It has much diminished, and the causes we attribute it to are, first, taxation; second, high rents; and third, the tithe system."—*James Trecothick, St. Peter the Apostle (Isle of Thanet), county of Kent.*‡‡

"Diminished very considerably; and I feel no doubt that, if their circumstances were inquired into, it would be found that a large majority of the farmers, not only in this neighbourhood but in this county generally, are actually insolvent."—*George Moore, Wrotham, Kent.*§§

"Diminishing; not from any causes connected with the poor laws, but from the high price (rent) of land, and low price of produce."—*Thomas Roberts; W. Winstanley, West Derby township (Walton-on-the-Hill parish), county of Lancaster.*‖‖

"Decreasing very considerably, and has been so for several years. It is my opinion one-third of the farmers are insolvent."—*Richard Norman, J. P., Melton Mowbray, county of Leicester.*¶¶

"Diminishing, from high rents and taxes; bad crops, and rotten sheep."—*Overseers, Foston, Lincolnshire.***

"I am afraid the amount of agricultural capital is diminishing in this neighbourhood; but I do not think from any cause connected with the poor laws. Rents have been very high here, as the neighbouring iron-works cause a great demand for agricultural produce; that demand is very much lessened from the distress in the iron trade; and rents have not fallen in proportion to produce."—*Thomas Williams, Llanvapley, Monmouthshire.*†††

"Diminishing, chiefly owing to high rents and tithes."—*Overseer, Mattishall, county of Norfolk.*‡‡‡

"Greatly diminished; but that circumstance is not to be attributed to any cause connected with the poor laws. The wretched seasons of 1828, 1829, and 1830, and the reduced value of farming produce, without a corresponding reduction of rents, are quite sufficient for this effect."—*C. W. Bigge, J.P., Long Horsley, Northumberland.*§§§

"It is diminishing, principally on account of the small portion of the rents of the land being expended upon it, and the highness of rents caused by the competition for farms let from year to year. The poor laws have hitherto had very little effect upon agricultural capital in this neighbourhood."—*John Hodgson, vicar, Whelpington, Northumberland.*‖‖‖

"Looking at our rate-book of thirty years back, I find all the farmers of that date, except two, are become poor men."—*Assistant Overseer, Chadlington, county of Oxford.*¶¶¶

"Diminishing. Not attributed to poor laws, but to high rents."—*John Snowden, Bishop's Hall, county of Somerset.****

"When a farmer has been ruined, a new tenant generally obtains his estate at a reduced rent, and, of course, brings a new capital."—*Thomas Poole, J.P., Nether Stowey, county of Somerset.*††††

"Diminishing. The cause the increase of rents, tithes, and poor rates."—*W. C. Bosley, guardian, Long Sutton, county of Southampton.*‡‡‡‡

"Diminishing. The cause to be attributed to being too highly rented."—*A. J. Ram, curate, Colwich, county of Stafford.*§§§§

"Diminishing greatly, owing to heavy rents and tithes, and to the yearly produce making less money than formerly."—*Henry Dalgnan, vestry clerk and assistant overseer, Foreign of Walsall, county of Stafford.*‖‖‖‖

"Diminishing, in consequence of nearly the whole of the farmer's income being taken from him in the shape of rent, tithes, poor rates, and taxes, direct and indirect, so

* Appendix (B. 1.), question 36, p. 71 *c.*
† Appendix (B. 1.), question 26, p. 140 *c.*
‡ Appendix (B. 1.), question 36, p. 71 *c.*
§ *Ib.*, p. 75 *c.* ‖ *Ib.*, p. 108 *c.* ¶ *Ib.*, p. 103 *c.*

* Appendix (B. 1.), question 36, p. 104 *c.* † *Ib.*, p. 118 *c.*
‡ *Ib.*, p. 127 *c.* § *Ib.*, p. 133 *c.* ‖ *Ib.*, p. 147 *c.*
¶ *Ib.*, p. 183 *c.* ** *Ib.*, p. 204 *c.* †† *Ib.*, p. 212 *c.*
‡‡ *Ib.*, p. 239 *c.* §§ *Ib.*, p. 268 *c.* ‖‖ *Ib.*, p. 271 *c.*
¶¶ *Ib.*, p. 284 *** *Ib.*, p. 292 *c.* ††† *Ib.*, p. 302 *c.*
‡‡‡ *Ib.*, p. 318 *c.* §§§ *Ib.*, p. 349 *c.* ‖‖‖ *Ib.*, p. 351 *c.*
¶¶¶ *Ib.*, p. 369 *c.* **** *Ib.*, p. 398 *c.* †††† *Ib.*, p. 407 *c.*
‡‡‡‡ *Ib.*, p. 430 *c.* §§§§ *Ib.*, p. 441 *c.* ‖‖‖‖ *Ib.*, p. 445 *c.*

that he has but little left to employ labourers to cultivate the land."—*Assistant Overseer, Cuckfield, Sussex.**

"Fearfully decreased. We have hardly a solvent farmer in the parish."—*Robert Ellison, rector; and N. Barnwell, Ashfold-lodge, Slaugham, Sussex.*†

"Decreasing, from high rents, rot in sheep, and low price of produce."—*John Ellis, vicar, Wootton Wawen, county of Warwick.*‡

"Very much decreasing. I do not attribute it to the administration of the poor laws, but to the rents being too high in proportion to the price of grain."—*Edward Cooper, jun., Wootton Wawen, county of Warwick.*§

"They say it is on the decline, from the successive failures of tenants, and more particularly from the burden which presses on land in the shape of poor rate; but I am not able to mark any cause for this connected with the administration of the poor laws."—*J. T. Du Boulay, rector, Heddington, county of Wilts.*‖

"The agricultural capital is certainly diminishing: there is a very great difficulty to procure substantial tenants for vacant farms in this district."—*George Lawrence, J.P., Whiteparish, county of Wilts.*¶

"Capital can scarcely be expected to increase under present difficulties, neither can it be much worse than it is at present. I think nine-tenths of farmers possess only the stock, live and dead, upon their farms; and I also think that many are insolvent. I cannot attribute the diminution or total absence of agricultural capital to any cause connected with the administration of the poor laws."—*Thomas Marriott, major-general and J.P., Pershore division, containing sixty-six parishes, county of Worcester.***

"The amount is yearly diminishing, partly in consequence of high rents and rates."—*Overseer, Farnhill with Cononley township (Kildwick parish), county of York (West Riding).*††

"We apprehend it is diminishing, owing to the decreased price of produce, while rent, taxes, and rates remain nearly the same."—*Overseer, Rastrick township (Halifax parish), county of York (West Riding).*‡‡

"The little capital there is in agriculture here is diminishing, and has been for some years; but we do not consider it so much the effect of the poor laws as the fall in the price of the produce, and continued high rents and taxation."—*Assistant Overseer, Shelf township (Halifax parish), county of York (West Riding).*§§

"Diminishing, caused by low prices of produce, high rents, assessed taxes, and poor's rates."—*Assistant Overseer, Stainland township (Halifax parish), county of York (West Riding).*‖‖

There was also much evidence to the same effect produced before the Select Committee of the House of Lords, appointed to consider of the Poor Laws, in 1830 and 1831. Thus the

Rev. James Beard, Cranfield, Beds, was asked:—"What rate of wages have single men of eighteen received within the last three years when employed on the roads?—Three shillings a week.

"Do you think it possible that a person of that age can subsist, with tolerable comfort, on 3s. a week?—Certainly not.

"What rate of wages do they now receive?—I asked the farmers, without compelling them as a magistrate, to increase those of eighteen to 5s., and those of twenty to 6s. a week.

"Do you consider such increase of wages to be sufficient?—They were very well satisfied.

"Have all the wages been increased in that parish, for single men as well as married men?—They have.

"What is the general state of farmers in that parish: is it conceived to be prosperous, or the reverse?—Quite the reverse.

"Do you conceive it possible that the farmers will be able to pay those increased wages of labour to those employed by them, or on the roads?—Certainly not.

"Do you happen to know whether in your parish the farmers pay with difficulty the present amount of poor's rates?—The greatest possible; that is to say, that several of them are summoned every time the rate is claimed."¶¶

Thomas Law Hodges, Esq., M.P. for the county of Kent, examined.—"Supposing the labourer to be paid after the rate of 12s. per week, and prices to remain as they are at present, do you think that the capital employed in farming can yield anything like a profit?—For several years past it has not; the rents have been paid out of the tenant's capital, and not out of profit."***

Mr. Richard Holloway, Shipley, Sussex, examined.—"Are the farmers in your neighbourhood considered to be in prosperous circumstances, or the reverse?—They are in worse circumstances than they were at that time of day.

"Are they well off now?—No, by no means; there are a great many that begin to be very poor."†††

Mr. George Harrison, Lenham, Kent, examined.—"Have rents been much lowered in your parish?—I believe not; I left off farming on account of my rent being too high."‡‡‡

John Grey Esq., Millfield-hill, Northumberland, examined.—"Do you conceive that the capital in the hands of farmers in Northumberland has been on the increase or diminution?—It has been very much diminished. I believe the value of their stock has very much diminished.

"Do you conceive that the farmer's spare capital that is not employed upon his farm, the little money he has had out in mortgages, or land he has purchased, during the prices preceding the year 1814, has been decreased; that he has called in his mortgages, and has sold his land?—Yes; I have no doubt that his capital has been very much impaired.*

Earl Stanhope examined.—"Is there any surplus of labour in that neighbourhood, which enables the farmers to dictate such very low conditions to their men?—I am not aware of its proceeding altogether from a surplus of labour: and I should ascribe it rather to the want of sufficient means on the part of the farmers, who are greatly deficient in capital.

"Does your lordship think that their means have been reduced since the peace?—As long as I have known that country, I am clearly of opinion that the farmers have taken a greater quantity of land than their capital would warrant; and I am also of opinion, confirmed by my own experience as a landed proprietor, that their means are greatly reduced, and are daily diminishing.†

Rev. John Thomas Becher, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, examined.—"You state that you conceive the rental, including the houses, must be nearly the same as it was in 1815; how do you conceive, taking the prices of the last few years, that the tenantry have been able to meet that reduction in price without a loss of capital, particularly in poor soils?—In Nottinghamshire there has been a dimunition in the amount of rents to the extent of 20 or 25 per cent.; and where such deductions have not been made the farmers have undoubtedly, in several instances, sacrificed their own capital and sustained a loss."‡

But the Appendix (D.) of the same Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, which is devoted to the subject of the Labour Rate, contains evidence of a still more decided and specific character, thus:—

"The present attempts to enforce employment by means of what is called a labour rate is, in my humble opinion, no less than a scheme to introduce slave labour into England, by making the farmers pay for what is in fact done for the especial benefit of the owners of land or tithes. Our legislators sufficiently show their own dislike of compulsion by refusing to take any measures for finding employment for the miserable surplus labourers in Ireland, though the benefit, if any, must ultimately come to the owners of the estates; and a labour rate, putting such compulsion on the English tenants-at-will, must of course be infinitely more unjust a compulsion, which every class of tradesmen or manufacturers would at once refuse to submit to. The cultivators of the earth are indeed more or less enslaved in most parts of the world. In England a tenant may lay out money which may improve the estate he occupies for many years, and yet, up to the period of the meeting of the first reformed Parliament, the landlord may eject him at half a year's notice, and allow him no recompense whatever; and the sole object of a labour rate is to make a tenant improve the land, whether willing or not: an object, in my opinion, fit only for the meridian of Jamaica. Such a state of things, instead of leading towards the peace and happiness which should follow reform, will obviously tend to produce in the end a violent revolution, of which the riots and burning of 1830, &c., were premonitory symptoms.

"In a neighbouring parish, where the farmers have agreed to employ about one man for every 30s. in the poor rate, the overseer employs and pays the surplus men for digging land, ditching, draining, digging clay, &c., the farmers engaging to repay only one-fifth to the overseer. This plan implies (what I have long considered to be the case) that, in the opinion of the tenantry, the chances are, that about four-fifths of the ultimate profits of the above-mentioned operations will accrue to the landowners, and one-fifth to themselves. Now, if a labour rate were laid on the landlords instead of the tenants (as I conceive it ought, if it exist at all), the landowners who must receive the benefit would pay for the improvement of their own estates, as they ought, and the parish would cease to bear a burden which every one must see is unjust, and the enforcement of which evidently shows that the British farmers are still oppressed by the remains of feudal servitude. In addition to the slavish nature of the principle on which all the various kinds of labour rates which have been proposed are founded, there are many practical objections, such as their tendency to ruin every small farmer, the occupiers of pasture land, &c. &c., which I cannot at present take the trouble to detail."—*Thomas Batchelor, Lidlington, Bedfordshire.*§

"At the same time such tradesmen could not do without those they employed, winter nor summer, two of them having pauper tailors, one a porter, and two or three parish boys. Such persons among the trade paid the same amount as the farmers, viz., 10s. in the pound, while myself and many of my neighbours paid 18s. 6d. in the pound. This astounding fact must prove that the bill ought not to be called 'a Bill for the Better Employment of Labour,' but a bill for laying a rate on non-employers of labour in aid of rent. It is very clear that such a bill is a handsome boon to the opulent farmers; and as large farms usually belong to wealthy landlords, it is calculated particularly to favour wealth rather than relieve poverty."—*John Hicks, Henfield, Sussex.**

"The landowners ought to lower their rents so much as will for a certainty enable the tenant to employ more hands; for any one may plainly see the land is not so productive as it might be were more hands put on to cultivate the same; and the reason why the land is neglected is because the rent, tithes, and taxes are so high, it puts it out of the power of the person having land to employ so many hands as they see they want, because they have not the money to pay them; so the land gets neglected, the crops less, and the poor worse off, and then the middle class are called on to support them, at the same time have enough, and more than they can do, to support themselves; and therefore it seems to me to be unjust and unwise to compel them to support the poor under such circumstances; and I think it nothing unreasonable for the middle class to expect the rich to take off the burden; they have had a pretty good time of it, and there ought to be a change, and a change there must be; but nothing like labour-rate jobs will answer the purpose. It must be insulting to the feelings of a tradesman to have sent to him agricultural labourers to employ, when, at the same time, they have not got a piece of land belonging to them large enough to swing a cat in; at the same time seeing a quantity of land, as it were, crying out for these labourers. Why, then, should the middle class be so much imposed on? I cannot tell. I am convinced tradespeople, now-a-days, have enough to do, and more than they can well manage; what with the deadness of trade, losses, taxes, &c., pressing on them continually, and in many cases brings them insolvent, and next to pauperism; and who cares for this? I take it on myself to answer, and I say, 'Not the rich.' I do not treat on this subject for my own interest; for I consider myself independent in spirit of every one; and therefore I give in my sentiments candidly. I am sorry to see the laws formed so much in favour of the rich, and so oppressive on the poor and middle class; for, whether they have the means of paying taxes or not, it is all one. Taxes must be paid, or the prison is to be the lot of the unfortunate. If there be cause for labour rates, I think those rates ought to be taken from the land proprietors. I am convinced I speak forth the sentiments of a majority of the parish of Hurst relating to that point; namely, where the burden ought to rest. If the rich people of England were to make it manifest they were desirous of doing their part to bring about prosperity amongst all classes, others would willingly attend to their part, and it must come to this, it being only common justice. The poor laws encourage idleness, and from that to worse; and, on the other hand, I am of opinion that if full employment could be had for the poor, and I doubt not but it could if things are properly managed at the fountain-head, it would become a stimulus to industry, provided they were amply paid. Englishmen would not then be obliged to go tottering in their rags for parish relief, after being degraded in being obliged to move flints, &c., merely to kill time and keep them out of mischief; there being every thing provided in England, if properly dispersed, for the comfort of every man; therefore, the degraded state of mankind ought not to be heard of; and I sincerely hope some effectual measures will be attended to speedily for the comfort of all, both rich and poor; and I am further of opinion that labour rates, neither any such nonsense will do it, but in time make things worse and worse. I forgot to say that, during the time the labour rate was in force, footmen and in-door servants were charged as labourers."—*J. Lempriere, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.*†

"I think a land tax would be much more proper than labour rate, in order to meet the want of the poor; for my part, I am decidedly against the labour rate, because I have seen the farmers shift off their men and throw them on such as myself, which ought not to be, so long as the land is seen so much neglected."—*John Still, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex.*‡

"The fact is, that few if any of our farmers are in a solvent state, and the coming crops have for several years been mortgaged to pay the sowing; and, from the unfavourable seasons, little or no surplus has been left after repayment."—*N. Barwell, Slaugham, Sussex.*"§

"Occupiers of land, &c., rated for the relief of the poor at £130 and upwards, charged their sons as similarly situated as other labourers; gentlemen, owners of land, who employed labourers to cut underwood in their own occupation to a greater amount of wages than required to work out their own rate levied for labour, transferred the surplus amount paid to such labourers in liquidation of the labour rate of their tenants, occupiers in some instances of 180 or 200 acres of arable and meadow land; the landowner thus transferring the amount paid to labourers, whom he was compelled to employ to cut his own growth of underwoods, to the credit of his tenants' labour rate, to enable the tenant to avoid paying his fair and equitable proportions for labour, thereby oppressing and injuring the small occupier of land, tradesman, and mechanic, and all rateable persons not similarly situated with such landlords and tenants, by throwing those labourers on them for support, which such tenants most assuredly in justice ought to employ to liquidate the labour rate levied on them. It may very probably be surmised and said by some persons not accustomed to attend vestries in large

* Appendix (B. 1.), question 36, p. 500 *c*. † *Ib.*, p. 525 *c*.
‡ *Ib.*, p. 555 *c*. § *Ib.*, p. 555 *c*. ‖ *Ib.*, p. 576 *c*.
¶ *Ib.*, p. 580 *c*. ** *Ib.*, p. 588 *c*. †† *Ib.*, p. 615 *c*.
‡‡ *Ib.*, p. 625 *c*. §§ *Ib.*, p. 628 *c*. ‖‖ *Ib.*, p. 631 *c*.
¶¶ Minutes of Evidence, p. 13. *** *Ib.*, p. 34.
††† *Ib.*, p. 87. ‡‡‡ *Ib.*, p. 91.

* Minutes of Evidence, p. 135. † *Ib.*, p. 205.
‡ *Ib.*, p. 250. § Appendix (D.), p. 6.

* Appendix (D.), p. 162. † Appendix (D.), pp. 170, 171.
‡ Appendix (D.), p. 171. § Appendix (D.), p. 188.

agricultural parishes, that those who consider such returns unjust and oppressive should attend the vestry, and object to such items being allowed. I beg to inform those who may entertain such an opinion, that such attempt by a small farmer or tradesman would be of no avail, as the landlord and large occupier, I believe, will most frequently on all points be found to manage and conduct business for their own interest alone, and can, from the number of votes they are entitled to give under the act for regulating parish vestries, always command a majority of votes over the other rateable inhabitants; they do not consider the consequences that must ultimately arise by oppressing and bringing to poverty those who now, by industry and sobriety, with difficulty support themselves and families."—*John Edmunds, jun., Wisborough-green, Sussex.**

"I have been a practical farmer forty years. My first observation is to remark, through the whole course of my practice, when a less proportion of labourers were employed on the land (either extensive or small), it always became deteriorated, and not so profitable as land of the same quality cultivated by their more industrious neighbours, who employed a sufficient quantity of labourers to improve the soil in a proper and husbandlike manner.

* * * * * * *

"One more remark I have to make, that is, to encourage the industrious and renting farmer to cultivate his land in a superior manner to the (I am sorry to say) general present system. It will be necessary for rents, tithes, and taxes of all descriptions to be more proportionable to the prices realized when I first commenced life, for the farmer to be prosperous and to benefit the neighbouring poor around him. When such a plan can be accomplished, in proportion to the farmer's profit, you will then find (and not until then) no labour rate will be required."—*Joseph Bull, Shiere, Surrey.*†

Such was the condition of the tenant-farmers and labourers throughout the agricultural counties of England, in the period from 1815 to 1834, if any weight is due to the vast body of evidence collected and published by the Government and both Houses of Parliament. During the greater part of that period the importation of wheat was prohibited until the price was 82s. 6d. the imperial quarter, and afterwards (from 1828 to 1831) until the price rose to about 70s., by that means enabling the farmers to obtain at least 50 per cent. more than the natural value (that is, the value in the great market of the world,) of the produce of the land; but instead of either themselves or their labourers deriving the slightest benefit from such a system, the testimony is 1117 to 55, or about twenty to one, that more than the increased value of the produce went to rent; for we find that the farmers as a body were ruined by the excessive rents, that the labourers were paid with a less quantity of produce during the years of high prices than when the price of produce was only one-half, and that they had been reduced to pauperism by the joint combination of the rich landlords and the impoverished tenants, the latter seeking to save themselves from ruin by the compulsory reduction of the labourers' wages.

(*To be continued*).

THE REGISTRATION.

Metropolitan Registration.—The relative state of parties in the Metropolitan boroughs cannot be accurately known until the new registries are published; they cannot be open for sale until the beginning of December. The number of new votes placed on the list has been considerable in some boroughs, and it is known that of these Free-Traders greatly preponderate.

Tower Hamlets.—In this borough, Mr. Sidney Smith and Mr. Boxer succeeded in substantiating—

For Free-Traders .. .. 70 claims.
Monopolists 0

Southwark.—The overseers in this borough had placed so many Free-Traders on their lists that little was left further to be done. At the request of the Working Men's Free-Trade Association, Mr. Sidney Smith attended the court of revision, and substantiated the only claims for which appearance was made by the parties.

For Free-Traders .. .. 5 claims.
Monopolists 0

Lambeth.—In this borough Mr. Sidney Smith substantiated—

For Free-Traders .. .. 42 claims.
Monopolists 0

Finsbury.—Mr. Sidney Smith attended this revision and substantiated—

For Free-Traders .. .. 48 claims.
Monopolists 0

Westminster.—This revision has been attended by Mr. Trott on behalf of the Free-Traders, but is not yet completed. Particulars next week.

City of London.—Mr. Wansey attended the court of revision on behalf of the Liberals and Free-Traders. On claims and objections the revision stands as under:—

Liberals and Free-Traders	510
Monopolists	455
Majority for Liberals and Free-Traders	55

But, substantially, the work in the City has been done *out of court*, by the parties themselves acting on the overseers. The canvassers for the Free-Traders had reported upwards of 2000 deaths and removals; and as the result of a rough calculation, which will be more carefully given afterwards when the lists have been properly revised, it may be stated that on the overseers' lists there appear of names for 1844, which do not appear on the registry of 1843, 2045; and from the lists of 1844 there have been omitted names which appear on the registry of 1843, 1539. There is every reason for the belief that on these the Free-Traders have an available advantage; but to ascertain the politics of so many is a work of time, which must necessarily somewhat delay the report of the result.

Middlesex.—It has already been seen that in this county the advantage is on the side of Free Trade to the extent of 130 votes.

Borough of Bolton.—Upon a careful examination, the total gain to the Free-Traders in Bolton, from the revision of the list of parliamentary voters in this borough, is 57.

Lancaster.—On a careful examination of the revision it appears that the advantage of the Free-Traders and Liberals amounts to 36 votes. It may be stated as follows:—

From the freemen's list 76 names have disappeared, viz.:—

Free-Traders and Liberals ..	32
Monopolists	38
Doubtful	6

And on the same list 81 new names appeared, viz.:—

Free-Traders and Liberals ..	49
Monopolists	28
Doubtful	4

Omitting the doubtful and neutral, this statement gives the Free-Traders and Liberals a balance of 27 votes on the freemen's list.

The occupiers' list of Lancaster and Skerton being examined in the same way, there is a balance in favour of the Free-Traders and Liberals, viz.:—

Lancaster	4 votes
Skerton	5 "

Giving a total of 36 votes in favour of the Free-Traders and Liberals.

Bradford.—The result of the revision for this borough is as follows:—

Voters on last register left off this year by overseers:—

Free-Traders	50
Monopolists	58
Doubtful	2
Free-Trade majority	8

New voters put on this list by overseers, not being upon last register:—

Free-Traders	142
Monopolists	128
Doubtful	15
Free-Trade majority	14

Objections.

Free-Traders struck off ..	48
Monopolists struck off ..	39
Monopolist gain	9

Clear—(New).

Free-Traders put on the list ..	28
Monopolists put on the list ..	2
Free-Trade gain	26
Total Free-Trade gain	39

Yorkshire.—West Riding.—The barristers appointed to revise the list of voters for the West Riding have completed their labours, and we are glad to state that our return up to Thursday night is favourable to the Free-Traders and Liberals, the gain being 131 votes.

Ripon.—We leave the following extract of a letter from a valued correspondent, in reference to this borough, without comment, though we think it will provoke one from our readers:—"No person here takes any interest either in municipal or parliamentary elections. Mrs. Laurence's under steward *alone* manages them. Nearly the whole of Mrs. Laurence's agricultural tenants, within six miles of Ripon, have votes for the borough. All her house tenants are expected to vote for her nominee; the consequence of this is that the borough is in a political trance. It may see and hear, but has no power to make the least movement or exertion."

Dudley.—Free-Trade majority on objections, 4; on claims, 1—5. Our correspondent informs us that the relative strength of parties will not be materially affected by this result.

Newcastle (Staffordshire).—Our correspondent informs us that the revision in this borough has terminated by giving a majority of 7 to the Free-Trade party, which would have been much increased but for an informality, which was held by the barrister to be fatal to several of the objections made by them.

Barnstaple.—The registration has terminated favourably for the Free-Trade interest, as will be seen from the following analysis, which has been forwarded to us by our correspondent there:—

Free-Traders added to list	29	
Monopolists do.	18	
		—11
Free-Traders struck off	17	
Monopolists do.	12	
		— 5
Majority for Free-Traders		6

Winchester.—The following is the result of the late revision for this city and borough, which terminated on Friday evening, the 11th inst.:—Free-Trade objections sustained, 44; Free-Trade claims allowed, 17=61. Monopolist objections sustained, 7; Monopolist claims allowed, 20—27. Free Trade majority, 34. The electoral lists for the present year, from various causes, exhibit an increase of 50 over the previous year in favour of the Free-Trade party. This is cheering, and will stimulate to renewed exertion.

Tynemouth.—(From a Correspondent.)—

Townships.	Free-Trade Objections.	Sustained.	Claims.	Allowed.*
Cullercoats ..	1 ..	1 ..	0 ..	0
Preston	2 ..	1 ..	0 ..	0
Chirton	10 ..	0 ..	3 ..	2
Do. to amend description ..	0 ..	0 ..	2 ..	2
Tynemouth ..	9 ..	0 ..	17 ..	1
Do. to amend description ..	0 ..	0 ..	8 ..	8
North Shields..	3 ..	0 ..	5 ..	2
Do. to amend description ..	0 ..	0 ..	3 ..	3
	34	2	38	18

* Monopolist Claims and Objections—None.

"In addition to the above, 4 other names were struck off by the revising barrister, their qualifications being bad on the face of them, 'being land without any building.' Of these, 1 was a Free-Trader and 3 were Monopolists. The total Free-Trade gain is 22, including 13 amended qualifications." Our correspondent furnishes us with an explanation of the reasons why the Free-Traders were unable to substantiate so small a proportion of the objections made by them, which we subjoin:—"The point, with reference to the objections, arose upon the form of the notice of objection given to the overseers. In four of our townships the objections being numerous, instead of giving a separate notice to the overseer for each party objected to, I had included the names of all the parties objected to in the township in one notice. This was in accordance with our practice in this borough ever since the passing of the Reform Act in 1832, and has always been held by the revising barristers in previous years to be sufficient, and this is also stated to be the case in Shepherd's 'Election Law,' third edition, page 167. However, Mr. Hogg, the revising barrister, on the present occasion decided the contrary, to the very great astonishment of myself and my opponents, who had always pursued the same course themselves in previous years, and who never thought of objecting to the form of the notice, the objection being started by the revising barrister himself. This decision at once disposed of 32 of my objections: the remaining 2 I substantiated. With respect to the claims, the greater portion of those, in number 20, which have been disallowed, were made out under the following circumstances:—In one of the townships (Tynemouth) it is not the custom to *write out the rate-book* until some weeks after the day it bears date, and it is usually not allowed by the magistrates until two months after the day it bears date. A rate which bears date in March of the present year, *was not written out* until May, and was about the end of May allowed by the magistrates, and twelve or thirteen parties friendly to the Free-Trade cause having been left off the list by the overseers, on the ground of not having paid this rate, I had given in claims for the whole of them. These claims have all been disallowed. I argued the question at considerable length, and ultimately requested a case for an appeal. This he also refused, stating that the point had been often brought before him, and that he had always decided it in that way; that he could not grant a case unless he entertained a doubt on the point, and that he entertained on this point no doubt whatever. In case of an election we should take care to tender all our claims, and I have but little doubt that should the matter be carried so far, an election committee would reverse one if not both of these decisions of the barrister, thus making a difference of 30 or 40 on the poll. The present register contains 742 names. The list, as revised to day, contains only 707. The change is, on the whole, favourable to the Free-Traders. I think this borough may be relied on to return a Free-Trade candidate almost as a certainty."

Morpeth.—(From a Correspondent).—The ascendency of the Free-Trade and Liberal party in this borough will not be at all disturbed by the late revision.

Portsmouth.—The revision of the lists for the borough took place on Tuesday week and Wednesday last, before G. P. Elliott, Esq.

Monopolists struck out of lists		55
Free Traders and Liberals ditto ..	0	
Free-Traders and Liberals inserted as claims	3	
Monopolists ditto	1	—2
Gain to Free-Traders and Liberals		57

South Hants.—The revision for the Portsmouth polling district was also before the same barrister, on the following Wednesday.

Monopolists struck out	17
Free-Traders and Liberals ditto	7
Gain to Free-Traders and Liberals ..	10

The new claimants are also favourable to the Free-Traders and Liberals.

Borough of Worcester.—Free-Trade objections, 116; sustained, 102. Claims, 71; allowed, 58.—Monopolist objections, 47; sustained, 41. Claims, 75; allowed, 69. Free-Trade majority on objections, 61; Monopolist majority on claims, 3. Total Free-Trade majority, 58.

Borough and Parish of Honiton.—Free-Trade objections, 5; sustained, 5. Claims, 3; allowed, 1.—Monopolist objections, 1; sustained, 0. Claims, 1; allowed, 0. Free-Trade majority on claims and objections, 5.

Ashburton.—J. L. Lucena, Esq., revising barrister, held a court at the Golden Lion, on Monday last, the 7th inst., for revision of the voters' lists for this borough. The following is the result:—

Inserted in this year's list by overseers, new votes:—

Monopolists	13	
Free-Traders and Liberals ..	9	
Loss to Free-Traders and Liberals		4
Objections by Free-Traders and Liberals .. 17; expunged	16	
Objections by Monopolists .. 8; expunged	0	
		—16
Deduct loss as above		4
Total gain to Free-Traders and Liberals		—12

which added to a gain of about 13 on the last registration, and the majority of 45 at the election in 1843, shows a clear majority of about 70.

Dartmouth.—(From a Correspondent.)—"Enclosed I beg to hand you the form you sent me on behalf of the League. I am proud to say the registration is in favour of Liberal principles. I have no doubt in my mind that a Liberal may be easily returned for this borough."—The Liberal majority in the present revision is upwards of 14.

Hertford,—

Free-Traders added	14	
Monopolists struck off	26	=40
Monopolists added	11	
Free-Traders struck off	15	=26
Free-Trade gain		14

Totnes.—There has been a clear gain on the revision in this borough to the Free-Traders and Liberals.

Taunton.—Free-Trade objections, 54; sustained, 49. Claims, 44; allowed, 34.—Monopolist objections, 93; sustained, 47. Claims, 40; allowed, 15. Free-Trade majority on objections, 1; on claims, 19=20. The friend who sends us the above informs us that "the Monopolists expected to have done wonders, because they entirely neglected the previous registration; they had, therefore, two years' sweep instead of one, but the vigilance of the Free-Traders defeated them. As to the county (Somerset), it remains in *statu quo*, but the farmers are sulky; and if

* Appendix (D.), p. 186. † Appendix (D.), pp. 215, 216.

we could get a Free-Trader among the neighbouring gentry, well known, to contest it, I think the chances would be favourable for him over one of the present members."

LYME REGIS.—The revising barrister (Mr. C. D. Bevan) held his court for the revision of the list of voters for this borough, at the Town-hall, on Saturday, the 12th inst. The following is the result:—Monopolist objections, 38; sustained, 0. Free-Trade and Liberal objections, 34; sustained, 27. Monopolist claimants, 20; sustained, 13. Free-Trade and Liberal claimants, 16; sustained, 8. Free-Trade and Liberal gain on objections, 27; loss on claims, 5: total gain, 22. Several of the Monopolist claims were served on the Sunday. The barrister held such service to be good, but has granted a case for the opinion of the Court of Common Pleas on the important point.

EAST SUFFOLK.—F. Gunning, Esq., on Saturday week, revised the list of all the parishes in the Framlingham district. The following is the result of the day's proceedings on the objections:—By the Monopolists: taken, 5; sustained, 1. By Free-Traders and Liberals: taken, 30; sustained, 4. By overseers: taken, 25; sustained, 25.—On Monday week the revising barrister held his court at Saxmundham. The following is the result of the revision:—Objections by Free-Traders and Liberals: taken, 15; sustained, 8. By Monopolists, 0. By overseers: taken, 29; sustained, 28.

THE REGISTRATION IN WALES.—(From a Correspondent.)—SWANSEA.—Generally speaking, the results of the registration in Wales are highly satisfactory to the Free-Trade party. The foundation has been laid of a systematic registration hitherto unknown in this part of the country, and which will in another year produce still greater results. The public here feel that they owe this to the League. I shall next week furnish you with *numbers*, as to the state of the registers of the boroughs I have visited.

CARMARTHENSHIRE.—In the borough registration the result of the revision for Llanelly and Carmarthen is decidedly favourable to the Liberal interest. In these, as well as in all other revision courts for boroughs, agents collecting information for the League were present.—*Cambrian.*

CLOSE OF THE NORTH LANCASHIRE REVISION.—"The conduct of the League had been of the most insidious character. Foiled in their previous tactics, they were now looking to the registration."—*Speech of J. Talbot Clifton, Esq., of Lytham.* Alas! for that sad admission. On Thursday last, at Kirkham, the newly-elected M.P. felt the full force of his misgivings by the unpalatable fact of his own *two* brothers being struck off the register for want of qualifications! The "insidious" League was represented by Mr. Moorhouse, of Manchester; and Mr. Fair, the steward of Thomas C. Clifton, appeared to support the votes of the Cliftons. In vain did he labour, for the humiliating admission had to be made, that they were not freeholders, but received £300 per annum each from their father, AS A GIFT! Chapfallen was the steward, and the "foiled" League, in pure charity, allowed the maiden M.P. and ex-soldier to remain upon the register, not wishing to crush all their hopes at once. Many others shared the same fate as Mr. Talbot Clifton's brothers, including one strict and orthodox divine of the church as "by law established." Let this attention to the register be followed up, as it will be, and Mr. Talbot Clifton's senatorial days are numbered, and North Lancashire will be unshackled, and properly represented.—*Correspondent of the Preston Guardian.*

INCENDIARISM.—Incendiarism still continues in some of the agricultural counties. On Wednesday, the 9th inst., a fire of this character broke out on Vince's farm, in the parish of Whepstead, a few miles from Bury St. Edmund's, in the occupation of Robert Holden, and, notwithstanding every effort was made to check its progress, it was found impossible to prevent the flames from spreading to all the stacks in the stackyard, ten in number—two of wheat, two of beans, two clover stacks, one oats, one barley, one hay, one straw, a tumbril, some harraws, &c., all of which were totally destroyed. During the removal of the goods from the house, some person stole a bag containing forty sovereigns, which Mrs. Holden had placed for safety between the bed and the mattress. Mr. Holden is insured in the Farmers' Insurance Office.—A fire broke out late on Sunday night on the farm occupied by Miss Fyson, at Exning, about a mile and a half from Newmarket, which in a short time destroyed a barn full of wheat, all the outbildings and stacks, four horses, &c.—On Saturday night week an outbuilding on the farm homestead of Mr. Bradbrook, of West Bergholt, was maliciously set on fire, which, however, was soon extinguished. At the same time a barn, at some half a mile distance, filled with wheat and barley, belonging to the same person, was discovered to be on fire, and before it was got under, about £300 of property was consumed. Within the last three years Mr. Bradbrook's property has been attacked and destroyed in a similar manner on no less than four different occasions, and there have been nine incendiary fires in that neighbourhood within the same period.—A fire was discovered upon the premises of Mr. S. Miller, of Harlton, Cambridgeshire, on Tuesday week, in a wheat rick at the back of the premises. The barn, stable, cow and cart lodges were all destroyed; the house and granary were saved.—On Friday week, a destructive fire broke out at an off-hand farm occupied by Mr. William Goodchild, at Cheveley, by which buildings and their contents, of the estimated value of £1500, were destroyed.—On Saturday night last, about twelve o'clock, a destructive fire broke out on the farm premises of Mr. R. H. Hatton, of Walsham-le-Willows. A very large and substantial barn, containing the produce of fourteen acres of beans and peas, together with some wheat and barley, was destroyed; also a stable and other outbuildings, with all the harness, a waggon, dressing machine, &c., and also some pigs and poultry. The assembled labourers, generally, lent their assistance freely; but there was a good deal of apparent apathy amongst many present.—On Sunday morning, about four o'clock, a fire was discovered in a stack of wheat, the property of Mrs. Onion, of Dullingham, Cambridgeshire, which was destroyed.—An incendiary fire took place on Sunday night, at East Ruddam, Norfolk, on the farm of Mr. John Freeman, by which a valuable barley-stack of forty yards in length was entirely consumed.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, October 16, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

	£	s.	d.
Andrew Milligan, North and South Wales Bank, Newtown, Montgomeryshire	1	0	0
William Wood, Whitecross Bank, Salford	1	0	0
James Moorhouse, 27a, Deansgate, Manchester	1	0	0
Wm Lincolne, 44, Booth-street, Oxford-rd., do.	1	0	0
*T. Fuller, Wilton-place, Higher Broughton, do.	1	0	0
John Ormerod, 3, Old Millgate, do.	1	0	0
Mrs. Margaret Kay, Gutcher Fold, Rawtenstall, near Manchester	1	0	0
John Taylor, Woodman-inn, Hollinwood, near do.	1	0	0
*W. J. Keighley, 9, Princess-street, do.	1	0	0
Saddleworth, 5th Remit. — John Bradbury, Brownhill	5	0	0
William Whitehead, Bentfield	2	0	0
A Free-Trader, Dobcross	2	0	0
A Friend, per Mr. John Bradbury, Kinders	1	0	0
A Friend to the Cause	1	0	0
William Shelmerdine, Greenfield	0	10	0
Liverpool, 28th Remit. — *C. P. Ladd, R N., 51, Church-street, Woodside, near (2nd subscription)	1	0	0
*Dan. Hutton, Dominick-street, Dublin	2	0	0
*William Larking and Sons, 13, Whitechapel High-st.	6	6	0
*Mrs. Hannah Larking, 13, Whitechapel High-st.	2	2	0
*Miss Hannah Larking, 13, Whitechapel High-st.	2	2	0
*James O'Leary and Co., 13, Mincing-lane	5	5	0
*George Towgood, Peckham	5	5	0
D'Ewes Coke, Brookhill, Alfreton, Derbyshire	3	0	0
*R. J. Johnson, 43, New-road, Commercial-road East	2	0	0
*John Higgin, Greenfield, Lancaster	2	0	0
*Philip Worsley, 4, Georgiana-street, Gordon-square	2	0	0
*Henry W. Turner, Upper Belgrave-place	2	0	0
*Johann Heinrich, 3, York-street, Blackfriars-road (3rd subscription)	1	2	0
William Henry Bruce, 1, Trump-street, King-street, Cheapside	1	1	0
*Daniel Rawlings, Chippenham, Wilts	1	1	0
Edward Halpin, 4, Lower Grosvenor-place	1	1	0
George Gow, Brick-lane, Spitalfields	1	1	0
*Philip Daft, 3, Albion Cottages, Liverpool-road, Islington	1	1	0
Cadogan Morgan, Esq., barrister-at-law, 3, Plowden-buildings, Temple	1	1	0
*Henry Penny, 8 and 9, Old Bailey	1	1	0
*W. J. Hall, Custom House Quay, Lower Thames-st.	1	1	0
William Bennett, 47, Cannon-street, City	1	1	0
William Corney, 55, Whitechapel-road	1	1	0
William Gurney, 32, Chalton-street, Somers-town	1	1	0
Samuel Hill, 23, Homer-street, Marylebone	1	1	0
*Bracy Clark, 7, Taunton-place, Regent's-park (4th subscription)	1	1	0
*Thomas William Forbes, Hampstead	1	1	0
*Barnett Meyers, 18, Crutched-friars	1	1	0
*William Bower, 5, Sloane-square, Chelsea	1	1	0
*Henry Bicknell, Effra-road, Brixton	1	1	0
*Wm. Tait, 4, Doddington-grove West, Kennington	1	1	0
*Joseph Wheeler, Avenue-road, Lewisham	1	1	0
W. C. Jay, 247, Regent-street	1	1	0
*James Titcomb, 119, Wood street, Cheapside	1	0	0
*Henry Woodfull, Foot's Cray, Kent	1	0	0
*Charles Wright, 1, Water-street, Blackfriars	1	0	0
*George Charlton, 23, Marylebone-street, Piccadilly	1	0	0
*James Ball, 4, Great New-street, Gough-square	1	0	0
*William Ball, 131, Sloane-street	1	0	0
*John Cooper, Widmore-lane, Bromley, Kent	1	0	0
*S. J. Nettlefold, Birmingham	1	0	0
*J. S. Nettlefold, 54, High Holborn	1	0	0
*James Upright, City Mills, Exeter	1	0	0
William Hick, Methley, near Leeds	1	0	0
Thomas Venables, 103, Whitechapel	1	0	0
J. Jackson, 167, Regent-street	1	0	0
*William Lloyd, 119, Wood-street	1	0	0
*John Buckbarrow, 1, Sussex-place, Canonbury, Islington	1	0	0
*W. S. Bean, Brompton-row	1	0	0
*John Burn, 119, Wood-street, Cheapside	1	0	0
John Fincham, 119, do, do.	1	0	0
John Oliver, 33, Whitechapel-road	1	0	0
Robert Green, 65, do.	1	0	0
John Creed Dexter, 125, do.	1	0	0
Thomas Pine, Maidstone	1	0	0
*Thomas Hatfield Gloyne, Dewsbury, Yorkshire	1	0	0
*Thomas Morrell, Danbury, Essex	1	0	0
*John King, Black Swan, Little Carter-lane, Doctors' Commons	1	0	0
James Gibson, 77, Old-street-road	1	0	0
John Moore, printseller, corner of West-street, St. Martin's-lane	1	0	0
John Cuthbert, 53, Union-street, Clarendon-square, Somers-town	1	0	0
Leonard Sellers, 3, Broad-street, Bloomsbury	1	0	0
*Edward Robinson, 11, Upper Belgrave-place	1	0	0
*William Allen, Shiffnal	1	0	0
*G. R. Feuillade, Opera Colonnade, Charles-street, St. James's	1	0	0
James Hockin, 23, Maddox-street, Hanover-square	1	0	0
*P. G.	1	0	0
*Samuel Pring, Newport, Isle of Wight	1	0	0
*Geo. Johnson, 14, Artillery-place, Finsbury-square	1	0	0
*George Hawkins, 88, Bishopsgate-street Without	1	0	0
*John Mason, 199, Albany-road, Old Kent-road	1	0	0
*William Procter, Commercial-place, do.	1	0	0
Benjamin Davies, 4, Devonshire-square, Bishopsgate	1	0	0
John Stampers, 10, Alfred-street, Islington	1	0	0
Edmond Wells, Cambridge	1	0	0
A Friend, per Mrs. Emma Martin, Hall of Science, Manchester	1	0	0
Samuel Finch, 21, King-street, Goswell-street	1	0	0
*Thomas Lutt, 43, White Lion-street, Pentonville	1	0	0
*John Fish, 4, Henry-street, Pentonville	1	0	0
*Henry Pannell, 2, Myddelton-street, Clerkenwell	1	0	0
*L. W. Ash, 54, White Lion-street, Pentonville	1	0	0
*George Allen, Wheeler-street, Spitalfields	1	0	0
*James Thomas Sarson, vinegar merchant, City-road	1	0	0
*Henry John Preston, 43, Bloomsbury square	1	0	0
*Robert Groom, 13, Myddelton-square, Clerkenwell	1	0	0
*Thomas King, 1, Leadenhall-market	1	0	0
*John Cole, 3, Perceval's-buildings, Whitechapel-rd,	1	0	0
*William Barton, 23, Red Cross street, Cripplegate	1	0	0
*Ernest Storer, 19, York-place, City-road	1	0	0
*Wilson Waterfall, 13, Park-row, Leeds	1	0	0
Robert Dadd, 54, Whitechapel High-street	1	0	0
*Samuel Barton, 3, Strand	1	0	0
*Henry Patten, 11, Claremont-terrace, Pentonville	1	0	0
*Edward Boyle, 43, Farringdon-street	1	0	0
*William Jones, 19, Skinner-street, Snowhill	1	0	0
*Jasper J. Capper, Old Jewry	1	0	0
*William Leaver, 45, Aldermanbury	1	0	0
M. C.	1	0	0
Edward Evans, 1, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields	0	10	0
John Wooldridge, 19, Bath-place, New-road	0	10	0
J. H. K.	0	10	0
J. M. Smith, 137, New Bond-street	0	10	0
H. Jackson, 63, Crown-street, Finsbury	0	7	6
W. T.	0	5	0
Charles Pace, 128, Whitechapel	0	5	0
Frederick Weaklin, 91, Farringdon-street	0	5	0
Samuel Thomas, 133, Regent-street	0	5	0
A. E. Ionides, 9, Finsbury-circus	0	5	0
Geo. Pierson Hutchinson, 7, Crawford-street, Marylebone	0	5	0
William Hanford, 2, Forest-place, Dalston	0	5	0
William Hayworth, High-street, Kingsland	0	5	0
William Payne, 142, Whitechapel-road	0	5	0
Edward Griffiths, 31, Little Moorfields	0	5	0
J. T. H.	0	5	0
Henry Sutton, 23, Whitechapel-road	0	5	0
James Mitchell, 20, Great Wild-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields	0	5	0
M. Miley, 42, Warwick-street, Regent-street	0	5	0
Richard Taylor, 37, King-street, Holborn	0	5	0
William Hodges, 13, Kingsgate-street, do.	0	5	0
James Wilkinson, 4, East-street, Finsbury-market	0	5	0
William Springall, 199, Shoreditch	0	5	0
Thomas Snelson, 127, Curtain-road, do.	0	5	0
Mrs. A. M. Davis, 7, Upper Wharton-st., Pentonville	0	3	6
Thomas Lister, 51, Perceval-street, Clerkenwell	0	3	0
James Horton, 90, Whitechapel	0	2	6
William Joyce, 127, do.	0	2	6
John Blackford, 17, Charterhouse-street	0	2	6
B. Clare, 29, Meredith-street, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
W. Smily, 5, Finsbury-place	0	2	6
J. B. Webb, 42, York-street, St. Luke's	0	2	6
Wm. Evans, 39, King-square, Goswell-road	0	2	6
Wm. Geo. Watson, 7, James-street, Old-st, St. Luke's	0	2	6
H. Clerk, 159, Shoreditch	0	2	6
F. Wrensted, 63, Skinner-street, Bishopsgate	0	2	6
R. Skinner, 103, Curtain-road, Shoreditch	0	2	6
R. Willetts, 7, Old-street-road	0	2	6
T. Markie, 13, Cumberland-street, Shoreditch	0	2	6
William Palmer, 28, do., do.	0	2	6
Samuel James, 93, Whitechapel-road	0	2	0
David J. Day, 66, New Compton-street, Soho	0	2	6
A Friend	0	2	6
J. L.	0	2	6
Alexander Mann, 23, Chalton-street, Somers-town	0	2	6
Wm. Stark, 112, Drummond-street, Euston-square	0	2	6
George Winter, 21, George-street, Hampstead-road	0	2	6
H. W. Wilkins, 29, Judd-place, New-road	0	2	6
Alexander Fraser, 65, Upper Seymour-street, Somers-town	0	2	6
John Liney, 1, Charles-street East, Hampstead-road	0	2	6
Stephen Lepper, 50, Middlesex-street, Somers-town	0	2	6
Thos. Samuel Bambey, 35, Union-street, Clarendon-square, Somers-town	0	2	6
Thomas Andrews, 17, Penton-street, Pentonville	0	2	6
Benjamin Wood, 9, Chapel-street, do.	0	2	6
E. S. Jackson, 6, Lower Charles-street, Northampton-square	0	2	6
John Stoddart, 7, do., do.	0	2	6
D. Whiffen, 125, St. John-street-road, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
Ebenezer Webb, 3, Commercial-place, Kingsland-rd.	0	2	6
Thomas Ducrow, 3, Forest-row, Dalston	0	2	6
Robert Clayworth, 168, Whitechapel-road	0	2	6
Samuel Bligh, Church-lane, Whitechapel	0	2	6
John Riggs, 41, York-street, City-road	0	2	6
E. and J. Marsh, 61, Whiskin-street, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
William Hart, 83, Whitechapel High-street	0	2	6
Francis Griffin, 25, Gloucester-street, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
Mead and Powell, 93, Whitechapel	0	2	6
Thomas Reilly, 18, New-road, Fitzroy-square	0	2	6
Jonathan Tucker, 10, Bath-place, New-road	0	2	6
Charles Kelk, 20, Denmark-street, Soho	0	2	6
Geo. Jessey, 13, Great Windmill-street, Haymarket	0	2	6
John Webber, 15, Silver-street, Golden-square	0	2	6
Daniel Cribb, 10, Brewer-street, do.	0	2	6
George Garden, 1, George-place, Old-street-road	0	2	6
Robert Dale, 12, Earl-street, Finsbury	0	2	6
William Barritt, jun., 242, Shoreditch	0	2	6
Josiah Martin, 220, do.	0	2	6
Thomas Brunker, 7, Queen-street, Worship-street	0	2	6
John Sherwin, 5, Cumberland-street, do.	0	2	6
Subscriptions under 2s. 6d. each	2	0	0

* Those names marked with an asterisk are renewed subscriptions.

ERRATA.

In LEAGUE, No. 55, *for* "David Davy, 1, Cobourg-street, Euston-square, £1," *read* "£1. 1s.; and in the same number, "Richard Clemlow, 28, West-street, Somers-town, 2s. 6d.," was omitted, this subscription having been, by mistake, included among the small sums.

London, October 17, 1844.

GENTLEMEN,—We have the pleasure to send, in the place of our subscription of £5 to the League Fund, old silver coins (value £5 as old silver) for the approaching Free-Trade Bazaar, hoping, as they are in excellent preservation, they may yield a considerable profit above their intrinsic value. Wishing you every success in the cause we have each so much at heart—that of increasing the quantity both of food and employment for the poor,

We have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient humble servants,
G. and H. F.

To the Council of the Anti-Corn-Law League.

LUCIFERS.—No less than £200,000 worth of phosphorus is used annually in the metropolis alone in the manufacture of matches, lucifers, and in various chemical manufactures. This is all imported, although we have abundant sources whence it might be derived in this country.

TRADE AND THE REVENUE.—The great activity in the trade of the country easily accounts for the flourishing state of the revenue, as it does also for the reduction in the expenditure on the poor. In the township of Leeds the reduction in this expenditure is very gratifying. For the month of September, 1843 and 1844, the expenditure on the poor was as follows:—

In September, 1843	£1544	11	6
" 1844	1198	11	9
Reduction in 1844	£345	19	9

It will be seen from our Manchester trade report that the home demand for cotton manufactures is excellent, and was never known to be better; and nearly the same remark applies to every other large branch of manufactures and trade. It seems almost superfluous, were it not for the interested blindness of many, again to point out the notorious truth, that this state of general prosperity is found co-existing with *cheapness of food.* It has always been so; and, on the other hand, national distress is always found co-existing with dearness of food. Surely this is the strongest possible proof that cheap food is the first of material blessings to a country, and that laws which make food dear are necessarily mischievous. If this be so, and nothing can be plainer—we hope the manufacturing and trading classes will never remit their exertions to obtain the entire repeal of the unnatural Corn Laws.—*Leeds Mercury.*

LETTERS ON THE CORN LAWS, No. III.

TO THE DUKE OF RICHMOND.

My Lord Duke,—In early life you won the reputation of a gallant soldier. In maturer years it has been your aim to sustain that of a high-minded nobleman. I appeal to your *sense of honour*, and invoke its judgment upon your conduct as a legislator.

It were a very superfluous and unpromising task to *argue* the Corn Laws with your Grace. An argument in political economy, affecting your own interests or prejudices, requires a patience of temper and a capacity of mind beyond what you are believed habitually to evince. Lord Radnor experimented—in the House of Lords during the last session—upon your logic and your urbanity. The results do not invite a repetition of the experiment. The assumption of your manner may be warranted by the superiority of your rank, or accounted for by your early training; you were bred under Wellington, and not under Chesterfield; but it certainly is not authorized by any other superiority. I confess your invulnerability to reasoning. Are you equally hardened to considerations that touch more nearly the soldier, the peer, and the gentleman? Are you willing to stand before the world as the foremost champion of a cause that is *tainted with* dishonour?

I bring this charge against monopolist laws as upheld by the privileged class to which you belong. I bring it against yourself; for you cannot, by mingling with a crowd, escape the impeachment. Nor does it avail that many may hold you unspotted in this matter. A question of honour is not decided by appeal to a majority. The result of a poll goes for nothing; it obliterates no blot upon a scutcheon—look well to your own, my lord.

You are not only a legislator but a trader; not only a peer but a merchant; not only a duke but a fishmonger. In the one capacity, you make laws to sustain the artificial prices by which you profit in the other capacity. A similar abuse existed under the old poor law. The baker got himself elected a guardian, excluded other bakers from the supply of the workhouse, and put his own price upon the loaf. England is a great poorhouse; you are one of the guardians; and deal in like manner with its bread. The petty nuisance you helped to put down, sternly and contemptuously. The greater nuisance, you both patronise and commit. The parish guardian might have been turned out; there, you are safe from retribution. Opinion can only reach you through shame, not by dismission.

National policy is put forward as the defence of the Corn Laws, thus making the profit of the landowner an incidental consequence of those laws, and not the purpose mainly contemplated. For argument sake, let this be granted. Taking it so, what would be the most decorous and natural conduct for persons in your situation, if actuated by a nice sense of honour? Plainly, one of two courses: either to forego all such incidental advantage to their own revenues, and thus evince the sincerity of their support of the policy in question, as a national policy; or else, to leave the decision altogether to competent authorities and uninterested parties. Let the landowners do this, and where would the Corn Laws be on the morrow after the next meeting of Parliament?

In this statement I forego the strength of the argument against monopoly; I leave untouched the flimsy sophistries of "independence upon foreign nations," and "peculiar burdens;" the hardihood of assertions a thousand times disproved, is left unrebuked; I pass by the peril to our trade and commerce, the means of life to millions; I veil the sore privations and terrible sufferings which make the humane shudder at such interference with the bounty of Heaven; I let your comprehension and your compassion slumber unmolested, and only knock at your heart's door to ask if Honour be at home, and where she slumbers while the peer legislates for the trader's emolument?

You have often, perhaps, been out on a foraging party; and the army to which you were attached is said not always to have been over-particular, even in a friendly country. But neither is the legislator a party, nor the House of Lords the place, nor the British nation the subject, for a foraging expedition. Plunder may be very fair in the soldier, and yet very foul in the lawmaker. And money transferred by a law for that purpose from one class to another, in the form of enhanced prices, is really plunder, gild it with whatever phrases you may. The law of the question cannot affect its morality. Still less can it be a salve for the susceptibility of a gentleman.

Amid the romantic scenery in which you are now sojourning; where the mountain rises in awful majesty, and the torrent foams in picturesque fury; you linger perhaps by streams which have other beauties to your eye than those which charm the lover of nature or the wandering artist. To you they are less poetical than Pactolian. There you catch revenue, and the means of splendour and importance. The salmon are spawning, and they breed for your profit. The racers of Goodwood feed on the fish of the Ness. What say your tenants, your sub-fishers? Do they help you to curse Peel's Tariff? At any rate they listen respectfully. Salmon and Tariff excite not there the titter which greeted them in the House of Lords, even from your brother monopolists who happened to be of less bilious temperament. Your fishery tenants will button their mouths as they button their pockets. The laugh is kept down, and so is the rent. But if, my Lord Duke, you cannot sink the fishmonger, remember that you have still a "protection" of 10s. a cwt. on your salmon. This is not so good to you as an absolute prohibition. You say it makes £2000 a year difference. But think of what you still receive, and *how you get it*. The protective duty is as much as the salmon itself was formerly worth in the neighbourhood. You still protect the fish out of the mouths of the Scotch, and money out of the purses of the English. We cannot buy salmon without protection sauce. I have not the means of calculating how much you continue to gain annually, by law, in addition to the worth of your salmon; but, whatever the amount, the effect on the consumer is the same as if false weights were used at the fish-stall where he purchases. Scales ought to be equal, and so should laws. An act of Parliament is a false weight in merchandise. Coronets and parchments are as foul as penny-pieces in the exchange of earnings for food. Fish-dealing is no stain on chivalry (in this commercial age) so long as it is fair dealing; but charging more for your fish, by the power of law-making, is less fragrant in the nostrils of honest and honourable men than the worst refuse of your agents' stalls.

This portion of the subject should make your Grace question your conscience as to the Corn-Law protection. Fisheries are free from the mystification about farms. You cannot talk of the salmon being in the same boat with you like the labourers. You make no boast of loving the spawn. Monopoly goes naked into the waters. And yet it is the same by sea or by land. You tell the occupiers and tillers of the soil that their protection shall not be diminished. Have the measures you support upheld the previous proportion between rents and prices? Your tenants are selling wheat at the same rate, or very nearly so, that they did half a century ago. Meanwhile, are the rents of your estates the same? Are they less than doubled? Are they less than trebled? Are there no instances in which they are even quadrupled? Is this fair play? Is this a simple and honest protection of the entire agricultural interest? You are pledged to the farmers to upset the present Ministry, if they (the farmers) be not protected as heretofore. Look at the averages. Neither you nor Sir Robert Peel can obtain for them the prices you, by implication, promised. A higher power has interposed. By abundant crops, Providence casts scorn upon your "protection." It is held up to contempt. "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh." But in the vanity of the attempt there is wickedness. It is a deceit on the class which is, professedly, patronised. Yes, my Lord Duke, it is deception; and that deception practised on a confiding and dependent class, who are condemned to loss and struggle, often to ruin, while the class which practises it alone reaps the advantage.

Although the manifesto of your Protection Society—the notorious tract of Mr. Cayley—is a topic of which the people may well be tired, yet you may be assured it will not be forgotten. That publication stands alone in literary history for barefaced falsification. I need not repeat evidence which has been fully before the public; but the proof is complete of such perversion and garbling of the pages of Adam Smith, for the purpose of making him seem the defender of tenets which he wrote to refute, as amounts, not merely to a violation of literary etiquette, but of moral principle. And for this you are responsible. The falsehood is told for your behoof, under the shelter of your name, and with your subsequently-avowed approval. O Monopoly, what a tyrant art thou!

"'Mongst all your Peers, could none be found but *Richmond*
To be the shameless herald of a lie?"

Lord John Manners told a public meeting lately that you presided at a dinner where labourers sat down at the same table with tenants and landlords. I have seen no report of this gracious *reunion*. But there is many a working man who would hold it no credit to associate voluntarily with any one implicated in deception such as is proved upon that tract. It was an attempt at a direct fraud upon the public mind. Labouring men see through these things as well as their betters. When they adopt the monopolist principle, they work it out; and, as they cannot make artificial scarcity by law, they try to do it by rickburning; and very properly get transported for the same. And when they condemn that principle, as unjust and dishonourable, their reprobation extends to all the ranks and forms in which it appears. They will not long, my Lord Duke, venerate your heraldic dignity, if the bend sinister remain in your moral bearing.

A Norwich Weaver Boy.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ANTI-LEAGUE TRACTS.

To the Editor *of the* League.

Chelmsford, October 7, 1844.

Sir,—In my letter of the 19th ult., I asserted that the statements about prices and wages in these tracts are grossly dishonest. What, for instance, should we think of the honesty of a Prussian, who, to frighten Prussian ironmasters, should proclaim that the price of bar-iron in England was £3 a ton, he well knowing that its ordinary price was more than double that sum, but he having perhaps found such a figure in a bankrupt's list during the late distress? What, then, are we to think of the following conduct of the Essex Anti-League? They cannot but know that wheat averages at Dantzic at least 35s. But, in the Dantzic Consul's return for 1824, it appears that the price was then only about 23s., and *in one week in September* it is quoted even as low as 15s. 11d.; but it is stated to be improving, and that "the farmers and landlords would also be ruined, as they, in fact, almost are already." *Upon the strength of this, in two of these tracts* 15*s.* 11*d. is quoted as* the *price of wheat in Dantzic in that year*, and as one that may reasonably be expected again! Similarly it is proved that Hamburg wheat might be sold here for 30s. That this is a misrepresentation, we have their own acknowledgment. Being called to account for it, their orator, Copland, at once admitted, in a published letter, that it ought to be "33s. or 34s." *And yet, though this half concession was made last January, the original misstatement is still circulated!*

Then, in freights: Mr. Cobden having proved that, on a long average, it has cost 10s. 6d. per quarter to fetch wheat from the Baltic to the west of England, and though it is notorious that the difference to London is only 6d., these tracts actually contain the following:—"Why, he (Mr. Cobden) must have thought he was speaking to those who were as ignorant of geography as the farmer whom he held up to ridicule in another county; that you did not know that Liverpool is more distant from Dantzic than London; and therefore the cost to that port could not be a criterion as to the cost to London, seeing the distance is greater and the navigation more dangerous, ships to reach Liverpool having to go through the English Channel. *This is the way they endeavour to throw dust in your eyes to deceive you.*" (Cheers.) Could shameless effrontery well exceed this?

And so as to wages: Mr. Cobden's statement, that in the manufacturing districts common labourers receive 12s. a week, is thus disposed of. To prove this cannot be the case generally, first, an account is quoted, *without stating its nature*, of the starvation earnings in Manchester *during the dreadful distress in* 1841. Then *the combined average* in factories *of men, women, and children*, is contrasted with that of *able-bodied men* in the south. But the following beats all:—"And Mr. J. Marshall of Leeds informs us that in one of his mills, where he employed 1229 *persons*, the average rate of wages of 1025 of them was only 4s. 11½d. per week in the time of good trade." Now, on reference to the table, it appears that *the* 204 *excluded from the average include every hand who is of age, man and woman*; and that *the average wages of boys and girls, from 9 to* 11, *is* 3*s.* 1½*d.*, *and that of men and women*, 21 *and upwards*, 16*s.* 7¾*d.* Yet the tract actually proceeds thus:—"Are these men to charge us with grinding the faces of the poor, when from their own mouths we can convict them of paying only 5s. or 6s. a week?" (Cheers.) Could dishonesty go further?

One tract is on wages: and here, at least, I hoped for something like an argument in support of their assertions; but there is not even an attempt at it. The tract consists of quotations from alleged Free-Traders, to show that *they* believe cheap corn will bring down wages. Now, even if they thus showed that half the Council of the League expect what the Anti-League assert will happen, it must go for nought till they further confute the conclusive arguments in the League, which clearly show that cheap corn *cannot* lower wages. But here are two specimens. I was forced to say *alleged* Free-Traders, for *they actually quote as a League authority the notorious monopolist Sandars*, he who, after he had admitted before Parliament (Committee in 1833), that the Corn Law takes from the many to give to the few—that it is the greatest of all monopolies, and cannot expect to stand before the spirit of the age—is now striving to bolster it up! And then they quote (and in two other tracts also) Mr. Bright's self-evident statement that *our only mode of meeting the hostile tariffs we are bringing on our heads will be to lower wages.* Let them quote this as often as they like, and let them tell us how it could more clearly be shown, both that wages *may* fall without corn falling, and that the Corn Law, so far from helping to sustain them, itself leads to their fall.

And, indeed, the very strongest expression does not in the least sanction *their* assertion, namely, that wages will fall *more* than to allow for the increased cheapness of food, and which is the only case in which the labourer can be hurt. No one goes beyond their own ally, whose words they are passing off as ours, and, as if they were so conclusive, print in italics. All that even he says is, that repeal "would leave matters, as far as he [the labourer] was concerned, just as they were." In which case, so far from it being the labourers' interest to support the Corn Law, they would have no interest in the question at all; as whatever were prices, as wages would vary accordingly, they would be equally well off; and, therefore, they could not possibly object to their masters reaping the benefit which it is admitted that cheap corn would be to them.

Where, then, is their evidence? Nowhere; and, moreover, *in these very tracts, when it serves their turn, they themselves adduce contrary evidence*, that wages not merely do not, but *cannot possibly* either fall or rise *even as much* as food, so that labourers *must* be best off when food is cheapest. It is obvious that when food is cheap, wages at once go further, so that there must be less competition for them; and then, further, the money saved in food being spent in other articles, the demand for labourers to make them must increase, so that wages must even rise. And none have borne more decided and conclusive testimony to these facts than the agriculturists themselves: see particularly their evidence before the Lords' Committee in 1814; and the Commons' Committee in 1833 and 1836. But, really, can evidence be required to disprove such an absurd assertion, as that increase in the abundance and cheapness of necessaries enables employers to give their hands still less of them than when they are scarce and dear? *That when bread rises to* 1*s. a loaf, it is the rich who are put on short*

allowance, and that the poor get even more of it then than when it is plentiful?

In trades in general, of course, the demand for each kind of labour must increase simultaneously with the population, and the wages must be, in fact, equivalent to the value of the article produced, less the ordinary profit on the employer's science and capital; and therefore, whatever be the price of food, wages cannot vary on that account. These facts are well known in manufacturing districts, and are, indeed, self-evident.

But there is an exception as to agriculture. Here the increase of population causes no simultaneous increase in the demand for labour; there being no increase in the necessary land, the additional population must turn to other occupations. But, from the tendency and greater facility to learn a parent's calling, the agriculturist's sons will not turn elsewhere as long as they have not so increased the competition as to have reduced their wages below what they are satisfied with; and thus the supply of agricultural labourers will always tend to excess, and there will be some relation between agricultural wages and the price of necessaries. In England, however, through various impolitic acts, and particularly the restrictions on trade, the supply of agricultural labourers in many districts has already far exceeded the demand; and therefore they are quite at the mercy of their employers: what they receive is only the value of bare sustenance, slightly varying according to the kindness of the masters, or the public feeling of the particular district; and can only by courtesy be called wages. Being given in money, of course the money amount varies with prices. This fact constitutes the whole of the evidence for the Anti-League's assertion that wages vary with prices. The state of affairs that necessarily causes this is put forward by Mr. Baker himself in the first tract. He there announces that many farmers are employing four or five extra labourers merely to keep them off the parish. It is obvious from the foregoing that, so far from agriculturists benefiting from the Corn Laws, they are the greatest sufferers from such restrictions, as they have the greatest need for a free expansion of employment; and this state of pauper wages among them, which necessarily results from these restrictions, is the most conclusive evidence that could well be brought against them; and every fresh instance which the Anti-League are thus enabled to bring of what they call wages varying with prices is only further evidence against the Corn Law.

But even this state of affairs cannot *cause* their labourers to be put on *shortest* allowance, when bread is plentiful; and, *they being complete masters in these districts*, if they could bring evidence that such were the fact, it would only be *testimony to their own cruelty*. Such, however, is not the fact, as they themselves clearly proved in their own evidence above referred to.

Some of these tracts, however, positively assert that, *except* when corn is *very* dear (the exception is worth noting), wages are six pecks of wheat a week. If this were true, of course the cheaper wheat were, the less money would be left over after paying for bread. A family, as is there stated, generally consuming ten loaves a week, on a reduction of 8s. a quarter, or 3d. a peck, being 1d. a loaf, they would only save 10d., while they would lose six times 3d., or 1s. 6d., and thus sustain a loss of 8d. Great, however, as this loss would be, it does not satisfy Mr. Baker; and so, determined to do the thing thoroughly while he was about it, in putting the calculation into figures he quietly cribs 6d. more, and calls the reduction in wages 2s., and so nearly doubles the loss, making it 1s. 2d.

Fraud, however, always betrays itself. This tale, invented to humbug the labourer, would, if persisted in, completely upset their *other* assertion, that the *farmer* will be ruined on a fall in prices, as *his* expenses will remain the *same*. So in tract No. 1, where this has to be proved, the *impossibility* of wages thus falling is clearly shown. The many other articles wanted by labourers are catalogued; and then Mr. Copland, having stated that the price of corn has fallen one-third, confidently asks what farmer has been able to reduce his wages one-third, to which "hear, hear," is responded; and, in a letter he published in support of this statement, he confidently asserts that wages have only fallen "one-fifth to one-sixth," or about half what corn has, and *which, therefore, clearly has left the labourer even better off.*

Let us not, however, suppose that, having thus contradicted and exposed the absurdity of his ally, Mr. Baker, he has left himself at a loss for a case for the labourer against cheap food. He beats Baker out and out. In the same tract, when he comes to that question, he proves the labourer would lose £15. 12s., and only save 7s. 7½d.!! And how do you think he does this? He commences with the moderate suggestion that wheat might fall 10s. a quarter; but he goes on to suppose that thereupon wages might fall 6s.! (of course, this is only put *hypothetically* after the foregoing, though, methinks, it would be pretty well for an hypothesis at any time; and I should like to know what farmer would be injured in such a case. Even according to Baker's calculation, the fall in wages would be only 1s. 10½d.; and then Copland calls 6s. only *half* the wages! How many would rejoice if the whole of their wages even *now* amounted to that! and how, then, can they be only six pecks? But to proceed:—) and then, to complete the thing, *he supposes all the labourer's living is celibacy—determined old bachelors—spending only 2d. a day in bread, and spending their half-guinea over in fun!!* Is it to be believed that these statements are composed and diffused by sane men!

In conclusion, I assert the Anti-League generally *know* that these are falsehoods, and that neither are wages six pecks of wheat, nor do they vary with its price. *I have little doubt Mr. Baker is himself giving his men the value of at least eight pecks;* at any rate, the wages in my parish are worth that, and he cannot but know it, and I shall presently show he does. Then in the table of Mr. Marshall's wages, which Mr. Copland has so scandalously misquoted, *he must have read the distinct statement that the wages have hardly varied at all for the last 20 years, though wheat has varied above 100 per cent.* But, to quote more general evidence, the recent report on female agricultural labour shows the high wages, even of agricultural labourers, *in all thinly-peopled districts*, such as the North of England generally, and Lincolnshire, through the demand for labour; *and in the neighbourhood of manufacturing towns*, from the facility of obtaining other employment, which prevents their becoming excessive; and it also shows the low wages in all densely-populated merely agricultural, and, therefore, deeply pauperised, districts.

And to come quite home to the Anti-League—the real facts are nowhere more clearly shown than in the (just published) first part of the fifth volume of the "Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society," of which their president, the Duke of Richmond, is now also president.* Three essays in it are severally on the agriculture of Cheshire, Wilts, and Essex (this last being by this very Mr. Baker). They thus relate to the most distant districts, and they all clearly disprove these assertions. In the essay on Cheshire the following passage occurs:—"*In the vicinity of manufacturing or large towns wages are nearly 20 per cent. higher than in many parts of the interior.*" "*In the former there is a greater demand for labour;*" and the two amounts are stated at 12s. and 10s. Wilts is notoriously pauperised, and accordingly wages are only "7s. or 8s.," and "vary with the price of wheat." But still it appears they have risen 1s. since the winter, and this is clearly not the result of a rise in wheat, but of increased demand. *It also appears that they are 1s. higher in the north than the south. Yet corn is no dearer in the north, and, moreover, the land being poorer, it cannot arise from the better returns, but they are actually paid out of less. But the manufactures in the north diminish the competition for them.*

Nor does even Mr. Baker's essay assert wages to be six pecks of wheat. There is not here a word of the absurdities he is spreading in these tracts. Having no sinister purpose to serve, he here tells the plain truth. These are his words:—"*Wages differ considerably in various districts, being fully one-third higher in the districts near London, and towards the seacoast;*" and these he states at from 10s. to 12s. And let me tell him that, at present prices, 12s. *will buy eight pecks of wheat.* And I will venture to affirm that he knows other parishes *where his beloved Corn Law, having thoroughly done its work of pauperization, wages are hardly worth four pecks.*

If these exposures do not shame him into truth, they must, at least, open the eyes of his dupes.

Your obedient servant,

A Free-Trade Farmer's Son.

Preston, October 16.

Sir,—Your readers may remember that, at the late election, Mr. Talbot Clifton's principal supporter was a Mr. Townley Parker, a landowner of this division, more renowned for his swaggering demeanour than for any leading mental qualities. Well, a week or so after the election, the annual meeting of the Leyland (North Lancashire) Agricultural Association was held at Leyland; and as these meetings are understood to be a kind of party review, where landlords and their agents may drill the poor farmers into proper discipline, and imbue them with a due sense of the value of parliamentary *protection*, there was a muster of M.P.'s and would-be M.P.'s, including amongst the former Mr. Talbot Clifton, and amongst the latter, Mr. Townley Parker.

The usual farce was of course gone through of awarding prizes, varying in amount from £1 to £5, to tenant-farmers for cultivating their land properly; and at the conclusion of their report the inspectors let out the following unwelcome piece of criticism:—

"The inspectors have also to state that Mr. Scotson's turnips are the largest in growth that have come under their notice this season, but were sorry to observe many entirely eaten off to the surface of the land by rabbits or hares, which is very discouraging to a tenant, having been eaten away after all the expense and trouble of cultivation."

No sooner was the next toast disposed of than up jumped Mr. Townley Parker, looking unutterable things. I give you a faint outline of his speech as reported in the *Preston Guardian*, but it conveys no idea of his excited manner:—

"Mr. Townley Parker then craved a word for himself. He had heard with great surprise that part of the report in reference to the mischief done by rabbits. He felt that the allusion was personal. (Loud cries of 'No, no.') He felt that there was the insinuation that he (Mr. Parker) was to blame for it. Now, he detested the sight of a rabbit. His positive orders were that these creatures should not be allowed to exist on a farm. That part of the report was received with applause by the company—a plain reflection upon his conduct as a gentleman. (No, no.) If it pleased God to give him life forty-eight hours, he would inquire into the subject. He would have every rabbit expelled, and would take care that the tenant was remunerated for any loss which he might have sustained." (Loud applause.)

I would just remark here, that, although Mr. Parker very dexterously confines his hatred to rabbits, the turnips were eaten down by *hares* also according to the authority of the inspectors; and he does not attempt to show that it is less unprofitable to tenant-farmers to keep other people's hares than rabbits. But to the sequel. Mr. Parker did not lose *forty-eight hours* in sending a land-valuer and agent, one of that class ever ready to toady the squire, to put a valuation upon the damage done to Mr. Scotson's turnips; and how much do you think he has awarded him—guess?—guess again? Why, just 10½d. sterling! It now only remains to be seen whether the inspectors, who certainly evinced a spirit of independence not commonly witnessed at such gatherings, will stand by their report, in the face of the landlord and the obsequious land-agent. Mr. Parker has, I believe, left the society in disgust, expecting, no doubt, that a huge fuss will be made to induce him to return.

Here, in the case of Mr. Scotson, is an epitome of the condition of half the tenantry of the kingdom. His farm belongs to Lord Skelmersdale, who lets the game to Mr. Parker, upon condition that the rabbits be destroyed, but without restriction as to hares. Thus the farmer pays not only his rent, but is at the expense of supporting Mr. Parker's out-door amusements (manly sports, I believe, they call them), and then this game-preserver and crop-destroyer joins an agricultural association, and gives premiums for the best field of turnips—to be eaten by his rabbits and hares! When will farmers see through such jugglery? Why, factory *boys* would not submit to be so bamboozled by a person of the calibre of Mr. Townley Parker.

Anti-Humbug.

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* There are many other truths told in this journal to which we must call their attention, *e. g.*, the bad farming caused by tenancy-at-will. Thus, this Mr. Baker mentions that the north-west of Essex is devoured by that most destructive weed charlock, because "*the leases are not sufficiently extended to repay the tenant his expense in affecting so desirable an object*" as its extirpation.

ADVANCE OF WAGES, STRIKES, &c.

We have, from time to time, during the last few weeks, given paragraphs from local papers containing accounts of strikes in most of the manufacturing towns for an advance of wages. In almost every instance this demand of the operatives has been successful. How do these facts consort with the miserable fallacy—over and over again repeated with unblushing effrontery—that cheap food and low wages are inevitable concomitants? The manufacturers have been stigmatised as selfish, grasping, grinding capitalists, anxious only for Free Trade as the means of securing cheaper labour. Well! food is as cheap now as it probably would be with the most perfect freedom of exchange. Has this increased the power of the masters *or the men?* Experience is a stern teacher in most cases. Happily, in this instance, it comes with "healing on its wings," offering plain proof to the most prejudiced of the simple truth that the value of labour depends entirely on the demand for it, and that the consumption of all other commodities, and, consequently, the demand for the labour producing them, is increased just in proportion to the ease with which the first necessaries of life can be procured. The following extracts contain additional confirmation of the truth of this principle:—

Ashton-under-Lyne.—We are glad to state that the cotton-spinners of this town have unanimously agreed to make an advance of five per cent. on the wages paid to the working spinners, both on self-acting and hand mules.—*Manchester Guardian.*

Advance of Wages.—Last week, Mr. Richard Pennington, of Hindley, advanced the wages of his mule-spinners 2d. per 1000, which will amount to about 3s. 6d. per week, to be divided between the spinner and his piecers; and Messrs. Farrars, of Wigan, have already given out some gingham warps to their weavers upon the short-length system, deducting nine yards from the length of the piece, and 1s. from the wages. This arrangement seems to have given satisfaction to the weavers employed. Some of the other masters are making preparations to shorten their lengths upon the same system; but others appear not so willing to accede to the proposal.

Oldham.—On Friday last the operative spinners in the employment of Mr. James Holladay, of North-street Mills, Oldham, struck for an advance of 1d. per 1000 hanks. No sooner was their master aware of the nature of their demand than he at once acceded to it, and the spinners returned to their work immediately. The spinners of several other establishments in Oldham and the neighbourhood have requested a similar advance, to which it is stated that a number of the firms have readily acceded.

Leigh.—We are glad to learn that the recent attempt made by one or two of the silk manufacturers in this town and neighbourhood to reduce the wages of their weavers has been abandoned. Several of the most respectable firms having signified their intention of taking no notice whatever of the reduction, and continuing to offer work at the old rates, the efforts of the others were rendered abortive. Great praise is due to those masters who have thus aided the operatives, and their kindness, we are assured, is duly appreciated.

Stockport.—No steps have yet been taken to bring about the threatened turn-out amongst the spinners and self-acting minders. The hands have determined upon another appeal to the masters before that event takes place, and an address to them in favour of the sought-for rise is now in course of circulation.

Turn-outs.—The mule spinners and piecers at the "self-actors," at the Messrs. Eckersly's, Mr. Wood's, and Mr. Tipping's mills, Wigan, have turned out for an advance of wages. The power-loom weavers at some of the mills have already given notice, and others were expected to give notice on Saturday.

The Strike of Throstle Spinners.—Thomas Tunstall, Samuel Ashurst, and William Blinston, the three young men brought before the magistrates of Wigan on Monday week, charged with neglect of work at Messrs. Wood's mills, were conveyed to Kirkdale on Wednesday morning for a month. Every means were taken to prevail upon the defendants to go to work, but without effect: they each swore they would not do so without an advance of wages; and consequently the law was allowed to take its course. We understand Messrs. Woods have determined to stop one of the mills entirely, until the hands are better disposed to accept employment. Several other partial strikes have taken place in other mills during the last and the present week.

Portuguese Manufactures.—The exhibition of Portuguese manufactures, now open in Lisbon, according to the confession of those natives who are at all enlightened or candid, and especially of those who have ever been out of the country, gives a very unflattering idea of the progress of native production. The only new things are English inventions, imported on the purchase of the patent right, such as the galvanized iron from Count Farrobo's factory at Ginjal. The only remarkable thing is the illiberal inscription (the newspapers call it "patriotic") over the specimens from the extensive Rosario foundry at Oporto:—"Not one foreigner is employed in this factory!"—*Times.*

Soiree to Work-people.—On Monday se'nnight, Mr. Schwann, the eminent merchant of Huddersfield, on the opening of an additional warehouse, gave a grand soirée to the persons in his employ, when tea was provided for upwards of 130 persons, including his men, their wives, and their sweethearts. Mrs. Schwann presided at the head table, accompanied by Mrs. Kell (her mother), Miss Paisley, and some of the younger branches of Mr. Schwann's family. After tea, the evening was spent in the most harmonious manner, and was diversified with dancing, recitations, and glee singing. In the course of the evening, Mr. Schwann gave an excellent address, and dwelt in particular on the harmonious workings of his establishment—the high moral attainments at which he recommended the young persons in his employ to aim—and advised them, to whatever condition they aspired, either in business or otherwise, to become the best, and fix a high standard as the chief aim of their ambition. The address was responded to by three times three hearty cheers. The amusements were kept up until half-past twelve o'clock, after which the national anthem was sung.—*Leeds Mercury.*

REVIEW.

The History of Sweden. Translated from the Original of Anders Fryxell. Edited by Mary Howitt. London: Bentley.

For more than a century, Sweden has ceased to occupy a conspicuous place in the state policy of Europe; and the revolutions of which it has been the theatre have excited little attention beyond the confines of the Baltic. Miss Bremer's delightful portraiture of domestic life in this land of lake and forest has, however, attracted some notice to the circumstances which have moulded and preserved such a national character as that which she describes; and the increasing regard paid to the state of the rural population in England may well justify our feeling and interest in a country where the peasants have played a most important part in determining the destinies of their native land, and where they still hold a distinctive place in the legislature.

For the most part the history of Sweden is rude as its climate and its soil; but its long winter is cheered by a glorious summer dating from the accession of the house of Wasa. The volumes before us do not bring down the narrative to the midsummer of Swedish glory under Gustavus Adolphus, but in the earlier days of comparative darkness we find much that is amusing and not a little that is instructive. As with all the northern nations, the earliest Swedish records are songs and legends, describing the wars and piracies of a bold but barbarous race, whose only virtue was courage, and whose only pleasure was bloodshed. Even ladies exhibited a savage passion for war, and as an example of a Swedish heroine in pagan times we take the account given of Queen Torborg :—

"King Erik had no son, but only one daughter named Torborg. She was more beautiful and wise than most other women. She was clever in all woman's work, as it was fitting she should be, but still more so in what befits a knight, namely in riding, fighting with sword and shield, and many other exploits of that kind which were her chief pleasure and delight. King Erik little liked his daughter having such masculine tastes, and begged her to sit still in her maiden chamber as other Kings' daughter used to do; but she told him, she had good need of these accomplishments, for, when she should inherit the kingdom from her father, it would require her best ability to defend it against foreign enemies. She therefore begged her father to give her at that time some province to govern, that she might accustom herself while he yet lived to rule both land and people. King Erik gave her, in consequence, a third of his kingdom, as well as an estate royal called Ulleraker, in Upland, and also many a stout and bold man to be her champions. Torborg then set out for Ulleraker, and held her court there with much might and wisdom; but she never could endure to hear that she was a woman, dressing herself in men's clothes, and ordering her men to call her King Torborg. Those who came here to court her were driven away with laughter and mockery, or, if these did not suffice, with lance and spear."

King Rolf courted this formidable heroine in her own way; he levied war against her, and won her hand by the sword. The termination of such a singular style of courtship is thus dramatically told :—

"Rolf called to Kettil, and bade him take Torborg prisoner, but not to wound her, as it would be shameful to use arms against a woman. Kettil was now so near her that he gave her a blow with the flat of his sword along the thigh, dropping at the same time some rude and contemptuous words; but Torborg gave him with her battle-axe so hard a blow on the ear, that Kettil fell with his heels in the air, and she called to him, 'Thus we punish our dogs when they bark too loud.' Kettil leapt to his feet again wanting to revenge himself, but in the same moment Rolf came up, grasped Torborg across the arms, and so she was obliged to surrender herself to his power; but Rolf only desired that she would permit her father to be judge in this matter. She therefore accompanied him back to Upsala, and laid down her arms at King Erik's feet, who was greatly delighted at this change. Shortly after her marriage with King Rolf was celebrated, and held in the most honourable manner, so that every man was invited to it, and the festivities lasted fourteen days, after which they all parted, and every one returned home to his own place. King Rolf and Queen Torborg lived long and happily together."

Even in the heathen age we find the Swedish peasants occupying an important position in the *Tings*, or national councils. Torgny, one of this order, compelled his Sovereign to make peace with the King of Norway, and even to give him his daughter in marriage as a pledge of amity. Part of the speech delivered by the bold peasant on this occasion deserves to be noticed as an example of the liberty allowed in the national assemblies :—

"'Swea's Kings are different in character now to what they were in former times. My grandfather, Torgny, could well remember Erik Emundson, and related of him how in his earliest years he went in arms each summer round divers lands, subduing Finland, Kyrieland, Estonia, Courland, and many other countries to the eastward, and how the fortresses and other great works he had made could yet be seen. But he was not, however, so proud but that he could endure the words of those who had matters of moment to lay before him. My father, Torgny, was a long time with King Björn, and knew his mode of living well. King Björn's kingdom stood also during his whole lifetime with great might and strength, and without any deficiency, for he was friendly towards all his men. I have also a good memory of King Erik Segersäll, and have been with him on many expeditions. He increased the kingdom of Sweden, and defended it mightily; and yet it was easy for us to discourse and take counsel with him. But this King, whom we now have, will not permit any one to speak with him on anything but what he himself chooses and intends with all energy to pursue. His tributaries, through feebleness and unworthiness, he permits to escape him. Nevertheless he chooses to retain the kingdom of Norway under his dominion, which no King in Sweden has ever before pretended to do; for which cause many sit in disquietude. Now it is our, the peasants' will, that thou King Olof make peace with Olof Tjocke, the King of Norway; and that thou give him thy daughter Ingegerd to wife. And if thou shouldst wish to reconquer the countries to the east which thy friends and forefathers possessed, we will all accompany thee for that end. But if thou wilt not agree to that which we now speak, we will fall upon and kill thee, and on no account longer endure disorder and dispeace. So have our forefathers done, who at Mulating threw five Kings into a well who were puffed up with pride and vanity as thou now art. Say now immediately which of the two thou wilt accept?' The people on this made much uproar and clashing of arms; but the King arose and said, that he would give way to the will of the peasants as all the Kings of Sweden had done before him. Then the uproar ceased, and the chiefs went together and concluded peace with the Norwegian Ambassadors on the conditions which Olof Haraldson had proposed, so that the Princess Ingegerd was then promised to him."

Birger Jarl appears to have been the first great lawgiver of Sweden after the introduction of Christianity. The following may serve to illustrate the state of society which he undertook to reform :—

"He assured the quiet of the land by his four Laws for Peace, namely: for the Peace of the Church, Women, House, and Assize; Kyrkofrid, Qwinnofrid, Hemfrid, and Tingsfrid.

"He ordained that none should assault another, either in the church or in the churchyard, or even on the road to or from the church. Whoever broke this ordinance was declared outlawed; and, should he even be slain by the wronged party, was to be unavenged. This was called Kyrkofrid,* or Church Peace. At this time the custom was adopted of unarming before entering church. The arms were kept during service in an outhouse built for the purpose, which is to this day called the Weapon House.

"It was also a universal custom throughout the North, in courtship, not only not to regard the bride's consent, but even not to consult her parents. Armed with sword and helmet, and accompanied by his brave companions in arms, the lover often presented himself, and, if by fair words he could not succeed, he carried off the lady by force; in which skirmish her fathers and brothers were often killed, and she constrained to marry a man whom she hated, who had murdered her nearest relatives, and in the most shameful manner treated herself. It was therefore not an uncommon occurrence that she revenged herself at the first fitting opportunity, even if she waited for it for years. Sometimes she murdered her husband, or in other cases their common children, to make the father's sorrow and her own revenge the greater. Such rapes took place, especially when an affianced couple were travelling to the church, or to a priest to be married. The rejected lover often laid himself in ambush with his friends by the road, fell on the bridal party, slew the bridegroom, and carried off the bride. For this reason some stout youths were always appointed to protect the bride on these journeys, who received in consequence the title of bridesmen, or bride servants. Birger Jarl caused a law to be published, that none should in this way disturb, or carry off a woman by force, without incurring the same punishment which he had before awarded for the breach of the law regarding the Peace of the Church (Kyrkofrid). This was called Peace of Women (Qwinnofrid).

"For the establishment of general personal security, he forbid, under the same penalty, the attacking any man, his wife, children, or servants, within his own house, or even the enclosure of his property. This was called Home Peace, or House Peace.

"He finally forbade in like manner all violence offered to those who were on the road to a Ting, or at the Ting itself. This was called Tingsfrid."

The history of Sweden under the Folkungar dynasty is a melancholy and wearisome repetition of domestic treachery, fratricide, parricide, and civil war. Their race, like that of the Plantagenets, finally became extinct; but "The evil that men do lives after them," and distractions did not cease until Denmark, Norway, and Sweden were united under one head by the Union of Calmar. Under the Danish Kings, Sweden was treated as a conquered province, and the many patriotic efforts made to assert the ancient franchises of the kingdom were defeated by the unwillingness of the nobles to act in concert with the peasants. Engelbrecht, who may be regarded as the Sir William Wallace of Sweden, was murdered by a noble; and the leader of the aristocratic section of the patriots, Karl Knutsson, became an accessory, at least after the fact :—

"Karl Knutsson, by the death of Engelbrecht, was freed from a dangerous rival in supreme power, and seemed therefore not to disapprove of Maus Bengtsson's deed, even publishing an ordination throughout the kingdom that none should venture to attack or even to blame him for this matter. But he did not remain unpunished. He soon felt the bitterest remorse for his crime, and in his despair would have killed himself had he not been prevented. As he had suffered himself to be seduced by the Dance to this action, he and his son bore them an immeasurable hatred, never enduring to hear them mentioned. But all his repentance could not serve to obliterate his crime; the people looked on Maus Bengtsson with inveterate suspicion, and thought, in the misfortunes and mishaps which afterwards overtook his family, that they read the vengeance of Heaven for the innocent blood he had shed. It is related that the ghost of Maus Bengtsson's mother, who through avarice, it is said, incited her son to the crime, is at night occasionally heard to sigh and lament in the closed vaults under Gökholm's old towers. The island is called Engelbrecht's Holm to this day; and the old people show the stunted grass burnt by the sun in the sand, saying that no green thing can thrive on the cursed earth which drank the innocent blood of Engelbrecht Engelbrechtsson."

The deliverance of Sweden by Gustavus Wasa, and the re-establishment of its independence as a nation, have been too often narrated to require repetition. There is a striking resemblance between the adventures of Gustavus Wasa and those of Robert Bruce. But the Swedish Monarch was a religious reformer as well as a political renovator; his energetic measures enabled him to overthrow the whole Romish hierarchy in less time than would be occupied in fixing the course of a turnpike road. The establishment of Lutheranism in Sweden dates from the diet of Westerås :—

"The Diet of Westerås did not last very long; scarce eight days past ere it was closed; but never, at any Diet, has more been executed; never have any resolutions brought about a more complete change. The whole tremendous power of Popery in all its members was crushed. Deprived of their riches, their privileges, their great consideration, they were open to the continual and often unjust exactions of the crown and the nobility, to the attacks of the Lutheran priests, and left without power to protect themselves from the encroachments of enemies on every side. The Crown of Sweden, which before had been utterly impoverished and unable to pay the half of its expenses, became rich at once; the King formerly, in most respects, forced to act according to the will of the bishops and the clergy, now acquired a much wider rule; the peasants felt a great alleviation in their taxes; but the nobility gained the most, for countless estates were redeemed or resumed from churches and convents. Gustavus, himself descended from the chiefest and wealthiest families, did not in this respect curtail aught from his own privileges, but received large property, which has since been known by the name of the Gustavian entail. It often happened afterwards that the nobles appropriated by force fields and possessions of the Church; in such cases, however, they soon perceived that they had in Gustavus both a strict and observant master. 'Ye good men,' he wrote to them on receiving information of such violence, 'are willing to pass for the heirs of much land and property to which you have little right. Were it now permitted to every one to help himself as he pleased, and appropriate property without reason, birth, or proof, we might also play the same trick, which we have not, however, done. So must you also, good men, not conduct yourselves as if there were neither authority, law, nor right in the land.'"

The peasants of Dalecarlia, by whose aid Wasa had obtained the crown, revolted against the changes introduced by the Reformation. In the interview between the King and the insurgent leaders there is an amusing contrast between his adroitness and their simplicity :—

"The King answered them with the utmost moderation, refuting and explaining every point. The peasants, for instance, complained of the new doctrines, and 'that the King and his Court eat meat upon Fridays.' The King answered, 'that the peasants should not trouble themselves about such matters as they did not in the least understand.' The peasants complained 'that times were dear;' the King answered, 'that such were beyond his power to help.' The peasants complained 'that scalloped and slashed clothes were worn;' the King answered, 'that he had compelled none to do so; but he did not choose that they should dictate to him how he was to dress his courtiers; he might follow the customs of other princes if he pleased.' With such replies, most often serious and instructive, but sometimes pleasant, they were obliged this time to content themselves."

As the Romish clergy had the support of the people, Gustavus allied himself with the nobles, whose concurrence in his schemes he secured by giving them large grants of the lands wrested from the Church. In this course he adopted the policy of Henry VIII. and Queen Elizabeth, who raised up a new aristocracy in England, identified with the Protestant cause, for the cogent reason that their estates were derived from the plunder of the Romish Church, and the forfeited lands of its adherents. In Sweden the nobles exercised their new power with so much severity that they provoked insurrections, which embittered the reign of Gustavus, and brought down his gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. In the subsequent reigns the Swedish aristocracy reduced royalty to a mere shadow; but we must wait for the completion of the translation before we investigate fully the effect which political revolution, combined with religious change, produced on the fortunes of Sweden.

What does "Hamlet" mean? A Lecture by T. Wade, Esq. British Press, Jersey.

"*Hamlet*," says Mr. Wade, "is a visible incarnation of the unseen human soul bowed down beneath the weight of the burden of the mystery of the universe." He supports this theory by a very clever analysis of the prince's dramatic character, which will be found instructive even when it fails to convince. "The dread of something after death" is, in Mr. Wade's view, the clue to the vacillation and indecision which *Hamlet* exhibits in avenging his father's death, though he had bound himself to the task as the great object of his existence. We rather think that the great dramatist intended to show the ruin which infirmity of purpose, arising from over-refinement in speculation, brings upon noble minds.

"The dram of base
Doth all the noble substance often dout
To his own scandal."

Hamlet's weakness is evinced in his love to *Ophelia*,

* As, in these disquiet times, merchants had no security from violence in any other spot, they struck their booths by the churches, whence arose the first places for markets and commerce.

which we, differing from Mr. Wade, regard as sincere. He hesitates to confirm his vows from a dread of consequences which are purely creatures of his imagination, and he throws away the best opportunity of revenge because he finds the murderer praying. He wants energy of will to execute the purposes which his intellect has framed.

We have countless examples before us of men of high intellect imperfectly fulfilling, or utterly neglecting, recognised duty, from this habit of refining on consequences. Many of those who call themselves "Free-Traders in the abstract" belong to this class: they see the impolicy and iniquity of restrictions on commerce, they recognise the national blessings that would result from the emancipation of industry, but when the period for action arrives they stop short to split ideal straws and decide on hairbreadth distinctions, until all their energies are wasted in speculation. A great man is required not only "to be" but "to do": he must ever dread

"some craven scruple
Of thinking too precisely on the event—
A thought which quarter'd hath but one part wisdom
And ever three parts coward."

The tragedy of "Hamlet" appears to us a philosophic exposition of such infirmity of purpose: his death is the sheer result of weakness and indecision. We scarcely lament his death, because in his life he had abandoned the aim of his existence. In political life there have been unfortunately too many *Hamlets*, men of high purpose, but deficient in resolution to burst through conventional trammels: they suffered the necessary consequence of their timidity; like Gulliver chained down by the Lilliputians, they were held fast by the combinations of little men, and were the slaves of those whom they despised. We have been pleased with with Mr. Wade's lecture: it is an elegant specimen of æsthetic criticism, and, though we differ from his views, we suspect that a little explanation would show that the discrepancy is not of great magnitude.

Cotton Twist.—The orders for cotton twist to the Continent, *viâ* Hamburg, from this port, cause the demand to be greater than the supplies can, at present, be obtained from the manufacturing districts. The insufficiency this week from Manchester caused the Hanseatic steam ship Leeds to proceed considerably short of the freight engaged.—*Hull Packet.*

The Schoolmaster.—Nothing is more deplorable than the state of education (speaking generally) of the schoolmasters who affect or pretend to teach the people. No system of education, no efforts for education, can be of much value until we shall have masters who shall be able to combine the improvement of the moral and religious knowledge of their pupils, as well as of their manners, with the general education they may impart. If their art of carrying on the discipline of the school and in the management of young people shall be such as to enable them to do this, then we may trust that they will be able to give them an education which may make them good men and good subjects. No pains that can be taken are too much in this matter. I wish I could say the business of a schoolmaster could be truly called a profession. I wish that the middle and lower classes of the people in this country could see in the situation of the schoolmaster a situation to which they might hope to arrive, and which would not only afford them a decent livelihood, but raise them in the scale of society to a station which the important trust reposed in their hands seems to require. This must be done by degrees; and yet, perhaps, there is no object more important.—*Lord Wharncliffe's Speech on Education.*

The Leviathan Telescope.—The most striking and popular communication made at the late meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science was the account given by the Earl of Rosse of the construction of his great reflecting telescope. Nothing could be more engaging than the noble simplicity and openness, and the lucid plainness, with which the Earl described the course of his seventeen or eighteen years of experiments, which were only brought to a successful conclusion a few days before this meeting. This is by far the largest and most powerful telescope ever constructed, and will conduct us further into the regions of space. The focal length of the instrument is not less than fifty-three feet, and the diameter of its disc or speculum six feet; the weight of the metal disc is three tons fifteen cwt. To cast such a disc without fracture or flaw was a work of extreme difficulty, and occupied years of labour; then to polish it, and reduce it to the perfect parabolic form, was scarcely less difficult. The Earl explained the causes which led to failure after failure, and the contrivances by which they were remedied. The experiments were all conducted by himself, and by workmen of his own training; and they were carried on, not in the foundries of London, Birmingham, or Manchester, but in works of his own formation in a remote part of Ireland. The mere erection of so ponderous an instrument, weighing, with the tube and fittings, about twelve tons, was an arduous work. It is fixed to the ground at one end, and moves upon a joint, and it is so counterpoised that one man can manage it with ease and quickness. It stands between two lofty walls, and is made to command the whole meridian, from ten degrees above the horizon on the south, to below the pole on the north. It will not traverse more than to allow of observing an object for an hour as it passes the meridian; but this is sufficient for the most important astronomical observations. A series of moveable galleries command the eye-hole of the telescope at every elevation. The Earl stated that he had observed one nebula, which by the high magnifying powers of the telescope was separated into stars equal in brightness to stars of the first magnitude. The explanations of the noble savant, which were illustrated by models of the telescope and polishing apparatus, were received with the highest admiration by a crowded audience.

AGRICULTURE.

REPEAL OF THE MALT-TAX—A MONOPOLIST DIVERSION.

No one can read the sayings, or watch the doings, of the monopolist landlords, without observing that the present distressed condition of agriculture has driven them to their last shifts. They know not where to look for a plausible defence of the Corn Laws. Their old delusions are worn threadbare; even the farmers see through them, and grumble at their high rents. Even those farmers who aided the landlords in their late dodge of "Protection Societies" have entered into an active agitation against the game laws, and cry out for leases, with rational covenants and corn-rents. Semi-feudal landlordism trembles. Rents are in imminent danger; and there seems a fair chance that, if landowners are to maintain their present incomes, they must bring their commodity—land—fairly into the world's market. They will soon be reduced to let their farms for what they are really worth, and no more. Then will they speedily abandon their burdensome restrictions. High rents will no longer be to be wrung from the capital of farmers, or from the pockets of their creditors or their friends. Half the pleasure of owning land must be abandoned for the sake of retaining its profit. Against this consummation the monopolists are struggling to the uttermost; and all their stale fallacies having not only been thoroughly refuted in argument by the advocates of Free Trade, but rendered untenable by the course of the seasons, some new topic of delusion has become necessary to divert the farmers from an accurate examination of their own condition. Even the usual injunctions to farmers to drain their land, and employ a full complement of labourers, lead to the unpleasant question of "where is the money to come from, when the landlords have sacked our capital in the shape of rent?"

Those who have watched the windings and doublings of the monopolists will be fully prepared for some fresh "grievance;" some new call for extraneous aid to help the "farmers" through their present difficulties, anything, in fact, short of the real and only solution of all their difficulties, namely, a release from the trammels of "protection." This grievance has been found in the malt-tax. Snug hole-and-corner meetings have been held here and there for the purpose of memorialising the Lords of the Treasury to propose a repeal of the malt-tax. We have observed one memorial proceeding from "a meeting of agriculturists," held at the Star Hotel, *Maidstone*, at which "several of the *leading owners* and occupiers of land in the neighbourhood were present;" another from "the undersigned owners and occupiers of land, and other inhabitants, of the neighbourhood of *Alresford*, in Hampshire," appears in last Monday's *Mark-lane Express*.

These documents have a strong family likeness, which bears evidence that they have issued from the same parental pen; and the first paragraph is, undoubtedly, a bold use of language. The memorialists—in the east and the west—say, "that they have long seen with great concern *the privations of the labouring classes, occasioned by the high duty on malt*, which deprives them of that good old English beverage—good wholesome beer—so necessary to their health, strength, and happiness, and which, *being the production of their native soil, is as much their birthright as their bread.*" Now, one scarcely knows which to admire most, the audacity or the hypocrisy of this paragraph. The malt duty is a heavy one, and certainly increases the price, thereby lessening the consumption of beer; but the effect of repealing the malt duty, so long as any restriction upon the importation of foreign barley is permitted to exist, would be simply to transfer the amount of that duty from the public Treasury to the pockets of the owners of barley land. Not an atom of benefit would be derived by the farmer from a repeal of the malt-tax, not a single extra glass of beer would the underpaid and half-employed agricultural labourer obtain; but some increase of consumption in towns and amongst the middle classes might enhance the price of barley for the benefit of the landowners. This is merely a scheme to avoid the reduction of rents. The object of the monopolists is to keep barley up to the monopolist standard at the expense of the revenue, which is at the expense of the industrious classes, from whom seventeen-twentieths of the revenue are derived. The present high price of barley is merely accidental from the partial failure of that grain from the drought. Farmers have at present little barley to sell; the monopolist move is, therefore, made in anticipation of a productive barley crop next year; or perhaps more especially to divert the farmers from awkward inquiries into the actual operation of the Corn Laws.

Fancy the concern of the memorialists for the "privations of the labouring classes" in the matter of beer, while they are bauded together to subject those classes to privations in the article of bread!! The Hampshire memorial is stated to have been "unanimously passed" at the *Alresford Agricultural Protection Society*, and the Kentish one obviously proceeded from a similar clique of monopolists; while both probably owe their existence to the suggestions of the "Central Protection Society." Various speakers at the different agricultural associations have admitted—though with other objects—that where labourers are in employment their wages at this moment give them an unusual command over the necessaries of life from the low prices of food, and we have repeatedly shown that it is to the operation of the Corn Laws alone. What, then, must be said of the honesty of those who pretend to desire to cheapen the beverage of the farm-labourer while they uphold a law to make his food dear and his employment precarious?

But there is a certain test by which the sincerity of their desire to cheapen even his beer may be tried; will they repeal the restrictions on the importation of foreign barley? That, just now, would do more to give the labourer "good wholesome beer" than the repeal of the malt-tax. But what of the monopoly rents for land?

Nor do the monopolists who have cast this tub to the farmers expect or intend that the whole bearings of the subject of the malt-tax shall be thoroughly discussed, else why memorialize the Lords of the Treasury? Let them moot the question in Parliament; let them give the Free-Traders an opportunity of bringing *all* the facts before the public and the farmers, and let them see how Peel and Gladstone will be compelled—in theory at all events—to deal with the proposition. Let them venture to use this argument of the memorial even in the monopolist House of Commons:—

"That the farmers are prevented from growing and malting barley for their labourers, by having to pay so heavy a tax, amounting to nearly 100 per cent. on the barley so malted, and *that the labourer has the mortification to see the barley produced by his industry consumed by animals, and himself and family compelled to drink water!*"

Malting barley for their labourers! We do not believe the repeal of the malt duty would cause ten quarters of malt to be made in all the farm-houses for domestic consumption. Then, again, what must be the labourer's mortification at seeing the wheat "produced by his industry" sold at a price which precludes him from purchasing a sufficiency of bread. Throughout the agricultural districts the chief food of the peasantry consists of potatoes, an esculent which alone saves thousands of them from absolute starvation. We do not believe that many farmers will be so silly as to be led astray by this malt-tax repeal diversion; but they should look at the quarter from which it proceeds, and examine the hollow pretences by which it is supported.

If the originators of the dodge had been doubtful, a meeting of the Farmers' Club in Bridge-street, Blackfriars, where Mr. Baker of Writtle, the landlords' chief tool in the protection societies' farce, was an active agent in procuring a resolution in nearly the terms of the memorial, would set that doubt at rest. At this meeting, we are told, "resolutions were passed, pledging the meeting to adopt the necessary proceedings to procure the abolition of the duty in the next session of Parliament." This is the old cry. The farmers are distressed from low prices and monopoly rents, and the monopolists say, "We will get Parliament to do something for you." The Central Protection Society must have great faith in the gullibility of the farmers if they think this old story will go down now; or perhaps the noble president, the Duke of Richmond, has another brother ambitious of serving the public; and such a resolution may serve the double purpose of a bait to gaping monopoly-deluded farmers, and a trial of Sir Robert Peel's nerves. The shallow and false assumptions of the monopolists in regard to the malt-tax only require to be observed to be treated with scorn and derision.

THE DORSETSHIRE LABOURERS.

THE VALUE OF AGITATION.

The agitation and exposures with respect to the state of the Dorsetshire peasantry which occurred last year are evidently producing some—though we fear but slight—effect upon the aristocratic monopolists of that unhappy county. At the late *Dorchester Agricultural Association*, Mr. R. B. Sheridan again pressed the subject upon a somewhat reluctant and most uneasy audience of squires and clergymen. For instance, take the following passage from the report of the local paper:—

"He felt, and he thought every gentleman present must feel, deep interest in the condition of the agricultural labourer of this country—*interest in his physical wants and moral improvement.* ("Hear, hear," *and some disapprobation.*) If such were not among the objects of the society, they would not, as they had heard from his reverend friend (Mr. Lane) *have the countenance and support of the clergy* ('hear,' from the clergymen present); and he might say, for many of the landholders, that they would not belong to the society if the encouragement and employment of labourers, and the improvement of their condition, were not among its prominent objects. For himself, he wished it to be carried further than it was, and that rewards should be given for the best allotments, and cottages, and gardens."

Mr. Sheridan then proceeded to give his reasons for making the disclosures of last year, and asserted the truth and reality of the misery thus brought before the

world. He was much interrupted by a Mr. Phelps, who constantly wanted particular persons and places to be mentioned; but this was without the intended effect of stopping Mr. Sheridan, who said:—

"He knew that some had censured him for the part he had taken in this question—that many had misunderstood him, and some had misrepresented him ('hear, hear,' and partial dissent); but although he might have incurred odium, although he might have lost popularity, it was to him a source of the highest satisfaction to know that much good had arisen from the discussions upon the question—*that public opinion, the best redresser of grievances, had been brought to bear on the subject; that many had given it their consideration who never thought of it before; that the dwellings of the poor very generally throughout the county had been repaired, and the wants of the inmates had received more attention.* He felt every day the advantages which had been derived from the published statements of his friend Mr. Osborne, as well as from the accusations made by himself and others—*which even at that moment he was prepared to maintain—that the dwellings of the poor in many parts of this county were filthy, loathsome, ill-ventilated, and over-crowded, and the wages of labour disgracefully low and quite insufficient to support the labourer and his family in decency and comfort.* ('Name, name,' from Mr. Phelps and others, and much sensation.) If he were asked for a case, he might refer to Mr. Austin's report to the Rev. Mr. Osborne, and to the statements which had appeared in the county paper; *but it was well known that in some parts the wages were not sufficient for the maintenance of the labourer.* He did not say where the fault was—he was not about to lay all the blame of this to the tenants (hear, hear); *and he felt certain that they—he meant the landlords—had much to answer for regarding the state of the labourers in this county (cheers from the farmers):* the landlords had to answer for the state of the labourers' dwellings, and for the inadequate accommodation afforded to those who were tied and bound to a particular locality, as also for the immoral consequences arising therefrom."

He attributed much of this to the ignorance and indifference of the landowners, who know but little of the real state of even their own properties, and in illustration mentioned the case of a man he had discovered upon his own estate. He said:—

"He had been called upon to name parties and parishes: he was not going to shrink from naming in this case or in any other where he deemed it necessary. (Hear.) The name of the poor man is George Stickland, he belongs to the parish of Litton, and is living nine miles from my residence. *He has a wife and six children, five boys and one girl, the eldest is sixteen years of age and the girl eleven; they are living in one of those dilapidated poor-houses, and occupy one room, in which there are only two beds.* Now, perhaps they would require to know upon whose property this wretched man had been employed. He told it to them with shame and regret, that he (Mr. Sheridan) was the landlord upon whose property George Stickland had been employed. (Much surprise.) He had not been aware, until he had visited this outlying farm, that such a case or anything like it existed in any parish where he had the good fortune to possess property. He was prepared to explain and defend himself from the charge of neglect and indifference which they were justified in bringing against him; but then it would be at the expense of others, and he would forbear from defending himself in this instance. He was prepared to bear the blame himself, provided similar instances of misery and neglect, which no doubt existed elsewhere, were removed, and the attention of the county called to the subject. He had brought forward the case in order to prove that (however good the intentions of a landed proprietor might be) by ignorance and neglect much and distressing misery might exist on his property. The state of the labouring poor required the constant and earnest attention of the landlords. *It ought not to be left altogether to agents or to chance.* But he would ask the gentleman who had interrupted him, *if Litton was the only parish where such cases of misery existed, or whether he was the only landlord unacquainted with the condition of the labourer and the state of the cottages on his property?* He believed there were many other such cases, of which the landlords were utterly ignorant. *He feared that non-residence, indifference, neglect, and a desire to improve property, as it was called, which, in other words, was pulling down cottages to prevent the increase of population in a parish, were the causes of much of the misery which existed in the county.*"

This is to the point. So long as landowners can enjoy their rents without trouble or annoyance, they care very little for their tenantry or the labourers; and it is notorious that those agents who keep up the rental and make the smallest allowances and outlays are most in favour with the great body of landed proprietors. This is particularly the case in the western and south-western counties of England. Now, there is some danger of a mass of agricultural labourers being thrown upon the poor's rate, which will seriously affect rents, and we find the landowners everywhere full of the most anxious desire to better the condition of the hitherto-neglected peasantry.

After some further observations on the causes of the wretched condition of the Dorsetshire labourers, Mr. Sheridan said:—

"Something must be done. (Hear, hear.) He had heard it said, that everything should be left to individual exertion! *Why, everything had been left to individual exertion until last year, and what had been the result?* Had not an officer of Government, Mr. Austin, come down and shown in his published report that the habitations of the poor in many parts of this county were unfit for human creatures, and that the wages of labour were insufficient for the support of the labourer and his family? *Things, he feared, would have remained in the same wretched state if they had been left entirely to individual exertion.* Then, again, it had been asked of him—show what single advantage has been gained by the discussion which has taken place on the subject? If their excellent president for this year, whose absence on this occasion was so much to be regretted, had been present, he should have asked him that question; it was reported that he was of opinion that the dreadful scenes which had disgraced the counties of Suffolk *had been prevented taking place in this county in consequence of these very discussions*—but if he (Mr. Sheridan) was asked for a reply to the question, he should say that he had seen the allotment system established in five or six different parishes in his neighbourhood; *he had seen cottages repaired in many parts of the neighbourhood, which, if it had not been for the discussion on the subject, would probably have been left in the same neglected state as they were when intrusted to the tender mercies of individual exertion.* He could also bear testimony to another advantage: the labourer had been made aware that there was a feeling abroad which sympathised with his situation, and was prepared to ease the burdens he had to bear. *Let him not be disappointed. His hopes had been raised, let them not be crushed—they should not be left long to decide: by other hands and by other means would the task be undertaken.*"

It is plain the landowners, as a body, will do nothing for the improvement of their own particular localities, except under compulsion; and that, so long as they can keep up any delusion for the purpose of avoiding the performance of the "duties of property," they will do so. That they will improve the condition of the labourer, that they can do so if they really wish it, until the removal of all restrictions on the trade in corn, is mere illusion. But once let the farming business be freed from its protective laws and semi-feudal customs, and we shall see even backward and aristocratic Dorsetshire become the field of agricultural improvements, the Blackmore Vale drained and well cultivated, and the bleak hills planted and rendered productive by high farming. Thus, and thus only, can the general condition of the agricultural labourers be advanced. And let us here note the fact that the attendance of the landlords at this meeting was small, the chairman observing:—

"He was much pleased to see the number of yeomanry present; *but although this was not a meeting when they expected to have a large array of the aristocracy among them, he had hoped that some of the landed gentry and clergy of the district would have honoured them with their presence.* However, he believed that, although many of the class to which he had alluded were absent, their hearts were with them, and they were desirous of seeing the beneficial effects of the society fully carried out; *at the same time, he could not help hinting that the state of the funds were not in that situation in which they ought to be, to enable the society to effect its objects.*"

Wheresoever anything really useful is said at any of these meetings, it is certain to occur at an association not much patronised by the landed aristocracy. They go only where they are certain to meet with servility; but where the meeting is likely to contain some plain-spoken and independent men, who dare to declare the real state and requirements of husbandry, they shrink from the contact. Yet these be thy legislators, oh Englishmen!!

MONOPOLIST PROTECTORS AND PRACTICAL CHARITY.—A Contrast.

A few weeks ago that arch monopolist the Duke of Buckingham, when presiding at the *Royal Bucks Agricultural Association*, in the town of Buckingham, having, as is usual at these gatherings, dilated upon the benefits conferred upon the labourers by such societies, said:—

"It must gladden the heart of any man possessing a spark of true feeling to see so many worthy labourers come to receive the reward of their honesty and exertion—to see a tribute paid to humble worth—to see the aged receive honourable favour—to see the *lowly made glad and the poor made happy.* 'I am perfectly persuaded,' said his Grace, 'that such a society as this is of infinite benefit: it is the root from which nothing but what is goodly will spring—it is the encouragement calculated to bring forth blessings in which every Englishman must participate.' *His Grace then compared the state of this county to that of others.*"

If the rewarded *few* of the Bucks agricultural labourers are really made "glad" and "happy," we should not think such associations altogether useless; but we believe that the sense of abasement which is excited in the minds of those labourers who actually receive prizes and rewards, by the manner of their bestowment, more than counterbalances any pleasurable or grateful feelings they may entertain. But the monopolist Duke does not stop there. He is so incautious as to go on from the "glad and happy" labourers who received prizes to the labourers in general. The happy are the recipients of such splendid rewards as these:—

"First prize of £4 to Thomas Knight, of Hogston, *having had 13 children born to him in lawful wedlock, 12 of whom he has brought up without parochial relief.* Second prize of £3. 10s. to John Norwood, of Bierton, having had eight children born to him in lawful wedlock, *seven of whom he has brought up without parochial relief.*"

And that upon Buckinghamshire wages of 7s. a week!! Truly do Thomas Knight and John Norwood deserve to be rewarded for their pinching frugality; but what do those landed monopolists who, by their law to keep up rents, have reduced Thomas Knight, John Norwood, and the rest of their order, to such starvation wages, deserve? But we have said the Duke was incautious when he compared the state of the Buckinghamshire peasantry with that of the labourers in other counties; for mark the following report of a judicial proceeding in which some of the "happy Buckinghamshire labourers" bore a too conspicuous part:—

"Buckingham.—On Saturday last, three labourers from the parish of Steeple Claydon were brought before the magistrates by Mr. Samuel King, the relieving-officer, and by order of the board of guardians, for leaving their wives and families chargeable to that parish. It appeared that these men had no employment at Steeple Claydon; that they had always been in the habit of leaving the parish to get hay work in the neighbourhood of London, and, in former years, have made their families comfortable by their hard, but well-paid, work. *Owing to the short crops, they had wandered many a weary mile seeking work; but finding none, they were obliged to beg for food, as did hundreds more;* they were ashamed to return, because they were in such a state of filth as to be unfit to join their families. *When the corn harvest came on, they did get some work, and returned with about 30s. each.* This was expended in paying the debts due by their wives during their absence; but they did not pay the parish! The parish, therefore, brought them before the magistrates, *that their evil example should not spread amongst those exemplary labourers who stopped at home* rather than even seek for work out of the hearing of their own church bells, and they were actually *ordered each—one month's hard labour!! because they could not pay, each of them, some shillings less than £2, which had been given in bread during their eight weeks' absence.* The gaoler had them down to Buckingham gaol, with orders to take them to Aylesbury! On Sir Harry Verney coming into the chamber, their case was talked over by the justices, all of whom saw the hardship of the case; but example! example!! was the word, both by relieving-officer and poor-law guardian! At length it was settled by Sir Harry proffering to employ them at 9s. per week, they agreeing to pay therefrom 1s. 6d. each until the enormous debt due to the parish of Steeple Claydon was duly settled. *The appeal of these poor men to the bench, stating the privations and hardships they endured, and all for a praiseworthy purpose, was heartrending.* No circumstance ever occurred *which more fully depicted the state of the farm-labourers,* and no scene more pleasing than the grateful thanks of those men to Sir Harry for his liberal proposal."—*Aylesbury News.*

Comment on this paragraph is unnecessary; temporate comment would be impossible. Let us note, however, that the Good Samaritan, who in this case stepped forward to *enable* these "protected" Buckingham labourers to save themselves from the shame and the horror of a gaol *by means of their own labour,* was Sir Harry Verney, a Buckinghamshire landowner, who has avowed his conviction that the Corn Laws form the great obstacle to improvements in husbandry and the regular employment of the rural population.

DESTRUCTION BY GAME.

At the *Waltham Agricultural Society* (Leicestershire), Mr. T. C. Beasley, of whose husbandry the Duke of Rutland, the chairman, said, "he had often had the pleasure of looking over his hedge, not with any rapacious intention, *but with a view of learning* something from his well-known system of good farming," made the following remarks on the destruction of crops by game. He said:—

"That some estates he had seen were a disgrace to the proprietors: *he had recently counted in one field as many as 83 hares; and to keep these was equivalent to the support of 23 sheep;* for his part, he would not keep them for any landlord in existence; *and he would ask whether it was common honesty to expect any man to keep that quantity of game for their landlords?*"

Now, here is a practical lesson by which the noble chairman and his fellow-landlords might learn something more than they are likely to do by looking over the farmers' hedges; but no sign was given that it produced any effect, for draining and spade husbandry formed the topics of the Duke's next speech.

Sale of Earl Dudley's Stock, &c.—On Wednesday week the annual sale of Lord Dudley's superfluous stock took place at Tortworth Court. The prices realized were extremely low, especially for lean cattle and sheep; and the sale of wool was far from brisk, the finest samples not fetching more than 31s. per tod. Some very excellent bull calves fetched corresponding prices; but, upon the whole, the sale was exceedingly flat.—*Gloucester Chronicle.*

French Sugar.—The *Moniteur* contains the returns of the produce and consumption of domestic sugar in France, from which it appears that on the 1st of September last there were still 325 manufactories in operation, or 59 less than at the corresponding period of 1843. The quantity of sugar manufactured during the season, including 3 871,314 kilogrammes lying over from last year, was 32,531,313 kilogrammes, of which 30,991,161 had been sold for consumption. The duty levied thereon produced 5,443,496f.

Cotton *v.* Linen.—The manufactures of cambrics and lawns, formerly so flourishing in the rural districts between Valenciennes and Cambray, and which for a long series of years enriched the merchants of those two cities, are declining from day to day. The linen manufactures are almost superseded everywhere by those of cotton. At the commencement of the restoration 350,000 pieces of cambric were manufactured every year. At present not more than 90,000 pieces are manufactured, the value of which is about 3,060,000 francs.

Influence of the Price of Food on Wages.—"Cheap food," say the monopolists, "means low wages." Such is the assertion; but what are the facts bearing upon it? Why, just these—that, as food has risen in price, wages in the manufacturing districts have fallen;—as the price of food has become moderate, wages have risen. This has been shown on many recent occasions, and we now supply another instance, in advance of wages at Ashton-under-Lyne. If there is any connexion between prices of food and wages, if they stand at all in the relation to each other of cause and effect, their operation must be exactly the reverse of that described in the allegation, of which so much use has been made by the supporters of the Corn Law; and it would be quite correct to say, that "cheap food means good wages." This is an important truth; and the working classes, notwithstanding the sophistry to which they have been exposed, will ere long thoroughly understand it.—*Manchester Guardian.*

GREAT LEAGUE MEETING at the FREE-TRADE HALL, MANCHESTER, on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24th; G. WILSON, Esq., in the Chair.

The Meeting will be addressed by RICHARD COBDEN, Esq., M.P.; JOHN BRIGHT, Esq., M.P., and other gentlemen.

The Chair will be taken at half past Seven o'clock precisely.

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POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, October* 19, 1844.

One of the most gratifying signs of the times is the increased attention paid to the condition of the labouring classes; the subject was forced on the notice of our reluctant rulers by the Free-Trade agitation, which revealed the ruinous effects produced by restrictions on industrial exchanges in every class supported by toil. The consequences of a system which rendered labour cheap and food dear were necessarily an increasing deterioration in the physical condition of the working classes, and a growing diminution of all the outward signs of comfort and even of decency. These outward evidences were undeniable, but we find that many are anxious to remove them without touching the inward cause; there is a class of sentimental philanthropists anxious to gratify their taste by furnishing the poor with ruffles, heedless whether they do or do not possess the necessary shirt. While we join with them in wishing the operatives to have their full share of the ornamental, we hold it to be of greater importance that they should be amply supplied with the essential; when public walks are provided to give the labourers an appetite, we think that concomitant measures should be taken to furnish them with the means of gratifying that appetite; and when laundries are provided for their accommodation, we deem it desirable that they should have clothes to wash. Some sentimental dreamers have chosen to designate this common-sense view of the labourer's condition as "a cold dogma of political economy," forgetting that economy does not properly mean the sparing of money, but such a system of judicious management as will ensure the greatest amount of comfort at the least possible expense. Political economy points out the well-being of the nation as the great object of government and legislation, and its claims to rank as a science rest upon its demonstrating the surest means to gain that important end. Every science may be stigmatized as "cold," because passion holds no place in scientific investigation; and it is for this reason that men gifted with warm imaginations, uncontrolled by judgment, are so often found to denounce science because it brings their visionary fancies to the sober test of fact and truth.

A meeting has taken place at Highworth, in North Wilts, which forms an admirable contrast with those holiday assemblages where literary lions roar forth their eloquence to be admired, applauded, and forgotten. The chair was taken by the Earl of Radnor, and the following practical resolutions were adopted, having been moved by a small tradesman and seconded by a tenant-farmer:—

"1. That there prevails at this time amongst agricultural labourers and small tradesmen in this neighbourhood great distress arising from want of employment, and the inadequate wages which they can obtain when employed.

"2. That it appears that the population rapidly increases, but that the means of employment do not increase in an equal proportion.

"3. That it is the first and most important duty of all Governments to provide as fully as they can for the adequate supply of the food of the people; and, if no human care or foresight can entirely obviate the uncertainty of the seasons, to take care at least that no legislative enactments should intercept or diminish the amount or increase the cost of the supply which, but for such enactments, might be obtained.

"4. That the corn, malt, and other provision laws now in force, have the effect both of intercepting and diminishing the amount, and, at times, greatly increasing the cost, of the supply of food which might otherwise be obtained by the people; and that, therefore, they ought to be repealed.

"5. That these same laws, by throwing obstacles in the way of trade, and by impeding the natural course of industry in the manufacturing districts, greatly diminish the sources of employment which would otherwise be opened for the increasing population of this kingdom.

"6. That the working classes of this country have no desire to rely for support on gifts of charity or benevolence; that as free men they wish to support themselves by their own exertions and labour; that they have no doubt that, if human laws did not interfere, they would be able to do so; and that they, therefore, hope that all laws tending to curtail the supply of food, to diminish the sources of employment, and to press down the springs of industry, may speedily be abolished.

"7. That all laws enacted for the purpose of raising the price of food and other commodities used by the people above their natural price in the great market of the world, may be beneficial to certain classes, but must be injurious to the great mass of the people."

Towards the close of the meeting, a discussion arose on the allotment system, which gave rise to some difference of opinion; but, as this was obviously unconnected with the proper subjects of discussion, the resolutions were finally adopted. On the allotment system we have not given any opinion; whether, however, it be desirable or impolitic, one thing is certain, that it can never be seriously proposed as a substitute for Free Trade. It is a stale trick with the monopolists, when they are unable to meet argument directly, to turn away attention by introducing some other topic to divert men's minds from the proper subject of consideration, on the same principle that a nurse diverts the child from an attack on prohibited food, by giving it a rattle. Even so we find the monopolists willing to give the poor holidays, games of cricket, baths and laundries, in short, anything but justice. But it was to obtain justice for the poor that the League has been formed, and all our efforts are directed to securing for labourers of every class "a fair day's wages for a fair day's work."

DEPARTURE OF THE KING OF THE FRENCH.

Monday morning the visit of the King of the French to her Majesty at Windsor terminated with his departure for France, accompanied by her Majesty and Prince Albert, on their way to the Isle of Wight. At 12 o'clock the carriages of her Majesty and of the King of the French, and of their immediate suites, were drawn up to the door of the great entrance of Windsor Castle, and in a few minutes after, having taken leave of the Duchess of Kent, their Majesties, the Duke de Montpensier, and Prince Albert, took their departure, attended by M. Guizot, Count de St. Aulaire, Count de Jarnac, the Baron Athalin, General de Rumigny, the Earl of Liverpool, General Wemyss, Colonel Bouverie, the Countess of Gainsborough, and the whole of their respective suites. The royal *cortège* proceeded to Farnborough by the same route as that by which they came to Windsor. From thence the royal party proceeded in a special train to to Gosport. At the several stations along the route the national flags of France and England were exhibited, and groups of spectators were assembled, who greeted the illustrious travellers with hearty demonstrations of respect.

At Gosport the station presented a most animated appearance as the train came up. The decorations were nearly the same as those which were prepared for the reception of the King of the French. On the triumphal arch at the place of exit, however, there was a fresh inscription, "Welcome, Louis Philippe, Victoria and Albert." A salute, fired from the King's Bastion, gave notice to all within hearing of the arrival of the royal party at the Clarence Victualling Establishment, when the ships at Spithead gave their gayest colours to the breeze, and a roar from the guns announced further the arrival of the illustrious Sovereigns. At about a quarter to four the fleet at Spithead commenced firing broadsides, which had all the effect of a grand naval engagement. The Duke of Wellington was in the yard on horseback in his regimentals.

The royal carriages drove into the yard, the bands playing, and salutes being fired in the harbour, and their Majesties alighted at the office of Captain Carter, the Superintendent of the Victualling-yard, whence they were ushered into a room on the ground-floor. Their Majesties remained in this room for some time, the rain falling more heavily and the wind beginning to rise. After their Majesties had remained in the room for some minutes, a consultation took place, to which the Duke of Wellington was called in, as well as M. Guizot, Count de St. Aulaire, Sir Hercules Pakenham, Sir Charles Rowley, and Rear-Admiral Parker, as to whether the King should proceed at all by the Gomer, or whether her Majesty and the Prince should not accompany the King back to Windsor, or, at all events, on his way to France by some other route than direct to Treport. It appeared that a very heavy sea was running at the harbour's mouth, and from the state of the weather—a gale blowing—it was apprehended that, if the King of the French attempted to cross to Treport, he might not be able to land there, as the coast is most unfavourable for embarkation in stormy weather. It was at length agreed that the French Monarch should go by Dover; and for this purpose Colonel Bouverie was despatched in a special train to London to order a special train to Dover, and to send on an engine to order a steamer to be in readiness, as well as to make other arrangements for the due reception of his Majesty.

All these arrangements made, the royal party took dinner in Mr. Grant's house. At a quarter past seven the King of the French and the Duke de Montpensier took leave of the Queen and the Prince, and proceeded to the station, accompanied by M. Guizot and Count de St. Aulaire.

At Nine-Elms station Sir James Graham met and conducted his Majesty to a royal carriage, which took him to the Dover Railway station, the directors of which had been making every preparation for his Majesty's reception. The platform and entrance were covered with crimson cloth, and an awning was in the act of being placed over the platform, when an alarm was given that the octagonal building, the upper part of which was used as a painter's shop, and the lower part as a depôt for locomotive engines under repair, was on fire. Captain Charlwood, the superintendent of the Dover Railway, Mr. Howell, Mr. Cubitt the engineer, and several other gentlemen connected with the railway, were on the spot, and gave every assistance possible, but the flames were resistless, and about eleven o'clock, when his Majesty, escorted by a troop of the Life Guards, drove into the station, the whole of that noble building was in flames. Every effort, notwithstanding the fire, was made to prepare the special train with the least possible delay, and at about a quarter past eleven o'clock his Majesty and suite entered the carriages provided for their reception, and the special train, under the direction of Captain Charlwood and Mr. Cubitt, who took the management of the engine, left the station. The train arrived at Dover about half-past two o'clock, A.M. His Majesty and suite immediately proceeded to the Ship Hotel, where he passed the night, and the following day (Tuesday) he embarked on board Le Nord, one of the French post-office steamers, which was accompanied by the Princess Alice and other vessels to Calais, where they safely arrived, from whence he soon after started for Eu.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.—The accounts in the English papers of the affair between Lieutenant Rose and the French naval captain at Otaheite have excited some bitter remarks from the war party, as if the insult, if insult it was, had been offered to the French officer. The following appears in the *Moniteur*:—"Reports from the Governor of the French establishments in the Pacific arrived to-day (Wednesday) at the office of the Minister of Marine and Colonies. These reports are to the 11th of May. They make no mention of the accident which is said to have taken place relative to an officer of the English navy, and of which several journals of this morning have copied accounts from the London papers. No new engagement has taken place since the affair of the 17th of April, in which the insurgents entrenched at Mahaena were defeated and dispersed. On the 1st of May the King's *fête* was celebrated at Papeiti with pomp, and amidst the most perfect order. The chiefs of all the districts of Otaheite and of the island of Eimeo were invited to attend. Almost all of them were present at the ceremony, accompanied by the principal personages of each district, and they showed dispositions of goodwill and of conciliation which Governor Bruat considered as very satisfactory."

It appears that Commandant Bruat has had to condemn and punish several of our soldiers and sailors for deserting and joining the Tahitians at the battle of Mahaena. One of the sailors has been shot. He was probably the ring-leader, for petitions for pardon of the rest have been presented to the Governor.—*Constitutionnel.*

The *Univers* states, that a plan for fortifying the city of Rouen is being at present prepared at the War-office. The Government have determined that Rouen and Havre (those two gates of Paris) shall be fortified. Since last year Treport has been rendered exceedingly strong, and a similar precautionary or defensive system is in contemplation in respect of all the seaports of France.

The *Journal des Débats* mentions, on the authority of the *Orleannais*, an act of gross barbarity said to have been perpetrated on a Polish ecclesiastic, who had returned in disguise to Poland, to adjust some pressing private affairs; he was recognised, arrested, and sentenced to the punishment of the knout, by the Russian authorities, and he actually expired under the punishment, after the 147th blow.

SPAIN.—The Queen opened the Cortes in person on the 10th inst. It is stated that a majority of the Spanish deputies are by no means disposed to give their unqualified assent to the measures intended to be proposed by the Cabinet. The sinking of the Rayo by the English battery at Gibraltar had caused the Captain-General of Andalusia to demand satisfaction of the Governor; and he was about to issue an order for the suspension of all intercourse with Gibraltar, but was deterred by Mr. Bulwer, who promised to have the affair inquired into, and all due reparation made to Spain.

LISBON.—A scandalous and horrible variety of the slave trade has been discovered in Lisbon. Proprietors and others, connected with the African colonies of Portugal, bring home from their possessions systematically a number of so-called domestic slaves, to whose personal attendance they are legally entitled (about a dozen) under the treaty of the 2nd of July, 1842, and immediately ship them off from this to Brazil, where they are sold again as slaves at a very high price, as they arrive by this means in excellent condition, without being subjected to any of the horrors of the middle passage. The scoundrels who have invented this new and swindling traffic inveigle the stolid negro to Portugal in the belief that there his journey is to terminate. And there indeed his career of slavery should be at an end, for if there were faith in the country the slave who touches the soil of Portugal should be as free as on that of England. We have entered into a formal engagement with Portugal to this effect. It is found convenient, however, to evade our cruisers, laugh at our treaties, and coin the negro's life-blood into Brazilian *patacas* by this roundabout process. Viscount Sa has called the attention of the Peers to this subject, and the Duke of Terceira said that it will be strictly inquired into by the Government.—*Times.*

Accounts reached Lisbon on Monday, Oct, 7, of a signal defeat experienced by the Portuguese troops in Angola. Three companies of infantry of the line, under the command of a Captain Xavier, were cut to pieces in an encounter with the blacks of the Quissama tribe, upon a question of disputed right of fishing, where the justice was all on the natives' side. A lieutenant named Fogo, two sergeants, and 25 men, were hewn into bits by the knives of the natives, about 50 more wounded, some of them mortally, and the savages remained masters of the field, having taken possession of the two pieces of field artillery which the Portuguese brought with them into the action, together with all their ammunition, and a number of muskets. The killed and wounded of the Portuguese having been about 80, and the loss of muskets by the Portuguese admission near 200, at least 120 of their soldiers must have thrown down their arms to facilitate their desperate ardour in running away from the blacks. The origin of this affair was gross injustice and oppression on the part of the Portuguese towards a neighbouring independent tribe.

THE HAGUE, Oct. 13.—The latest accounts from India state that, in consequence of the extraordinary drought, the rice harvest had failed this year in Java. By accounts of a subsequent date, it is stated that a Dutch squadron which had gone in search of pirates to the south of Sambas, had met with them and sank one of their vessels and captured eight others with their crews.

THE ZOLLVEREIN.—The *Gazette de Cologne* announces that, according to correspondence of the 9th instant from Berlin, the treaty of commerce between Belgium and the Zollverein was ratified there on the 8th. The same journal mentions that Holland has made overtures to the Court of Berlin for the conclusion of a commercial convention with the States of the Customs Union. The association for the encouragement and development of industry in Prussia gave, on the 8th instant, in the Salle de Kroll, at Berlin, a grand *fête* to the numerous exhibitors who happened to be in the capital. The members of the Cabinet were also invited, as well as various

other high personages, among whom figured Lord Palmerston. During the repast the formation of a society in favour of the workpeople was proposed.

PRUSSIA.—The *Cologne Gazette* states from Berlin, 4th inst., that the Council of State is at present occupied with a project for the establishment in Prussia of tribunals of commerce, composed of merchants, as in France. It is also stated that the King was to give a grand dinner at the Palace of Potsdam to 800 of the exhibitors of the products of national industry.

BRUSSELS.—The *Observateur* of Brussels informs us that most of the principal merchants of that city have signed a memorial to the Government against the proposed augmentation of the duties on printed goods imported from England.

DR. WOLFF.—Letters have been received from Dr. Wolff, dated Bokhara, June 27 and August 1. In his letter of the 27th, the Rev. Doctor says, "I have now been already two months in this place, and, though five or six times the King has promised to send me instantly to England with one of his ambassadors, I am in the greatest danger. I cannot stir out of the house without a guard of three men. Dil Hassa Khan, the fellow sent with me by the Assoff Addaula, has shamefully robbed, deceived, and outraged me. The Persian ambassador, Abbas Kolle Khan, is kind to me, but I think he will not have it in his power to rescue me. Nayeb Abdool Samet Khan has extorted from me a writing to pay him 5000 tomans to effect my liberation. I suspect him that he was the cause of Stoddart's and Conolly's death, in spite of his continued protestations of friendship. The Ameer is now at Samarcand, and I am here awaiting the most fatal orders from the King daily to reach me. It is true that poor Stoddart professed openly Christianity after he had made a forced profession of Mahommedanism. Do for me what you can, as far as the honour of England is not compromised. All the inhabitants wish that either Russia or England would take the country. Do not believe any former reports of my speedy departure, for I am in great danger. JOSEPH WOLFF."—The Doctor's letter of the 1st of August is an appeal to the monarchs of Europe, entreating them to come to the rescue, not of himself, but of 200,000 Persians held in slavery at Bokhara.

UNITED STATES.—The royal mail steam-ship Britannia arrived in Liverpool about ten o'clock on Monday night, having left Boston on the 1st inst., and Halifax on the 4th. The preparations for the presidential election continued with great spirit. The Vermont election had gone in favour of the Whig, or high-tariff party, which is something of a set-off against the Maine election, which had been won by the democrats, who are now Free-Traders. At a meeting of the Whig party at Boston, on the 19th, Mr. Webster made a long and eloquent speech. Alluding to Texas, he advised that she should continue to be an independent nation, and repudiated the idea that England will seek to acquire any special connexion with Texas. He spoke of the fixed determination of the British Government to discountenance slavery, on which a voice in the crowd exclaimed, "They are all slaves in England." Mr. Webster turned quickly on the speaker, and with a flashing eye and indignant voice, asked what blood they, the citizens of the United States, inherited? from whence were the first guarantees of the liberty of the subject derived? His course on the subject of protection would be the principle, "If you will trade with me, I will trade with you." He would, however, have the hand-labour of America protected against the cheap labour of the operatives of Europe.

CANADA.—Sir Charles Metcalfe has dissolved the provincial Parliament of Canada, and appealed to the people for their decision on the points in dispute between himself and the late administration. The new Parliament is to meet on the 22nd instant for the despatch of business. There had been some rioting between the students of Victoria College, Cobourg, Canada, and the inhabitants of the town. The former lowered the British flag and tore it into fragments, afterwards hoisting the American colour; this was speedily hauled down by the citizens. No serious damage resulted. The royal party were completely triumphant.

MEXICO AND TEXAS.—The rumours of an intended invasion of Texas by 10,000 Mexicans is in a great degree confirmed; the troops were actually on the *route*, which is a circuitous one, insomuch that they will not be able to cross the frontier until late in the autumn. In the meantime, couriers are despatched with all speed between the governments most interested in the matter. The town of Matamores had been destroyed by a dreadful hurricane. Only two houses and one church remained standing, and upwards of 200 persons perished under the ruins of their own houses.—Madame Santa Anna, the wife of the Mexican president, died at Vera Cruz on the 22nd of August.

CENTRAL AMERICA.—Advices state that there had been much disturbance and fighting. The San Salvadorians, with the people of Nicaragua and Honduras, had marched against Guatemala; they took possession of an English schooner, the flag of which, after being lowered, was again hoisted, but the vessel was still in the power of her captors.

BRAZILS.—Her Majesty's ship Linnet arrived at Falmouth on Thursday with the mails from Brazils, bearing date Rio de Janeiro, 25th August; Bahia, Sept. 5, and Pernambuco, Sept. 13. Among the passengers is the Viscount D'Abrantes, who comes on a special mission to this country, relating, it is said, to the conclusion of a treaty of commerce between Brazil and England.

DOMESTIC.

Her Majesty has appointed Monday, the 28th inst., for the opening of the new Royal Exchange.

The Court of Aldermen have rejected the claim of Mr. David Salomon's to be sworn in as alderman of Portsoken Ward. Mr. Salomons has announced his intention to bring the matter before another tribunal, "where," he says, "he will meet with more able judges and more temperate expositors of the law."

The inquest on the victims of the Haswell Colliery explosion was resumed on Friday the 11th inst., when, after the examination of several witnesses, the jury returned the following verdict:—"That the said Thomas Dryden, George Dryden, Robert Dryden, and James Dryden, and Edward Nicholson, together with ninety persons, being employed in working in the Haswell Colliery, were therein and then accidentally burnt, scorched, and killed by an explosion of fire-damp. And we further say, that no blame is attributable to any one connected with the pit. And we also further say, that the said Thomas Dryden, George Dryden, Robert Dryden, and James Dryden, and Edward Nicholson came to their death by accident, and so say we all." A subscription has been set on foot for the benefit of the relatives of the sufferers, which already approaches to near £2000.

At the Ironmaster's quarterly meetings, held in the early part of last week, the trade was considered to be in a satisfactory state; the demand for consumption being steady, and the price fair and remunerating, with but little or no attempt at speculation.

The Merthyr iron works exhibit considerable activity; and, notwithstanding our reduction in price, and in the teeth of the Germanic imposition of 50 per cent. on British iron as compared with that of Belgium, the works here at least are carried on vigorously. The Victoria works are likely to be put in operation again.—*Welshman.*

Lord Ellenborough has been raised a step in the peerage, by the title of the Earl of Ellenborough and Viscount Southam.

The good olden times of the year 1800 are again revived at Eye. Our bakers are now selling four hot rolls for a penny, one sufficient for a reasonable man's breakfast.—*Suffolk Chronicle.*

On looking over the game-lists published last week we find that no fewer than sixty of the Yorkshire parsons have taken out shooting licenses for the present season.—*Leeds Times.*

On Wednesday night, the 9th inst., a collision took place, between Holyhead and Dublin, between the Ocean Queen, a barque belonging to Messrs. Gibbs and Bright of Liverpool, and the schooner Nymph, of Wisbeach: the latter was totally lost, with the master and two of her crew; the mate and the other hands saved themselves on board the barque.—On the same night the Iron Duke, which sailed from Liverpool with the mails for Dublin, ran down a boat in the Mersey, causing the loss of the lives of the persons who were in the latter at the time: no blame is attached to the steamer, which kept a good look out.

On Friday, the 13th inst., a grand entertainment was given by the inhabitants of Portsmouth and its vicinity to the officers of the French squadron. The chair was occupied by the mayor. Toasts and sentiments complimentary to eminent French and English military and naval commanders, &c., were severally given, and warmly responded to by the entertainers and their guests; and the most cordial wishes for the preservation of peace and the promotion of a friendly feeling between France and England were uttered, and heartily cheered by all assembled.

On Thursday, the 12th inst., the Duke de Montpensier, youngest son of Louis Philippe, and an officer of Artillery in the French service, paid a visit to Woolwich, where he passed some hours, accompanied by several British military officers of high rank, in witnessing the various processes carried on in this vast naval arsenal, and also some gun and rocket practice.

On Monday night, while preparations were actively making at the New Cross Railway Station for the arrival of the King of the French and suite, who were to proceed by special train to Dover, a destructive fire broke out in a loft immediately over a large octagonal brick building, used as a storeroom in the engineering department. This storeroom was fitted up as a painters' shop, and was upwards of 80 feet in breadth, having in its centre a lantern roof, upwards of 70 feet in height. Before the fire could be got under, the whole of the range of workshops were completely destroyed, and several engines that were kept there for emergencies. The loss is estimated at nearly £20,000.

At Worship-street Police-office on Monday, a pale consumptive-looking young woman, named Esther Pierce, was charged with illegally pledging a silk shawl which had been intrusted to her to be embroidered. The prisoner acknowledged pledging the shawl, but declared that she was obliged to do so to save herself from starvation. She then said that it took her a whole day to embroider the shawl in question, into which she had to work more than *eighty* flowers, for which she only received *sixpence*.

On Tuesday a new war steamer, called the Gladiator, was launched at Woolwich. She is 1190 tons burden, is bored for 20 guns, and will carry a complement of 175 men.

A violent storm, unequalled for many years, occurred in Ireland on Wednesday night week. Its effects were chiefly felt at Dublin and the towns along the seacoast, where its consequences to shipping and property in general, and in many cases to human life, have been dreadful. The river rose at Dublin, and filled the cellars in some of the adjacent streets. At a little island between Clontarf and the North Wall, the sea arose to such a height as entirely to cover it, sweeping away in its fury a temporary dwelling, in which unhappily were a man named Cromwell, a boatman, and his son, who were both drowned. At Rush, a vessel from Halifax was lost, and the captain, his wife, and one of the crew drowned. A large portion of the embankment of the Dublin and Drogheda Railway was swept away. Several steam-boats and trading vessels received considerable damage. On the same night the storm visited several towns on the Welsh coast, causing considerable destruction to houses, trees, &c., and also to shipping.

The Tipperary papers report two murders growing out of disputes about land. One of the victims was a wood-ranger, named Tim Cleary, who had been engaged in serving law processes on the tenantry of the Bernane estate, and who was shot last week near a wood, where his body was discovered. The other was a man named Spillane, a driver or care-taker on the property of Mr. Latouche, near the same place, who was shot in his own house; the cause in this case was much the same as in the former.

A most lamentable and awful calamity occurred at Portsmouth on Monday evening, at about twenty minutes to four, on the King's Bastion. As the artillerymen (Royal) were re-loading one of the guns, the charge went off, and blew one of them to pieces, and the other was so horribly mutilated that it is impossible he can live. The names of the unfortunate men are reported as Sandy Miller and Michael Walker, between twenty-five and twenty-seven years of age. Miller was blown into fragments, and Walker had his thigh broken, his arm blown off into the moat, and his body otherwise disfigured. At the time of this unfortunate accident a French seaman on board his French Majesty's brig Le Favori had an arm shot off by a similar accident.

The Repeal Association met on Monday at the Corn-Exchange-hall, Dublin. Mr. M. O'Connell read a long letter from his father, dated from Derrynane, in which the hon. member expressed a decided preference for federalism. The week's rent slightly exceeded £400.

On Wednesday a numerous and respectable meeting was held in the Egyptian-hall of the Mansion-house, for the purpose of forming an association to furnish the labouring poor with baths and washhouses. The Lord Mayor presided. The Bishop of London moved the first resolution in a lengthened speech, in which he advocated the necessity of baths and washing-houses for the poor, and quoted largely from the Sanatory Report, to show how injurious to health was the want of cleanliness resulting from the inability of the poor to procure baths, or have their washing done out of their confined dwellings. Mr. Byng, M.P., and others, spoke to the same effect. The resolutions, affirming the necessity and advantages of providing baths, &c., and of an association to carry such object into effect, were all unanimously agreed to.

A colliery explosion occurred on Monday night at Coxlodge Colliery, about two miles from Newcastle, but, fortunately, no lives were lost. There were about 70 men and boys working in the mine at the time, a few of whom were slightly burned, one severely.

The Kilkenny papers report a frightful murder, resulting, it is stated, from the struggle for land, committed on the person of a man named Brennan, on Friday, the 12th inst., at Coolcullen, by some persons unknown. The *Kilkenny Moderator* gives a melancholy account of the destitute state of the peasantry, from which it appears that poor men are willing to work for *twopence halfpenny* a day and spare diet, being the *maximum* rate of wages the farmers can afford to pay.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PROPOSED PUBLIC PARK IN LEEDS.—Some of our benevolent townsmen, among whom we may mention our public-spirited mayor, are desirous that Leeds should not be behind other towns in the formation of public parks or walks for the healthful and rational recreation of all classes. It has been suggested that the Zoological and Botanical Gardens, which comprise nearly twenty acres, in a beautiful situation and well laid out, might be purchased for this purpose. Some of the larger shareholders in the garden are, we know, disposed to transfer their whole property in them to the town council, or some other body, for the benefit of the public; and we think it likely that many others would follow this liberal example, thinking it more agreeable to see their fellow-townsmen of the humbler classes enjoying themselves in the gardens than to walk there in comparative seclusion. Those shareholders who took shares as an investment, and who could not afford to give them to the public, would probably accept a moderate sum for that which now yields them no dividend. A subscription would, therefore, be required to purchase the garden for the public; and we think this would be forthcoming, as the amount would probably not be very large. A yearly subscription would also be requisite to keep the gardens in order. We hope to be able shortly to report progress in this laudable attempt to promote the health and recreation of the industrious classes.—*Leeds Mercury.*

THE LARGEST POWER-LOOM SHED IN THE WORLD.—Messrs. Ainsworth and Son, cotton spinners, of Preston, have now nearly completed and filled their most extraordinary and extensive power-loom shed. The building covers one and three-eights of an acre of ground, and will hold 1050 pairs of looms, which will require 825 hands to superintend them, and 75 horse power to drive them. The shafting connected with this monstrous shed is now finished: its length is 6500 feet. When the whole of the looms are in motion, they will require 28,000 feet of strapping. There are 3000 feet of gas piping, and 825 lights will be required. The roof contains 310 windows, or skylights, and is supported by 325 pillars. When the whole of the looms are in motion, they will turn off 50 yards of cloth per minute!

AN HONEST ADMISSION.—The full employment of the labouring classes in the manufacturing districts, and the cheapness of wheat, as compared with other articles of food, have occasioned a large increase in the consumption.—*Mark-lane Express.*

FOREIGN CATTLE.—The Emerald Isle, on Sunday week, brought from Rotterdam 10 head of beasts and 63 sheep. The Hamburg, from Hamburg, on Saturday, 28 oxen and 2 cows. The Queen of Scotland, which arrived here on Wednesday morning from Hamburg, landed 29 beasts. The Victoria arrived from Hamburg on Monday, and had on board 44 beasts.—*Hull Advertiser.*

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN FRUIT.—By the Princess Victoria, from Antwerp, we have had 60 baskets of walnuts; by the Emerald Isle, from Rotterdam, 63 baskets and 16 bags walnuts, and 45 baskets grapes; by the Hamburg, from Hamburg, 89 baskets and 26 boxes walnuts, and 3 baskets filberts. To these we have to add 208 baskets plums, brought by the Queen of Scotland, on Wednesday.

AUSTRALIAN SQUATTERS.—"Squatters" is the colonial designation of a numerous and respectable class of persons in New South Wales, of a totally different description from those who bear the same name in the United States of America. *There* the squatter is generally a poor industrious man, who goes forth into the untrodden wilderness with his axe on his shoulder in the van of advancing civilization, hews down trees, builds a log-house, clears fences, and cultivates a piece of ground, of greater or smaller extent as it may happen, to which he thereby acquires a right of pre-emption at the Government *minimum* price of five shillings an acre, and finally sells that right with all his improvements to the next-comer, to repeat the same process farther on in the forest. *Here*, on the contrary, the squatter (who is often a man of substance, and not unfrequently a gentleman born and bred,) is a person who, like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, follows his flocks and herds into the vast wilderness beyond the settled districts, and fixing on a suitable station previously unoccupied, and generally of twenty or thirty square miles in extent (for which he pays £10 a year to the Government as a depasturing license, together with a tax on each head of large or small cattle he possesses), erects a bark hut, and a stockyard, and, like Alexander Selkirk, is afterwards, for the time at least, "monarch of all he surveys." According to the Government returns, up to the 30th September, 1843, the squatters of new South Wales possessed not fewer than 16,401 horses, 592,333 horned cattle, 3041 pigs, 3,208,429 sheep; while the direct taxes they paid to Government for the preceding year amounted to £39,632. 6s. The squatters, consequently, form no inconsiderable class of our colonial community.

SOME OF THE WORKINGS OF THE NEW TARIFF.

(From the *Economist.*)

It matters not to what article we refer on which the experiment of the removal of restrictions has been tried—on all it has proved equally successful.

Up to 1825 the duty upon foreign bar iron was £6. 10s. per ton. Mr. Huskisson proposed to reduce it to £1. 10s., which was met by great opposition from all interested in the trade. It was declared that the manufacture of English iron would cease, that ironmasters would be ruined, and thousands of labourers turned adrift. What was the result? The quantity of iron imported in 1825 was 23,657 tons, and the quantity of British iron exported was 58,843 tons. So far from the fears of the advocates of protection being realized, we find that the importation of foreign iron has been gradually reduced, and the exportation of British iron rapidly increased, during the whole interval since the duty was lowered, until last year the former had fallen to 12,809 tons, and the latter had increased from 58,843 tons in the last year of high protection to 369,398 tons in 1842; and it may now safely be said that we have possession of the markets of the world for this commodity. Nor can any one doubt that this policy has secured an employment for capital and labour infinitely greater than could possibly have been accomplished under the restrictive system, for nothing has contributed so much to this great increase of trade as the reduction of price consequent on free competition, and the extended uses to which the article has been applied.

Exactly similar has been our experience in the partial removal of the restrictions on our silk trade. The same predictions of ruined trade, of embarrassed manufacturers, of starving and workless operatives, were made by those interested in that trade; and the same falsification of their fears has been experienced. The import of raw silk in 1822, under the highly protective system, was only 2,080,000 lbs.: it gradually increased, until, in 1842, it was 4,362,000 lbs., in some recent years having been as much as 6,000,000 lbs.; and the export of our entire silk manufactures, which amounted in 1825 to £93,986, had increased last year to £664,661, and having been in a recent year as high as £865,000; and what is very curious, the quantity exported in 1812 to France—the great rival country which was to annihilate our trade—for consumption in that and the neighbouring countries, amounted to £181,000, being double the amount of our whole exports in 1825, before the restrictions were removed. So much for the fearful forebodings of the effects of Free Trade; and in every case, without any exception of which we are aware, have similar results been experienced.

But there are some striking examples of the same principles in our modern experience, now going forward, which are well worthy of notice. We have been much struck by the gratifying and encouraging accounts which we have recently received from Cornwall, as to the activity in the copper trade. Now, no one will forget the threatened rebellion in the Ministerial camp in 1842, headed by Sir Richard Vyvyan, directed against the Free-Trade policy of the Tariff, and especially in reference to the introduction of copper ore. That measure, like all of a similar kind preceding it, was utterly to destroy the trade, render the copper mines of no value, and the poor miners houseless; but the result has been, like all others, the reverse. The deep depression in which the trade then was has been succeeded by great activity, and there is already greater briskness and demand for labour than has been experienced for a long time. In our last number we published the quantities of foreign copper ore taken into consumption from Jan. 5th to Aug. 5th of this and the three preceding years, which were as follows:—

January 5th to August 5th.

1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.
Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
2	25	29,777	33,481

But the export of manufactured copper had increased from £874,016 in 1841 to £1,088,975 in the present year for the seven months. In the face of so enormous a supply of foreign copper ore, the demand for British ore is greater than it has been for some time.

Then, again, every one is aware that the duty on foreign wool has been in the present year entirely taken off, and concurrent therewith we have had an enormous increase of imports. The quantities of foreign wool taken into consumption from Jan. 5th to Aug. 5th, in each of the last four years, have been:—

1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
29,172,761	21,862,269	26,471,916	39,909,296

But has this increase been attended with the ruinous effects and disadvantages predicted by the Duke of Richmond and other adherents to restriction? Let the question be answered by the price obtained by the home grower for his wool this year as compared with late years. The price of Southdown fleeces at the clip, in each of the last four years, was:—

1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.
per lb.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
11d. to 1s.	9½d. to 10½d.	10d. to 11d.	1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d.

Thus, notwithstanding an increased import of at least 50 per cent. on that of last year, the price obtained by the home grower is 30 per cent. higher. At first sight people are much struck and surprised at these results, but a little consideration will show that they are only such as might be reasonably expected. If we exclude copper ore, or sheep's wool, from our markets by high duties, the only effect is to force their manufacture in other countries, at a greater disadvantage to the general consumers of the world; still they are manufactured somewhere, and the goods made therefrom are somewhere taken into consumption. The fact that these materials find their way to this country to be manufactured does not lessen the whole consumption of the world, but only increases the proportion which must be derived from this country, where we have such superior facilities and means for manufacturing. Thus, if we would increase our exports, we must be willing to increase our imports. If we import wool from Russia or Barbary, which would otherwise be badly and expensively manufactured in those countries, this fact does not diminish but rather increases the whole demand for woollen goods which would otherwise have existed, owing to the superior quality and economy of our manufacturing process. Hence we find increased demand for export always arising out of increased import, and, with the increased import of wool which we have alluded to, we find the following extraordinary increase in the export of our woollen goods:—

1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.
£3,743,683	£3,123,679	£4,150,004	£5,682,492

And, independent of this obvious effect, the home demand is greatly increased by the additional employment given to the numerous branches and occupations benefiting directly and indirectly from the increased trade.

But, again, we have in the present year another striking evidence of the truth of our proposition. Among other articles of agricultural produce which suffered great depression and reduction of price, in 1842 and 1843, were butter and cheese. That the depression was not caused by foreign competition, but by the distressed state of the consumer, we have frequently insisted, from the fact that the quantities imported in those years showed a great reduction on those of previous years when the prices were high. This year we have experienced a revival in the demand and price as compared with last year; but this has not been caused by restricting the foreign supply, but has arisen concurrent with a considerable increase of supply, the quantities imported having been for the first seven months of the last four years as follows:—

	1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
Butter......	115,127	118,084	89,269	103,689
Cheese......	131,798	109,197	82,391	109,598

For three years, from 1841 to 1843, the demand was more and more depressed, and prices fell lower each year in the face of a great diminution of foreign imports; but during the present year, though the supply has increased from 20 to 25 per cent., yet has the price of home produce considerably improved.

Are we not, then, justified, by all experience, in insisting upon the general adoption of Free-Trade principles, not as the means of contributing to the benefit of particular classes of society, but as the safest and best guarantee for the general prosperity and welfare of all. We may safely challenge those who think differently to bring forward one single example having a contrary tendency to those we have cited; and the number of such might be greatly multiplied.

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. Oct. 12	Mon. Oct. 14	Tues. Oct. 15	Wed. Oct. 16	Thurs. Oct. 17	Fri. Oct. 18
Bank Stock for Ac.	210	209	—	209	—	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	99⅞	100	99¾	99⅞	99⅞	99⅞
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	100⅜	100⅜	—	100⅜	100⅜	100⅜
3½ per Ct. An. new	102¾	102¾	102½	102⅝	102⅝	102⅝
Long. An. Ex. 1860	—	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝	—
Cons. for Acc. ..	100⅜	100⅜	100⅛	100⅜	100⅛	100⅛
Exc. Bills, pm. ..	77	77	77	76	76	—
Ind. Bds. und. 1000l	94	96	96	—	94	—
India Stock	287	—	288½	289	287½	—
Belgian Bonds ..	103½	103	104½	104½	104½	—
Brazilian Bonds..	85½	85	86	85½	85½	—
Buenos Ayres....	37	37	37	37	37	—
Chilian..........	104	104	103	103	103	103
Columb. ex. Venez.	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½
Danish	89½	89	89½	89½	88	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	98½	98¾	98½	98½	98¾	98½
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	62⅛	62⅛	62⅛	62⅛	61⅞	61⅞
Mexican	34½	34½	34⅝	34⅝	34⅝	34⅝
Peruvian	25½	24¾	25½	24¾	24½	25
Portug. conv. ..	61	60	60½	60½	60½	61
Spanish 5 per Ct.	23¾	23¾	23½	23¾	23¾	24
Do. 3 per Cent. ..	34½	34½	34½	35½	35½	35

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Monday, Oct. 14.—There is a moderate supply of English Wheat and Barley to this morning's market; the condition of the New is inferior to last week, and prices generally are 1s. to 2s. per qr. cheaper. There is rather an improved demand for Foreign at late prices. The finest qualities of Barley fetch rather more money, and secondary sorts fully support the prices of this day week. The arrivals of Oats since last Monday fall short of what we had been led to expect. There is a good country demand for Old Oats at 6d. advance, and for New at fully last week's prices. Beans and Peas both 1s. dearer.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk Old Red 40 to 48 White 44 to 52
—— Ditto .... New — 40 — 45 — 40 — 50
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Old — 40 — 46 — 42 — 48
—— Scotch .... — 40 — 44 — 42 — 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Feed............ Old 21 — 22
—— Ditto ...... ditto .. ditto .... New 19 — 20
—— Ditto ...... ditto .. Polands........ New 21 — 23
—— Scotch Feed................Old 22 — 24 Potato 25 — 26
—— Limerick .... do. 21 — 22 New 20 — 21
—— Ditto .... do.......... Short 22 — 23
—— Cork .... do. .... 20 — 21
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork Black Old and New 19 — 20
—— Westport.... Old .... 20 6 — 21
—— Galway .... do. .... 18 6 — 19 6
Barley, New .... 30 — 30
Beans, Mazagan Old 32 — 33 .... New .... 29 — 30
—— Harrow .. do. 36 — 38 .... do. .... 32 — 34
—— Small .... do.. 40 — 42
Peas, White, New .... 32 — 36
—— Grey .... 30 to 31 .... Maple .... 31 — 32
Flour, Town-made .... per sack of 280 lbs.... 36 — 43
—— Norfolk and Suffolk .... 34 — 36

FOREIGN. FREE. IN BOND.

Per Imperial Quarter.

	Free	In Bond
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed	48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.
—— Rostock	47 — 54	
—— Stettin	44 — 52	
—— Hamburgh	42 — 48	
—— Odessa	42 — 46	
—— Ditto .... Polish	47 — 50	
—— Russian .... soft	42 — 46	
—— Ditto.............. hard	40 — 44	
—— Spanish .... Red	45 — 49	
—— Ditto .... White........	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding	26 — 29	— —
—— Distilling..........................	30 — 32	— —
Oats, Archangel..........................	19 — 20	13 — 14
—— Swedish	19 — 21	13 — 15
—— Danish................................	20 — 22	14 — 16
—— Stralsund	21 — 22	15 — 16
—— Dutch Brew	21 — 23	15 — 17
—— —— Polands	— —	18 — 19
Beans, Egyptian..........................	27 — 29	22 — 23
Peas, White..............................	30 — 34	— —
—— Ditto Boilers..........................	32 — 35	— —
Flour, Canada .... per barrel of 196 lbs	20 — 28	— —
—— United States.. — —	23 — 28	18 — 20
—— Dantzig........ — —	26 — 28	18 — 20

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Oct. 7 to Oct. 12, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	6687	3812	165	1310	1985
Scotch	10	120	80	—	—
Irish........	32	—	20197	—	—
Foreign	160	1692	871	401	—

Flour, 4868 sacks, 850 barr.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending Oct. 15, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	4672	49s. 2d.	Rye	366	41s. 2d.
Barley.. ..	3915	35s. 8d.	Beans.. ..	1321	34s. 10d.
Oats	14896	21s. 7d.	Peas	897	35s. 1d.

Friday, October 18.—The supplies of all English grain this week are very moderate; of Irish Oats small, and of all foreign grain quite trifling, only 430 quarters of Barley having arrived, and not a cargo of Wheat or Oats. Both English and Foreign Wheat bring fully as high rates. The duty was paid on about 96,000 quarters of Barley previous to its rising to 4s. yesterday. The holders, however, are not pressing sales, and the trade remains in the same state as on Monday. Beans and Peas fully maintain former rates. The short supplies of Oats cause holders to insist on an advance in prices, and though buyers are very reluctant to comply, the sales made are at 6d more than could be obtained on Monday.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 14th of October to the 18th of October, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat............	2970	—	—
Barley............	1160	—	430
Oats..............	150	5360	—

Flour, 2920 sacks.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES Weeks ending

	Wheat. s. d.	Barley. s. d.	Oats. s. d.	Rye. s. d.	Beans. s. d.	Peas. s. d.
7th Sept.	48 6	35 9	20 5	——	38 1	——
14th ,,	45 11	35 11	20 1	——	37 9	——
21st ,,	45 3	35 6	20 5	35 7	37 3	38 1
28th ,,	45 9	34 5	20 5	37 3	36 8	33 0
5th Oct.	46 1	33 9	20 6	37 5	36 8	33 5
12th ,,	46 3	33 6	20 6	37 10	36 11	34 0

Aggregate Average of the Six Weeks.—Wheat, 46s. 4d.; Barley, 34s. 10d.; Oats, 20s. 5d.; Rye, 36s. 4d.; Beans, 37s. 3d.; Peas, 33s. 7d.

Duty.—Wheat, 20s. 0d.; Barley, 4s. 0d.; Oats, 6s. 0d.; Rye, 6s. 6d.; Beans, 5s. 6d.; Peas, 9s. 6d.

Stock of Corn in Bond, Sep. 5, 1844.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.	Flour. Cwts.
In London,	110652	81918	36442	—	—	213	59755
Unit. King.	330892	164684	86873	—	4810	2962	269958

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, October 11.

BANKRUPTS.

J. F. CORK and J. L. DE CARLE, New Bond-street, coach builders. [Roper, Lincoln's-inn-fields.
H. ROWE, Charles-street, Hatton-garden, merchant. [Johnson, Walcot-square, Lambeth.
C. JAMES, Grand Junction-terrace, Edgware-road, Italian warehouseman. [Chamberlayne and Meaden, Great James-street, Bedford-row.
A. WARREN, Parliament-street, confectioner. [James, Basinghall-street.
T. G. MARTIN, Cold Harbour-lane, Camberwell, wine merchant. [Jinkinson, Cannon-street.
J. COULSON, Great Clacton, Essex, innkeeper. [Mawe, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars.
C. PENSAM, Cheltenham, dressmaker. [Styles, Cheltenham.
J. WHITEHEAD, Ainsworth, Lancashire, common brewer. [Chilton and Acland, Chancery-lane; Hulton, Bolton-le-Moors.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 1. J. Clark, Mincing-lane, colonial broker—Nov. 6. R. Howland, Thame, Oxfordshire, auctioneer—Nov. 6. E. Tuck, Haymarket, silversmith—Nov. 6. G. Coates, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, apothecary—Nov. 6. T. Wright, Blackmore-street, Clare-market, cheesemonger—Nov. 5. B. Norman and E. Buckman, Cheltenham, ironmongers—Nov. 4. R. Crowder, West Auckland, Durham, ironfounder—Nov. 4. J. C. Petrie, Bedlington, Durham, miller—Nov. 4. J. Harbottle, Amble, Northumberland, grocer—Nov. 8. H. Pearson, York, attorney-at-law—Nov. 8. T. O. Hazard and H. Bingham, Sheffield, merchants—Nov. 7. J. L. Smith, Leicester, cabinet maker—Nov. 7. J. C. Lister, Wolverhampton, wine merchant.

CERTIFICATES.

Nov. 5. J. Brandon, Walbrook-buildings, merchant—Nov. 4. R. Crowder, West Auckland, Durham, ironfounder—Nov. 13. R. Catlow, Leeds, victualler—Nov. 7. W. Ashwin, Birmingham, steel pen maker—Nov. 1. J. Jones, Conway, Carnarvonshire, ship builder—J. Vernon, Monk's Coppenhall, Cheshire, licensed victualler—W. B. Smith, Sudbury, Suffolk, surgeon.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

R. TULLOH, Fort George, merchant—A. RENNIE, Inverness, insurance broker.

TUESDAY, October 15.

BANKRUPTS.

W. MINTER, Colchester, Essex, builder. [Milne and Co., Temple, for Messrs. Smithiers and Co., Colchester.
T. B. HALL, Coggeshall, Essex, grocer. [Wire and Child, St. Swithin's-lane.
M. and B. LEE, Duke-street, Piccadilly, tailors. [Lewis and Lewis, Ely-place, Holborn.
F. A. BERENGER, Homer-street, Crawford-street, Marylebone. [Teague, Crown-court, Cheapside.
H. D. WILLIAMS, Southampton, plumber. [Paterson, Bouverie-street.
G. BALL, Bath, carpenter. [Drake, Bath; Richards and Co., Lincoln's-inn-fields.
W. J. J. COALL, Exeter, grocer. [Stogdon, Exeter; Keddell and Co., Lime-street.
T. TABBERNER, Birmingham, corn factor. [Bartleet, Birmingham; Holme and Co., New-inn.
J. BIBBY, Liverpool, coach proprietor. [Cornthwaite, Liverpool; Cornthwaite and Adams, Old Jewry Chambers.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 5. H. Walker, Luton, Bedfordshire, cordwainer—Nov. 5 W. B. Smith, Sudbury, Suffolk, surgeon—Nov. 5. J. Jenkins, Crown-place, Old Kent-road, currier—Nov. 5. P. Tansley, St. John-street, West Smithfield, straw plait dealer—Nov. 5. H. Wood, Basinghall-street, woollen factor—Nov. 8. C. Graydon, St. Ann's-place, Limehouse, ship chandler—Nov. 9. T. Donkin, Cambridge, victualler—Nov. 9. G. and W. Helder, Clement's-inn, money scriveners—Nov. 6. R. Baxter, Montague-close, Southwark, wharfinger—Oct. 24. E. Hilton and N. Walsh, and H. Hilton, Over Darwen, Lancashire, paper makers and bleachers—Nov. 14. J., W., and E. Yeardley, Ecclesfield, Yorkshire, flax spinners—Nov. 5. E. Johnston, jun., and T. Manley, Whitehaven, sugar refiners.

CERTIFICATES.

Nov. 7. W. Parsons, Upper Eaton-street, Pimlico, starch manufacturer—Nov. 6. R. Beesley, Wells-street, Oxford-street, wine cooper—Nov. 5. J. Jenkins, Old Kent-road, currier—Nov. 5. T. Cook, Kirby-street, Hatton-garden, silver cutler—Nov. 6. E. Walker, Newman-street, Oxford-street, auctioneer—Nov. 19. T. Brand, Stamford-street, Blackfriars-road, livery stable keeper—Nov. 6. J. Bedford, Melina-place, Westminster-road, iron merchant—Nov. 7. J. Kitchen, Stockport, Cheshire, corn dealer—Nov. 6. H. Whittaker, Macclesfield, Cheshire, silk throwster—Nov. 7. B. H. Hunter, Liverpool, merchant—Dec. 3. R. K. Mann, Kingston-upon-Hull, wine merchant—Nov. 14. G. Craven, jun., Rochdale, Lancashire, corn miller—Nov. 14. H. Lane, Derby, innkeeper—Nov. 5. M. M'Divitt, Liverpool, merchant—Nov. 5. W. Toft, Wakefield, alkali manufacturer.

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THE LEAGUE.

No. 57.] SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1844. [3*d*.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All Subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive, a copy weekly of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and* addresses *to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

We beg to inform our subscribers that bound volumes of the LEAGUE *newspaper, containing the whole of the first year's numbers, may be had on application at the Offices either in London or Manchester.*

BRAZILIAN AND BELGIAN TARIFFS.

Most of our readers are acquainted with the very celebrated pamphlet, generally attributed to Archbishop Whately, entitled "Historic Doubts respecting Napoleon Buonaparte," the author of which shows that the omission of a few circumstances in the best known transactions would produce such apparent inconsistencies in history as would afford grounds for disbelief to the full as plausible as any which sceptics have urged against the Sacred Scriptures. So able is the irony, and so cleverly is it managed, that many readers of the pamphlet have been carried away by the jest, and have in spite of themselves felt serious doubts respecting the real existence of the French Emperor. Our legislation, ever since the conclusion of the war, has directly tended to increase such perplexity; one of the causes most generally and most justly assigned for our perseverance in that war at a time when we were deserted by all our allies—

> "When Europe bow'd beneath the yoke,
> And Austria bent and Prussia broke,
> And the firm Russian's purpose brave
> Was barter'd by a timorous slave"—

was, that Napoleon was the inveterate enemy of the commercial prosperity of England, and evidenced his fixed purpose for its destruction by excluding our manufactures from the Continent. No sooner had the war terminated than the English Government adopted the very system of policy which it was the only rational purpose of the war to overthrow, and entered on a course of policy far more certain to lead to a system of exclusion than all the despotic decrees issued from Berlin or Milan. These decrees prohibited the English manufacturers from receiving for their goods the payment which their customers proffered, and they laid a tax upon the raw materials of production, which gave a decided and increasing advantage to rival manufacturers. But the English Ministers went farther in their injury to British trade and commerce than the French Emperor even meditated: Napoleon only contemplated the exclusion of British goods from the continent of Europe; but sordid avarice is wider in its grasp and more malignant in its influence than even the most despotic ambition; the monopolists of England took a wider range, and resolved to close against our manufactures the markets of North and South America. Hundreds of millions of money and hundreds of thousands of lives were wasted in dethroning Napoleon for attempting to effect what our rulers have successfully accomplished; and what the nation wastes in an almost equal expenditure of money and life, in endeavouring to support monopoly, is even worse than Napoleon. Death in the battle-field had some compensating glory, but death by starvation has no concomitants save misery and despair. The lavish expenditure of war purchased, though at an enormously dear rate, flags to hang as drapery in Windsor, and battered cuirasses to furnish a museum in the Tower; but the money wrested from the labourers by monopoly has only served to maintain in idleness the younger branches of some noble family, to feed the dogs of one monopolist, or to pension the mistresses of another.

Our commercial policy provoked, justified, and almost necessitated restrictive retaliations. The settlers in the back states of America, along the fertile banks of the Upper Ohio, were in want of clothes; they sent down their corn and their salted meats to purchase the cottons and the woollens of England; but when their payment reached New Orleans they found that the Corn Laws prevented the English manufacturers from receiving it, and it was left to perish by putrefaction on the quays of New Orleans. At that very moment the English operatives were perishing from lack of food; monopoly enjoyed the signal triumph of spreading its blight in two worlds: it produced nakedness in America and starvation in England. Nor was this all: the tainted mass of putrefying provisions polluted the atmosphere, and produced a pestilential fever of fearful virulence. The yellow fever was in Louisiana the type of the commercial policy of England. It is no wonder that the Americans began to be alienated from a trade which brought the plague into the consideration of its chances, and answered the diplomatic pleadings of the negotiators of commercial treaties as the lover did the entreaties of his mistress whan detected in falsehood:—

> "The vows thou hast made,
> To the wild currents fling them,
> On the quicksands and rocks
> Let the mermaiden sing them;
> New sweetness they'll give her
> Bewildering strain,
> *But there's one who will never*
> *Believe them again.*"

The lamentable occurrence at New Orleans exhibits in the most striking form the disadvantages to which English commerce was subjected so soon as the Government placed restrictions on the receiving of raw produce in exchange for manufactures. Those who had to give corn in exchange for cotton or woollens were always kept by the sliding scale in a state of uncertainty as to the rate at which their payment would be received, or whether, as in the American case, it would be altogether rejected. Our laws, in countless instances, turned the customers clean out of our markets, and at all times subjected them to uncertainties, annoyances, and inconveniencies, injurious to them and far from advantageous to ourselves. England was placed before the world in the light of a gigantic monopolist, which aimed at dictating in the world's markets the terms on which it would sell its own productions, and also the terms on which it would receive in exchange the productions of other countries. Fortuitous circumstances may give to a people such a temporary pre-eminence as to enable it for a season thus to command both sides of a bargain; but such circumstances could only be fleeting in their nature, while the attempt to take advantage of them necessarily left permanent and not unjustifiable rancour behind.

It is confessed, even by those journals which are recognised as the organs of Sir Robert Peel's Ministry, that tariffs hostile to England are multiplying around us in every direction. Their attempts at consolation are at once ludicrous and melancholy, almost justifying the misanthropic adage—

> "Res sunt humanæ flebile ludibrium."

Thus we are told that "the exclusion of our manufacturers from the Continent can permanently injure the Continent only, and must give to England unapproachable superiority in all neutral markets." This would be perfectly true if the Continental manufacturers stood alone in the restrictive system while the trade of England was free; but the real evil is, that the English restrictive system is felt most severely in what are called "neutral" markets, because in such markets the principal articles of exchange are raw produce. An English and a German manufacturer meeting as rivals in the Brazilian market have to buy as well as sell, because all exchange ultimately resolves itself into barter; the German may demand nominally more for his own cottons, but if he at the same time proffers nominally more for the Brazilian sugar, in which form he has to receive payment, he more than compensates by his high price as a buyer for his high charge as a seller, and the Brazilian will, of course, deal with that merchant who, on the balance of the entire transaction, leaves him the greater share of profit.

This appears to be the view which the Brazilian Government has taken of the case, by reserving the right of levying discriminating duties on the productions of those countries which have set the example of levying discriminating duties on articles of Brazilian produce. We may accept the excuse pleaded by the organ of the Government for the increased per-centages of the import duties on various articles in the Brazilian tariff, and believe them to be levied for the sake of revenue only;—this is a question between the Minister of Finance and the smuggler, with which, as Free-Traders, we are not directly concerned;—but discriminating duties belong to a very different category, and no man in his senses can doubt that they are designed to be retaliatory. "But," asks the Government organ, with the most anile simplicity, "for what are they a retaliation?" Deficient memory appears to be a convenient qualification for certain classes of public writers; one would have thought that the inconsistency and hypocrisy of the pleas under which differential duties were imposed on the sugars of Cuba and Brazil formed too memorable a chapter in the annals of human absurdity to be thus easily forgotten. The lectures of our Premier on botanical morality, proving that sugar is the only article which retains the taint of slavery,—laughed at by everybody, and by no one more heartily despised than by himself,—have naturally provoked the Brazilian sugar growers; they are mortified at finding their sugars excluded from the English markets, and they are indignant at finding the exclusion defended on a plea which could scarcely dupe a congregation of disinterested idiots. We pass a law which is designed to compel the Brazilians to purchase at a disadvantage, and find among ourselves blockheads ready to hold up their hands in amazement because the Brazilians refuse to accept our unequal terms, and express a determination to become purchasers elsewhere.

It is amusing to find the *Morning Herald* propounding doctrines of Free Trade to the continental nations, and quoting the tritest axioms of political economy as fresh and important truths:—

> "The things, we know, are neither rich nor rare,
> But wonder how the mischief they got there."

Hear what the oracle points out to the sovereigns of France, Belgium, and the German states as the result of their new restrictive system:—"Such exclusion really acts as a premium for England to monopolise the trade of all the rest of the world." The poor simpleton does not see that the necessary inference from his own principle is, that the English system of exclusion must shut *her* out from her proper share of the trade of the world.

> "Quam temerè in nosmet legem sancimus iniquam."

If, however, we are shut out from our old accustomed markets, the Government scribe is prepared to furnish us with consolation and compensation. First, there are the new markets opened to us by the late Whig Government in China;—granting that the Chinese may be willing to purchase English manufactures, we have yet to learn what they have to pay for them with; we cannot take their agricultural produce after we have refused agricultural produce on cheaper terms nearer home; and we have not yet discovered what else they have to offer. We are next proffered the markets of Siam and the Indian archipelago in lieu of those which we are about to lose in Brazil; but we want to know why we might not have both? What reason can be assigned for abandoning marts which are known and profitable, for markets which are unknown and uncertain? Finally, we have held out to us in remote prospect the trade of the empire of Japan! This is certainly the climax of trifling with a nation's patience. Everybody knows that our chances of trade with Japan were long ago sacrificed to the monopoly of the East India Company, when, at the secret instigation of the lords of Leadenhall-street, Java and its dependencies were made a present to the Dutch at the Congress of Vienna. The Hollanders evinced no gratitude for a sacrifice which they rightly attributed to sheer ignorance of the value of the gift, for with Java we resigned all reasonable prospect of commercial intercourse with Japan.

It is an excessive demand on credulity to suppose that a commerce only to be obtained through the medium of an unjust war ought to be regarded as a compensation for the loss of a trade which wants nothing for its preservation but a just and equitable peace. The Government scribe further hints that colonization might help to compensate for our exclusion from European markets. We should be glad to know how many of our colonies at this moment pay their own expenses? But omitting, for the present, the general question of colonization, we should like to know what length of time, on the writer's own calculation, would elapse before a new colony would be so far advanced as to become a profitable customer? When that is settled we should

next demand what is to become of the manufacturing population of Britain in the interim? "Live horse, and you shall get grass," would be no very comfortable doctrine to the operatives of Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire.

The evils produced by monopoly have become too pressing and too palpable to be any longer denied; even the *Morning Herald* will not venture beyond palliation. We turn, then, to the electoral body of the country, renewed and considerably altered by the present registration, and we ask them whether a system of legislation, which its authors recognise as evil in principle, and which experience every day proves to be more and more ruinous in practice, should any longer be supported by the constituency of an enlightened empire? We have reached a crisis where temporary expedients must be unavailing; nothing but a Free Trade can save the country.

JACK-CADE DOCTRINES OF THE *POST*.

We certainly had not thought that we should ever have to defend the rights of landlords against the attacks of the *Morning Post*. But so it is. Our contemporary has of late been getting so very Jacobinical (in the abstract) that we are really frightened, and feel it our duty as Conservative journalists to make what stand we can against the dangerous speculations of this recreant landlords' advocate.

Last week we gave a short notice of a public meeting held at Highworth—the Earl of Radnor in the chair—for the purpose of "taking into consideration the distress of the working classes, and to discuss the benefits likely to arise if the trade in corn and other provisions were free." Of the direct object of this meeting—one of the most interesting and important we have lately seen reported—and of the fact that a small tradesman in an agricultural town moved, a tenant-farmer seconded, and an assembly of seven hundred farmers, tradesmen, and labourers adopted a string of decided Free-Trade resolutions—the *Post* seems indisposed to say much; but it takes occasion, from a desultory conversation on the subject of allotments with which the proceedings of the day were diversified, to broach certain doctrines on *the right of the landowner to his land*, which, we should imagine, must be more surprising than agreeable to the majority of its landowning patrons. If these lords and gentlemen should have their eyes opened by the speculations of our contemporary, to see the sort of questions which are opening wider and wider before them with every month that this monopoly lasts, it will be so much the better for them.

The *Post's* doctrine, as developed in two leading articles of Saturday and Monday last, is, that the British landlord owns his land *subject to the condition of leasing it out to the labourers, on demand*, by the acre or the rood, *at charity rents—i. e.*, at such rents as the labourers may find it convenient to pay. If the landlord demur to the demand (whether for the labourer's sake or his own), or higgle about the terms; if, in particular, the landlord prefer a tenant who offers 8d. a lug to a tenant who offers 5d. a lug, the *Post* tells him that he, the landlord, "traffics in the misery of the poor man," and that his conduct and principles are "most abominable." In short, the *Post* is for putting the whole landed property of Great Britain *into commission*—in trust, to be granted out in acres and quarter acres, to the *lowest* bidder. And the *Post* thinks Lord Radnor little better than a brute, because he does not quite cheerfully fall into this arrangement.

As our contemporary gives us his views chiefly in the shape of laudatory or approving comments on quotations from poor men's speeches, we shall quote too; that the landlords may see exactly what sort of thing they are bringing on themselves by their prolonged denial of justice. We have only to premise that we are not going to commit the wrong of holding misery responsible for its rash and foolish words: if wretched agricultural labourers ignorantly talk agrarianism, the blame rests with the greedy and iniquitous legislation which knowingly enacts starvation.

At the meeting in question the *Post's* pet allotment system was introduced by a labourer of the name of William Speakman, a poor fellow with a wife and nine children, and wages ranging from 6s. to 8s. per week. After a significant menace to Highworth property, to the effect that it was his (William Speakman's) intention to go and take up his residence in the workhouse and cost the parish 30s. a week, "and he hoped that all labouring men with families would go there also," he added:—

"Something must be done. The poor could not go on any longer. If the poor man wanted twenty lug (perches) of land, why could he not have it at the same price as the farmer? Why was he charged at the rate of £5 or £6 an acre? (A voice—'Yes, and £8 an acre!') How could the poor man pay that price? Why, if *they let the poor man have a couple of acres of land for a year or two for nothing*, and then charged him a fair rent for it afterwards, would not that be better than his going to the union? (Cheers.) But it was of no use. *They must all go to the workhouse. His advice was, to the poor who had families, 'Flock to the union*—fill the union—and then something would be done.'"

A couple of acres for a year or two for nothing, and a fair rent afterwards—and surely "nothing" is the only fair rent for pauperism to pay at any time—with crowded and overflowing union-houses as the alternative! And the good, easy *Post* looks on composedly at all this—rather enjoys it—and puts it into the hands of its landlord readers with the pleasant commentary, that "the labourers who composed the majority of the meeting approved themselves most inapt pupils in the school of Free Trade."

The next speaker of the labourer class was one William Cole. William Cole, too, is by no means an apt pupil in the school of Free Trade. He prefers cheap land, and "taking a good deal away from the parsons;" and, on the whole, shows himself an apt and forward pupil in a school far in advance of that of Free Trade. William Cole says:—

"We poor men are put upon very much indeed. The farmers make poor souls work many hours more than they ought, and give them nothing for it. They put taxes on poor souls, instead of which they ought to take them off. If they took a little of the duty off malt, it would be good for poor souls. Also, *if they took a good deal away from the parsons* (a laugh), *it would be a good thing for the poor man to get his acre or two acres of land.* (Hear, hear.) The farmer says he would not work if he got it. That is not true. What the working man wants is a little more wages, and then he would be able to pay his rent and taxes. (Hear, hear.) The Lord will be with the poor, and God knows what will become of the gentlemen when they die. I'm sure I don't know. (Hear, hear.) *I hope the gentlemen will let the poor have a little land.* (A voice: 'Yes, but not at £6 an acre.') *Let them have land for one year for nothing*, and then let it to them afterwards for a penny a lug (perch) more than the others have it for. (Hear, hear.) The speaker was going on to recommend *that the tax should be taken off tea and sugar and put on thrashing-machines*, when it was intimated to him that he was talking too long."

We should think that the Dukes of Buckingham and Richmond would also have been of opinion that William Cole was talking too long.

After Lord Radnor had given the meeting his views of the causes of the labourers' distress—an ever-stocked labour market, and an artificially-restricted demand for labour—and stated his objections to allotments as being a mere substitute for wages, and pointed to Free Trade as the only means of increasing the value of labour and raising wages, a Mr. Phipps spoke. This gentleman, with whose speech and the conversation that grew out of it the *Post* seems especially delighted,

"Was in favour of allotments, and thought it of no use talking about Free Trade. It was of no use to send the labourers to Manchester. They breed too fast there already. He was for allotments, *but they should not be at rents too high for the people to pay.*"

Whereupon Lord Radnor very naturally asked:—

"*Who is to fix the price?* If a man is willing to give me 8d. a lug, of course I shall take it. If I could get 8d. a lug, and let it to you for 5d., of course I shall be making you a present of the difference."

The query was promptly answered by a Mr. Lawrence, who chalked out the thing for his lordship exactly—land for so much an acre, and the proceeds to be appropriated so-and-so:—

"If the noble lord let his land at £2 an acre, which would be £1 more than it was worth, *and gave the second £1 as a premium to labour, then he (Mr. Lawrence) would be glad to meet him, and hail him as a friend to the poor.* (Hear.) Lord Radnor told them, that *if one man would not give the price another would.* He held that to be *an abominable doctrine to be broached in a Christian country.* (Cheers.) Was this the way to mend the condition of the poor man? *Let him have the land at a fair rent.* (Cheers.) If the noble lord let allotments, *he should give them at a rent the poor man could pay.*"

We quite agree with the *Post* that "this discussion may not be regarded as other than instructive." Most instructive is it for landlords to see what kind of questions they will by-and-by have to deal with, if they decline dealing with the Free-Trade question. These gentlemen are playing a bold game. We venture to add, to the already ample list of fulfilled League predictions, that if the labourers of England once get the notion into their heads that they have a right to an acre or two of land apiece, *gratis* for a year or two, with a "fair" rent to pay afterwards, it will be a more difficult notion to get out, and a more dangerous one to leave in, than all the points of the Charter together. "Land at a fair rent"—the fairness to be estimated, not by market value and mutual contract, but by the tenant's needs acting on the landlord's charity or fears—is neither more nor less than agrarianism. "Let us have the land for one year for nothing," says poor William Cole, with the *Morning Post* crying "most abominable" on the hard-hearted Lord Radnor, or Lord Anybody, who shall dare to say "No." But suppose William Cole, and a parish or county of William Coles, could not make it convenient to pay his lordship rent for the second year, what would his lordship do then? Would the law of distress be of much avail against a few scores, or hundreds, of pauper tenants? Would ejectment be a process quite clear of difficulty and danger? Supposing this letting of land on charity to be—as the *Post* means that it should be—universal through England, might not those landlords who should still hold the "most abominable," but very prevalent, landlord doctrine that their land is their own, and not somebody else's, be liable to be shot at sometimes from behind hedges, in case of a too strenuous assertion of their property-right? Is it possible that men who talk of saving a country by blocking up trade and granting allotments, have ever heard the name of IRELAND? With a population that increases at the rate of 1000 a day, crowded and crammed together on allotments at fair rents, every rood of ground keeping its man, and the channels of manufacturing, trading, and maritime industry choked up the while with protection, we should soon be, not exactly as Ireland is, but as Ireland would be—*minus* British troops to keep the peace, and the British labour market to draw off the overflowings of her population—a dense, squalid, potato-eating people, battling with one another, and with their landlords, for land as for life; dividing and subdividing the land as the exigencies of their daily increase would daily necessitate; their numbers and importunity reinforced, too, from the manufacturing districts by shoals of returned emigrants;—this is the state of things which the doctrines of the *Morning Post* would give us, rife with all the elements of Whiteboyism, Ribbondism, agrarian insurrection, and revolution. The landlords and the landlords' friends know not what they do when they talk of the "allotment system" (a thing good enough in its way and place) as a remedy—*the* remedy—for the pauper wretchedness of the agricultural labourers. "Allotment system" is a term of much width and ambiguity of import. Landlords mean by it something that is to ease the rates, and help out wages, and make the labourers more dependent on their will and pleasure, and cushion Free Trade, and throw dust in the eyes of the public. Labourers mean by it—so far as we can gather their meaning from the Highworth speeches and the *Post's* commentary on them—something which was to make them joint-owners of the soil, at rents measured by their own convenience. If the landlords of England were wise in their generation, they would vote civic crowns to such men as Lord Radnor, who came forward to throw the weight of a justly-earned influence into the scale against this most dangerous, popular, and fashionable crotchet. Should they succeed—as their *Post* seems determined that they shall—in fairly bringing to a head the question of the landlord's right to let his own land in his own way, they will have got up an agitation more perilous to their order than any this country has seen yet.

We warn the landlords that the further they go from the true question at issue—the right of the labourer to earn and eat his bread how and where he can get it,—the worse they will fare. The longer this question remains unsettled, the more they must expect to see their titles to their estates unsettled. If they go on much longer doing what they will with what is *not* their own, they may look to find themselves very unpleasantly abridged of the right of doing what they will with that which truly is their own. A more disorganising question than this, which they have made for themselves, never was. It is a characteristic vice of their unnatural and wicked Corn Law, that it opens to popular agitation a number of delicate, abstract inquiries which it were infinitely better for the quiet of society to keep closed—perplexes people's notions of the simplest social rights and relations—makes the theory of property itself a thing for discussion in newspaper columns, and open-air meetings of agricultural labourers. The *Post* of Saturday last says, "*The power to make laws is akin to the power to claim private property.*" Exactly: the very theory both of the Corn Law, and of the compulsory charity of the *Post's* allotment system. The landlords begin with using their law-making power as a private property, a thing to get money by—they will end (*i. e.* they would end, if the Free-Traders were not at hand to save them) in seeing their private property itself thrown open to political agitation and agrarian legislation.

We must not leave this subject without a word on the curious theory of economics implied in the *Post's* attack on Lord Radnor. Our contemporary thinks it "most abominable" that his lordship should ask,—"Why should land be let to one man for less, when another is ready to give more?" To which we can only say,—Why, indeed? What is to become of the man who is ready to give more—whose readiness to give more is a presumptive *primâ facie* evidence that he wants the land more, and means to do more with it? Is he to go landless because a competitor underbids him? At all events it is so certain that, practically and as a general rule, landlords will take high bids in preference to low ones, that, unless the *Post* is prepared to fix the price of land at once by act of Parliament, it is perfectly idle building any hope for the labourer on cheap, eleemosynary allotments. Another abomination with our contemporary is, his lordship's doctrine that "the farmer is not bound to give more for labour than he can get it for." Very cruel this, thinks the *Post*—most abominably unchristian. Yet what is the farmer to do?

If he indulge his benevolent sensibilities by paying a charity rate of wages, while his neighbours are paying the poor-law rate of wages, he will only get himself after a while into the *Gazette*, where he will leave off paying wages at all. Or, if all the farmers of Great Britain could be induced by a simultaneous charitable impulse, or forced by act of Parliament, to pay 12s. a week when they could get their work done for 7s., the only consequence would be that fewer labourers would be employed and less work done. It would only be lengthening the blanket at top, by cutting off a bit from the bottom. The *Post* forgets that, after all, the wages-fund is a finite quantity. Turn and twist it how you will, there is no curing the mischiefs of a system, which, by choking up the natural channels of industry, makes labour an unmarketable drug, the labourer a cumberer of the ground, work and wages a charity. Nothing can be done with such a system, except to do away with it. Charity-wages will only cut down the profits and eat into the capital out of which alone any wages can be paid. Allotments at fair rents—or at no rents—will only be, *pro tanto*, a substitute for wages. "Allot" to your pauper labourers the very freehold of the soil, and the only consequence will be (witness the case of Heyshot, detailed in the *Morning Chronicle* of the 17th instant), that the freeholders will get neither work nor wages till they have sold their freeholds, spent the money, and become chargeable again.

Protectionists call Lord Radnor, and Mr. Cobden, and their political economy, hard-hearted, cold-blooded, unchristian, &c. &c. Political economy has, however, no need to shrink from the test which Christianity itself applies to all manner of men and things, "BY THEIR FRUITS YE SHALL KNOW THEM." Political economy has just now been raising the wages of the Lancashire factory labourers: protection has just now (see the *Chronicle* of the 17th) been reducing, from 9s. to 8s., the wages of Sussex farm-labourers, in Mr. Cobden's own native parish of Heyshot. In these two facts will be found the whole of the philosophy of wages.

OPENING OF THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

On Monday next Queen Victoria will proceed in state to open the Royal Exchange of the City of London. The pride, pomp, and circumstance of the pageant will, no doubt, attract multitudes of spectators; but a deeper interest and a greater importance belong to this ceremonial than to any of the ordinary processions of royalty. The great mart where merchants congregate may be regarded as the great centre of British commerce, and almost as the shrine of our national prosperity. Two hundred and seventy-four years have elapsed since first that mart was opened and dignified with the name of Royal Exchange by Queen Elizabeth. Since that period commerce has become more and more identified with the national existence of the British people, until London has become the commercial metropolis, not of England, but of the civilized world, and London's Exchange the chief regulator of all trading transactions over the face of the earth. In opening an edifice worthy of so high a destiny, it is natural to reflect on the causes that have placed such a destiny in the grasp of the British people, and the means by which its possession may be secured. When Queen Elizabeth visited the building erected by Sir Thomas Gresham, even her prescience must have failed to discover the glorious career on which the industrial enterprise of Britain was about to enter. Spain, Portugal, Venice, the Lombard cities, and the Hanseatic League were far before England in commercial power and trading prosperity; the thought of competing with any of them would probably have been regarded as one of the most visionary projects that ever entered into the head of a dreaming enthusiast. But where is the commercial greatness of those states now? where is even that of Holland, which, at a later period, threatened to engross the carrying trade of the world? Each and all of these states have fallen from their pride of place, and each and all have fallen under the blighting influence of monopoly. There is solitude in the *plazas* of Cadiz and Seville; the quays of Lisbon no longer are loaded with the precious bales of Asiatic produce; merchants have ceased to congregate on the Rialto, and the waters of Amsterdam sleep turbidly in their canals. It is not sufficient to open an Exchange, the ports must be open likewise. It depends on the course of legislation whether our gracious Sovereign will dedicate an edifice where the harmony of nations will be advanced, secured, and perpetuated by the strongest of all bonds, those of mutual self-interest, or whether the new building shall be dedicated to the planning of retaliations and reprisals, and the concocting of selfish conspiracies, alike directed against the true sources of Britain's weal and the progress of civilization over the whole earth. On such an occasion the littleness, the baseness, and the destructive tendency of commercial restrictions must force themselves on every reflecting mind; to erect what may be regarded as a temple to trade, and then to maintain the fetters which class legislation has imposed on trade, would be to render the ceremonial in which our Sovereign has been invited to take a part nothing better than a mockery and a delusion. It depends upon the people of England whether the new edifice about to be opened will be a type of national greatness and national happiness, or whether it will be a gorgeous monument of a proud position wantonly sacrificed, and unparalleled advantages recklessly thrown away. Destiny has never proved false to a nation until the nation has first proved recreant to its destiny. Providence has placed our country in the van of civilization; but, if we abuse our position, there are others not far behind in the march ready to take the place which we in our madness shall have abandoned. But we indulge more cheering anticipations. We believe that the iniquity and the folly of monopoly have been so clearly demonstrated that the existence of the monster is dated, and that the new Exchange will see a new career opened to Britain's commercial prosperity, based on the only permanent, because the only true, principles—perfect equity, and perfect freedom.

MEETINGS.

GREAT FREE-TRADE MEETING AT MANCHESTER.

MANCHESTER, Friday Morning.

The League opened their winter campaign of agitation in Manchester by one of the most crowded meetings, in the great Free-Trade-hall, which has ever yet been assembled in that building. The admission was by ticket; and so great was the number of applications, and the anxiety manifested to be present, that not a place was to be had, except for the few seats reserved, after Wednesday noon.

Among the principal persons present were Richard Cobden, Esq., M.P. for Stockport; John Bright, Esq., M.P. for Durham; Thomas Bazley, jun., Esq., William Evans, Esq., Thomas Woolley, Esq., S. Lees, Esq., Peter Seville, Esq. (Oldham), Samuel Eveleigh, Esq., Edward Shawcross, Esq., Joseph Brotherton, jun., Esq., J. Atkinson, Esq., R. Nicholson, Esq., J. Whitlow, Esq., D. Ainsworth, Esq., C. J. S. Walker, Esq., W. R. Callender, Esq., T. Chadwick, Esq., W. Morris, Esq., J. Charlton, Esq., W. Shuttleworth, Esq., —— Higgins, Esq., T. Whitworth, Esq., W. Lockett, Esq. (Mayor of Salford), J. T. Crook, Esq. (Liverpool), P. Walker, Esq. (Patricroft), W. Walker, Esq. (London), Charles Cobden, Esq., W. Rawson, Esq., A. Prentice, Esq., Thomas Bright, Esq., Jacob Bright, jun., Esq., R. Matley, Esq. (Mottram), R. R. Moore, Esq., Wm. Rowland, Esq., J. B. Scott, Esq., T. Woodcock, Esq., John Shuttleworth, Esq., W. Sale, Esq., John Shawcross, Esq. (Gorton), Alderman Armitage, F. A. Atkinson, Esq., &c. &c.

Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright entered the hall, accompanied by the members of the Council of the League, who had arrived precisely at the time the meeting had been advertised to commence (half-past seven o'clock), and were received with great and prolonged cheering.

GEORGE WILSON, Esq., took the chair, and called upon Mr. HICKIN, Secretary to the League, to read the minutes of the last meeting in London; and these minutes were then, on the motion of Alderman CALLENDER, seconded by Alderman C. J. S. WALKER, approved by the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN then said: Ladies and gentlemen, if there should happen to be any stray monopolist here this evening, I would ask him if he believes in the rumours circulated by his party as to the death of the League? (Laughter and applause.) I would ask him to look at this meeting, and judge for himself how far it is worth his while to place any reliance on the veracity of a party instrumental in circulating reports to which this immense gathering gives such a triumphant and practical refutation. (Loud applause.) Ladies and gentlemen, after a comparatively "still" public life of the League for some ten weeks past we resume our meetings here this evening; and it will be my duty to give to you some information as to what has been the occupation of the League during the last ten weeks, in order that you may inform yourselves and judge for yourselves, whether, at this particular season of the year, there could have been any other business in which they could engage so likely to contribute to the success of the cause of Free Trade as that in which they have been occupied. (Applause.) Some months ago we made no secret of a resolution to which the Council of the League had then come, to institute a searching inquiry into the condition of the register of nearly 140 boroughs of the country; and we were compelled to do this from the knowledge that some one should do it, and that no other body existed whose funds, whose agents, whose correspondence, and information in every respect entitled them to do this so fully as the League. (Hear, hear, hear.) And although we have heard that the League have undertaken to do many things for which they have deserved the censure of their opponents, still I have never heard it said of them that they had undertaken anything in which they have manifested a deficiency of energy in the business; and that energy I will undertake to say has never been shown to greater advantage than in the present registration. (Applause.) The moment we announced our intention a great cry was set up as to the unconstitutional proceedings of the League. (Laughter.) "Oh!" it is said, "look here!—here is the League going to pry into every one of those snug little properties that have escaped Schedule A. What business has the League to inquire into those little family jointures of men who, as Byron describes them, were only born 'to hunt, and vote, and raise the price of corn!'" (Applause and laughter.) They were greatly offended at this interference: some threatened to resign—some of them thought it was of no use to have a Parliament if these things were not to be put an end to, or to have an Attorney-General, or to have law, or anything else. (Laughter and applause.) Now, what is this interference of the League, after all? The League is a great—a national—body; it has its ramifications in every district of the country, and its registered members in every district. It may have its head-quarters in Manchester, or London, or elsewhere; but still it is the recognised organ of Free Trade in the country; and as such it has its agents in every part of the country. Well, what then? The members of the League are the agents of the League for their districts, and as such have a right to interest themselves and interfere in the representation of those districts; and we say that we interfere by correspondence and otherwise, in perfect good will and fairness, in those districts; and upon the letters and information we receive, we determine what steps we shall take in that locality where we are requested to interfere, and in no other case. (Hear.) What is the nature of this interference? We want to make the honest voter an independent and free voter. (Hear.) We interfere not to bribe or corrupt, but to enable the honest voter to drive away the corrupter and briber from his premises. We interfere to show him that the vote is his, and to be given for the best interests of himself and fellow-countrymen, and not to be used by any man for the advancement of his own purposes. Well, gentlemen, we are here then to-night to give some account of these last ten weeks' work in the registration in different parts of the country, not merely here but in the country generally, though more especially in these districts, which were the birthplace of the League. (Applause.) And first as to the borough of South Lancashire. Well, we all know the position of the boroughs in South Lancashire at the last general election. The boroughs returned at that election 12 Free-Traders and 10 Monopolists. There were seven boroughs which returned Free-Traders (or *a* Free-Trader), and five which returned monopolists (or *a* monopolist); there were two boroughs which returned one and one; and of the other boroughs there was one which returned a Free-Trader (who has become a Monopolist), and another which returned a Free-Trader, who was unseated on petition. But the members for each side of the question are 12 and 10, as I have already stated. Well, over and above these we have four county members, making fourteen monopolists to twelve Free-Traders for the county and boroughs together. I am sure there is no man in this room, knowing the state of feeling, but will say it is high time such a condition of things was put an end to. (Hear, hear.) Well, then, I hold in my hand a list showing the result of the attempts made to purge the register in the boroughs; and, in the first place, I would draw your attention to this fact, that, in four of the boroughs returning seven Free-Traders, the monopolists have never shown their faces in the registration courts—a pretty fair proof that the change of opinion, and the attention of the Free-Traders to the registration, have induced them to look with no expectation to the likelihood of altering the state of things in those boroughs. (Applause.) Now those boroughs are:—Manchester (returning two members), Salford (returning one member), Preston (returning two members), and Oldham (returning two members): in all these boroughs, in the recent revision, the alteration has been wholly on the side of the Free-Traders, the monopolists not having shown their faces. (Applause.) Then we have, in addition, three boroughs returning Free-Traders at the last election, in which the gain on the registration this time has been so considerable as to place the members of these boroughs out of danger: these are Ashton, Bolton, and Rochdale. (Hear.) You have, then, seven boroughs in this county, returning ten members to Parliament, in each of which there is not the slightest possibility of a monopolist being returned to Parliament provided a general election took place upon the present register. (Loud applause.) Then we have two boroughs which return one and one; and I blush to name as the first that of Bolton, which returned at the last election two Free-Traders: the only man who has thought proper to change his opinions on this question against us, the town of Bolton has the misfortune to return to Parliament. ("Hear," and a laugh.) Well, the gain there is 57. The register was fully as good last year as at the last election, and there is no doubt that at another election the burgesses of that borough will amply retrieve their mistake, and return two good Free-Traders. (Loud applause.) The next place is Wigan; and this is the only loss we have had;—we have gained in 13 cases out of 14;—we have had a loss there of two votes, and we give the monopolists the full benefit of it. (Laughter, and applause.) We have next Clitheroe, which was represented at the last election by a Free-Trader, but who was unseated by petition. The state of the borough on this revision is such as to render the return of a Free-Trader safe there—at least our information leads us to this belief, and we have the information upon good authority. Then we have the borough of Lancaster, which returns two monopolists; the gain on the revision there is greater than to cover the majority by which the highest of the monopolist candidates was returned at the last election. (Hear, hear.) The borough of Lancaster may be considered, with exertion, safe, should an election take place on this register. (Applause.) We next come to Blackburn, which returns two monopolists to Parliament; the highest of the monopolist candidates there at the last election had not a majority of more than half of what we have gained this year; so that the borough of Blackburn may be added this year to the gain. At Warrington the gain on the revision is 32 votes. Our friends there believe it is quite sufficient to change the representative for a Free-Trader at the next election. (Applause.) I have now shown that we shall have a gain, if an election takes place on this register, of one in the case of Bolton, two in the case of Lancaster, two in the case of Blackburn, and one in the case of Warrington. We come, lastly, to the borough of Liverpool. I wish I could report of the borough of Liverpool as of the others; but I am happy to say, though such is not the case, that there has been a gain on behalf of the Free-traders of 452 over their opponents—(loud applause)—and that that dose repeated will be sufficient to change the representation of that town. (Hear.) Well, now we come to the county. We all know the position of South Lancashire; on the one hand you have evidence of the greatest amount—I may say the gigantic amount—of energy, of industry, of capital and wealth, ever seen; and on the other you have a landed proprietary with a territory almost unknown in any other county. At the last election—the first contest on Free-Trade principles—we all know the trifling majority which graced the victory of the monopolist candidate. It has been [illegible]

work of registration has been going on ever since that time; the monopolists placarded the walls immediately the contest was over, inviting their friends to come and claim to be on the register; and the League gave them due notice to "put their house in order," and hold themselves ready against another election. (Applause.) And if they have not done so, it is for the best of all reasons—that they could not. (Hear, hear.) Well, the first reports from the monopolists of what we were doing was our index to what would be the result—for they began to cry out against the shameful number of objections made by the Free-Traders. (Laughter.) We admit that there was a great number; and why? We took the register,—and every one knows that it was in a most shameful state: the properties giving qualifications were described in the most vague manner;—we took the registration upon our own hands, and, with the greatest anxiety to place it in the best possible state, we induced 2600 of our friends to re-claim, in order that they might give, as they were bound to do, the best and fairest description they could of the property for which they claimed to vote. (Hear.) Then we objected to our opponents, finding they had not done so, on that ground; and I am sure no man here will feel sympathy for men wishing to remain on the register with a wrong description while they had it in their power to amend such description. (Hear.) We had not the means of striking off these votes if they attended before the barrister, but we considered ourselves justified in order that we might have the descriptions corrected and given in accordance with the law. Most of you are probably aware of the result of the last election for South Lancashire. There were 14,544 votes given for the two candidates together; being for Entwisle 7571, and for Brown 6973, leaving a majority for Entwisle of 598. On the objections against those 7571 voters who polled for Entwisle we struck off 878 at the revision. (Loud and repeated rounds of applause.) And of the 6973 who voted for Brown our opponents have struck off 422:—we striking off more than two to their one, thus having a majority, or gain, on the objections over them of 456, and within 142 of the whole majority by which Mr. Brown was defeated at the late contest. (Loud applause.) Then the register has gained at this revision by the new claims. There were 4982 new claims; of these the Free-Traders made 3141, and established 2821 (loud applause), being a failure of only 320 of the whole of the claims made. So much for the reports propagated week after week, that the Free-Traders were filling the register with spurious claims! The number of claims made by the monopolists was 1841, of which they established 1357, being a failure in 484 cases, and giving us a majority on the claims of 1464 votes. (Cheers.) Well, then there are 169 new claims, belonging to parties whose opinions we have not yet had time to ascertain; but we will give the monopolists the whole of them, and we shall still have a gain on this revision, taking claims and objections together, of 1751 votes. (Great and prolonged cheering.) Now, it is quite right that we should see in what district this great gain has been accomplished. In the first place, in the polling district of Ashton we have 40 of the 1751; in Bolton 142, in the district of Bury 75, in that of Wigan 11, in that of Ormskirk 17, in that of Oldham 102 (applause), in that of Newton 106 (bravo!), in that of Rochdale 233 (applause), at Liverpool 490 (applause), and in the district of Manchester 704. (Loud cheering.) This makes a total of 1920, from which deduct the 169 unascertained ones, and that leaves us a gain of 1761. Then take from these 1920 the 598 majority of Entwisle at the last election and the 169 unascertained, making altogether 767, and we have a working majority upon this register of 1153 votes. (Loud cheers.) An analysis of the new register, therefore, shows—of old electors (Free-Traders), 6551; new electors (Free-Traders), 2821: total Free-Traders on the registers, 9372. Of the old electors being monopolists, 6693; do. new electors, 1357; neutrals, 169; leaving a total of 8219, or a working majority, as already stated, of 1153. (Applause.) And now, gentlemen, we come to the Northern Division. We have not done much there, but we have done something; we have attained a gain there upon the revision, with comparatively little exertion, of 533. (Applause.) The result has been, then, to give us a gain of 533 votes for North Lancashire—to give us two seats for South Lancashire (cheers), and to leave the monopolists three seats in the boroughs, or five out of the whole 26 members for the entire county; I think then you will agree with me that there never was, in the history of registration, so complete a sweep of a county as this has been. ("Hear," and loud cheers.) I have also in my hand a list of returns for 70 out of the 140 boroughs over which the League has exercised some influence, and of these there are 68 in which there has been a clear gain upon the registration—in some a great gain, but less or more in all. (Applause.) Well, now we will leave these results to speak for themselves: they are here, before the country; our opponents may gather from them whether the League has been dead or slumbering, and they will accordingly derive what consolation they may from them. (Applause.) We have concentrated our energies on these points. We thought it was where, for the season, our efforts were most required; and although I may say we have done much, I believe the League is but yet in its infancy, that it is opening up new fields of labour, is occupying ground not before occupied, and that the exertions before made will afford no parallel to its future efforts. (Loud cheers.) I now beg leave to call upon Mr. Cobden to address the meeting. (Renewed cheering.)

Richard Cobden, Esq., M.P., now came forward. After much cheering the hon. gentleman said:—Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen, I congratulate you upon this magnificent meeting. I was thinking, as I sat here, that probably there never had been so many persons assembled under a roof in England, or in Europe, as we have at this great League meeting; and the occasion and the circumstances under which we meet afford the most encouraging symptoms—(Hear)—encouraging, inasmuch as they prove that it is from no transient motive that you have joined together in this great cause—(Hear)—that it is not from the pressure of distress, temporary distress, that you have banded yourselves together—that the cause of Free Trade is, in your minds, something more than a remedy for present evils—that you look at it, under all circumstances, as a great and absorbing truth—and that your minds have for it with an intellectual and moral craving, which has made it almost a part of the religion of your souls. ("Hear, hear," and applause). I venture to say that this meeting, held under these circumstances, with no pressure or excitement to call you together, will have more weight, more effect, upon public opinion than a score of those assemblies we used to hold, when we were driven together, as it were, under the pressure of local and temporary distress. (Hear, hear). And quiet as has been those statistical tables that you have heard by our chairman, I venture to say that they will strike more terror into the ranks of the monopolists than the loudest demonstrations or the most brilliant declamation with which we have ever tried to interest you. (Cheers). Upon the subject of this registration there is one thought that occurred to me as our chairman was giving you an account of the proceedings in the county revision. It is this, that the counties are more vulnerable than the small pocket boroughs, if we can rouse the Free Traders of the country into a systematic effort such as we have exercised in the case of South Lancashire. (Hear, hear.) In many of the small boroughs there is no increase in the numbers; there is no extension of houses; the whole property belongs to a neighbouring noble, and you can no more touch the votes which he holds through the property than you can touch the balance in his banker's hands. ("Hear, hear," and a laugh.) Now, the county constituency may be increased indefinitely. It requires a qualification of forty shillings a year in a freehold property to give a man a vote for a county. I think our landlords made a great mistake when they retained the forty-shilling freehold qualification; and, mark my words, it is a rod in pickle for them. (A laugh and cheers.) I should not be surprised if it does for us what it did for Catholic emancipation, and what it did for the Reform Bill—give us the means of carrying Free Trade; and if it should the landlords will very likely try to serve us as they did the forty-shilling freeholders in Ireland, when we have done the work. ("Hear, hear," and "Oh, oh.") The forty-shilling franchise for the county was established five or six centuries ago. At that time a man, in the constitutional phraseology of the time, was deemed to be a "yeoman," and entitled to political rights, provided he had forty shillings a year clear to spend. That was at that time a subsistence for a man; probably it was equal to the rental of one hundred acres of land. What is it now? With the vast diffusion of wealth among the middle classes, which then did not exist, and among a large portion, I am happy to say, in this district, of the superior class of operatives, too, that forty-shilling franchise is become merely nominal, and is within the reach of every man who has the spirit to acquire it. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) I say, then, every county where there is a large town population, as in Lancashire, the West Riding of Yorkshire, South Staffordshire, North Cheshire, Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, and many other counties I could name—in fact, every other county bordering upon the sea coast, or having manufactures in it—may be won, and easily won, if the people can be roused to a systematic effort to qualify themselves for the vote in the way in which the South Lancashire people have reached to the qualification. We find counties can be won by that means and no other. (Cheers.) It is the custom sometimes for many to put their savings into the savings' banks. I believe there are fourteen or fifteen millions or more so deposited. I would not say a word to lessen the confidence in that security, but I say there is no investment so secure as the freehold of the earth, and it is the only investment that gives a vote along with the property. (Hear, hear.) We come then to this—it costs a man nothing to have a vote for the county. ("Hear," and applause.) He buys his property; sixty pounds for a cottage is given—thirty or forty pounds in many of the neighbouring towns will do it; he has then the interest of his money, he has the property to sell when he wants it, and he has his vote in the bargain. (Loud cheers and cries of "Hear.") Sometimes a parent, wishing to teach a son to be economical and saving, gives him a set of nest eggs in a savings' bank; I say to such a parent, "Make your son, at twenty-one, a freeholder; it is an act of duty, for you make him thereby an independent freeman, and put it in his power to defend himself and his children from political oppression—(loud cheers)—and you make that man with £60 an equal in the polling-booth to Mr. Scarisbrick, with his eleven miles in extent of territory, or to Mr. Egerton. (Renewed cheers.) This must be done. In order to be on the next year's register, it requires only that you should be in possession of a freehold before the 31st of next January." We shall probably be told that "this is very indiscreet—what is the use of coming out in public and announcing such a plan as this, when your enemies can take advantage of it as well as you?" My first answer to that is, that our opponents, the monopolists, cannot take advantage of it as well as we. (Hear, hear.) In the first place, very few men are, from connexion or prejudice, monopolists, unless their capacity for inquiry or their sympathies have been blunted by already possessing an undue share of wealth. (Hear, hear.) In the next place, if they wish to urge upon others of a rank below them to qualify for a vote, they cannot trust them with the use of the vote when they have got it. ("Hear," and cheers.) But, apart from that, I would answer those people who cavil at this public appeal, and say, "You will not put salt upon your enemy's tail—it is much too wise a bird. They have been at this work long ago," and they have the worst of it now. (Hear, hear, hear.) What has been the conduct of the landlords of the country? Why, they have been long engaged in multiplying voters upon their estates, making the farmers take their sons, brothers, nephews, to the register; making them qualify as many as the rent of the land will cover; they have been making their land a kind of political capital ever since the passing of the Reform Bill. (Cheers and a laugh.) You have then a new ground opened to you which has never yet been entered upon, and from which I expect—in the course of not more than three years from this time—that every county (if we persevere as we have in South Lancashire) possessing a large town population may carry Free-Traders as their representatives to Parliament. (Cheers.) Now, gentlemen, with just these preliminary remarks, I was going to notice a common objection made to us during the last two or three months—that the League has been very quiet of late—that we have been doing nothing. (Hear, hear.) Many people have said to me, "When are you going out into the agricultural districts again? I think they will be quite ripe for you now, for most of your predictions have fallen true, and the farmers will come and listen." (Hear.) My answer has been, "We are better employed at present at home, and the landlords are doing our work very well for us at their agricultural meetings." (Loud laughter and cheers.) What have been the features of the agricultural meetings we had heard of in the last two months? Here is one very striking circumstance, that, from the Duke of Buckingham downwards, every president of an agricultural association has always begun the proceedings of the day by saying, "We must not introduce political topics in the discussions of this association." (Hear.) That means, "It is not convenient to us, the political landlords, to talk about the Corn Laws just now to the farmers"—(cheers)—and so they talk of everything else but the Corn Laws, and a very pretty business they make of their discussions. (A laugh.) We hear, in every case in which I have read their reports, of the deplorable state of the agricultural labourers. Now, I beg to premise, from my own personal observation, and much inquiry, that the agricultural labourers, as a class, are better off now than they were when corn was 70s. the quarter in 1839 and 1840. (Hear, hear.) I watched the poor-law returns during those years, when we had such deep distress in this district, and I found that able-bodied pauperism was increasing faster in the corn-growing counties of Sussex and Kent than they were in these manufacturing districts. (Hear, hear.) When we called together the conference of ministers from all parts of the country, the accounts they brought from the rural villages were as heart-rending as any thing we had ever known in these manufacturing districts. (Hear.) You did not hear the clamours from the agricultural districts then, because they were drowned in the concentrated cry from these populous regions; but they were suffering as much as you were suffering. (Hear). And now, when in this district employment and comparative prosperity have returned upon us, we hear of the state of the agricultural labourers, which has been always bad, always at the lowest level of wretchedness, only because you have ceased to occupy the public mind with your complaints and your distresses. (Hear, hear.) But, if what they tell us is true, that the agricultural labourers are so distressed, what becomes of their plea in the House of Commons, that the Corn Law was passed and is kept up for the benefit of the agricultural labourers? (Loud cries of "Hear.") After what I have heard from these gentlemen, the squirearchy in the House of Commons, I should have expected that they ought to have been the last, upon the institution of agricultural associations, to complain of distress and of the dangers impending over them in the future—to have said, "I have a nostrum in my pocket that will quite prevent distress among agricultural labourers: have we not got the Corn Law; did we not pass it upon the pretence of remedying the distress of the agricultural labourers? Here it is—we have our sliding scale, and depend upon it our agricultural labourers have nothing to fear." (Hear, hear, hear.) But, instead of that, in no instance do they ever allude to the Corn Law as either a cause of employment or as a means of remedying the evil. (Hear, hear.) They never allude to any act of Parliament of the kind at all; and they seek, wide and far, for some other remedy for these distresses. (Hear.) What are their remedies? One of the latest declared is the allotment of land. To hear the outcry that we have from the landlords of the country, glorifying themselves with the idea of giving a patch of land to the labourer, you would have thought they had resolved all at once to make a present of a little slice of their estates to the labourers around them (hear); but what does it amount to? It is proposed that each cottage should have a garden attached to it! The general advice is, I see, that it should be not more than half an acre, and some are recommending but a quarter of an acre in extent! It amounts to this, that the landlords, benevolent souls, are going to allow the peasantry that live upon their land to have a garden to their cottages! (Hear.) Why, there was a law passed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth ordering that no cottage should be built in this country without a garden being attached to it. (Hear.) I do not believe that that law has ever been repealed to this day; and the landlords, after violating the law, are now taking credit to themselves, and glorifying each other, that they are going to allow their labourers to have a garden to their cottages! (Hear.) Now, what is the mode in which these gentlemen go to work to benefit the agricultural labourers? They call them together for a ploughing match, then they bring them into the room and give them a glass of wine, and they give a reward of thirty shillings to one man who has ploughed best! Then they inquire who has served twenty-five years in the same place, and, perhaps, they condescend to give him 30s. as a reward for good conduct. (Hear.) Then the farmers—the farmers who sit at the table—have their names read over, and prizes are awarded: to one for successfully cultivating turnips, to another for having produced a good fat ox, and to another for having accumulated the greatest quantity of fat upon a pig. (Laughter.) And this is the way in which agriculture is to be improved! (Hear.) What should you think if a similar plan was adopted to protect you in your business? (Hear.) Let us suppose that a number of monopolists came down once a year—once a year mind you, for the lesson is only given once a year, and then only about two hours and a half long—that they held a meeting, in which they would have a spinning match or a weaving match. (Laughter.) And after they had been into some prize mill to see this spinning and weaving match, they sat down to dinner; and Job Hargreaves or Frank Smith is brought in, stroking his head down all the while as he comes before the squirearchy (laughter), and making his very best bow, to receive from the chairman thirty shillings as a reward for having been the best spinner and the best weaver! ("Hear," and laughter.) And, this being disposed of, imagine such a manufacturer getting a prize of £5 for the best piece of fustian! (Cheers.) And another "ditto, ditto," for the best yard-wide calico! (Great laughter.) Then imagine a shopkeeper rising from his seat to the table while the chairman puts on a grave face, and addressing him in complimentary terms, presents him with £5 for having kept during the past year his shop-floor and his counters in the cleanest state! (Shouts of laughter.) Then they call up a manufacturer, and he has an award of £5, because the inspectors had found his mill to be in the best working condition. (A laugh.) Then the merchant rises up and gets his reward of £5 for having been found by the inspectors to have kept his books in the best order by double entry. (Renewed laughter.) You laugh at all this; and well you may. You cannot help it. Where is the difference between the absurdity, the mockery of bringing up men in round frocks to a dinner table and giving them 30s., because

they had ploughed well, or hoed well, or harrowed well—bringing up farmers to give them prizes for having the cleanest field of Swedish turnips, or for having managed their farm in the best way? Where is the difference, I ask, between offering these rewards and the giving out here of such rewards as I have just now alluded to? (Hear, hear.) Let us suppose, if you can keep your countenances, that such a state of things existed here, and what must be the concomitant order of things? (Hear.) It would argue, in the first place, that the proposers who were so treated were an abject and a servile class. (Hear, hear.) It would argue that the trader who could condescend to be treated so would himself be little better than a slave. (Cheers.) And if you needed such stimulants as these to make you carry on your business as you ought to do, how do you think you would be found in the race of industry as compared with other classes, were they even not quite so childish as to be fondled and dandled by a body of members of Parliament? (Hear.) Why, there would not be a country on the face of the world that you could compete with—that is evident. You would, like them, be going to these same parliamentary men who were your dry nurses, in order that they might pass an act of Parliament to protect you in your trade. (Hear, hear, hear.) The landlords do not give themselves praises, but they hold up their conduct as something deserving of the reward of public admiration because they can come forward and tell us that they make the most of their land, forsooth! (Hear, hear.) I was reading just now in this morning's paper a report of Lord Stanley's speech at the Agricultural Society's meeting on Tuesday, which, by the magic power of steam, has been carried to London and brought back to us here in Manchester in two days (hear, hear), and Lord Stanley tells us what must be done with land; he says:—"And I repeat what I have already said on a former occasion in this room, that there is no investment in the world in which a landlord can so safely, so usefully, or so profitably, invest his capital as in the improvement of his own farm, by money sunk in draining on security of the land which belongs to himself." ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) Well, what does this amount to? That it is the interest of the landlord to make the most of his land! ("Hear," and a laugh.) And he goes on to say, and he takes some little credit to himself and to his father for what had been done with his land here in Lancashire. He says:—"In this last year we have laid down in deep draining somewhere about 300 miles of drains, at an expense of between £5,000 and £6,000, and I think employed about a million and a half of draining-tiles." (Hear.) I believe my friend Mr. Bright here—(cheers)—who has been building a mill, has during the same time been laying down about a million and a half of bricks in erecting it—(laughter and cheers)—but you would be astonished, would you not, and I am sure the squirearchy would be rather puzzled, if Mr. Bright were to get up here and talk of that as something for which he might glorify himself, having first of all deemed it the most profitable investment any man could make. (Loud cheers and laughter.) By the way, I wish my friend here would calculate how much duty his million and a half of bricks pay to the Government, from which duty my Lord Stanley and his fellow-landlords have managed to exempt draining-tiles. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) Now, gentlemen, I do not want to say anything rude or uncivil, and I will not apply my remarks personally to Lord Stanley, but I will say this, that the whole course of the conduct of these gentlemen in their exhibitions—the landlords—when they parade to the world what they condescend to do with their land, is just a gratuitous piece of impertinence to the rest of the community. (Loud cheers.) What do we care what they do with their land? (Hear.) Whether they put down draining-tiles or not, all we say is this, "If you do not make the most of your land it is no reason why we should be starving that you may grow rushes." (Cheers.) It is a gross humbug, to use no milder term—(much cheering)—on the part of those who come forward at the agricultural meetings, to glorify themselves about the mode in which they choose to dispose of their private property. (Great applause.) There is a gross delusion lurking under it. (Hear.) It is intended to make us believe that we are indebted to them, and must wait until they choose to supply us with our food; that it is something like a condescension, or at least an act of favour, on their part, that they give us their food in exchange for our manufactures. (Hear.) Now, what is the reason that the land has not been improved before? Lord Stanley tells us here when these great improvements began, and mark what he says:—"Even within the last few years—within a much shorter time than that which I have named, within the last four or five years—I see strides which, small as they may be compared with what might be done, are gigantic when compared with what was done before." What was "done before"? What has there been done "within the last four or five years"? Lord Stanley gives the credit to the agricultural associations. Why, what have they been doing? Up to within the last year, when did they condescend to talk about the Corn Law? From one end of the kingdom to the other they were nothing but political clubs, for the purpose of drawing the poor tenant-farmers together, in order that they might be drilled by the land agent to be made subservient at a future voting day; and the whole talk of these agricultural associations was, not about improving the land, but maintaining protection to British agriculture. (Cheers.) And now what can these agricultural associations do for agriculture? They meet once a year; they generally have a man in the chair who begins, as Lord Stanley does, by admitting his practical ignorance of the question upon which he is going to dilate; and the chairman is generally the man who occupies three-fourths of the time of the meeting by his speeches. (Hear.) I have watched the proceedings of these associations, and I have observed they have had all sorts of people except farmers in the chair (hear); upon one occasion, in a part of Middlesex, I observed that the late Attorney-General, the present Chief Baron Pollock, was in the chair as president; and I must do him the justice to say (for he is a most candid and excellent man) that he began his opening address by declaring he did not know anything concerning what they had met about. (Loud laughter.) What have these associations done for agriculture? They assemble men together once a year; they bring prize cattle to be exhibited; they bring agricultural implements to be examined. Are improvements only to be sought for once in a year in agriculture? (Cheers.) Would that do for manufactures? (Hear, hear.) Only think of a commercial meeting once a year to see what our neighbours are doing, where there was any new machinery invented, or which of the hands had discovered some new process in calico printing! Could not farmers see what superior farming was to be seen by riding out any day in the week to look over their neighbours' hedges? Could they not learn where the best breeds of cattle were to be had from the advertisements of those who had them to sell? and could they not get the best agricultural implements by writing for them any day by the penny post, whether they were to be found in Manchester, London, or Ipswich? (Hear.) The thing is a farce; and, when my Lord Stanley takes credit to these agricultural associations for having improved agriculture during the last five years, I say it is not due to those agricultural associations, but to the Anti-Corn-Law League. (Great applause.) It is owing to that that the agriculturists and the landowners have been roused from their lethargic sleep. (Cheers). They are buckling on their armour to meet the coming competition, which competition will do for them what nothing else will do, and what it has done for manufactures—it will make the agriculturists of this country capable of competing with the farmers of any part of the world. (Immense applause.) They give up the whole case when they talk in this way. (Hear.) When they tell us what the land might do—and what it ought to do they admit it has not done—they plead guilty to all we have ever alleged against them and their system of Corn Law. (Hear.) I ask them this, can they bring a member of Parliament, a theorist, into Manchester with his books in hand, and can he suggest a single improvement in any of our processes of manufacture, whether they are connected with mechanical or chemical science? No. (Cheers.) I went the other day into several establishments with one of the most eminent French chemists—a man renowned in Europe. He had nothing to say in visiting the dye-works or the print-works of this neighbourhood, but to express his unqualified admiration of the perfection to which they had brought the arts among us. (Cheers.) Can they come here and say, as they say of themselves, in connexion with their industry, "You ought to produce three times as much as you do produce from your machinery, for it is already done in other places which we can name to you"? (Hear.) No! But what do they say of their own land? I have heard Mr. Ogilvy, who was engaged by Mr. Brooke, of Mere, and other landlords of this and the neighbouring county, as superintendent of their estates, declare—and he is willing to go before a committee of the House of Commons to prove it—that Cheshire, if properly cultivated, is capable of producing three times as much as it now produces from its surface; and he is willing the statement should be made public upon his authority, and there is not higher authority in the kingdom. (Cheers.) I say whatever improvement has been made in this respect it is to the Anti-Corn-Law League we are indebted for it, and more—the most bigoted of our opponents have made the admission. Whilst they abhor the League and detest its principles, they have made the admission—"At all events," they say, "you have done good, and are doing good, to agriculture." I passed last year about this time over to Knutsford, where I held a public meeting close to the gates of Mr. Egerton, of Tatton. As I went from the railway station across to Knutsford, I rode, at least for five or six miles, through the estate of that large proprietor, and I saw the land was in the same state as I believe it was at the time of the conquest, growing just about as plentiful a supply of rushes as of grass. (Hear.) It so happened that, upon the day I was addressing the meeting upon the racecourse at Knutsford, Mr. Egerton, of Tatton, was paying a visit to Manchester to preside at the Manchester Agricultural Association, and I took the opportunity of saying, in the course of my remarks, that I thought a gentleman who had such an extent of territory as he had might be better employed in exterminating his rushes, and setting a better example to his neighbours at home, than in travelling to Manchester to preach up improvements in agriculture. (Hear.) The other day I met a gentleman who happened lately to be at Knutsford, and he told me that while sitting at the inn there came in a number of the neighbouring farmers, whose conversation turned upon agriculture. In the course of their conversation one of them remarked, "What a deal of draining has been going on here since Cobden was here blackguarding him about the rushes?" (Loud cheers.) We have indeed given them a fillip; we have stirred them up a little; but, gentlemen, if the mere alarm of the approach of Free Trade has done so much for agriculture, what will free trade in corn itself do for it? (Cheers.) "Why," they say, "we should be an exporting country if we only grew as much as we may grow." I have no objection to it; if beside feeding the whole of the people as they ought to be fed—no short commons—(cheers)—if, besides feeding them well, they should send four or five millions of quarters of corn abroad, and bring us back tea and sugar, and such like matters in addition, we shall have no reason to complain of the British agriculturist. (Cheers.) But we do complain that whilst they stop our supplies from other countries, under pretence of benefiting agriculture, they at the same time come before us at these meetings of their own, and plead guilty to our charge, that under this system of protection they are not making the most of their land. (Hear.) I speak my unfeigned conviction—and we have the very best agriculturists with us in that conviction; men like Lord Ducie and others, who are agriculturists by profession — when I say I believe there is no interest in this country that would receive so much benefit from the repeal of the Corn Laws as the farmer-tenant interest in this country. (Cheers.) And, I believe, when the future historian comes to write the history of agriculture he will have to state:—"In such a year there was a stringent Corn Law passed for the protection of agriculture. From that time agriculture slumbered in England, and it was not until by the aid of the Anti-Corn Law League the Corn Law was utterly abolished, that agriculture sprang up to the full vigour of existence in England to become what it now is, like her manufactures, unrivalled in the world." (Loud cheers). It is a gloomy and most discouraging thought that, whilst this system of Corn Laws alternately starves the people in the manufacturing districts and then ruins the farmers, it really in the end confers no permanent benefit upon any class. (Hear.) I told you in the beginning I did not believe the agricultural labourer was now so badly off as he was when corn was 70s. a quarter; but I will tell you where distress in the agricultural districts is now. It is among the tenant-farmers themselves. (Hear.) They are paying rents with wheat at 45s. a quarter, which they have bargained for at a calculation of wheat being 56s., and, in many cases, 60s. a quarter. It is owing to this discrepancy in the prices that the tenant-farmers are now paying rent out of capital; they are discharging their labourers, unable to employ them—and theirs is the real distress now existing in the agricultural districts. This state of things will not continue either here or in the agricultural districts. What is the language that drops from the landlords at some of their meetings? It is, "We shall not very likely have higher prices for corn this year; we must wait for better times; we will give you back ten per cent. this year." No permanent reduction; and why? Because they know that, by the certain operation of this system, in less than five years from this time this wheel of fortune, or rather misfortune, will go round again; you will be at the bottom and the farmers at the top, and you will have wheat again at seventy shillings or eighty shillings a quarter, causing thus a pretended prosperity among the farmers. As sure as you have had this revolution before, so sure will you have it again. There is nothing in Sir Robert Peel's Corn Law to prevent the recurrence of similar disasters. The law is as complete a bar to legitimate trade in corn as the old law was. I speak in the presence of merchants shipping to every quarter of the globe, men who bring back the produce of every quarter of the globe, and I put it to them whether, with this sliding scale, they dare to order from a foreign country a single cargo of wheat in exchange for the manufactures which they sell? This being the case—and it is the whole case—you are not stimulating other countries to provide for your future wants, you are laying up no store here or stores abroad, and there will again be a recurrence of the disasters we have passed through. After some further observations the hon. gentleman resumed his seat amidst enthusiastic cheering.

Mr. Bright, M.P., then stepped forward amidst most enthusiastic cheering. When it had subsided he spoke as follows:—When I entered this room to-night, and cast my eyes over this vast meeting, I was led to make precisely the observation which you have already heard—that this meeting may be taken as a token of the firm resolution which the inhabitants of this town and district have come to, that, so long as there is an association which has for its object the abolition of the Corn Law, so long will they be found amongst its warmest supporters. (Applause.) And although, just now, in this district there is not that imminent danger which we have seen; and although we are disposed to argue that, because we have good harvests, therefore Corn-Law repeal is not necessary, and that therefore no agitation can be maintained, yet I am prepared here to contend that we are now in a better and more advantageous position with respect to the carrying out of our object than we have been at any former period; and more than that, we may derive consolation and delight from witnessing how beautifully, how harmoniously, the seasons are working round to carry conviction to the minds of the most bigoted, and to demonstrate to the whole country and the world, that every principle which we have propounded on this question is well founded, and that experience constantly confirms it. (Applause.) We read of an invader and a usurper of old, that the stars in their courses fought against him; and may we not say also, with respect to those who invade the rights, the dearest rights of the population of this country, who usurp a power to which they have no just title, the power of feeding, or, if need be, of starving a great empire (loud applause),—may we not say that the seasons have fought against them, and that year after year, as it rolls over us, is but weakening their power, and strengthening that public opinion which we are rallying as fast as we are able for the overthrow of the worst species of tyranny with which any country was ever cursed? (Loud applause.) We are entering the seventh year of our labours in this great cause; and there may be some who at the thought of this despond. If there be any who have a right to despond, or who may be forgiven if they feel fainthearted, it is surely those who have laboured hard in this cause; but, so far as the Council of the League are concerned, I can state to this meeting and to the public, that there never was a time when they were more convinced that they were right in the beginning and are right now, and that in their cause, as in all others, right must speedily triumph. (Applause.) If you feel despondent upon this question, think for a moment what it is you are fighting for. It is for no paltry triumph of a faction: it is not to elevate this man or that man; or to set waving this flag, or to pull that flag down. No; but you are fighting for one of the greatest and the noblest causes which ever united the exertions of any body of men; you are fighting for the liberation of the industry of twenty-seven millions of your fellow-countrymen, and not for the liberation of their industry only, but, as everything that is established here becomes a fashion for the world, you are also working out the liberation of the industry of the whole human race from all the tyranny which monopoly in every clime and in every age has inflicted upon it. (Loud applause.) Six years ago this country, and this district especially, had been passing through a season of great commercial prosperity and of extraordinary commercial excitement. At that period we found the prosperity decaying, and the excitement being changed into an extraordinary a depression. We were led, as most men are led who feel themselves getting into danger, or in a dangerous position—we were led to inquire why it was that this change was taking place. We knew that Adam Smith had written, and that other men had propounded, the great doctrines of Free Trade; and we knew that there were laws upon our statute-book which in every sense infringed those great principles. We had not, however, had our attention so directed to this question as to make much ado about it, until danger was at our own doors. We then began to inquire; and we came rapidly, but still most surely and safely, and I believe wisely, to the conclusion that the cause and the source of the miseries which then threatened this district were to be found in an act of Parliament, which did not hesitate to starve the people, and to cripple commerce, merely for the aggrandisement of a class to whom your class would seem to be of no value, and who despised commerce in their very hearts. (Applause.) Well, we pointed out

the cause. It is of no use living in a free country unless a free man has the right to advise the people when he finds anything wrong in the public affairs of the nation. (Much cheering.) We advised our countrymen that the source of their evils was in the Corn Law. We pointed out how, during the good harvests of 1834, 1835, and 1836, prosperity had increased, how, the moment that we were deprived of good harvests, the very first season this prosperity received a very sensible check, and we began to go from that to the other extreme of depression and embarrassment. But monopoly refused to believe. So it has always done, and so it will always do. (Hear, hear.) There is nothing harder,—no, the nether millstone is not to be compared in hardness to the heart of monopoly. (Applause.) Monopoly never believes till it is grasped in earnest, and compelled to disgorge. (Applause.) Monopoly did not believe us, but made a variety of excuses, some of which had some little effect at that time, but now appear to be simply childish; and those persons who advocated in their favour must be very sorry that what they said was ever written and printed. (Applause.) They said that manufactures were subject to great fluctuations. Well, that is quite true, in this country, so far as our experience of the last thirty years goes, and so far as our experience of the period before that goes. But then the time before the last thirty years was almost a continual course of war, which ever interferes with the regular course of industry; and since the war the Corn Law has also interfered with the regular course of industry; and we have no proof whatever that any such fluctuations as we have suffered arose from the nature of things, but rather from the violent interference with the nature of things which has been inflicted upon us by war in one case, and by legislative interference in the other. (Applause.) Well, they had the audacity to say also that we were badly off because we competed with each other. Why, if we had not competed with each other, we should have had no prosperity at all. (Applause.) They said there are too many people come to Manchester Exchange, and they bid against each other. We said, "There do not come too many to sell, but there come too few to buy." (Applause.) Why, there is more competition now on Manchester Exchange than there was then, as far as the number of sellers is concerned, and the entire of the quantity sold is concerned; but there are more buyers than there were then, and those who buy are buying in larger quantities, while they give a little more for the goods. (Applause.) They said, too, that machinery was the cause of your calamity; and Sir Robert Peel—call him in this respect a great little man—did stoop to a meanness utterly unworthy of a man occupying the position which he occupies, that of attempting to spread this delusion amongst the people; and amongst the working classes such a notion must be very dangerous—that machinery and improvements in machinery were the cause of so many of the labouring population of this district being thrown out of employment. (Hear, hear.) But is it not notorious that there is more machinery at work now than ever in this district? Is it not notorious that it is more perfect, costly, and exquisitely finished than ever it was before? Is it not notorious that it is turning out a greater quantity of work for the same amount of wages and of manual labour than before? And yet, for all this, there are no persons turned out of employment now by the invention of new machinery, and without anything being done to remove these particular causes to which they have attributed our distress. (Applause.) Some of them had the effrontery to say that this state of things arose from a greatly-extended foreign trade; and the columns of some of the monopolist newspapers were filled with arguments—no, not with arguments, but with assertions, to prove that, if we only stick to our home trade and our colonial trade, we should be extremely well off. And is it not notorious that these very people, the moment that the China war ceased, and the China trade was thrown open to us, began to rejoice in the extension of our foreign trade, and have all along attributed a considerable portion of our prosperity to the opening of that foreign trade. We have more foreign trade now than we had three or four years ago. This year there has been a great extension of export in almost every staple article of British manufacture; and yet, notwithstanding the increase of this evil to which the monopolists pointed us, we find we have a return of prosperity. (Applause.) Then, they said again that one great cause of the evil was, that there was so much agitation in the country. I have no doubt at all that their uneasiness arose from that source. (Applause.) But it must be borne in mind that, during the last two years, during the latter period of 1843, at any rate, and the beginning of this year, the agitation in favour of the repeal of the Corn Law was carried on with more energy than it had been at any former period; and yet during the time that the agitation was increasing in intensity, the cause of the evils in their eyes being increased, the evil itself was gradually diminishing, and we were returning to prosperity at a rate none of the slowest. (Applause.) Well, now, it is worth remarking, that not a single cause to which monopoly ascribed our distress has been removed, and yet the distress itself, in this district, has, to a very great extent, vanished. (Applause.) Well, I should suppose then the monopolists were mistaken; but I dare say they won't acknowledge it; and, if people won't swallow the things that were said two or three years ago, they'll have a new stock for you; and if you are not intelligent and inquiring some may be taken in with their new excuses. But what did we say with respect to the distress? The very first time that the Manchester Chamber of Commerce met, or the very first time that the association met which afterwards became the Anti-Corn-Law League, the Corn Law was pointed out as the cause of the distress, and we have never varied a hairbreadth on the point from that time to this. (Applause.) Well, the distress has abated, and the Corn Law is not repealed; and, therefore, my argument with respect to the monopolist excuses might be turned against me: but we have always said that if we had good harvests, by which food could be abundant and cheap; or if we had a repeal of the Corn Law, by which food could be abundant and cheap, then the distress would abate. We have not had a repeal of the Corn Law, but we have had abundant harvests, and that is tantamount to a temporary abolition or a great relaxation of the Corn Law; and under this the distress has abated, and prosperity has returned. (Applause.) Well, now, I consider our case to be tolerably well proved. I think, if we take twelve men from any county in England, not excepting even Buckinghamshire, and put them into a jury-box, and have an impartial man from any country in the world to try the cause, and we bring the facts and arguments which we have brought before the public of this country before those twelve men,—I think they would have no difficulty in making up their minds as to the real cause of the sufferings which this district, and the population of the country generally, have endured during the last five or six years. (Hear, hear, hear.) Then, if our case has been proved from the past, what shall we say of the future? You have been told already that it would be a proof that you had not capacity equal to the level of ordinary instinct if you were to forget what is past, to disregard the lesson it has taught you, and to neglect to prepare for the future. The Providence which has given us two or three good harvests, may give us one, or two, or three more; but we must bear in mind that the course of the seasons cannot be changed, will not be changed, to suit the caprice, the folly, or the criminality of human legislation. (Applause.) As we have had before, so we shall have again a change of seasons: and when that change shall come, and if the people of this country have not, in the meantime, bestirred themselves and shaken off this iniquitous impost, I ask you whom will you blame but yourselves, and where can you run for refuge? for your own folly will have led you into danger, and by your own neglect alone will you have allowed these evils again to come upon you. You will again have to suffer those evils which arise from the price of bread rising all over the country; the consumption by the great mass of the people of all kinds of manufactured goods will be greatly crippled; you will have again a great exportation of gold, and a great derangement of the monetary affairs of the country; you will again have numbers of merchants and manufacturers going rapidly, week after week, into the *Gazette;* you will again have your shopkeepers impoverished; and, worst of all, you will again have the labourers of this district, our honest and industrious artisans, plunged into all that distress which we have lately witnessed, and arising from that distress, discontent and disaffection, and a brutalizing and barbarizing of the minds of the people, such as they have suffered from for the last half a dozen years, and which they are now only partially getting rid of. (Applause.) It is impossible to draw a picture too gloomy of that which we have already seen in this district, and it is much less possible to draw a picture of that which must come if we neglect the power that we have in our hands to wipe away these infamous laws. I am sure we have the power; the statements made by our chairman to-night prove that we have the power. (Applause.) The Reform Bill never has been worked by either the Liberal or Free-Trade party in this country. (Applause.) It may be a bad bill; it has flaws enough, we all know; it has pitfalls many for us, and it has privileges far too many for our opponents. (Applause.) But for all that, if we will only work it, I am persuaded there is within it enough of the popular principle to enable us to amend it, if need be (applause), and to do many other things which we may think necessary for our welfare. (Applause.) Well, then, if there be a possibility of bad harvests and bad times coming upon us again, I need no other argument to convince you that it is necessary that the agitation of the Anti-Corn-Law League should be continued. (Applause.) I am not one who is in the habit of apologising for our agitation, nor do I go "with bated breath and whispering humbleness" to ask my Lord This or Squire That whether it be proper or legal, or constitutional, or pleasant that the Anti-Corn-Law League should endeavour to repeal the Corn Law. (Applause.) I am sure, from, what we have seen in former years, and what we know now, we have reasons sufficient to convince us that, if ever the agitation of this question were a duty, it is a duty now, and that if we were to discard it now we should deserve all the calamities which the very worst legislation of squiredom could possibly inflict upon us. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) Now, I charge the monopolist landowners with being the cause, the direct cause, of the calamities which have afflicted this country for some years past; and I charge them also with being the direct cause of the deplorable state of things in which their own agricultural counties are now found. (Hear, hear.) They will find it out by-and-by; they will come and ask to have the Corn Law repealed, some day or other, if we do not force them to do it beforehand. (Applause.) It is a law which ultimately must bring ruin, and distress, and embarrassment, and discord around their own baronial halls, as much as it can do in this densely-populated county. These landowners are too ignorant to legislate for trade, (Applause.) Mr. Cobden, I think, charged them with being so ignorant that they were not fit to manage a chandler's shop. (Applause, and laughter.) One of them did rise in his place in Parliament to protest against such a charge, and to assert a higher character for the House with which he was associated; he said they were fit to manage a chandler's shop. (Great laughter.) Their ignorance is so great, in all matters of commercial policy, not only upon facts, but upon principles, that their selfishness runs them into danger. But there would be no great harm to this country from squiredom, if there were no men in this district foolish enough to help them. (Hear, hear.) If there be a creature of an order which has never yet been classified, it is a manufacturer in the cotton trade supporting a squire in carrying out a law to starve the manufacturer's labourers, and destroy his trade. (Applause.) And yet there are some—there are a good many—though in the south of England people cannot well believe it. (Hear, hear.) The monopolist landowners themselves when they passed the Corn Law never for an instant dreamt that they should receive great support from this district. They have their Buckingham; and manufacturers have their Birley. (Loud applause.) Now, I would be the very last man in this room to say a syllable against any man who was acting at an election in his political character different from me, if acting according to his honest conviction, and after moderate inquiry into the question before him. But when I see a man who, of all men in the world, one would think has a direct interest in the well-being of commerce and manufacture, presiding, as I believe this man did preside, over the election committee for the return of a person pledged to oppose every step in the direction of Free Trade, I do say that that man is a traitor to the order to which he belongs (hear, hear), and abandons his duty especially to the great mass of the labourers of this district, to a large number of whom he gives employment. (Applause.) It may be that this gentleman was perfectly convinced that a fall in the price of bread would involve a fall in the rate of wages, for I have understood that, during this week, there has been a procession of persons in his employ disgusted with the present rate of wages and seeking for an advance, grounding their claim upon the increase of business, and the improvement in business; thus proving that the statements of the monopolists in this respect were wholly false. (Applause.) I know not whether this brings conviction to the mind of Mr. Birley, or to any other of his class; I would hope that they acted honestly in the course that they took; but I do say that it becomes the duty of the Free-Traders of this country, who are five out of every six of its population—(loud applause)—I say it does become us to mark with reprobation the conduct of any man himself deriving his property and his station from the commerce and the manufactures of his country, when an invader comes to besiege the town, that he himself, traitor like, by night, as it were, opens the gates, and lets in the enemy. (Cheers.) The last time I was in this hall I listened with extreme pleasure to a speech delivered by Mr. Smythe, the member for Canterbury, himself the son of a nobleman, and heir, I presume, to a peerage—a speech from which the monopolist manufacturers of this district would do well to take a lesson. (Applause.) He spoke of a time when a citizen of the distinguished city of Mayence combined with others to put down the spoliation of the barons who lived upon the banks of the Rhine—barons who, as he said, exacted a toll upon the first necessaries of life. (Hear, hear.) Now, do you believe that there was a single citizen of Mayence who turned out to fight on the side of the barons? (Hear, hear.) And yet these monopolist manufacturers are surrounded by a body of men, nobles of this country, nobles by courtesy truly, who exact a toll upon the first necessaries of life—who don't do it by pistol, musket, bayonet, or sword, but who do it by the not less powerful, far more subtle, machinery of an act of Parliament; and when we are assembled here—men all of one order, deeply interested in the prosperity of the industry of this district and of our country; when we are assembled together for the purpose of protesting against the invasion of our rights, and of calling upon the whole population to march with us, after us, or before us, to re-establish our rights—then we find the monopolist manufacturers—and this one I have named the chief among them—actually turning out from the district, and siding with the feudal barons—actually endeavouring to strengthen the oppression which we are striving to overthrow. (Loud applause.) I often wonder why it is that men are so willing to bow their necks to men who are ornamented with stars, and garters, and titles (applause); for I am sure the more I come in contact with these characters, the more I come to the conclusion that it is something far beyond titles which constitutes true nobility of character. (Applause.) And there is not any creature that crawls the earth, to my mind, more despicable and more pitiable than the man who sacrifices the interests of his own class, of his own order, and of his own country, merely that he may toady somebody who has a title to his name. (Applause.) He should recollect—

"fitly his ill-woven chaplet wears,
Full often wreathed around the miscreant's brow;"

and that there are men in the peerage of every country who are greatly to be despised, as there are some worthy to be honoured to the utmost, from whose hearts their high rank has not driven away all sympathy with the rights and interests of their fellow-men. (Applause.) And for whom is it that these men degrade themselves, and make these sacrifices? Why, for a class who do not like us—the producers; for it is no disrespect to the aristocracy of this country to say that they do not like trade, because it is notorious that they value themselves chiefly on the very long period of time during which their ancestors have not been connected with anything so sordid as trade. (Applause.) They prove that they do not like trade, because they make laws which cripple trade and keep it always, as it were, in swaddling clothes, which never let the infant become a youth, nor the youth a man. (Hear, hear.) And they are a class, also, of whom it may be said—and I say it with grief—that, however bad the laws they pass in Parliament may be, the administration of those laws in their own districts, where they reign predominant, is quite as bad as the legislation of which they are guilty. (Applause.) But there is a retributive justice. I heard Sir James Graham say that. (Loud applause.) And when men fail in their duty, or violate great principles, they may be sure that some time or other they will be found out and punished for it. In the southern counties, at this moment, how deplorable is the state of things! It is not of our telling, the evidence comes from themselves. It has not gone through the magnifying process of the council chamber of the Anti-Corn-Law League. The insurance-offices proclaim it. (Hear, hear.) Did not one office send down £200 towards the fund for opening public parks and walks in Manchester, with a letter in which they complimented the people of Manchester and the working classes for the energy, zeal, and courage with which they had assisted in preserving property when in danger of being destroyed by fire? (Applause.) And within a fortnight of that memorable letter, for I hold it to be memorable, and most creditable and honourable to this town—within a fortnight of that time, did not the united insurance-offices meet together, and issue a circular to all their agents in England and Wales, and I believe in Ireland, but certainly in England and Wales, in which they enjoin every agent to make especial inquiry before he insures farming stock as to the character and circumstances of the person who wishes to insure. (Hear, hear.) And what are the questions to be asked? Is he a man who has received any threatening letters? What a horrid state of society it must be when it is necessary to ask a farmer has he received a threatening letter! What does this mean? Is there somebody who is ready to burn his premises, and, it may be, almost to destroy his life? Again, has the man who wishes to insure any steam-engine upon his premises, any machine for thrashing his grain? Why, here you have your mills filled with the finest machinery in the world; and there is not a working man in Manchester who believes that he would be better off if this machinery did not exist. (Applause.) But here, in the southern counties, if a man has a steam-engine on his farm, as they have in Scotland, or a thrashing-machine which will thrash rather faster than a man can do with a flail, he is held in danger of the destruction of his property by fire, from the ignorance and the vindictive spirit of the labouring population; and, therefore, his property cannot have the safeguard of insurance on the

same terms, though, heretofore, farming property had been insured at common risks,—I believe at 1s. 6d. premium upon £100, which is the same as it is upon dwelling-houses in this district, and they have no tax upon their insurance as we have. (Applause.) Now they must pay, in all cases I believe, 3 per cent., and in cases where there is any machinery upon the premises not less than 5 per cent. Well, now, that is retributive justice! (Applause.) I am not blaming the farmers, except that they have not had spirit enough to prevent this state of things; it is the landowners who are chiefly to blame; against them public indignation will be turned; and they will be asked in a language which they dare not disregard, "How is it that ye have neglected the population about your own estates, legislating in Parliament almost without opposition, and administering those laws in your own parishes paramount in authority and unopposed,—how is it that in your districts such a lamentable state of things exists?" (Applause.) But for what has been already alluded to, it would be impossible to explain how helpless these unfortunate persons are. I confess I pity them from my heart, as I pity all men who, from ignorance, selfishness, or vice, get into a dilemma or a difficulty. They are in difficulties, and their helplessness, if it were not to be pitied, would certainly be greatly to be laughed at. (Applause.) What are their remedies? They propose to put down incendiarism by giving the people gratuitous exhibitions of fireworks. (Loud applause and laughter.) I believe it was a professor—Professor Henslow—who proposed this. And there are a variety of others of a like nature. (The hon. gentleman then read some extracts from an Aylesbury paper, showing the severe treatment of poor criminals in the county of Bucks, and then proceeded:—) And these are the men to whom Mr. Birley and the monopolist manufacturers of this district are looking up for an approving smile, and for a nod from whom they would endure almost a very agony. (Cheers and laughter.) These are the men who are helping to thin the slices three times a day for their poor children and suffering parents. Oh, I do wonder, after all the discussion we have had on this question, that there are men to be found who are not heartily ashamed that they ever said a syllable in favour of such an accursed system. (Cheers.) Another says, "If ever a committee should sit on the distress of the agricultural labourer"—but they took care last session when a committee was asked for that they would not have one—(hear, hear)—"I would find them plenty of cases in which single men of thirty years of age are only paid 6s. a week. I would prove that many farmers give only 6d. a day to men of three or four and twenty who have worked from childhood with them, and are known to be as useful as the best men they have!" And so they are. In this book there are many things of a similar description—many not suitable to read in an assembly like this, but there is one more extract I would read. He says the agricultural labourer is generally paid on the principle of giving him just that amount of sustenance that will keep him from claiming relief from the union-house. "That as a dweller he is considered an incumbrance on the soil I think is but a fair deduction from the fact of the pains taken to diminish the number of dwellings. And when I compare the trouble taken to get the best plans for stables, cowsheds, and pigsties, and the money expended in these improvements, with the little effort bestowed on the improvement of the labourer's dwelling, I am forced also to the conviction that he is the last-living thing upon the farm whose physical condition is regarded." And yet, he says, while it is allowed by all that the labourer is physically and morally oppressed, "to take up his cause is, alas! but to unite all parties against you; so much as a matter of course are the worst features of his condition considered, that you are at once considered as a conspirator, both as against landowner and occupier, if you venture to speak a word in his favour; that he is pauperised from the low wages paid him, demoralised by the circumstances that surround him, as a matter of general conversation, is allowed;—make but the feeblest attempt to enforce his claim to a better treatment, and you are at once set down as a propagator of dangerous ideas—one who threatens all manner of evil, and you will probably be told that you have some party motive or private pique at the bottom of your philanthropy." It appears by what he says here that it happens there, much as in this part of the country, that if any man speaks of those distressed, and presumes to interfere with the profits or amusements of another class, then that class say he is a dangerous man, and that the association he is connected with ought to be put down by law. (Hear, hear.) Now, I have taken this pamphlet on these grounds:—it speaks of the state of the county of Dorset; it is given by a reverend, and a man not likely to have been readily moved to take the course he has. And when we recollect that there has been down in this neighbourhood a noble lord who lays claim to feelings of philanthropy, and who professes a desire to improve the state of the working classes generally, there is something surprising about these statements. I can appreciate the motives of a man who seeks to do justice anywhere; yet I should admire it more if it were not of that expansive character which looks abroad for its object, while it never sees the evils which exist nearer home. (Loud applause.) Mr. Bright concluded by saying that if such was the state of the agricultural districts after 30 years of protection, surely this was not a time to abandon the struggle in which they had so far advanced towards success.

Mr. Bazley, President of the Chamber of Commerce, then moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright, and the meeting, after giving three enthusiastic cheers, separated.

ANTI-CORN-LAW LECTURES, WILTSHIRE.—On Wednesday evening, the 16th instant, it being Highworth fair, Mr. Falvey delivered a lecture to the farmers who attended it, in the large room at the King and Queen, on the Evils of the Corn Laws. Mr. John Arkell of Stratton took the chair. The room was quite crowded, and many could not get in who were anxious to hear, from want of room. The lecturer took a retrospective view of Corn-Law legislation for the last 30 years, and clearly proved that neither farmers nor labourers had gained by it. At the close of the lecture, a person named Candy attempted to refute Mr. Falvey's statements; but he floundered about among paste and cutlery until the farmers called out "Question," when he lost his temper, fell into a huge passion, and sat down. On the motion of J. Crowdy, Esq., votes of thanks were passed to the chairman and lecturer. Mr. Falvey gave a second lecture to the townspeople on Saturday evening, which was well attended and gave the most decided satisfaction. Mr. Falvey lectured at Ramsbury, the seat of the late Sir F. Burdett, on Tuesday evening the 22nd; Joseph Atherton, Esq., in the chair. At the close of the lecture, the people present, chiefly farm-labourers, gave three hearty cheers for Free Trade.

SWINDON.—Mr. Falvey lectured in the Odd Fellows' room, Swindon New Town, on Wednesday evening. Mr. Arkell of Stratton was called to the chair, and, after a few appropriate remarks, introduced the lecturer, who spoke for nearly two hours in opposition to the Corn Laws, and in defence of Free Trade. At the close, some objections were urged by a Chartist mechanic with respect to machinery, and answered, if not to the entire satisfaction of the objector, at least to that of the meeting, as testified by their unqualified approbation at the close of the lecturer's reply.

COMMERCIAL CHANGES NOW IN PROGRESS IN THE NORTH OF EUROPE.

A plan has been some time in contemplation for effecting a junction between the river Elbe and the Baltic Sea, by the enlargement of the harbour, and by the construction of wet docks, on the best English principles, at Gluckstadt, a port situated a few miles up the Elbe, in the deepest and most accessible part of that river, and by a railroad nearly finished, from the new docks to the deep and capacious harbour of Kiel, in the south-western quarter of the Baltic. Kiel, one of the finest harbours in Europe, is the most commodious station in the Baltic for steam-packets to Copenhagen, Stockholm, Stettin, Dantzic, and all parts of the Baltic, and to St. Petersburgh and all intervening places. This new and efficient line of railroad will not only connect Gluckstadt with Kiel northward, but also with Altona eastward, above the dangerous and difficult shoals off the Schleepsand, Schulau, and Blankenese, which renders the navigation of the Elbe, above Gluckstadt, so tedious and expensive; and at the same time, being below the Hanoverian port of Stade, will save all the onerous dues levied on vessels and merchandise that pass the guard-ship, placed there by the King of Hanover for collecting them. An English engineer of eminence has surveyed the locality, and made plans and estimates for the enlargement and improvement of the harbour, and the construction of the wet docks, which are to be executed under the control of a company now forming in that part of Germany and in London; half the capital to be raised in Holstein and half in England, with a joint board of governors in the two countries, that in England to have a *veto* and a general controlling power. To this co-operation the Government of Denmark have made several important and liberal concessions. By these means the long and circuitous voyage round the Shawe and through the Cattegat, by way of the Sound to the northern shores of the Baltic, will be shortened nearly 80 degrees latitude, and render the arrival of merchandise and passengers from England, France, Holland, Italy, and places southward by steam-ship to Gluckstadt, and by railroad from that port to either the Baltic, *viâ* Kiel, a distance of about forty English miles, or to Hamburgh and the Upper Elbe, by similar conveyance, *viâ* Altona, a distance of about thirty English miles, far more certain and much shorter in time than by the present route. It will also avoid the slow and dangerous passage between Gluckstadt and Hamburgh, which often detains large sea-going ships many hours out, and in waiting for water to carry them over the bars between those cities. Between the months of November and January last, upwards of 160 vessels which sailed from Altona and Hamburgh were detained, as is well known, for six weeks in the Elbe, by the W.S.W. and W. winds that then prevailed, whereas had they loaded, and taken their departure from Gluckstadt, the same wind which brought them from Hamburgh to the Kraustand, opposite Gluckstadt, would have taken them to the open sea. This important junction of the east and north seas will effect a junction between Great Britain, the greatest manufactory in the world, and those countries which border on the Baltic, and whose rivers empty themselves into that sea on the north, and into the Euxine on the south, the granary of Europe, and the most productive of timber, hemp, pitch, tallow, iron, and other materials used in ship-building.

It will thus open new sources for the reception of British manufactured goods, and new supplies of grain, cattle, and raw material in return, entirely free from and out of the jurisdiction of the anti-British impost of the Prussian Zollverein (Customs Union), from which Denmark, Holstein, the Hanseatic republic of Hamburgh, Lubeck, and Bremen, the kingdom of Hanover, and the empire of Austria are at present free. The Government of Hanover, alive to the importance of keeping free from the shackles of the Zollverein, have also resolved to make a port in the Elbe, and the same English engineer has reported to them thereon, recommending one at Brunchauven, at the mouth of the Swinge, a tributary stream running through Stade into the Elbe, in preference to Haarburg, opposite to Hamburgh, for similar reasons, as being below the before-mentioned shoals and in deep water. Also a railroad from that place through Stade, with a branch line to Haarburg to the city of Hanover, where there is already a railroad just opened to Brunswick, which will shortly be connected by railroads with Magdeburg, Dresden, and Southern Germany, so as to make a railroad communication between the Elbe and the Rhine, through the metropolis of Hanover. The consequences of these projects to the commerce of Great Britain is easier foreseen than detailed within the narrow limits of a newspaper announcement. Since the above became known, a company has been formed at Harwich and London, to run a steam-boat daily from Harwich to Gluckstadt, which can be accomplished in twenty-one hours. It is called the European Steam-packet Company, and they propose building five iron steam-ships of five hundred tons burden, as a commencement of their operations. A public meeting of this company was held last Saturday in the Town-hall at Harwich, the mayor, R. Cobbold, in the chair. The hall was crowded to an overflow. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Baghhawe, the chairman; Mr. A. Bauer, of Hamburgh, the deputy-chairman; Mr. Crofts, and other directors of the company; Captain Deane, of Harwich, who for years commanded a vessel from Harwich to various parts of the North and Baltic Seas, and who confirmed the facilities of the plan; and by Mr. Elmes, the surveyor of the port of London, and engineer to the Gluckstadt Harbour and Dock Company. A meeting of the London friends of this latter company has been held at the London Coffee-house, which determined that, as they were thus supported by a projected as by existing steam-packet companies, and by the Government of Holstein, to complete the London arrangements forthwith.—*Sunday paper.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.—We understand there are more agricultural labourers, both single and married, now out of employ in the neighbourhood of Salisbury than have been known for many years.—*Somerset County Gazette.*

DARTMOOR.—About 5000 acres of this extensive common have been purchased by a company, who have already fenced and drained part of it, and calculate on letting the whole at 10s. per acre. Hitherto the land has been waste.—*Exeter Post.*

NEW GAME LAW ACT.—Sir James Graham's proposed bill for the modification of the game laws has been sent round to several influential sporting noblemen and landholders, and has, it is said, excited as much general indignation amonst the squirearchy, at such a diminution of their privileges, as the new medical bill has done among the surgeons of the country.

FREE TRADE—NO MONOPOLY!—On Tuesday evening, the 15th inst., Mr. Ackland delivered a lecture on the "Corn and Provision Laws, and their Effect upon the Wages of Labour," in the large room at the Wigan Arms, Scholes, Wigan. The arguments adduced appeared to tell heavily upon his hearers, and he was frequently much applauded.—*Preston Guardian.*

WORKING MAN'S HALL.—A large number of the Chartist operatives of Oldham and the neighbourhood, have been erecting a spacious public room, in shares of £1 each, for the holding of meetings, delivery of lectures, performance of concerts, &c. This building, which is designated the Working Man's Hall, may be in some respects regarded as a characteristic sign of the prosperous condition of the labouring classes in the manufacturing districts.

AMERICAN HAY.—The second experiment in submitting American hay to public competition took place on Tuesday at Lloyd's, the quantity offered being 85 bales and 38 half-bales, more as an attempt on behalf of the importers than anything else, though, if successful, the future trade may become important. As compared with the first auction, about three weeks since, much better prices were obtained, the quality being more satisfactory. The quotations are worth giving as a curiosity, and ranged from £4. 5s. to £4. 16s. per ton.—*Globe.*

THE TAMWORTH FARMERS' CLUB.—TAMWORTH, Oct. 19.—Sir Robert Peel would appear to have decidedly cut the agricultural associations of the present year. Great was the disappointment created (after his solemn promise at the last meeting) by his absence from Lichfield; but everybody supposed that he would most undoubtedly preside over the approaching festival of his favourite Farmers' Club at Tamworth. Here, too, his admiring agricultural friends are doomed to disappointment. The club have this day issued an advertisement, in which they announce "that the annual meeting of the Tamworth Farmers' Club, *for the purpose of auditing accounts*, will be held at the Castle Hotel, on Saturday, the 26th inst.; but the Town-hall being under repair, the dinner is postponed." The matter of the accounts, being a very small matter, will be a very short business; and Sir Robert Peel's speech may be considered as postponed *sine die.*—*Times.*

THE GAME LAWS.—At the Watford petty sessions, on Tuesday, three men were placed before their worships for poaching on the ground of Mr. Marjoribanks, they having, in the day time, with the assistance of a ferret, got possession of a coney. A child, who stated that he was eight years of age, was called to substantiate the charge. Previous to the desecration of the sacred volume, he was asked by the clerk of the peace if he knew the nature of an oath. The boy stared in evident amazement, which Mr. Blagg relieved by asking him if he knew where boys went who spoke untruths? "To hell!" rejoined the lad, with quickness sufficient to convince a sceptic that he had well learnt his lesson. He then swore to the men, and that he saw them in possession of a rabbit. Another boy, apparently two years older, gave somewhat similar testimony; and with no other evidence the county is put to the expense of maintaining three men in prison for two months, besides paying the fees of office. Compare this conduct with that of a nobleman whose estates nearly (if they do not quite) adjoin the above. A short time back two men were taken before the Marquis of Westminster for poaching, one of the under keepers having taken the men with a hare in their possession. The Marquis, perceiving the men to be in a state of wretchedness, asked them if they were willing to work if they could obtain work? "Most thankfully," said one, who had occasionally worked upon the grounds. "Then go and sin no more," repeated his lordship emphatically; "I cannot punish men who are willing to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow."—*Aylesbury News.*

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—The annual re-arrangement and classification of the almost innumerable collection of curious things which constitute the museum of the Polytechnic Institution, in Regent-street, has just been completed, after some trouble and much attention on the part of the directors, in consequence of the great accumulation of specimens, and the necessity of placing them in fitting places for the inspection of the visitors. The whole is now appropriately disposed of, and exhibits an aggregate of the productions of nature, the works of art, and the results of chemical and mechanical science, which can hardly be surpassed in number, variety, and importance in any collection in this kingdom. The catalogue might almost be transcribed, and yet not much would then appear with which it would not be desirable to have some acquaintance; but, as that is impossible, we will confine our notice to one of the most recent additions to the collection. We allude to the specimens of wood carvings, Reisner work, and armorial and Gothic decorations, cut by the instrument or steam-engine of Mr. Samuel Pratt, of New Bond-street, and for the invention and application of which he holds a patent. These carvings surpass anything of the kind we have ever seen, in many respects, in the accuracy, boldness, and delicacy of finish. The rapidity with which they are produced is a matter of astonishment; whilst the cost renders them accessible to most persons, even of moderate fortune.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, October 23, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

	£	s.	d.
James Kershaw, High-street, Manchester	£100	0	0
W. Brookes, Eldon-place, Upper Brook-street, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester	2	0	0
*Miles Baron, Astley-gate, Blackburn	1	0	0
*R. P. Livingston, Islington-square, Salford	1	1	0
William Gray, 39, Gray-street, Ancoats, Manchester	0	2	6
*Thomas Atkinson, at John Harrison's, Abraham's-court, Market street, Manchester	1	0	0
*John Staley, 7, Nightingale-st., Strangeways, do.	1	0	0
*John Collinson, brewer, Newton Heath, near do.	1	0	0
*Samuel Satterthwaite, Gorton, near do.	1	1	0
Samuel Barlow, 1, Peel-street, Salford	1	0	0
*John Bardsley, 28, Mill-street, Ancoats, Manchester	1	1	0
*H. B. Jackson, Prospect-place, Longsight, do.	1	0	0
*John Bragg, sen., 2, Back Princess-street, do.	1	0	0
*John Smith, River-street, Hulme, do.	1	1	0
John Pender, 20, David-street, do.	1	1	0
*John Irwin, Denton, near do.	1	0	0
*Edward Booth, Union-street, Ardwick, do.	1	1	0
*Thomas Dyson, 47, Oldham-road, do.	1	0	0
*Robert B[illegible], 39, York-street, C.-on.-M., do.	1	0	0
Samuel Eveleigh, Greengate, Salford	5	0	0
A Friend	0	1	0
Huddersfield, 20th Remit. — Robert Welsh, Kirkgate	20	0	0
William Batley, New North-road	2	10	0
B. Robinson, Belgrave-terrace	1	1	0
Charles Whitwam, Golcar, near	1	1	0
Thomas Fisher, do.	1	1	0
*Thomas Pi't, King-street	1	0	0
Joseph Varley, Upperhead-row	0	2	0
*Joseph Martin, Wicken Newport, Essex	3	0	0
*R. W. Taber, 10, Lower James-street, Golden-square	2	2	0
*John Pollitt, Wicken Newport, Essex..	2	0	0
*John Jackson, 10, Woodbridge-street, Clerkenwell	2	0	0
*James Agate, Horsham	2	0	0
*John Poulter, Peckham	2	0	0
*John Lewis, Southampton-place, Euston-square ..	2	0	0
Josiah Brown, 47, Cannon-street, City..	1	1	0
*Richard Rouse, White Conduit House, Pentonville	1	1	0
William Scaley, 69, Mark-lane	1	1	0
*John Barker, 22, Exmouth-street, Clerkenwell ..	1	1	0
George Thomas Goodbehere, 5, Martin's-lane, Cannon-street	1	1	0
*Rittson Southall, Stoke Newington-common ..	1	1	0
Donald Coghill, 5, Maiden-lane, Covent-garden ..	1	1	0
B. and P.	1	1	0
Peter Edwards, 72, Cheapside	1	1	0
*Robert Huckvale, 3, Regent's Villas, Avenue-road, Regent's-park	1	1	0
Salisbury. — *R. Squarey	1	1	0
*C. Squarey	1	1	0
*C. W. Squarey	1	1	0
*N. O. Squarey	1	1	0
*William Elkin, Kynaston-street, Lambeth	1	1	0
*Thomas Wilson, 103, Cheapside	1	1	0
R. Knight and Co., 10, Budge-row, Watling-street..	1	1	0
*William Cotton, 3, Langley-place, Commercial-road East	1	1	0
*Philip Crellin, 198, Ratcliff-highway	1	1	0
*James Parker, 33, Great Ormond-street	1	1	0
*Thomas Bowtell, 49, Skinner-street, Snow-hill ..	1	1	0
*Dr. Rogers, Yorkersgate, Malton, Yorkshire ..	1	1	0
*David Rogers, chemist, High-street, Woolwich ..	1	1	0
*H. M. Marley, 15, Grove-road, North Brixton (3rd subscription)	1	1	0
Charles Smith, 121, Holborn	1	1	0
*John Laurence, 25, Old Fish-st., Doctors'-commons	1	1	0
*Isaac Sowter, 27, Wharf-road, City-road	1	1	0
*John Paterson, 104, Wood-street, Cheapside ..	1	1	0
*R. S. Dodgson, 50, Old Broad-street	1	1	0
*Richard Ladell, 17, Claremont-place, Pentonville ..	1	1	0
*John Meredith, 10 Wharf, City-road	1	1	0
John R. Fisher, 5, Maze-pond, Southwark	1	1	0
*Samuel Smith, 3, Stone-buildings, Lincoln's-inn ..	1	1	0
*Joseph Relph, 6, Mitre-court, Milk-street, Cheapside	1	0	0
*Richard Butler, 15, Pickering-place, Bayswater ..	1	0	0
*William Shakspeare, 11, Portland-place North, Clapham-road	1	0	0
*George Robinson, 23, Berkeley-street, Connaught-square	1	0	0
*Mr. Ireland, 28, Park-street, Islington	1	0	0
William Martin, 81, Old-street, St. Luke's	1	0	0
J. B. Carr, 10, Laurence Pountney-hill	1	0	0
*E. B. Geary, 24, Southampton-buildings, Holborn	1	0	0
*John Stone, 51, Great Titchfield-street, Marylebone	1	0	0
*Thomas Webb, 257, Bethnall-green-road	1	0	0
*William Rickwood, Horsham	1	0	0
*George Eagles Marsden, Lewisham	1	0	0
*George Eagles Marsden, jun., Kingston, Surrey ..	1	0	0
*Richard Andrews Marsden, Lewisham	1	0	0
*Mark Eagles Marsden, 17, Basing-lane	1	0	0
*William George Hudson, 13, King-street, Cheapside	1	0	0
*Thomas E. Jones, 57½, Old Broad-street	1	0	0
*B. W. Laroche, 4, Clarence-terrace, Albion-road, Stoke Newington..	1	0	0
*George Danlell, 14, Elm Tree-road, St. John's-wood	1	0	0
*John Joseph Bennett, 6, Melina-place, do.	1	0	0
*William Swan, 41, Minories	1	0	0
*Matthew Murray, 110, London-wall	1	0	0
John Bell, London	1	0	0
J. F.	1	0	0
*Samuel White, 15 and 16, St. Alban's-place, Haymarket	1	0	0
C. H. Harrison, 43, Whitechapel-road	1	0	0
*A. Inglis, St. John's-square, Clerkenwell	1	0	0
*Joseph Coventry, Stoke Newington	1	0	0
*Edward Smith, West Side, Abbey-road, St. John's-wood	1	0	0
*Alfred Lewis, Reform Club	1	0	0
G. L. Dallman, 61, Willow-walk, Finsbury	1	0	0
John Robinson, 8, Commercial-road East	1	0	0
Henry Hatchard, 74, Crawford-street, Marylebone ..	1	0	0
James Pincott Reynolds, Durham House, Hackney-road	1	0	0
William Kelsey, College House, Warner-place, do.	1	0	0
*Joseph Priestman, jun., Pickering	1	0	0
Thomas B. Campbell, Edinburgh	1	0	0
*Rev. Joseph Hutton, Fairfield, Glasnevin, Dublin	1	0	0
*William Sykes, 7, York-street, Middlesex Hospital	1	0	0
S. P. Clark, draper, Prince's Risborough, Bucks ..	1	0	0
Henry Rayner, 6, Dorset crescent, Hoxton	1	0	0
*William Collier, 1, Riley-place, Gray's-inn-lane ..	1	0	0
Wm. Shorter, Longthorpe Lodge, New-road, Hammersmith	1	0	0
J. W. C. Walker, solicitor, Havant, Hants	1	0	0
Thomas Butler, 58, Shoreditch	1	0	0
J. and S. Saward, 8, Commercial-road East	1	0	0
*A. M. Bidgood, 6, Vigo-street, Regent-street ..	1	0	0
*Henry Bidgood, 7, do., do.	1	0	0
*John Lee, Ashover, near Chesterfield..	1	0	0
*M. M. Moore, Enfield	1	0	0
*G. L. Jackson, Brook-green, Hammersmith ..	1	0	0
*The Rev. James Jackson, Bathford, Bath	1	0	0
*James Grieve, 83, Friday-street	1	0	0
*Joseph Bartholomew, 11, Steward-street, Spitalfields	£1	0	0
Kneller Smart, 55, High-street, Camden-town ..	1	0	0
*R. S. Bush, Great Portland-street	1	0	0
John Chalmers, St. Alban's-place, St. James's ..	1	0	0
*J. S. Kent, Manor-place, Paddington	1	0	0
*James Thorne, South Lambeth..	1	0	0
*The Rev. Samuel Sleigh, Salisbury	1	0	0
*John Toone, Salisbury	1	0	0
George Osborne, 4, Lower Grosvenor-street	1	0	0
Joseph Boak, 2, New-road, Commercial-road East ..	1	0	0
*Thomas Rogers, 19, Gloucester-terrace, New-road, Whitechapel	1	0	0
Thos. Grason, 15, Mornington-crescent, Hampstead-road	1	0	0
John Jones, Ash-grove, Hackney	1	0	0
William Atherton, 2, Brick-court, Temple	0	10	6
James Linton, 16, Bath-place, New-road	0	10	6
Anonymous	0	10	0
Thomas George Williams, 3, Northampton-place, Hackney-road	0	10	0
Samuel Walker, 5, Durham-place East, do.	0	10	0
James Murray, 8, Suffolk-place, do.	0	10	0
A Friend to the Cause	0	10	0
Alfred W. H. Folkard, 1, Upton-place, Commercial-road East	0	10	0
D. Northey, 1, Prince's-street, Leicester-square ..	0	10	0
Mr. Cannings, Bathford, Bath	0	10	0
C. Stevens, 40, Holywell-lane, Shoreditch	0	7	0
An Association of Operatives at the George IV., Bagnigge Wells-road, Clerkenwell (5th subscription)	0	6	0
John Tomkin Young, 12, Walbrook	0	5	0
S. Standing, 9, Osborn-street, Whitechapel	0	5	0
Giles Bradley, 5, Whitechapel-road	0	5	0
James Willmore, 23, Polygon, Somers-town	0	5	0
Claxton Scarfe, 3, Osnaburgh-place, New-road ..	0	5	0
Joseph Dodwell, 109, High Holborn	0	5	0
J. Walker, 32, Great Quebec-st., Bryanston-square	0	5	0
Thomas Smith, 15, Carnaby-street, Golden-square..	0	5	0
Thomas Fox, 28, High-street, Camden-town.. ..	0	5	0
Alexander Ford, 27, Oval Cottages, Hackney-road ..	0	5	0
Walter Levy, Mare-street, Hackney	0	5	0
Thomas Rickett, Bridge Wharf, Regent's Canal, Hackney	0	5	0
Four Chairmakers and Carvers, 16, Denmark-street, St. Giles's	0	4	0
G. C.	0	2	6
Edward Brackenbury, 16, Brownlow-street, Drury-lane	0	2	6
William Richards, 35, Foley-street, Portland-place..	0	2	6
Charles Atwood, 8, Hop-gardens, St. Martin's-lane	0	2	6
Frederick Parks, 57, King William-street, City ..	0	2	6
John Somerton, 15, Fitzroy-place, New-road	0	2	6
John Burchet, 25, William-street, Regent's-park ..	0	2	6
Charles Bradley, 38, Old-street-road	0	2	6
T. J. Hartley, 21, Pump-row, do.	0	2	6
William Hunt, 182, Shoreditch	0	2	6
Thomas Coulson, 38, Seckford-street, Clerkenwell ..	0	2	6
Charles Lewis, 40, do., do. ..	0	2	6
George Richards, 26½, do., do. ..	0	2	6
Henry Wilson, 46, Chapel-street, Lisson-grove ..	0	2	6
Samuel Parker, 58, Marylebone-lane	0	2	6
Thomas Ansell, 22, John-street, Edgware-road ..	0	2	6
William Leach, 35, York-street, Westminster ..	0	2	6
Thomas Binge, 76, do., do. ..	0	2	6
Thos. Henry Powell, 5, Benyon Cottages, De Beauvoir-square, Kingsland	0	2	6
Jas. Landon, 3, Dahlia Cottages, Hertford-road, do.	0	2	6
John Fish, 7, Durham-place East, Hackney-road ..	0	2	6
Mrs. Caroline Dawsey, 5, Gwynne's-place, do. ..	0	2	6
Mary Ann Edwards, 35, Houndsditch	0	2	6
Frederick Wallis, 46, William-street, Regent's-park	0	2	6
James Cooper, 37, Perceval-street, Clerkenwell ..	0	2	6
Henry Sterling, 19, Woodbridge-street, do. ..	0	2	6
W. Mackie, 42, Wardour-street, Oxford-street ..	0	2	6
John C. Crouch, 33, Grafton-street East, Tottenham-court-road	0	2	6
David Price, 4, Cork-street, Bond-street	0	2	6
J. E. Thompson, 75, York-street, Westminster ..	0	2	6
Anne Bolton, 59, Berwick-street, Soho	0	2	6
David Allen, 21, Alfred-street, Bedford-square ..	0	2	6
Samuel Taylor, 5, Great Windmill-street, Haymarket	0	2	6
G. P. Mills, 30, Great Marlborough-street	0	2	6
W. Reid, 6, Bedford-place, Commercial-road East ..	0	2	6
Robert Veitch, 25, Mary-street, Hampstead-road ..	0	2	6
Samuel Furneux, 4, do., do. ..	0	2	6
Morgan James, 16, Park-terrace, Camden-town ..	0	2	6
Philip Brown, 23, Grove-street, do. ..	0	2	6
William Henry Simmons, 42, Mornington-place, Hampstead-road	0	2	6
Michael Strickland, 36, Upper Albany-street, Regent's-park	0	2	6
William Williams, 35, do., do.	0	2	6
Benjamin Winter, 27½, Charles-street, Hampstead-rd.	0	2	6
J. Crook, 47, Wynyatt-street, Clerkenwell ..	0	2	6
George Hughes, 99, St. John-street-road, do. ..	0	2	6
H. J. Coles, 97, do., do. ..	0	2	6
J. More, 5, Market-street, Finsbury	0	2	6
C. Woolnough, 6, Bateman's-row, Shoreditch ..	0	2	6
James Glissan, 3, Leonard-square, Finsbury.. ..	0	2	6
G. Perkins, 71, Paul-street, do.	0	2	6
John Nicholas Barron, 28, Oval Cottages, Hackney-road	0	2	6
Thomas Carpenter, Ash-grove, Hackney	0	2	6
Robert Noble, 34, Upper York-street, Bryanston-sq.	0	2	6
Richard Waylett, 228, Oxford-street	0	2	6
Robert Ford, 9, High-street, Marylebone	0	2	6
Subscriptions under 2s. 6d. each	4	11	6

* Those names marked with an asterisk are renewed subscriptions.

CORN LAWS A CURSE TO BRITAIN.—On Wednesday evening, the 16th inst., a lecture was delivered in the Buck-i'-th'-Vine room, Wallgate, Wigan, by Mr. J. J. Finnigan, of Manchester—subject, "Commerce the main existence of England's prosperity." The lecturer clearly proved that by abolishing the tax on bread, and giving unlimited scope to our manufactures, England might once more be raised above the level of other countries, and become a land of prosperity and happiness. We imagine, from the frequency of these lectures, that our landed aristocracy in this town will begin to shudder for fear.—*Preston Guardian.*

THE BELGIAN TARIFF.—The Belgian tariff, which has just been promulgated, appears to be dictated chiefly by hostility to English manufactures. Printed cottons, which hitherto paid 211 francs per 100 kilogrammes (about 220 lbs. English), are now to pay 325 francs. On coloured or printed silks, the duties have been raised from 4 francs per kilogramme to 10 francs. With regard to France, the old duties on cotton cloths are to remain for twelve months. We perceive that some of our contemporaries seem to fear that the effect of these differential duties will be to substitute the printed cottons of France and Saxony for those of Manchester; but we doubt whether there is much ground for any such apprehensions. The prints of Rouen and Mulhausen are widely different from those which we export to Belgium; and therefore, unless a considerable change should take place in the fabrics manufactured by our continental rivals, they will not come into very serious competition with our merchants in the Belgian market.—*Manchester Guardian.*

LETTERS ON THE CORN LAWS, No. IV.

TO THE RIGHT HON. EARL RADNOR.

MY LORD,—In the leading article of the *Morning Chronicle* (Oct. 23) the following paragraph occurs, in reference, I presume, to your speech at the Highworth Anti-Corn-Law meeting:—

"What would the fashionable journalist say, were we to prove that the *narrow, mercantile spirit which reaps where it has not sown* has come to pervade the minds of the owners of land as much as those of the workers of cotton? At an agricultural meeting the other day, a poor man complained of the high rate at which allotments were let, and charged the landlord with taking too much. 'Why, if I took £5 where I could get £8,' rejoined the landlord, 'I should be making a present of the difference.' There is not a more liberal man or landlord than the utterer of these words. *And yet, what a maxim!*"

That you had offended some other journalists had appeared previously, and was naturally to be expected. The shock given to the editor of the *Morning Chronicle* affords some occasion for surprise. Is it the Whig cue not to be quite out of sympathy with the current humbugs of the day? Does the party policy for next session include more coquetting with some of the little cliques constituting Sir Robert Peel's very composite majority? Are we to have a continued war of parliamentary tactics and manœuvrings? If so, it is easy to understand why unmanageable men like your lordship, who take their decided course upon principle, should find that a Tory assistant will not lack a Whig bottle-holder. How long will it be before the organs and leaders of parties learn to construe the signs of the times, and ascertain—what is very plain to all beyond their limited circle—that nothing will ever again secure the weight of popular support but a defined national policy based on just and broad principles?

Instead of the expanded hands and upturned eyes, which his exclamation suggests to the fancy, the writer of the paragraph might more appropriately have adverted to the truth or falsehood of the "maxim" which so affected him. It expresses not a sentiment but a matter of fact. There is no denying it. If it be a "narrow" truth, or an uncharitable truth, or a hard-hearted truth,—and something of this sort the exclamation seems to imply,—that is the fault of the truth, and not of the speaker. It is of little use to shake the head at haughty truths. They retain their reality just the same, and we must e'en do the best we can with them. Truths were not made to please the Whigs, any more than their opponents.

I am not about to volunteer any *defence* of your lordship; the records of a long and patriotic career place you above defence; but to thank you for the timely enunciation of a truth which has occasioned aspersions that you can well afford to disregard. You have characterized the allotment system, which is now the panacea of certain sentimental politicians. By a single stroke, you have shown its true nature. It is a form of almsgiving. But no country was ever saved by almsgiving. No class was ever raised by almsgiving. No "bold peasantry" was ever created by almsgiving. And assuredly the prosperity of Great Britain will not be renovated or perpetuated by almsgiving.

It was as right as it was bold, my lord, to tell the labourers this; those of them, I mean, who were anxious to become landlords' beadmen by allotments under the market price. The condition must ever be one of subservience and degradation. Such people would submit to be plundered, and thank the plunderers for a pittance back in charity. Want and wretchedness have worn them down to this condition, devoid of the moral elements of independence. The true charity is to open a path back to the point from which they have fallen; not to make their physical necessities the agency of prolonging and deepening their mental abasement.

You were not neglectful of this better part, standing alone as you did, amongst the aristocracy of the county, by your attendance at the Highworth meeting. A writer in the *Times* asks:—

"Why does not the noble lord begin at the top and work downwards? Why does he not convene a public meeting of the great landowners, the clergy, and farmers of the county, for taking into consideration the best means of bettering the condition of the working classes? If the noble lord would do this, he would have the willing co-operation of men of all parties."

Would he? Then why did not the men of all parties present themselves at the Highworth meeting? Such were its objects. Farmers were there, and labourers, and small tradesmen. But you, my lord, were left to represent the landed aristocracy. The fairest play was given, and the utmost freedom of speech allowed. Why were not these charitable landlords and clergy there? Because it was not a packed meeting, to praise in set phrase some bit of delusion and cajolery, by which the working classes may still be kept in their false and oppressed position. In the last two resolutions of the meeting, the intelligence, spirit, and interests of the working people are pithily embodied. To contribute, as your lordship has done, towards cherishing in them such views as those resolutions express, is a service beyond all donations. It is

worth more than lakes of soup and mountains of blankets:—

"6. Resolved—That the working classes of this country have no desire to rely for support on gifts of charity or benevolence; that as free men they wish to support themselves by their own exertions and labour; that they have no doubt that, if human laws did not interfere, they would be able to do so; and that they, therefore, hope that all laws tending to curtail the supply of food, to diminish the sources of employment, and to press down the springs of industry, may speedily be abolished.

"7. That all laws enacted for the purpose of raising the price of food and other commodities used by the people above their natural price in the great market of the world, may be beneficial to certain classes, but must be injurious to the great mass of the people."

Can "the great landowners, the clergy, and the farmers of the county" suggest anything better than that? If not, where is "their willing co-operation?" If they can, what is it?

Were allotments to become general, as some philanthropists anticipate, the result will be to make England another Ireland. Even the small scale on which they have been tried shows the tendency in that direction. The peasantry will compete for them like the Irish, till a scanty meal of bad potatoes is all that remains for their own portion. Like them, perhaps, compete till they have to work elsewhere, or beg, to make up the rent. Lord John Manners professes to expect, through allotments, the revival of the class of small farmers, an intermediate grade between the farmer and the labourer. He has not explained how. Small farms cannot exist at allotment rents. And certainly the tendency, at present rents, is not to subdivide large farms. No, the labourer will be a labourer still. And what will his quarter of an acre of ground (half an acre appears practically to be the maximum) avail him in the long run? The farmer will remember it in his wages. It takes nobody out of the labour market. There is no step towards independence. For the gainers, one must look partly to the poorhouse, and chiefly to the landlord. Instead of 20s. an acre, he gets £5 or £8. If the small holdings be troublesome to his steward, middlemen will soon come in, and the Irish system be complete. Such are the remedial measures of those who refuse to untax the people's food and allow free scope to their industry!

The *Times* critic on the meeting, although his own proposition is only for another meeting for "consideration," objects that it offered nothing to the poor but "discussion." Why "consideration" should feed the hungry, or employ the idle, better than "discussion," he does not explain. But he is very angry with discussion. He deems you very stony-hearted for meeting the labourers for discussion. The real offence apparently is, that the labourers were treated as rational beings, and the Corn Laws were the topic of this offensive discussion. Attend, my lord, to his rebuke:—

"Sir, our able-bodied, honest, and industrious labourers do not want discussion, their appetites do not lie in that direction. With an empty stomach, they would willingly forego the pain of talking for the pleasure of eating. *What they do want is constant employment, better diet and clothing, and to be protected from extortion.* It matters little to a person in the last stage of a protracted disease whether his complaint does or does not proceed from a certain cause, and about which perhaps even his medical advisers themselves are not exactly agreed; neither would he care to be dragged from the privacy of his chamber to meet a consultation of doctors on his case at a public assembly. He, poor man, knows little and cares less for cause or effect. He wants no discussion;—all he wants is present relief from his sufferings, and, if his friends cannot give him that, they had better keep their discussions to themselves. *Our labourers are reduced to the extremest verge of destitution, the unemployed are calling aloud for employment, the employed are asking adequate remuneration for their labour, their wives and children crying for bread,* and the noble lord and his coadjutors give them—what?—not a stone, it is true; but a discussion on the Corn Laws!"

This is a fearful description; nor is it in the least exaggerated. But what a wicked trifling with wretchedness it is, to suggest that such landlords as like should let off some twenty acres of ground in little patches of quarter acres, at the rate of 20s. or 30s. each, or at any rate whatever? What would that do, for the great suffering class, towards "constant employment, better diet and clothing," and protection from extortion? Would the allotment keep a single family out of the poorhouse? For health, convenience, and amusement, every cottage should have its garden; but the critic speaks of a whole body of men, with their wives and families, crying out for work and bread. True, a discussion on the Corn Laws will not feed, clothe, and employ them; to infer that the repeal of the Corn Laws would do nothing of the sort, is by no means sound logic. If Free Trade, *i. e.*, more trade, cannot help the insufficiency of employment, then Heaven have mercy on the sufferers. Certainly it promises fairer than charitable allotments.

The plan which, as a proposed remedy for a national evil, deserves to be branded for a cold-blooded hoax upon the peasantry and the community,—an operation which your lordship has well performed,—may yet undoubtedly have its limited worth in particular localities. And to that extent it would be likely to realize itself, were labour dealt by fairly, restored to its rights, and enhanced in worth by the increased demands of extending commerce. Land would be obtainable by the peasantry who could pay. They might treat for as much as they wanted or desired. There would be a bargain, and not a boon. The feeling of independence would be strengthened instead of being quashed. And to whatever extent the convenience and interest of different parties might be promoted by small holdings, for spade or garden cultivation, to that extent would the system be carried. It would take its natural position in the arrangements of society. Should it realize all the good that Young England predicts, Old England would greatly rejoice in the fulfilment of the prophecy. But to this benignant influence the previous condition of putting labour on a just and sound footing is essential. Insufficiency of work and wages can never be "cured by an allotment."

Your practice, my lord, to the labourer, betters Young England's preachments. You do not promise him patronage, but you cherish his aspirations for independence. You do not teach him to worship a Queen Bee, but you back his claim to his own hive and honey. You do not catch his ball, but you listen to his grievances. Instead of bowling him out, you refute his prejudices. You meet him, not in his sports, as a lord with little skill at cricket; but in his deliberations, as a man of ability and information. Yours is the higher compliment and the greater service. It is the shorter and surer road towards the restoration of confidence between the different classes of society. So will it be felt by the people. If discussions will not feed them, neither will flummery and cricket matches. But discussions *will* show the way to employment and food, and so towards honest independence; while charity and games, leaving wrongs unredressed and the causes of wretchedness untouched, can only keep them sots, slaves, and beggars.

A Norwich Weaver Boy.

ADVANCE OF WAGES, &c.

Glasgow.—We are much gratified to learn that at a meeting of the master cotton spinners of Glasgow, held on Thursday, it was agreed that, owing to the comparatively prosperous state of trade, they should advance the wages of their workmen 10 per cent. upon the present rates. It affords us great satisfaction to learn that a number of the masters of the power-loom factories in and around Glasgow have resolved to raise the wages of their workers immediately, and that there is every prospect of their example being generally followed by the entire trade. —*Glasgow Post.*

Wigan.—We have been informed on undoubted authority, that Messrs. Taylor and Brothers, cotton-spinners, Wigan, have increased the wages of their hands from 7 to 10 per cent. This advance affects the whole of the spinners and card-room hands at the Standishgate and Wallgate mills, and includes in number several hundred persons. The hands at several other mills are still out for increased wages.—*Manchester Guardian.*

Wigan.—Turn-out at Messrs. Ackersley's Mills.—We are happy to inform our readers that this protracted strike for an advance of wages is now finally settled, the proprietors of the works having at length acceded to the terms of their workpeople. The hands, with the exception of the steam-loom weavers, resumed their work on Thursday morning last; and the weavers were to commence their labour on the morning following. We feel great pleasure in reporting the above arrangement. Had the operatives continued out much longer, many families must have suffered materially. We understand that the advance is very considerable.—*Preston Guardian.*

Oldham.—On Saturday last the cotton-spinners in the employment of Mr. Daniel Dronsfield, of Werreth-mill, Oldham, struck work, for the purpose of obtaining an advance of a penny per thousand hanks. Mr. Dronsfield afterwards agreed to give the desired advance to the spinners, but declined to increase the wages of the self-acting minders; and it seems the dispute with the latter is not yet arranged.

Singular Advance of Wages.—It seems that the reelers at one of the mills in this town last week received a voluntary addition to their wages of "three-halfpence per week." This is certainly a short step in the right direction; and, in honour of the event, the mill is likely to obtain the unenviable name of "The Red Bobbin Mill."

Advance of Wages.—Mr. Whitelcy, of Stones and Dyson Mill, and Mr. L. Pogson, both of Soyland, near Halifax, have, unasked, advanced their workpeople's wages to the amount of 2s. per week.

Macclesfield.—The operative cotton-spinners and self-acting minders have held a meeting, and unanimously passed resolutions demanding an advance of wages from their employers.

Factory Amendment Act.—On Monday last, at the Town-hall, Little Bolton, Mr. William Garnett Taylor, cotton-spinner, was summoned before the Rev. J. S. Birley, and Robert Herwood, C. J. Darbishire, and W. F. Hulton, Esqrs., to show cause why he should not be convicted in a penalty of not less than £10, or more than £100, for having neglected to securely fence an upright shaft, in one of his mills in Halliwell, whereby a young woman named Jane Tong, had her hair and scalp torn off, on the 9th inst.—Mr. Ewings, sub-inspector (assisted by Mr. Horner, the inspector of the district), conducted the case; Mr. Taylor was defended by Mr. Pollock, barrister. After a technical objection taken by Mr. Pollock, that the act did not include mill gearing, which the magistrates overruled, evidence of the case was gone into. Two of the magistrates were of opinion that the iron fence was not high enough, and were therefore for a conviction. The other two magistrates, however, were of opinion that the casing was sufficient to prevent accidents, with ordinary care; and therefore, under such circumstances, they had decided to dismiss the case.

NOTES OF A TRAVELLER IN THE SUMMER OF 1844.

No. X.

DEATH KNELL OF THE CORN LAWS.

Cologne, Aug. 15.

I had scarcely left the Belgian frontier before the improvement that I pointed out as feasible and practicable in the communication between England and Belgium was actually adopted. It is now possible to arrive at Brussels from London in one day, and no doubt the communication between the two countries will speedily assume new and interesting features. Perhaps a few suggestions as to what is practicable may not be thrown away.

The opening of the railway from Ostend and Antwerp to Cologne is an event of great historical importance. It is an act of retribution towards a large tract of country that for want of decent modes of communication was to a great extent excluded from the benefits of active and rapid commercial traffic. The Belgian Government was sharp-sighted enough to perceive that on the realizing of this connexion with Germany its virtual independence depended; and the vast sums spent in completing the line from Liege to the frontier were the best answer to the fears expressed of the overweening influence of France in the Brussels Cabinet. I may be allowed, perhaps, to wander from the mere field of economical statement in a case where the means to remedy the mischief that has been unfortunately done will ultimately be found to be of an economical nature.

An intimate connexion with Germany in commercial respects was seen by the first Ministers after 1830 at Brussels to be a precursor to an intimate political alliance; nor can it be otherwise, for the commercial alliance is the greatest benefit that a political connexion can confer on two nations. Now, the party which unhappily has for some time conducted matters at Brussels is averse to a political union with Germany, not from any Gallican prejudices, but from a blind adherence to little factious views. It is, in short, a high church party to whose hobby the interests of landlords, traders, and manufacturers must bend when there is an appearance of conflict. But at the present day our high church statesmen have cleverness enough to hoodwink one or other of the parties selected as victims. Thus sugar-traders are lured into restrictive measures against trade under the pretence of abolishing slavery; and landowners are taught to believe that there is only one crop that will yield rent, when it suits the convenience of statesmen to band them against the majority of their fellow-citizens. Thus on this occasion the shipowners have been told (what they, of course, are willing to believe) that differential duties are the best receipt for concocting a national commercial navy, and it was hoped that the support of this interest would overbear the outcry of all the other interests against whom the new Belgian navigation law evidently militates. The success of these expediency statesmen at Brussels, who, of course, affect high principles, and condemn, as savouring of the shop (to which they owe their station), all considerations affecting bales of merchandise, has been so signal that it is amusing to trace the progress of the political farce that has thus been got up, and which is a fair representation of much of the political twaddle that in all countries now keeps down the energies of the people. The object having, in the first place, been to interrupt the harmony subsisting with Prussia, it was most unexpectedly forwarded by the King of Prussia himself, whose sudden reply by raising the duties on Belgian iron 50 per cent. was, of course, shown to involve insult with injury to the nation. Matters might even then have been amicably arranged had King Leopold not likewise fallen into the snare; but by throwing this Monarch into the hands of France another object is accomplished, for which there offered no decent pretence in any other way, but to accomplish which the high church party in Belgium was most anxious—a breach with England. I repeat it, the measures which are about to throw the trading relations of three countries into confusion, and which have given a shock to the security of trading property in these parts that it will not recover, even if the breach be soon healed, for many years, have been concocted by men who know and care nothing about the interests of traders and consumers but the prejudices of those classes which they strive to turn to account. It is with this party that M. Nothomb has risked his political reputation by a coalition, and this is the work which they demand of him in return.

I should think that it requires no extraordinary acumen in politics to see that the friendship of the people of adjacent lands, purchased by a clear understanding of their mutual interests, must be the surest, if not the only, guarantee of Belgian independence, and the firmest support of the reigning dynasty. In the case of a momentary disagreement with either France or Prussia, which threatened to give to the weight of either rival an unwelcome preponderance, surely the friendship of England is not to be despised; nor are impediments to commercial intercourse the best means of awakening sympathy. The policy of the present ruling party is clearly quite opposed to that suggested by this simple view of the case. It remains for the Belgians to declare whether that policy is really national, and for the King to inquire whether it is loyal or not.

We cannot but lament the adoption of any impediments to trade in so important a highway as Belgium can become if it chooses, and suppose that in the next session of Parliament our Ministers will be called upon to de-

clare whether the accusation preferred against them in the Belgian Chamber of showing a disinclination to meet the Belgians with commercial concessions is well founded or not.

In the meantime the Dutch have cleverly seized the opportunity to treat with Prussia respecting the navigation of the Rhine. The modifications in the transit duties, which Holland published some time back, and which reduced these duties to a mere nominal recognition, were met by the Zollverein by the permission to carry goods in transit through the German states to Strasburg; by which means a treaty concluded between Holland and France, for the supplying of Lorraine and Alsace with colonial products, obtained efficiency.

The concession demanded now by Holland is, I hear, that Dutch vessels shall be placed on the footing of Prussian vessels on the Rhine, by Prussia's ceasing to refund the Rhine octroi levied at Emmuich to its own vessels, which refunding amounts, in practice, to a differential duty against Dutch vessels. This proceeding on the par of Prussia is also obnoxious to the small German state which have been obliged to refund the octroi (that they do not receive) to their vessels; and it militates against the principle of the Zollverein. As the maintenance of a good understanding with Holland is of great importance to all the Rhenish states, and they may, in the present dilemma with Belgium, be inclined to acknowledge as much, it is likely that this negotiation will lead to something, and, coupled with the effects of the differential duties in the Belgian harbours, may cause an unexpected influx of trade into the mouth of Father Rhine.

As a set-off to this, the Belgians could do no better than expedite the despatch of their trains, which now lose at least three to four hours in a most unnecessary manner upon the way from Ostend to Verviers, a loss of time that, for one half the year, makes it impracticable to perform the distance in one day. This delay is, in a great measure, owing to the want of a distinction between the luggage and passengers' trains. All are lumped together, and the passengers, who could be rapidly forwarded, are forced to wait until goods are classified and sorted. It is clear that the relative importance of passengers and goods is not yet distinctly appreciated in Belgium. The constant tendency of the one to increase in proportion to the rapidity of the means of transport, and the field for an unlimited extension of the other if opportunities are multiplied and trouble saved, have yet to be reduced to practical method in that country. There is no reason but this why the trains that leave Cologne at six in the morning should not arrive at Ostend in time for the passengers to start with an afternoon's boat to Dover. Nor is there any apparent reason why the afternoon's train, which the Dover boats may easily catch as they now do, should not be continued to Cologne on the same day. If passengers alone were forwarded with the mails it could easily be accomplished. But the mails! that is the ticklish point. Perhaps, since such a cordial understanding subsists between London and the other courts, our Post-office will undertake to read the necessary communications for the benefit of other courts, and thus allow private and commercial correspondence to proceed as rapidly as our means of transport can convey it, and competition in trade requires. As a proof of the present state of the correspondence between England and Germany, I can allege the fact that the news of the late delivery of Queen Victoria was first known at Cologne through Paris, notwithstanding the improved communication with Brussels.

Another reason which makes it probable that an understanding between Prussia and Holland will be accomplished, is the desire of the King of Prussia to establish a direct navigation between his Rhenish states and the ports of the Baltic. To induce speculators to embark in this new trade, which would be of greater importance than is at first sight apparent, premiums have been published by the Prussian Government to the extent of 6000 dollars for the first Rhenish vessel that makes three voyages to a Baltic harbour. Half of the money is to be advanced in aid of the building and equipment expenses; and some vessels are, I hear, now in progress of construction that next year will make the experiment. By this highly judicious project the fate of our Corn Laws is, of course, decided. The throwing the resources of the fields of Pomerania and the traffic on the Vistula open to the manufacturing district that possesses all the advantages I enumerated in my two last letters, is like raising up a new power that will be irresistible in competition unless met on equal terms. I have it on good authority that orders frequently went to Elberfeld during the period of strikes at Manchester and in the cotton districts, and were there satisfactorily executed. You will remember the comparison made in a former letter between the prices of corn in different parts of Prussia, and the high prices that, owing to the density of the population and the bad means of communicating with the corn-growing districts, prevail usually in the Rhenish province. The stimulus that will be given by the cheap prices consequent on a removal of this disadvantage may be anticipated, and the success of the experiment may be regarded as the more certain that the premium offered does not exclude the co-operation of Dutch vessels ultimately, since a treaty of reciprocity in matters of navigation subsists between Holland and Prussia.

This important step threatens, therefore, a change of the utmost consequence both for Belgium and England; and it will soon be time to look out for more practical Ministers than either country now possesses, if trade and manufactures are to be constant to our shores. The opinions and exertions of the League will thus probably soon be fairly appreciated both in England and in the civilized world in general.

Cologne appears to have no peculiar natural advantages that adapt it to become a harbour. The Rhine is scarcely so deep as at Düsseldorf, and is not much broader than at Bonne. But the traditions of commerce are of vast antiquity at Cologne, and with the mercantile experience the capital has survived there the storm that swept princes and empires before it. The Elector of Cologne was the first prince of the Germanic or, as it was called, the holy Roman empire. He was the representative and vicar of the Pope on the north side of the Alps, and, as arch-chancellor, was the guardian of the empire during an interregnum. With all these titles and prerogatives, the Prince-Archbishop was, of course, too mighty a potentate to associate his fortunes with those of a commercial city, whose independent citizens constantly held him in abeyance, and, as members of the Hanseatic League, enjoyed as much political power as they desired. In the fourteenth century Cologne was a leading commercial centre. Belonging to North or Low Germany by descent and language, the citizens of Cologne inherited the commercial and democratic propensities on which the greatness of England reposes. Equality between man and man, and the insight into the sphere that commerce opens for bold adventure, have ever been the creditable distinguishing characteristics of the men of Cologne. The city fell to the share of Prussia by a godsend after the storm of the revolutionary wars. It will show no small tact in the King if he opens to its inhabitants the field on which they are fitted to excel, and which has long been closed for them.

I cannot myself attach importance to any attempts made to restore to Cologne the rank of a seaport that are not based upon steam navigation. The attempt made some years back to open a communication by means of sailing vessels with London proved a decided failure; but steamers have gone across the German Ocean to and from Cologne with success. Even steamers must not draw more than seven feet of water if they are to go at all times, and cannot, therefore, be of great burden. Perhaps the understanding between Holland and Prussia will, after all, leave the deep-sea navigation to Holland on terms that the Rhenish inhabitants will gain by. However this be settled, it is interesting to survey the changes and improvements—political, mechanical, and intellectual—that it has been necessary for these countries to go through before the gift that nature seemed to have bestowed on them in a manner impossible to dispute was restored to them—the free navigation of the Rhine. And, after all, how was it obtained but by the opening a second communication with the sea almost equivalent in its results to the creation of a second river? What a lesson for those who advocate restrictions does not the history of this city, placed at the junction of a magnificent railroad with a splendid river, contain!

Cologne, as a member of the Hanseatic League, did not belong to the League of the Rhenish cities, which was created in imitation of its great prototype. The barbarous state of the open country, which was oppressed by the despotism of military and clerical lords, made the enlightened sovereigns of the house of Suabia, whose notions were improved by their connexion with Italy, repose upon the cities as seats of civilization; and they gladly used them as a political arm when trade had rendered them important. Mayence, Appenheim, and Spires took the lead in the Rhenish League, to which Strasburg was afterwards added. These cities supported the authority of the Emperors against the robber nobles whose castles infested the valley of the river which their ruins now serve to adorn. But the idea of freedom was in the earliest times a most ill-defined one, and the control of roads and streams was only wrested from the nobles by the artisans to be abused by the latter as soon as they obtained the power. All goods going up the Rhine were obliged to be brought to the market-house of these towns to pay a transit duty, and usually to be forwarded in ships or barges belonging to the city that enjoyed this right of "staple" (*stabile emporium*) to the next place of like importance. The inconvenience attached to this fashion caused it ultimately to be abolished in such places as were not under the political patronage of some powerful prince; and it was at the price of maintaining this unjust and detrimental privilege that the Archbishops of Cologne and Mayence obtained the ascendency over the burghers of those cities, who, while they sought only the just and lawful gains of trade, were unapproachable both by despotism and degrading patronage. Cologne and Mayence reserved this right until very recently. The other cities, 70 in number, that at one time formed the famous Rhenish League, had long before merged into the territories of the small dynasties that gradually swallowed up the minor houses and corporations in their neighbourhoods.

The King of the Romans, William, Count of Holland, formally sanctioned the statutes of this league at a diet held at Appenheim in 1255; and as the nobles who were accustomed to levy tolls, and to be paid for the military escort which they afforded to the merchants from one town to another, did not willingly abandon what was termed a vested privilege, the citizens united their forces, and in 1271 destroyed every place that molested their passage from Strasburg to Cologne. The weakness of the succeeding dynasties that filled the Imperial throne, and their residence at a distance from this great artery of trade, and jealousy of the power thus obtained by the citizens, favoured the renewal of the old abuses. But the offenders were this time the electors and other powerful princes, for whom the cities were not a match. The alternative of sending their goods by land, to evade the tolls on the river, was even prevented by an agreement between the princes, who, in 1408, erected the first *Zollverein*, not, however, to favour, but to enslave commercial traffic. These rulers agreed to levy equal tolls upon the roads to those which they demanded of goods conveyed by water. This description of Zollverein was often renewed, and treaties are extant by which a common system of imposts is agreed to by several towns from 1416, 1464, 1487, 1489, 1492, 1503, 1506, 1517, 1551, 1557, 1571, 1576, 1650, and 1717. The history of the difficulties thrown in the way of trade by one prince, and of the encouragement afforded by another, would go far to explain the sudden rise and fall of dynasties which trusted in political alliances to the neglect of the true sources of wealth and power. Thus Flanders, Burgundy, Holland, alternately occupied the position of leading powers, and at last all merged momentarily in the rising fortunes of Charles V. But that monarch had no idea of the mission that he was charged with, and the Spanish councillors of his and his son's court sought to repress the trade of the Germans in favour of that of Spain and the Netherlands. The death-blow to the Rhenish navigation was given by the license of the Spanish garrisons that were everywhere introduced during the religious wars, and by the ascendency that Holland obtained at the peace of Westphalia in 1648. The unjust precedent of closing the Scheldt in favour of the Maes, so far from being of use to the middle and upper Rhine, deprived its cities of the second outlet, which has only just been restored to them by the Belgian railroad. While they depended on the one channel, that line of trade appeared so alluring an object of plunder that it was sure not to be spared. Between Cologne and the sea upwards of fifteen different tolls were gradually established, and all complaints at the Ratisbon diet against them were fruitless.

What share this state of things, and the annoyance it occasioned, as well as the demonstration that accompanied it, had in facilitating the extent of the French rule to the left bank of the Rhine, it is easier to conceive than to demonstrate. It is certain that the French were fully aware of the grievance, and professed to be anxious to remove it. The "Projet de Convention sur l'Octroi" of 1806 is a document of Napoleon's statemanship that redounds more to his credit than many other more celebrated acts of organization. Its provisions are still a pattern for the management of the river. But he met with great opposition on the part of the princes of Germany who held the right bank, and defended their old duties on the plea of its being necessary to keep up the banks and the trackroads. At length he compelled them and the Dutch to agree to one toll, amounting to two francs on every cwt. of wares brought up the river to Switzerland from the sea, and one franc thirty-three cents for all that went down. The toll thus levied was divided proportionally between the claimants; and if his other proceedings had not alienated the affections of the Germans, and his wars had not checked the supplies of which he desired to facilitate the transport, this benefit conferred on the Rhenish towns would have given him a lasting claim on their attachment.

On the establishment of peace the navigation of the Rhine became an object of anxious discussion, in which England took a prominent part, and advocated its freedom. After many conferences an agreement was entered into by the princes interested, based on Napoleon's convention, the stipulations of which remained, with the declaration of the freedom of the navigation, under its protection, "jusqu'à la mer," which the Dutch chose to translate, "to the commencement of the sea." In order to be able to tax this commencement, they declared the sea to commence at Gorkum, a town situated about as far from the sea as Gravesend is from the Nore. This interpretation caused much ill blood and long negotiations, until at length the fear of competition from the railroads, and the necessity for conciliating Prussia, made Holland give way in practice, if not in principle; and by the treaties of 1831 and 1837 reduce its transit duties, that will now, in all probability, disappear. The strange treaty concluded by Lord Palmerston in 1839 with Prussia, and in which the Dutch harbours were declared to be considered as Prussian harbours by England for commercial purposes, awakened a feeling of jealousy in Holland, which was not a party to that treaty. But the feeling seems to be allayed, and cordiality with Prussia is the prevalent disposition, under the influence of which we may hope to see the Rhine assume its proper importance as a mighty link of connexion between central Europe and the sea.

The abolition of the exceptional treatment of its own vessels on the Rhine, to the masters of which the octroi levied in Prussia is, as I have stated, refunded, may be demanded in proof of the spirit of reciprocity which Prussia professes. Even the total abolition of the octroi may be looked forward to with the progress of the system of towing by steamers, which is gradually extending. It has long been adopted by Holland, and the clause of the treaty which binds Holland to keep the trackroads in

repair has been practically dropped in consequence of the improvement presented in the steam-tugs. Cologne and Mayence have now both steam-towing companies, and the traffic on the Rhine will, undoubtedly, rapidly increase with their aid. The conveyance of the mail by the steamers, which now surpass the speed of the public coaches threefold in going up and fourfold in descending the Rhine, may be hinted at as a recognition of the importance of a rapid circulation of intelligence, which the habituation to railroad calculations may induce.

I like to apply the experience of the double communication with the sea now offered to the merchants of Cologne to the growth of a powerful manufacturing district on the Rhine, and to think that, instead of interfering with the markets of Belgian and English manufacturers, it would, combined with an extended freedom of communication, increase the wealth of all. It would certainly be desirable to see it spring up, untrammelled by protection, the legitimate child of enterprise and calculation, and such an origin would ensure its duration and prosperity. In the prospect of active competition care would be taken to seek branches of industry that are as yet unoccupied; whereas protection, by its nature, drives all into the same overfilled channels of industry, often to mutual destruction. But, whether the result be mutual aid or more active competition than hitherto between Prussian and English manufacturers, I think you will agree with me that we cannot see the corn of the Baltic regularly and systematically introduced into the manufacturing districts of the Rhine, without at once getting rid of our impediments to prosperity, which, in the shape of *Corn Laws*, we have been foolish enough to submit to so long.

THE REGISTRATION.

Leicester.—The following is the result of the revision for this borough:—New claims—Free-Traders and Liberals, 95; Monopolists, 38. Objections sustained—Free-Traders and Liberals, 110; Monopolists, 61.

Free-Trade and Liberal gain on claims ..	57
On objections	46
Majority	103

Borough of Chatham.—Free-Trade objections, 54; sustained, 35. Claims, 25; allowed, 23.—Monopolist objections, 25; sustained, 10. Claims, 32; allowed, 22. Twenty-six of the Free-Trade objections were against Government officers here, and notwithstanding the Court of Common Pleas having decided in their favour on our appeal last year, and having the same barrister also who put them on last year, we succeeded in striking off 15 of them; the others must have gone had they not sworn that they could leave their quarters in the barracks when they chose (which every one knows to be false); nay, one even said that he could leave, and let them if he thought proper.

Weymouth and Melcombe Regis.—The following is the result of the late revision in this borough:—Free-Trade objections sustained, 15; claims allowed, 3=18. Monopolist objections sustained, 33; claims allowed, 21=54. Monopolist majority on this revision, 36. This untoward result is owing to the gentleman who has the management of the registration confided to him having failed to re-claim for such Free-Trade electors who had removed, and who, being objected to by the Monopolists, were in consequence struck off. This will be remedied next year. From the following statement, with which we are favoured by a valued correspondent, it will be seen that, even deducting this year's loss, there has been a very striking gain to the Free-Trade party since the general election:—

Registration, 1841, Free-Trade gain ..	17
Ditto, 1842, ditto ..	88
Ditto, 1843, ditto ..	41
Free-Trade gain	146
Registration, 1844, Free-Trade loss ..	36
Gain since general election	110

King's Lynn.—Free-Trade objections sustained, 30; claims allowed, 19=49. Monopolist objections sustained, 10; claims allowed, 11=21. Free-Trade majority on this revision, 28.

Bridport.—The register has been altered by this year's revision in favour of the Free-Trade party by 6.

Bath.—Free-Trade objections sustained, 56; claims allowed, 19=75. Monopolist objections allowed, 48; claims allowed, 6=54. Free-Trade majority on this year's revision, 21.

West Riding Boroughs.—In the whole of these boroughs the revision has issued in a gain to the Free-Trade and Liberal party.

Registration in Wales.—The following is the result of the revision courts held for the under-mentioned Welsh boroughs. Throughout the report, objections mean "objections sustained," and claims refer to "claims admitted."

Borough of Carmarthen.—*Llanelly.*—		
* Free-Trade and Liberal objections ..	4	4
Monopolist ditto	0	0
Free-Trade and Liberal claims ..	1	0
Monopolist ditto	1	0
Carmarthen.—		
Free-Trade and Liberal objections ..	3	3
Monopolist ditto	0	0
Free-Trade and Liberal claims ..	2	2
Monopolist ditto	0	0
Clear gain, Free-Traders and Liberals		9
Add by new voters on list ..		35
Total gain ..		44
Monmouth Boroughs.—*Newport.*—		
Free-Trade and Liberal objections ..	7	6
Monopolist ditto	1	
Free-Trade and Liberal claims	0	
Monopolist ditto	2	2
Clear gain of Free-Traders and Liberals		4
Add for borough of Monmouth		3
Total gain		7

The relative strength of parties in the Monmouth boroughs is less affected by the revision than it is by the overseers' list. In the borough of Newport a considerable number of new votes has been placed on the list, which will tend materially to augment the strength of the Liberal and Free-Trade party in these boroughs.

Swansea Contributory Boroughs.—A faint rumour that these boroughs would be contested at the next election excited the Free-Traders to take precautionary measures as to the registration, the result of which has been to place on the overseers' list a considerable number of new votes favourable to the Free-Trade cause, and to render a contest by the opposing party, if attempted, a hopeless one. To show the importance of attending to the registration, it may be observed that on the register of last year a loss of from sixty to seventy votes occurred to the Liberal and Free-Trade party. The lost ground has been more than recovered this year. Not a single objection was made by the Monopolists throughout the whole of the boroughs.

Borough of Montgomery.—*Montgomery.*—		
Free-Trade and Liberal objections..	2	2
Monopolist ditto	0	
Free-Trade and Liberal claims ..	1	
Monopolist ditto	4—3	
Machynlleth.—		
Free-Trade and Liberal objections..	5	4
Monopolist ditto	1	
Free-Trade and Liberal claims ..	3	3
Monopolist ditto	0	
Llanfyllin.—		
Free-Trade and Liberal objections..	8	8
Monopolist ditto	0	
Free-Trade and Liberal claims ..	1	1
Monopolist ditto	0	
Welshpool.—		
Free-Trade and Liberal objections..	18	18
Monopolist ditto	0	
Free-Trade and Liberal claims ..	1	
Monopolist ditto	3—2	
Llanidloes.—		
Free-Trade and Liberal gain; exhibiting the gross result of the revision and analysis of the overseers' list		12
Newtown.—		
Free-Trade and Liberal objections..	6	
Monopolist ditto	88—82	
Free-Trade and Liberal claims ..	1	
Monopolist ditto	1	0
*Gross Monopolist gain ..	87	48
Free-Trade and Liberal do. ..	48	
Clear Monopolist gain ..	39	

Registration Courts.—We have had good accounts from various parts of the Principality, particularly from Carmarthenshire, of Liberal gains in these courts, up to the latest accounts. Mr. Jenkins, of Swansea, agent for the League, is active on several of the circuits.—*The Merlin.*

Gamekeepers' Privileges.—The Duke of Bedford, we hear, has ordered his tenants to deal with rabbits as rats, and clear their farms of these destructive animals, which only go to gamekeepers, who take care to pursue rabbit poachers to preserve their privileges at the cost of the farmer.—*Bedford Mercury.*

Imports of Foreign Cattle.—One hundred and ten head of horned cattle have been imported by the steamers from Hamburgh and Rotterdam since our last, viz.—30 on Friday, by the Leeds, Captain Mowle; 40 on Saturday, by the Helen Macgregor, Captain Frost; 12 on Monday, by the Emerald Isle, Captain Bouch; and 28 on Tuesday, by the Transit, Capt. Dickinson.—*Hull Packet.*

Incendiarism.—On Tuesday evening, the 15th inst., an incendiary fire broke out in a field situated at Hamp, in the parish of Bridgwater, Somersetshire, occupied by Mr. Charles Jeffries, an old inhabitant of this town, which destroyed a rick of old hay and a lock-up wood house, valued at £50.—On the same Tuesday, between three and four o'clock a.m., a fire broke out in a hay-stack, on a farm belonging to Mr. Isitt, situate between Bedford and Fenlake, but was extinguished before any serious damage was effected.—Almost at the same moment fire broke out in a wheat stack, on a farm in the occupation of Mr. T. Wing, of Bedford. Before the flames were got under, the stack, which contained about 30 loads of wheat, was wholly destroyed. In both instances the owners were insured.—Another fire broke out at Hallow lane, near Hitchin, soon after 10 o'clock on Thursday night. The whole of the farm-buildings were consumed, and some cottages which abutted on the premises were much damaged.—Between 12 and one o'clock on Friday morning a most destructive fire took place at Fenstanton, on the premises of Mr. Lambert, farmer, who usually employs a large number of labourers. The farm-servants and a number of labourers assisted cheerfully, but their zeal was in a great measure neutralized by terror, and as the flames encompassed the premises the men ran from point to point in a state of bewilderment. The dwelling-house, together with the out offices, several hay-stacks, barley and pea-stacks, the produce of 10 acres, was consumed.—Another fire broke out the same evening on the premises of Mr. T. Whinnett, of Wingfield, in the parish of Chalgrove, being the fourth fire which has occurred in the same parish within the last year. It was confined to the farm-buildings, the communication to the dwelling-house having, by judicious efforts, been cut off. The corn-stacks were pitched some distance from the yard, and owing to that circumstance escaped destruction.—On the night of Thursday, several stacks, on the farm of Mr. Bond, of Cawston, containing the produce of 18 acres of wheat, 18 acres of barley, and 43 acres of rakings, were discovered to be on fire on all sides, and were entirely consumed. Some other stacks and the buildings were preserved, by the prompt arrival of the engines.

* In Newtown a large proportion of the number objected to were inserted on the overseers' list for *this* year, and are not on the register now in force. A comparative analysis of the list and register is now in preparation. In the meantime it may be observed, that the clear Monopolist gain, as compared with the register, is estimated at not more than 29. The result of the revision on the whole, of the Montgomery boroughs will, in this case, exhibit a clear gain for the Liberal and Free-Trade party of 25. The whole of the Monopolist objections have, however, as yet, *to pass the ordeal* of the Court of Common Pleas, as an objection was raised to them, on which the revising barrister has granted "an appeal."

REVIEW.

Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation. London: Churchill.

This very able but rather fanciful work appears to have been suggested by Le Comte's "Positive Philosophy," from which the author has taken some of his most ingenious speculations. Combining the "nebulous" theory of the origin of the solar system with the theories of modern geologists, he traces a possible history of the earth, from its first existence in a rarefied state down to its present condensed and solid form. His boldest conjecture is, that life may be made the result of certain chemical combinations of matter; and for this he relies on the experiments of Mr. Cross, regardless of the refutation they received from Professor Henslow. Life once obtained, he thinks that a varied and more perfect organization might be the result of the organic changes to which the earth was subjected during the progress of its solidification; and with this theory he combines some of those startling deductions which Serres has developed in his "Transcendental Anatomy." His great postulate is, that there were no successive stages of creation, in which he is at issue not only with the Book of Genesis, but with nearly all the best geologists and naturalists. Setting aside, however, the question of authority altogether, we should require very strong evidence to prove that not merely life, but the power of reproducing life, could result from any chemical or mechanical combination of matter, and still stronger evidence to prove that thought is the result of material organization.

We are always reluctant to make any appeal to revelation in such discussions as are raised in the volume before us; the Bible was designed to guide our religious belief, not to instruct us in the mysteries of science; and those who use it to support or impugn cosmoganic theories incur the hazard of substituting their own interpretations of it for the written word itself. But, if the theory of this writer be received, such a thing as revelation is impossible, for the Creator is asserted not to have interfered in His work since first He called our system into nebulous existence.

In the "Natural History of Society" we endeavoured to show that the fact of civilization is in itself a proof of a revelation, for the reason assigned by the Archbishop of Dublin, that we have no recorded example of a self-civilized community, though we have many of self-barbarized communities. The writer of the work before us has felt that this argument was a very awkward impediment in his way, and he accordingly assails it with more cleverness than success. We say, civilization is a fact, and the Scripture accounts for the fact; it tells us that, when God created Adam, He instructed him in the nature of the animals and plants by which he was surrounded, a knowledge which is clearly unattainable by instinct, and which experience could not have gained without the lapse of many generations. The importance of the point in issue may excuse the apparent vanity of quoting from ourselves; but we must further refer to the "Natural History of Society" for proof that the traditions of all nations describe the first elements of knowledge as imported from abroad; even the islanders of the Pacific ascribe their knowledge of imperfect arts to the teaching of the gods. Furthermore, we showed that there is no consistency in the barbarous state of existence; every savage tribe yet discovered possesses some peculiar bit of ingenious knowledge or contrivance, standing prominently out and above the general average of information; and we have shown that these must be received as evidences of a former and higher state of civilization, just as the ruined cities of Central America evidence a higher knowledge of architecture than is possessed by any existing tribe of the Red Indians. We believe that "Civilization, like every other good and perfect gift, came down from the Father of Lights, in whom there is no variableness and no shadow of turning;" and we think that the "Natural History of Society" exhibits proofs of design in social life not less evident than those that are displayed in the material universe. This is a question of fact, not of speculation; and we refer those who take an interest in the subject to the work to which we have alluded.

Differing widely as we do on almost every material point from the author of the volume before us, we deem it only justice to say that his work is ably and eloquently written; that it carefully avoids all irritating topics, and that it displays intellectual power of no common order even in its most daring and wildest flights.

Ballads, and other Poems. By J. G. Whittier. London: H. G. Clarke.

Whittier has long been honourably distinguished as one of the most energetic and uncompromising advocates of negro emancipation; and his efforts to remove this foul blot from his country's escutcheon have been injurious to his literary fame in America. Now that Mr. Clarke has placed his poems in a cheap and accessible form before the

English public, by including them in his valuable series, we trust that, at this side of the Atlantic, Whittier will receive the meed of fame which has been unjustly withheld from him in the United States. He possesses some of the highest qualifications of a poet, and rivals Bryant himself as a delineator of external nature, while he is even more successful in associating each feature of the landscape with moral thought. Take the following as an example from the poem of the "Fratricide," describing a royalist who had killed his own brother when he met him in the ranks of the Republican armies:—

"He stood on the brow of the well-known hill,
Its few grey oaks moan'd over him still—
The last of that forest which cast the gloom
Of its shadow at eve o'er his childhood's home;
And the beautiful valley beneath him lay
With its quivering leaves, and its streams at play,
And the sunshine over it all the while
Like the golden shower of the Eastern isle.

"He knew the rock with its fingering vine,
And its grey top touch'd by the slant sunshine,
And the delicate stream which crept beneath
Soft as the flow of an infant's breath;
And the flowers which lean'd to the west wind's sigh,
Kissing each ripple which glided by;
And he knew every valley and wooded swell,
For the visions of childhood are treasured well.

"Why shook the old man as his eye glanced down
That narrow ravine where the rude cliffs frown,
With their shaggy brows and their teeth of stone,
And their grim shade back from the sunlight thrown?
What saw he there save the dreary glen,
Where the shy fox crept from the eye of men,
And the great owl sat in the leafy limb
That the hateful sun might not look on him?

"Fix'd, glassy, and strange was that old man's eye,
As if a spectre were stealing by,
And glared it still on that narrow dell
Where thicker and browner the twilight fell;
Yet at every sigh of the fitful wind,
Or stirring of leaves in the wood behind,
His wild glance wander'd the landscape o'er,
Then fix'd on that desolate dell once more.

"Oh, who shall tell of the thoughts which ran
Through the dizzied brain of that grey old man?
His childhood's home—and his father's toil—
And his sister's kiss—and his mother's smile—
And his brother's laughter and gamesome mirth,
At the village school and the winter hearth—
The beautiful thoughts of his early time,
Ere his heart grew dark with its later crime.

"And darker and wilder his visions came
Of the deadly feud and the midnight flame,
Of the Indian's knife with its slaughter red,
Of the ghastly forms of the scalpless dead,
Of his own fierce deeds in that fearful hour
When the terrible Brandt was forth in power,—
And he clasp'd his hands o'er his burning eye
To shadow the vision which glided by.

"It came with the rush of the battle-storm—
With a brother's shaken and kneeling form,
And his prayer for life when a brother's arm
Was lifted above him for mortal harm,
And the fiendish curse, and the groan of death,
And the welling of blood, and the gurgling breath,
And the scalp torn off while each nerve could feel
The wrenching hand and the jagged steel!

"And the old man groan'd—for he saw, again,
The mangled corse of his kinsman slain,
As it lay where his hand had hurl'd it then,
At the shadow'd foot of that fearful glen!—
And it rose erect, with the death-pang grim,
And pointed its bloodied finger at him!—
And his heart grew cold—and the curse of Cain
Burn'd like a fire in the old man's brain.

"Oh, had he not seen that spectre rise
On the blue of the cold Canadian skies?—
From the lakes which sleep in the ancient wood,
It had risen to whisper its tale of blood,
And follow'd his bark to the sombre shore,
And glared by night through the wigwam door,
And here—on his own familiar hill—
It rose on his haunted vision still!

"Whose corse was that which the morrow's sun,
Through the opening boughs, look'd calmly on?
There were those who bent o'er that rigid face
Who well in its darken'd lines might trace
The features of him who, a traitor, fled
From a brother whose blood himself had shed,
And there—on the spot where he strangely died—
They made the grave of the Fratricide!"

In the ballad of "Cassandra," Southwick, one of the early members of the Society of Friends, who had suffered the bitter persecution of the Puritans, Whittier has very cleverly contrived to make the external adjuncts of the picture subservient to exhibiting the maiden's strength of feeling and intensity of conviction:—

"Slow broke the grey cold morning; again the sunshine fell,
Flecked with the shade of bar and grate within my lonely cell;
The hoar-frost melted on the wall, and upward from the street
Came careless laugh, and idle word, and tread of passing feet.

"At length the heavy bolts fell back, my door was open cast,
And slowly, at the sheriff's side, up the long street I passed;
I heard the murmur round me, and felt, but dared not see,
How, from every door and window, the people gazed on me.

"And doubt and fear fell on me, shame burned upon my cheek,
Swam earth and sky around me, my trembling limbs grew weak:
'Oh, Lord! support Thy handmaid; and from her soul cast out
The fear of man, which brings a snare—the weakness and the doubt.'

"Then the dreary shadows scattered like a cloud in morning's breeze,
And a low deep voice within me seemed whispering words like these:
'Though thy earth be as the iron, and thy heaven a brazen wall,
Trust still his loving kindness whose power is over all.'

"We paused at length, where at my feet the sunlit waters broke
On glaring reach of shining beach, and shingly wall of rock;
The merchants' ships lay idly there, in hard clear lines on high,
Tracing with rope and slender spar their net-work on the sky.

"And there were ancient citizens, cloak-wrapped and grave and cold,
And grim and stout sea-captains with faces bronzed and old,
And on his horse, with Rawson, his cruel clerk at hand,
Sat dark and haughty Endicott, the ruler of the land.

"And poisoning with his evil words the ruler's ready ear,
The priest leaned o'er his saddle, with laugh and scoff and jeer;
It stirred my soul, and from my lips the seal of silence broke,
As if through woman's weakness a warning spirit spoke.

"I cried, 'The Lord rebuke thee, thou smiter of the meek,
Thou robber of the righteous, thou trampler of the weak!
Go light the dark, cold hearth-stones—go turn the prison lock
Of the poor hearts thou hast hunted, thou wolf amid the flock!'"

Another ballad describes an interesting incident in this detestable persecution. Thomas Macey gave shelter to a poor Quaker who had fled from the cruelties of the New Englanders; but a Puritan preacher discovered where the victim had found refuge, and brought a party to arrest him:—

"Then kindled Macey's eye of fire:
'No priest who walks the earth
Shall pluck away the stranger-guest
Made welcome to my hearth.'

"Down from his cottage wall he caught
The matchlock, hotly tried
At Preston-pans and Marston-moor,
By fiery Ireton's side;

"Where Puritan, and Cavalier,
With shout and psalm contended;
And Rupert's oath, and Cromwell's prayer,
With battle-thunder blended.

"Up rose the ancient stranger then;
'My spirit is not free
To bring the wrath and violence
Of evil men on thee:

"And for thyself, I pray forbear,—
Bethink thee of thy Lord,
Who healed again the smitten ear,
And sheathed his follower's sword.

"'I go, as to the slaughter led:
Friends of the poor, farewell!'
Beneath his hand the oaken door
Back on its hinges fell.

"'Come forth, old grey-beard, yea and nay;'
The reckless scoffers cried,
As to a horseman's saddle-bow
The old man's arms were tied.

"And of his bondage hard and long
In Boston's crowded jail,
Where suffering woman's prayer was heard,
With sickening childhood's wail.

"It suits not with our tale to tell:
Those scenes have passed away—
Let the dim shadows of the past,
Brood o'er that evil day."

Not satisfied with this cruelty, the preacher wished to have Macey arrested and flogged for giving shelter to a Quaker; but Macey made his escape, and became the first white settler in the island of Nantucket:—

"And yet that isle remaineth
A refuge of the free,
As when true-hearted Macey
Beheld it from the sea.

"Free as the winds that winnow
Her shrubless hills of sand—
Free as the waves that batter
Along her yielding land.

"Than hers, at Duty's summons,
No loftier spirit stirs,—
Nor falls o'er human suffering
A readier tear than hers.

"God bless the sea-beat island!—
And grant for evermore
That Charity and freedom dwell,
As now, upon her shore!"

We shall extract a passage from one of Whittier's anti-slavery poems, to show that there are still men in America who dare to feel as Christians and speak as men:—

"Just God! and shall we calmly rest,
The Christian's scorn—the Heathen's mirth—
Content to live the lingering jest
And by-word of a mocking Earth?
Shall our own glorious land retain
That curse which Europe scorns to bear?
Shall our own brethren drag the chain
Which not even Russia's menials wear?

"Up, then, in Freedom's manly part,
From grey-beard old to fiery youth,
And on the nation's naked heart
Scatter the living coals of Truth!
Up—while ye slumber, deeper yet
The shadow of our fame is growing!
Up—while ye pause, our sun may set
In blood, around our altars flowing!

"Oh! rouse ye, ere the storm comes forth—
The gather'd wrath of God and man—
Like that which wasted Egypt's earth
When hail and fire above it ran.
Hear ye no warnings in the air?
Feel ye no earthquake underneath?
Up—up—why will ye slumber where
The sleeper only wakes in death?

"Up *now* for Freedom!—not in strife
Like that your sterner fathers saw—
The awful waste of human life—
The glory and the guilt of war:
But break the chain—the yoke remove,
And smite to earth Oppression's rod,
With those mild arms of Truth and Love,
Made mighty through the living God!

"Down let the shrine of Moloch sink,
And leave no traces where it stood;
No longer let its idol drink
His daily cup of human blood:
But rear another altar there,
To Truth and Love and Mercy given,
And Freedom's gift, and Freedom's prayer,
Shall call an answer down from Heaven!"

We have received at the same time a copy of "Carpenter's Songs and Ballads," some of which possess considerable merit; but the author deals too largely in conventional feelings, and seems to have derived his inspiration more from the heated atmosphere of drawing-rooms than the pure air of heaven.

A New Export from Ireland.—The banks of the Shannon, says the *Limerick Chronicle*, are inexhaustible in providing sustenance, not only for the natives, but our constant customer, John Bull. Salmon has for some time been an article of profitable export to the English market; but what will the public think of that cheaper and more abundant dainty—eels? There are 10 tons of this prolific fish now in tanks at Killaloe, awaiting a conveyance to London; and a vessel adapted for the trade will take on board from this port in the ensuing week 40 tons of eels for the London market.

Hopelessness of the Agricultural Labourer.—When Dante had to express the concentrated idea of utter misery, he said, "abandon hope;" and, when we regard the actual condition of our agricultural labourers, it would seem as if the warning of the poet were especially and emphatically addressed to them, beyond all others that compose the lower classes of our social state. In every other calling, by industry and good conduct a man may rise to a higher grade, and, finally, to opulence. The shop-boy of the mercer, in a little time, stands behind the counter, is then admitted as a junior partner, and, if things go well, and the house flourishes under his management, at last ends in being the principal of the firm. The banker's clerk is not without his hopes of future wealth; and half the merchants of London, "who are princes," have risen from subordinate stations. Even the toiling operative of the manufacturer *may*, by diligence and skill, with frugality, begin by hiring a small *power*—the phrase is well known at Manchester—and then advance himself to wealth that astonishes himself, and moves the envy of those he has left behind. The man that went to his work in wooden clogs a few years ago now rides in his chariot. With the labourer in every other trade or calling there is the chance and hope of elevation to a higher rank; with him that tills the ground—none. Let him have what skill he may—let him know every acre in his parish, the culture most suited to produce the largest crops—let him understand the value and the use of every kind of cattle on the farm, be the best reaper and best shepherd—his lot is cast; he is doomed to toil for a master all his life long for wages just keeping him from starvation, and in age and infirmity has an allowance of 5d. a day to stave off death by hunger.—*Times.*

Fruits of the League Agitation—The most frequent and favourite defence of the Corn Laws has been that they are maintained for the promotion and encouragement of the art of agriculture, for the good of the tenant-farmer, and especially for the benefit of the farm-labourer. But turn to the speeches of the landowners at the numerous agricultural meetings held in the south of England during the last fortnight, and what is their staple? Lamentations over the backward state of agriculture as an art; the impoverished and spiritless condition of the tenantry; and the wretched state, body and soul, of the labourer, the insensate and brutalized incendiary of the stackyard. A short time ago, any man who ventured to assert that the farmer was deluded and impoverished by his "protection," or that the farm-labourer was lower in comfort and in intelligence than the labourers in the "unprotected" branches of industry, was denounced a revolutionist and an incendiary. But these facts being now proved, the landowners, convinced against their will, begin to confess it, and their own organs to scold and urge them on to a remedy. As a specimen of this change of tone among the monopolists, take the following from the *Church and State Gazette*, regarding one of the richest agricultural counties of England:—"The agricultural county of Suffolk has of late years suffered more from the pauperism of its labouring classes than any other county in England. The peasantry have been ground down by famine, the farmers worn out with fear, and the landlords tardily aroused to the conviction that something must be done, only by the incendiary glare, whose cause may be traced quite as much to the neglectors of the poor as to the poor neglected."—These are cheering symptoms; but we would never have seen them, save for the League agitation. The English farmer and labourer would never have been the subjects of all this new compassion and kindness, had the League not been thundering at the landowners' gates; and, as the League has exposed the evil, it will also be its task to show the true remedy, which the landlords are evidently determined not to see.—*Kilmarnock Herald.*

AGRICULTURE.

A LECTURE ON LEASES.

BY A CABINET MINISTER.

Last year Lord Stanley, when presiding at the *Liverpool Agricultural Association*, eloquently expatiated upon the benefits of deep draining and similar agricultural improvements, but he stopped short at the point most interesting to farmers, namely, the security of tenure requisite to enable them safely to make such outlays. This his lordship, at that time, left to be dealt with by a tenant-farmer, who roundly told the landowners that without long leases farmers could never become improvers. The events of the past twelve months seem to have had a considerable effect upon Lord Stanley's mind, for at the late meeting of the same association, where Lord Stanley again presided, he distinctly stated that no great improvement could be expected without leases. This is the passage we allude to:—

"I say, and as one connected with the land I feel myself bound to say it, *that a landlord has no right to expect any great and permanent improvement of his land by the tenant unless that tenant be secured the repayment of his outlay, not by the personal character or honour of his landlord, but by a security which no casualties can interfere with—the security granted him by the terms of a lease for years.* (APPLAUSE.) I do not speak of a lease for lives. In my experience, with some exception, wherever I have found fields badly cultivated and buildings dilapidated, I have found that the property is held under a life lease. (A laugh.) I speak of a tenant who is prepared to join his capital and to go hand in hand with his landlord in the improvement of the farm. *The greater the improvement you expect, the greater ought to be the lease you give.* I consider it unjust, if you call for improvement, not to give to the tenant the moral certainty that the improvement he effects shall repay him during the course of his lease for the expense he incurs."

Now, this is a just and sensible admission, and, coming from one so influential from station and official connexion as Lord Stanley, cannot fail to have a beneficial effect upon the minds of the landowners of England. His lordship also gave further proof that the circumstances of the times are teaching him the true state of the relation of landlord and tenant. He said, "The real old class farmers shrug their shoulders and say 'What is the use of all this? It is not a question for the farmer. We shall only have our rents increased the more productive the land is;'" and added, that "such an argument is the very climax of absurdity." He did not expect a farmer to undertake any improvements in cultivation unless they appeared likely to promote his own individual advantage, or that "would not repay him capital, interest, and profit during his occupation of the land." He further said, that "there are some expenses, more especially with the class of farmers of whom the great majority are composed, which it is idle to expect that they should undertake. If they are to add a permanent value to the land they ought to be undertaken by the landlord himself, charging on the tenant such an amount of interest as may repay him for the outlay he has made, and at the same time afford a reasonable profit to the tenant." And his lordship distinctly recognised draining out land as a permanent improvement which ought to be undertaken by the landlord. All this is just, sound, and practical so far as it goes, and if the business of farming had been in a natural condition would leave little to be desired. Let agriculture be once placed on a stable foundation, and such landowners as Lord Stanley, judging from his speech, promises to be would have no difficulty in maintaining his rental and securing at the same time a prosperous tenantry. But there is a difficulty in the way which Lord Stanley seems to have overlooked. Not only must landlords be ready to grant, but farmers must likewise be willing to accept, leases. How will the great body of farmers—average farmers—venture at this moment to take leases? Nobody acquainted with the condition of farmers will hesitate to reply, "They will not." There must be some security against the fearful and unnatural fluctuations in the prices of farm produce which have occurred of late years before farmers will bind themselves by leases. Such fluctuations are the necessary consequences of the Corn Laws, and will cease only with the abrogation of monopoly. Yet without leases, apart from those permanent improvements which landlords ought to effect, and in many cases doubtless will do, in any event, no great increase in production can take place. Good farming can never be the rule with yearly tenants, however much the landlord may do towards permanently improving his property.

Besides, on what scale are rents to be calculated? Will landlords be satisfied to take the present price of 45s. a quarter for wheat, and, having estimated their rents at that rate, to turn them into corn rents? That they will not we have plain evidence in a proposition—put forth as a *most* liberal one—made by Mr. Gally Knight, M.P., to his tenants, at his recent rent feast. After stating that "he thought leases for terms of years were just to the tenant, and more advantageous to the community at large," he said:—

"And I think that leases of that description could be arranged on such conditions *as would be safe and equitable for both parties concerned.* (CHEERS.) I think they would be so if they were carried out on the principle which has been adopted in the Tithe Commutation Act. According to that principle, *the rent is governed by the average of the price of corn during the seven preceding years.* This I propose to take for my model. The lease, I propose, would be a lease based on a fluctuating corn rent. (*Cheers.*) *With regard to the rent with which the leases would begin*, whether for a term of fourteen or twenty-one years, I should equally propose to take the Tithe Commutation Act as a guide—(hear);—but, on this point, I will not look to the last seven years (the seven years immediately preceding Christmas, 1843), because during some of those years corn was selling at unusually high prices—(hear),—*and the effect of taking those seven years alone would be too much against the tenant.* (Hear, hear.) *I will, therefore, take the whole seventeen years which have elapsed since the averages were first ascertained under the Tithe Commutation Act, and I find that the average price of wheat during those seventeen years is a little more than 56s. per quarter;* I SHOULD, THEREFORE, CONSIDER IT FAIR TO TAKE 56s. AS THE SUM WITH REFERENCE TO WHICH THE RENT SHALL AT FIRST COMMENCE—(hear hear),—which rent, as I have said before, would fluctuate according to the price of corn in succeeding years."

This seemingly liberal proposition is, in fact, one to which no farmer in his senses would agree. The farm is now to be valued, and the probable produce of wheat having been ascertained that is to be converted into money upon the assumption that the quarter of wheat will sell for 56s., whereas, in fact, the real price of wheat is from 11s. to 13s. a quarter less than that sum. Instead of paying so many quarters of wheat, by this ingenious scheme the farmer would pay to Mr. Knight so many ten or eleven bushels. And this original miscalculation *against the farmer* would go through every fluctuation of this proposed corn rent. Mr. Knight said:—

"To this plan objections may be made as regards the farmer. It may be said that, by taking the average of the price of corn during the preceding seven years as the rule for the rent, it might happen that the tenant would have to pay a high rent in a year when his corn was selling at a low price; *but no man would undertake a farm of any magnitude who has not an amply sufficient capital* (hear, hear); *and, if he is possessed of such a capital, it would enable him to meet such contingencies without inconvenience.*"

This is sheer misapprehension. No amount of capital could justify a farmer undertaking a farm upon a calculation of 56s. a quarter for wheat when he might often obtain no more than 42s. It would not be "contingency," but a certain periodical loss that he would by this scheme be called upon to "meet." It must be remembered that the last seventeen years comprise many years of absolutely famine prices, and many more in which prices were unnaturally enhanced by the Corn Laws; the average, therefore, of 56s. a quarter for wheat, which all the prices of those years give, is considerably too high. It is something, however, to find the monopolist landowners acknowledging the necessity of long leases and corn rents; but they have the further discovery yet to make, that leases will not, indeed cannot, safely be accepted by farmers until the Corn-Law question is settled. And we ask the wildest monopolist in the country whether any possible mode of settling that question exists except by a total repeal of all restrictions on the trade in grain?

TENANT-FARMERS THE REAL IMPROVERS.

We have often had occasion to remark that general and large improvements in agriculture can only be looked for from tenant-farmers. Here and there a landowner of spirit and intelligence may exhibit what a judicious and spirited outlay can effect in husbandry, but the numbers of such agriculturists must be comparatively few, and even they must always rely upon their managers for practically working out their views. It is the professional agriculturists, the tenant-farmers,—the men who live and seek to earn a competence, or a fortune, by farming,—on whom will rest the burden of agricultural progression. In general the most that landlords can do will be to avoid doing mischief, and to abstain from imposing restrictions and interposing difficulties in the way of the tenant's efforts to farm well. And even this negative assistance to agriculture requires some degree of intelligence on the part of the landowner, and, above all, requires the abandonment of those political influences and semi-feudal customs, to the maintenance of which the welfare of the tenant and so much of the real interest of the landlord are sacrificed. Thanks to the teachings of the League, and a plentiful wheat harvest, this is beginning to be acknowledged. We have now before us the reports of two agricultural meetings in Essex, where the proceedings assumed a more practical and rational character than is usual on such occasions. This is due to the circumstance that on both occasions the farmers, and not the landowners, took the lead in the discussions. The first was the *William Labourers' Friend Society*, formerly a branch of the *Chelmsford Society*; but the parent society having become defunct for want of funds, the offspring has taken root, and appears likely to flourish alone. This was the first meeting of the society as an independent one, and after the arrangements necessary for its government had been made, and a few complimentary toasts gone through, some useful papers containing accounts of experiments made by farmers were read. Then followed the most valuable part of the proceedings. Mr. H. Dixon, of Witham, an improving farmer, and a good Free-Trader, after stating in detail the results of some practices in husbandry, said:—

"He had asked Mr. Lungley whether he thought his 15-inch ploughing was a permanent advantage to the soil, *for it was not the first or second year that they were to look to in these matters, but whether the improvement was likely to be of a real and permanent character.* Then taking the good farmers (*and he feared they were the exception*), he thought there could not be a doubt the question should be *how to employ the labourers as well as to give them rewards for their industry, their genius, and their talent, for instead of talking of a redundancy of labourers, if the land was cultivated according to its capability, they had not labourers enough.* (CHEERS.) He had no idea of a redundancy of labourers, *when the land was not half cultivated*, and when, besides, there was a large quantity of waste land not cultivated at all, but which might, by the application of capital and labour, be made the best producing land we had." (*Cheers.*)

This is the sensible and true view of the subject. Mr. Dixon further said that, at the late meeting in Suffolk, this, the most important point, had been too much lost sight of. Capital ought to be applied to land, and landowners should try to understand the management of their own property:—

"It was not merely a question for the tenant who was in the farm for a short time—it was not a question of occupation, but it was a question of the time of occupation, *for no man could apply permanent and costly improvement to the soil unless he was protected for a sufficient time to enable him to reap the advantage of it.* If he were so protected he would benefit himself by the application of his capital, skill, and talents,—and he would benefit the country by greater production and by employing a greater number of labourers. *Therefore he thought it came much to the great landed proprietors to see that they let their land with full liberty to the tenant to put his capital on it, so as to be able to reap the benefit himself, and to confer a benefit on others.*"

The necessity of long leases as a preliminary to good farming is now loudly asserted by farmers, and is admitted by a rapidly-increasing number of landowners; but the Corn-Law-created uncertainties are an absolute bar to the general adoption of leases. The present transitional state of husbandry must be got over before landlords and tenants can find themselves upon the safe ground of long and rational leases. And Mr. Dixon stated that the best farmers and those who employed most labourers made, even under the existing system, the best profits. He said:—

"*There were some gentlemen in that room, and some were not, who employed treble the usual number of labourers, and they, he believed, were getting on profitably,—while the bad farmers were getting back day by day, the good farmers were benefiting their families and conferring benefits on all around them.* (CHEERS.) There was a great lack of attending to the main matter by applying judiciously capital to land."

And he particularly referred to Mr. William Hutley, who had recently laid out as much as £15 per acre in improving a farm. Mr. Butler had also, by draining, converted "land which before was unprofitable, and grew nothing but weeds," into productive soil. He had himself, also,

"Done a great deal of this deep draining, and he was happy to see a gentleman at the end of the table who had readily consented to drain with him, because their lands were mixed, *though against the advice of his land-agent*, protecting himself in the outlay of his money by the tenant paying 40s. as interest for the outlay, which was £25; this would save him for the outlay. The effects of this draining were clearly apparent. Here was land that he at one time had difficulty in walking over as snipe ground, for they were fond of wet, and now no more snipes for him." (CHEERS.)

Lord Rayleigh, the president, in reference to Mr. Hutley's improvements, said:—

"The improvements alluded to on Mr. Hutley's farm were certainly such as he thought must last for a great length of time; and it was, in fact, an example farm in this neighbourhood. *He never saw such draining before—it was a novelty in farming; and both landowners and tenants might look with interest to see how the future crop succeeded*, because if it did, as he hoped it might, it would be a great encouragement to lay out their money in a liberal way, expecting a fair return."

It is plain from the way in which his lordship referred to these improvements, that he doubted their success. There are no men so timid in laying out money in farming as landowners; and this, besides their inability to give effective superintendence, is the reason why they seldom succeed in farming, and yet they hesitate to let their farms upon terms which will secure enterprising tenants.

Mr. Hutley, on being asked to give some account of his improvements, said:—

"It was true when he took it he thought no farm was more out of condition than that was; *it was in extreme poverty, and was overrun with thistles, docks, and everything that a man who pretended to good farming ought to try to eradicate.* He took a lease of the farm, and, finding it in this extreme poverty, the first thing he set about was to take the water off it, *which had cost him rather more than £200 on 160 acres*, as he had made rather more than a mile of drainage through it, which had tested and proved the utility of this system of drainage. It was true he had a lease of the farm for sixteen years."

He next referred to the timber:—

"At the time he took the land there were a vast number of pollard-trees on it, and being fully convinced these were an injury to the farmer, and an impediment to good cultivation, *he cut them down, and drew them home, and then he had been bid 2s. a piece for them. This was the value of them; and he felt that any landlord who per-*

mitted such things to grow on his estate was no good judge either of his own or the tenant's interest. He had from 80 to 100 of these pollard-trees; he cut gate-posts out of the best of them, and for the others, as he had said, he was bid 2s. each."

He then set about the tillage of the land. "It was a good piece of land, for which he gave a good rent, *and he was satisfied*, and he had no doubt the landlord was satisfied also." And, after detailing the means by which he brought the land into a state to bear a good crop of turnips—the great test of success on heavy land—he said:—

"The whole expense of bringing the land into this state was from £12 to £15 an acre; and, with the year's rent for the 160 acres, *it had cost him, without anything for stock, except horses, £2600.* (Hear.) *He fancied it would be a profitable occupation, for he had a green crop such as no other man in the kingdom had got, and he would show it against any man in the kingdom for cleanliness and productiveness.* (Cheers.) Therefore, he thought it was the duty of the landlord to take a tenant that was competent to employ labour and improve the soil." (Cheers.)

And having found substantial tenants:—

"The next thing was to give them a lease and stimulate them to lay out their money: they must let them have full flow and a fair opportunity to lay out their money to benefit themselves, and he was sure it would benefit the country at large. (Cheers.) He had seen a vast deal of mismanagement, *but he never saw a man that could farm that had not got a lease, and he never saw him disposed to try.* Therefore it was the duty of the tenant to offer the landlord a good rent, and get rid of those old pollards and trees which were of no use to the country and were so injurious to the tenant. *He would say to the landlords, 'You cannot grow timber and corn too.'* (Cheers.) They had a discussion on this subject at their Farmers' Club twelve months ago, and the conclusion they came to was that they should endeavour to get rid of the timber *by offering the landlord 2s. an acre extra rent; he was sure it would be worth it; and he was sure, if the landlord laid out that money in land, in the course of ten years it would produce more than all his timber was worth.* (Cheers.) Let them grow their timber where it ought to be grown—in woods; and let the tenant have a fair opportunity to lay out his money and employ his capital and skill upon the land. *Looking around that neighbourhood, they would find invariably that when individuals were without leases, and had timber on the estates, they had little in their pockets and nothing in their cupboards.* (Laughter.) If he had an estate he would cut down every tree, so that a man should not find a place to hang his bag upon."

This is just what Lord Ducie inculcates, both by example and precept; and most landowners are obliged to admit that their timber is a nuisance and a loss to the tenant; yet they cannot make up their minds to abandon the petty and purely-imaginary benefits of reserving to themselves the hedgerow timber. Mr. Hutley's account is the more valuable, because he has himself made a good fortune by judicious and enterprising farming. We believe that he began life with only a moderate capital, and he has always maintained a sturdy political independence. Moreover, he has ever prudently abstained from embarking in any farm without the security of a long lease. If Mr. Hutley is not actively a Free-Trader, he has distinctly stated that he is not afraid of foreign competition, and has constantly refused to join the "protection societies."

But sound opinion is making way amongst other classes besides farmers; for, at the *Braintree Association*, Mr. Hanbury, the banker, said:—

"Formerly some of his friends were glad to have a little money, but he was now lending large sums at 1½ per cent. *If that money was employed in agriculture, what a profit it would bring compared with 1½ per cent.!*" (*"Hear," and cheers.*)

And Sir J. P. Wood said:—

"*The agriculturists, as a body, were too much given to look for protection extrinsic from themselves.* He could make use of no better language on this subject than that which was written in the Book of Proverbs, 'Put not your confidence in princes.' (Cheers.) That was a most appropriate adage of a club in the neighbourhood, '*God helps those who help themselves.*' (Hear.) Whatever might be the extrinsic advantages given to agriculture, industry, with well-directed capital, was its chief safeguard."

Then, at the *East Essex Agricultural Association*, after Mr. Baker and a Mr. Rebow had enlarged in the accustomed fashion on the allotment system as the remedy for non-employment of the labourers, Mr. W. Fisher Hobbs, well known as a good farmer, said:—

"He would wish to make a few observations on what had fallen from Mr. Baker and Mr. Rebow. The subject of allotments was alluded to by them, and he was sorry to differ from them on that question. Mr. Baker had said the allotments ought to be savings' banks of labour; and Mr. Rebow observed, if the labourer spent one day in the week on his own allotment it would be better. His (Mr. Hobbs's) opinion was totally averse from that. *He considered that, in the present position of agriculture, they ought to do all they could to improve the cultivation of the soil; and if they threw out labour to enable the poor man to employ himself, as suggested, he thought it might lead to consequences which might make the allotments a curse and not a blessing to him.*"

This is most true; and Mr. Hobbs deserves great credit for thus frankly stating what most intelligent farmers know, and in private admit. The only remedy for the distress of the rural labourers is improved cultivation of farms; but to this the Corn Laws form the chief obstacle. He further observed:—

"The more they dived into science and the practice of agriculture, the more they found there was room for improvement and for increasing the production of the soil; and *therefore, instead of diverting the labour of the husbandman to the cultivation of allotments, they ought to make improvements in the soil*, and landlord, tenant, and labourer, unite together for their mutual advantage. *The landlord ought to assist the tenant by giving him a lease on a long term, by aiding him to make improvements, by cutting down waste and useless timber, which was robbing the soil in a tenfold degree—by assisting him in making improvements by marling, chalking, and other means—by seeing that the tenant was a good practical farmer, and had capital to occupy the soil; and then it was the tenant's duty to employ his quota of able-bodied labourers throughout his parish.* (Hear.) His opinion was that there ought not to be an able-bodied labourer out of employment throughout the country. He believed that if they would do this, and endeavour to cultivate their minds, they would hear little of distress, little of disturbances. *He never knew the labourers paid so well in proportion to the price of corn as now;* and therefore something besides lowness of wages must have produced the disturbances in some parts of the country."

Now, this "something" is neither more nor less than the fact, that the farmers are at this moment paying as rent the funds which ought to have been applied to the payment of the labourers. This is the direct consequence of the Corn Laws, which have led farmers and valuers to calculate on permanently high prices which no laws can secure. Mr. Hobbs concluded his very straightforward speech by saying:—

"He hoped the labourers would be found employment to pass through the winter, but, *as he said, this could not be done unless the landlords supported their tenants in making permanent improvements;* and this was a point to which their attention ought to be directed."

The effect of such outspoken truth was to compel the allotment quacks to draw in, and assert that all they advocated was giving the labourer a good garden to his cottage!! We should mention that at this meeting Mr. Baker earnestly declared his belief that leases were necessary to improved farming, and admitted that the "agricultural labourer had not received that attention of late years that was due to him." We also find the monopolist chairman feelingly admitting the effective existence of the League, when he said:—

"He need not tell them that there was such a body as that denominated the Anti-Corn-Law League. *He wished he could speak of it altogether as a thing that was passed;* but, though still in existence, he thought they had been far from able to carry out what they intended, *yet he feared they were doing much mischief by their proceedings in the registration courts.*"

There is in these proceedings many evidences that the most ardent opponents of the League are gradually and silently adopting the sound opinions with respect to agriculture it has spread; and which, after all, are only those long entertained by the most intelligent landowners and agriculturists. Let them do this—let the landowners and farmers adopt our opinions, as they are doing, and act upon them—and we are quite content to be amongst the things which have passed away. But, until the Corn Laws are abolished, the monopolists will find the League ever active and indomitable.

MONOPOLISTS, LOOK OUT!

We think the following paragraph shows that the "Central Protection Society" must be upon the alert, or other backdoors besides the Canadian Corn Bill will be opened upon their monopoly of grain:—

"Food for Cattle.—The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have given permission for upwards of 20 tons of the lotus nut to be admitted without payment of any duty for Earl Spencer, which he is about to import for the purpose of the article being tried as an experiment as food for cattle, which is expected to arrive in the sloop Peace, T. Bidwell, master, and will be denominated by the Portuguese name Alfaroba."—*Mark-lane Express.*

Now, if cattle will eat these lotus nuts, so much of beans, peas, or barley will be displaced; and therefore, according to monopolist views, a further breach is made in their "protective" system. We hope this venture will prove successful, for every fresh article of cattle food is a clear gain to the stock-farmer and the community; but how monstrously absurd it is for the Government to waive the duty upon some untried article of cattle food, while foreign peas, beans, barley, oats, and rye, well-known and cheap articles of provender, are zealously excluded.

THE MALT-TAX DODGE.

It seems the genuine monopolists are not taken in by this "artful dodge" of the political landlords. A correspondent of the *Farmers' Journal*, who stoutly upholds the Corn Laws, deems the call for a repeal of the malt-tax a delusion. He says:—

"The malt-tax possesses the singular feature of being acceptable to the parties who pay the duties. Not one maltster in twenty wishes to see the tax reduced one penny a quarter; for, in fact, from the excise allowing six months' credit on the duty (which annually amounts to 4½ millions sterling), it gives a large capital for the maltster to carry on his business, and enables him to give extended credits to his customers; and, were the duty abolished, the agriculturists would lose thousands of excellent customers, some of whom are now found in every market town.

"The consumers of beer are the persons who are principally affected by any remission of duty; but were the duties lowered 1s. a bushel, or 8s. the quarter, it would no doubt enable the brewer to supply the retailer at a reduced price; but such reduction could not be to the extent of admitting the price of the pint of beer to be lowered more than a fractional part of one halfpenny, and the consumer would not be benefited.

"In the parish in which I reside, containing [illegible] acres, the largest occupier of land does not consume 30 *barrels of beer annually; the duty on the required malt would be £10, and I greatly doubt if the average consumption of the occupiers is ten barrels.* My impression is, that the agriculturists had better let alone this question of the abolition of the malt duties."

So another correspondent of the same newspaper, addressing the editor, says:—

"I pray you, Sir, to pause before you give in your adhesion to this movement. You have now gained the proud eminence of editor of the leading agricultural journal; do not waste your energies in advocating *small* measures, write up, week by week, to some *one* grand object. *Why not write down that miserable abortion, the 'Agricultural Protection Society,' and write up—organize a new society, freed from the Peel-ridden aristocracy, and to be composed of practical men—men of energy and action, who care not for the Minister's frown*, but who, with heart and voice, thews and sinews, are ready and willing, by argument or by something else, to win that just protection which is their inherent right."

So, so, the real out-and-out monopolists are beginning to understand the illusion which the Duke of Richmond and his colleagues of the Protection Society have put upon the farmers.

Far-off Benevolence.—It was said of some public man, who was notorious for taking care of his own family, that "his charity was of so domestic a nature that it never stirred abroad." Now, the following paragraph shows that Lord Ashley's benevolence is of quite a contrary turn, for, what with looking afar after factory boys and gipsy boys, he has no regard to spare for the half-starved Dorsetshire peasantry who linger out their days in his own county:—

"It has been determined to establish a gipsy school establishment at Farnham, Dorset, with the view of educating that neglected wandering race of people. *Lord Ashley has taken very active measures to establish this novel school.*"—*Provincial paper.*

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The valuable paper on the Hosiery Trade, and several other articles in type for publication, are unavoidably postponed to make way for our special report of the Great Meeting at Manchester.

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

Any person forwarding 3s. 3d. by Post-office order to the Publisher, 67, Fleet-street, London, will have one quarter's copies of the League forwarded by post on the days of publication. Subscriptions for the paper may also be left with J. Gadsby, Newall's-buildings, Manchester; and the League may be had by order of any news-agent in town or country. Subscribers who receive coloured envelopes on their papers must bear in mind that their subscriptions are due.

POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, October 26, 1844.*

The League has commenced its new campaign by a great meeting in the Free-Trade Hall at Manchester, a full report of which will be found in another part of this paper. After all the boasts of the monopolists that the Free-Trade agitation was dying or dead, the report will show that its animation has not been suspended for a moment, and that during the period of the discontinuance of public meetings, the friends of truth and justice were directing their attention to the registration, so as to secure and strengthen the position of the Free-Trade constituency throughout the empire. Now that this important duty has been worthily performed, the meetings of the League have recommenced with one of the most crowded and enthusiastic assemblages that has ever been collected even in Manchester. We cannot do more at present than direct attention to the general tone and spirit of the meeting, comment on any of the speeches being out of the question. It will be seen that the members have entered on the new campaign with additional confidence and renewed energies. No stronger proof can be given of the rectitude of any cause than the steady perseverance of its supporters; truth alone can ensure the permanence or vitality of any agitation; and the cause of Free-Trade, though it has lost the freshness of novelty, has acquired in its place the more than compensating advantage of increased conviction.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

France.—An article in *La Presse* leads to the belief that, unless M. Guizot comes before the Chambers armed with a modification by England of the right of search (and to obtain which the public strangely continued to assert was the main object of the late visit to this country of the King of the French), he will find it difficult, if not impossible, to maintain himself in power. The known connexion of the alleged writer of that article with Count Molé leaves no doubt as to the quarter whence the opposition to that Minister will come.

The *Moniteur Parisien* says:—"It is announced that Captain Brust, Governor of the Marquesas, is promoted to the grade of Commander of the Legion of Honour."

The rank of officer of the Legion of Honour has been conferred on the Abbé Coquereau, canon of St. Denis, who went out as chaplain to the squadron under the command of the Prince de Joinville.

Portugal.—The case of Dr. Kelley appears to have arrived at something of a crisis. The Portuguese Government has proposed to Lord Aberdeen to give a pecuniary compensation (about £[illegible]) for the doctor's imprisonment

of 170 days, admitting the illegality of the proceedings against him; but upon the condition that he will immediately withdraw from Madeira and the Portuguese dominions. Lord Aberdeen's answer has not yet been received; but in the meantime, by a late arrival from Madeira, we learn that Dr. Kalley has again proceeded to preach publicly against the Roman Catholic religion in Funchal, and that a great ferment has been the result. The Charter tolerates every form of worship in private, or within the confines of heterodox churches erected within the Portuguese dominions; but it most distinctly announces the Roman Catholic to be the established religion of the State. If, therefore, Dr. Kalley will not consent to retire, he will certainly be put down by a special law, which no effort of British diplomacy can prevent from passing.

A very liberal offer, made by a London company to light Lisbon and Oporto with gas, was rejected several months since. The municipalities pocket a few pounds per annum by the present system, and, not being disposed to part with these, they throw cold water on the proposal, alleging that olive oil so abounds here that to introduce gas would be a sinful waste! Distracted as Spain is, her provincial towns are now preparing to light their streets with gas; and in Valencia they are actually laying pipes for the purpose. Yet olive oil is surely as abundant in Spain as in Portugal; but, with all their broils and bloodshed, in Spain they are far more civilized.—*Times.*

A bill introduced into the Chamber of Peers, for the abolition of slavery in the Portuguese possessions in Asia, by the Count de Lavradio and the Viscount Sa da Bandeira, was opposed by Ministers, and lost bya majority of 23 votes against 18.

Belgium.—The King of Belgium opened the Parliamentary session on Tuesday. In the course of his speech he announced the new commercial arrangements with the Zollverein, and increase of customs' prohibitions, from which France and Prussia are both excepted, and which fall exclusively on England.

Accounts from Belgium, received on Monday, tend to confirm the worst statements relative to the visit of the Viscount d'Abrantes to Europe, for they announce his Excellency's arrival at Berlin. We cannot at present say how far this may be correct, but, if it be true, it must be taken as an evidence of a very unpleasant fact, viz., that the Viscount has not even been in communication with our Government, and started immediately on his special mission, to effect a treaty with the Zollverein. The negotiations of the latter with the United States will depend, it is said, for their success upon the Presidential election. —*Globe.*

Leipsic.—Accounts from Leipsic, of the 12th inst., announce the conclusion of the principal wholesale business of the great fair. Skins and furs do not appear to have been in very brisk demand, few of the foreign buyers taking largely. Sheep's wool was in much request; cotton manufactures sold well as regards those of the Zollverein, but English were in less favour. The supply was large. Woollen fabrics were best supported in value. Linens had a satisfactory sale, and hosiery was bought to a large amount. The number of persons attending the fair exhibited a great increase.

Frightful Occurrence in Savoy.—We extract the following from the *Rhone* of Lyons:—"We have to recount an awful calamity. In consequence of a general order, all the children belonging to the charitable institutions of Lyons placed at nurse in Savoy have been recalled to France. On Monday last, at Chanaz, 28 of those helpless creatures were placed in a small boat on the Rhone, to be sent to France; but the children, when separated from their nurses, felt such a dread of the water, that they screamed violently, and rushing to one side of the boat, they capsised it. The two boatmen, who had not foreseen such an accident, could not even save themselves, but the Rhone engulfed in its flood the 28 children and the two boatmen. All perished."

Algerine News through Germany.—A Prussian paper contains a private letter from a German in Algiers, dated Mustapha, Sept. 15, in which the writer says—"I write a few lines to inform you of my position here. I have built a good workshop, with a contiguous dwelling-place, and I carry on my business of turner and carpenter. How my business will succeed I cannot yet foresee, as the unfortunate war, which still continues, is very injurious to trade. At this very time the Arabs have made an attack on the town of Dellys, situate a few leagues hence, where there was a garrison of 800 men, and about 16 European families. Of these families every individual was sacrificed, with the exception of a little child, whom the soldiers rescued from the fury of the Arabs. Of the garrison only 300 men survive. This sad intelligence has just reached Algiers, whence a force has been despatched to oppose the Arabs." The writer of the above letter does not appear disposed to remain much longer in that scene of slaughter, which certainly does not present a very fair prospect for settlers, many of the French officers being of opinion that they will never succeed in subduing the Arabs. They place no confidence in a treaty of peace, which can be regarded merely as a truce to be succeeded, after a short or long interval, by renewed hostilities. Ismael, who has declared he "will not bend his neck to any yoke," is already preparing sanguinary work for the French.

Morocco.—The *Moniteur Algerien* states that Abd-el-Kader has retreated to the mountains farthest removed from the French position, and the strong places of Morocco, accompanied only by a few hundred followers. He is in the lowest condition, both as to the equipment of his soldiers, and the condition of his horses.

Daghistan.—A letter from a traveller in Georgia states that the Russian expedition of 50,000 men sent to reduce to submission the mountainous province of Daghistan (this country is not to be confounded with Circassia), which had revolted under the command of Shamil Bey, a chief of great skill and bravery, had met with such serious reverses and difficulties as to have been compelled to retreat; and that this enterprising commander had then followed up his successes by carrying his arms into the neighbouring provinces, where he captured several fortresses, and completely intercepted the great lines of communication between the northern and southern parts of Georgia.

United States.—The packet-ship Cambridge arrived at Liverpool on Tuesday, bringing New York papers four days later than those received by the steamer. The threatened crusade for the extermination of the Mormons had assumed an aspect of immediate danger, and we find that the Anti-Mormon party of Hancock county, Illinois, had called an armed assembly, to meet at that place on the 27th ult. Prompted by this movement, and in pursuance of his announced resolution, Governor Ford had ordered out 2500 of the State Militia for the preservation of the public peace, and to prevent the violation of the constitution and laws of the state.—The unexampled orderliness and freedom from outrage, which have on this occasion characterized the preparations for the approaching presidential election, have at length been disturbed in New York, where a Whig procession was assailed by a Locofoco mob; and the ill-blood engendered by the collision had produced such a great and immediate excitement that both parties were threatening to come forth into the public streets on every future occasion fully armed.

West Indies.—Advices have been received from Jamaica September 23; Barbadoes, 21; Demerara, 18; and the other islands of relative dates. At the desire of Lord Stanley, the Combined Court of Demerara had agreed to raise a sum of £75,000, for the purpose of procuring the importation of 5000 Coolies against March of next year. On the 29th of August, an earthquake was felt in several of the West India Islands, including St. Vincent's, Grenada, Trinidad, and British Guiana. It was accompanied by the usual terrific phenomena, and, although it does not appear to have caused any damage to property or loss of life, it produced very great alarm in the minds of the inhabitants.

Monte Video.—The following extract of a letter from Monte Video, dated the 30th of July, 1844 (says the *Times*), is worthy of attentive perusal, the accounts received through the channel of papers being either so meagre, or of such an exaggerated character, that little reliance can be placed in them:—"On the 27th of June the brig of war Imperial Pedro, which sailed from here with despatches, arrived at Rio Janeiro. On the 28th there was a meeting of the Brazilian Ministers, to take into consideration proposals made by this Government. On the 1st of July there was another consultation, to which the English and French Ministers were also invited to attend, and although what passed at these meetings has not transpired in Rio Janeiro, the result has been the arrival here of a corvette of 26 guns, a brig, a schooner, and steamer of war. The corvette brings 400 artillerymen, and the Carrisca frigate and another corvette are hourly expected, and 2000 men have been ordered from Rio de Janeiro to be embarked for Rio Grande. It appears that of the seven which compose the Brazilian Ministry, four are in favour of an immediate armed intervention, and all agree that Brazil cannot allow Rosas to take possession of Monte Video; but three of them are timid, and fear the war, and wish to press the subject to negotiation, although they do not know how to set about it. Negotiation is, of course, out of the question; and, as this will soon become apparent, there is no doubt the war party will soon prevail; and indeed Grenfell has already orders not to let Monte Video fall into the hands of Oribe. So that, should the latter make any attack, the war will break out immediately."

DOMESTIC.

The Liverpool annual agricultural dinner was held on Tuesday. Lord Stanley presided; and, in the course of a pretty long speech, strongly enforced the necessity of landowners granting *leases.* "I feel bound to say," he remarked, "that a landlord has no right to expect any great and permanent improvement of his land by the tenant, unless that tenant be secured the repayment of his outlay, not by the personal character or honour of his landlord, but by a security which no casualties can interfere with—the security granted him by the terms of a lease for years."

A gentleman's servant, out of a situation, who had been out on Monday evening with some friends, and having entered into play at cards and lost between £4 and £5, returned to his lodgings between one and two o'clock on Tuesday morning much intoxicated, and cut his throat. He was removed to the hospital without any hopes of recovery.—*Globe.*

A subscription is now on foot both in England and Ireland to relieve Father Mathew from pecuniary embarrassments caused by his promotion of the temperance movement in the latter country.

A Swede, named Brown, has been committed at Liverpool for an unsuccessful attempt, on Sunday morning last, to burn the barque Hermes, in which he was a sailor, when off Holyhead, on a voyage to Buenos Ayres.

The Customs' receipt at Liverpool for the quarter just ended is nearly £240,000 more than the corresponding quarter of 1843, having now reached £1,325,000.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

Sir George Philips has subscribed the sum of £500 to the Manchester fund for public walks and pleasure grounds. The amount already subscribed exceeds £24,000.

Her Majesty has expressed her intention to grant a pension of £30 per annum to the widow of the unfortunate artilleryman, Walker, who was blown to pieces at the King's Bastion, Portsmouth. The poor widow received so severe a shock when the intelligence was conveyed to her that she lost her senses, and has not yet recovered the use of them.

The "Oastler Subscription Committee" have informed their *protegé* of the failure of their efforts in his behalf. The public will not subscribe for his maintenance; and "William Underwood, vice-chairman," tells him that he is no longer under any obligation to labour for the public good, but quite at liberty to adopt "a private course of life," and exert himself to "procure a livelihood."—*Globe.*

It has been decided that the provincial meeting, in furtherance of the establishment of provincial colleges in Ireland, shall be held in Cork on the 12th of next month. —*Dublin Monitor.*

A respectable youngman, named Westley, was last week so dreadfully injured on the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway by being caught by the propelling wheel of an engine, that he has since had to undergo amputation of both his legs.

For the week ending last Saturday, the increase of traffic on 22 railways for the 14 weeks just ended is, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, not less than £203,589. The only decrease is on the Glasgow and Greenock Railway, namely, £54.—*Railway Record.*

On Sunday last, St. Thomas's Church, Southwark, was found to have been entered by burglars, who carried off the whole of the communion service, which had been in the possession of the parish authorities for the last 200 years.

During the past week there have been introduced into Jersey, 98 oxen, 7 calves, 10 pigs, 41 French sheep, and 101 English sheep.—*Jersey Times.*

Lord Ashley is holding meetings in the factory districts in support of the Ten Hours' Bill. He addressed a meeting at Bolton last week, and, in the course of his speech, paid a high compliment both to the master manufacturers and to the operatives of Lancashire, by whom, he said, he had everywhere been received with the greatest courtesy and kindness.

Mr. John Walsh, an Irish barrister, was accidentally drowned on Saturday evening last in a large quarry hole situate at Finglass, about three miles from Dublin. It is supposed that he fell into the water while amusing himself with two dogs that he sent in to swim. The deceased distinguished himself some years ago as a Repealer, and was prosecuted and imprisoned for a speech he then made. On his liberation he retired from politics and devoted himself to the law, in which profession he attained some distinction.

On Sunday week a poacher named Joseph Henshall, while in pursuit of game at Ringway, Lancashire, met his death by his gun having accidentally gone off, he receiving the contents in his body. The brother of the deceased was hung at Chester about 15 years ago for an attack on one of Lord Stamford's gamekeepers, at Dunham Massey.

Pursuant to a numerously-signed requisition, a great meeting of the inhabitants of Rochdale was held on Monday afternoon to oppose the introduction of the new poor law into that union. Mr. J. Leach, high constable, presided. The speakers were unanimous in their condemnation of the proposed measure, which, it appears, the Government have expressed their intention to carry into effect.

The Irish Repeal Association met on Monday in the Conciliation-Hall, Dublin. The proceedings were of the usual character. No particular notice seemed to have been taken of Mr. O'Connell's late declaration in favour of Federalism. The week's rent was £391. 6. The O'Connell tribute for the past year is about to be announced. The sum received is said to be no less than £28,850, and two parishes still remain to be "made up."

It is now definitively fixed that a winter gaol delivery shall take place in many parts of the kingdom; but it is believed that the subsidiary arrangements will no be made till the beginning of term.

A Mallow correspondent of the *Cork Examiner* gives a detailed statement of the expulsion of tenantry from two estates in that quarter. The total number is 81 families, comprising 498 human beings.

On Thursday se'nnight, Mr. Hutt, M.P., was entertained by his constituents at Gateshead. Lord Howick was present and took part in the proceedings of the evening.

On Saturday last a calamitous explosion of fire-damp took place in a coalpit belonging to Mr. Darby, at the Five Ways, Rowley Regis. The number of persons at work in the pit at the time of the explosion is understood to have been 17 or 18, and of these no less than 11 have fallen victims to this lamentable occurrence.

At the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday, the Honourable William Ross Tuchet was tried for shooting at, with intent to kill, Mr. Thomas Smith, of Holborn, gunmaker. The particulars of this case have already been made public. After a lengthened investigation, the prisoner was acquitted on the ground of insanity.

On Thursday the foundation-stone of the proposed new docks at Birkenhead was laid by Sir Philip Egerton. The event was celebrated by a grand banquet, which was presided over by Mr. John Laird.

The subscription for the widows and children of the Haswell sufferers on Tuesday last, amounted to upwards of £3000.

More Signs of the Times.—We have received a copy of the Rev. John Clay's Twenty-first Annual Report on the Preston House of Correction, from which we find that "*the improved condition of trade and commerce, which has given full employment to the working classes,* has had the effect, among other benefits, of diminishing the committals to the gaol. In the year 1842-3 they amounted, in the whole, to 2050; for the year just ended they amounted only to 1549."—*Manchester Guardian.*

Agricultural Poverty.—Having lately visited a part of the country on the borders of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and only a few miles from the Duke of Buckingham's, I took some interest in observing the condition of the agricultural labourers in that neighbourhood. Had I not beheld these poor people, I could not have credited a true description of their state. Where the manufacture of straw plait is carried on, you will now see a great many grown-up lads, and even the men, engaged in it, in consequence of the want of employ on the farms. And yet that business is overdone; the men and the lads are evidently not all wanted in it, but turn to the employment merely from having nothing else to do. Their next move is into the union-house. It is a difficult thing to depict, in a few words, the appearances of the misery here presented. We may say "very, very poor," "excessively poor," and so forth, using any general terms you please, which, after all, can only express such depth of distress as might occur to anybody from accidental circumstances and in a short time. It needs minuteness of description, to those who have not beheld it, to represent the character of the poverty seen here, which approaches very nearly to, if it does not quite equal, the lowest depths of wretchedness which you find in the most despotic states on the continent of Europe. The mud-made huts or hovels are fit only for pigs to live in, and the existence of such dwellings, for human beings, is a disgrace to our common country, more especially to that part of it where such things are seen; and still more especially to those great lords of the soil who inhabit that part, and who make so many loud pretensions of solicitude for the people on the land. The raggedness and the filth of that people are surpassed, I should suppose, nowhere but in Ireland. There is a squalidness which looks almost like the plague —denotes the suffering either of dreadful disease or long-continued famine. And this is in England! and in Bedford and Buckingham! two of the counties most exclusively possessed by those who call themselves "farmers' friends," and who demand "protection!" In the country to which I allude, and where the people are thus suffering, the land is nothing like fully cultivated; and it requires no more than for the people to be allowed to till it properly to furnish them all with abundance of food.—*Wills Independent.*

PROGRESS OF RENT IN SUFFOLK.

To the Editor of the Times.

SIR,—As you have established that "the want of bread and cheese" is the cause of incendiarism in Suffolk, and told the landholders that they, and not the farmers, are to blame for the present condition of the labourers, perhaps you will not object to allow me to show the public the effect that any material reduction in the price of agricultural produce has on the ability of the farmers to employ labourers.

Every one knows that the rent of farmers is fixed on an estimate of the quantity and value of the produce, and that the rent claimed by the landholders is the excess beyond the expense of cultivation at the rate of wages of the district, and a moderate allowance to the farmer for his services and the use of his capital. The rent claimed by the Suffolk landholders, when tithe is payable by the tenant, is at least two-fifths of the estimated value of everything that can be produced on, and sold off, the farm on the average of years, and about one-half when there is no tithe or rent-charge. Then, if the rent has been fixed on the assumption that 56s. the quarter will be obtained for wheat, and other produce in proportion, and is £200, the value of the disposable produce ought to fetch £500, which is equal to 178½ quarters of wheat at 56s., or quantities of produce of that value. Now, if there is a reduction of 12s. the quarter on wheat, and other produce in proportion, without any increase in the quantity, the farmer sustains a loss of £107. 2s., which is probably equal to the whole of the allowance on the average of years he had to live upon. Then, as the claim of the landholder is fixed, and that of the incumbent nearly so, the farmer has no other means of attempting to save himself from ruin than to reduce the wages of his labourers, and to discharge those that are not immediately required, whatever may be the consequences to himself and them.

The Rev. Professor Henslow and others do not seem disposed to admit that the present distress is occasioned by the inability of the farmers to pay their present rents, and to give the usual employment to the labourers; but if he will take the trouble to inquire, he will find that the Cosford division of farmers are in that position, and from the cause stated above. No trifling per-centage reduction of rent will be any real relief to the farmers. As the rent paid by them is so large a portion of the estimated value of the disposable produce, the reduction of rent ought to be equal to the difference between the present and the estimated value when the rent was fixed. The rise of rent in Suffolk astonished the landholders of the last century; and as it was obtained by them in consequence of the rise in the average price of produce after 1770, a reduction of rent ought now to take place, in justice to the farmers, when the price of produce has so materially fallen. Arthur Young, the great agricultural authority, was a Suffolk man, and, in treating historically of the rise of rent, says:—

"A neighbour of mine in Suffolk, who inherited a considerable landed property, informed me that, in various conversations which he had between thirty and forty years ago (between 1770 and 1780) with a relation far advanced in years, and from whom much of that property was derived, much surprise was expressed at the rise of rents, which then began to take place. Through the long period of his relation's experience no rise was ever thought of; and lease after lease, in long succession, was signed without a word passing on the question of rent. That was an object considered as fixed; and grandfather, father, and son succeeded without a thought of any rise; in many cases landlords were much more apprehensive of losing a tenant at the old rent than having the smallest conception of raising it to a new one." (Inquiry, 1812, p. 102.)

From what is above stated, it seems to be fair to assume that the rent of land previous to 1770 was about the same as at the end of the previous century. Therefore, that the Rev. Professor Henslow, of Hitcham, and others may be led to make their inquiries as to the causes of the present distress in Suffolk in the right direction, I subjoin a table of the rent of the parishes in his own locality (the Cosford division) for 1692, 1815, and 1843. The rental of 1692 is assumed on the amount of land-tax assessed, which, having been made at 4s. in the pound on the then rental, is probably as near an aproximation to the truth as the property-tax valuation of 1843.

COSFORD DIVISION, SUFFOLK.

Parish.	Quota of Land-tax, 1692.*			Rent in 1692.	Rent in 1815.†	Rent in 1843.
	£	s.	d.	£	£	£
Aldham	120	4	0	601	1,953	2,232
Bildeston	165	16	6	829	1,810	4,153
Brettenham	113	13	5	568	1,666	2,559
Chilsworth	94	4	0	471	1,319	1,878
Elmset	160	12	0	803	2,489	3,223
Hadleigh	473	5	6	2,366 }	7,605	12,941
Hadleigh Hamlet ..	41	0	0	205 }		702
Hitcham	275	15	2	1,378	4,126	6,367
Kersey	129	12	2	648	2,339	3,300
Kettlebaston	89	16	0	449	1,144	1,522
Layham	238	12	0	1,173	3,722	5,046
Lindsey	108	16	0	544	1,333	1,869
Naughton	52	4	0	261	854	1,067
Nedging	58	12	0	293	887	1,408
Semer	92	0	0	460	1,718	2,420
Thorpe	195	16	0	979	2,176	3,282
Wattisham	88	0	0	440	1,381	1,958
Whatfield	104	8	0	522	1,932	2,370

The above illustrations of the progress of rent in the Cosford division of Suffolk will etablish one of two facts—either that the agricultural improvement of the district has been very considerable since 1815, or that the condition of the farmers and labourers has very much deteriorated, since the rent has so greatly increased, whilst the average price of wheat has fallen from 101s. 7d. the quarter, as in the six years ending 1814, to 63s. 2d. the quarter on the average of the six years ending 1842. And now that the price of wheat has fallen to about 44s., it is not to be wondered that distress should prevail among the farmers, if their rents are fixed on a valuation of 63s. 2d., or even 56s. the quarter. S.

* Property-tax return, 316. 1844.
† Parliamentary return, 342. 1831.

THE CANADA CORN AND PROVISION TRADE.—It appears from the latest accounts that the exports of flour, corn, and provisions from the ports of Montreal and Quebec up to September 26, were as follows:—Flour, 373,052 barrels, to September 26, 1844, against 62,805, to September 26, 1843; wheat, 241,276 bushels against 15,417; oatmeal, 3085 barrels against 1,251; peas, 78,964 bushels against 31,873; barley, 60,606 against 300; oats, 20,488 bushels against 310; pork, 5201 barrels against 5127; beef, 3537 barrels against 545; butter, 1482 kegs against 846. The following is the last report of the Montreal papers:—"Thursday morning, Sept. 26, 1844.—Since Friday last flour has been in good demand, almost every lot in market fit for shipment having found buyers at 23s. 6d. to 24s. per barrel, though chiefly at the former rate. Sour has sold and is saleable at 23s. American (duty paid) has been in fair request; sweet selling at 24s. to 24s. 2d., and a single lot of 500 sour at 22s. 6d. Freight engagements are making to Liverpool at 3s. 9d. per barrel for flour.—*Liverpool Times.*

FOREIGN CORN.—AMSTERDAM, Oct. 11.—The stock of corn in hand, and the importation and exportation in Dantsic the first nine months of this year, are as follow:—

	Wheat.	Rye.
Stock in hand, Jan. 1, 1844 (Amsterdam lasts)	34,090	3,400
Imported to Sept. 30	55,917	20,487
Total	90,007	23,887
Exported up to Sept. 30	42,087	15,101
Stock on the 1st of October ..	47,920	8,786

Dantsic, October 9, 1844.

We do not remember any year when so great a quantity of corn was in the warehouses of this town.

THE FUNDS.

	SAT. Oct. 19	MON. Oct. 21	TUES. Oct. 22	WED. Oct. 23	THURS. Oct. 24	FRI. Oct. 25
Bank Stock.....	205	205	201½	204	204	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	99½	99½	99½	99½	99	99½
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	100½	100	100	100½	100	100
3½ per Ct. An. new	101½	101½	102	102	102	101½
Long. An. Ex. 1860	12½	12 1-16	12 1-16	12 1-16	12 1-16	—
Cons. for Acc. ..	100½	100	100½	100½	100½	100½
Exc. Bills, pm...	75	74	73	73	78	—
Ind. Bds. und. 1000l	94	94	93	—	93	—
India Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belgian Bonds ..	104	104	104	104½	104	—
Brazilian Bonds..	—	—	85½	85½	85½	—
Buenos Ayres....	86½	87	87	87	86	—
Chilian.....	103	102	102½	103	103	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½
Danish	89	89	89	—	89	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	62½	63	62½	63	63	63
Mexican	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½	34½
Peruvian	25½	25	24½	24½	24½	—
Portug. conv. ..	50½	50½	51½	51½	51	52½
Spanish 5 per Ct.	22½	23½	23½	—	23½	23½
Do. 3 per Cent...	35½	34½	34½	—	35	35

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

MARK-LANE, Monday, Oct. 21.—The supply of English Wheat this morning was very moderate, and, though the condition was not excellent, it was readily taken off at the same prices as last week. There was a fair demand for Foreign at last week's rates. The supply of Malting Barley was short, and 1s. advance was obtained. Other descriptions were the same as last week. Beans and Peas were in short supply, and each 1s. per qr. dearer. The arrivals of Oats last week were small; about a dozen vessels arrived from Ireland in time for this morning's market. There was a steady trade at the advance we reported on Friday, of 6d. per qr. from this day week.

S. H. LUCAS and SON.

BRITISH.

	Per Imperial Quarter.	
Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk Old Red	40 to 48	White 44 to 52
——— Ditto.....New	— 40 — 45	— 40 — 50
——— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Old	— 40 — 46	— 42 — 48
——— Scotch	— 40 — 44	— 42 — 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Feed.....		Old 21 — 22
——— Ditto ..... ditto .. ditto		New 19 — 20
——— Ditto ..... ditto .. Polands.....		New 21 — 23
——— Scotch Feed.....	Old 22 — 24	Potato 25 — 26
——— Limerick	do. 21 — 22	New 20 — 21
——— Ditto	do.....	Short 22 — 23
——— Cork	do.	20 — 21
——— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork	Black Old and New	19 — 20
——— Westport.... Old		20 6 — 21
——— Galway .... do.		18 6 — 19 6
Barley, New		30 — 36
Beans, Maragan Old 32 — 33	New	29 — 30
——— Harrow .. do. 36 — 38	do.	32 — 34
——— Small .... do.		40 — 42
Peas, White, New		32 — 36
——— Grey ..... 30 to 31	Maple	31 — 32
Flour, Town-made	per sack of 280 lbs....	36 — 43
——— Norfolk and Suffolk		34 — 36

FOREIGN.		FREE.	IN BOND.
		Per Imperial Quarter.	
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed		48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.
——— Rostock		47 — 54	
——— Stettin		44 — 52	
——— Hamburgh		42 — 48	
——— Odessa		42 — 46	
——— Ditto	Polish	47 — 50	
——— Russian	soft	42 — 46	
——— Ditto.....	hard	40 — 44	
——— Spanish	Red	45 — 49	
——— Ditto	White.....	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding		26 — 29	— — —
——— Distilling.....		30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel		19 — 20	13 — 14
——— Swedish		19 — 21	13 — 15
——— Danish		20 — 22	14 — 16
——— Stralsund		21 — 22	15 — 16
——— Dutch Brew		21 — 23	15 — 17
——— ——— Polands		— — —	18 — 19
Beans, Egyptian.....		27 — 29	22 — 23
Peas, White		30 — 34	— — —
——— Ditto Boilers		32 — 35	— — —
Flour, Canada	per barrel of 196 lbs	26 — 28	— — —
——— United States..	— —	26 — 28	18 — 20
——— Dantzig.....	— —	26 — 28	18 — 20

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Oct. 14 to Oct. 19, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	5379	2553	610	1305	832
Scotch	130	22	100	—	—
Irish.....	—	—	6924	—	—
Foreign	—	2228	2180	—	737

Flour, 5962 sacks, 116 bars.

FRIDAY, October 25.—The supply of English Wheat this week is moderate. The trade in both English and foreign is just as on Monday. There is rather a large supply of foreign Barley, and a fair quantity of English has arrived since Monday; though the trade is not brisk, the prices of that day are well supported for all descriptions. There has been rather more inquiry during the week for Beans and Peas; and Monday's rates are fully maintained. About 19,000 quarters of Irish Oats have arrived, together with a few English and a few cargoes of foreign. There is not much animation in the trade, but buyers are compelled to give Monday's rates for new Irish, and a little advance on old Irish and foreign.

S. H. LUCAS and SON.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 19th of October to the 25th of October, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat.....	6460	—	3580
Barley.....	4720	—	13800
Oats.....	1900	19360	6250

Flour, 3680 sacks.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES Weeks ending

	Wheat. s. d.	Barley. s. d.	Oats. s. d.	Rye. s. d.	Beans. s. d.	Peas. s. d.
14th Sept.	45 11	35 11	20 1	—	37 9	—
21st „	45 3	35 6	20 5	35 7	37 3	33 1
28th „	45 9	34 5	20 5	37 3	36 8	33 0
5th Oct.	46 1	33 9	20 6	37 5	36 8	33 5
12th „	46 3	33 6	20 6	37 10	36 11	34 0
19th	46 3	34 0	20 8	38 0	36 9	33 10

Aggregate Average of the Six Weeks.—Wheat, 45s. 11d.; Barley, 34s. 6d.; Oats, 20s. 5d.; Rye, 37s. 0d.; Beans, 37s. 0d.; Peas, 33s. 7d.

Duty.—Wheat, 20s. 0d.; Barley, 4s. 0d.; Oats, 6s. 0d.; Rye, 5s. 6d.; Beans, 5s. 6d.; Peas, 9s. 6d.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending Oct. 22, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	3864	49s. 7d.	Rye	426	41s. 5d.
Barley.. ..	3224	36s. 4d.	Beans.. ..	867	34s. 9d.
Oats	18339	21s. 8d.	Peas	507	34s. 9d.

Stock of Corn in Bond, Sep. 5, 1844.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.	Flour, Cwts.
In London,	110652	81918	36442	—	—	213	59745
Unit. King.	330892	164684	86873	—	4810	2962	269054

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18.

BANKRUPTS.

B. PERKINS and S. WOOLLEY, Stamford, drapers. [Reed and Shaw, Friday-street.

T. SMITH, sen., Minto-street, Bermondsey, wool manufacturer. [Burbidge, Hatton-garden.

W. CHEQUER, Blackfriars-road, saddler. [Nind, Clement's-lane.

C. ROGERS, Bishopsgate-street Within, saddler. [Morris and Co., Moorgate-street-chambers.

R. FOOTNER, Lymington, Southampton, cabinet maker. [Pownall and Cross, Staple-inn.

W. HILL, Woolwich, Kent, builder. [Hughes, Chapel-court, Bedford-row.

W. RICHARDSON, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, glass manufacturer. [Shaw and Newstead, Ely-place; Walters, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 12. W. Dethick, Temple-street, Whitefriars, City, lime merchant—Nov. 19. R. Drew, Compton-street, Regent-square, licensed victualler—Nov. 8. S. Phillips, Brook-street, Hanover-square, carpet warehouseman—Nov. 9. E. V. Austin, Paradise-street, Rotherhithe, apothecary—Nov. 8. L. and W. Fenner, Fenchurch-street, City, merchants—Nov. 9. J. Milner, Brook-street, New-road, engine manufacturer—Nov. 9. J. F. Wood, Oxford, surgeon—Nov. 8. D. Baseley, High-street, Southwark, cheesemonger—Nov. 9. B. Lawrence, Crown-court, Old Broad-street, City, merchant—Nov. 19. J. L. Heathorn, Abchurch-lane, City, shipowner—Nov. 19. G. Fielding, Thame, Oxfordshire, ironmonger—Nov. 22. E. Oxley, jun., King's Lynn, Norfolk, hatter—Nov. 13. R. D. Askam, Knottingley, Yorkshire, lime burner—Nov. 12. W. Thorpe, Thorne, Yorkshire, scrivener—Nov. 15. J. Male, Lanteglos by Camelford, Cornwall, miller—Nov. 15. J. Green, Exeter, civil engineer—Nov. 12. R. Barker, Manchester, druggist.

CERTIFICATES.

Nov. 8. A. Lett, Commercial-road, Lambeth, timber merchant—Nov. 11. W. C. Clough, Eye, Suffolk, apothecary—Nov. 8. H. Williams, Farringdon, Berkshire, grocer—Nov. 9. E. Arnatt, Oxford, baker—Nov. 9. W. Trutch, Barkham-terrace, St. George the Martyr, Southwark, china clay merchant—Nov. 8. T. H. Whitmarsh, George-street, Hanover-square, hotel keeper—Nov. 9. B. Bright, Wigmore-street, Marylebone, licensed victualler—Nov. 8. J. C. White, Bath, music seller—Nov. 12. J. and D. Sugden, Huddersfield, fancy cloth manufacturers—Nov. 14. J. Forth, Nottingham, hatter—Nov. 28. I. Tobias, Birmingham, factor—Nov. 8. M. Mackenzie, A. Walson, and G. Mackenzie, Liverpool, shipbrokers.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

R. COMMON, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, mason.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22.

BANKRUPTS.

J. WILLET, Coggeshall, Essex, leather cutter. [Lott, Bow-lane.

C. TILL, Salisbury, linendraper. [Jones, Sise-lane.

W. BROOME and W. HARDY, Oxford-street, drapers. [Reed and Shaw, Friday-street, Cheapside.

W. BROOME, Oxford-street, linendraper. [Sole, Aldermanbury.

W. WESTRUP and T. M. COOKSEDGE, New Crane, Shadwell, millers. [Shearman and Slater, Great Tower-street.

T. FLAHERTY, Bath, tailor. [Whittington and Co., Bristol.

J. ASHMAN, Bath, innkeeper. [Shattock, Bristol.

M. COOLEY, Spalding, Lincolnshire, tailor. [Maples, Spalding; Messrs. Simcox, Birmingham.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 12. R. L. Sturtevant, Church-street, Bethnal-green, soap manufacturer—Nov. 13. J. Oliver and J. York, Stone, Stratford, Buckinghamshire, coal and iron masters—Nov. 12. R. Banister, Portsea, draper—Nov. 13. C. J. Banister, Derby, linen and woollen draper—Nov. 19. W. Parson, Southampton, grocer—Nov. 13. H. M. Shaw, Newport, Isle of Wight, jeweller—Nov. 13. W. Young, Godalming, Surrey, nurseryman—Nov. 12. C. Crook, George-yard, Long-acre, livery stable keeper—Nov. 12. W. J. Duckham, Little Love-lane, Wood-street, Cheapside, hosier—Nov. 12. G. Caston, Basingstoke, Hampshire, ironmonger—Nov. 22. W. France, Wigan, Lancashire, grocer—Nov. 20. R. Lodge, Thornhill, Yorkshire, innkeeper—Nov. 11. J. L. Fernandez, Wakefield, Yorkshire, corn miller—Nov. 8. R. Pullen, Selby, Yorkshire, flax merchant—Nov. 20. J. Smith, Rochdale, Lancashire, corn miller—Nov. 20. E. Smith, Sheffield, innkeeper—Nov. 20. M. Wilcock, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, merchant—Nov. 20. J. Gregory, Sheffield, manufacturer of table knives—Nov. 20. A. Tempest, Clayton-heights, Yorkshire, worsted spinner—Nov. 20. E. Birks, Sheffield, grocer—Nov. 16. S. A. Goddard and R. Hill, Birmingham, merchants.

CERTIFICATES.

Nov. 12. R. Pettigrew, jun., Woolwich, tailor—Nov. 12. T. Roberts, Blackman-street, Southwark, linendraper—Nov. 12. R. T. Bockery, Dartford, Kent, market gardener—Nov. 14. W. Schofield, Waterhead-mill, Lancashire, machine maker—Nov. 12. A. Watson, Liverpool, ship broker—Nov. 12. H. G. F. Tuckett, Poultry, London, merchant—Nov. 12. T. Walton, Pontypool, Monmouthshire, grocer—Nov. 12. H. B. [illegible] Bingley, Yorkshire, stuff merchant.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. HAY, Musselburgh, smith—D. LEACH, Ardersier, Inverness-shire, merchant—A. MILLER and J. GARDNER, milling, manufacturers—D. MACKINTOSH, senior, Grahamston, Falkirk, painter—W. WEBSTER, Old Meldrum, Aberdeen, merchant.

London: Printed by ROBERT PALMER (of Providence-place, Upper Kennington-lane, Lambeth, in the County of Surrey) and JOSEPH CLAYTON (of Number 330, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at their Printing-office, Number 10, Crane-court, in the Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West, in the City of London, and published by ABRAHAM WARREN PARKER (of Number 39, Norfolk-street, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at the Office of THE LEAGUE, Number 67, Fleet-street, in the City of St. Dunstan-in-the-West.—Saturday, October 26, 1844.

when Mr. Acland's appearance on the stage induced so cordial a reception, as to interrupt for several minutes the orderly proceeding of the evening's business.

Mr. Harper spoke until nine o'clock, followed by Mr. Acland until ten, when the meeting adjourned until Thursday.

On Thursday, Mr. Harper went to Leeds, to the office of the *Northern Star*, and, in the course of the day, West, the Chartist lecturer, and Hobson, the man-of-all-work to O'Connor, arrived at Wakefield. A placard was then put out by that party, setting forth that the evening's discussion was to be participated in by three speakers, in this fashion:—The first hour to be occupied by Mr. Harper, the second by Mr. Acland, and the third by Mr. West, or some other Chartist representative.

Mr. Acland having heard of the intention of the conspirators to put forth such a document, repaired at once to the printing-office of the Tory journal (the editor of which paper was the avowed agent of Mr. Harper's invisible employers), and, denying all participation in such placard, indignantly repudiated its publication; nevertheless, the Tory-Chartist Socialists had the modesty so to state at the foot of their placard, that they published it notwithstanding its repudiation by Mr. Acland, in order, doubtless, to prejudice that gentleman in the opinions of the people.

At seven o'clock, Messrs. Harper, West, Hobson, and several other Chartist leaders, presented themselves on the stage, and Mr. Harper stepped forward to read the placard adverted to, and had just expressed his regret that his opponent should have run from the discussion, when Mr. Acland made his *entrée*, and was received with a most gratifying cheer by an almost unanimous auditory.

Nominees, as chairmen, having taken their seats, Mr. Harper desired to know if Mr. Acland intended to continue the discussion as advertised?

Mr. Acland said, he had been no party to the arrangement placarded; that he had already shown his readiness to meet Mr. Harper; that, man to man, he cared little who was his opponent; but he considered West to have thrust himself most unjustifiably into this discussion, and he would be no party to the deception so attempted to be practised upon the public.

Mr. Harper: Then you run from the discussion?

Mr. Acland: With a bayonet at my breast, you bid me stand back, whilst your comrade here pricks me with his bayonet behind, and bids me advance. I will not consent to be placed in such a position. It is neither manly nor honest in you to plot this unfairness. If you do not think yourself my match, resign your pretensions; or, if you do, dismiss your obtrusive colleague.

Mr. West, on presenting himself, was received most roughly. At length he was heard to say, "If you won't hear me, you shan't hear Acland."

Mr. Acland: Why do you come here?

Mr. West: To show that you are both humbugs; to discuss the question with both of you.

Mr. Acland: Very well; and now mark *my position*. I came here to expose the new Tory scheme of locating poor people on wastes, and enabling them there to prosper under legislative protection, and I find, in the agent of the monopolists, a late physical-force Chartist leader. After one round, you, another Chartist leader, enter the ring and insist upon being one of the disputants; and you and your colleague affect to be opposed to each other that you may by foul play and unfair arrangement obtain at length some appearance of advantage over the League; for well you know, Sir, that I have beaten you again and again on the decision of your own partisans.

Mr. West: Will you discuss with me now?

Mr. Acland: I think I can better employ my time. I shall leave the stage, and become one of the audience. The play shall be "The Kilkenny Cats," and you Chartist representative of O'Connor, and you Chartist representative of Buckingham and Knaresbro'—fall to—fight manfully, and prove if you can that you are not colleagues in this disgraceful plant upon the Free-Traders.

Mr. Acland stepped across the stage and entered the stage-box. The audience testified their delight by a shout of laughter, and the gentlemen on the stage were in a strange mystification for several minutes.

At length, amidst the uproarious laughter of the entire audience, Mr. West said he trusted Mr. Acland would not interrupt the discussion.

Mr. Acland: Not unless you attack me or make personal reference to those with whom I am connected. This is to me better than a play, being, forsooth, a most egregious farce, and I mean to be amused and delighted. If you each tackle your own proper animal, I will not interfere beyond laughing.

And then came three hours of most amusing and spirit-stirring discussion between this precious pair of Tory-Chartists—agreeing in everything, and on every point, save one.

Mr. West: I agree with my friend Mr. Harper on every minor point; but when he says we are to have allotments of land, I must say, I wish we may get them; and he has not shown us how we are to obtain possession.

Mr. Harper: And when Mr. West proposes as his remedy the People's Charter, he does not tell us how we are to get it.

Mr. West then moved a resolution in favour of the People's Charter being made the law of the land; which having been duly seconded,

Mr. Acland (stepping from the box to the stage) said, on that motion I claim to speak, and shall conclude my observations by moving an amendment.

Such a scene as followed has been rarely witnessed. The house rose and applauded to the very echo. Many minutes elapsed before a word could be heard, and then it was the voice of West, in angry protestation against Mr. Acland being heard.

The Chairman took the sense of the house on this point, and pitiable was the Tory-Chartist minority.

Mr. Acland then, in a few short but racy sentences, got the mind of the mass into a sound, healthful tone, and after laughing the miserable conspirators against the League into little bits, moved the adjournment of the question until the next night, when he promised to unriddle the sophistries of this Siamese embassy from O'Connor, Ferrand, and Buckingham.

After a few words from Mr. Morton in favour of Free Trade and fair play, the Chartists turned off the gas, let fall the drop scene on the heads and shoulders of half-a-score people, and compelled the many hundreds assembled to grope their way as best they might from the theatre to the street.

At half-past six on Friday evening a large crowd awaited the opening of the Corn Exchange Saloon, and by seven o'clock several hundreds had congregated in the spacious building, and wholly occupied the seats on the hustings which had been erected at one extremity for the occasion; so that when Mr. Acland took his position in the front of the platform, at a few minutes after seven, the gentlemen of the Free-Trade Committee, by whom he was accompanied, were unable to obtain even the slightest accommodation.

On presenting himself at the table to address the meeting, Mr. Acland was received with loud cheers, but no sooner had that gentleman observed—"And now, my friends, let us have more of argument and less of uproar," than Mr. Harper held up a paper and shouted out, "But I'll read this first, and if they won't hear me, they shan't hear you, and here I'll stand until they do hear me."

This provocative induced the determination of the audience not to hear another word from this very extraordinary agent of the Protectionists.

Mr. Morton, one of the Free-Trade Committee, here presented himself on the platform, and appealed to the Chartist monopolist, who, with West and Hobson at their head, occupied the seats, to yield some portion of that accommodation to Mr. Acland's friends, but his appeal was answered by coarse jeers; and, calling upon Mr. Acland to leave the blackguards to themselves, Mr. Morton retired from his elevated position to the body of the hall.

Mr. West: I'll tell you what, Mr. Acland: I would not like to be made answerable for the keeping of the peace this evening.

Mr. Acland: Gentlemen——

Mr. Harper: I will be heard first (much hooting); and here I take my stand until you do hear me.

Much uproar followed, and there was considerable pressure from the dense mass towards the platform—the trestles beneath gave way, the planks snapped—scores of its occupants disappeared, and before one half of the tumblers had crawled from the ruins, Mr. Acland's voice was heard from an elevation, at a distance of some six yards, calling aloud, "Peace, order, peace;" and having succeeded in quieting the excited numbers, delivered an able and convincing address, occupying an hour and a half in its delivery. Resolutions, condemnatory of the Tory-Chartist Monopolists, and in strong approval of the course pursued by the League, and personally by their lecturer, having been unanimously carried, Mr. Acland returned thanks, and declared the proceedings of the evening terminated.

It should be observed that, whilst Mr. Acland was speaking, Mr. Harper, having frequently endeavoured to interrupt him, had been quietly walked or carried out of the room.

After the close of the proceedings, Mr. West made yet another attempt to get a hearing, but was compelled to desist; and the precious twain retired to bewail their fate, and to wonder what Ferrand would say to the one, and Feargus to the other.

THE LEAGUE MEETING AT MANCHESTER.

Not having been able to give the whole of Mr. Cobden's speech at the Manchester meeting in our last number, we insert the concluding passage from the report in the *Manchester Guardian*:—

"I congratulate you upon the result of the South Lancashire registration. Gentlemen, do not think that, by carrying South Lancashire, you are merely carrying one of the 40 counties in England. No; Lancashire is the most populous, as it is the most wealthy, county in the kingdom, not excepting Middlesex or Yorkshire; Lancashire contains nearly double the population which all Wales contains; Lancashire has as many inhabitants within its borders as twelve rural counties I could enumerate, in the south of England; and the wealth of this county is in a greater ratio, as compared with other counties, than even its population. The verdict of this county will tell heavily at another election in favour of your principles. I have no hesitation in saying here, and it is not particularly my own idea, but what I have heard in London, that, if the West Riding of Yorkshire and Lancashire sent up a unanimous vote upon the question of the Corn Laws, no Government could remain in power, and resist that pressure upon it. ("Hear," and applause.) I have only to say that I feel, as I am sure you all feel, deeply indebted to those gentlemen who have given their labours for the last seven or eight weeks in this cause of the registration; and foremost and first amongst us all, I would say, we are indebted to our friend the chairman (great applause), without whose persevering and systematic labours it would have been impossible to have produced to you the results which you have had here to-night.—These exertions will, I have no doubt, go on quietly, but perseveringly. These labours of the registration, though they refer to the whole kingdom, must have a centre and a source, and it must be by a few, first of all, that the leading direction of this movement must take place. I can say for all those gentlemen who have been at work in this cause, that it is from no desire for ostentatious display, from no desire for passing popularity, that they have laboured as they have done for the last five or six years. The movement, we are told, might have fallen into the hands of more able directors; it might have had men of more commanding talents, but I will venture to say, and this long apprenticeship has proved it, that as far as I have come in contact with the men of Manchester, working in the cause, more disinterested, persevering, indomitable energies, were never shown by any men in any cause before. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I said that this movement must originate with a few, that it must be directed by a few; and I will sit down after reading an extract bearing upon this point, from the correspondence of Edmund Burke, lately published, which shows what he thought of popular movements, how they must be directed, and what would be the fate of the country if no men could be found who were willing to bear the heat and burden of the day. He says:—'To bring the people to a feeling, to such a feeling, I mean, as tends to amendment or alteration of system, there must be plan and management. All direction of public humour and opinion must originate in a few. Perhaps a good deal of that humour and opinion must be owing to such direction. Events supply materials; times furnish dispositions; but conduct alone can bring them to bear to any useful purpose. I never yet knew an instance of any general tem-per in the nation that might not have been traced to some particular persons. If things are left to themselves, it is my clear opinion that a nation may slide down fair and softly from the highest point of grandeur and prosperity to the lowest state of imbecility and meanness, without any one's marking a particular period in this declension, without asking a question about it, or in the least speculating on any of the innumerable acts which have stolen in this silent and insensible revolution. Every event so prepares the subsequent, that when it arrives it produces no surprise, nor any extraordinary alarm. I am certain that if pains, great and immediate pains, are not taken to prevent it, such must be the fate of this country.' I say Amen to that, and I declare in the name of those who take the most prominent position in this movement,—I declare to those who co-operate with us in every part of the kingdom,—that in our registration, as in our other movements, we have no desire to arrogate to ourselves powers over any of our fellow-citizens. Our duty and object are co-operation with them; leaving every one free to exercise his right, and only offering our aid when that aid is sought by others. There is but one other point on the registration which I will further allude to. It is objected by a newspaper, professing to be friendly, that we have struck off many from the register, and that we are therefore disfranchising the voter. Gentlemen, we have struck off no man from the register who has a right to be there. But if he be illegally there, and that man votes against the repeal of the Corn Laws, we are doing a sacred duty, and an act of pure patriotism, in striking off that man, if we can. (Hear.) And mark me: no man's name can be struck off the register unless those who object to him shall have given him written notice many days before the revision, and thus given him an opportunity of coming to substantiate his vote if it be an honest one. These are the views and principles by which we are actuated. We go on, in good times or in bad, in the same course which we have pursued; and we shall continue, because we believe, under all circumstances, and in all countries and times, the principles we advocate are principles of truth and justice; and, by Heaven's help, the present generation shall realize those blessings in this country." (Applause.)

THE REGISTRATION.

Derby.—The proceedings in the registration court here were not protracted, owing to the failure of the objections on both sides, through an informality. The Free-Trade party had a majority of four on the allowed claims.

South Derbyshire.—We are happy to say that the apathy which has marked the conduct of the Free-Trade party in some counties has not been imitated in this division of Derbyshire. The Free-Trade majority on objections is 60, and on claims 19, making a total gain of 79.

Lymington (Hants).—We are favoured by a correspondent with the following statement of the result of revision in this borough:—Free-Trade gain on objections 1; on claims, 4: total, 5.

Salisbury.—Our correspondent observes in his communication to us "that he fancies we shall not hesitate to participate in the congratulations which are now passing between the Free-Traders upon the result of their labours. Notwithstanding the actual existence of 14 monopolist lawyers here, the talent of Southampton, on the same side, was enlisted against us, with a result, however, disproportionate to the means, both mental and pecuniary, at the command of our opponents. As soon as I can get time I will compare the old with the new register, and send you the result, which will, I believe, be very favourable to us." The following is a summary of the proceedings in the court:—

Free-Trade claims allowed	18	
Monopolist ditto	17—	1
Free-Trade objections sustained ..	36	
Monopolist ditto	16—	20
Clear Free-Trade gain ..		21

South Shields.—Our correspondent writes,—"The addition of Free-Traders to our borough lists at the late revision are 8; Monopolists, 2. There were no objections by either party, the list having previously been well purged. The number of voters now upon the register is about 700, of which the Free-Traders constitute fully two-thirds."

Newcastle-upon-Tyne.—(From our Correspondent).—On Friday the 25th ultimo, the revising barrister held his court for this borough. No one but myself has examined the rate-books this season, and at the court there was not an attorney or agent on the part of the Monopolists. A few claims were lodged, but no claimants appeared, nor was there a single spectator. The court was composed of the barrister, the town-clerk's clerk, the overseers, and myself. The barrister received my statement in support of claims, and the Free-Trade claims were consequently allowed, but the Monopolist claims fell to the ground. This apathy on the part of the Monopolists shows that they consider their chances of success in this borough to be very small. Indeed, it is generally believed that Mr. Hodgson Hinde will be returned for the county in place of Mr. Bell. I am satisfied that, by proper conduct on our part, this borough will return a Free-Trade member along with Mr. Ord at the next election.

Richmond (Yorkshire).—From a correspondent we learn that, at the revision of the parliamentary list for this borough, there were no claims or objections made by any party. The great majority of the electors of this borough are decidedly Liberals and Free-Traders.

Newark.—(From our Correspondent). — Enclosed you have a report of our proceedings in the revision court, by which you will perceive our great success. But I think it right you should know how great has been the change in this year's register; every case is marked off as it occurs and I get to know of it.

	Monopolists.	Free-Traders.	Splits.	Doubt.
Dead ..	27 ..	4 ..	0 ..	0
Disqualified	26 ..	7 ..	2 ..	1
Loss by objectns.	6 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0
On new list, but since removed	7 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0
	66	11	2	1

Being a majority of 52, giving the Monopolists the split and doubtful votes.

New votes ..	16 ..	9 ..	0 ..	15

The Monopolists gain seven on the new votes, which, being deducted from the Free-Trade majority of 52, as shown above, leaves a gain of 45; from which, if you deduct the 10 doubtful new votes, it leaves the Free-Trade party in a majority of 35 on this year's revision. This is no trifle for one year; and I have already got hold of a few who will be disqualified on objection or otherwise next year.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—The revision in this borough has ended favourably for the Free-Traders, notwithstanding the decision of the revising barrister, that the objections on both sides were informal—those of the Free-Traders because their duplicates of the notices were not directed on the outside, the notices being served by post; those of the Monopolists, because the objector had not stated on what list of voters his name appeared. Calculating the loss and gain by the number of claims and objections established by each party, does not give the true result of the registration here. The following is an accurate analysis of the new list as compared with the one now in force:—

	Free-Traders and Liberals.	Monopolists.	Gains to Free-Traders.
Left off lists by town-clerk and overseers in consequence of deaths, &c.	33 ..	39 ..	6
New names put on by overseers	41 ..	19 ..	22
Claims established ..	13 ..	10 ..	3
Total gain to Free-Traders and Liberals ..			31

The Monopolists made 53 objections, 8 of which were duplicates. The Free-Traders made 85 objections, 45 being against paupers, who, if they ever vote, can be struck off by a committee in the event of a petition on the return of members on the forthcoming register.

The number of electors who signed a memorial to the members to vote for Mr. Villiers this year, was	808
Free-Traders who refused to sign, thinking it useless	94
	902
Since dead, &c.	23
	879
Add Free-Traders put on by overseers	32
Claims established	12
Total number of Free-Traders capable of voting	923

No candidate has ever polled that number since the passing of the Reform Bill.

BEVERLEY.—The revision for this borough took place on Friday, the 25th ult., and ended in a further gain to the Free-Traders, who have now a working majority of upwards of 100. The Monopolists made a tremendous effort to gain on this registration, and offered many frivolous objections. In several instances they were mulcted in costs; in one case as high as 20s. was awarded. All things being equal, should an election take place under the present register, the return of two Free-Traders is certain.

READING.—The revision in this borough commenced on Monday last, and ended on Wednesday. Mr. Huggett appeared for the Free-Traders. The number of claims established by Free-Traders is 26; the general result of the registration has not yet been received. The Monopolists had objected to James Gibson, the party who signed the objections for the Free-Traders. Mr. Gibson appeared, and having established his vote, Mr. Huggett applied for costs on the ground that the objection was a vexatious one: the barrister granted the application; the Monopolist agent then gave Mr. Gibson 4s. 6d., the amount of his day's work, much to the chagrin of one party, and delight of the other.

WESTBURY.—The Free-Traders here succeeded in striking off the assess-tax collectors. The Monopolists have given notice of appeal, which if carried out will settle this question. The result of the revision is as follows:—

Monopolist objections	7 ..	Sustained	5	
Free-Trade ditto ..	15 ..	Ditto ..	12	
Gains on objections ..		.. ..	—	7
Monopolist claims ..	1 ..	Failed ..	1	
Free-Trade ditto ..	1 ..	Sustained	1	
Gain on claims			—	1
Increase of Free-Traders on the present list				20
Gain on the register				28

CITY OF YORK:—

	Free-Trade Objections made.	Free-Trade Objections sustained.	Free-Trade Claims made.	Free-Trade Claims allowed.	Monopolist Objections made.	Monopolist Objections sustained.	Monopolist Claims made.	Monopolist Claims allowed.
Freemen ..	74 ..	74 ..	27 ..	27 ..	77 ..	77 ..	25 ..	25
Ten-pound Occupiers	43 ..	26 ..	79 ..	67 ..	28 ..	17 ..	33 ..	28
Total ..	117	100	106	94	105	94	58	53

Free-Trade majority on Objections	6
Ditto on Claims	41
Total Free-Trade gain	47

CORROBORATIVE CIRCUMSTANCES.

CHEAP FOOD AND HONESTY! DEARNESS AND ROGUERY!

In the statistical report of Mr. Henry Ashworth, submitted to the Anti-Corn-Law Conference in 1842, it was shown by the returns of infirmaries, workhouses, and prisons throughout the country, that, along with a *high price of provisions*, we had an increasing amount of disease, pauperism, and crime; and on the present occasion we are gratified to find ample evidence that, with *cheaper food*, these lamentable indications of the state of the people have become so completely reversed. The following appear in the *Manchester Guardian* of the 24th of October:—

"At Salford Hundred quarter sessions, 1844, held on October 21, after the usual directions as to the duties of grand jurors, the chairman said, 'he observed that the number of parties amongst the prisoners who had been *previously convicted* was rather larger than usual, there being not fewer than 18 out of the 67. It was satisfactory to him to be able to state that, with respect to the health of the gaol, it had continued very good; and with respect to the number *now in prison*, he was glad to say it was *lower than in previous years*. Taking the average of three years back, the first of those years gave an average of 744 persons in the gaol, the second year gave an average of 700, and the last year one of 620 only, showing a very considerable decrease; which was also observable in the returns made from other parts of this county. This was very satisfactory; and he could add to that, as to persons *summarily convicted*, that the average number was also diminished; being, for the first of the three years he had named, 359; in the second year, 364; but, for the third and last of the three years, 302 only. The number committed for trial the last quarter, on charges of felony, averaged about 22 per week; the weekly average of the quarter preceding was 20; and the corresponding quarter of last year, 22½; so that there has been a diminution, which was exceedingly satisfactory.'"

"THE CHAPLAIN'S ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PRESTON HOUSE OF CORRECTION.—We have received a copy of the Rev. John Clay's twenty-first annual report on the Preston House of Correction, from which we find that '*the improved condition of trade and commerce*, which has given full employment to the working classes, has had the effect, among other benefits, of diminishing the committals to the gaol. In the year 1842-3, they amounted, in the whole, to 2050; for the year just ended they amounted only to 1549. The *re-committals* within the year have been 108 (98 *persons* being the subjects of them); so that, although we have a record of 1549 *offences*, we have only 1441 *persons*.' Amongst other things the report states, that 'breaking into shops and warehouses has become more rare; and the removal of much idleness and destitution is evinced by the comparative, as well as absolute, small number of larcenies of "exposed articles." During a long period of embarrassment and distress, coal, clothing hung out to dry, and other unprotected property, tempted into crime the idle and the poor, until, in 1842, when the want of work was felt most severely, thefts of this character had increased to 119—nearly 20 per cent. on the whole sum of delinquency. In the last year, when all persons willing to take work could readily find it, offences of this description were committed in only 43 instances,—less than 10 per cent. on the total of offences.'"

ADVANCE OF WAGES.—STRIKES.

LANCASTER.—Messrs. Greg and Co., cotton manufacturers, of this town, have just advanced the wages of their spinners from seven to ten per cent. The mechanics connected with their establishment obtained a similar advance a few weeks ago. We commend these facts to the serious attention of every impartial observer, striking, as they do, at the very root of that mischievous fallacy which has been so unblushingly propounded, in season and out of season, by the autocrats of the soil and their hireling supporters.—*Lancaster Guardian.*

OLDHAM.—A few days ago, the spinners in the employment of Mr. John Holden, Royton-lane Mill, received, without solicitation, an advance of 3d. per 1000 hanks.

TERMINATION OF TURN-OUT AT WERNETH MILL.—The turn-out of the spinners and self-acting minders in the employment of Mr. Daniel Dronsfield, master spinner and manufacturer, Werneth Mill, Oldham, terminated on Friday week, the master having acceded to the demand of the operatives—an advance of 2d. per 1000 hanks.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—The power-loom weavers of this town are at present in a very unsettled state. On Friday evening, a meeting of weavers was held in the Chartist Association Room, when parties were appointed to form a committee to get up a public meeting to consider what steps shall be adopted to obtain an advance upon the present prices. Many of the spinners having received an advance, the weavers contend that they also ought to be better remunerated for their labour. It is expected that the meeting will be held this or next week.

TURN-OUT AT MESSRS. KENNEDY'S FACTORY.—About twenty men and women were brought up at the Borough Court, Manchester, on Monday, under warrants charging them with leaving their employment without giving the notice required.—Mr. J. Kennedy stated that the defendants, who were spinners for them, had left the mill on Friday last, without having complied with the rules, by giving a fortnight's notice previous to their leaving. Messrs. Kennedy had had no intimation as to what was their motive for doing so till after the warrants were put into execution, when they received a letter from one of the hands, asking an advance of 10 per cent. on their prices, though only a few weeks ago Messrs. Kennedy had made an advance equal to that amount.—Mr. Bent, on behalf of the defendants, said they did not mean to deny the fact of their having left work; but the truth was, that they had a grievance which they wished to complain of. The rules stated that not more than two persons in a room could give notice in one week; and, therefore, if any of the hands had an opportunity of improving their circumstances by leaving, they might be prevented by this rule from doing so for some months.—Mr. Maude said they should not have entered into such a contract if they did not approve of it; and he must see that it was fulfilled.—An opportunity was, however, given to the hands to make arrangements with Mr. Kennedy, and they agreed to return to the mill and work out their notice, when those who remained dissatisfied might leave.—*Manchester Guardian.*

STOCKPORT.—It was announced in the *Manchester Guardian* of Saturday, that the masters had agreed to allow their hands, from the highest to the lowest grade, a uniform advance of 5 per cent. upon their then rate of wages. It seems, however, that the hands generally are very much dissatisfied with the amount of this advance. They allege, that, when the masters seek for and make a reduction, they do not limit themselves to 5 per cent.; and they require that the same latitude should be allowed on the other side. Certain it is that they seem disposed to persevere in their demand for a greater advance; for on Monday evening a meeting of power-loom weavers was held in the Bull's Head, Market-place, to devise means to effect that object. We are informed that, at the end of last week, some of the masters did not even give notice of any rise at all, as was generally understood would everywhere be the case.—*Ibid.*

GLASGOW.—We regret to find that, in consequence of a dispute between the hand-loom factory weavers and their employers in this city, not fewer than seven hundred of the former are at this moment going idle.—*Glasgow Argus.*

LEEDS.—Friday week the hands in the employ of Messrs. Marriott turned out for an advance of wages; and on the following day a placard announced that a school would be open for males and females (on Westgate Common), where education would be given, and liberal wages for attending. We, however, hope that an amicable arrangement will soon be come to between the employers and the employed, so that peace and harmony, which is so desirable, may once more prevail.—*Leeds Times.*

PRESTON.—The month's notice of the power-loom weavers of Mr. R. Gardner, of this town, expired on Thursday night, the 17th ult., when the hands ceased working; but at a meeting on Saturday last the difference was amicably settled, and the weavers resumed work on Monday morning. Before the meeting broke up the following resolution was unanimously agreed to:—"That the thanks of this meeting be given to Robert Gardner, Esq., for his kindness in working his mill eleven hours a day, and that this meeting hopes he will continue so agreeable an arrangement."—*Preston Guardian.*

WORKING OF THE NEW FACTORY ACT IN MACCLESFIELD.

(From the *Macclesfield Chronicle.*)

We hear, on all hands, loud complaints of the injurious manner in which the silk throwsters and manufacturers of Macclesfield are affected by the new regulations, in regard to the working of children in factories; and, so far as we can learn, the employed are little better satisfied than the employers with the new arrangements. The abridgment of the time during which children are employed throws a considerable quantity of the machinery out of use during a great portion of the day, and hence accrues a most serious loss to the employers. The preparatory processes being performed by these young persons, the reduction of the amount of work produced by them inevitably affects the state of employment in the other branches of the manufacture. We are told that, in some of our establishments, the effect of the change has been to reduce the amount of silk thrown by about one-fourth, and we have even heard the proportion estimated still higher. There are three different results to which this state of things, according to circumstances, may be supposed to lead. The most obvious result, perhaps, and the one which, we believe, is generally anticipated by the working classes, is, the employment of a double set of hands, or the introduction of adult labour as a substitute, to a considerable extent, for the labour of the children. As to a relay of young hands, the thing is impracticable, at least in Macclesfield, as there was even a scarcity before the half-day system was introduced, and the employers say they cannot afford adult wages for the work which has been formerly done by children. The next effect, therefore, of the new law is, to drive the manufacturer to purchase prepared silk from the foreign throwster, in order that he may obtain a sufficient supply to keep his weavers in employment. We understand that this result has actually taken place to a considerable extent already, foreign-thrown silk being obtained on terms which render it more advantageous to our manufacturers to buy the article, than to pay grown-up persons for throwing it. Superficial observers may say, that there is nothing in this to excite uneasiness or alarm, "our children obtain as much employment as is good for them, and it matters not to us whether the silk by which our looms are supplied has passed through their fingers or those of foreigners." This appears reasonable enough on the surface, but there is another result—the last, and the worst of all—to which we have not yet adverted. The cost of production being increased, by the necessity of employing adult hands, instead of children, in the throwing department, or of purchasing thrown silk, at an advanced rate, from the foreigner, has a tendency to drive the home manufacturer out of the market, and to throw the trade into the hands of foreigners. It is obvious, therefore, that the ultimate result of this change must be, to reduce the quantity of employment for the weaver, and of all others employed in the silk trade. The competition will tell first, and most directly, on the throwster, but it will inevitably reach the manufacturer, and affect the trade at large. Macclesfield seems to be peculiarly situated in regard to this question, and may, therefore, suffer more from the new law than most other localities. The whole of its available youthful population have hitherto been employed in throwing, at wages beyond which the employer cannot go, without sinking under the competition of the foreign throwster, as the past history of the trade will testify. Now, therefore, that the working hours for children have been abridged, there is no surplus youthful population which we can fall back upon to supply the vacuum thus created. There may be localities in which the silk trade is followed where this disadvantage will not be so severely felt, and it is possible, therefore, that our argument may not apply, in its full force, in a national point of view; but it is with Macclesfield that we have at present to do, and we think we should be wanting in our duty to the public of this neighbourhood, if we withheld our views upon a subject in which they are so deeply interested.

We are anxious that our intention, in making the above remarks, should not be misunderstood. Our principal object is to state facts, and to leave all parties to draw their own inferences. Least of all is it our wish to encourage a backward movement in any system of legislation which would, with due honesty and intelligence, seek at once to secure the proper education of the young, and to save them from premature and excessive toil. But we must say that we cannot perceive either the policy or the justice of the course which has been adopted by the landlords who govern the country, of tying up the hands of the manufacturers by new legislative restrictions, while they refuse to give up their own monopoly. They wish to appear exceedingly humane, forsooth, but theirs is a spurious humanity, which, oddly enough, seeks to display itself by a new blow at the manufacturers, whom they had sufficiently victimised before. The people begin to see through the cheat, and find that it is only "out of the frying-pan into the fire." The operatives may depend that no system can, in the end, work well for them or their families, which proceeds on the preposterous principle of diminishing the ability of their employers to compete with their foreign rivals.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, October 30, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the League of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

	£	s.	d.
Edmund Potter and Co., Mosley-street, Manchester	£50	0	0
*George Castrer, 81, Collyhurst-road, do.	1	1	0
George Chambers, 15, Mosley-street, do.	1	1	0
Joseph Stretch, Nantwich, Cheshire	1	0	0
Wm. Knight, High street, Tewkesbury	0	5	0
Thomas Packer, Twining, Worcestershire	0	10	0
George Watson, bleacher, Tewkesbury ..	0	2	6
A Friend, do. ..	0	2	6
T. Johns, High-street, do. ..	0	2	6
Thomas Blizard, Gloucester-row, do. ..	0	2	6
Robert Dickson, grocer, High-street, do. ..	0	2	6
W. Skearington, do, do. ..	0	2	6
A Friend, Gloucester-row, do. ..	0	2	6
George Watson, draper, High-street, do. ..	0	2	6
Job Smith, grocer, do., do. ..	0	2	6
Samuel Button, Chance-street, do. ..	0	2	6
John Browett, Burton-street, do. ..	0	2	6
George Davis, do., do. ..	0	1	0
James Martin, do., do. ..	0	1	0
A Free-Trader, per S. B., do. ..	0	2	6
Charles Stewart, 1, Portland-street, Manchester	1	1	0
*Rev. R. Wallace, 2, Cavendish-place, C.-on-M., do.	1	0	0
Ashton-under-Lyne, 13th Remittance. { Peter Platt	25	0	0
{ Cryer and Lees	10	0	0
{ Newall and Platt	0	10	0
A Friend	20	0	0
*Leavers, Harker, and Leavers, 2, Duncan-place, City-road (2nd donation)	20	0	0
Samuel Frost, 4, Goldsmith-street, Cheapside ..	10	0	0
Stanley Mills Association, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, per Edward Shipway (8th remittance) ..	2	10	0
*Thomas Ruston, Mark-lane	2	5	2
Peter Martineau, Gulstone-street, Whitechapel ..	2	2	0
*Samuel Towgood, 31, St. Swithin's-lane	2	2	0
*P. Mellish, Banner-street, St. Luke's..	1	10	0
*Candler and Brightwell, 23, Liverpool-terrace, Islington	1	1	0
John Fairrie, Church-lane, Commercial-road ..	1	1	0
*James Prendergast, 13, Camden-road Villas, Camden-town	1	1	0
*John Stephens, 118, Ratcliffe-highway	1	1	0
*T. K. Pritchard, 20, Manchester-street, Manchester-square	1	1	0
*William Lawrence, tea dealer, Knightsbridge ..	1	1	0
*Francis Hardy, 25, Milk street, Cheapside	1	1	0
*Thomas Chadwick, 61, Bermondsey-street	1	1	0
*William Watson, 56, Myddelton-square	1	1	0
*R. V. H.	1	1	0
*William Dunnett, 3, Cheapside	1	1	0
*James Courtney, 21, Water-lane, Tower-street ..	1	1	0
John Card, 92, High-street, Camden-town	1	1	0
William Fontaine, Chapel-yard, East-street, Hoxton Old Town	1	1	0
*John Faulkner, 325, Strand	1	1	0
*Thomas Bushell, 324, do.	1	1	0
*Charles Clarke, 19, Giltspur-street	1	1	0
*G. J. D.	1	1	0
Per Mr. Burnard. *John Piper Burnard, Formosa Cottage, Edengrove, Holloway	1	1	0
*R. S.	1	1	0
*David Price, Huggin-lane, Wood-street ..	1	1	0
*Frank Tebbutt, Foster-lane, Cheapside ..	1	1	0
*James Keighley, do., do. ..	1	1	0
*David Aumonier, 16, Cornhill	1	1	0
*J. H. Jaques, 8, Kennington-terrace, Vauxhall	1	1	0
*Geo. Ridge, 15, Lower Wharton-street, Lloyd-square	1	0	0
*G. W. Cant, 79, High Holborn..	1	0	0
*Samuel Sparrow, 11, New North-street, Red Lion-square	1	0	0
*M. Bacon, Chatham	1	0	0
*George Callum and Co., Edinburgh	1	0	0
James Fraser, Belfast	1	0	0
*Samuel Oram, Devonport	1	0	0
*C. Millar, do.	1	0	0
*J. R. Keele, Southampton	1	0	0
*J. and D. Mitchell, Chickenley, near Dewsbury, Yorkshire	1	0	0
*William Norton, 15, Peckham-rye-terrace	1	0	0
George Hill, 7, Maddox-street, Bond-street	1	0	0
John Vaughan, 16, Avery-row, do.	1	0	0
*S. P. Pratt, 49, Woburn-place, Russell-square ..	1	0	0
*George Healey, 12, Cumberland-street, Regent's-park	1	0	0
*Thomas Lea, Park Villa, Highgate	1	0	0
L. M.	1	0	0
George Bracher, Copthall-buildings, Throgmorton-street	1	0	0
John Verity, 46, Salisbury-square	1	0	0
*R. W. Boarer, 3, Windsor-place, Old Kent-road ..	1	0	0
*G. H. W.	1	0	0
*J. Poulton, Staines-road, Hounslow	1	0	0
*Daniel Elliott, 268, Oxford street	1	0	0
*James Moody, 38, Hunter-street, Brunswick-square	1	0	0
*John Pechey, Queen's-terrace, Brunswick-street, Great Dover-road	1	0	0
George Shipdem, Hythe, Kent	1	0	0
*John Taylor, 63, Piccadilly	1	0	0
"Free Trade with all the world, and peace with all mankind"	1	0	0
*Thomas Bird, 21, Commercial-road East	1	0	0
William Weaver Battle bridge wharf, King's-cross	1	0	0
Thomas Cook, Sutton bridge Hotel, Wisbeach ..	1	0	0
*Joshua Rogers, 133, Bunhill-row	1	0	0
*Thomas Norman 1, Temple street, Dalston.. ..	1	0	0
*John C Clarke Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight.. ..	1	0	0
William Conway James, Pontnewydd Works, near Newport	1	0	0
*John Jones, do., do.	1	0	0
*A. Cunningham, Bonnington, Edinburgh	1	0	0
*A. Michie, 33½, Edwards-street, Portman-square ..	1	0	0
*John Holcombe, 78, Crawford-street, Marylebone .	1	0	0
John Dolker, 81 Connaught-terrace, Edgware-road	1	0	0
William Overton, 20, Garford-street, Poplar	1	0	0
Charles Cecil, 33, Golden-lane, Barbican	1	0	0
*Henry Yeoman, Dartmouth-row, Blackheath ..	1	0	0
*J. J. Fox, Devizes	1	0	0
*M. Whitehill and Co., Paisley	1	0	0
*Thomas Jones, Wheeler-gate, Nottingham	1	0	0
Thomas Lindop, Newcastle-under-Lyne	1	0	0
D. S.	1	0	0
*Rev. Robert Eckett, 6, Argyle-square, King's-cross	1	0	0
*Joseph Porter, Minehead, Somerset	1	0	0
*Robert Dick, 19, Great Distaff-lane	1	0	0
Edward Back, Highworth, Wilts	1	0	0
*Jas Wynn and Son, carpet manufacturers, Dewsbury	1	0	0
A Friend	0	10	0
George Webb, 111, Whitechapel High-street	0	10	0
M. and S.	0	10	0
Thomas Clifton, 8, Laurence Pountney-lane	0	10	0
The Reverend Francis Augustus Cox, D.D., LL.D., Hackney	0	10	0
James Wood, *Weekly Dispatch* office, Fleet-street ..	0	5	0
J. Reynolds, 23, Chadwell-street, St. John-street-rd.	£0	5	0
R. Patching, 23, River-street, Myddelton-square ..	0	5	0
J. W. S.	0	5	0
Lucas and Goodlad, 7, Seckford-street, Clerkenwell	0	5	0
R. and T. Freeman, 5, Commercial-road East ..	0	5	0
Augustus Teetgen, 154, Whitechapel-road	0	5	0
R. L.	0	5	0
Alex. Loffman, 7, Bell's-buildings, Salisbury-square	0	5	0
Robert Corbishley, 25, Wood-street, Cheapside ..	0	5	0
S. B. S.	0	5	0
William Baker, 2, Harrington-street, Hampstead-rd.	0	5	0
William D. Kirkham, 7, Mare-street, Hackney ..	0	5	0
Daniel Miller, 32, Lowndes-street, Belgrave-square	0	5	0
W. J. Callaway, 2, Bridge-road, Lambeth	0	3	6
H. Lewis, 206, Bermondsey-street	0	3	0
George Buist, 3, North-street, Little Moorfields ..	0	2	6
C. F. Neve, 25, Woodbridge-street, Clerkenwell ..	0	2	6
Edward Stokes, 2, Corporation-row, do. ..	0	2	6
Thomas Maynard, 95, Curtain-road, Shoreditch ..	0	2	6
Thomas William Biddell, 55, Drury-lane	0	2	6
A. J. Trigg, 34, Meredith-street, Clerkenwell ..	0	2	6
Robert Broomfield, 37, Myddelton-street, do. ..	0	2	6
David Taylor, 20, Tysoe-street, do. ..	0	2	6
Henry Riddle, 2, Bedford-place, Commercial-rd. East	0	2	6
William Bennett, 8, Prince's-street, Bedford-row ..	0	2	6
Charles Ternan, 4, Polygon, Somers-town	0	2	6
Edward Harris, 5, Quickset-row, New-road	0	2	6
George Barton, 144, High-street, Camden-town ..	0	2	6
W. J. Northfield, 163, do., do. ..	0	2	6
William Bailey, 26, Munster-street, Regent's-park..	0	2	6
Joseph Watson, 2, do, do. ..	0	2	6
Thomas Greatorex, 122, Albany-street, do. ..	0	2	6
Benjamin Cribb, 53, Edward-street, do. ..	0	2	6
John Gammell, 42, Bayham-street, Camden-town ..	0	2	6
Henry Stevens, 19, Hoxton-square	0	2	6
Mr. Rogers, 5, Bridge-road, Lambeth	0	2	6
James Price, 7, do, do.	0	2	6
J. and W. Reynolds, card manufacturers, 29, Vere-street, Clare-market	0	2	6
Samuel Page, 51, Burr-street, Lower East Smithfield	0	2	6
James Taylor, 11, Northampton-road, Clerkenwell..	0	2	6
Mrs. Esther Cockerell, 2, Waterloo-terrace, Cambridge-heath	0	2	6
George Tennant, 5, Goldsmith's-place, Hackney-road	0	2	6
William Newell, Post-office, Hackney..	0	2	6
William Harvey, Church-street, do.	0	2	6
Thomas Bennett, do, do.	0	2	6
Augustus Jackson White, Watts's-buildings, Kingsland-road	0	2	6
Rayner and Palmer, Russell-street, Bermondsey ..	0	2	6
William Palmer, 240, Bermondsey-street	0	2	6
Mr. Howers, 253, do.	0	2	6
Henry Jephson, 8, Kinnerton-street, Knightsbridge	0	2	6
Subscriptions under 2s. 6d. each	1	11	7

* Those names marked with an asterisk are renewed subscriptions.

ERRATUM.

In League, No. 56, *for* "Charles Weight, 1, Water-lane, Blackfriars, £1," *read* "Charles Wright;" and *for* "R. J. Johnson, 43, New-road, Commercial-road East, £2," *read* "R. S. Johnson."

Free-Trade Lectures.—On Wednesday evening week, Mr. J. J. Finnigan delivered his third lecture in the Buck-i'-th'-Vine-room, Wallgate, Wigan. Subject—"The Interests of Labour and Capital Identical." The room was well filled, and the arguments advanced seemed to carry conviction to the mind of every individual present.

Lectures in Wiltshire.—Mr. Falvey lectured at Calne on Friday, the 25th, and at Cricklade on Saturday, the 26th ult. John Wayte, Esq., occupied the chair at Calne, and W. Wells, Esq., M.D., at Cricklade. The greatest unanimity prevailed on the subject of Free Trade on each occasion, and the people clearly perceive that nothing else can permanently improve their condition.

Lectures on the Corn Laws.—On the evening of Monday week Mr. Liddell delivered a lecture on the corn and provision laws, and Free Trade, in the long room of the Sun Inn, Haltwhistle. The room was crowded to excess by a respectable company, including many farmers from a considerable distance. The lecture occupied nearly two hours in the delivery, and was heard with the greatest attention. At the conclusion, Mr. Liddell invited any of his audience to defend the Corn Laws, but no one availed himself of this privilege. A vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Liddell, and passed unanimously. Tracts were distributed at the close of the meeting. On Wednesday evening Mr. Liddell delivered a lecture on the same subjects, and with equal success, to a crowded audience, in the long room, Furnace Inn, Bellingham.—*Tyne Mercury.*

Political Economy.—That political-economy should have been complained of as hostile to religion, will probably be regarded a century hence (should the fact be then on record) with the same wonder with which we of the present day hear of men sincerely opposing on religious grounds the Copernican system. But till the advocates of Christianity shall have become more universally acquainted with the true character of their religion, than, universally, they have ever yet been, we must always expect that every branch of study, every scientific theory, that is brought into notice, will be assailed on religious grounds by those who have either not studied the subject, or who are incompetent judges of it; or, again, who are addressing themselves to such persons as are so circumstanced, and wish to excite and take advantage of the passions of the ignorant.—*Archbishop Whateley.*

Repeal of the Corn Laws.—It has been suggested that the present improvement in trade, together with the cheapness of food, dispenses altogether with the necessity for a repeal of the Corn Laws. Now, exactly the reverse is the case, for good harvests are equally argumentative with bad in favour of the removal of restrictions upon food. The position of the Corn-Law repealers is this—that cheap food is conducive to the happiness and prosperity of the nation, and, as if to illustrate the truth of this position, Heaven has sent a good harvest, the blessings of which are already known and felt by the people. Nothing could better illustrate this position; and the demand founded thereon is, that provision should be made to secure *at all times* cheap food, and, consequently, at all times prosperity and happiness, by the removal of laws under which we can obtain cheap food only when Providence pleases to favour us with abundant harvests in Britain. And in bad harvests the same position is verified by contrast, for, with a scarcity of food, the people are doomed to physical sufferings, and their pecuniary means being almost wholly devoted to the purchase of dear food, the home demand for manufactures falls off, and trade in general becomes paralyzed. And what the Free-Traders ask in such times is, that advantage be taken of the superabundance of other countries to keep up a plentiful and cheap supply of food in this, without which, as we have before seen, we cannot be prosperous.—*Preston Guardian.*

LETTERS ON THE CORN LAWS, No. V.

TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.

Madam,—The ceremonial which engaged your Majesty on Monday last probably occasioned some fatigue, and perhaps afforded some amusement. It will be happy for your people should reflections have been suggested of a more enduring character than either fatigue or amusement. The opening of the new Royal Exchange will be an item in the chronological tablet of your Majesty's reign. May it be a type of the future policy by which that reign will be characterized.

The splendid and enduring structure with which the name of Queen Victoria will be indissolubly associated, is a monument of civic wealth and progress. Its superiority to previous buildings on the same site, and devoted to the same purposes, is even less, far less, in proportion than the present importance of the City, as compared with the London of Elizabeth and of Charles II. Since their days, a family of cities has grown up around the ancient metropolis. Miles of rural suburbs have been thickly planted with human dwellings. Of late, too, the remotest towns and districts have been brought comparatively near by the miraculous locomotive. The heart of the kingdom makes its pulsations felt at the extremities with unprecedented rapidity. And the impulse returns upon itself with augmented force. No such temple of trade and commerce has ever yet been erected in the world as that of which you have graced the inauguration by your presence. The reign of your Majesty is over *the first of commercial countries.*

Not unnatural is the desire that this fact should be strongly impressed upon the royal mind. Commerce is not merely one out of many splendid phenomena presented by your empire; it is much more than that: it is the character of the nation. We are a commercial people. Our position in the map of the world marks out our destiny. The tendencies of the population are in harmony with their locality. Our land is limited, but our coast is long, and our industry untiring. To commerce we owe it that we are a people at all. Our independence and your crown are amongst its bestowments. Fleets and armies have been created by the wealth of its production. Without the sinews of strength which it nourished, Nelsons and Wellingtons must have remained unlaurelled. Assailed from without, and exhausted by burdens at home, but for the vivifying energies of commerce Britain would have become the appendage of some great continental power. From the same source as our national wealth and safety, has flowed the greatness of the landed aristocracy. The proudest nobles of your court owe to it the augmented worth of their broad lands. They are pensioners upon commerce for the largest portion of their revenues. It is not an accident, but the essence, of our national being. It is not a limb which may be amputated, but the breath of life which preserves the body of the state from corruption and dissolution.

Why represent this fact to your Majesty? Because appearances do not force it on your notice, and because you are surrounded with advisers who are unlikely to commend it to your attention. The portentous anomaly may thus be hidden from your eyes, that we are a commercial people under the legislative government of a landed aristocracy. The laws which bind all classes are framed by one class, and that one bears a different character from the rest of the nation. We are a commercial people, with laws that impede, perplex, and restrain commerce. Trade, that feeds the millions and indirectly aggrandizes the landed proprietary, is limited by laws under the mistaken notion of enhancing the worth of land. The policy of legislation, so far as the Corn Laws are concerned, is anti-national, for it is anti-commercial. While this contrariety endures, there can be no security for the glory of a Sovereign or the happiness of a people. One of the plainest lessons and most solemn warnings of history, is the fatality of not consulting the genius of a community in its legislation. The spirit of the laws and that of the nation must be in unison; their discrepancy is dangerous, and their antagonism is destructive.

Amid the splendours of your Majesty's reception, and the countless thousands of welcoming faces that lined the streets from the Palace to the Exchange, no symptom presented itself of the mischiefs and miseries induced by this discrepancy. It was not the fitting occasion. Yet only about three years have elapsed since this city of London invited into its representation a falling Minister, simply because, in his falling, he had caught at the popularity of a relaxation of the laws restricting commerce, thereby breaking, for it was past averting, the disgrace of the descent. And only one year ago, this same city of London passed sentence of condemnation upon monopolist laws by returning a candidate who avowedly and distinctly stood forth as the champion of Free Trade, the advocate of the principles of the Anti-Corn-Law League. These facts are significant. They indicate the pressure and

the perception of a practical grievance. Of the extent of that grievance little can be known within the walls of a palace. The shadow of it sometimes passes over the speeches prepared for your Majesty to read to your Parliament when they assemble, or are prorogued. There, on some occasions, you find the terms "Manufacturing Distress;" and on other occasions "Agricultural Distress;" terms designating the alternate phases of suffering which now is spreading dismay, insolvency, desperation, and crime amongst the humbler sort of those who cultivate the soil; and which, but lately, reduced the industrious inhabitants of many towns by scores of thousands to actual starvation. The wretchedness is shifted from class to class, by fluctuations in the price of food; and sometimes mitigated for a season by an extraordinarily abundant harvest; but there it is, and there it will be, so long as a commercial people is governed by an anti-commercial policy. Even the beast of burden will chafe, and fret, and bleed, if harnessed with a yoke unfitted to his form; and though his generous or enduring nature may accomplish much in spite of all impediments, that is but a poor alleviation of the suffering, or apology for the cruelty.

It is unnecessary to tell your Majesty that no consent of the two Houses of Parliament exonerates your royal mind from the obligation of considering what form or principles of policy may best subserve the interests of this great empire. Suppose the representation of the Commons to be as real and faithful, as all the world knows it to be otherwise; suppose the Peers of the realm to be entirely in sympathy with the peasantry and operatives, and the majority of the nation to be as much in favour of taxation upon food and all other kinds of monopoly as their legislators: the question would still remain whether monopoly be a wise and righteous policy. This infatuated accordance is supposable; and yet the path it chooses may be a road to ruin, with injustice in its course, disgrace and confusion at its close. The most enlightened Sovereign may not be able to save a people against their will; but it is something to have a Sovereign not participating in a ruinous popular delusion.

There are surer tests of the truthfulness of Parliament to its trust than those which elections afford, so long as the electoral machinery gives undue preponderance to a class which believes itself interested in monopoly. It may be tried by miscellaneous assemblages of the people. Throughout the length and breadth of the island no large meeting can be fairly convened which agrees with Parliament in its support of monopoly. It may be tried by our politico-economical literature, whether standard or popular. From Adam Smith to Ricardo—from the metaphysical formulæ of Mill to the narrative illustrations of Martineau—the voice of our authors has a nearer approach to unanimity in the condemnation of monopoly than can be found in any other topic whatsoever. Whether guidance to sound policy be sought in the voice of the interested many, or in that of the enlightened few, still the result is, that on Free-Trade principles should the government of the British empire be conducted.

Your Majesty is not the puppet of a party, or merely the central figure in a ceremony. You have shown yourself aware of your prerogatives and your responsibility. On one memorable occasion you replaced a Ministry that had resigned, and baffled such a Parliamentary movement towards change as is usually deemed irresistible. In 1839 the nobility of your spirit rebuked the crooked approaches of Sir Robert Peel, and refused to give the world the false assurance, by the household appointments, of a confidence you did not feel. Your Majesty, alone, decided the postponement, for more than two years, of the restoration to power of the Tory party. The factious abuse which followed may be forgiven and forgotten by your Majesty; by many it will be for ever indignantly remembered. The spirit then evinced may hereafter serve your people more permanently and more efficiently. You scorned an acted untruth; and what is a worse falsehood than oppression? What more untrue than monopoly to your crown and dignity, and to your people's rights and prosperity? The fervent loyalty of Englishmen, now so concentred on yourself, arose and attained its energy in times when the Sovereign and the nation made common cause against a feudal oligarchy. The alliance is natural; for by the same class have both suffered, and the restricters of public industry have also been the usurpers of regal authority. The last Parliamentary act of the great Elizabeth was an abrogation of monopolies, with a pathetic apology for having been misled into the sacrifice to "a private profit" of what was "good and beneficial to the subjects in general." The confession was worthy of that majestic woman, whose example you have this week followed in visiting the city of London, to give splendour and royal name to the edifice "where merchants most do congregate." Times are coming when the importance may be incalculable of knowing that the Sovereign is neither uninformed, indifferent, nor hostile to those commercial principles which are the lifeblood of the nation. From a Parliament elected both in delusion and corruption, and from Ministers who compromise truths which they cannot deny to the demands of a class which holds them for its tools, the people will look wistfully towards the throne. They will call to mind the words of your reply to the address on Monday—words which, if prepared as a formality, were rendered living by your enunciation; words with which the citizens of London are adorning their dwellings in letters of gold, as a blessed omen of the future:—

"The relief of the indigent, the advancement of science, the extension of commerce, were the objects contemplated by the founder of the Exchange.

"These objects are near to my heart. Their attainment will, I trust, be recorded among the peaceful triumphs of my reign; and I shall rejoice if I am thus enabled, by the blessing of Divine Providence, to promote the prosperity and happiness of all classes of my subjects."

They will look for your favouring sympathy in the arduous though peaceful struggles by which alone such "triumphs" can be realized, and in which they embark, knowing that "the relief of the indigent, the advancement of science, and the extension of commerce" are only to be achieved through the repeal of the Corn Law, with its kindred monopolies, and the harmony of legislation and institutions with the free and commercial spirit of the nation. Such, may it please your Majesty, are the thoughts and desires of millions, to which it has been endeavoured to give respectful and loyal expression by

A Norwich Weaver Boy.

OPENING OF THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

The grand ceremonial of opening the Royal Exchange, by her Majesty in person, took place on Monday. As early as seven o'clock, troops of pedestrians wended their way in every direction towards the line of route. So early as eight o'clock the streets near Temple-bar rapidly began to be thronged with spectators, and towards nine great numbers had taken up their positions in the hired and other seats which had been prepared for their reception. As had been previously announced, to prevent any inconvenience or interruption to the procession, barriers were erected at all the streets leading into the line of route; and more immediately round the Exchange itself, barriers were raised to check the approach of all persons not invited to be present at the ceremonial. The stringency of the police regulations promulgated last week, and which threatened to imprison the inhabitants of some of the streets near the Exchange, were, owing to the strong remonstrances of those parties themselves, enforced by the potent voice of the press, wisely relaxed; thus, nearly everything was done to facilitate the people in their desire to see the Sovereign, without making prisoners of any class who might have claims and duties demanding their time and attention for other objects. The usual posse of military and police lined the streets, and the best order was preserved throughout the whole line.

About twenty minutes to 11 o'clock the royal carriages, the magnificent royal state-carriage drawn by eight beautiful cream-coloured horses, decked in their gorgeous trappings, drove to the Palace, followed by a troop of Yeomen of the Guard. About five minutes past 11 o'clock her Majesty entered the royal carriage, and the procession, composed of a detachment of the Life Guards, the six royal carriages, containing the lords and ladies of the household, the state-coach, surrounded by grooms, &c., immediately formed. On emerging from under the marble arch her Majesty was greeted with the greatest enthusiasm—the cheering and waving of hats and handkerchiefs being continued down the whole of the densely crowded line. Her Majesty repeatedly acknowledged these bursts of enthusiasm by bowing on either side. Her Majesty was dressed in white satin, and wore a silver tiara set with brilliants, and looked remarkably well. His Royal Highness Prince Albert, who was seated on the left of her Majesty, in front, was dressed in the uniform of the Hon. Artillery Company, of which his Royal Highness is colonel. He too, looked extremely well, and repeatedly bowed to the cheers of the crowd.

The carriages of the Ambassadors and foreign Ministers assembled at the lower end of St. James's-street, and fell into the line immediately after the Queen's procession.

The carriages of the Cabinet Ministers fell into the line immediately after those of the Ambassadors and foreign Ministers.

Along the line marked out the crowd of spectators was dense, every window and balcony, and many roofs of houses, being filled with spectators, who exhibited lively demonstrations of respect for her Majesty and admiration at the splendid pageant.

Within the railings round St. Mary's Church platforms were erected, gaily dressed with flags, and crowded with ladies; over the principal entrance to the church the Sunday school children were ranged on a platform, and sang the national anthem as the royal *cortège* passed. Their tiny voices were, however, but little heard amidst the deafening shouts of the crowd, of which the students of King's College formed no inconsiderable part. St. Clement Danes' Church was also surrounded on the Strand side by platforms, every inch of which was occupied. A short delay of the royal carriage took place at this narrow and inconvenient part of the Strand from the density of the crowd on either side, barely affording room for the royal carriage and its escort to pass. The royal carriage then proceeded from this point to Temple-bar at a very slow pace. Arrived at the bar, the royal carriage stopped under the archway, the gates being open, and was met there by the civic authorities.

The procession advanced in the order already stated, until her Majesty's state-coach had arrived immediately under the gateway. The Lord Mayor—wearing a splendid robe of crimson velvet with collar of SS. and Spanish hat and feather, followed by the Aldermen in their usual scarlet robes, mounted on artillery horses, led by their accustomed riders, but by no means displaying the graces of horsemanship, as shown by the good-humoured laughter of the spectators—now approached within a short distance of the royal carriage; and his lordship, having alighted, uncovering and making a profound reverence, presented to her Majesty the city sword. Her Majesty, having accepted it by touching the hilt with her right hand, was graciously pleased to signify her desire that the Lord Mayor should again resume and retain it. The Lord Mayor then remounted, and took his place in the line of procession, immediately preceding the carriage of her Majesty.

It may easily be supposed that the *coup-d'œil* which the vicinity of the Exchange presented was extremely pleasing. Every window of every house was crowded with occupants, consisting chiefly of the fair sex, who, determined not to miss the spectacle by any tardiness on their part, secured their several seats at a very early hour. The Bank of England, the Mansion-house, and some large establishments had all provided for their quotas of spectators, who had an admirable view of the royal *cortège* as it advanced. The various livery companies had arrived in procession so early as ten o'clock and taken up their positions. Lord John Russell arrived at the Exchange at eleven o'clock; and soon after the carriage of the Duke of Wellington made its appearance. His grace on being recognised was loudly cheered. The Duke of Cambridge, the Duchess of Kent, Sir Robert and Lady Peel, Sir James and Lady Graham, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Gladstone arrived soon after in rapid succession.

As twelve o'clock struck there appeared to be a general movement among the multitude congregated near the Mansion-house, and the cheers which were now raised, at first heard in the distance, but becoming more and more audible every instant, plainly indicated that the royal and civic procession was near at hand. Very soon after this the first part of the procession, as it had left Temple-bar, reached the Royal Exchange. In a few moments after passing the Mansion-house the royal carriage reached the principal western entrance of the Royal Exchange, where it drew up in the centre. Her Majesty was handed out of the carriage by Prince Albert, and leaning on his arm, passed on to the interior of the Exchange, preceded by the Lord Mayor, bearing the city sword of state, and bowing as he ushered her Majesty and royal consort into the new building. After inspecting which, she proceeded to the banqueting room.

The principal apartment in which her Majesty was received is called the subscribers' room. It is 98 feet long by 40 wide, so that it afforded ample room for a grand entertainment. The tables were heaped with every conceivable delicacy, and a profusion of the finest wines. There were four tables extending the whole length of the room, with seats on either side for the guests, the two centre tables being wider apart than the others, in order to afford a broad passage up the room to the cross-table, where a special preparation had been made for her Majesty, Prince Albert, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and a few of the chief guests. This table was covered with massive gold plate, of most exquisite workmanship; and those who had arranged the banquet had not forgotten her Majesty's fondness for flowers, of which two large and beautiful bouquets were placed opposite where her Majesty was to sit. Her Majesty's seat was placed at the centre of this cross-table, a little raised above the rest.

Her Majesty's approach was announced to the guests by a call from the upper end of the room of "The Queen is coming!" and the national anthem was immediately played by the band of the Life Guards stationed outside. Immediately the whole mass of guests rose, and faced on each side of the avenue through which her Majesty was to pass to the top of the room. Two lines were thus formed on either side of this avenue of ladies and gentlemen, glittering with diamonds and jewels, and brilliant in uniforms, military and naval, covered with orders and insignia. As her Majesty entered and passed up the room, preceded by the Lord Mayor, bearing the civic sword before him, and by the aldermen and members of the corporation, with their robes and wands of office, and followed by a brilliant suite of ladies, officers, Ministers, and Ambassadors, the whole company bowed repeatedly, at the same time receiving her Majesty with a loyal and respectful cheer. Her Majesty leaned on the arm of Prince Albert. Her Majesty took her seat on the throne, Prince Albert standing on her right hand, and the Duchess of Kent and the Duke of Cambridge on her left.

Here the scene was highly imposing. The room contained the *élite* of the whole company, all the most distinguished of the distinguished persons present in the Exchange; and as an assemblage of commercial wealth, of hereditary rank, of political and diplomatic talent, of military and naval renown, it would be difficult to match it within the same small space, or on an occasion characterised by so little of mere ceremonial, or of attempt at pomp and display.

The Recorder then, on an intimation given from the throne, proceeded to read a congratulatory address from the Lord Mayor, aldermen, and commons of the city of London to her Majesty, to which her Majesty delivered an appropriate reply.

Her Majesty was then graciously pleased to say to the Lord Mayor, "It is my intention, Mr. Magnay, to confer the dignity of a baronet upon you, to commemorate this event."

Several presentations to her Majesty then took place.

As soon as this ceremony had been performed, the corporation, the Ministers, Ambassadors, and others who had been present in the throne-room, retired to the banqueting-room, where they immediately took the seats which had been assigned to them. Her Majesty, accompanied by the Prince, the Duchess of Kent, and the Duke of Cambridge, retired to the private apartments, where they remained for nearly twenty minutes.

On her return, her Majesty proceeded to the cross-table, where she took her seat, Prince Albert sitting on her right, and the Duchess of Kent and Duke of Cambridge on her left.

The repast having concluded, the Lord Mayor, standing at the right of her Majesty's chair, said,—"I have her Majesty's permission to give you the health of 'Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.'"

The toast was received with every mark of loyal honour.

The Lord Mayor then gave, in the same terms, "The Health of Prince Albert," which was also responded to enthusiastically.

The Lord Mayor next gave, in the same terms, "Albert Prince of Wales and the Royal Family."

The Duke of Cambridge stood up to acknowledge the toast, which was duly honoured.

The Lord Mayor then said, "Her Majesty has com-

days previously, living together as man and wife. On the day of the night in question they paid their bill, and about five o'clock told their landlady they were going to take a walk, and would probably be late, as they wished to view some of the scenery in the neighbourhood by moonlight. They never returned; but the following morning the son of a labourer, named Hogarth, who was with him at the time, both proceeding to their work, discovered, on the east bank of the river Irvine, a lady's parasol stuck in the ground, supporting a man's hat, over which was thrown a lady's dark veil. Soon after, the bodies of the lady and gentleman were found at about ten yards' distance from the parasol, lying in shallow water. They were fastened arm to arm by two pocket handkerchiefs—a white cambric and a red silk—the gentleman's left arm to the lady's right. Both must have aided in the tying of the handkerchiefs, which were very strongly and securely knotted. Fastened inside the crown of the gentleman's hat was a ticket, evidently freshly written, bearing the words, "H. J. Atkinson, Esq., King-street, Cheapside, London;" but this is supposed to be a feigned name, as on some articles found in his portmanteau the name "G. Whittingham" was found. The gentleman appeared to be about 35; the lady, who seemed to bear a strong resemblance to him, about 50. They must have deliberately walked into the water and laid themselves down side by side without a struggle.

The Duke of Buckingham is increasing allotments of land. He has recently signified his intention of causing about 15 acres of now very unproductive land at Kingswood, called "Grub's Wood," to be let out in small portions to working men.—*Aylesbury News.*

The Great Britain steam-ship was last week released from her long imprisonment. She is at present in the Cumberland Bason, Bristol, undergoing a few repairs, after the completion of which it is intended that she shall make one or two trial trips, and then proceed to London.

A very serious accident happened on Monday afternoon at the Exchange, during the period of her Majesty's presence there. It appears that one of the men who had the care of the flags on the roof of the edifice lost his balance, and fell headlong through two skylights, alighting on one of the staircases. His injuries were so severe that it was at first thought that he was killed on the spot; but on his being removed to St. Bartholomew's Hospital it was found that he was still alive, although in a condition which leaves little hope of his recovery.

We have every reason to apprehend that, owing to the advanced state of all agricultural work in East Sussex, which the fine settled weather has favoured, there will during the coming winter months be a very diminished demand for labour, and consequently that much distress will fall upon the peasantry.—*Brighton Guardian.*

The Board of Trade have issued a circular to railway companies condemnatory of the practice of running trains with several engines, and recommending the division of "monster trains" into several sections, to each of which not more than two engines should be attached.

The total number of deaths in the metropolis during the week ending Saturday, Oct. 26, was 935; previous week, 985; average for five autumns, 990.

We have heard it mentioned as a positive fact, that an American gentleman of the most unblemished character was refused admission into one of the largest clubs in London, on the sole ground that he belonged to a republic that did not fulfil its engagements. All possible pains were taken to convince the gentleman that there was not the slightest personal objection to his admission, and that his own reputation was such that the club would have had the greatest pleasure in receiving him had he belonged to a more creditable government.—*Times.*

On Wednesday afternoon a soldier, named Sullivan, met his death at Chatham from suffocation caused by foul air, resulting from an explosion of gunpowder in a mine at the above place, where a sham siege has been carrying on for some days between two parties of Sappers and Miners. Two other soldiers nearly shared the same fate, but were rescued in time to restore them to animation.

A meeting of the friends of civil and religious liberty was held at the Three Tuns, Aldgate, on Tuesday evening, when it was resolved—"That, for the purpose of testifying the high respect entertained by the electors of the Ward of Portsoken for David Salomons, Esq., a testimonial be presented to that gentleman."

The subscription to relieve Father Mathew from his pecuniary difficulties is, we are happy to say, rapidly increasing. Mr. O'Connell has written to Mr. James Haughton, of Dublin, promising his cordial co-operation in support of this praiseworthy object.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Effects of Good Trade in Burnley.—Any one visiting Burnley with his eyes open, and a mind observant of what is passing, would immediately decide that this place will not be the last to profit by Free Trade. A revived trade has produced a spirit of activity and enterprise, no where surpassed for the size of the town. Buildings, to give employment to the labouring classes, are rapidly rising on every hand. There are three new factories in a state of great forwardness, with two or three loom-sheds, and other erections. The people are realizing once more the blessings of a bettered trade. And if Free Trade means increased and extended trade, with a prospect of continuance far beyond what we dare hope for under present circumstances, every man of common sense, and who can profit by experience, will recommend the monopolist to keep his mouth closed, or turn a deaf ear to him when he opens it in favour of restrictions.—*Preston Guardian.*

Commerce and Manufactures.—There is not a doubt that England would long ago have sunk into the wretched state that Ireland now is, but for the growth of commercial and manufacturing enterprise among our people. The landlords, fools that they are, have done everything to crush manufactures; and yet these alone, by absorbing the surplus population of the country, have saved them from the revolutions which swept over France and the Continent, breaking up the landed monopoly of the old feudal aristocracies. But the danger is again accumulating; manufactures being restrained by monopolizing laws, the population will now accumulate on the land, where they must either starve, or become reduced to the potato-eating, small-farming system of the Irish people; or unite their efforts with the population of the towns, to break down the great landed monopoly. Small allotments, indeed! These will never remove the evil, but will rather feed and encourage it. The people must look deeper; they must think; and we doubt not that they will, in due course of time, make many notable discoveries.—*Leeds Times.*

Better Late than Never—An Example worth Following.—At the annual dinner of the Kerry Farming Society, holden on the 16th inst., in Tralee, the following wholesome piece of advice was given to the landed interest of Ireland by one of the most practical landed proprietors in the county Kerry. On the following toast being given from the chair, "The health of the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lord Listowel, and Henry Arthur Herbert, Esq.," Mr. Herbert returned thanks and said—"You cannot improve the land without serving the landlord, while the tenant is also benefited. Thus both landlord and tenant have a mutual interest in its improvement. However, the tenant cannot improve unless he has land at a fair rent, and can reap the fruit of his labour. This is a subject on which one may dilate considerably, but I will confine myself to this, that the tenant should have a certainty of the benefit of his improvements. (Cheers.) That is one thing that ought to be looked to and seriously considered by landed proprietors, as no landlord ought to expect a tenant to expend on improvements without allowing him to enjoy their benefits. (Cheers.) I would wish to be understood on this subject. The landlord should act like a father: 'train up a child in the way he should go.' I say, every tenant who had a prospect of improvement should come to his landlord for a guarantee that the fruits of such improvement would be secured to him; should the landlord object he would afford a cause of complaint, and would be standing in his own light were he to refuse it."—*Cork Examiner*, Oct. 21.

Condition-of-the-People-Question. — The political world is in a state of profound repose. The great Whig and Tory leaders are as dumb as newly-pensioned patriots; and their subordinates, knowing little or nothing of the ground upon which the battle for power is to be fought in the next session of Parliament, are prudently silent. The truth is, that the League and Young England have diverted the current of public opinion into quite new channels. Mr. Cobden has converted all the landlords of England into agricultural lecturers; and Mr. Disraeli has turned the heads of the agricultural labourers with visions of allotments, woodbine-wreathed cottages, chubby children, and village cricket grounds. The only question now that excites the shadow of interest is the condition-of-the-people-of-England question. The war for forms has ended, and the struggle is now for realities. Men sternly ask why the poor are unemployed, and why, instead of fertilizing the soil by their labour, they are driven into towns to hide their misery and to engender disease? They begin to inquire how it is that in Surrey, Sussex, and Bucks, and several other agricultural counties of England, the peasantry are less cared for than pheasants; and inquiries of this description are very apt to beget an irreverence for our game-preserving aristocracy. But no matter for that. The inquiry will lead to much practical good. It is something to have the truth told; and to see earnest-minded men, of every class and of every grade in society, determined to drag forth the monster grievance—to rend asunder the veil which has so long hidden poverty, and want, and squalor, and wretchedness from the fastidious eyes of luxurious and bloated affluence. Many of the landlords are themselves astounded at the amount of misery recently disclosed, and are praiseworthily exerting themselves to redress the wrongs resulting from their previous guilty supineness.—*Hull Advertiser.*

Good Masters and Faithful Servants.—We have been favoured by some of the workmen at Messrs. Gaunt and Thompson's woollen mill, Horsforth, commonly called Clough Mill, with a list of the men now employed there, by which it appears that, out of the total number, thirty-three have been upwards of forty years; three upwards of thirty; seven upwards of twenty; twelve upwards of ten; two upwards of eight years; and the remaining three for the periods of seven, five, and one year respectively, making an average of nearly twenty years each; and we are requested to insert this statement as a manifestation of the gratitude they owe to two kind and humane masters.—*Leeds Times.*

Prince Albert's Annual Sale of Live Stock.—The sale of his Royal Highness's live stock, selected from the Norfolk and Flemish Farms in the Great Park, and also from the Home Park at Windsor, took place on Thursday, the 24th ult., under the superintendence of Mr. Tebbott, at the Norfolk Farm, and attracted, as upon the three former occasions, a great number of salesmen and butchers from London and the adjacent towns. The sheep, which were in excellent condition, realized the following prices:—213 Southdown ewes averaged from 25s. 6d. to 33s.; 160 Southdown two-tooth wethers from 22s. to 25s. The cattle sold as follows:—20 Scotch pole four-years old bullocks, fit for slaughter, averaged from £12 to £17 each; 29 highly-bred Welsh bullocks, from £11. 15s. to £13. 5s.; and 13 short-horned barren cows, from £10 to £17 each. Several Hereford oxen, Alderney cows, cart-horses, &c., realized very excellent prices. The proceeds of the sale amounted to upwards of £1400.

Cost of War.—The military and naval establishments of France are a charge upon the revenue of THIRTEEN MILLIONS of money, while her expenditure for the last five years ending in 1839 *exceeded* her income by about two millions per annum. This charge stands relatively to her whole revenue as 13 to 40, or as nearly one-third of the whole outlay of the state. The charge for the British army, navy, and ordnance (exclusive of the Canadian, China, and Indian expenses) amounted to something more than FOURTEEN MILLIONS EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND pounds, the entire *gross* expenditure being about FIFTY-FIVE MILLIONS AND A HALF in 1842. The expenditure *exceeded* the income of the country by upwards of FOUR MILLIONS. And all this outlay is extorted from the people's earnings, under the pretext of necessary defence!—a necessity which, if it exist at all, proceeds from the distrust which drives both countries to this worse than useless waste of money, and perils the life which might be employed in the production of wealth and happiness, but for this false direction of what may prove, as it has so often and so long proved, the destruction of life, wealth, and happiness! These things cannot be too frequently, too strongly, too pointedly submitted to the knowledge and reflection of the two nations. Both should be made fully to comprehend that one-third of the burdens for which they toil so hard and suffer so severely is expended in this fruitless display of the pomp and circumstance of war—fruitless, indeed, to any other purpose than to inflame the vanity and support the evil passions which plunge nations into the madness of mutual slaughter and devastation, under the degrading and delusive semblances of vengeance or of glory!! And this, too, amongst nations professing and calling themselves Christian!—*Norwich Mercury.*

Guano.—We understand some valuable information may shortly be expected on the guano subject. A vessel, on her return voyage from Bombay, has been ordered to scour the western coast of Africa from the Red Sea to the Cape, passing Latham's Island, and proceeding through the Mozambique Channel in search of the deposits of the boobies, the seals, and the jackass penguins,—precious savings'-bank deposits which are to be drawn on at sight. We heartily wish the vessel a valuable discovery. Another such an island as Ichaboe would be worth half a million of sterling gold coin.—*Liverpool Albion.*

An American on Repudiation.—Dr. Durbin, an American traveller, says on this subject:—"In all former conflicts the liberal party in Europe have stood manfully in our defence; but now their mouths are stopped. I am clearly of opinion, that the cause of liberal opinions in Europe has been put back twenty years, if not fifty, by the non-payment of the debts of the defaulting American states. The whole country suffers for the guilt of the few. It is not Pennsylvania alone that is disgraced, but the United States of America."

Prove all Things.—Above all, be afraid of teaching nothing: it is vain now to say that questions of religion and politics are above the understanding of the poorer classes; so they may be, but they are not above their MIS-understanding, and they will think and talk about them, so that they had best be taught to think and talk rightly.—*Dr. Arnold.*

Increase of Electors.—To the Editor of the *Morning Chronicle.*—Sir,—I have the pleasure to inform you that, through the exertions of that supposed defunct body the Anti-Corn-Law League and the Registration Society for the south side of the ward of Farringdon-without, the parishioners were enabled, at the making of the quarter's poor-rate this day, in public vestry, for the parish of St. Bride, to place upon the poor-rate book, in preparation for the next year's registration, 205 additional names. The number on the present list of voters is only 332. This is another "great fact" in addition to the important facts which were laid before the Manchester *renewed* meeting. Perhaps you will invite your readers to furnish you with similar facts for publication. I remain, Sir, your constant reader, Charles Wood. Poppin's-court, Fleet-street, Oct. 31.

The Steam Whistle.—To prevent the explosion of steam-boilers, which generally results from a want of sufficient water, a new and simple method has been devised, and introduced into one of the largest manufacturing establishments in Leeds. By affixing a small pipe in communication with the interior of the boiler at the point below which it is well known to be unsafe to allow the water to be consumed in the generation of steam, and at the top of such tube putting one of the common whistles that are attached to the railway locomotive engines, a very efficient alarum, is formed; for as soon as the water within the boiler has been consumed below the point where the pipe enters the boiler, the steam will rush up the pipe, and thence into the whistle, giving a timely warning of the deficiency of water in the boiler.

Yield of Crops in South Wales.—We have not had so good a harvest for years. Our wheat this harvest reaches 64lbs. a bushel, which we believe is about the average weight in Essex, and the best wheat-growing counties in England.—*Welshman.*

Good News.—A fortnight has passed over our heads, and we have not heard of any incendiary fire in the neighbourhood. It is hoped that many more fortnights may glide away without meeting with paragraphs in every paper announcing "Incendiary Fire;" for the operations of "Captain Swing" have lately been so very extensive in this neighbourhood, that he could long since have been dispensed with altogether.—*Bury Farmers' Journal.*

An Example worthy of Imitation.—On Wednesday evening, an excellent supper of roast beef and plum pudding was given at the Thornhill's Arms, Rastrick, by William Eddison Esq., to upwards of 70 of the work-people in the employ of Messrs. J. T. Clay and Co., on the occasion of his becoming a partner in the establishment. After the cloth was drawn the worthy chairman, Mr. Eddison, gave several loyal toasts, amongst which was the Queen, Prince Albert, and the rest of the royal family. On the health of the chairman being drunk with rapturous applause, he returned thanks in a short but excellent speech, in which he dwelt upon the necessity there was of master and workman uniting together, which he thought would have a tendency to germinate good feelings and love amongst each other. The remainder of the evening was spent in the most harmonious manner, interspersed with dancing, glee singing, and recitations, which were kept up till an early hour in the morning, all being highly gratified with the evening's entertainment.—*Sheffield paper.*

Absentee landlords receiving out of Kerry rent to the amount of £65,000 per annum, do not contribute one shilling to the agricultural society of that county.—*Cork Examiner.*

Incendiarism in Bedfordshire.—A fire broke out on Sunday night in the neighbourhood of Cronfield, which created much alarm, the resident farmers and labourers being roused from their beds. The flames were discovered in a barn on the farm of Mr. John Hall, of Whorley-end. The building was detached from the stack-yard, or the entire homestead must have been consumed, as there was a smart wind, and no water could be had. The produce of eleven acres of wheat, beside a quantity of beans, were destroyed. From the isolated position of the barn, and the fire having broken out full twenty-four hours after any person having entered it, there can be no doubt that it was the act of an incendiary, though at present no suspicion is attached to any person in particular.

Incendiary Fires in the East Riding of Yorkshire.—We regret to state that two incendiary fires have occurred in this neighbourhood during the last few days. The first was on Thursday morning, last week, when four corn stacks, belonging to Mr. Richard Horsees, of Wold Farm, near North Newbald, together with a thrashing-machine, were destroyed. The other case occurred on Saturday night, when some person maliciously set fire to a wheat stack on the farm of Mr. Thomas Robinson, of Ellerker, near South Cave. A very handsome reward has been offered for the offender.—*Hull paper.*

COTTON SPINNING IN AUSTRIA.

(From the *Manchester Times.*)

Our friend, Mr. R. Bunting, has received a letter, dated the 2nd of October, from a relative who has the management of a large cotton-spinning establishment in the neighbourhood of Vienna. We are kindly permitted to publish its startling contents:—

"I cannot conceive how it is that you have suffered a Tory to be elected for South Lancashire; it is really a shame that that division of England, which is principally supported by manufacturing industry, should be represented by a monopolist. When the subject is viewed in a rational manner, it is astonishing that men of understanding should be so blind to their own and their children's interest as to vote for a determined enemy to manufactures. What has raised England to her present height in the rank of kingdoms? Her corn? No. Her agricultural interests? No. What then? Why, her manufactures. It is a common saying, 'that we should praise the bridge that carries us safe over;' but the electors of South Lancashire are undermining its foundations. What do you think the general opinion here is concerning England? Do you think they will say,—England is famed for her corn, potatoes, her wine? No. They will tell you,—they are superior to England except in manufactures. England has her coal, her ships, her iron, her waterfalls, her men of genius in mechanics, and her temperate climate. So long as your Corn Law exists, you play into the hands of foreigners, and, to support them a few years longer, you have given us a facility to undermine your manufactures. The time will shortly come when Austria will want no cotton goods from England, but will meet you in the Continental markets with as good a yarn as yours, and much cheaper. What was cotton-spinning here a few years ago? We had old machinery, producing very little, at an enormous price, making much waste, and only inferior yarns. The weavers were prejudiced in favour of English yarns, even at a high price; the manufacturers were languid, adopting no improvements in their machinery, while the English, with rapid strides, were conquering us in every market against a high protective duty. If you had repealed your Corn Laws, you might have maintained your superiority; but, instead of doing so, you have suffered the exportation of machinery; you have given us a formidable weapon to fight you with, and before long, with your machinery, we will extirpate your Corn Laws, or ruin your trade, for it will be impossible for you to meet us in a foreign market. Previous to the 1st of September we had a protective duty of 30s. for every 123 lbs. of cotton yarns; now it is 25s., and on the 1st of February, 1845, it will be reduced to 20s. You may ask, how is it that the Austrian Government do not protect their manufacturers with a high duty? They find that the weavers are paying more than is necessary for their yarns, owing to this protective duty; and my opinion is, that protective duties are licenses for idleness, which I will show you. The spinners here, with their 30s. duty, were not content, believing that more duty meant more profits; but the weavers who bought this yarn thought otherwise: they considered it a tax paid to the rich spinners, and prevailed on the Government to try a less duty. They have done so, and it has compelled the spinners to awake from their lethargy, believing that 20 per cent. of this duty taken from them in six months was only a forerunner to another reduction. Instead of this reduction lessening the profits of the spinners, it will increase them. They have pulled down no wages, nor have they increased the working hours; but they purchase new machinery from France, Belgium, Switzerland, and England (they begin here to make machinery in earnest), and with this machinery they are doing well, or should do. Since the exportation of machinery from England, the prices have fallen 25 per cent. in the French and Swiss prices. The Government are making a railway from Vienna to Trieste, and another to connect Vienna with Dresden, so as to lessen the price of freight, which is a great tax on manufacturing industry. I will show the relative positions between England and Austria. In Austria machines cost 50 per cent. more than in England, but labour is 50 per cent. cheaper, for overlookers have 15s. per week, strippers and grinders 5s. 6d., rovers and throstle spinners 4s., mule spinners 2s. per 1000 hanks No. 40 twist. In England you have 69 hours per week; here are 88 hours per week labour. Now, I know what can be spun in England, and can I not do it here? We have the same sort of cotton which you have; we have the same machinery which you have; we have splendid waterfalls; we have as good water-wheels and gearing as you have; we can run as quick as you can; we make our mills of the temperature as you do. Now, I ask you, what hinders me from meeting you in a free market without duty? Look at our advantages over you, and tell me one disadvantage. Stand we not better than you do? I expect you will say you are not in England. I tell you with truth, cotton-spinning can be made here profitable without protective duty, and, before another year is past, Hungary and Greece, which at this present time do not possess a single cotton manufactory, will begin to spin, and who knows what effect this will have on English yarns? In Hungary every sort of eatables is 25 per cent. cheaper than with us, and we are 50 per cent. cheaper than England. In Austria 105lbs. English of the best wheat costs 4s. 6d.; 12 lbs. of the best super flour for 1s. 2d.; 1 lb. of beef for 2½d.; mutton 2d.; potatoes 10d. per 100 lbs., or 2d. per score. In foreign produce—we pay for good lump sugar 7½d. coffee 1s., rice 2½d. per lb., English weights. The Austrian Government, by lowering the duty, have really conferred a blessing on the manufacturers. So long as it was high, no man considered improvements necessary, and kept on the old way; now a new spirit is come amongst them: they have begun to seek improvements, and by so doing they will in the end require no protection. The flax-spinning has begun to flourish, and they have a very trifling duty, merely to pay examination; but they have begun right, with good machinery, and on the best principle. In conclusion, I must candidly say, I have very little time for writing; we have great improvements in our works; we are putting up two water-wheels, each of 80 horse power, and new gearing, besides a very great quantity of new English machinery. I begin to feel the effects on my constitution; only consider, we spin three sorts of cotton, eight sorts of yarn, and about 240 different numbers.

"P.S. I have just heard that the kingdom of Bohemia intends to join the German Zollverein: it is a feeler for the Austrian Government, previous to a general declaration.—We are all glad to hear of the 'Great Dan' being set at liberty."

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. Oct. 26	Mon. Oct. 28	Tues. Oct. 29	Wed. Oct. 30	Thurs. Oct. 31	Fri. Nov. 1
Bank Stock.....	20.½	Shut.	201	203	204	Shut.
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	99½		99½	99½	99½	
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	100		99½	100	100	
3½ per Ct. An. new	102		101½	102	102½	
Long. An. Ex. 1840	12 1-16		12 1-16	12 1-16	12 1-16	
Cons. for Acc. ..	100		100	100	100½	
Exc. Bills, pm. ..	73		73	72	71	
Ind. Bds. und. 1000l	92		91	92	92	
India Stock	287		287	—	283	
Belgian Bonds ..	—		104½	—	—	
Brazilian Bonds..	—		85	85½	86½	
Buenos Ayres....	—		37	—	—	
Chilian.....	—		101	—	—	
Columb. ex. Venez.	—		14½	14	13½	
Danish	—		—	—	—	
Dutch 5 per Cent.	98½		98½	98½	98½	
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	64		62½	62½	62½	
Mexican	34½		34½	34½	34½	
Peruvian	—		—	—	—	
Portug. conv. ..	51½		53½	53	53½	
Spanish 5 per Ct.	23½		23½	24½	23½	
Do. 3 per Cent. ..	34½		34½	34½	34½	

CHEAP FOOD—HIGH WAGES.—The following letter from "An Operative" is comfirmatory of the doctrine that cheap food and increased wages go hand-in-hand:—"About three years since, I very well recollect being at a lecture on the Corn Laws, when a working man got up in opposition to the lecturer, and showed, as I thought very plainly, that if food were cheaper, wages would fall, and the masters would reap the advantage. At that time my wife was paying 1s. 10d. a dozen for meal, and 2s. 7d. a dozen for flour, and my wages as a mechanic were 16s. a week. At this time I am receiving 20s. a week for the same work, and my wife is paying 1s. 6d. a dozen for flour, and 1s. 2d. a dozen for meal. We are better off in wages and cost of food together, by at least 8s. a week; and we are now able to clothe ourselves, which we could not do before. I begin to think the lecturer was right after all, for this is just the effect he said low prices of food would produce."

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

MONDAY, October 28.—Owing to the ceremony of opening the New Royal Exchange taking place on Monday last, we did not publish our usual circular. There was a larger attendance here on that day both of buyers and sellers than might have been expected; and though the market closed as early as twelve o'clock, there was a fair amount of business done in Wheat and other grain from the near counties, at similar rates to the previous week. There was not much done in foreign Wheat or Barley. The value of Beans and Peas was fully maintained. Though the trade in Oats was not large, previous prices were well supported. Since Monday the supplies of Wheat have been moderate; but of foreign Barley large, and plentiful of English. Several Oat vessels have arrived from abroad, and a few Irish, which, with those reported towards the end of last week, make a considerable quantity offering. Several of the cargoes from Archangel, however, are being sent to granary in bond. S. H. LUCAS and SON.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk	Old Red	40 to 48	White 44 to 52
Ditto	New —	40 — 45	— 40 — 50
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire	Old —	40 — 46	— 42 — 48
—— Scotch	—	40 — 44	— 42 — 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Feed.....			Old 21 — 22
—— Ditto ..... ditto .. ditto			New 19 — 20
—— Ditto ..... ditto .. Polands.....			New 21 — 23
—— Scotch Feed.....		Old 22 — 24	Potato 25 — 26
—— Limerick		do. 21 — 22	New 20 — 21
—— Ditto		do.....	Short 22 — 23
—— Cork		do.	20 — 21
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork		Black Old and New	19 — 20
—— Westport.... Old			20 6 — 21
—— Galway .... do.			18 6 — 19 6
Barley, New			30 — 30
Beans, Mazagan	Old 32 — 33		New 29 — 30
—— Harrow .. do. 36 — 38			do. 32 — 34
—— Small .... do.			40 — 42
Peas, White, New			32 — 36
—— Grey	30 to 31		Maple 31 — 32
Flour, Town-made			per sack of 280 lbs.... 36 — 43
—— Norfolk and Suffolk			34 — 36

FOREIGN.

		FREE.	IN BOND.
		Per Imperial Quarter.	
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed		48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.
—— Rostock		47 — 54	
—— Stettin		44 — 52	
—— Hamburgh		42 — 48	
—— Odessa		42 — 46	
—— Ditto	Polish	47 — 50	
—— Russian	soft	42 — 46	
—— Ditto.....	hard	40 — 44	
—— Spanish	Red	45 — 49	
—— Ditto	White.....	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding		26 — 29	— — —
—— Distilling.....		30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel.....		19 — 20	13 — 14
—— Swedish		19 — 21	13 — 15
—— Danish.....		20 — 22	14 — 16
—— Stralsund		21 — 22	15 — 16
—— Dutch Brew		21 — 23	15 — 17
—— —— Polands		— — —	16 — 19
Beans, Egyptian.....		27 — 29	22 — 23
Peas, White.....		30 — 34	— — —
—— Ditto Boilers.....		32 — 35	— — —
Flour, Canada	per barrel of 196 lbs	26 — 28	18 — 20
—— United States..	— —	26 — 28	18 — 20
—— Dantzig.....	— —	20 — 28	18 — 20

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Oct. 19, to Oct. 26. 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	10511	6419	1416	1339	1336
Scotch	—	880	1031	—	—
Irish.....	13	—	20361	—	—
Foreign	7219	28258	15988	600	79

Flour, 8449 sacks, 2726 bars.

FRIDAY, November 1.—To-day, the attendance of Wheat buyers is not numerous; but holders evince no disposition to press sales. The large supplies of Barley cause buyers to act with caution, and in most cases purchases are made on rather easier terms. Beans and Peas fully maintain their former value. Oats are held firmly, and though the trade is not brisk Monday's rates are well maintained. The duty on Beans rose to 6s. 6d. yesterday.

S. H. LUCAS and SON.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 19th of October to the 25th of October, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat.....	3170	—	1420
Barley.....	6390	—	15690
Oats.....	1030	6260	10530

Flour, 5360 sacks.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES Weeks ending

	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.		Rye.		Beans.		Peas.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
21st Sept.	..45	3..	35	6..	20	5..	35	7..	37	3..	33	1
28th „	...45	9..	34	5..	20	5..	37	3..	36	8..	33	0
5th Oct.	..46	1..	33	9..	20	6..	37	5..	36	8..	33	5
12th „	..46	3..	33	6..	20	6..	37	10..	36	11..	34	0
19th	..46	3..	34	0..	20	8..	39	3..	37	0..	34	2
26th „	..46	0..	34	9..	20	11..	39	3..	37	0..	34	2

Aggregate Average of the Six Weeks.—Wheat, 45s. 11d.; Barley, 34s. 4d.; Oats, 20s. 7d.; Rye, 37s. 7d.; Beans, 36s. 10d.; Peas, 33s. 7d.

Duty.—Wheat, 20s. 0d.; Barley, 4s. 0d.; Oats, 6s. 0d.; Rye, 5s. 6d.; Beans, 6s. 6d.; Peas, 9s. 6d.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending Oct. 29, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	5109	49s. 7d.	Rye	—	—
Barley.. ..	5777	37s. 0d.	Beans.. ..	888	34s. 6d.
Oats	15597	21s. 11d.	Peas	866	35s. 8d.

Stock of Corn in Bond, Sept. 5, 1844.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.	Flour. Cwts.
In London,	110652	81918	36442	—	—	213	59755
Unit. King.	330892	164684	86873	—	4810	2962	260000

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25.

BANKRUPTS.

J. SIMPSON, Stockwell, Surrey, builder. [Alexander, South-street, Finsbury.

W. WESTRUP and T. M. COOKSEDGE, Shadwell and North-fleet, millers. [Shearman and Slater, Great Tower-street.

J. W. CARTER, Long-acre, coach plater. [Beaumont and Thompson, Lincoln's inn-fields.

A. FOWLER, Leamington Priors, carpenter. [Messrs. Russells, Leamington Priors.

J. GOULD, Congresbury, Somersetshire, cattle salesman. [A'Beckett and Co., Golden-square.

B. JONES, Birmingham, victualler. [Chilton and Co., Chancery-lane; Suckling, Birmingham.

W. WALKER, Birmingham, hatter. [Jackson, Field-court, Gray's-inn; Harrison and Smith, Birmingham.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 16. S. Sly, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, and Cornwall-road, Lambeth, engraver—Nov. 16. T. J. Lancaster, Barge-yard, Bucklersbury, merchant—Nov. 16. A. Blazdell, Upper Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, harp maker—Nov. 16. J. G. Forster, Aldgate High-street, tailor—Nov. 16. C. Teesdale, Westminster-bridge-road, furnishing warehouseman—Nov. 16. J. Milner, Brook-street, New-road, engine manufacturer—Nov. 15. R. Burton, Wood-street, Cheapside, silk warehouseman—Nov. 15. G. Wightman, Paternoster-row, bookseller—Nov. 15. C. Dod and H. Bent, Riches-court, Lime-street, ship brokers—Nov. 15. E. Goldsbury, Hastings, draper—Nov. 19. R. J. Makins, Blandford-street, Manchester-square, grocer—Nov. 20. J. and W. Field, Mincing-lane, wine brokers—Nov. 20. W. Gooding, Chatham, bootmaker—Nov. 15. E. Hipkins, Egremont, Cheshire, coal dealer—Nov. 15. J. Cecil, T. Dennison, J. Benson, and M. Dennison, Liverpool, merchants—Nov. 19. R. Rimmer, Liverpool, tailor—Nov. 16. R. D. Sothern, St. Helen's, Lancashire, ship builder—Nov. 15. W. Denver and W. Nixey, Liverpool, woollendrapers—Nov. 19. W. A. Brooks, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, quarryman.

CERTIFICATES.

Nov. 18. C. Bond, March, Cambridgeshire, leather seller—Nov. 15. J. Robertson, Wootton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, draper—Nov. 18. H. and J. Peacock, Stockton-upon-Tees, Durham, grocers—Nov. 18. W. A. Brooks, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, quarryman—Nov. 15. J., W., and E. Yeardley, Ecclesfield, Yorkshire, flax spinners—Nov. 15. W. Weir, Carlisle, iron merchant—Nov. 15. W. Baker, Lower Grosvenor-street, Bond-street, surgeon—Nov. 15. H. Lake, Cheltenham, printer—Nov. 15. M. Tildesley, Wolverhampton, timber dealer—Nov. 15. G. Gronthom, Manchester, grocer—Nov. 15. J. Barnard, Cheltenham, clothes dealer—Nov. 15. J. Howden, Wakefield, Yorkshire, ironfounder—Nov. 15. E. Edwards, Aberdovey, Merionethshire, draper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

A. STEWART, Edinburgh, horse dealer—A. and P. TOWART, Glasgow, grocers—J. RUNCIMAN, Leith, draper.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. HARLING, Middop, Yorkshire, farmer.

BANKRUPTS.

B. BENJAMIN and B. G. OWEN, Pall-mall, tailors. [Edwards and Peake, New Palace-yard.

T. BENSON, North-place, Gray's-inn-road, stationer. [Dadham and Houghton, Gray's-inn.

J. MITCHELL, Montagu-street, Montagu-square, livery stable keeper. [Melton, Warwick-court, Gray's-inn.

R. ELLIOTT, Durham, draper. [Ashurst, Cheapside.

J. C. ROSS, Savage gardens, City, merchant. [Millar and Carr, Eastcheap.

R. MORGAN, Ampton-street, Gray's-inn-road, carpenter. [Allen and Nicoll, Queen-street, Cheapside.

P. FRENCH, Worthing, Sussex, carpenter. [Hicks and Marris, Gray's-inn.

M. MARTIN, Bristol, upholsterer. [Gillard and Flook, Bristol.

T. PRETTY, Bilston, Staffordshire, grocer. [Willim, Bilston.

J. JOHNSON, Liverpool, merchant. Lacey, Myers, Rigg, and Roscoe, Liverpool; Sharpe, Field, and Jackson, Bedford-row.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 21. E. Bailey, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, upholsterer—Nov. 22. J. Ward, Upper Ground-street, Blackfriars-road, ironmonger—Nov. 19. W. Mowbray, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire, butcher—Nov. 20. J. Forth, Nottingham, hatter—Nov. 22. J. Watson, sen., and J. Watson, jun., Wath-upon-Dearne, Yorkshire, common brewers—Nov. 22. A. Ellis, Mexborough, Yorkshire, grocer—Nov. 20. J. Bradwell, York, ironmonger—Nov. 22. J. Else and W. Dixon, Kingston-upon-Hull, corn millers—Nov. 20. T. Turner, Sheffield, grocer—Nov. 22. G. S. Wells, Soyland, Yorkshire, cotton spinner—Nov. 22. J. Cartledge, Browbridge, Yorkshire, merchant—Nov. 18. T. Gregory, Poulshott, Wiltshire, miller—Nov. 22. E. Emerson, Manchester, thread manufacturer—Nov. 22. G. and S. Seccombe, Tavistock, Devonshire, tailors—Nov. 22. J. Taylor, Lydney St. Laurence, Somersetshire, dealer and chapman—Nov. 22. R. Chaffey, Thorncombe, Devonshire, clothier—Nov. 22. J. Ridon, Exeter, bookseller—Nov. 22. J. H. Fisher, Exeter, carver and gilder—Nov. 26. R. Mainwaring, Willenhall, Staffordshire, coal master—Nov. 27. T. and E. Williams, Liverpool, linendrapers—Nov. 22. T. Williams, Liverpool, linendraper.

CERTIFICATES.

Nov. 21. G. Stent, Southampton-street, Camberwell, builder—Nov. 20. M. Cassman, Feenchurch-street, City, wine merchant—Nov. 21. J. B. Larke, East Harling, Norfolk, draper—Nov. 29. J. G. Wilson, Wharf-road, City-road, engineer—Nov. 19. J. Dunbar, sen., Tottenham-court-road, ironfounder—Nov. 21. L. A. Regnault, Cheltenham, milliner—Nov. 20. S. Hadfield, Manchester, file manufacturer—Nov. 19. J. Andrew, Maryport, Cumberland, gentleman—Nov. 19. W. France, Wigan, Lancashire grocer—Nov. 19. J. Bass, Brecon, draper—Nov. 19. E. Harris, Liverpool, hotel keeper—Nov. 19. R. Hetherington, Ellen Grove, Cumberland, farmer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. TOWART, Rothesay, grocer—R. DICKSON, Annan, seedsman.

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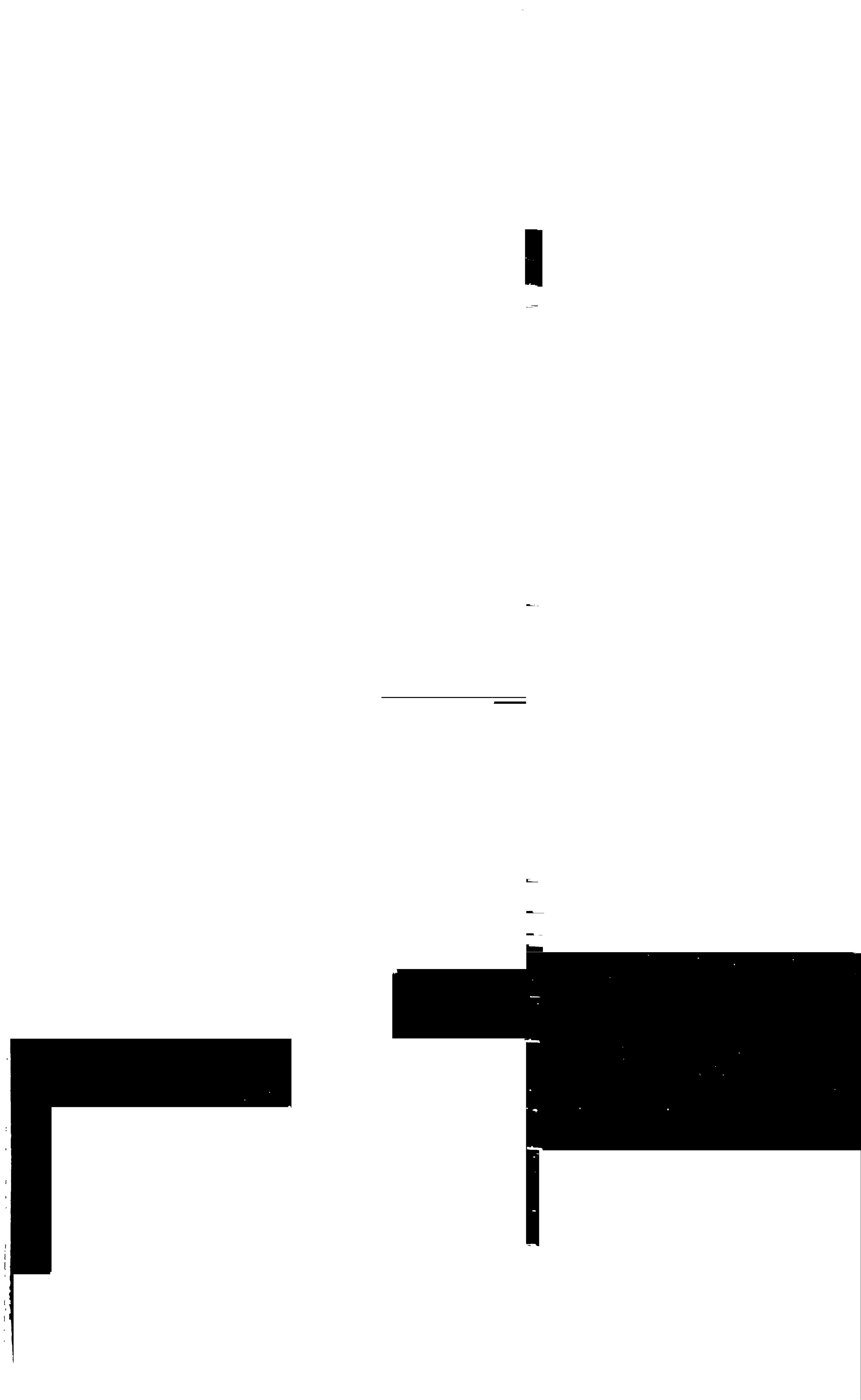

THE LEAGUE.

No. 59.] SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1844. [3*d.*

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All Subscribers of £1 and upwards to the One Hundred Thousand Pound Fund, *will be entitled to, and receive, a copy weekly of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of The League, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and addresses to the Offices of* The League, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* The League Fund *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the League *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

We beg to inform our subscribers that bound volumes of the League *newspaper, containing the whole of the first year's numbers, may be had on application at the Offices either in London or Manchester.*

Persons wishing to be on the Register next year, as Freeholders for County votes, must be in possession of the property before the 31st of January.

QUALIFY, QUALIFY, QUALIFY.

Practical Instructions for Electoral Qualification.

The electors for counties are as follows:—Freeholders, copyholders, leaseholders, occupying tenants.

Freeholders.—The following persons are entitled to vote as freeholders:—1. Any person possessed of a freehold estate for himself and his heirs, or, as it is called, an estate of inheritance, of the yearly value of 40*s.* 2. Any person possessed of a freehold estate for life or lives of the yearly value of £10. 3. Any person possessed of such an estate for life or lives of the yearly value of 40*s.*, under any one of the following circumstances:—If the estate was acquired on or before the 7th of June, 1832; or since, if by marriage or marriage settlement, by devise (*i. e.*, by will), or by promotion to any benefice or office, or if the freeholder is himself the actual occupier of the property. In any of these cases it is sufficient if the property be of the yearly value of 40*s.* Parish clerks, sextons, schoolmasters, Dissenting ministers, and holders of offices have a right to vote if entitled to emoluments of 40*s.* per annum, arising out of, or charged upon, land, and may be registered as voters in the parish wherein the land is situate. The appointment must, however, be for life, not for a temporary purpose, or at the pleasure of any other party; but an appointment during good behaviour is considered to be an appointment for life. If the freeholder occupy his own freehold property in a borough, of such a nature and value as would confer upon *him* the right to vote for the borough, he will not be entitled, in respect of that property, to vote for the county. But if the freehold will not confer the right of voting for the borough, that is, if it be not of the annual value of £10, or if it be land without building, the freeholder may vote for the county, though he occupy it himself. And if the freeholder do not occupy his freehold situate within a borough, he may then vote in respect of it for the county, and his tenant may also vote for the borough. Six months' possession prior to the 31st of July will entitle a freeholder to be registered. And if the freehold lands or tenements should have come to him by descent, succession, marriage, marriage-settlement, will, or promotion to any benefice in a church, or to any office, no definite period of previous possession will be necessary.

Copyholders.—Any person possessed of any lands or tenements of the clear yearly value of £10, whether of copyhold or *any other* tenure than freehold, is entitled to vote. Tenants in ancient demesne may in general vote as freeholders, if they do not hold by copy of court-roll, but otherwise they will be entitled as copyholders. As freeholders, 40*s.* per annum will be sufficient; but as copyholders, £10 a year is required. The same period of possession previous to registration is required, in respect to copyholders, as in respect to freeholders. Copyhold property within a borough, if of such a nature as would qualify any person to vote for the borough, will not, under any circumstances, give a right to vote for the county.

Leaseholders.—The right of voting in respect of leasehold property extends to—1. Any person who is entitled by virtue of a lease made or assigned to him of any lands or tenements for the unexpired residue of any term originally created for a period of not less than 60 years, if the property is of the clear yearly value of £10 above all rents and charges. 2. Any person who is in like manner entitled to the unexpired residue of a term originally of 20 years, if the lands and tenements are of the clear yearly value of £50. The party to whom the lease was originally made, or a party to whom such lease may have assigned the original lease, may vote, though not in occupation of the premises. Any sub-lessee or assignee of an underlease may also vote, but only when in occupation of the premises. Lessees or assignees must have been in actual possession for 12 months previous to the 31st of July, unless the qualification is acquired by any of the modes before mentioned as excepted; that is to say, by the death of a relative, by marriage, by will, or by promotion to any benefice or office. Leasehold property in a borough, if of such nature and value as will give any person a vote for the borough, will not give a vote for the county.

Occupying Tenant.—Any person occupying lands or tenements for which he is liable to pay a yearly rent of £50 is entitled to vote, if not within a borough, and not of such nature as would qualify a person to vote for the borough. In respect of the period of previous possession required, occupying tenants are placed on the same footing as leaseholders; but it is not requisite that the occupation be of the same lands or tenements: different lands and tenements occupied in immediate succession for twelve months previous to the 31st of July in each year will give the qualification.

General Observations.—Besides lands, houses, buildings, and the like, property and interests of the following description will entitle the owner to be registered and to vote, viz.—tithes, an annuity charged on land, a rent-charge,* fee-farm rents issuing out of an estate in fee; shares in navigable rivers, canals, &c., where the shareholders possess an interest in the soil; tolls of bridges, tolls of fairs and markets, purchases of unredeemed land-tax. Persons who have entered into an agreement of purchase of property, or who have paid any part of the purchase-money, or done any other act in part performance of the agreement, are considered to have equitable estates, and are entitled to vote and to be registered. Joint tenants and tenants in common have each a right to vote, provided the property be of sufficient amount to give to the share of each the value required. Mortgagees may vote, if in actual possession or in receipt of the rents and profits, but not otherwise. Trustees are expressly excluded from voting for any trust estate; the right of voting in respect of trust property is reserved for the *c'estui que* trust. In estimating the value of freehold or copyhold property, the marketable value of the property to let is the criterion to be attended to. If, owing to accidental circumstances, the rent should be less than might be obtained, the property will still give a right to vote. As regards leaseholds, the value required does not depend on the amount of rent. It is to be estimated by the profit which the tenant can make of the property, over and above the amount of rent reserved and any encumbrance charged on the property. The value required is to be "above all rents and charges." Under these words are included all encumbrances affecting the property, but not any public or parliamentary taxes.

* No registration of annuities or rent-charges with the clerk of the peace is requisite. The 3rd Geo. III., c. 54, is repealed.

HOW COUNTIES ARE TO BE WON.

We need not inform our readers that the Government of this country is in the hands of the great landed proprietors: the Corn Law is the badge which proclaims us to the world as the thralls of a landlord class. It was a needless insult on the part of the Duke of Richmond to proclaim from the hustings at Steyning, last autumn, that he and his order could make and unmake Ministers at their will and pleasure, for we *feel* their power in our stinted loaves, and diminished supplies of sugar. Granted, then, that we live under a landocracy composed of some thirty thousand persons, are there no means by which twenty-seven millions may hope to throw off their yoke? It can, we believe, be demonstrated, that, if less than one in a hundred of our population could be roused to the exercise of the power they possess, the domination of the Duke of Richmond and his class might be peacefully, and legally, but totally abated.

The ascendency of the landowners rests entirely upon the majority they possess in the House of Commons, and this they owe to the county representatives. Take away the 252 county members, and Mr. Villiers would in two years possess a majority in Parliament. Remove one-half of them, and the present Government would in the next division be in a minority. If we seek for the source of the power of the landlords in the county representation, it will be traced to the £50 tenant-at-will voters. Wherever a contest has resulted, as in Lancashire, the West Riding of Yorkshire, or North Cheshire, in the defeat of the Free-Traders, it has been proved, upon an analysis of the poll, to be caused by the votes of occupying tenants; and nobody will deny that the preponderance of the same class of votes in Buckinghamshire, Huntingdonshire, &c., renders a popular contest in those purely rural counties hopeless. What must be done? To attempt to disfranchise this dependent body of electors were a vain and fruitless task. The only plan remaining, then, is to bring an equal number of independent voters into the electoral field to neutralize them at the poll; and this is the *practicable* scheme to which we earnestly invite the attention of our friends.

By the late census it appears that there are in England and Wales 230,155 farmers and graziers who are adult males. This number includes, of course, all the small dairy farmers in the vicinity of towns, besides many others paying less than £50 a year of rent; and, if we deduct rather over one-tenth for these, it will leave in round numbers 200,000 tenants-at-will, whose votes turn the scale at the election of the 158 members who represent the 52 English and Welsh counties. It would be wrong to assume that the whole of these are compelled to vote against Free Trade, for we know that some of the largest landed proprietors are opposed to the corn monopoly, and it can be fairly estimated that one-tenth might be deducted as being under such favourable influences, leaving about 180,000 as the net strength at the poll which the monopolist landowners can command in all the counties of England and Wales. From these 52 counties we will strike off one-fourth, being those which contain the least town population, and it leaves 119 seats where there is a sufficiently numerous middle class in the towns to carry our plan into successful operation. According to our calculation it would require 155,000 persons to qualify themselves as county voters to neutralize the power of the monopolist landlords in three-fourths of the English and Welsh counties. We confine ourselves to those parts of the kingdom, because the 40*s.* franchise for the counties does not apply to Ireland and Scotland. What a glorious field is here open to the prudent and patriotic citizen for extending his sphere of usefulness by enlarging his political powers! And how cheaply may this enfranchisement be purchased—so cheaply that it is within the reach of all but the very poorest of the population, as explained by Mr. Cobden in his speech at Manchester:—

"The 40*s.* franchise for a county was established five or six centuries ago. At that time a man, in the constitutional phraseology of the times, was deemed to be a yeoman, and entitled to political rights, provided he had 40*s.* a year clear to spend. That was at that time a subsistence for a man. Probably it was equal to the rental of 100 acres of land. What is it now? With the vast extension of wealth amongst the middle class, which then did not exist, and amongst a large proportion, I am happy to say, in this district, of the superior class of operatives, that 40*s.* freehold franchise becomes a nominal franchise, and is within the reach of every man who has the spirit to acquire it. I say, then, in every county where there is a large town population, as in Lancashire, the West Riding of Yorkshire, South Staffordshire, North Cheshire, Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, and many other counties I could name,—in fact, every county bordering on the sea-coast, or having manufactures within it, every county can be won, and easily won, if the people can be roused to a systematic effort to qualify themselves for a vote, in the way the Lancashire people rushed to the qualification when they found that the county could be won by that means and no other. It is a custom sometimes for men to put their savings in the savings' bank. There are fourteen or fifteen millions so deposited, or more. I would not say a word to lessen the confidence in that security; but there is no investment so secure as a freehold of the earth, and it is the only investment that gives a vote along with the property. We come, then, to this. It costs a man nothing to have a vote for the county. He buys his property, £60 in a cottage; ay, £40 or £30 in many of the neighbouring towns will do it. He has the interest for his money, the property to sell when he wants it, and his vote into the bargain. Sometimes a parent, wishing to teach a son to be economical and saving, gives him a sort of nest-egg in the savings' bank. I say to such a parent, make your son at 21 years of age a freeholder,—do it as an act of duty; make him thereby an independent freeman; put it in his power to defend himself and his children from political oppression, and you make that man, with £60, an equal in the polling-booth to Mr. Searisbrick, with his eleven miles in extent of territory, or to Mr. Egerton."

A plan is here developed, which, however startling at first view, can, we feel convinced, be carried into practical and successful operation by means of the organization which the League possesses throughout the country. We shall, of course, have more to say of it hereafter. The first step, however, must be taken forthwith. Let every Free-Trader, not upon the county register, who can manage to put £50 or £60 out upon good interest, look about him for a freehold cottage, or a plot of land, which will yield him annually a clear 40*s.* of rent. To be entitled to vote next year he must have possession of the property before the 31st of January.

Qualify, qualify, qualify!

PLYMOUTH FREE-TRADE ASSOCIATION.

We have had frequent occasions of noticing the energy, activity, and intelligence of the Free-Traders of Plymouth. At their periodical meetings lectures have been delivered, illustrating the sound principles of economic science, and showing their identity with the behests of genuine philanthropy. The lecturers have shown that true science is identical with true

humanity, and have thus furnished a proper antidote to that cant of mawkish sentimentality which is one of the curses and plagues of our day. "Men," says the old proverb, "set themselves against reason so soon as they find that reason is set against them." It is on this principle that our sentimental monopolists declaim against "the cold axioms of political economy:" they have bound themselves to support a system which is demonstrably iniquitous and injurious, and they therefore denounce the science which furnishes the demonstration. It is on the same principle that the Fanatic anathematizes logic, the Ulema declares against mathematics, the *Standard-Herald* excommunicates statistics, and the Bonzes of China prohibit the exercise of the reasoning faculties. It is true that political economy, like every other science, affords no scope for the exercise of the poetic fancy, and furnishes no incentive to the indulgence of passion; but those who complain of this may as justly be indignant because Euclid is not quite as jocular as Joe Miller, or a treatise on the Differential Calculus as affecting as the "Sorrows of Werter." But though political economy has neither the pathos of tragedy, the sentiment of comedy, nor the fun of farce—though Mr. Macaulay cannot twist it into a romantic ballad, or Mr. Disraeli fashion it into a clever novel—yet it has an interest of its own fully equal to that of any other department of literature, though very different both in its nature and its results. Mr. Collier's admirable lecture to the Plymouth association on the rise and progress of Free-Trade opinion is a fine example of the instructive pleasure which the study of political economy affords, and we gladly take the opportunity of directing attention to his eloquent address, which appeared in the *Plymouth Journal* of Saturday last, to add some comments on the general subject. Mr. Collier asserts that the science of political economy is of recent growth.

"Nothing has come down to us to show that the Greeks or Romans understood this subject—but much to show that they did not. Among other proofs to the latter effect, I might mention that the Romans passed laws against the exportation of gold and silver. It is true that men traded as they always will. The same scenes were going on at Athens as at Plymouth. The farmer brought his corn to market and exchanged its produce for shoes and clothes. Ships unloaded their cargoes in the port—the same busy bustling throng filled the streets, intent on the same objects. Yet it has always struck me as somewhat remarkable that Aristotle, that most curious and comprehensive of observers, should, as far as we know, have felt no interest to inquire into the laws which regulate the production and distribution of that wealth after which all men were seeking—the efficacy of division of labour—the causes which regulate price—the operation of the circulating medium—and those other interesting questions which occupy the political economist. In fact, no philosopher of Greece or Rome condescended to examine this subject, and men were, in general, in a profound state of ignorance respecting it. The merchant and shopkeeper were supposed to realize their gains at the expense of their customers. A state which grew rich by commerce, was supposed to grow rich by the stealthy and inglorious plunder of her neighbours."

We have, however, some indirect evidence to show that Free Trade was the source of the prosperity of the most celebrated commercial cities of antiquity, such as Tyre, Corinth, Cyrene, and Carthage. The best, and indeed almost the only detailed, account we have of the trade of Tyre is in the Bible. Isaiah and Ezekiel have given us much precious information on the subject, and in particular the 27th chapter of the latter's prophecy is one of the most valuable commercial records bequeathed to us by any ancient writer. Now, Ezekiel distinctly declares, that there was a free interchange of commodities in the markets of Tyre, and that the Phœnicians felt their own prosperity to be intimately connected with the wealth of the nations with which they trafficked. They had, in fact, anticipated us in the discovery, that the more wealthy our neighbours become, the more likely they are to become good customers. "When thy wares went forth out of the seas," says the prophet, "thou filledst many people: thou didst enrich the kings of the earth with the multitude of thy riches, and of thy merchandise."

Carthage followed the same course of policy as Tyre, until the Barcine family obtained a fatal ascendency, and introduced the system of territorial acquisition, which was soon followed by the imposition of restrictions on the trade of colonies and dependencies. But the commerce of the Carthaginians with the interior of Africa was conducted on the principle of fair and free exchange to the latest ages of the republic. Mr. Collier has very ably shown the cause of the neglect, or rather the ignorance, of economic science manifested by the Greek states:—

"War, the antagonist of commerce, was ever paramount in the ancient world. The present imperfect law of nations, by which peace and security are in some measure maintained, was then unknown. The military art was the one thing needful—for self-preservation was the first thing to be considered. It was, moreover, regarded as the readiest road to riches. The most flourishing commercial countries became a prey to their more warlike aggressors, and long accumulated treasures, borne in triumphal procession, dazzled the eyes of the multitude. Poets and orators sounded the praises of heroes—the saviours of their country. Military glory had its day, and quiet unpretending commerce, contemned and reviled, slunk from the public gaze. Nor were philosophers unaffected by vulgar prejudices. Not one of them had the hardihood, though often sorely in want of topics to dispute about, to drag from its obscurity a subject so unfashionable as trade. I may add that this subject is one peculiarly unsuited to the tone of ancient philosophy—derived chiefly perhaps from a few minds (for the philosophy of ages is commonly governed by a few minds). A philosophy which delighted in the abstract and the ideal—which, absorbed in lofty contemplation, little relished the laborious task of searching this lower world for facts—of sifting—arranging—and classifying them—and arriving at conclusions by the slow and cautious process of induction.

"Political economy is a science which lives on the surface of the earth and not in the clouds—it is conversant with matters of pounds, shillings, and pence—of bread and butchers' meat, and would be naturally distasteful to a philosophy of the kind I have been describing; moreover, had Adam Smith lived in those times, he would have found it somewhat difficult to get at the exports and imports of Athens, and if he had, there was no press to circulate the information."

If we possessed the early history of the Greek cities and colonies of Asia Minor, we should probably find that commercial intelligence was more largely developed on that side of the Ægean than in Hellas. The imperfect notices which have been preserved, all indicate a recognition of the principle of fair exchange, which is the very essence of political economy. Archbishop Whately justly remarks, that political economy is nothing more than the science of exchanges (catallactics), and that in relation to this science man may be defined as "an animal that barters or exchanges," which no other animal does. This is a point worthy of being carefully considered before entering on the history of modern commerce. Every man is a trader, because every man daily exchanges what he wants less for what he wants more. The labourer is a trader, he exchanges his toil for wages; the landlord is a trader, he exchanges his land for rent; professional men are traders, they exchange their acquired information and their time for salaries or fees. All of them see that it is their obvious policy to buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest; and such also is their natural right, though, like all other rights, it is subject to be modified by circumstances.

The aim of monopoly was to restrict the market for the purchaser who wanted to buy, and thus raise the price of what it had to sell. This formed a part of the feudal system: the vassal, for instance, was compelled to grind his corn in the lord's mill, though he could have got it ground cheaper and better elsewhere; and so tenacious is monopoly that Lord Stanley has inserted covenants in his Irish leases prohibiting the tenants from grinding corn anywhere but in his lordship's mill, or selling the produce anywhere but in his lordship's manor town; and this on an estate where there is neither mill nor manor!

The feudal system rendered land a monopoly, because it limited the number of landed proprietors. The sudden increase of commerce consequent on the discoveries of Columbus and Vasco de Gama, came so unexpectedly on the old world that it was scarcely possible to investigate its principles; and the legislators of Europe applied to limitless commodities the same principles which feudalism had devised for the leasing of land. The object of feudalism was to render land dear, because that was what the lord had to sell and the people to buy; and also to render labour cheap, because that was what the people had to sell and the lord to buy. The mercantile system was but a simple extension of this unjust principle: it was an effort to secure what was called "a balance of trade," that is to obtain over and above the exchangeable value of the articles bartered, a certain amount of the precious metals as surplus profit. In this sapient system it was forgotten that, though lords of the soil could command the limited market for land, neither they nor any other human powers could command the markets of the entire world. When Spain refused a fair exchange, commerce sought the harbours of Holland and England; when Venice aimed at securing a false balance, trade fled to Leghorn and Genoa. Mr. Collier, having shown how often the fallacy of the mercantile system had been exposed by preceding philosophers, justly attributed the merit of its complete demolition to Adam Smith:—

"The system was finally overthrown, and the true theory of trade, for the first time, set forth by Adam Smith in 1784. He was the first to extend the definition of wealth to every material thing capable of appropriation; to show the effects of division of labour and exchange in increasing that wealth; that man's natural instinct, which would lead him to buy where he can buy cheapest, and sell where he can sell dearest, is the true regulator of commercial dealings, and would, if uninterfered with by legislators, increase to an incalculable amount the necessaries, comforts, and luxuries of life. He was the first to fully set forth the evils of protection, both to the unprotected and protected; to explain the laws which regulate capital, rent, and wages. Adam Smith may be properly designated the founder of the science of political economy."

Mr. Collier next entered into the history of the Anti-Corn-Law agitation, and demonstrated its necessity, its policy, and its justice. He then pointed out the beneficial results that would follow from the establishment of Free Trade; and with a beautiful extract from this part of his lecture we shall conclude our notice:—

"But I look at Free Trade in another point of view, as the most powerful agent ever yet introduced into the world for its pacification. I may be asked, where religion has failed—where Christianity has preached in vain, how can you expect any new argument to succeed? Christianity does, indeed, preach peace, but painful experience has shown how her language may be misunderstood and misinterpreted. Her voice has been drowned by drums and trumpets; she has even been dragged to battle; the most atrocious deeds have been perpetrated in her name, and men have marched to murder under consecrated banners. (Cheers.) Men's evil passions and perverted reason can, indeed, make a Christianity of their own, talking any language they please, interfering only with crimes which are not to their taste. But the voice of commerce cannot be misunderstood—no ingenuity can represent her as countenancing deeds of violence—commerce, most tolerant of everything else, is absolutely intolerant of one thing, and that is war. She addresses, indeed, the lower part of man's nature, but one implanted for the wisest of purposes, and apparently essential to his progress—the desire of gain; a passion which too often shows itself an effectual court of appeal, where reason and conscience have been addressed in vain. A man may think it compatible with religion to wage war on his neighbours, but it is absolutely incompatible with trading with them. You may burn a heretic from a sense of religious duty, but you cannot burn him and retain him as your customer. We have faith, then, in this new argument addressed to the world, as soon as the world shall thoroughly comprehend it."

JOURNEY IN THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES.

FROM SURREY INTO THE WEST OF SUSSEX.

I left Normandy Farm, in the parish of Ash, before the sale began, which was formerly mentioned. My intention being to travel into Sussex, I went eastward from Ash to Guildford, having on my right hand that high ridge of chalk which runs from Guildford towards Farnham. Arrived at Guildford, I rounded the end of the ridge and turned to the south, in a fine valley where runs the river Wey.

This is the same river which comes through Farnham, down near Waverley Abbey and More-park, before mentioned, and which twists about in those beautiful meadows which, to keep it company, twist and expand or contract themselves with it, until it reaches the river Thames. One would hardly expect, after crossing such an undulating country between the Thames and Farnham, where the Wey has seemingly turned its back upon the country lying Thames-ward, that it could turn itself round and get away to the north; but it does so, and, now that we travel southward in the valley between Guildford and Godalming, we meet the Wey coming to Guildford. On each side it has its pastures and its fields of farm culture; and on each side of them, rising abrupt and steep and high, and crowned with woods; or rising easily and gradually, displaying a chalky surface near the top and red loamy soil at the bottom, extend the circling hills. In the copse woods which crown the high tops or clothe the chalky sides of these ridges; or which, interspersed with forest trees of large size, come down to the very margin of the Wey, as if to seek coolness and freshness in the valley, are many thousands of hares and rabbits, which seek the farm fields and live there at the expense of the farmers.

Since I wrote the first portion of my journey to Cobbett's birthplace on the banks of the Wey, I have seen one of his books, in which he thus writes of the river, and an accident, almost fatal, which befel him at an early age:—

"At Farnham this river is a very small affair, which, if in America, would not be entitled to be called even a *creek*, but must be content to be called a *run*. Contemptible as it is, however, in point of magnitude, it was, about threescore years ago, quite broad enough and deep enough to have spared the boroughmongers and tax-eaters a monstrous deal of trouble; I, from one of the bathing-places in it, having about that time ago been pulled out by the foot, which happened to stick up above the water, and to enable a brother-swimmer, a great deal older than myself, to preserve this everlasting torment to the 'higher orders.'"

Cobbett was not backward at talking liberally of himself. But we who have grown up since his day, or who took little notice of politics then, may find that his tormenting of the "boroughmongers" was not a fiction of his own. In the life of "Lord Chancellor Eldon," lately published, we have his lordship's confirmation of Cobbett being a torment to the higher orders. The chancellor, writing to his brother Sir William Scott, is speaking of what he would have done in prosecuting the *Morning Chronicle* and other papers, advocates of Parliamentary reform, had he been attorney-general; and adds:—

"I am very sore upon this subject. I have growled and grumbled about it till I am weary. As to Cobbett, I am quite out of patience about those who will take in his paper; but I observe that all my friends, in short, everybody one knows, abuse him, but enjoy his abuse till he taps at their own door, and then they don't like the noise he makes—not a bit of it."

That river, and the bathing-place in it, which very nearly "saved the boroughmongers such a monstrous deal of trouble" by drowning Cobbett in his boyhood, is not to be looked on without interest for Cobbett's sake. Yet Cobbett's career cannot be looked on without regret. How great was the intellectual strength, and how persevering the industry, that were lost, or worse than lost—expended in advancing nothing, but merely in abusing other men, foremost amongst whom were some of the truest friends of humankind!

I did not at first go much further than Farnham up the valley of the Wey, yet I went far enough to see that it abounded in richness of soil and beauty of surface, and I have seen some of it since. Arthur Young, speaking of this valley in 1794, says:—"From Farnham, in Surrey, to Alton, in Hampshire, is a space containing the finest ten miles in the kingdom."

Cobbett believed Young to have spoken the truth, or nearly so, in saying this; and I believe both Cobbett and Young. I shall add to it, that this valley of ten miles, particularly near Alton, though narrow, feeds as much game at the expense of the farmers, which game comes from the thickets and heaths adjoining, as any other ten miles in the kingdom; and that is saying a great deal.

To persons unacquainted with the south of England, the mention of *heaths* must have some indication of mystery. The cultivated farm and the fertile meadow are by many people at a distance believed to cover every acre of the south of England; but they do not in reality cover one-half of Surrey, Sussex, and Hampshire. The stranger is amazed at the many miles of heath he has to traverse, and often at the miles of sterile sand, which sand barely sustains as much vegetation as covers its nakedness. But oh! the beauty and fertility of the wheat soils, where there are wheat soils; of the meadows, where there are meadows; and even of those thin soils on the hilly uplands where the oaks grow! In these southern counties we see this noble tree growing in great magnificence; and that on soils which, if cleared and ploughed, and enclosed as farm land, would be called poor and shallow.

The county of Sussex is soon entered after passing Godalming, that is, if the traveller holds on his way and does not linger: but, if he is not carried along on a stage-coach or some such persevering conveyance, he cannot help stopping and lingering.

Godalming, pronounced nearly as if written *Godliman*, is an ancient little town in the valley of the Wey, which is just wide enough to hold the one street and a few gardens and patches of meadow. The population of the town and parish is set down at 4328 in the census of 1841. The town has some good shops, which seem the more remarkable as it is only four miles from Guildford. But it is also a place of some trade, there being tan-works, flour-mills, and such like.

The name of Godalming is said to be derived from a Saxon lady who was called *Goda*, or *Godiva*, and who founded *alms*-houses here. She is said to be the same lady that saved the city of Coventry, in Warwickshire, from a grievous calamity by riding through its streets with no covering but her luxuriant tresses; for looking upon whom, after all the inhabitants were warned not to look, *Peeping Tom* was punished by his fellow-citizens, and put up in effigy in his window, where he still stands, as every traveller by way of Coventry could see before the railway was made.

This may not have been the same Lady Godiva. But, if not, she of Godalming must have been a public benefactor—of no ordinary rank. She had wealth and power enough to select one of the most lovely and fertile valleys of the south as the seat of her almshouses. As a matter of course these endowments were wrested from their original purpose, and made private property when the kingly and the feudal powers united to plunder and ravage and destroy all religious endowments in which the commonalty had any share, to wit, in the reign of Henry VIII., of blessed memory.

Between Godalming and Witley, going south, we pass over some miles of ground variegated with timber and farm-fields, a larger proportion of the latter than is usually seen bearing crops of Swedish turnips. These, as all other turnips seem to be in the south, are sown broadcast, that is, not in rows, as is done in the north. I shall not say that good turnips are never grown from seed sown broadcast; but I maintain that finer bulbs will be formed if the turnips are grown in rows. Besides which, the soil can be so much more easily cleaned of weeds to fit it for the ensuing crops of grain. The trampling of the men in attempting to hoe the turnips when broadcast—which, however, they cannot do with precision and care—hardens the soil about the roots, and takes from the bulb that freedom of growth which it would have in a soil well pulverized before seed-sowing, and preserved so.

But I did not go into the southern counties to find fault with what I saw in the manner of farming, nor to extol there the customs which I left behind.

SECOND CROPS IN THE SOUTH.

I observe that on most of the fields which have had crops of barley and wheat this year there is now a second crop of different things, intended for the winter feeding of sheep, such as barley, *peas*, and turnips, the latter pretty good, considering that they are the second crop of the season. This abundance of green food is of much service to these farmers, compared with their professional brethren of the north, who must be content with one crop in the year. At the same time the chief green crop of the south does not equal—summer sown and autumn sown put together—the one crop—the turnips, I mean—grown in Northumberland and the counties bordering it northward. Whether this may be attributable to the style of working the land in Surrey (and it must be partly so), or to a difference in the land itself, I cannot decisively say; but the ability of getting two crops in the year does not seem to put the Surrey farmer before the farmer of Tweedside to the value of one penny.

And if we take the game into account, which the farmers of the south have to feed, their green crops are of still less value. A farmer, near to where I am now writing of, told me that if his landlord sent two Southdown sheep and a dozen rabbits, and asked him which he would choose to feed at his own expense for the landlord's sole profit, he would choose to feed the two sheep. Of ten acres of barley this year, he had not reaped the produce of more than three acres, allowing the three acres to have a full average crop. He admitted that the drought in the early part of the year had injured the barley, "but," said he, "the rabbits finished what the drought spared; and what makes it the worse is, that the dryer the weather is, the rabbits breed the faster. In some of the sandy hills near me they breed the whole year round, they are so dry and warm, and full fed." He continued to state that he paid *one rent* to his landlord for the land, and a gentleman, a stranger there, paid *another rent* to the same landlord for the shooting of the rabbits and the game. And this is very common. I shall particularize some of the cases when I advance farther into the west of Sussex.

I was here speaking of the neighbourhood of Witley. The soils there have much variety in them. The extreme redness of the road, especially when a shower of rain falls, tells us that there is iron at no great distance, the stones laid on the road being the depositories of that metal. And on looking into an old roadbook I find that there was at one time a manufactory of iron at this place.

The woody variety of the vegetation, and the undulating surface of the soil, the scattered houses and the gardens, and the orchard-trees bending beneath their autumn fruit, make Witley and neighbourhood a sweet place. The parish contains 1488 inhabitants.

THE ESTATES OF THE WYNDHAMS.

We are now ascending into a higher country. A road leads to the left going to the seacoast, thirty miles off or more, by way of Petworth, through the country of Colonel George Wyndham, and another inclines to the right, and goes to the same part of the seacoast, by way of Haslemere and Midhurst. And, if we go four miles to the right of the road between Haslemere and Midhurst, we shall get upon the Rogate estate, the property of Colonel Charles Wyndham, one of the members for Sussex. Colonel George and Colonel Charles are the sons and inheritors of the property of the late Earl of Egremont, a nobleman highly popular in Sussex. And here I may observe, to prevent confusion of ideas, that, as I shall have to speak of the present Earl of Egmont more than once, that his is a distinct title and family from *Egremont*. There is now no Earl of Egremont. The last earl was George O'Brien Wyndham, who died a few years ago, leaving no legitimate offspring, but leaving his large estates in land, hunters, hounds, and money to his sons, Colonel George and Colonel Charles. The Earl of *Egmont* is a new nobleman. He purchased a life interest in the great Cowdray estate a few years ago, and was created an earl. His name is Perceval.

But I have not yet arrived at his estate, so we may defer further remarks until we arrive at Cowdray and Midhurst.

Omitting all description of fifteen miles of the road for the present, farther than to say that it is now down hill, now up; now suddenly west, now suddenly east; now on the lofty heights, giving you views of great magnificence in the deep valleys below; now hiding from you all view, when you are in the deep valleys, save the elevated tops of hills crowned with copses or with forest trees; save to say this, we need not now stay longer on this fifteen miles of road. We leave the disfranchised borough of Haslemere behind us on the southern border of Surrey, and proceed into Sussex. Turning out of the direct way to Midhurst, we get to Rogate, the estate of Colonel Charles, one of the members for this division of the county.

Having talked with several farmers, millers, woodmen, and other persons before reaching Rogate village, I found that all of them had been put in possesion of different kinds of controversial tracts. First of all, it seems, the Anti-Corn-Law League had sent tracts into that part of Sussex, as, I believe, into every corner of the kingdom. Subsequently, the Duke of Richmond's League has distributed another class of tracts; and I must confess the matter contained in some of these last is very remarkable matter indeed. I intend to quote some of it in future letters, and apply it to the Sussex tenantry, and ask them to examine it by applying it to themselves.

But there is another tract of which nobody could give an account, neither if it was circulated by the Anti-Corn-Law League, nor by the Rent League of the duke. It was a reprint of a speech of Colonel Charles Wyndham, delivered in the House of Commons on the 30th of March, 1843, on a motion made by Mr. Ferrand, of Knaresborough, for leave to bring in a bill to compel the allotment of waste lands to the poor. The speech is satirical upon the Anti-Corn-Law League, so it is not probable they circulated it: indeed, I know they did not. Its arguments in support of the Rent League are not peculiarly brilliant; and I believe they also disclaim all connexion with its circulation. I heard whispers that Colonel Charles knew how and at whose expense it had been circulated; but cannot undertake to say that he actually had it reprinted for the enlightenment of his tenantry. But it is reprinted; and is in the hands of his tenantry and friends. And, after all, it would not be surprising if that practical common sense, strong in itself, which so dignifies this eminent county member, on his own estate and in the senate in which he sits, had suggested to him the propriety of having his speech reprinted. This is a common ambition in commoner men than he is. The genius that could be gratified with the echoes of its own voice, and with seeing itself reflected in the reports of the daily papers, in such a beautiful oration, would not think it too much to stoop to have it republished from the daily papers. It does not seem to have been revised by the orator. It is reprinted from the London morning papers; and the morning papers, as all the world knows, give the speeches to the public faithfully. Here it is:—

"*Colonel Charles Wyndham's Speech, delivered in the House of Commons on the 30th of March*, 1843, *on Mr. Ferrand's motion for leave to bring in a Bill for compelling Allotments of Waste Lands.*

"Colonel Wyndham rose and expressed a wish that the Government would allow the hon. member for Knaresborough to bring in his bill, although he (Colonel Wyndham) must confess that he thought the hon. member's scheme impracticable. (A laugh.) There was much waste land in the country, and in no county more of this description of land than in Surrey, and in (said the hon. member, addressing the Speaker) your own county, Hampshire. (A laugh.) I should be delighted—yes, very much delighted, continued the hon. member—if the people would come and settle in these lands, and cultivate the wastes and deserts. (Laughter.) There was a large tract of waste land situate between Epsom and Portsmouth. I should like to see that waste land cultivated—yes, I should like to see the whole of England cultivated. (Loud laughter.) Let the hon. member for Knaresborough bring in his bill. Do you suppose at this time, when there was an unusual depression in agriculture, that the bad land would remain long in cultivation? Do you mean to go prowling about the heath? (Loud laughter.) Keep your land in cultivation. I will stand by the Government as long as they stand by agriculture; and when they throw that overboard, I will throw them over. (Cheers and laughter.) I have been particularly honoured during the last few days—(laughter)—particularly honoured. (Continued laughter.) I know no person whatever in the manufacturing districts. I have received a letter. I have been honoured with a letter—(laughter)—a letter from a working man in the manufacturing districts. Now, let me say one word to the hon. member for Stroud. This measure is only one degree worse than the measure of the hon. member for Knaresborough. (Laughter.) Now, recreation is very well for the working man. Many men would consider it recreation to drink a gallon of beer. (Laughter.) Well, now, about this letter. It bears the post-office mark of Cheetham, although it comes from Manchester. Perhaps, said the hon. member, addressing himself to the Opposition benches, the hon. member for Manchester knows the way to Cheetham. (Loud laughter.) I should think 'the way to Cheetham' would form an admirable motto for the Anti-Corn-Law League. (Cheers and laughter.) I should advise them to take that motto. (Laughter.) It would do them good. (Continued laughter.) I will read the letter. I am opposed to the Free-Trade doctrines. The writer of this letter says, 'I wish you would favour the country with a few more of your speeches in the House of Commons.' (Roars of laughter.) See what a character this House has! Thank God, I am going away from it on Saturday. (Loud laughter.) The writer continues, 'for home truths are not often spoken there. The people want work, not recreation.' I think I have said enough." (Loud laughter.)

The reader who has never seen Rogate, in Sussex, will be prepared from this to hear that Colonel Charles has some of the "waste lands lying between Epsom and Portsmouth" on his estate. He says, "I should like to see that waste land cultivated—yes, I should like to see the whole of England cultivated."

No one will doubt from this that he does all he can for the cultivation of the wastes; as also for the good cultivation of the good land which has been for many years enclosed. He wants the Corn Law preserved to enable him to cultivate the wastes; and he has got the Corn Law! What does it do for him? or rather, what does it do for his tenants? Let us see.

ODDS AND ENDS ABOUT ROGATE.

Rogate Common is a high hill with a deep circular valley called a "Coombe" behind it; all covered with heath, save where the heath is cut off for fuel, or where the surface is broken by sand and gravel pits; and, I may add, by rabbit burrows. The common lies north and north-east of the colonel's house, which is at the southern bottom amongst trees. In front of the trees, on a still lower level, is the small village of Rogate and its ancient church. Straight before us to the south are three or four miles of land enclosed and cultivated—the soil inclining to clay. Beyond this, rising high and bold, are the Downs, stretching across before us. This is the chalky ridge covered with brown herbage, which stretches across Sussex from Kent to Hampshire, as we now see it. Beyond this ridge lie ten miles of a rich level country, stretching to the sea. This level country contains the city of Chichester and the Duke of Richmond. The Duke's race-course is on the Downs; and his fine park is on the southern front of the Downs, neither on them nor off them, but resting itself with its face to the sun, while it sits looking down upon Chichester and the miles of fruitful farms—unsurpassed in fertility throughout all England.

The Downs are generally from three to five miles in breadth; and, as said already, there is a low cultivated country three or four miles broad between us, at Rogate, and the Downs. Behind us, to the north, are the colonel's house, the colonel's park, the colonel's game preserves, the colonel's *common*—which used to be the common people's common—the colonel's sand hills, the colonel's rabbit warrens, and the colonel's everything which breathes and moves and has a being; for everything is the colonel's.

And the colonel is everybody. Having been in the church, we have seen his pew, his prayer-book, and the hassock on which he kneels to pray; and we learn that he is a good Christian as well as a good member of Parliament. In the church and in the churchyard the name of God may be seen and may be heard; but the colonel's name is the great name in every one's mouth, inscribed everywhere.

We come out of the church and find the public-house bearing the colonel's *arms*. But there is another public-house—the old village inn—and we learn in due time from some one or other that the new inn was built by the colonel on his coming to the estate a few years ago, *in opposition to the old-established inn*, because the old-established offended him by some such rebellious conduct as this, that it refused to discontinue taking in the *Weekly Dispatch*, and also to put up the colonel's *arms* as a sign. The other house does not take in the paper which the colonel holds to be so obnoxious, and which would pollute that beer which all the people over whom he has any control must only drink.

It may be urged that there is no need to be thus particular in speaking of Rogate and the colonel. Such an objection would hold good with ordinary men; but the member for Sussex is not an ordinary man.

We are on the colonel's common, which used to be called Rogate-common. We inquire why in the narrow gorge of two hills, where evidently a public road seeks to pass and cannot,—why a house surrounded by a garden and garden fence is there? We learn that this, as we may easily judge, was a roadway before a Wyndham breathed in England; that when Colonel Charles came to the estate, and took the common to himself, he put up a bar-gate at the bottom of the gorge to prevent people from passing from Rogate either to get their turf to burn, as had been done from times far beyond the memory of man, or to exercise any other privilege. The bar-gate was demolished at the dead of night, and the right of way again and again insisted on. At last the colonel built the house across the public road. The gorge is narrow, the sides steep, and there is no room to pass with a cart to the one side or the other.

"I should like to see that waste land cultivated," said the gallant gentleman; "yes, I would like to see the whole of England cultivated." Let us see how he proceeds.

In the same hollow, a few hundred yards lower down, several cottages stood at the time of his coming to the estate. The dwellers in them had enclosed patches of garden ground from the heath. There they lived, and there they cultivated land which never could be cultivated at a profit by anybody else. These people were not able to show any other title to their houses and enclosures but that they had enclosed them from the public common, or that somebody else had done so. The gallant colonel ordered them to be levelled with the ground; and now the heath grows upon the household spots which were the gardens, and the inhabitants are paupers.

When the colonel says that he wants the wastes cultivated he must mean by somebody who will pay to *him* such a rackrent for them as is paid for good soils. And for this he wants the Corn Law. But let us proceed across the common, and we shall meet the gallant colonel once more.

Here some of the dwellers on its verge, who do not live on it but very near it, have erected a pigsty which abuts from the cottage garden upon the common. The colonel has caused all pigs and every other domestic animal that goes astray on *his* common to be taken to the pound. Some of the richest hunts that ever a Wyndham rode at have been seen at these pig hunts. The animals have been captured; the poor wretches of cottiers, who were not clever enough to get them off before the colonel and his party surrounded them, have had to pay five shillings for the release of each from the pound. Which sums of five shillings went to a few of the colonel's favoured domestics and a tenant or two for a glorification at the Wyndham Arms.

But, to the pigsties. The colonel holds that it is now *law* to open the door of a sty and take the pig to the pound if that sty abuts upon his common. And he has done so. Yet, he says in the House of Commons:—"I should be delighted—yes, very much delighted—if the people would come and settle in these lands and cultivate the wastes and deserts."

Now, he does not only take the pig out of the sty from the settlers who infringe even so far as to let a mere pigsty *settle* on the very verge of the "waste and desert," but he does much more. And what does the reader think he does *after* making such a speech as that?

He sends his waggon and waggoner and horses to carry away all the horsedung which the young children and the old men have gathered bit by bit, and heaped together for their gardens, from the roads which cross, or which come near, the common; and that dung he puts upon his own farm field, and tells the wretched cottiers that the bits of horsedung which fall on the roads are his own bits of horsedung.

On talking to some of these people, who seemed to have large gardens, which had, at some time or other, been taken from the common, they took me to see the roads—the common thoroughfares—which the game make through the hedges from the colonel's preserves into their vegetables. One of the men showed me where he had planted 400 cabbages this summer, and where only 14 of the plants had been allowed to grow up by the hares and rabbits. His neighbour, on this, showed me where he had planted 500 cabbages this summer; "and there," said he, "there is every one of them standing now which the hares and rabbits have left. My neighbours can all tell you that these *five* cabbages are the only plants that escaped out of 500."

This man assured me that he had that very morning, on getting out of his bed, counted 16 pheasants in his garden, all at his potatoes. I had never before heard of pheasants touching potatoes; but this man declares that they do take up the potatoes at this season and eat the inside of them. I have seen rooks do so, and it is possible pheasants may do so as well. It cannot be doubted, however, that rabbits and hares, where they have unrestricted freedom, and where they abound so as to be literally swarming, do mischief to all garden-stuffs.

These people told me that they dared not even be seen *looking* at a hare even though it was in their own gardens. The place was full of gamekeepers as well as game, and they were continually watched. It might not be actually against the law to set a snare or trap for a rabbit in their own gardens; but if they did do so, and a hare or a pheasant was taken in the snare or trap, they knew that the gaol and the treadmill were waiting for them. And they added, that as the colonel wanted to wrest from them these cottages and gardens to demolish them and turn them into his game preserves, but which he could not do at present, nothing would answer his purpose better than to get some of them imprisoned or transported. They were watched night and day to see that they did not disturb the game; and they therefore chose to submit quietly to have their garden produce eaten up.

Another person said to me, in speaking of all these evils, and the fact that wages were falling from 9s. to 8s. a week, that in that part of the country the people were almost goaded to madness. What between their poverty and the hairbrained freaks of the colonel, who, it seems, has the reputation of being "cracked in the head," nobody knew what would happen; but everybody was afraid.

It may be added that the farmers' crops were exposed in the same way, or even more so, as the cottagers' gardens. But of the farmers hereafter.

ONE WHO HAS WHISTLED AT THE PLOUGH.

AN INQUIRY INTO THE EFFECTS OF ENGLISH LEGISLATION UPON AGRICULTURAL WAGES, PROFITS, AND RENT.

BY A BARRISTER.

(Continued from page 55.)

CHAPTER VII.

Seventh Period—From the Passing of the Poor Law of 1834 to the present Time.

SECTION I.

It appears from the foregoing evidence that, from the early part till within a few years of the end of the eighteenth century, a progressive increase took place in the wages of the agricultural labourer, without a corresponding rise in the cost of subsistence; that after that time, viz., towards the end of the eighteenth century, a considerable rise took place in the cost of subsistence without a corresponding rise in the wages of the agricultural labourer; that an attempt was made to supply the deficiency of wages, by allowance in aid of wages, under the poor law of 1796; and that the effect of the proceeding was to lower both the moral and physical condition of the labourer. It also appears (and on no point is the evidence more conclusive) that between 1815 and 1834 the share of the produce obtained by the landholders as rent was such as to impoverish the farmers as a body. Under this poor law, then, neither the labourers nor the farmers prospered; and at length, from certain ominous symptoms that began to manifest themselves, there appeared reason to suspect that at no very distant time it might prove prejudicial to rents themselves. It is but justice to the Government to suppose that one of their objects was to take away the power of reducing the able-bodied and willing labourers to the condition of paupers, and to put a stop to the wide-spread demoralization which the system had introduced; yet one of the principal arguments employed to gain the support of the landholders was the protection of rent, it being urged that in some parishes the poor rates had absorbed the whole of the rent.

Accordingly, there was a reform of this poor law. It will be necessary, therefore, to inquire how that may have affected the result. If it be true that this physical suffering and this moral degradation of the agricultural labourers of England were caused by the poor law of 1796, such a reform of this law as would amount to a removal of the alleged cause of the phenomena should by consequence, if the alleged cause was the *true and sole cause*, remove the effect. Let us now see, then, whether this effect be really removed.

It was supposed by many that the Poor Law Amendment Act would have the effect of improving the condition at once of the labourer, the farmer, and the landlord: of the labourer, by raising him above pauperism, and enabling him to obtain the fair market value of his labour; of the farmer, by the money laid out in wages instead of poor rates producing a better return; of the landlord, by ensuring greater certainty and regularity in the payment of his rents. The condition of the landlord would appear from the evidence we have given, to have improved so considerably within the preceding forty years that further improvement might well appear somewhat difficult; but we believe he will be found to be the only one of the three who has benefited by the new poor law, inasmuch as he has continued to draw nearly his former rents, instead of having to give them up altogether, as happened under the operation of the old law to the landlords of the parish of Cholesbury, in the county of Bucks.*

The ameliorating operation of the new poor law on the farmer has not as yet, we apprehend, been very distinctly felt, or at least ascertained. In regard to the labourer, the general effect, as far as we have been able to gather it, as well from the best information to be obtained on the subject as from personal observation and inquiry, appears to have been rather to deteriorate the physical condition of the labourer, while any improvement in his moral condition seems to be as yet very problematical. It is true that, while the Corn Law is in operation, the poor law cannot be considered as acting freely—as having its operation left free and undisturbed—as having quite fair play. But our business at present is to inquire what is the result of the two acting together.

Mr. Alfred Austin, one of the Assistant Commissioners appointed to make a special inquiry into the employment of women and children in agriculture, in his report (dated March 25, 1843) to the Poor-Law Commissioners on the counties of Wilts, Dorset, Devon, and Somerset, states that, in the district of Wiltshire which he visited, the wages of the agricultural labourer varied at different times of the year from 8s. to 10s. a week for work not paid for by the piece.† On comparing this with the returns given in Appendix (B. 1.) to the Report of the Poor-Law Commissioners of Inquiry from the county of Wiltshire before the passing of the Poor-Law Amendment Act, it would not appear that the effect of that act has been materially, if at all, to raise money wages. In these returns the wages in the parish of Liddington are stated to be 12s. in summer and 9s. in winter. In other parishes the yearly average is stated to be 9s. The chapel-warden of South Broom states that, "in the tithings of Roundway and Nusteed, 15s. per week is the average of the earnings in summer, principally piece work; winter 9s., without beer. Any extra work, over time, usually paid by food and beer."‡ And though the churchwarden and overseer of West Dean states that they used there to pay 8s., he adds that they have paid 10s. ever since the rioting.

But the wages paid in money to the labourer are not a complete measure of his condition, which depends, though principally upon that, yet in some degree also upon other sources of income. Before 1834 the principal of those other sources was parish allowance depending upon the number of children. Since 1834 the principal of those other sources has been the earnings of the labourer's wife and children; the allowance sytem, as it was called, having been put down by law.

In the list of questions issued by the Poor-Law Commissioners of Inquiry there was one which followed the questions relating to the labourer's own earnings and those of his wife and children, and asked, "Could the family subsist on these earnings? and if so, on what food?"§ The answer received to this question from different parishes varied: some of the witnesses answering "Yes;" others, "There is no want in this parish;" others, "The family could subsist on bread, meat, and vegetables, with wholesome beer, *if* the malt could be procured free from duty;"‖ others, again, "Do not think they could;" others, "Yes, but almost wholly on vegetables, with bread occasionally;" others, "A labourer can with difficulty supply his family with food, consisting of potatoes and bread."¶ But the result in the former state of the law was far less important than in the present, since formerly any deficiency was made up by the parish allowance, whereas now the labourer has no such resource.

Let us now see what the result is under the present law; that is to say, whether the labourer's family can subsist on their present earnings.

"The average rate of wages amongst the farmers is 8s. per week, or 1s. 4d. per diem. The price of the gallon of bread is now 1s.; it was formerly at 1s. 3d. and 1s. 6d."

"Much is done to relieve their distresses by many, and is done with judgment and discrimination; but, when all is done, I never could make out how they can live with their present earnings."—*Communication from the Rev. J. Guthrie, vicar of Calne, Wiltshire.***

"The wages are certainly insufficient. Even when there are only two children, it requires good management to keep them decently out of 8s. a week. Take any standard of comparison, and it will show the insufficiency. Perhaps the fairest is the cost of the pauper's food in the union workhouses, where the articles are generally such as form the poor man's food at home—bacon, bread, and potatoes, without beer or other luxury—and where the quantity is supposed to be absolutely necessary to keep the inmates in health. If the labourer has not as much food as the pauper, he ought to have. In our union the cost of each individual, taking the average of men, women, and children, is 1s. 6d. weekly for food only; and,

* Report of Poor-Law Commissioners of 1834, p. 64, 8vo edit.

† Mr. Austin's Report, p. 13.

‡ Appendix (B. 1.) to the Report of the Poor-Law Commissioners of Inquiry, p. 568 *a*, question 8.

§ Question 14.

‖ Appendix (B. 1.), pp. 576 *b*, 577 *b*.

¶ Appendix, pp. 570 *b*, 571 *b*, 573 *b*.

** Appendix to Mr. Austin's Report, pp. 56, 57.

buying by tender, and in large quantity, we buy at least 10 per cent. cheaper than the labouring man can. But, without considering this advantage, apply the scale to the poor man's family. A man, his wife, and two children will require, if properly fed, 6s. weekly; then rent, at least 1s., and fuel, will very nearly swallow up the remainder. But there are yet many things to provide: soap and candles, clothes and shoes. Shoes to a poor man are a serious expense, as he must have them strong, costing about 12s. a pair, and he will need at least one pair in a year. When I reckon up these things in detail, I am always more and more astonished how the labourers contrive to live at all."—*Dr. Greenup, M.D., Calne, Wiltshire, examined by Mr. Austin.**

"If women and boys who labour in the fields suffer in their health at all, it is not from the work they perform, but the want of food. The food they eat is not bad of its kind, but they have not enough of it, and more animal food would be most desirable; but with the present rate of wages it is impossible. Their low diet exposes them to certain kinds of diseases, more particularly to those of the stomach."—*Thomas King, Esq., surgeon, Calne, Wiltshire, examined by Mr. Austin.*†

"What description of food do they live on?—Bread, potatoes, with a very small quantity of bacon; they sometimes have cabbages from their allotments; they get a little beer, tea, and they drink water.

"Is that the food of the family?—Yes, they all live alike.

"Do they never get fresh butcher's meat?—Very rarely; hardly ever, unless it is given to them."—*Mr. Henry Phelps, of Bremhill, Wiltshire, agent to the Marquis of Lansdowne.*‡

"I have six children; the eldest, a boy, fourteen years old; the youngest, also a boy, a year and a half old. My husband is a farm-labourer, and for the last seven months he has had 8s. a week, also two dinners for some extra work he does at his master's house in cleaning knives, &c. This is all our family has to live on. We occupy a cottage with three rooms, for which we pay 50s. a year. We have also two small pieces of ground, together 65 perches, for which we pay £2. 7s. a year, and upon which we grow potatoes. The land we have does not furnish potatoes enough; we have to buy some in the spring. We never see such a thing as butcher's meat. Our food is principally potatoes, with bread. We eat about six gallons of bread a week. Sometimes, when cheap, we buy half a pound of butter a week, but most frequently fat, which we use with the potatoes to give them a flavour. Our neighbour, the Rev. Mr. Guthrie, gives us a little milk. We lay out about 2½d. a week in tea, chiefly to let my husband have a comfortable breakfast on the Sunday, the only day he breakfasts at home, and as it is the only thing I indulge in. Our common drink is burnt-crust tea; we also buy about half a pound of sugar a week. We never know what it is to get enough to eat; at the end of the meal the children would always eat more. Of bread there is never enough; the children are always asking for more at every meal; I then say, 'You don't want your father to go to prison, do you?'"—*Mrs. Wilshire, wife of — Wilshire, farm-labourer, Cherill, near Calne, Wiltshire.*§

In Dorsetshire, Mr. Austin states, wages are higher than in Wiltshire; in the neighbourhood of Blandford the wages paid in money averaging throughout the year 11s. a week.‖ On comparing this with the rate before the new law, we find a rise: the average of the whole year in the Blandford division of the county of Dorset being stated to be from 9s. to 10s.¶ But this rate of wages appears to be very much above the average in Dorsetshire at present.

In Devonshire the average rate of wages appears to be about the same as in Dorsetshire; in some instances, perhaps, a trifle higher.** In the part of Somersetshire which Mr. Austin visited, the average wages during the whole year, paid in money, appear to be rather lower than in Wiltshire; but the labourer has an allowance of cider (three pints daily), considered by both master and labourer as worth about 1s. or 1s. 3d. a week. But in that county generally Mr. Austin believes the labourer has very few or no advantages in addition to his wages; and he adds that, were the case accurately investigated, it would probably be found that in Somersetshire the labourer is worse off than in Wiltshire, and considerably worse off than in Dorsetshire and Devonshire.††

The highest wages, then, in these four counties appear to be those in the Blandford division of Dorsetshire; and as to the subsistence which those wages can procure the labourer, we have the following evidence:—

Edward Oke Spooner, Esq., Blandford, surgeon, examined by Mr. Austin:—

"The food of the labourer's family is bread and potatoes, with a little cheese and bacon. I know many families who do not taste butcher's meat from one year's end to the other. I do not think that there is a deficiency of food, except in special cases of distress, arising most frequently from drunken habits, and such a general loss of character as to interfere with profitable employment; or, in cases of very large families, where the children are young; but I think the quality of the food is too low."*

Mr. Austin's statement in his report, though guarded in expression, will be found to vary little in substance from the foregoing evidence:—

"The testimony of the medical men whom I consulted induces me to believe that the quality of the food of the agricultural labourers is not too low where the general state of their health is good; but that if there is a disposition to disease, or any deficiency in the quantity of the food, then the quality is found to be defective. Generally speaking, the labouring population is healthy; but it appears, that when grown-up women are attacked by diseases of certain descriptions, the low quality of their food is unfavourable to their recovery. It would appear, also, that when the quantity of food is sufficient, any effects from its quality are less felt by women accustomed to out-door labour than by those who keep at home. In Wiltshire the food of the labourer and his family is wheaten bread, potatoes, a small quantity of beer (but only as a luxury), and a little butter and tea. To this may sometimes be added (but it is difficult to say how often or in what quantities) cheese, bacon, and, in the neighbourhood of Calne, a portion of the entrails of the pig, a considerable trade being carried on at Calne in curing bacon. I am inclined to think that the use of bacon, and those parts of the pig, only occurs where the earnings of the family are not limited to those of the husband; or, if his wages form their sole means of support, then it depends upon the number of his family. In more than one cottage, where the mother went out to work, or two of the boys were earning perhaps 3s. or 3s. 6d. a week between them, I saw a side of bacon hanging against the wall; but nothing of the kind was visible when the only earnings were those of the husband, or the family was numerous and young. Where, from poverty, bacon cannot be obtained, a little fat is used to give a flavour to the potatoes. In Dorsetshire and Devonshire, in cases where the labourer is in constant employ, and possesses the advantages he frequently enjoys in those counties, the consumption of bacon would appear to be more constant, with now and then a little fresh meat. I believe that in these two counties the labourer not uncommonly is in a position to keep for his own use a part, and sometimes not an inconsiderable share, of his pig when it is killed. But in Somersetshire the food appears to be much the same as in Wiltshire—bread and potatoes, with bacon and cheese at times. In the generality of cases the beer that is consumed is drunk by the husband, the universally favourite drink of the women being tea. At harvest the women drink beer, when given by the master; and not unfrequently, in the cider counties, a portion of the cider which is allowed them as part of their wages, though generally the greater part of it is kept for their husbands."†

Mr. Denison, in his Report to the Poor-Law Commissioners, dated February 2, 1843, on the counties of Suffolk, Norfolk, and Lincolnshires, gives the following account‡ of the amount and mode of expenditure of the wages of an agricultural labourer and his family, consisting of a wife and five children, belonging to the parish of Lavenham, in the county of Suffolk:—

Name.	Age.	Earnings. s. d.	Expenditure.	s. d.
Robert Crick ..	42	9 0	Bread	9 0
Wife	40	0 9	Potatoes	1 0
Boy	12	2 0	Rent	1 2
Ditto	11	1 0	Tea	0 2
Ditto	8	1 0	Sugar	0 3½
Girl	6	0 0	Soap	0 3
Boy	4	0 0	Blue	0 0½
			Thread, &c. ..	0 2
			Candles	0 3
			Salt	0 0½
			Coal and wood ..	0 9
			Butter	0 4½
			Cheese	0 3
Total earnings	..	13 9	Total expenditure	13 9

When we know that the income of Robert Crick is greater than that of the majority of agricultural families, equally numerous, in several counties, and when, in examining the expenditure, it is observed that there is nothing for clothing or furniture, the hardship to which such families are exposed must be evident. Twelve shillings a week are considered liberal wages; but with that income Crick's family would be deprived of all their "luxuries of the nature of necessaries," and even for soap and candles a reduction in their allowance of bread and potatoes would have to be made. It is only by such illustrations that the extent of destitution to which the industrious labourers are reduced can be estimated. The quantity of solid food required to maintain a sailor and a soldier in health is fixed; but, except in Northumberland, no attempt has been made in England to supply the labourer and his family with at least the necessaries of life.

On comparing the rate of wages with the returns from Suffolk, in "Appendix (B.) to the Poor Law Inquiry Report," we do not find that wages have risen since 1834. Thus, the return from the parish of Thorlington gives, to the question as to the man's wages, for answer, "averaging about 10s. 6d. per week, winter and summer;"§ as to the earnings of the wife and children, "summer, if work for them, they can earn 3s. at spinning, or about the same at weeding; but, unfortunately, there is no employment for them; winter, nothing; harvest, about 5s. per week at gleaning;"* and as to parish allowance in aid of wages, "no allowance, and no part of the labourer's wages paid by the parish;"† and throughout the county we find wages vary from 9s. to 15s.,‡ or even £1,§ with but little employment for women and children.

The following observations on the above cited account of the wages and expenditure of Robert Crick, by Mr. Scott, the relieving officer of the parish of Lavenham, show that the amount of wages of Robert Crick and his family, viz., 13s. 9d., is rather above than below the general average:—"But there are numbers of families who, although in the possession of the amount of wages shown above, do not dispose of it with such frugality, but appear in the greatest state of destitution; many others, with the same number of children, do not get the wages this man's family have. The family I have given as an example is more to show you that, with industry and frugality, their diet consists principally of bread and potatoes. There are, however, some who, when their families are grown up, by putting their earnings together, occasionally get a piece of meat at their supper-time, and their Sunday dinner."‖

In some cases the total yearly earnings of the agricultural labourer and his family considerably exceed the amount above stated of the earnings of Robert Crick, which, nevertheless, we apprehend may be assumed as above rather than below the average throughout England. Thus, Mr. Vaughan, in his report on the counties of Kent, Surrey, and Sussex, states the amount of the yearly earnings of one labourer in Sussex to be £19. 13s. 6d.¶ But the employer of this labourer stated that he "was the best workman in his employ, physically strong, and could turn his hands to all kinds of work as the seasons drew round." And Sir F. H. Doyle,** gives the following as the amount of the earnings of Joseph Allen, an intelligent and industrious agricultural labourer at Bolton Percy, near York, and those of his wife and boy. His family consisted of seven individuals, but only one child was able to assist him. It is probable that Joseph Allen was as much above the average of labourers in skill and industry as the Sussex labourer last mentioned, whose earnings exceeded the other labourers working for the same employer by from £6 or £7 to £10:—

Himself, 50 weeks, at 14s.	£35	0	0
,, 2 do., at 14s. 6d. ..	1	9	0
His Wife, 29½ do., at 5s.	7	7	6
,, 4½ do., at 4s.	0	18	8
,, 0¾ do., at 3s. 6d. ..	0	2	8
Boy, 29 do. (4½ days), at 3s. ..	4	9	3
,, 7¼ do., at 4s.	1	9	4
Total income of family	£50	16	5

The following is a summary of the expenditure of the above income, made up from the accounts kept by Joseph Allen himself, from the 1st of March, 1841, to the 28th of February, 1842, and given in the same report of Sir F. H. Doyle:—

Flour, 152½ stone	£20	1	1
Oatmeal	0	8	0
Meat	4	12	4
Bacon	0	6	8
Potatoes	0	16	7
Cheese	0	3	0
Butter	1	1	6
Milk	0	17	6
Yeast	0	12	0
Candles	0	14	2
Soap	0	17	2
Tea	0	16	4
Coffee	0	14	6
Sugar	2	2	0
Apples, salt, pepper, &c. ..	0	6	8
Coals	1	18	2
Clothes, making, &c.	6	12	4
Miscellaneous	0	15	0¾
Boy's schooling	0	6	0
House rent	4	0	0
Balance	2	15	4¼
	£50	16	5

When, besides laying by between £2 and £3 in a year, a family expends upwards of £8 upon meat, tea, coffee, and sugar, we may conclude that they had a sufficient quantity of bread and other absolute necessaries. But it is almost unnecessary to repeat that the income of this family is very considerably above the average income of families of the same class at present in England. If we deduct the £10 specified above as expended on "necessaries of the nature of luxuries," there will remain about £40 for the support of a family of seven persons; from which it appears that such a family, with £40 a year, which is considerably above the general average at present, could not taste meat, tea, coffee, or sugar, from one end of the year to the other, and could not lay by a farthing towards a fund to provide for the necessities of sickness or old age, and to keep them from dying in the workhouse.

The condition of the agricultural labourers in Yorkshire, in Lincolnshire,†† and in some parts of Kent, appears to be considerably better than in any other part of

* Appendix to Mr. Austin's Report, p. 59.
† *Ibid.*, pp. 60, 61, 8vo. edition.
‡ *Ibid.*, p. 62.
§ *Ibid.*, pp. 68, 69.
‖ Mr. Austin's Report, p. 13.
¶ Appendix (B. 1.), part I., p. 137 *a*.
** Mr. Austin's Report, p. 14.
†† *Ibid.*

* Appendix to Mr. Austin's Report, p. 83.
† *Ibid.*, pp. 18, 19.
‡ Report on the Employment of Women and Children in Agriculture, p. 233.
§ Appendix (B. 1.), p. 469 *a*, question 8.

* *Ibid.*, question 12. † *Ibid.*, p. 469 *b*, question 24.
‡ *Ibid.*, p. 465 *a*, question 8. § *Ibid.*, p. 473 *a*, question 8.
‖ Mr. Denison's Report, p. 233.
¶ Report, p. 156, note. ** Report, p. 306.
†† Mr. Booth, one of the witnesses examined by Mr. Denison, says:—"Labourers here (Kelstern, Lincolnshire), seldom miss a day without having meat. The labourers, generally speaking, who confine themselves by the year, have about £20 in money, a cottage and garden rent free, the keep of a pig in the

England. It has been shown that, even in Yorkshire, the condition appears to have deteriorated within the memory of some of the witnesses. A gentleman who has farmed part of his own estate in the county of Kent for fifty-five years, who has not paid less than 12s. per week, and whose thrashers, working by the great, earned, upon the average, 17s.* per week during the last winter, informs me that he is persuaded that the condition of the agricultural labourer is not so good as it was previous to the war of 1793. And extensive inquiries made among farmers and labourers in Kent have led to the same conclusion. The same gentleman informed me that those labourers of his, with 17s. a week upon an average, assured him that with those wages they cannot save. One who has a family of six told him that if he had a few shillings more per week he should consider it his duty to spend such increase upon some comforts which, at present, his family have not the means of procuring.

In a return from the Dover Savings' Bank, made up to the 20th of November, 1843, out of 1782 depositors, whose deposits amount in all to £53,518. 11s. 8d., there are 73 agricultural labourers, whose deposits in all amount to £2440. 15s. 1d., averaging to each depositor about £33.

Upon this return a gentleman of practical knowledge in agriculture in that district, to whom I applied for information, has favoured me with the following observations: "I have made extensive inquiries both of farmers and labourers as to the condition of the labourers, and the result of the information I have obtained only tends to confirm me in the opinion and belief I have entertained for some time that it is impossible for a day-labourer, with a wife and two or three children, to save from his honest earnings if he receive only the usual rate of wages; and if he be fed to maintain himself in good working condition. It is, however, possible, I think, that a married man, without any children, and a good help in his wife, may be in a condition to put by a little from their honest earnings, though I do not know of such a case, nor can I hear of one. Single men, living with their parents, are known to save from their wages. Married men, without and with families, have deposited in savings banks, but then such cases arise from adventitious circumstances: legacies that have been left; money obtained by smuggling, in which business near the coast many agricultural labourers are employed, and oftentimes earn by their night work more than by day work; there are also many agricultural labourers engaged some months during the year in fishing, and in the mackerel season make a net profit of from £5 to £15.

"There is not a doubt that many bailiffs and waggoners are in a position to save, and do save.

"Benefit and medical clubs are much contributed to in this part of Kent; indeed, the agricultural labourers of all descriptions are becoming generally members of such associations. If the purely agricultural married labourer, with or without a family, contribute to a benefit and medical club about 2s. monthly, and keep out of debt, upon the rate of wages, 12s. per week, now paid hereabouts, it is quite as much as he can do; that is to say, if he maintain himself in the physical condition he should be to do a day's work."

A practical farmer of much experience, and possessing a very accurate knowledge of the condition of farm-labourers, observes:—"I have no hesitation in saying it is impossible for agricultural labourers in this district to save from the money paid them by their employers. I doubt not the sums that may stand in the savings' banks in East Kent, in the names described as agricultural labourers, have been obtained by smuggling and midnight depredations."

A naval officer, who has been for many years engaged in the coast guard service for the suppression of smuggling, stated:—"That in the neighbourhood of the Isle of Wight, and further to the westward, the farm-labourers were, near to the coast, very generally concerned in smuggling; the farmers with whom he was acquainted said they, the labourers, had means of getting money known best to themselves only; for the style and comfort in which they lived could not have been accomplished by the money paid to them for agricultural work."

Another naval officer stated:—"Devonshire was in my recollection a noted county for smuggling and fishing."

In the volume of "Extracts" from the Reports of the Assistant Commissioners, published by the Poor Law Commissioners of Inquiry in 1833, at p. 261, a scale is given, showing the comparative condition of each class as to food, from the agricultural labourer to the convicted and transported felon. The agricultural labourer is at the bottom of the scale; the transported thief at the top. The quantity of solid food obtained by the *honest* agricultural labourer, allowing a loss in cooking of one oz. in four, is stated to be 122 oz.; that by the transported thief, 330 oz. The allowance of the agricultural labourer is thus made up:—

"Bread (daily) 17 oz. = per week, 119 oz.
Bacon, per week, 4 oz.
Loss in cooking 1 oz. .. .. 3 oz.
122 oz."

[illegible] the winter, and run upon the farm in the summer; a [illegible] land to set potatoes on, four quarters of barley at 20s. [illegible] quarter, two quarters of wheat at 50s. If they milk a cow they have £10 less in money. The labourers are generally better fed in Lincolnshire than in any county in England."—Report, p. 114.

— It is proper to remark that the wages paid by gentlemen farming their own land are usually somewhat above the general [illegible] of the district.

Next lowest in the scale to the agricultural labourer is the soldier, whose amount of solid food is 168 oz. The soldier's allowance is stated to be:—

"Bread (daily) 16 oz. = per week .. .. 112 oz.
Meat (do.) 12 oz. = do. 84 oz.
Loss in cooking .. .. 28 oz.
56 oz.
168 oz."

In some dragoon regiments the allowance of bread is 1½ lb. per day, or 24 oz.; and we have been assured by men who have made the experiment themselves, that, in the case of young men with a good deal of hard work (as is the case in horse regiments, but the work is not greater than that of a hard-working agricultural labourer), they have not found the pound and a half of bread sufficient; but have been obliged to purchase bread and cheese in addition from the small sum remaining out of their pay. Now, such a man's allowance of solid food is, to the agricultural labourer's, in the proportion of 224 to 122, or nearly 2 to 1; and bearing in mind what we have stated above as to the insufficiency in some cases even of the 224 oz., we have as vivid an idea of the condition, as to food, of the English agricultural labourer as need be desired.

The agricultural labourer's allowance of solid food, as given above, seems to be obtained from the account of the income and expenditure of an agricultural labourer near Newbury (given at page 251 of the Report), whose wages, together with the earnings of his wife and children, are stated to be 13s. 6d. per week. The number of his children was six, consequently the allowance would be twenty-pence a head; the exact sum computed by Sir Matthew Hale and Mr. Gregory King to have been necessary in the time of Charles II. At page 251 of the Report, indeed, there are three accounts given. The above is the first of these, and gives the labourer's family a somewhat larger portion of food than the other. The second is thus stated:—"A man, his wife, and four children, receive in wages 9s. a week, and a gallon loaf from the parish weekly, and live rent free in a parish cottage. The quantity of solid food which they thus procure weekly is stated to be five gallon loaves and half a pound of bacon, which, when divided among six persons, gives the following result:—

Bread (daily) 16 3-7ths oz. = per week 115 oz.
Bacon, per week 1½ oz.
Loss in cooking ½ oz. .. .. 1 oz.
116 oz."

Now, there are many families of this class and number living at the present time upon the same, or less, wages, without the addition of the gallon loaf from the parish weekly. Deducting this gallon loaf from the weekly allowance of bread, we find it to amount to only 92 oz., or the whole amount of solid food to be only 93 oz. Or, taking another view, 9s. a week for six persons will only give them eighteen-pence a head instead of the twenty-pence declared to be necessary for their subsistence about 200 years ago, when food, fuel, and house-rent were so much cheaper. According to the third account given, the weekly portion of bread for each individual would be only 111 1-5th oz. The proportion of meat is not easily ascertainable. The account states for the whole year, "Purchase of pig, £1. 7s."

But a still more exact standard of comparison is afforded by the regulations now in force for victualling the navy, established by an Order in Council of the 23rd of June, 1824. The following is a copy of these regulations:—

"There shall be allowed to every person serving in his Majesty's ships, the following daily quantity of provisions, viz.:—

Bread	1 lb.
Beer	1 gall.
Cocoa	1 oz.
Sugar	1½ oz.
Fresh meat	1 lb.
Vegetables	½ lb.
Tea	¼ oz.

"When fresh meat and vegetables are not issued, then shall be allowed in lieu thereof:—

Salt beef	¾ lb.	alternately.
Flour	¾ lb.	
Salt pork	¾ lb.	
Pease	½ pint.	

"And weekly, whether fresh or salt meat be issued, oatmeal, half a pint; vinegar, half a pint.

"On the days on which flour and suet are ordered to be issued, suet and raisins, or currants, may be substituted for a portion of the flour, at the following rate:—

1 lb. of raisins being considered equal to 1 lb. of flour.
¼ lb. of currants } do. do.
¼ lb. of suet }

"In case it should be found necessary to alter any of the above species of provisions, and to issue others as their substitutes, it is to be observed that:—

1¼ lb. of soft bread, or 1 lb. of rice, or 1 lb. flour	is to be considered equal to 1 lb. of biscuit.
½ pint of wine, or ½ pint of spirits	= to 1 gall. of beer.
1 oz. of coffee, or ½ oz. of tea	= to 1 oz. of cocoa.
1 lb. of butter	= to 1 lb. of sugar.
2 lbs. of cheese	= to 1 lb. of cocoa.
¾ lb. of onions or leeks	= to 1 lb. of other vegetables."

It appears from this that the following is the quantity of food allowed for the maintenance of "every person serving in her Majesty's ships," sailors and marines, for one week, which may be assumed to have been found necessary to preserve them in health and good working condition, with the value of the same when the average price of wheat is about 56s. the quarter.

7 lbs. flour or biscuit, or 8¾ lbs. soft bread ..	1s.	5d.*
7 gallons beer	2	4
7 oz. cocoa or coffee	0	10
1¾ oz. tea	0	6½
10½ oz. sugar	0	4½
7 lbs. fresh meat	3	2
3½ lbs. vegetables	0	2
½ pint oatmeal	0	1
½ pint vinegar	0	1
	9	0

Now, if an able-bodied seaman can be said to be harder worked than an agricultural labourer, which, except on extraordinary occasions, is not the case, a marine certainly cannot; nevertheless the quantity of provisions judged necessary to keep one marine in health and serviceable condition is greater than, in a majority of cases, can be procured by an agricultural labourer and all his family.

The reader will find, on turning to the scale of the Berkshire magistrates, printed in a preceding page, that 9s. 9d. was the magistrates' allowance to a family of four persons when the gallon loaf was 1s. 5d., out of which, be it remembered, they had to procure not only food but clothes and shelter. But we apprehend that even 9s. is above the present average of agricultural labourers' wages. It is now admitted on all sides, even by the friends of those who formerly maintained that the Corn Laws were beneficial to the labourer, that, "with wages reduced to *six or eight shillings a week*, the countryman can no longer boast that, however coarse his fare may be, at least he has enough of it."†

But even this is not all. In all our reasonings respecting the agricultural labourers it is to be carefully kept in mind that a very large proportion of them have not constant employment, not probably, on an average, more than three or four days in the week. From want of due attention to this fact, it is probable that the hardships of their condition have been rather understated than otherwise. Even the lowest scale of wages is supposed in argument to be *uniform*, to be attended with *constant employment*, whereas it will be found, in point of fact, that many a man whose earnings range from 1s. to 1s. 4d., or at the highest 1s. 6d., a day, is out of work altogether many days in the year—some half the year.‡ Consequently below the lowest yet sounded there is still "a lower deep." The lowest-stated level of wages does not, in the case of the English peasant, enable the mind to form a thoroughly accurate and adequate conception of the "gage and dimensions of misery, depression, and contempt."

(*To be continued*).

ADVANCE OF WAGES.—STRIKES.

WIGAN.—Some of the operatives, at several of the mills, have obtained an advance of wages without turning out; and it would be well if the differences of the others were settled, without any further inconvenience to the trade; for it is reported that the strippers and grinders at the respective mills intend to strike to-day, their term of notice having generally expired.—*Preston Chronicle*, Nov. 2.

LANCASTER.—We last week recorded an advance made by Messrs. Greg and Co., cotton-manufacturers of this town, to their workmen, and we have now great pleasure in stating that Messrs. T. H. Higgin and Co. have raised the wages of the weavers in their employ from five to seven per cent. Here is an additional nut for the cheap-food and low-wages croakers to crack.—*Lancaster Guardian*.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—A public meeting of the power-loom weavers of this town was held in the Charlie Meeting Room, on Wednesday evening, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of endeavouring to obtain an advance of wages, together with weekly payment. A resolution to that effect, and also a resolution requesting employers to pay weekly, were unanimously passed. A weaver from Droylsden said that he, along with others, were sent as a deputation to that meeting, to know what advance should be asked, as the masters of Droylsden were governed in prices by those of Ashton. After some discussion it was agreed that 7 per cent. should be asked upon all sorts. It was then arranged that shop meetings should take place throughout the town, after which the meeting separated.

BOLTON.—On Thursday last, the hands in the extensive machine shop of the executors of the late Mr. Benjamin Dobson turned out in consequence of some new regulations, to which the men refused their concurrence.

On Monday se'nnight, at the Borough Court, a number of the iron-moulders in the employ of the firm of Messrs. Metcalf and Barlow, as executors of the late Mr. Benjamin Dobson, were summoned for leaving their work without giving the usual notice. William Lyons and Thomas Mason were first proceeded against. It was proved that the rule of the shop was to give and receive a week's notice. The defendants were ordered to return to their work, or be committed to the New Bailey for a month.

* The average price of wheat for the ten years ending 1843 was 56s 3d., which is 7s. per bushel, and, allowing 1s. 6d. for baking, makes the half-peck loaf 1s. 5d. at the least.

† "Fraser's Magazine" for November, 1844, p. 607.

‡ The following statement of the churchwarden and overseer of the parish of Goudhurst, Kent, conveys probably a view of the matter which will hold true pretty generally:—"Good labourers in *constant* employment, from £35 to £40 a year; the average say £36. Many, from want of employment, do not earn £30."—Appendix (B. I.), question 16, p. 245 a.

The other cases were not entered into, the men agreeing to return to their work, and pay expenses.

STOCKPORT.—We understand that the hands employed in several mills in Stockport gave notice at the end of last week that, if their original demand for a rise of wages were not complied with, they should leave work at the expiration of their term this week. Unless, therefore, some arrangement shall, in the meantime, have been made, it may be expected that before our next publication a number of the factory hands will have turned out.—*Manchester Guardian.*

THE PRESS AND THE LEAGUE.

(From the *Weekly Chronicle.*)

Two questions have been gravely debated by the daily press this week—the first, between the *Post* and the *Standard-Herald*, turns upon the question—Whether the League be dead or not? The second, between the *Times* and the *Herald-Standard*—Whether the City visit of the Queen, to open the new Royal Exchange, is, or is not, to be taken as a Free-Trade demonstration, and, consequently, as another heavy blow and a great discouragement given to the agriculturists by Sir Robert Peel? The first impulse one feels is to laugh at this solemn fun; nevertheless, no inconsiderable amount of ability (if we except the *Standard-Herald*, which is the stupidest of all stupid productions known to the reading public) has been expended on these points; and one, therefore, is led to suppose that there are clever men in the world who think them worth debating, in the absence of other and better subjects of debate,—as *Falstaff* thought his ragged regiment were good enough "food for powder," and "capable of filling a pit as well as better men."

Is the League dead? Not so, shout a thousand voices, backed by a thousand facts. It has been busy in the registration courts—too busy to attend public meetings; it has had so much to say to revising barristers that it has found no breath to throw away at public meetings; it has been all work with it, while it was yet time, in the broad sunshine, since no man knoweth when the dark night shall come; it has been taking a leaf from the book of Sir Robert Peel, in exchange for the many leaves he has pillaged from it; and it has quoted that leaf fairly, between inverted commas, and with an acknowledgment of its authorship; whereas Sir Robert Peel has played the plagiarist with the works of the League, in the spirit of petty larceny, which conceals from everybody what from anybody it may steal.

Thus stand the facts: still, at every pause in the category, the *Standard-Herald* drivels forth, betwixt a laugh and a cry, "I don't care; you're dead. I tell ye—you *are* dead! so I don't care!" And as this is all which the *Standard-Herald* can do—*id. est.*, add drivel to drivel, the *Herald-Standard*, which, though it may foam at the mouth, in the intensity of its rage, and long again for the glorious ascendency times, when unarmed Quakers could be shot with impunity, is, nevertheless, cunning and strong of fence, rushes to the rescue, catching up the battle cry of "The League is dead!"

"Nonsense," cries the *Morning Chronicle*, "the League has commenced its winter career of agitation in greater force, in a higher tone, and with a stronger purpose than ever." "Pooh!" says the *Standard*, "you're a League touter!" Whereupon the *Morning Chronicle* looks about for evidence in contradiction of a calumny so opprobrious to all who have not shaken off the fears or the hopes of Whiggery; and, seeing no other means of escape from so discreditable a supposition, it pounces upon the LEAGUE newspaper, abuses it soundly for sneering at the Wiltshire system of allotments, and makes a propitiatory admission, for the especial use of the *Standard*, to the effect that a free trade in corn will be injurious, for a time, to the agricultural labourers. The *Herald-Standard*, of course, seizes *impromptu* on the admission, becomes civil to its fluttered morning contemporary for the time being, and, pointing out this as an admitted evil from a Leaguer, consequent on the policy of the League, shouts forth another exulting pean on the League's death. Here, however, the *Standard* is met by an opponent of better pluck and heavier metal—the *Morning Post*.

Now, I like the *Morning Post*,—for downright, positive, unshrinking consistency of policy, such as it is—for honestly sticking, through thick and through thin, in success and defeat, by its adopted friends, and by them alone—and for real ability in enforcing its views,—I consider it, paradoxical as the idea may seem, as the very head of the daily press. There is no shirking the point with the *Morning Post*: say its policy is destructive to the Ministry; its answer is—Perish the Ministry! and, again, tell the *Morning Post* that its policy could not be carried out unless a wall were built all around England, the answer of the *Morning Post* would be—Then build a wall round England! and it would incontinently set to work to demonstrate in most unexceptionably rolling periods—good English, if not very good sense—that it was the duty of Parliament to contract with Messrs. Grissell and Peto, immediately, for the masonry thereof; nay, the *Morning Post* would exult over the encouragement such a great national undertaking would afford to British industry, and would not even object to its being fabricated of cast iron! This may be insanity; but, in the midst of tergiversation, trickery, and vacillation, it is more respectable than the self-saving and self-seeking sort of common sense manifested by certain of its contemporaries.

Well, the *Post* exclaims—"The League dead! pshaw, your Mr. Gally Knight, who adopts this nonsense, is more like the stalking ghost of what he once was, than is the League!"

"Pooh," cries the *Standard* again, "*You* are a League touter."

"And *you*," retorts the *Post*, springing eagerly to the contest,—"You, who have covered Sir Robert Peel with the slime of your adulation, how do *you* account for the great gathering of last week in Manchester?"

"Mere talk," replies the indomitable *Standard*; "a large meeting it might have been, but the League it could not have been, for the League is dead."

But, the argument proceeds:—"Look at what the League has done in the registration courts: obtained signal advantages in 80 boroughs, and snatched South Lancashire, at one grasp, from Ministerial and Conservative hands."—"That," says the *Standard*, "is part of a registration struggle—that's not the League."—"Look, again, at the threat which promises to swamp the county constituencies by an irruption of forty-shilling freeholders."—"That," says the *Standard*, "may be done by individuals, but individuals are not the League."—"Mr. Cobden says——"—"Mr. Cobden," shouts the *Standard*, "is not the League!" Thus of all the rest. The LEAGUE newspaper is *not* the League; the League subscriptions are *not* the League! Nothing is the League; for, the League being dead, the League is nothing! And so I commit the last consolation of dying monopoly to the winds of heaven and the wings of laughter: it is worthy of no better reply.

But if this be evidence of the shifts to which Monopoly has been driven in its efforts to keep up the drooping spirits of its friends, or, rather, of the shifts to which the traitor leaders of Monopoly have been driven in order to cast dust into the eyes of its betrayed friends, how miserably hopeless seems that position which can think it necessary to assure the agricultural section of the community that the visit of the Queen to the city of London, for the purpose of giving grace and dignity to the re-opening of the great mart of commerce for the metropolitan city of the empire, is not, by any means, to be construed into an admission, on the part of the Crown, of the superior importance of the mercantile and manufacturing classes in the State!

The *Times* seizes on the occasion to pen a grandiloquent article, which may be evidence of the commercial leaning of the *Times*, as well as of the *Times's* incapacity to be poetical, since never has the truth of the Tom Paine and Bonapartian maxim—that from the sublime to the ridiculous there is but one step—been more satisfactorily established than by this very article; but why should the *Standard* feel the thing so acutely, or why should it recognise the general distrust in Sir Robert Peel by Sir Robert Peel's majority, so much as to deem it necessary to assure its readers that the visit of the Queen to the city of London, on the occasion of Monday last, is on no account to be construed into an admission of the principle that the agricultural section of the community is inferior to the mercantile, or into a recognition of the fact insisted on by the *Times*, that the merchants of England are the "Great Feoffers of the Crown!"

Why, how miserably absurd is all this in the *Standard!* and what a low mental and moral level do these agriculturists fashion for themselves! As well might the manufacturers and merchants of England deplore, through the press, the genteel small farming of Prince Albert, who fattens an ox at a loss of ten hundred per cent., to have the prize snapped up from under his nose by Yeoman Tompkins, and who churns inferior fancy butter for the royal breakfast-table at a cost not exceeding 5s. a pound!

Is there no one among these people of sufficient knowledge to tell them that this very particular sensitiveness is but proof of a sense of their own intrinsic insignificance; and that all their talk about leases and allotments, and manures and agricultural chemistry, is but one more proof that the age has left them behind?

Nov. 1, 1844. COTTON TWIST.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE ELECTION.

A meeting was held at the League-rooms, Manchester, on Monday evening, to consider the best means of increasing the county constituency on the next year's register, by stimulating such of the Free-Traders throughout the division who have no votes immediately to purchase qualifications. The meeting, which had been convened by circular, was numerous and respectable, consisting of some of the principal subscribers and friends of the League in Manchester and the surrounding districts. The warmest interest was manifested in the object for which the meeting was convened. Every one present zealously undertook to canvass his respective district and friends, and to report to an adjourned meeting, to be held on Friday evening. Several individuals pledged themselves to obtain in that time each ten persons for new qualifications. The late success of the Free-Traders in this division, so far from having induced them to rest from their labours, has only served to increase their enthusiasm, and to stimulate them to greater exertion. A long and interesting discussion took place on the best and readiest means of qualifying the great number of persons who are anxious to possess the county franchise, and whose names are already enrolled in the books which have been opened by the League for that purpose.

Besides those immediately connected with South Lancashire, there were also present several gentlemen connected with North Lancashire, the West Riding of Yorkshire, and North Cheshire, all of whom urged the necessity of inducing the South Lancashire Free-Traders to qualify for each of those divisions of counties. The chairman stated that the Council of the League had already turned its attention in that direction, and had a number of names on their books of persons who would qualify for all the divisions named; and he had no doubt, by the exertions of the gentlemen present, that list might be greatly extended. A resolution was passed, authorizing the sending of a circular to all the Free-Trade committees and agents throughout the various districts, to request that immediate meetings should be called for the purpose of co-operating with the Central Committee, by a general canvass, and such other means as will be most likely to promote the object of the League in this movement. A strong opinion was also expressed, that, if a similar and simultaneous movement were made by the Free-Traders in other counties, that these also might be rescued from the hands of the monopolists,—such, for instance, as North and South Staffordshire, East Worcester, East Gloucester, Middlesex, East Surrey, Lanarkshire, and others. It was finally resolved that meetings should be held in the League-rooms on the Wednesday and Friday evenings in each week, for the purpose of receiving reports of the progress made to carry on the work, and to give advice whenever and wherever it shall be needed.

REGISTRATION.

WESTMINSTER.—The revising barrister for this city has decided that lodgers are entitled to vote, if the landlord does not retain any part of the premises for his own use; and that they are not entitled, if the landlord retains any part of the premises in his own occupation. Against the former opinion the Monopolists have appealed to the Court of Common Pleas; and against the latter opinion, the Free-Traders have appealed. The judgment of the court on these points will determine the question of the right to vote of every occupier of premises of the value of £10, and, it is hoped, will abolish the absurd distinctions that have interposed in the attainment of the franchise. The Free-Traders have, at last, succeeded in compelling the parish officers to insert the names of the occupiers of compound houses on the rate-book; which, it is expected, will make an addition of at least 600 on the next register. The following is the result of the revision:—

Claims, by Free-Traders, allowed	..	120
Objections, by ditto, allowed	.. ..	120
		240
Claims, by Monopolists, allowed	..	9
Objections, by ditto, allowed	.. ..	231
		240

The advantage on the register is much in favour of the Free-Trade party. Many of the 231 objections sustained by the Monopolists were to persons dead, &c., who could not have voted, even had their names been retained; while the whole of the 120 claims established by the Free-Traders are of persons ready to vote at an election. Mr. Trott, solicitor, and Mr. Huggett, secretary to the Westminster Reform Society, appeared for the Free-Traders.

NORTH CHESHIRE REGISTRATION—MOTTRAM DISTRICT.—The revision for the list of voters in this district is now completed; and, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts made by the Monopolists to obtain a majority, we may congratulate the Free-Traders upon the result, which the following table will show:—

New claims by		Overseers' objections to			Monopolist objections.			Free-Trade objections.	
Free-Traders.	Monopolists.	Free-Traders.	Monopolists.	Total.	Sustained.	Failed.	Total.	Sustained.	Failed.
137	71	24	31	124	68	56	23	16	7

Thus, the Free-Traders have a gain of 66 on new claims, and 7 on overseers' objections, while they have a loss of 52 on party objections—making their net gain 21. The Monopolists were four times, and the Free-Traders once, mulcted in costs.

HALIFAX.—Our correspondent informs us that by mutual agreement both parties abstained from making any objections. The number of Free-Trade claims allowed was 83; Monopolist claims, 36.—Free-Trade majority on the claims, 47. This year's list, when printed, will contain 1009 names, and consists of 602 Free-Traders, 334 Monopolists, 32 doubtful, and 41 double entry. Giving the 32 doubtful votes to the Monopolists, it leaves a clear Free-Trade majority of 232.

SWANSEA.—(From a Correspondent.)—In Swansea a considerable accession has been made to the list by the insertion of 118 names, 97 of which are those of Free-Traders. Not a single claim or objection has been made by the Monopolists throughout the five contributory boroughs. Opposition seems to be given up as hopeless.

MERTHYR TYDVIL.—(From a Correspondent.)—A few additional names have been inserted on the list favourable to the present member. No Monopolist objection or claim. This borough is perfectly safe.

THE LEAGUE.—We cannot but admire the perseverance, the self-denial, the patriotism, and the great ability and zeal of this band of Free-Traders, who, notwithstanding all the checks they receive, and the obstacles thrown in their way, still struggle manfully in the cause which they believe to be based on the eternal principles of truth and justice. Thanks to such men, the question of Free Trade has now become an important element of public opinion. Free-Trade views have now become engrafted in the minds of the middle classes, at all times difficult to be inoculated with new and liberal views on any subject. Through their influence the Legislature—which, as at present constituted, cannot fail to reflect their peculiar wishes and opinions—has become instrumental, in some measure, in the promotion of the principles of Free Trade, and will unquestionably advance just in proportion to the march of opinion among the middle-class population of Britain.—*Leeds Times.*

MEETING OF LABOURERS AT CLACK, IN WILTSHIRE.—On Wednesday, the 30th ult., a meeting of labourers and others was held in the Primitive Methodists Chapel, Clack, at which the speakers were all labourers. The addresses were marked with great good sense and feeling. The following resolution was adopted—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is highly desirable that an humble address be signed by the working classes in Wilts, and presented to the Queen, imploring her Majesty to urge, at the opening of her Parliament, the necessity of instituting immediately an inquiry into the state of the working classes in the agricultural districts." Mr. Read, Independent minister of Goatacre, confirmed the statements made by the labourers from his own knowledge, as he was almost daily an eye-witness to their sufferings. The chairman closed the meeting by exhorting them to maintain peaceable and orderly conduct, to use every opportunity to improve their minds, and to endeavour, as much as possible, to make themselves acquainted with the true bearing of the Corn Laws; assuring them nothing would have the effect of inducing others to respect them so much as their respecting themselves.

FRUITS OF COMMERCE.—The overflowing opulence of Liverpool is gradually producing those effects on the Cheshire suburbs of this great city which men have not observed without astonishment, even on the Lancashire side of the river. Who that has lived here for twenty years does not know of the changes that have occurred in the value of land once considered waste and almost useless; who has not heard of the fortunes that have been acquired here by land speculations; and who does not know where to point to whole tracts, once covered with corn, cattle, and gardens, now teeming with a busy population? Even adjacent villages have been embraced by the giant arms of the town. The surrounding country is dotted with the beautiful villas of our wealthy citizens; watering places have sprung up, here and there, on the margin of the river Mersey; and villages, which once consisted of but a few huts, have become places of formidable note and pretension. The flourishing communities on the opposite shore have been fed from the same rich source, are saplings from the same root, and proofs of the healthy and vigorous condition of the parent tree.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, November 6, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the League of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

	£	s.	d.
James Knott and Son, Ashton-under-Lyne	£25	0	0
*William Anderson, Castleton, Guisbro', Yorkshire	1	0	0
*James Bevan, at Messrs. John Chippendall and Co., Horwich, near Bolton-le-Moors	1	0	0
*John Mallison, 85, George-street, Hulme	1	0	0
*William M'Intosh, Oldham-street, Manchester	1	0	0
*William Warburton, 16, Hanging-ditch, do.	1	0	0
David Miller, Caledonian Inn, Pembroke-dock	0	9	4
Charles Connelly, Armagh, Ireland	1	0	0
John Wood, Ardwick, Manchester	0	2	6
*John Bell, Ducie Arms, Strangeways, do.	1	0	0
*John Townley, do.	2	0	0
Wm. Dugdale, Ducie-place, Exchange, do.	1	0	0
*Ebenezer Harris, 7, Deighton-street, Bristol	1	0	0
*Gabriel Goldney, Clifton, do.	1	1	0
Huddersfield, 21st Remit. — John Bradley, King-street	0	10	0
James Scholefield, Threadneedle-st.	0	10	0
B. D. Eldridge, Kirkgate	2	0	0
*William Cumming, Carpenters'-hall, London-wall	3	0	0
Messrs. Gardner, St. John-street, Clerkenwell	2	2	0
*Joseph Fenwick, 8, Blandford-square	2	2	0
*John Taylor, 17, Kent-terrace, Regent's-park	2	2	0
*R. D. Cumming, Carpenters'-hall, London-wall	2	0	0
*Francis Dennis Massey Dawson, Esq., barrister-at-law, 6, Pump-court, Temple	2	0	0
Richard Taylor, Red Lion-court, Fleet-street	2	0	0
*Francis Wansey, Arbour Field Mills, Reading	1	1	0
*N. Bowring, 78, Pearson-street, Kingsland-road	1	1	0
*W. Johnson, 174 and 175, Bishopsgate-street Without	1	1	0
*W. Harvey, 105, Guildford-street	1	1	0
George West, 12, Cannon-street-road, St. George's-in-the-East	1	1	0
William Alexander, Suffolk Arms, 151, Tooley-street, Southwark	1	1	0
Peter Skae, 52, Hart-street, Covent-garden	1	1	0
*John Willis, Barnstaple	1	1	0
*R. Sedgwick, Walthamstow Coffee House, 245, Shoreditch	1	1	0
George King, 92, Lower Marsh, Lambeth	1	1	0
William Coates, 23, Whitechapel	1	1	0
*Joshua Crockford, 34, Alfred-place, Bedford-square	1	1	0
Joseph Crockford, 5, Queen's-buildings, Knightsbridge	1	1	0
*James Owen, 10, Boundary-street, Liverpool	1	1	0
*Henry Bollen, 13, St. Paul's Churchyard	1	1	0
Benjamin Cheverton, 72, Pratt-street, Camden-town	1	1	0
Paul Margetson, New Weston-street, Bermondsey	1	1	0
*S. and J. Prosser, 6, High Holborn, per Mr. Burnard	1	1	0
*J. Sharpe, Albion Villa, 3, Thornhill-road, Islington, per Mr. Burnard	1	1	0
*H. Wood, 6, Norfolk-row, Sheffield	1	0	0
*James Bouron, Stockton-on-Tees	1	0	0
*Joseph Forster, Green Bat Cottage, Alnwick	1	0	0
*Miss Jane Forster, do., do.	1	0	0
*G. L. Cornfute, Perth	1	0	0
*Edward Buxton, 76, Basinghall-street	1	0	0
*Henry J. Slack, 70, do.	1	0	0
Joshua Morris, Greenwich	1	0	0
*Thomas Combes, 6, Church-terrace, Waterloo-road	1	0	0
John Pearman, 160, Grove-street, Camden-town	1	0	0
W. K.	1	0	0
*Edward Jones, 157, Strand	1	0	0
*Cyprian James Cottrill, Abingdon, Berks	1	0	0
Charles Parrott, 124, Albany-road, Old-Kent-road	1	0	0
G. C. Heppel, 1, Prince's-street, Bank of England	1	0	0
*Thomas Brown, 110, Wood-street, Cheapside	1	0	0
George Blackman, 7, Gower's-walk, Commercial-road-East	1	0	0
J. Drake, 13, Oxford-street	1	0	0
*John Crook, 38, Cannon-street-road, St. George's-in-the-East	1	0	0
C. H. Bowers, 18, do., do.	1	0	0
*Watts Wrigley, Malton	1	0	0
J. Baker, Thirsk	1	0	0
*Thomas Bleeley, Alnwick	1	0	0
*John Kidson, Sunderland	1	0	0
*C. A. Mills, Pulham, near Harleston, Norfolk	1	0	0
*C. A. Holland, Northwich	1	0	0
W. E. Tuke, 36, North-bank, St. John's wood	1	0	0
*W. Day, labourer, 2, Taylor's-court, Bow-lane, "towards repealing oppressive laws, for the permanent relief of our wretched brethren, the agricultural labourers"	1	0	0
*C. Trumpler, 9, Love lane, Eastcheap	1	0	0
*Vincent Phillips, 30, Sun-street, Bishopsgate	1	0	0
*George Croft, Richmond, Yorkshire	1	0	0
*Harris and Lilley, 5, Gloucester-street, Curtain-road, Shoreditch	1	0	0
*James H. F. Lewis, jun., 28, Essex-street, Strand	1	0	0
*J. Pugh and Samuel Gill, 149, Regent street	1	0	0
*The Rev. W. H. Cox, St. Mary Hall, Oxford	1	0	0
*G. Smith, Prestbury, near Cheltenham	1	0	0
*James Smith, Green Dragon Inn, Hertford	1	0	0
*James Heatley, Alnwick	1	0	0
*J. and J. Angus, Horsham	1	0	0
*Thomas Pennington, Dyers'-hall-wharf, Thames-st.	1	0	0
*Samuel Page, Dulwich	1	0	0
*Wm. Thornborrow, 34, Trinity-square, Southwark	1	0	0
*William Lambert, 20, Bermondsey New-road	1	0	0
Thomas Maltby, 17, Lower-street, Islington	1	0	0
George Lewis, Knightsbridge	1	0	0
Wm. Payne, 142, Whitechapel road (2nd subscrip.)	0	15	0
George Wild, 55, Oxford-street	0	10	6
William Goldfinch, Commercial-road East	0	10	0
Biertumpfel and Clark, 68, Albany-street, Regent's-park	0	10	0
William Parker, 11, Houghton-street, Clare-market	0	10	0
Messrs. Healy, Islington-green	0	10	0
E. J. Bolton, 45, Chapel street, Pentonville	0	5	0
Bruce H. Todd, St Thomas square, Hackney	0	5	0
W. Wood, 94, Cannon-street, City	0	5	0
George Underton, 13, Museum-street, Bloomsbury	0	5	0
John Bird, 86, Oxford street	0	5	0
Wm. Hewitson, 185, do.	0	5	0
John Ashley, *Weekly Dispatch* office, Fleet-street	0	5	0
Mr. Hodges, watchmaker, Kingsland road	0	5	0
Samuel Fassick, 49, King William street, City	0	5	0
Charles Frederick Sale, Gun-alley, Bermondsey	0	5	0
William Manning, 23, Gloucester-street, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
Francis Heath, herald painter, 8, Chapel-street, Pentonville	0	2	6
W. R. Smily, 9, Camomile-street, Bishopsgate	0	2	6
George Steer, 22, Munster street, Regent's park	0	2	6
Thos. Thornycroft, 39, Stanhope-street, Hampstead-road	0	2	6
C. H. S., High street, Camden-town	0	2	6
Thomas Elderton, 2, Upper Gloucester-place, Marylebone	0	2	6
Henry Davies, 19, Oxford-street	0	2	6
Thomas Bridgeman, corn merchant, Mare-street, Hackney	0	2	6
James Kebbell, 10, Mayfield-place, Dalston	0	2	6
James Giffin, Church-street, Hackney	0	2	6
Thomas Barr, 42, Cannon-street-road, St. George's-in-the-East	0	2	6
William Cooper, 3, James-place, Hoxton	£0	2	6
C. Collins, 6, Upper East Smithfield	0	2	6
John Hollingsworth, 29, Lower Marsh, Lambeth	0	2	6
John Hosking, 45, Hercules-buildings, do.	0	2	6
Mr. North, 284, Strand	0	2	6
D. W.	0	2	6
"Honesty"	0	2	6
R. W. S.	0	2	6
T. G.	0	2	6
J. N.	0	2	6
Brooks and Son, 26, Little Albany-street, Regent's-park	0	2	6
William Parnall, 1, Wilderness-row, Clerkenwell	0	2	6
William Boulton, 75, St. John-street-road, do.	0	2	6
Charles Connor, Hackney	0	2	6
Robert Nind, 4, West-place, Islington-green	0	2	6
John Hinton, 6, do., do.	0	2	6
Thomas Cobbett, 2, Lower-street, Islington	0	2	6
James Valloton, 1, Eldon-place, Lower-road, do.	0	2	6
Thomas Ordish, Lower-street, do.	0	2	6
Peter Godart, 90, Upper East Smithfield	0	2	6
Thomas Carnall, 9, Postern-row, Tower-hill	0	2	6
Henry Harrison, 10, Barnsbury-park, Islington	0	2	6
William Shipley, Yorkshire Grey, Bermondsey-street	0	2	6
James L. Gumbleton, 3, Church-row, Horsleydown	0	2	6
Charles Dennis, 117½, Bermondsey-street	0	2	6
Brentford, 6th Remit. — *Henry Sexton, Bedfont	1	0	0
*W. Hammond	1	0	0
Mr. Carpenter	0	2	6
W. Dicken	0	2	6
W. F.	0	2	6
Chatham. — *John Hodgkin, Army and Navy Hotel	2	0	0
*Thomas William Wood, auctioneer	1	1	0
*William Smith, Old King's Head	1	0	0
*Thomas Beveridge, builder	1	0	0
Subscriptions under 2s. 6d. each	3	4	0

* Those names marked with an asterisk are renewed subscriptions.

ERRATUM.

In League, No. 58, *for* "George Ridge, 15, Lower Wharton-street, Lloyd-square," *read* "George Ridge, 21, Wharton-street, Lloyd-square."

10th Month, 31, 44.

Dear Friend,—The active and energetic manner in which the affairs of the "League" have been conducted during the past year renders it no less a pleasure than a duty to renew my humble contribution. The Council ought forthwith to issue an "Address" to our friends in all parts of the country, urging on them the imperative duty of qualifying themselves as 40s. freeholders before the 31st of 1st month, 45.

Your particular attention should be directed to *Cheshire*, Cornwall, *Durham*, *Lancashire*, *Middlesex*, *Northumberland*, Cumberland, Rutland, *Stafford*, Surrey, and *York*. The attention of our Scotch friends ought to be directed to the state of the representation in the following counties:—*Ayr*, *Edinburgh*, Lanark, Perth, Roxburgh, and Stirling. The city and county of Dublin want attending to.

I think we have every reason to be satisfied with the progress we have made during the past year. The inward monitor will never permit one of us to look back. "Forward" is and must continue to be the motto of our steady march.

With sentiments of respect and esteem, I am, &c.,

William Anderson,
Castleton, Guisbro'.

LETTERS ON THE CORN LAWS, No. VI.

TO "YOUNG ENGLAND."

Gentlemen,—I address you by the name to which you answer; and because you answer to it. The application is not made "in derision;" neither is it intended to recognise the probability of your becoming the social renovators of Old England. There is much to be done before you present a clear title to a destiny so honourable. But censure on the aspiration may well be spared if it stimulate you to active and worthy service in ameliorating the condition of the people. The present is not the time for such service to be acknowledged grudgingly; nor is it a time, either, for looking quietly on, while exertions that might contribute materially to the public good are made in a wrong direction, and robbed thereby of their full increase of efficiency.

You profess a strong perception of the degradation of the working classes. "Not a man present," said Mr. Disraeli, at the Bingley meeting, "would have the audacity to quote a verse once met with in everybody's mouth—'a bold peasantry, our country's pride.'" Your acknowledgment of existing evils is comprehensive. It includes the physical, intellectual, moral, and social condition of the poorest and most numerous classes. And you profess not only to see, but to feel; not only to feel, but to act. You come to meetings of the people for literary and scientific purposes; you eloquently assert the alliance of Commerce with Intelligence, and the property of the landless in the great "seed-field of time." You cherish a taste for wholesome sports and recreations, not only by oratorial approval but even by personal participation. On allotments of garden ground, whether for the farm-labourer or the cotton-spinner, you pronounce glowing eulogies. The course you pursue has the charm of novelty, at least in the spirit in which you pursue it. Where others, of your station, have plainly shown that they were only keeping an inevitable engagement, drudging through a needful form, or purchasing some portion of popularity against the next election, you have evinced the earnestness and ardour of men fulfilling a mission. The most distinct statement of your purposes I take to be that expressed in the words of Mr. Disraeli, at the Bingley meeting:—"We believe that *it is not so much to the action of laws as to the influence of manners that we must look for an efficient means to ameliorate the social condition of this country.*" This belief is the soul of your proceedings. It is the source, also, of the incongruities with which you are chargeable. Hence you look graciously on cricket clubs, and askance at the Anti-Corn-Law League. Hence you encourage the peasant to grow a peck of barley, and vote against admitting to a free port the ship that brings a cargo of wheat. Hence you patronise Athenæum tea parties, and support the sugar monopoly. You tell the people to mend their manners; and you warn them not to tell you to mend their laws. You see the dependence of the social condition upon the physical, but shut your eyes to the dependence of the physical upon the economical. You anticipate much from the affability of noblemen and the liberality of landlords; nothing from the justice of Parliament and the wisdom of legislation. This is beginning at the wrong end, and curiously carving the capital of the pillar with no care to lay the foundation or build the pedestal.

Mechanics' institutions are supported in proportion as mechanics are prosperous. Well-enjoyed play presupposes well-paid work. The means of subsistence are the soul of sport. Labourers on low wages never aspire to the luxury of libraries. Athenæums arise when factories flourish; and increasing trade is alike favourable to the culture of the soil and the culture of the mind. Manchester listens delightedly to Young England's lectures because cheap food gives Manchester both work and leisure. Advancing wages are the guano by which manufacturing towns are manured for the growth of taste and the harvest of intelligence. How would Coningsby have been heard at Paisley in 1841? It is worse than preaching to the winds to tell starving weavers of manly sports and intellectual recreations. The comparative prosperity of the day makes your admonitions appropriate and yourselves popular. You must sustain that prosperity to sustain your own position. That is not to be done by speeches, nor by libraries, nor by walks in parks, nor by free cricket-grounds, though the son of a duke guard the wicket or discharge the ball. The working classes will enjoy your rhetoric only as a dessert after dinner. They have no relish for it fasting. You do them a world of good; but they would not hear you if they were hungry. Should storms lay next year's crop, they will beat down Young England also. In manufacturing districts your popularity and usefulness are marked on the sliding scale. It may be calculated beforehand by the amount of duty upon corn. As wheat falls, you rise; and should that come to famine price, you sink to nothing.

Little need be said, therefore, of your attempting to act directly upon the manners of the working classes. That it does good in the more fortunate localities, *as things are*, is thankfully acknowledged, and with no stinted praise. You offer both stimulus and guidance; and they are eagerly received by those whose favouring circumstances allow them time and heart to think of parks and gardens, books and casts, lectures and soirées. You present yourselves gracefully and frankly amongst them; they at least reciprocate the frankness, and are not unconscious of the grace. But you are alone in the work. You have not drawn down aristocracy from its skies to dwell among men of the working class. A general action upon manners would imply a general co-operation from that section of society. Your movement only shows that it is unmoving. Aristocracy has too much confined its intercourse with the people to the debaucheries of electioneering clubs, or the blackguardism of the Fancy and the Turf. It has chiefly been familiar with the veriest scum of the people. But if the manners of the people are to be refined by aristocratical intercourse, there are two parties for you to act upon, and you have not yet experimented upon the most difficult. The question is not whether the many would receive the few, but whether the few will come to be received. When lords intermingle socially with mechanics, no doubt the mechanics will mend their manners. "When the sky falls, we shall catch larks." How long will it take you to bring down the sky? The enterprise is unpromising. And were we to suppose the miracle accomplished, and such a change as usually requires generations to effect, compressed into years instead of generations, still the question remains whether the refinement of the working classes must not be mainly their own work? The rough stones on the beach rub themselves into smoothness by their ceaseless and equal collision much more efficiently than you can do it by throwing amongst them handfuls of the most exquisitely polished pebbles.

The only economical measure you have, as yet, recommended, is that of allotments. To become general it must be made compulsory; and there is an end of your relying on "the influence of manners" in preference to "the action of law." As a partial charity, it can never elevate the labouring class. It generates no sense of independence: it is superfluous when wages are high, and inadequate when work is not to be had. In many districts, as already in Sussex, it will become a substitute for wages, and

the occasion of their reduction. It will be only a better sort of outdoor relief. It cannot be expected so to prevail as to render the produce of the country equal to its consumption, and thus keep the price of food moderate and steady, and the manufacturing districts secure from the disastrous reverses to which they are subject from the want of a Free-Trade policy. If it could, the landowners' objection to Free Trade would be destroyed; and whatever of good there is in it, whatever of real subserviency to the interests of tenants and landlords, would be sure to realize itself, were a Free-Trade policy adopted.

You can, at best, make nothing more of allotments than a help and an enjoyment. The effect is both limited and questionable. The manufacturing towns must continue to be the drain and outlet of an increasing surplus population in the agricultural districts. But the expedient of allotments, as an alleviation of distress amongst the agricultural labourers, is a confession that the outlet is, even now, not wide enough. Even in these cheap times, that most extraordinary of human necessities, the want of work, is rife in the land. Law, not nature, has produced that monstrous want; and by law must it be removed. Let dear times come again; two bad harvests in succession; and where then will the agricultural population be? Where, then, the manufacturing? How will "the influence of manners" stand the storm that will then thunder in the towns and blaze through the country? Your Athenæums, and museums, and amenities, will be swept away as by a whirlwind. The convulsions of an earthquake will rock Young England's cradle, and its last sleep be ushered in by the lullaby of a "rebel drum."

The good effect of high wages upon the manners and morals of the operative is destroyed by his only obtaining them occasionally. Vicissitude ruins his character; prosperity plunges him into excess, and adversity makes him a bold beggar. His life is the alternation of drink and destitution. The fact is alike notorious and deplorable. Here and there one of this victimized class may be converted by your speeches, and lay by, of his surplus, against the time of need; but you must be the most sanguine of missionaries if, by such means, you expect the conversion of whole bodies. Habits are changed by events, not by words. Steady wages and steady prices make steady workmen. How get them? You have not told us; it should have been the first point of your orations, but you were silent on it; it should have been the preface of your historical fancies, but you have left it unwritten.

If the libraries you patronise contain standard works of political economy, the intelligent operatives will seek it there. They will find distinctly traced, by able hands, the laws which govern the creation and distribution of wealth with almost as much exactitude as the laws which rule in mechanical action and chemical combination. They will learn that all industrial interests are identical; and all dependent upon freedom of trade for their prosperity.

They will perceive that writers who have been sneered at for "cold" calculations, were warm assertors of the rights of labour, and diligent investigators of the means for securing those rights. In all the great masters of the science, from Adam Smith downwards, they will find a continuous protest against commercial restriction. They will then not fail to observe that the political economy of law is in complete hostility to the political economy of science. Its first principles are violated, and in conformity with the supposed interests of the majority of lawmakers. The doctrines it disproves are practically adopted, and those it demonstrates are held in abeyance. And they will then ask of you, gentlemen, why you side with the false political economy against the true; with the conclusions of avowed ignorance against those of admitted knowledge; with Richmond against Ricardo, and Philip Miles against James Mill? They will demand *why* you are parties to a robbery upon their wages, in the form of enhanced price by taxation, a taxation imposed not for the advantage of the national revenue, but for that of a "protected" class; *why* you uphold a system which has reduced their consumption of sugar, and after drives them from bread to potatoes; *why* you speak for institutions and recreations that imply the sufficiency and steadiness of their employment, for them to be in a state to continue either contributors or recipients, and yet vote for laws, or against the repeal of laws, by which trade is limited in its extent, and rendered irregular in its operations. All this, and more, they will ask you, gentlemen; and "what the devil will you say?" Bethink yourselves of the matter, I pray you, before Parliament assembles, and Mr. C. Villiers brings on his annual motion for Corn-Law Repeal.

A Norwich Weaver Boy.

Cattle Imports.—Whilst fodder remains scarce the price of fat stock must continue relatively high; the graziers are, however, held in check by constant arrivals from abroad, of which we have this week had into Hull, by the Hamburg and Rotterdam steamers, 60 head of horned cattle; namely, by the Leeds, 22; Helen M'Gregor, 31; and Transit, 15, from Hamburg; and by the Emerald Isle, 7. The last-named vessel also brought 37 sheep.—*Hull Advertiser.*

REVIEW.

On the Condition of the Agricultural Labourer. Hood's Magazine, No. 11.—Fraser's Magazine, No. 179.

It may be regarded as a remarkable sign of the times, that nearly all the periodicals for the present month have discussed, more or less directly, the condition of the agricultural labourer; far the most important articles on the subject, however, are those which are contained in the magazines we have named in our heading, and we deem it our duty to give some account of both to our readers. Though Hood, like "Poor Yorick," is chiefly known as "a fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy," his "Song of the Shirt," and many of his other productions, prove him to be gifted with the most lively and generous sympathies; even in his humorous pieces we can discover an under-current of deep pathos and warm feeling, which often makes the heart palpitate with emotion while the face is wreathed in smiles. Hood presents himself as the accidental visitor at a small alehouse, where some dozen of peasants had collected to talk over their condition and discuss their grievances. At first he felt it rather a delicate position to be the listener to the minute details and frank disclosures which formed the staple of their gossip, but a little reflection taught him that on this head there was no occasion for scruple:—

"The poor men had no domestic secrets—no private affairs! All were public—matters of notoriety—friend and foe concurring in the advertisement. The law had ferreted their huts, and scheduled their three-legged tables and bottomless chairs. Statistical Groses had taken notes, and printed them, of every hole in their coats. Political reporters had calculated their incomings and outgoings down to fractions of pence and half ounces of tea; and had supplied the minutiæ of their domestic economy for paragraphs and leading articles. Charity, arm in arm with Curiosity, and clerical Philanthrophy linked perhaps with a religious Inquisitor, had taken an inventory of their defects, moral and spiritual; whilst medical visiters had inspected and recorded their physical sores, cancerous or scrofulous, their humours, and their tumours.

"Society, like a policeman, had turned upon them the full blaze of its bull's eye—exploring the shadiest recesses of their privacy, till their means, food, habits, and modes of existence were as minutely familiar as those of the animalculæ exhibited in Regent-street by the solar microscope. They had no longer any decent appearances to keep up—any shabby ones to mask with a better face—any petty shifts to slur over—any household struggles to conceal. Their circumstances were known intimately not merely to next-door neighbours, and kith and kin, but to the whole parish, the whole county, the whole country. It was one of their last few privileges to discuss in common with the Parliament, the Press, and the Public, the deplorable details of their own affairs. Their destitution was a naked Great Fact, and they talked of it like proclaimed Bankrupts, as they were, in the wide world's Gazette.

"'What matters?' said a grey-headed man, in fustian, in answer to a warning nudge and whisper from his neighbour. 'If walls has ears, they are welcome to what they can ketch—ay, and the stranger to boot—if so be he don't know all about us already—for it's all in print. What we yarn, and what we spend—what we eat, and what we drink—what we wear, and the cost on it from top to toe—where we sleep, and how many on us lie in a bed—our concarns are as common as waste land.'

"'And as many geese and donkeys turned on to them, I do think!' cried a young fellow in velveteens—'to hear how folk cackle and bray about our states. And then the queer remedies as is prescribed, like, for a starving man! A Bible says one—a Reading made Easy, says another—a Temperance Medal says another—or maybe a Hagricultural Prize. But what is he to eat, I ax? Why, says one, a Corkassian Jew—says another, a cricket-ball—says another, a Maypole—and says another, the Wenus bound for Horsetrailye.'

"'As if idle hands and empty pockets,' said the grey-headed man, 'did not make signs, of themselves, for work and wages—and a hungry belly for bread and cheese.'

"'That's true, any how,' said one of the water-drinkers. 'I only wish a doctor could come at this minute, and listen with his *telescope* on my stomach, and he would hear it a-talking as plain as our magpie, and saying, I wants wittles.'"

The conversation soon assumed a more serious tone:—

"If the speaker's voice faltered, or his eyes moistened, it was only when he painted the sharp bones showing through the skin, the skin through the rags, of the wife of his bosom; or how the traditional Wolf, no longer to be kept from the door, had rushed in and fastened on his young ones. What a revelation it was! Fathers, with more children than shillings per week—mothers travailing literally in the straw—infants starving before the parent's eyes, with cold, and famishing for food! Human creatures, male and female, old and young, not gnawed and torn by single woes, but worried at once by Winter, Disease, and Want, as by that triple-headed Dog, whelped in the Realm of Torments!"

This general description is followed by a specimen of "the short and simple annals of the poor," as they exist in our day:—

"'The job up at Bosely is finished,' said one of the middle-aged men. 'I have enjoyed but three days' work in the last fortnight, and God above knows when I shall get another, even at a shilling a day. And nine mouths to feed, big and little—and nine backs to clothe—with the winter a-settin' in—and the rent behind-hand—and never a bed to lie on, and my good woman, poor soul, ready to ——'—a choking sound and a hasty gulp of water smothered the rest of the sentence. 'There must be something done for us—there must,' he added, with an emphatic slap of his broad, brown, barky hand, that made the glasses jingle and the idle pipes clatter on the board. And every voice in the room echoed 'there must,' my own involuntarily swelling the chorus."

The "Lay of the Labourer" is then sung in full chorus; it is worthy the author of the "Song of the Shirt":—

"A spade! a rake! a hoe!
A pickaxe, or a bill!
A hook to reap, or a scythe to mow.
A flail, or what ye will—
And here's a ready hand
To ply the needful tool,
And skilled enough by lessons rough,
In Labour's rugged school.

"To hedge, or dig the ditch,
To lop or fell the tree,
To lay the swarth on the sultry field,
Or plough the stubborn lea;
The harvest stack to bind,
The wheaten rick to thatch,
And never fear in my pouch to find
The tinder or the match.

"To a flaming barn or farm
My fancies never roam;
The fire I yearn to kindle and burn
Is on the hearth of home;
Where children huddle and crouch
Through dark long winter days,
Where starving children huddle and crouch,
To see the cheerful rays,
A-glowing on the haggard check,
And not in the haggard's blaze!

"To Him who sends a drought
To parch the fields forlorn,
The rain to flood the meadows with mud,
The blight to blast the corn,
To Him I leave to guide
The bolt in its crooked path,
To strike the miser's rick, and show
The skies blood-red with wrath.

"A spade! a rake! a hoe!
A pickaxe, or a bill!
A hook to reap, or a scythe to mow,
A flail, or what ye will—
The corn to thrash, or the hedge to plash,
The market-team to drive,
Or mend the fence by the cover side,
And leave the game alive.

"Ay, only give me work,
And then you need not fear
That I shall snare his worship's hare,
Or kill his grace's deer;
Break into his lordship's house,
To steal the plate so rich;
Or leave the yeoman that had a purse
To welter in a ditch.

"Wherever Nature needs,
Wherever Labour calls,
No job I'll shirk of the hardest work,
To shun the workhouse walls,
Where savage laws begrudge
The pauper babe its breath,
And doom a wife to a widow's life,
Before her partner's death.

"My only claim is this,
With labour stiff and stark,
By lawful turn, my living to earn,
Between the light and dark;
My daily bread, and nightly bed,
My bacon, and drop of beer—
But all from the hand that holds the land,
And none from the overseer!

"No parish money, or loaf,
No pauper badges for me,
A son of the soil, by right of toil,
Entitled to my fee.
No alms I ask, give me my task:
Here are the arm, the leg,
The strength, the sinews of a Man,
To work and not to beg.

"Still one of Adam's heirs,
Though doomed by chance of birth
To dress so mean, and to eat the lean,
Instead of the fat of the earth;
To make such humble meals,
As honest labour can,
A bone and a crust, with a grace to God,
And little thanks to man!

"A spade! a rake! a hoe!
A pickaxe, or a bill!
A hook to reap, or a scythe to mow,
A flail, or what ye will—
Whatever the tool to ply,
Here is a willing drudge,
With muscle and limb, and woe to him
Who does their pay begrudge!

"Who every weekly score
Docks labour's little mite,
Bestows on the poor at the temple door,
But robb'd them over night.
The very shilling he hoped to save,
As health and morals fail,
Shall visit me in the New Bastile,
The Spital, or the Gaol!"

The author then proceeds to plead for mercy in an individual case, to which and to other parts of this magazine we shall return again, after having examined the general question as stated by the writer in Fraser. This writer pays a high and merited compliment to the exertions made by the millowners and manufacturers of the north of England to increase the physical comforts and raise the moral and intellectual condition of the operatives they employ. This testimony is the more valuable, as it comes from a quarter where the manufacturing interest has hitherto found but little favour; but the writer is one of the few partisans of monopoly who has the honesty and the courage to do justice to a political adversary. The following passage is not less creditable to the writer than to the gentleman whom it describes:—

"Take, as an example, Mr. Cobden, of whom it is scarcely necessary to say, that, as far as he is the principal mover of the Anti-Corn-Law sedition, he is no favourite of ours, and from whom, on many other questions of general policy, we have the misfortune to differ. *We believe that there never lived, in any station, an individual who had more deeply at heart than he has the best interests of his people.* That he takes on all occasions the most direct and, according to our notions, the surest method of awakening a right spirit within them, we are not prepared to say; but we should belie his character and outrage our own feelings were we not to acknowledge that he is just as anxious to raise his operatives in their own esteem and in the scale of moral being, as he is desirous, through their instrumentality, of adding to the amount of his own capital. And the same facts may be predicated of scores in the same rank of life, whom we do not care to specify by name, because they are not, like Mr. Cobden, public property."

The writer then proceeds with fearless hand to tear away the veil with which the so-called protectionists have endeavoured to conceal the sad condition of the peasantry:—

"Time was when to contrast in terms in the highest degree unfavourable to the latter, the social condition of the rural with that of the manufacturing population of Great Britain, constituted a favourite topic with a large class of writers on political economy. Peasant life was painted by them in the gayest and most attractive colours. We were reminded of the free fresh air which was continually breathed by the labourer and his family; of his clean cottage, his neat garden, his tidy wife, his hard-working children, the friendly intercourse which was kept up between him and his employer, and the inexpressible advantage which he derived from the pastoral visits of the

curate. We sat down with him to his frugal but nutritious repast every day at noon; we closed his eyes in a sound sleep soon after nightfall, and beheld him rise again fresh and vigorous for his task at early cockcrow; and when the Lord's-day came round, the respectability of his appearance in church delighted us. Alas! whither shall we turn in search of these things now? Not to Cambridgeshire, nor Suffolk, nor Norfolk, where the torch of the incendiary is still in operation; not to Kent or Sussex, where union workhouses are full, and industrious and willing men struggle to keep clear of them, even though they be offered for their week's labour no more than eight, or, at the most, ten shillings. Not even into Wiltshire, honoured though it has recently been by a visit from Young England and a lordly game at cricket, where one of the most distinguished of the party covered himself with glory. There is no such thing nowadays as Arcadian happiness anywhere to be found within the realm; for the spirit of the poor peasant is well-nigh broken, and all his habits of cheerfulness and order have forsaken him. Who is to blame for this?

"If we have ever been among the number of those—and it is not impossible that we were—who held up the landed aristocracy of England as objects of imitation to the cotton lords, we are constrained on the present occasion to reverse the picture, and to recommend to the owners of the soil the adoption, as far as may be, of a course on which the owners of mills and manufactories seem fairly to have entered. The poor peasant derives no advantages, either physical or moral, from the improvements that are in progress. We get our subsoil plough from Scotland, and send for the inventor, Mr. Smith, of Deanston, to teach our bailiffs how to apply the instrument. We charter ships for Ichaboe, and bring back in them guano wherewith to manure our fields. And landlords rejoice that they see a prospect of keeping up their rents, even if the Free-Trade crisis, so long expected, should arrive; and tenants are glad inasmuch as a largely increased production promises to compensate for the fall in the price of their commodity. But what is done for the peasant all this while? Nothing. He continues precisely what he was. More work is not found for him; better wages are not paid to him. Neither he nor his little ones are directed to improve their minds, nor taught to feel that they have a permanent stake in the country. As yet there is no hope for the peasant. He cannot rise beyond the sphere in which the accident of birth has cast him. No living soul appears to care for him, except at those annual gatherings, when, with as much ostentatious show as kindness, he is paraded before a company of landowners, land-occupiers, and clergymen, to compete for some paltry prize. Contrast this with the behaviour of the millowners at Leeds and Manchester towards their workpeople. See how considerately the latter are beginning to be treated. No middle-men stand between them and their employers, except so far as the necessities of business compel; and in all their more rational amusements the master-manufacturers join them. The consequence is a continuous and steady elevation of character everywhere. For while the poor respect themselves the more because of the companionship to which the rich admit them, the rich acquire habits of thinking and acting, which, seeming to bring them down, raises them, in point of fact, higher and higher in the scale of rational beings. Nor let us omit to state that foot by foot with this wise attention to the temporal comforts of their people, goes the anxiety of very many of the leading manufacturers of England to promote among them a sound religious principle. The places of public worship which have arisen and are daily arising in the great towns vouch for this, and from these, aided by the schools, for which properly-trained teachers cannot be found fast enough, the happiest results are to be anticipated.

"The landowners of England must bestir themselves. They, too, have a great part to play in the national revival which has begun; and if they do not enter upon it at once, and vigorously, their good name will suffer. They must strive to become personally acquainted with the labouring classes round them. It will not do any longer to deal exclusively with the farmers; they must speak face to face with the men who dig, and plough, and reap, and thrash; and enable those same farmers to appear at rent-day with money in their purses. For the farmer has in too many instances abused his trust, and the landlord incurs the shame, and the peasant the sorrow."

In conclusion, the writer gives the following pithy advice to his agricultural friends:—

"There are points which the most virulent of the League orators deserve to be looked at by them as models for imitation, and among these a growing desire to improve the condition of their workpeople, both moral and social, is one. Let the 'Gentlemen of England' go and do so likewise; and they themselves, not less than the objects of their care, will find abundant reason to rejoice."

It is but justice to "Fraser's Magazine" to say that, though from the beginning it has been a very decided partisan of what are called ultra-conservative opinions, it has never allowed politics to narrow its sympathies, or interfere with the integrity of its judgment in literary matters. Men of every shade of opinion have contributed to enrich its pages, and all have found that a wider latitude has been allowed to free discussion than in any other periodical which has worn the badge of party. The article that has on this occasion more especially attracted our notice does not stand alone: in both the earlier and the later numbers of the magazine there occur essays in which earnestness of purpose has enabled the writers to burst the conventional trammels of political party, and fairly to grapple with the grievances which disturb the mechanism of society, and render its workings dangerous or injurious.

"Hood's Magazine," though bearing for its second title the "Comic Miscellany," is one which constantly suggests matter for deep reflection. In the present number there is a tale illustrating the consequences of the game laws, so naturally told that the heart feels an instinctive conviction of its truth. The moral of the story is pointed by a woodcut, which we are permitted to copy, and which forms a

"AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?"

proper pendant to *Punch's* "Rickburner's Home." No words could more effectively paint the iniquity of training a class of men to be the guardians of hares and partridges at the expense of the lives of their fellow-men. A keeper is as necessarily exposed to almost resistless circumstances of demoralization as a poacher. However he may gloss over homicide by regarding himself as the protector of property, he cannot help feeling that a man's life is "of more value than many partridges." The fearful question which Hood has placed under the representation of the slain poacher is one that must suggest itself to the mind of the keeper, who has been doomed to pull the fatal trigger. In estimating the condition of the agricultural peasantry, it is but justice to take into account the corrupting principles which are perversely maintained to destroy the moral sense, both in those who preserve game and those who illegally take it. The keeper feels himself to be a man marked for the detestation of his fellows, and, as his mind revolts against such a doom, he in his turn becomes harsh, cruel, and vindictive. He knows that the bent of public opinion in his village is

"To praise the poacher, precious child of fun,
Who shot the keeper with his own spring-gun."

On the other hand, the peasants feel that they must be viewed as enemies, when armed bands are maintained to watch their secret movements. The evil rapidly spread: the keeper and the poacher come to be regarded as types of the landlord's retainers on one side, and the agricultural labourers on the other. The struggle for the preservation of game thus becomes a war of classes; and history has been written in vain if men have not learned that such a state of things portends woe to the victors as well as to the vanquished.

The writer in "Fraser" fairly confesses that it is owing to the exertions of the League that the condition of the agricultural labourer now engrosses so large a share of public attention. Such a result is in itself a remuneration for the labour and expense which our agitation has involved. The results of protection are stated as broadly by the protectionists themselves as by the most determined foes of monopoly; and men of every party are convinced that "something *must* be done." A system which rendered labour cheap and bread dear has been continued until the value of the labourer has sunk below that of a paltry bird or even a mischievous rabbit; the moral man has been deteriorated as the physical man has been depreciated; and it is fearful to contemplate the solution of Lord Bacon's question, "Where shall be the end?" But this is a question which must be forced by the mere exigency of circumstances more and more painfully on the attention of legislators and electors, until a great act of substantial justice shall strike off the fetters of industry, and leave the labourer free to buy and sell in the world's open market. The monopolists themselves confess that they cannot give employment to the agricultural population, that is, they cannot buy the poor man's toil, though they compel him to purchase their corn. Under such a system the labourer must sink deeper and deeper in misery, until he reaches the point where wretchedness passes into despair. We, however, have strong hopes, or rather high confidence, that such exposures as those to which we have directed attention will lead the public to join with one voice in demanding for the labourer not scanty charity, but substantial justice.

Specimens of English Dramatic Poets. By Charles Lamb. Vol. I. London, Moxon.

Were Juvenal to return on earth, and re-write his Seventh Satire, he might commence it,

"Et spes et ratio studiorum in *Moxone* tantum;
Solus enim tristes hàc tempestate Camœnas
Respexit."

Such was the thought that rose in our minds as we opened the little volume before us, which forms one of a series of poetic gems placed within the reach of persons of moderate means by a publisher who combines a noble spirit of commercial enterprise with a refined and cultivated taste. Mr. Moxon, himself a poet of equal power and sweetness, has afforded the Muses a shelter when banished from the Row, and denied admittance at the West-end. He has rescued the name of poetry from the oblivion with which it was threatened, by bringing out the bards who drank deepest at "the well of English undefil'd;" the writers of our songs and our dramas, which, like Fox's oratory, are all "over English," and which, when we are called upon to take our inspiration from ancient or foreign sources, induce us to say with the patriotic Syrian, "Are not Pharphar and Albama, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the rivers of Syria?" Taylor and Talfourd, Barry Cornwall and Leigh Hunt, have already appeared in this beautiful series, and form modern companions worthy to rank with "Lambe's Specimens," and "Percy's Reliques."

Lamb was among the first do to justice to the dramatists contemporary with Shakspere; and when the second volume is published we hope to be able to take a survey of the condition of English literature previous to its decay under the corruptions of the Restoration. But we have yet to examine a previous volume of the series, Mr. H. Taylor's "Philip Van Artevelde," not so much for its poetic merits as for the light it throws on the character of a commercial hero.

Ireland and the Irish, during the Repeal Year, 1843. From the German of Herr J. Venedey. Translated, and with Notes, by Wm. Bernard Mac Cabe, Esq. Duffy, Dublin.

The first chronicler of the never-to-be-forgotten Repeal Year is the author of the work whose title we have given above. He is a German of the sentimental school. He honestly avows his hatred of almost every thing English; and he is more Irish, if possible, than the Irish themselves. He seems to have been peculiarly unfortunate in the company he kept, or his sentimentalism found little sympathy in the land of railroads and "tall chimneys—the fitting minarets which point out the faith and idolatry of the English;" and yet here and there, through his really entertaining book, he is obliged to admit, directly or by implication, that there are things in which these idolaters may be copied with advantage. He tells us that "in England the spirit of infidelity had descended upon him;" but "a few days in Ireland sufficed to effect his cure." He omits, however, to tell us what his faith was in Germany (he means faith in humanity); but, seeing it so easily quitted him during his brief stay in England, we may conclude that it was not very stable at home; and, now that he has escaped the excitement of monster meetings and Irish hospitality, we suppose this faith of his has settled down pretty much at the point at which it stood before he started on his travels. English readers can afford to smile at these vagaries; and, taking the author's philosophy for what it is worth, will read his book with that interest which a vivid and novel picture of the stirring events of the Repeal Year is sure to excite. He has found a faithful translator in Mr. Mac Cabe, whose notes will be found valuable either as elucidating the meaning, where obscure, or correcting some of the perhaps unavoidable errors of the author—a foreigner. The following particulars prefacing the account of the "Tara monster meeting" will not, we think, prove unacceptable to our readers:—

"From the reports of eye-witnesses, as well as from the statements made by the public journals, it is manifest that never before was there such an assembly of people together in Ireland; and, if the numbers mentioned be any thing near the truth, it must be allowed that never was there in Europe beheld such a multitude collected on the one spot. It is stated that there were 500,000 men assembled, but 200,000 would be an extraordinary number. According to the tickets delivered at one single toll-house—that at Cabra—it appears that there passed through it 700 cars, and 32 coaches; through Phibsborough 321 cars, and 60 coaches; and 300 through Blandcherdstown:—1400 vehicles from Dublin alone! Almost every part of Ireland had representatives at this meeting. The names of not less than forty-two bands of music, belonging to different bodies of teetotallers, were mentioned in the papers, and many of them had come a distance of more than fifty miles. That fact alone will afford the means of calculating the scale on which this festival was conducted.

"The Hill of Tara is, of all the places in Ireland, that which touches most deeply the fibres of the Irish heart, for it is identified with facts on which their feelings are the most susceptible, and can be the most easily moved. Here it was that St. Patrick preached, and converted to Christianity the kings of Ireland; here it was that formerly they elected the chief kings of Ireland; and here, too, it was that a party of the United Irishmen, in 1798, fought for the freedom of Ireland. Religion, the love of father-land, and of freedom, see in the ruins of this hill the most precious relics united. The situation of the place, which can be reached in a day's march from Dublin,

as well as many of the second-class towns, afforded a very favourable opportunity for assembling together a large mass of people."

Herr Venedey had introductions to many persons of eminence, repealers and non-repealers, amongst others to Mr. O'Connell, and whom he has an opportunity of seeing in the midst of his family:—

"O'Connell wore a green coat with a black collar, and over that a blue cloak, which he kept on during dinner time. He begged me to excuse him for not taking it off, having the habit of keeping himself thus wrapped up after he had spoken in public. He kissed his daughter and daughter-in-law, and sat down in the circle. All eyes were of course directed towards him. And, indeed, without either his name or his acts, O'Connell is a man to be of himself the centre of any company. He sat there like a colossus or statue of Jupiter, dominating all. There were the signs of exhaustion on his countenance, but this did not prevent spirit sparkling from his eye, and humour playing round his mouth. Speaking little himself, he encouraged others with cordiality and cheerful smiles. Dinner soon came. O'Connell sat at the head of the table; Mr. Morgan O'Connell at the foot; Mrs. French sat on the right of her father, and Mrs. Morgan on the left; and at either side the guests and other members of the family. Before we sat down, O'Connell said a short grace. It was Friday, and therefore no meat was brought to the table. There was every thing else in abundance, the best wine, and the newest fruits. During dinner O'Connell was always the leader of the conversation, though he spoke little, and only to his children and his guests, to beg of them to help themselves to such and such a dish, or such and such wine. The greatest silence prevailed during the whole dinner, and, at times, I felt a certain uneasiness seize me, such as I had not for a long time before had, and which brought back to my recollection the days of my boyhood. After dessert, O'Connell's grandchildren came in, a dozen of them this day, for he has a great number of them. They each gave their grandfather a kiss. He then took his daughter by the hand, and held it in his for a short time; he gave the other to his daughter-in-law, and thus sat hand in hand with them. There was something solemn in this, which one would not have expected at such a moment of relaxation. When the dinner was over O'Connell said grace, and again kissed his grandchildren, and all the ladies then left the room with them. The whole dinner had quite the character of a patriarchal family scene, and inspired me with more and more veneration for the man—a sentiment which increased every day I remained in Ireland. The conversation did not get quite free even after dinner, and I perceived it was necessary for O'Connell to talk himself, in order to get his friends to do the same. None of his sons spoke save young Dan, just returned from travel."

His views of the relative influence which the Catholic clergy and the people exercise over each other are thus given:—

"The Catholic clergy have become a powerful and a democratic body. It would, however, be a great error to suppose that they blindly lead the people. It cannot be disputed that they exercise great influence, but that influence exists rather in consequence of the people leading them, than their being led by them. The impulse does not come from them, though its direction may be left to them. It is easy to affirm that the clergy have created the present movement, whilst it is impossible for any one to doubt but that partly owing to their influence it is kept within certain limits. That they have not created it could in a moment be demonstrated if they attempted to stop it. They would, in that case, preach to the whirlwind—or if they ventured to affirm that the union was a blessing they would be scorned; and perhaps, despite of the respect entertained for them, they would not be scatheless of all injury if they attempted to say that England had been the benefactor of Ireland, or that England and Ireland were brothers of the same father. The present tendency of the Irish feeling is too consistent with their nature for any aid being required on the part of the priesthood to create it, although their influence over that tendency is frequently of very great importance. It was that influence, for instance, which gradually brought into operation the prevailing spirit of peaceful agitation. In the history of the first efforts of the Catholic Association for suppressing the tumultuous and violent acts of the peasantry, we find constantly repeated admonitions 'to peace and quiet.' These admonitions have at length produced good fruit, 'Honour to whom honour is due.'"

Our limited space will not allow us to do more than extract a curious passage from his chapter on Irish popular literature:—

"There is one work, entitled 'The Life and Prophecies of St. Columbkill.' This Columbkill was one of the apostles of Ireland, and a follower of St. Patrick. His 'Prophecies' are to be found in various editions, and to be met with every where, with all sorts of introductions, additions, and supplements. They date from the time when the hopes of Ireland rested upon Spain, and they were nothing more than an announcement of the liberation of Ireland, first by Spain and then by France. 'Ireland,' say these prophecies, 'will be invaded by Spaniards, Portuguese, French, Turks, and locusts; but the Spaniards will be the most numerous, and have sway over all the rest; then will the bold Kerragh O'Donnell (an Irish family who had taken refuge in Spain), as general, command the Spanish army, while the king's son will be second general under him.' Then, it is said, they will prepare for battle, and the Protestants will conspire to destroy all the Catholics. And all this will come to pass in the time of the thirteenth king or queen from the beginning of heresy in England.* 'And when England finds that its might, and its magnificence, and its wealth will be taken from it, it will offer to give to the foe fifteen parts out of the sixteen, in order that it may be able to enjoy that sixteenth in peace at home. And the foe will refuse to accept such terms. Before, however, these events come to pass in Ireland and in England, the birds in the air, and the fishes in the waters—in the lakes as well as the sea—will disappear from the banks and the shores,' &c. &c.

"These prophecies, which the editor, the Rev. Mr. Taffe, declares he has translated from 'an ancient parchment,' are followed by others; amongst them, by one of St. Patrick, who, in a fit of inspiration, sees that *the fire on the mountains* will, at one time, announce the regeneration of Ireland. Then comes a visit of St. Bridget's, in which she says that 'the people will become abandoned and irreligious, and will fall into want, misery, and slavery, until their time of probation is past, and then God in his grace will again exalt them.'"

* That is, if rightly calculated, under the reign of Victoria I., who is the thirteenth sovereign since the reign of Henry VIII.—J. V.

Map of London.

The proprietors of the *Railway Bell* have just issued a Map of London, which is at once one of the most elegant and complete that has been brought under our notice. It is minutely accurate and perfectly legible; we have rarely seen a more beautiful specimen of distinctness in printing. It will be found particularly valuable as a guide to the different railway stations, a matter of which there are few who reside in London, or who visit the metropolis, that have not often experienced the want.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor *of the* League.

Macclesfield, Nov. 5.

Sir,—I am in treaty for the purchase of a freehold cottage for £130, subject to a ground-rent of 11s. The cottage pays a rent of £8. 18s., which, deducting the ground-rent, leaves a net rental of £8. 7s. I have two sons, both of age, and I wish to know whether, if the property be conveyed to us jointly, we shall all be entitled to a vote for the county? If so, I am determined to fortify my lads with constitutional weapons of defence against Mr. Egerton's retainers.

Will you call the attention of the Lancashire Leaguers to our county. North Cheshire is noted for the good quality of it cheese, and for the bigotry and ignorance of its monopolist squires. Probably, nowhere in all Britain is there greater contempt for trade and manufactures than in the breasts of nine-tenths of the landed proprietors of this county, which owes nearly all its value (for it owes next to nothing to its own agriculture) to the enterprise, skill, and capital of the cotton manufacture. This division of the county may be easily wrested from the clutches of the monopolists, if the Mottram, Stockport, and Macclesfield polling districts will only imitate the South Lancashire people by an energetic attention to the register. I trust the Manchester men, who have so nobly done their own work, will cross the Mersey, and come to the rescue of their brother Free-Traders in North Cheshire. I am, Sir, your obliged servant,

A Subscriber to the £100,000 Fund.

[Our correspondent and his two sons may be qualified together for this property. In fact, any number of persons may be jointly qualified, provided the property yields a clear 40s. a year to each shareholder; and the conveyance may be made in one deed. We commend these family purchases of freeholds to general imitation. Our Lancashire friends will, we hope, pay a visit to North Cheshire;—they need not be reminded that a plurality of county votes, so that they be in different counties or divisions of counties, may be given by the same person.—Ed. League.]

The Belgian Tariff and the Manchester Chamber of Commerce.—We understand that a special meeting of the board of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures was held on Saturday last, at the offices of the chamber, King-street, to take into consideration the impending alterations in the Belgian tariff, particularly as regards the differential duties about to be established on British printed and dyed calicoes; when it was determined to send a deputation to the Board of Trade, to call their especial attention to the subject. The deputation, we believe, consists of Messrs. Leo Schuster, Edmund Potter, Salis Schwabe, John D'Hauregard, and Alex. Glendinning.—*Manchester Guardian.*

Incendiarism.—On Wednesday evening, the 31st ult., a stack, the property of Mrs. Radcliffe, situate at Hoole, was discovered to be on fire. Means were taken to repress the flames, which were successful, but not until very considerable damage had been done. No doubt existed that it was the result of incendiarism.—*Chester Chronicle.*—On Saturday night last, a destructive fire took place in the stackyard of Mr. John Ebrey, of Broughton Villa, near Wem, Salop, which destroyed two stacks of wheat, a stack of oats, and a small stack of straw. We regret to state there is every reason to suppose the fire was occasioned by the act of incendiarism.—*Ibid.*—We regret to state that a fire broke out on Tuesday last, on the farming premises of Mr. R. Phypers, Dry Drayton, a village situate about six miles north of this town. The fire was first discovered about one o'clock, in the stackyard between a barley, pea, and bean stack, nearly the whole of which was consumed, with the addition of a beanstack.—*Cambridge Advertiser.*—The crime of incendiarism has appeared in the East Riding of Yorkshire, two destructive fires of agricultural produce having occurred.—On Saturday night week, a wheatstack was set fire to on the farm of Mr. T. Robinson, at Ellerker, near South Cave. The stack was consumed.—On Thursday, the 24th ult., four cornstacks belonging to Mr. Richard Hornsea, of Wold Farm, near North Newbold, together with a thrashing-machine, were destroyed by fire.—On Tuesday evening, the 5th inst., a fire broke out at Hill-house Farm, Bucklebury, Berkshire, in the occupation of Mr. Hayward, which resulted in the destruction of a large quantity of corn, and several farm-buildings.—On the night of the 17th ult., a diabolical attempt was made to set fire to the cornstacks of Mr. J. Silvester, of Froxfield, but the late rains penetrating the unsheltered stack, and the stillness of the wind at the time, frustrated the design of the wicked and malicious incendiary.—*Hampshire Independent.*—About 1 o'clock on Thursday morning, a cry of fire was again heard in this town, and it was soon ascertained that it was at Flempton, upon some premises in the occupation of a Mr. Cooke, of that place. A large barn, containing the wool of five years' flocks, with a quantity of wheat and barley, was set on fire, and damage done to the amount of between £2000 and £3000. The barn was wholly destroyed, with a very considerable quantity of the wool.—*Bury Herald.*

AGRICULTURE.

THE GHOSTS OF PROTECTION SOCIETIES.

Casting our eye over the newspapers to see whether any variations had occurred in squirearchal advice to over-rented tenant-farmers, we were somewhat startled by the apparitions of defunct "protection societies." The curious will wonder what could induce these shadows of the departed to visit the scenes of their troubled and shortlived being; while those learned in ghostly lore may be satisfied with the fact, that these melancholy gatherings took place on the *first* anniversary of the birth of the respective societies.

The two meetings we allude to were those of the *Cheshire Agricultural Protection Society* at Crewe, and the *Somerset County Protection Society*, held at Bridgwater; and truly the tone of the speakers at both places was lugubrious enough to melt the hearts of their bitterest enemies. Nor was the muster of monopolists less sorry than sorrowful. One short year ago the country resounded with the fervid exhortations of the landowners to their tenantry to put down the League. Squire after squire worked himself into fury by his efforts to convince the farmers that the Corn Laws formed "a tenant's question;" and the Pro-Corn-Law agitation was ostentatiously declared to be the spontaneous act of the tenant-farmers. Everywhere some amphibious farmer—half-farmer, half-land-valuer—was placed in the chair, while farmers were set to move resolutions intended to exterminate the Free-Traders, which were humbly seconded by landowners and monopolist grandees. Yet, even then, every one acquainted with the rural districts were aware that the farmers were only induced to attend these protection meetings by menaces or cajolery.

They were told by the steward, or the bailiff, or perchance by the gamekeeper, that they must go. They had intimation that their attendance, and not their subscription, was required; that the landowners would find the needful funds; and that it should not cost the farmers a penny. No shift was left untried to get up a protection demonstration. We know an instance of a farmer, also dealing largely in corn, who was induced to take an active part in this agitation by an intimation from a landed magnate, that the person who had theretofore supplied his large establishment with corn had not evinced so much alacrity in defence of the Corn Laws as had been expected, and that in future the great man's custom would be conferred upon a more earnest protectionist. The farmer-dealer, though convinced of the impolicy of the Corn Laws, fell into the trap, and eagerly swelled the protectionist clamour; but the anticipated custom has never been bestowed upon him. He is now no longer a protectionist. And this is only a specimen of the way in which the Pro-Corn-Law movement of last year was got up. Based on error and delusion, it was supported by devices necessarily temporary and suicidal. Look round the country, see where the shadows of the protection societies still linger, where the farce of "secretary, treasurer, and committee" is still kept; and inquire "where are the tenant-farmers now?" Echo answers "where?"

This is forcibly illustrated by the Cheshire Society, where the local journals inform us:—

"Only about a dozen landowners were present, among whom were Lord De Tabley, Mr. Wilbraham Egerton, Sir Richard Brooke, Bart., Mr. G. C. Legh, M.P., and Mr. R. E. E. Warburton. Two or three agents were also there, but no farmers. *In fact, the whole meeting did not comprise so many as twenty persons.*"

And, to show the small interest farmers took in the matter, the annual subscriptions only amounted to £47. 2s., while the donations—the landlords' contributions—amounted to £560. 14s. 6d. Of these sums, £50 had been remitted to the Central Protection Society in London, £72. 5s. 8d. expended in local distributions of Pro-Corn-Law tracts, and £178. 18s. 11d. remained in hand!!

Let the Cheshire squires seriously ask themselves whether "the insidious" doctrines of the League have not made vast progress amongst the farmers of their district during the past year, and whether their £72 worth of tracts have not rather helped to disseminate Free-Trade opinions; and if, as they must, they reply in the affirmative, what cause for congratulation have they in the *success* of their movement? Are they prepared to renew their donations? Do they believe they can withstand the efforts of the Free-Traders, which they recognise as "persevering?"

The report, however, having been adopted, the attention of the meeting was turned towards cheese, and the recently increased importation of American cheese—though, in fact, the aggregate quantity of foreign cheese imported had *diminished*—created "some uneasiness." The more sanguine talked of petitioning for "increased protection" on cheese; but Mr. George C. Legh, one of the county members, told the meeting (no farmers being present to be gulled) "that he was confident the Government would never listen to such a proposition for a mo-

ment; in fact, that they would much sooner take off the duty of 10s. 6d. per cwt. altogether than make any addition to it."

They then determined to petition that monthly returns and averages of the prices of cheese should be made and published as of corn. But here a fresh difficulty arose. Farmers won't give correct returns of the weight and prices of their sales of cheese, and had great repugnance to disclose their dealings. For this two reasons were alleged, first, farmers were so bound to factors from being in their debt that the farmers submitted to deliver 120 lbs. and 121 lbs. as the cwt. of 112 lbs.; secondly, that just before rent-day farmers often sold their cheese at "an inferior price" to raise the money to pay their rents, and "they would not, on that account, name the price they sold at." This is not quite the language used by the landowners and their agents at the agricultural societies; indeed we wonder reporters were not excluded, for it is plain that, on this occasion, they were admitted behind the scene. The only practical conclusion this knot of monopolist landowners came to, "after much consideration," was to "strongly recommend a return to legal weights in selling cheese and other agricultural produce." Such is the "lame and impotent conclusion" of the Cheshire Protection Society.

Turn now to the Bridgwater apparition of monopoly. There we find Mr. Wm. Miles, M.P. "happy to say that in eight districts of the county (the whole being divided into nine) *either* that those district committees are formed, or *are in rapid progress.*" How rapid must be the progress, and how eager the haste, of the monopolists of Somersetshire, as indicated in this congratulatory address! He asked the society to "stick by the resolution of the Metropolitan Society for the Protection of Agriculture, namely, that we will maintain—(because it is intelligible)—*that we will maintain* that protection which they at present have." This sentiment was received with much cheering by the squires present, for here, as in Cheshire, there were no farmers; the meeting was exclusively one of landowners and their retainers. Mr. Miles also admits the League is *not* dead, for he said:—

"We are threatened, and I would ask you to look at the papers placed in my hands during the last two or three days. Your adversaries may have ceased for a short period their labours. Your earnest energies in opposition to them may have, for a short time, defeated their projects, *but they are up and doing now.* Your enemies still exist, and it becomes your duty to use all caution."

And Sir Alexander Hood said that they "had met that day to ascertain their strength, and show that they were determined to maintain their ground." We don't think the review could have proved very consolatory. The reader will recollect Mr. Miles's anti-tariff demonstration in 1842, on the matter of horned cattle, which Sir Robert Peel so easily and so contemptuously defeated, though it seems to have satisfied the Somersetshire protectionists; for Sir A. Hood, in proposing Mr. Miles's health, called him "the pillar of agriculture." Let us hear, however, what the real out-and-out monopolists say on the subject. The *Morning Post*, commenting on this meeting, says:—

"Mr. Miles has always 'broken down' *when the moment of pressure came.* He has shown that he understands perfectly how intimately dependent is the prosperity of the British empire, on the action of economical principles precisely the reverse of those on which the industrial policy of Sir Robert Peel is based; and, having thus proved that his deepest convictions are Anti-Leaguish and Anti-Ministerial, *Mr. Miles has always contrived to withdraw his opposition to the schemes of the League and of Ministers, at the very moment when stern adherence to his principles must have worked mighty results in favour of the great body of protectionists.*"

Reader, what think you of that for a "pillar of agriculture," and the parliamentary leader of the monopolists? But that is not all, for the indignant monopolist journalist adds:—

"They (the Protectionists) doubt the faith of all public men, *and they regard as mere shams as the veriest delusions—diversions in favour of the policy of protection such as Mr. Miles affects to excuse—diversions which end in nothing.* By faltering, as he always does, at the critical moment, Mr. Miles plays, in the most effective fashion, the game of the League and of our 'Conservative' Ministers. He displits the Protectionist body. *He aids in inducing in their minds the belief that effort on their part is useless. He furnishes fuel to the ardour of the League.*"

And after referring to an absurd statement made by Sir Alexander Hood of the low price at which foreign wheat could be imported, and the expressed object of the society to maintain only the present rate of protection, the *Post* justly says:—

"They declare, in other words, that they are now utterly unprotected; yet, in the same breath, they proclaim that they will not submit to any reduction in the amount of 'protection' which is, at present, vouchsafed to them!"

Nothing can be more complete than this dilemma. How the Ministerial monopolists escape from it we leave to be discussed between Mr. Miles and the *Morning Post*. In the meantime we will inquire what the west of England farmers really think about this question. At the Sandford ploughing match, in Devonshire, Mr. Tremlett, a farmer, said:—

"He had seen the rise of agricultural associations, and had seen them extend over the kingdom; he had seen gentlemen attend them, and had heard some recommend foreign manures; one advised the farmers to make experiments, and another pressing him to industry—*that advice, he believed, the farmers did not need* (CHEERS)—recommending him to pull down his hedges, and to throw open his enclosures—to drain all his waste land—to prune and thin his trees, so that the sun and air might get into his estate. *But he never heard or saw any of these gentlemen, while advising the farmers at these associations, say anything about an abatement of the present high rents.* (GREAT CHEERING.) Let gentlemen look back to the year 1840, and see what had occurred since, and what the Legislature had done with the produce of the farmer. (Cheers.) In the first place, they interfered with the then existing Corn Laws, and reduced 8s. a bushel to 6s.—he had this season sold a very good sample of wheat for 5s. (Hear, hear.) They had also brought in a new tariff, which had made a terrible reduction in the value of stock—they had brought in a Canada flour bill, which had regularly swamped them. (Hear.) They had reduced the price of their commodities more than 20 per cent.; he could show it in figures. (Hear.) In addition to this reduction on the produce of agriculture, look at the increase of their burdens. *They had a new union workhouse, and a new lunatic asylum* (one solitary and tremendous cheer of "Bravo"); *in the next place an income-tax, and an increase of nearly 20 per cent. on their tithes.* (Hear, hear.) This they would find, on going into figures, reduced their produce nearly 25 per cent. How was it possible for the farmer to cultivate his land in the manner proposed? *It could not be done.* (CHEERS.) He said we don't want the landed interest to give us an estate for nothing; we only want to be able to live! *Only give us a surplus after we have farmed it, and I war'nt we'll farm the estate as a man ought.* (GREAT CHEERING.) GENTLEMEN, GOD FORBID THAT WE SHOULD EVER SEE HIGH PRICES AGAIN—I NEVER WANT TO SEE THEM; CHEAP FOOD AND CHEAP RAIMENT IS THE HIGHEST BLESSING FOR A NATION, BUT DO GIVE US CHEAP RENTS, DON'T GIVE US HIGH RENTS AND CHEAP FOOD! (*Tremendous cheering.*) I don't know that we need to be told we are to improve our lands or farmyards; if we have got a surplus after the rent is paid, I believe we don't want energy and spirit to do that; *but I believe the great secret will be, when the audit day comes, can the farmer pay the rent?* (GREAT CHEERING.) *Will these improvements pay the rent?* (Cheers.) I knew a farmer—a very excellent farmer—who improved his estate, drained his waste land, threw down his hedges, and did all that the most improving man could require; but when the rent-day came, he had spent all his money in these improvements, and had none for his landlord; *and, after all his exertions, he was called on by the steward, and pronounced to be a bad farmer.* (Hear, hear.) *No; we must not improve the land so far as not to be able to pay our rents.* (GREAT CHEERING.) *We must pay the rent.* (CHEERS.) Therefore I only appeal to the landed aristocracy of this country. I do hope that this appeal will be heard by them. (Hear, hear,) Now is the time—this is the day—this is the hour of salvation—the time for the landed aristocracy to come and meet the farmer, and not to let us sink beyond hope; for, depend upon it, if the farmers be plunged into the dust, they will not rise very soon—they will sink, and, if not speedily helped, they will be paralysed." (Cheers.)

This is to the purpose, and it goes home. Landlords know well enough that such are the sentiments existing in the minds of their tenants, but that in the majority of cases the expression of them is suppressed from one motive or another; but the existence of such opinions, and the fear of their finding vent, render the squires very chary of reviving the protection meetings. At agricultural meetings they can, when convenient, take shelter under the pretence of no politics.

MONOPOLISTS! WHERE ARE THE FARMERS?

We frankly admit the monopolist landlords have fallen upon hard times. It is no easy task for those who have promised a law to keep wheat at 56s. a quarter to make speeches to farmers when it has fallen to 43s. In fact, it requires more nerve and "face" than the generality of squires possess. Hence the agricultural societies have been but thinly attended, and have subsided into very humdrum affairs. But, if landlords have been shy of these meetings, farmers are becoming more shy, and with more of manly purpose in their absence than the squires. Thus we find that the last meeting of the *East Sussex Agricultural Association* the company, besides Mr. Darby, M.P., the judges, and the reporters, consisted of only ELEVEN persons. Of course the paucity of attendance formed the main subject of discourse, both with Mr. Darby and Mr. John Ellman, the principal speakers; and the latter indulged in various lamentations at the blindness of farmers to their own interest in absenting themselves from the meeting, where they would be stimulated to "enterprise and improvement." This was too much for agricultural human nature, and we find that Mr. John Ellman was quickly succeeded by his brother, *Mr. George Ellman*, who, as a farmer, was evidently impatient of the lecture which had been read on the absence of his brother farmers. He said:—

"No one can regret more than myself the absence of the influential men. Whether the landlords are ashamed to meet the tenants as a humble body, or whether they are afraid of hearing something that would not be palatable, I cannot say; but I can guess which works in their breast the most. I am sorry that some influential tenant has not risen. I am not a tenant, but a humble bailiff. *The cause of their absence is this—they deem the treatment of the aristocracy of this neighbourhood to be anything but what it ought to be towards them.* I cannot imagine that they can be afraid of hearing any stupid tomfool like myself speak. I am at a loss to know their reason for absenting themselves; *but from what I hear in the market, when they attend these meetings there is nothing but recommendation of great landowners to set labourers to work, manure, drain your lands, but they omit one principal feature—they never tell the tenant how they can afford to pay for it.* I hope I don't give offence by starting this; BUT IT HAS BEEN BROODING IN MY BREAST FOR SOME MONTHS, and I had it from some of my friends, who had more courtesy towards them than I have myself. I feel that the tenantry of the neighbourhood have been slighted by the aristocracy. *It is all very well for the aristocracy to point out what we should do, but the farmers know it is out of their power to employ the labourers. I have been obliged, in pursuance of the direction given to me by my brother, to discharge four honest, respectable men from our farm, not because we have not plenty of work, but because he says he cannot afford to pay; and I have been obliged to obey his mandate, and I am afraid the men are gone to the workhouse.* The grand cause of the farmers not attending these meetings is, that they feel aggrieved. *They will not come to hear only fulsome compliments paid by one gentleman to another at these meetings.* That may please some people, but it does not please us." Mr. Ellman, having obtained permission to propose a toast, gave in conclusion, "Liberal landlords and good tenants."

This is all so strictly and literally true that there are few farmers in England in whose "breasts" such sentiments have not "been brooding for months." A few more such speeches as that of Mr. George Ellman in Sussex, and of Mr. Tremlett in Devonshire, and these politico-conservative-protectionist-agricultural clubs will receive their *coup-de-grace.*

MONOPOLIST BEWILDERMENT.

LIGHT BREAKING IN ON THE LANDOWNERS.

When the scheme of establishing monopoly "protection societies" was broached, we hailed those seeming opponents as the best allies of the Anti-Corn-Law League. Nor have our expectations been disappointed. The farmers as a body are men little given to reading, who entertain narrow views, and who had been taught by their semi-feudal superiors, the landlords, to regard Free-Traders with dislike and apprehension. Though some impression had been made upon them by the Free-Trade meetings, and doubts had been suggested and difficulties raised with respect to their preconceived notions of the effect of the Corn Law upon prices, further discussion was required to prepare their minds for the inevitable change from restriction to Free Trade. This the "protection societies" have accomplished. By their direct efforts in favour of monopoly the "protectionists" have reduced the question to an absurdity, and have exposed to the most unthinking the infirmity of their case, while their indirect effect has been to render every agricultural meeting practically a Free-Trade lecture. Whatever they may say for the moment, every landowner of ordinary capacity sees the game of monopoly is up, and is pressing upon the farmers the argument of the Free-Traders, namely, that upon themselves only must farmers rely for success in their avocation. Some of the most intelligent landowners urge this argument broadly and sensibly, while others betray a ludicrous state of puzzlement, desiring the end without willing the means. Of both classes some examples appeared at the meeting of the *Saffron Walden Agricultural Society*, where Lord Braybrooke, a furious monopolist, betrayed much confusion of mind in reference to the actual condition of agriculture. Mr. Pusey, M.P., on the other hand, exhibited a clear apprehension of its wants and difficulties. Indeed, though Mr. Pusey's votes in Parliament compel us to class him as a monopolist, his speech on this occasion was that of a sound Free-Trader. The preliminary ploughing match and cattle show having been concluded, the chief men went to dinner:—

"The chair, over which was placed the stand with the prize cups, was occupied by the noble president; and at the same table we observed Henry Colman, Esq., the celebrated American agriculturist, at present on a visit to this country; Sir J. P. Wood, Sir John Boileau, P. Pusey, Esq., F. Pym, Esq., the Hon. H. Greville, H. J. Adeane, Esq., F. Pym, Esq., Rev. Professor Henslow, Colonel Hall, C. Barnet, Esq., R. Gosling, Esq., the Rev. J. Graham (chaplain to the society), —— Hammond, Esq., G. Rush, Esq., R. Baker, Esq., W. F. Hobbs, Esq., W. C. Smith, Esq., G. W. Gent, Esq., Hannibal Dunn, Esq. (Mayor of Saffron Walden), the Rev. D. Gwilt, Rev. H. Majendie, —— Solly, Esq., &c. Among the company at the other tables were the Rev. C. Griffinhoofe, Messrs. Frost, Emson, Webbs (3), Hodges, Giblin, Fiske, Smiths, Burroughs, Cottingham, Spencer, Parris, Woodley, N. Catlin, Low, Andrews, Bowsher, Nockolds, Taylor, &c. The Hon. A. Herbert acted as vice-president. The total number of guests was 125."

The President, Lord Braybrooke, in proposing "Success to the society," said the members "must congratulate themselves on the success of their endeavours, and being allowed, under Providence, the privilege of doing some little good in their generation." To those who know how entirely most of our best farmers regard these societies as playthings of the gentry, the idea must occur that his lordship is wonderfully thankful for "small mercies." Except as showing the process by which the landowners and farmers are becoming alive to their real position, these societies are quite useless, and are obnoxious to all the ridicule with which they have been visited. After referring to the presence of the reporters, his lordship said, "the task of those who were expected to address them annually on the same subject became every year more difficult, and he, for one, must confess he felt it greatly."

That this confession was honest we have no doubt; for a monopolist landowner must just now feel that, tick-

lish as is the task of talking to the farmers, the making a speech to be read by the public is still more so. He then said:—

"Unquestionably there never was a period in the history of agriculture when more active hands, honest hearts, and master minds were at work to solve the many problems connected with the successful cultivation of the soil. He had no doubt that these efforts would ultimately be attended with the desired result, *but at present the way was very imperfectly paved.*"

He then went on in a strain of banter to cast some slight on the current agricultural quackery. He also complimented Mr. Baker for having "petrified" the League, a somewhat dubious compliment; and then thus went on to show that the teachings of the League had not been altogether lost upon himself:—

"From what has happened in this county he felt satisfied that the landlords would not be wanting in doing as much as was in their power to assist their tenants. (Applause.) The question was, what was best to be done? but this he did believe—that as soon as the principle was recognised they should have no great difficulty in working out the result. (Cheers.) *He had heard and read much on the subject of leases; but his own opinion was, they were not desirable or necessary in all cases.* As far as his own experience went his tenants had never required leases; *and he could mention an instance of one who actually refused one, and preferred holding his farm from year to year.*"

Now, this is no more than saying he would not make his tenants independent if he could avoid it; but he is almost afraid he must at last do so. As for the tenants refusing leases, that is by no means so strange a matter as his lordship seems to suppose. Monopoly rents and natural prices, though the latter are probably only temporary, do not form a very tempting prospect for the tenant-farmer. His lordship heard something on this head later in the evening. He then added:—

"He must say, however, that he was no enemy to leases—("*Hear,*" *and loud cheers*)—but he did think that where they were granted they should be drawn upon a fair basis, and that if the landlord did his part the tenant ought not to neglect his. (Hear, hear.) From combined efforts of this kind he looked for the best results. (Cheers.) In many instances leases would, doubtless, be of great benefit, *but he was quite sure that a landlord would do a great injury to himself and to the community at large by letting a large farm to a man who had not sufficient capital to do justice to it.* (Hear, hear.) He had seen many instances of men wishing to raise themselves in the world by taking farms upon borrowed capital, and in almost every case the result had been that after the first bad season the tenant began to put less manure on the land than he ought; the next step was to discharge the labourers, and after a few years the land falls into the hands of the landlord. Now, the effect of all this was, that the owner probably lost some of his rent—the land was deteriorated—and the labourers thrown into distress by being deprived of the work with which, under other circumstances, they would have been employed. (Hear.) Let them not suppose for a moment that he was advocating one side only; *but he was fully convinced that a landlord would best consult the interests of his tenant by preventing him from taking a farm which he has not sufficient capital to cultivate as it ought to be.*"

Nobody doubts that a landowner ought, as a prudent man, to ascertain that his tenant has sufficient capital and skill to manage his farm before he grants a lease; in fact, such an inquiry should precede his acceptance as a tenant. But it is the expectation of a high price for a comparatively small produce which has induced most farmers who are so circumstanced to take farms beyond their means; and when that expectation fails, as in the present year, they are distressed or ruined. This is the immediate consequence of the Corn Laws. His lordship then got upon the safer ground of "thick or thin sowing." He admitted that the allotment system was no remedy for the present depressed condition of the labourer:—

"He firmly believed that it was calculated to do a great deal for the labourer, especially where he had a large family; but the most exaggerated produce of a quarter or half an acre of ground would not furnish much towards supplying the absence of employment. *He looked much more for a remedy for present evils to increased employment from the improved cultivation of land.* The more capital there was expended in this way the more labour would be required, and by this means money would be put into the pockets of the poor man, and his means of subsistence increased."

And the company, by their cheers, responded to that opinion. His lordship also admitted the scanty cottage accommodation which exists, and bad state of the actual dwellings of the agricultural labourers. This is entirely the fault of the landowners.

Professor Henslow thought the "difficulties under which the labouring poor of Suffolk suffered *were of a trivial character*," an expression which will not give the reader a very high opinion of that gentleman's sagacity.

The most important landlord's speech of the evening was that of Mr. Pusey, M.P., who, after some compliments to Essex farming, stating his approval of rural sports, and, objecting to emigration as a remedy for the distress of the peasantry, said:—

"But, even then, this was a distant remedy: it would not remove the present evil, or provide for the coming winter. (Hear.) Then they had the allotment system proposed, and on that subject he would speak confidently. He was aware there were objections to it on the part of the farmers: he found it so when he carried it into effect fourteen years ago; but that was passed away, and the farmers, he believed, no longer feared allotments. For the last fourteen years he had had 400 or 500 allotment tenants, and it certainly had answered extremely well. *But still this must be regarded as a palliative; it was not a sufficient remedy for the present want of employment.* that remedy was to be found in the employment by the landlord of the surplus population of the villages during the season in permanent improvements of the soil. *He thought nothing else was worth listening to.* He learned this from his relative, Lord Kinnaird, who, thirty years ago, used to employ a number of labourers in improvements on his estates: he (Mr. Pusey) had done the same himself; and he believed, *if he could get this principle established in every parish, we should hear no more for some years of a surplus population.*"

This is in part true. If landlords generally would set about the steady improvement of their own property, they would relieve much of the distress; but any such general employment by the owners of the soil is out of the question. They are a spending class, and outlays on improvements are strictly accumulations. Besides, after all these improvements, when done, are made once for all, and therefore the tenant-farmers must form the constant employers. Mr. Pusey's plan would, however, do much to relieve the immediate pressure, and so allow time for attempting more permanent ameliorations. Nor would it be so expensive as many landlords suppose, for Mr. Pusey said:—

"*He did not think gentlemen were aware of how far money would go in improvements.* If they had men for 10s. a week for the winter months, for £300 they might employ fifty labourers, and they would not only benefit them but all the other labourers, because, as a little corn thrown in would sometimes spoil the whole market, so if they withdrew these labourers they rendered employment better for all the others."

Neither need there, in most cases, be any difficulty about finding the necessary funds.

"Then the question came, where were the landlords to find funds for this purpose? He knew this country well, and he knew there was not a place from Plymouth to Berwick in which the landlords might not make improvements; but when the tenant was short of money, the landlord generally would be short of money too. (Hear.) *But he would tell them how to find funds. There were many districts where there was a great superfluity, not only of useless but of mischievous timber; and if they would cut that down, which excluded the sun and air and fed on the soil, and sell it, they would benefit the farmer by cutting it down, and they would benefit the farmer and the labourer too by laying out the proceeds in under-draining the soil.* (Cheers.) There was another mode in which they might find money. He knew that on some properties a large sum was spent in the preservation of game. (Cheers.) It was not at all unusual for the game to cost £500 or £600 a year; and if this were given up the money would employ 100 able-bodied labourers in improving the property. (Cheers.) *This was another fund for the landlords of England to benefit the labourers, and the farmers at the same time.*"

Mr. Pusey has, it is said, himself entirely given up the right to reserve the game on his estates, from the conviction that good farming cannot be adopted where game abounds. Even, if from such sources the landlord could not find the means—

"Still" (said Mr. Pusey), "if the landlord did his utmost, he might not be able to find money sufficient for the purpose; *but let him give security to the tenant that, if he will lay out his money in permament improvement, he shall reap the reward of the outlay.* (Cheers.) This might be done by a lease, and it might be done without a lease, for they ought not to lay down an absolute rule, as leases were not universally applicable; and it was not desirable that the landlord should give up the land for 10 or 14 years to a man that was not able to do justice to it. His own experience of tenants taught him this—

'Be to their faults a little blind,
Be to their merits ever kind.'

But without leases there was a plan adopted in Leicestershire, by which they might give security for money expended in improvements. If a farmer boned his land it was supposed that would not be exhausted in less than three years, and if the tenant left the first year he received back two-thirds of the expense. Then if he chalked the land, that was not exhausted under ten years, and if he left it in five years he received back one-half. Therefore, if the landlord objected to granting a lease, he said let him give security in this way for the outlay in permanent improvements on the land."

These makeshift agreements will seldom be accepted by enterprising farmers, but they show the growing opinion of both landlords and tenants that greater security of tenure is necessary.

Again:—

"*There was another source of employment for the population—that was the breaking up of grass land. He had broken up a great deal of grass land himself, and he never repented of it.* It appeared to him that since the system of fatting cattle on artificial food, grass land had sunk in value. *Now, they would see at once the great increase of employment that would arise from breaking up these lands; they might reckon one labourer for 100 acres of grass land, but it would take four to 100 of arable; and thus, if they had 500 acres of grass land, and broke it up, instead of five families they would employ 25 on it, which would considerably relieve the distress.*" (Cheers.)

The preliminary obstacle to all or any of these improvements in the management of landed property becoming general, lies in the uncertainty and false hopes engendered by the Corn Laws. Free Trade is the condition precedent to their adoption. Mr. Fisher Hobbs afterwards spoke, and, as a farmer, told the squires and grandees a few home truths:—

"He fully concurred in everything that had fallen from Mr. Pusey; that gentleman had explained that much might be done for the labourers by permanent improvements in agriculture; he had stated that by this means constant employment might be found for them, *and he (Mr. Hobbs) thought this would do more good than the other suggestions lately propounded to them.* (Hear.) *He believed if the landlords were to view the subject in the same light that Mr. Pusey did they should not see so many labourers out of employment.* But what was the great cause why, at present, the labourers were out of employment? IT WAS BECAUSE THE FARMERS WERE REDUCED IN THEIR MEANS, AND WERE NOT ABLE TO EMPLOY THE LABOURERS AS THEY WOULD OTHERWISE DO. (*Cheers.*) He had been present at various agricultural meetings, and he had perused the proceedings of others, where much was said as to the improvement of the labourers, but nothing was said of the improvement of the farmers (hear); but he believed the tenant-farmers were in a more reduced state than in his recollection they ever were before; they would soon find that poor tenants would make needy landlords; *and if they did not do something to improve the condition of the farmers as well as the labourers, many of the poor farmers would soon have to become labourers on the soil.* (Hear.) *They were now selling their corn at a lower price than they could grow it at.* (Hear.) It was known to every farmer that he could not grow wheat at 50s., and therefore, unless something was done to improve the tenantry of the country, they might expect worse results than they had yet."

Every farmer in the room warmly applauded these sentiments. Mr. Hobbs should have added that, though corn is selling low, rents are as high as ever. This fully accounts for the farmers' distress.

Mr. Baker went at once to the point, saying:—

"They beat about the bush for the cause, but that cause was, that wheat was under 50s. a quarter. (Cheers.) *The remedy was in its again rising to 60s. From 1835 to 1842, they heard of no distress, because wheat then ranged 10s. or 15s. a quarter higher than now*, which enabled the tenants to employ the labourers; and it was only from their inability to employ them now that they came before them as objects of their solicitude." (Cheers.)

Mr. Baker, like a genuine monopolist, sees no hope but in the return of artificial scarcity. This is all very well for a land-agent, but the farmers are beginning to see through these landlords' jackals. Mr. Baker admitted that

"He could not tell them how this was to be effected, *but he trusted* they had passed the worst point, and that they should gradually rise for some time to come—that they should see the labourer in the situation they wished to see him, and that the tenant might be restored to that condition in which every one might congratulate himself. But they must recollect that the transition state was a painful one, *and that while that was going on many tenants might pass into the condition of labourers, unless they were kindly assisted by the landlords.*"

Again he said:—

"Mr. Pusey had adverted to a point he (Mr. B.) alluded to in that room two years ago. He then stated that in going to the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society at Liverpool he noticed the great quantity of grass land, and he stated that if two-thirds of it were put to arable cultivation as much stock might be raised, and four times the number of labourers would be employed, on it. He was still of that opinion. He believed that by the alternation of green crops as much stock could now be kept on arable as was formerly kept on grass land. He happened to be at a meeting of farmers in London a short time ago, and there met a Somersetshire farmer, a Mr. Hudson, and he (Mr. B.) proposed this question to him; but he was startled at it, and it seemed to him next to committing murder to break up grass land. It was some time before he could be got to reason on it. He (Mr. B.) then told him that on two farms adjoining his—he would say nothing of his own—if he came down he would show him more stock where was no grass land than on his farm, where it was nearly all grass; and if he did not he would pay him his expenses. Mr. Hudson said that in Norfolk he would show him double the number on farms under similar circumstances; *and when they came to tell the farmer the amount of stock kept he was quite convinced they were right.* Therefore what Mr. Pusey had said was correct, and it was only for him to advance it in such a society as that to get attention paid to it. He would only add that so long as wheat was at its present price there would be distress, for the farmers could not afford to pay the labourers. A Frenchman had said that, of all the surprising things in this country, what surprised him most was the fact of all the publicans in putting a quart of wine into a pint bottle. (Laughter.) They need not be more surprised at this than at the farmers *paying £400 when they were only receiving £300; for that, in fact, they were called on to do.*" (Cheers.)

The rent is a fixed burden; the Corn-Law-promised price is a fluctuating quantity. We have seen above what even Mr. Baker, of monopolist notoriety, tells of the result.

IRISH FRUIT.—Apples and pears are now imported in great abundance from various ports in Ireland, and take the market in preference to the common sort of fruit from abroad. Irish apples range from 9d. to 1s. 4d. per stone of 14 lbs. Ayrshire bring a little more; but, upon the whole, Sir Robert Peel's tariff has conduced much to the lowering of the price of fruit in this part of the country.—*Greenock Advertiser.*

STOCKPORT MUNICIPAL ELECTION.—TRIUMPH OF FREE TRADE.—At this election eleven Free-Trade Reformers, two Free-Trade Conservatives, and one Tory Monopolist, have been returned. By some even the last is considered to be a Free-Trader, and that he would not have been elected but for that opinion being entertained of him by some of his supporters. He has not, however, as yet given us either a vote or subscription in any way. Such has been the homage paid at this election by the monopolists to the Free-Trade principle, that the circulars convening their meetings have been headed—"Good and Extended Trade." Monopoly would be nowhere in this borough, but for the influence of a few of those nondescript animals, the Tory-Monopolist manufacturers, those traitors to their own valuable order. This being the year when half the aldermen have to be elected, the Monopolists have made the most desperate efforts, but all in vain. We shall have a Free-Trade mayor and Free-Trade aldermen, so that monopoly is prostrate for some years to come. The improvement of trade has added, and is adding, both to the number and independence of the burgesses.

HOSTILE TARIFFS.

(*From the Liverpool Mercury.*)

A rapid review of the progress of commercial circumvallation since last year will probably startle those of our readers who have been led to believe that our horizon was bright and unclouded. Besides the gigantic weekly and hourly loss upon the bread, meat, and sugar of the nation, which the *Economist* reckons so diligently every week, we have to note with infinite concern the certain loss of our Brazilian trade after the present month of November. Austria threatens to join the German Zollverein, if not through the whole extent of her Italian, Hungarian, and Sclavonian dominions, yet to the extent of Austria Proper, an accession of great influence, and which, a few years ago, would have been deemed incredible by our political rulers. Belgium, likewise, has concluded her treaty of union with the same great commercial confederacy; and Holland, Hanover, Hamburgh, and the Hanse Towns, must, sooner or later, succumb, as they cannot long hold out against the pressure of the general movement. With the mediatised princes of Italy the influence of Austria is all-powerful; and it is not chimerical to suppose that Genoa, Naples, as well as Leghorn, Venice, and Trieste, may, in the progress of time, be absorbed in the same great union, which will then possess all the elements of a first-rate commercial and maritime power. We learn, from recent advices, that Austria is fast increasing the quantity of her machinery and her home-spun yarn, and by the aid of her cheap food, light wages, and unlimited water power, she is not unlikely, when aided by railways from Trieste to Vienna, from Venice to Milan, and from Vienna to Dresden, to lessen the price of freight, which is so great a tax on manufacturing industry, until she makes up for the present superior advantages enjoyed by British skill, capital, and machinery, and meets us on an equality. Nor is it safe to trust too much to the superior powers of endurance of English labourers. In England we have sixty-nine hours' labour per week; in Vienna they have eighty-eight hours.

Belgium having long hesitated between France and the Zollverein, has at length joined the latter. On a small scale she is fast becoming what England might have been—the mine and workshop of the Continent in coals, iron, machinery, hardware, cotton, &c. The duty on her iron, in bars and unwrought, has been lowered 50 per cent. on the whole charge, and that upon wrought iron has been lowered to a still smaller scale of differential duties. A reciprocity treaty likewise places the ships of the two powers on the same footing in each other's ports. For the moment, this new Belgian tariff has not created so great a sensation as was expected in the Manchester market, because it happens that the demand for the Chinese market is exceedingly brisk; but let the ports of China be glutted with our cloths (as will infallibly happen), and we shall then feel the bad effects of this permanent diminution in our Belgian and German exports.

The effects of the American tariff are most prejudicial to both countries; perhaps it would be difficult to say which suffers most, England or the United States. Our respected townsman, Mr. William Brown, who is so good an authority on this subject, has too often demonstrated the injurious effects both of the American tariff, and the English Corn Laws, to require us to recapitulate them here. The Canadian smuggling trade is increasing, and although the American woollen and cotton cloths are both dearer and worse than the British, yet the tariff is striking deeper root, and the manufacturers of the North-East States gaining influence every day. The principle of isolation is at work everywhere. It is true we see our exports somewhat increased, owing to transient causes, particularly the demand for China, but at the same time we see hostile principles and permanent causes of decay established against us, which will act with sure and fatal effect when the present term of prosperity is over. In this formidable competition we may, like Atalanta, stop for a moment to pick up the golden apples that prosperity drops in our path, but, by so doing, we shall lose the race.

Railway Speculation.—Railway undertakings, especially in the sister country, are rapidly on the increase. The *Irish Railway Gazette*, a new paper issued in Dublin, is full of details concerning various railway projects now on foot in Ireland; but the editor, who appears to be fully conversant with such matters, while expressing his feelings of gratification at this state of things, and the prospect it holds out for the future well-being of Ireland, gives a word of friendly caution lest speculation should run riot, and defeat its own purpose.

Monopoly Defeated at Horbury.—Mr. Harper, the monopoly lecturer, having announced by large placards that he would lecture on Monday night, the 28th ult., in the large room at the King's Arms, at Horbury, in support of the Corn Laws and Monopoly, the friends of Free Trade at that place determined to meet him, and discuss the question with him. The meeting was numerous, and the chair was taken by Mr. G. Foster at a quarter to eight o'clock, when the lecturer proceeded to address the meeting, but he soon found that his audience were too wide awake for the monopolist; he therefore turned round and avoided the question of the Corn Laws as much as possible. He found himself utterly unable to answer the arguments advanced by Messrs. Quarmby, Burrows, Foster, and the Rev. Mr. Kilner. In order to show the sense of the meeting of the lecturer's conduct and object, Mr. Burrows proposed the following resolution:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Corn Laws are an injury to the labouring classes, and further, they are a national curse,"—which was put and carried by an overwhelming majority; after which Mr. Ellis proposed three cheers for Free Trade, which were given in the most enthusiastic manner. A vote of thanks was then passed to the chairman, after which the meeting separated, having satisfied Mr. Harper he need not come to Horbury to lecture on monopoly.—*Leeds Mercury.*

Defeat of the Monopolists at Ossett.—On the following Tuesday, Mr. Harper convened a meeting in a lodge-room, at Mr. Berry's, innkeeper, Ossett, to listen to addresses in support of the Corn Laws and Monopoly. The room was well filled. Mr. Harper, having been defeated at Horbury on the previous evening, called to his aid the Tory-Chartist West; but, notwithstanding they had beat up the whole of the surrounding district for monopolist supporters, they were again firmly met and defeated by the Free-Traders, who carried a resolution to the effect "That the Corn Laws are an injury to the labouring classes."—*Ibid.*

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

☞ *Owing to a great press of matter, we are unavoidably compelled to postpone the conclusion of "Statistics of the Machine-wrought Hosiery Trade of the United Kingdom." It shall appear in our next.*

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

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POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, November* 9, 1844.

A Manchester correspondent of the *Standard* bears unwilling testimony to the efficiency and progress of the League, averring that the course of proceedings now adopted by the Council is more likely to effect the desired result than the former meetings and agitation. He declares that the plans which have been matured for strengthening the Free-Trade constituencies in counties must lead to decisive changes in the representation, especially as he finds that the Conservatives have become "still and apathetic." He does not venture to explain the cause of this "stillness and apathy," which is, however, obvious enough; those interested in the support of monopoly have already carried the manufacture of votes to the fullest extent, and the disinterested followers of the party are beginning to perceive the delusion that has been practised on them. "I can see no hope of successful resistance to this policy (of the League), unless our friends can be roused to a sense of their danger. *The working men, too, are taking the matter up,* as they are becoming more convinced than before, that *there is some connexion between cheap corn and advancing wages.*" Rigby's algebra is at a discount; the undeniable evidence of facts has shown that the less families pay for food, the more they will have to spare for clothing, and, consequently, the greater will be the demand for the labour of those engaged in the manufacture of the materials of dress. The interest of the operatives in the repeal of the Corn Laws is, even by the testimony of this reluctant witness, so clearly established, that all future efforts to excite the operatives against the League must be unavailing; the unholy alliance between Monopoly and *Northern-Starism* is dissolved, for neither can bring the contingents of dupes into the field, which they had before deluded by pretending to dread a fall of wages.

South Lancashire, according to the correspondent of the *Standard*, is hopelessly lost to monopoly; and he expresses his fears that North Lancashire, North Cheshire, and the West Riding of Yorkshire will share the same fate. Our hopes run in the same course as his fears; we have good grounds for confidence that the measures taken by the League will deliver many county constituencies from the thraldom in which they have been held by jobbing and political landlords, and that the independent voice of purified constituencies will deliver the nation from a yoke which cripples its commerce abroad, and fetters its industry at home.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

France.—The *Moniteur* of Monday publishes a royal ordinance authorising the establishment in the Royal College of La Rochelle, of four chairs—of hydrography, of the theory of naval construction, of the elements of maritime law, and of commerce and commercial geography.

A new species of Temperance Society (a provisional one, however,) has just been formed at Cernay (Haut-Rhin). The beer-drinkers have entered into a pledge with each other not to drink a drop of their favourite liquor until the brewers return to the old usage of making it without any other ingredient than malt and hops and water. They have appointed a committee in each canton to taste the beer offered for sale, admitting that which they find genuine, and rejecting all other.

The monthly table of the price of wheat for the whole of France, published by the Minister of the Interior, makes the average for the last month 17f. 87c. the hectolitre, being a reduction of 12c. upon the average of September. This fall has been almost general, but has been more particularly felt in the departments forming the second section, the regulating markets of which are those of Bergues, Arras, Roye, Soissons, Paris, and Rouen, and in which the reduction is more than a franc.

A fatal duel has just taken place in the environs of Versailles between two pupils of the Polytechnic School. One of them was killed, and the other took flight, declaring his intention to surrender himself when the time came for him to take his trial. The seconds and the surgeon who attended them to the ground were arrested at Versailles, and brought to Paris on Friday.

The Kabyles.—A letter from Algiers, dated the 21st ult., contains an interesting account of the Kabyles, the tribe with which the French have lately come into collision, after a peace for several years. This account is as follows:—"The great chief of the Kabyles is a lieutenant of Abd-el-Kader, named Ben Salem. These Kabyles have their own manufactures of arms and gunpowder, besides those of a domestic nature. They come daily to the markets of Algeria, are very rich, and, it is said, coin their own money. Their country produces olives in such abundance that it is generally believed their crops of oil would supply all the city of Algiers. They are the true aborigines of the mountains of North Africa, and declare that they never had masters, dating their liberty from the beginning of the world. They submitted neither to the Romans, nor to the Saracens, nor to the Turks, and they now emphatically add, with indomitable pride, that they will never submit to the French."

Spain.—This wretched country continues to be the scene of political commotion; plot and counter plot follow each other in rapid succession, and threaten the destruction of all government. General Prim, who was so active in his efforts and intrigues against Espartero, has been arrested for a conspiracy to assassinate General Narvaez, the present military dictator. The Madrid correspondent of the *Times* casts suspicion on the validity of the affair, considering it a mere ruse of Narvaez to draw off men's minds from the reform question now so much agitated in Spain. At Barcelona several individuals have been arrested, and four condemned to death.

Brussels, Oct. 31.—In the Chamber of the Representatives, the Minister of the Interior said:—"Gentlemen,—On the 28th of November, 1843, a plan was presented to you for the revisal of the law of July 31, 1834, relative to corn. This plan has given occasion to a great number of objections. Many petitions have been referred by you to the Government—further discussions have been commenced. We therefore think it advisable to withdraw this project of law for the present. You have voted every year temporary measures relative to the importation of barley and rye; we ask of you the continuation of these measures."—Mr. A. Rodenbach: And for potatoes.—The Minister of the Interior: As for potatoes, it does not appear that any exception is necessary this year; there was none last year. The second object of the project is the re-enactment of the law of June 6, 1840, which permitted (independently of the quantity, the importation of which is authorised by the law of June 6, 1839, the importation at a reduced duty of a further quantity of corn from the duchy of Limburg into the arrondissement of Vervier. A representation of the commune of Aubel has been addressed to the Government, which shows that the quantity, the importation of which is authorised by the law of the 6th of June, 1839, was already exhausted this year at the beginning of September. We propose to authorise for an indefinite time the importation at a reduced duty of 500,000 kilogrammes of corn per month above the quantity the importation of which is already permitted by the law of the 6th of June, 1839. The Minister presented a project of law for the purpose stated by him. The Chamber then entered on the general discussion of the project of law for the augmentation of the salaries of Ministers of the Courts of Justice. After a pretty long debate, the President announced that there was not a sufficient number of members present, and the Chamber adjourned till Monday.

The Belgian Minister of the Interior is endeavouring to obtain the favourable report of the national Chambers of Commerce for allowing English thread, suited to gloves, we believe, to pass through Belgium for re-exportation.—*Globe.*

The Hague, Oct. 30.—Among the petitions presented to the Second Chamber respecting the tariff of import and export duties, there is one from the Chamber of Commerce at Tilburg, in which it is affirmed that the woollen manufacturers are not in general sufficiently protected; that they require to be powerfully supported; and that it is of the greatest importance to the Netherlands that suitable measures should be adopted to make them flourish. It is stated that in England, France, Germany, and Belgium, manufacturers are infinitely more protected than with us; that in all those countries the importation of woollen manufactures, if not wholly prohibited, is subject to such heavy duties that the importation is impossible. The Chamber goes into the subject at great length, and proposes an import duty of 34 florins for 100 lbs. of woollen manufacture.

Russian Trade with China.—St. Petersburgh, Oct. 22.—At the fair of Nishni Novogorod there were 39,000 chests of tea and 60,000 lbs. of copper. The supply of cotton goods was much the same as that of last fair. There was very little Persian silk, and what there was is said to have been purchased for England. Tea was bought very rapidly, though at reduced prices. On the whole, trade was brisk. A great deal of woollen cloth was sent to China.

The Paris *Globe* publishes the following extract from a letter, dated St. Petersburgh, the 15th ult:—"Our merchant navy in the White Sea is at present composed of 455 vessels, all constructed by peasants. The pilots and seamen employed in the service of these ships amount to 1650."

Aden.—Some interesting particulars have appeared in the *Times* from a correspondent, descriptive of this 'key of the Red Sea,' and which some few years ago was taken by the British by a *coup de main.* The writer says:—"Of the 47th, which arrived in April last, about 1100 strong, 40 died, 70 were sent home, and 100 remain in hospital. No acute diseases are here known; smallpox is unheard of; and vaccination will not take, as though nature had implanted discretional powers to adopt or reject measures of alleviation or prevention, as the system might need or could dispense with them. The sickness arises rather from exhaustion and gradual reduction of strength with exposure to the sun, which is not always avoidable. Dropsy and depressed spirits are the prevailing characteristics. In despite of sickness and desolation, Aden has its charms, if the increase in the population of the suburbs may be taken as an indication of such an impression. When first occupied the population did not exceed 4000; it is now upwards of 30,000; and every morning at daybreak you will see from 50 to 200 camels coming into the town laden with the produce of the interior,—provisions, vegetables, &c.,—to console and comfort the otherwise benighted occupants of this extinguished crater. The fact is, the security to property afforded by a residence within the limits of British possession and influence has contributed in no inconsiderable degree to this outward sign of prosperity and thriving appearance."

Dr. Wolff.—This intrepid man has written to Captain Grover from Meshed. He dates his letter the month Shaban 23rd, having forgotten the Christian month from not venturing to keep a journal at Bokhara. He may now be considered as out of the clutches of the tyrant, but he has been sadly plundered of his property, and a promise

has been extorted from him by Nazib Abdool Summut Khan to pay him £2500, in default he will suffer imprisonment in Persia. He attributes the preservation of his life to the intervention of the Persian Ambassador. He states also that Lieutenant Wyburd, who went to Khiva in 1835 on a diplomatic mission, has been murdered at Bokhara. Dr. Wolff had, at Captain Grover's charge, released a batch of Russians held in slavery, for which Captain G. received the thanks of his Imperial Majesty.

India.—The Bombay mail of the 1st of October has arrived. The chief intelligence relates to disturbances in the southern Mahratta country, which has been some time in a disturbed state. Some of the malcontents seized two of the strong hill forts, where they hoisted the standard of revolt against the Rajah of Kholapore. They consist chiefly of Arab troops, who placed themselves under some bold leaders, and bade defiance to the Rajah and his allies. A force was sent by the British authorities to disperse them. It consisted of fifty artillerymen, and troops, amounting to about twelve hundred men, under the command of Colonel Wallace, of the Madras army. An attack is said to have taken place on one of the forts, in which the rebels defended themselves stoutly with their long guns. Some soldiers were wounded on the side of the British, for the hill forts from their position are difficult of access. The British were subsequently firing and throwing shells into the first fort, which is situated about 25 miles from Belgaum. The other is 18 miles further off. The Bombay Government was on the alert in making arrangements for having its disposable regiments ready for any emergency that might arise. Serious riots took place at Surat, on the 29th of August, in consequence of the popular dissatisfaction at the increase of the salt-tax from half a rupee to one rupee (2s.) ger maund of 80lbs. Troops were promptly sent there by the Government, and the disturbances ceased. In the Punjab, confusion and anarchy prevailed. Heera Singh governed at Lahore, in the name of the young Maharajah Dhuleep. He was engaged in collecting a force to combat with his own uncle, Ghoolab Singh, and with the widow of Suchet Singh, the brother of Ghoolab, who was anxious to punish Heera for the late dastardly murder of her gallant husband, Suchet Singh. The government of Affghanistan, as administered by Dost Mahommed, was in the usual state of turmoil; conspiracies, revolts, and skirmishes about the revenue, kept that chief in continual employment. The new rulers at Gwalior, although appointed under the British, are busied in peculations, and in oppressing the Ryots and Zemindars subject to them. The object of those rulers being to gather money as soon as they can, they care not about the means they use for that purpose. It was thought that the British authorities would have to compel them to adopt another course. The advantages of steamers being fully recognised at Bombay, several companies had started for building steam-vessels for the coasting trade, &c. An express had arrived from Belgaum with the following important intelligence:—The Governor summoned the council to meet this afternoon, at Parell. The steamers are in readiness, and it is expected that some European troops will be sent off, as the deputy quartermaster-general of the army has been sent for to attend the council. It is said that the company of artillery that lately went to Surat will be sent to Vingorla, in order to proceed from thence to Belgaum. It is expected, notwithstanding, the forts will be reduced before the Bombay troops arrive.

China.—The news from China comes down to the beginning of August. Trade was dull at Canton, but extending itself in the newly-opened ports.

Cape of Good Hope.—Cape of Good Hope papers to the end of August have arrived, according to which the frontier Boers were complaining of the inadequacy of protection and the repeated infringements of the Caffres, notwithstanding the treaties entered into with the local government. The Dutch farmers, it would appear, lay much of the blame arising from aboriginal aggression to the ready access the natives have had to firearms and ammunition in the way of trade with the British, and they seem to consider that the Boers have been misrepresented here as persons who were only desirous of exterminating the original possessors of the soil for their own exclusive advantage. An active investigation was being made into the circumstances of these atrocities, and the Lieutenant-Governor had so disposed his military force in the neighbourhood as to command the movements of the tribes within a certain distance of the frontier, and trace the guilty parties if they were within the range of his district.

DOMESTIC.

Her Majesty has sent £200 and Prince Albert £100, in aid of the fund for the erection of baths and washhouses for the labouring poor of the metropolis. The poor, it is stated, are already anxiously inquiring at the office in Crosby-square, when the washhouses will be opened.

On Tuesday evening a meeting of the friends and members of the Metropolitan Tradesmen's and Operatives' Protestant Association was held at Exeter-hall. The object of the meeting was not stated on the card of admission, but that card contained this regulation:—"The person using this ticket pledges himself to be governed in all cases by the decision of the chairman." The meeting was presided over by Mr. T. B. G. Smith. The speakers were—the Rev. A. T. Thelwall, Mr. Allan, Mr. Binding, the Rev. H. Stowell, from Manchester, and others; and the speeches and resolutions of the same character as those of former like occasions, deprecating the alleged increase of Popery, and calling upon the friends of the Protestant Association to continue to uphold and multiply them and their operations. The meeting was prolonged from six o'clock until after ten.

Alderman Gibbs has written to the *Globe* to explain that the cause of his absence from the civic procession on Monday week was solely in acquiescence with the wish of the Lord Mayor, who feared that any demonstration of unpleasant feeling towards him might prove an annoyance to her Majesty.

The Royal Exchange will not be opened for public business until after Christmas. Workmen are now busily engaged in removing the decorations used at the opening, and fitting up Lloyd's, the insurance departments, shops, &c. &c.

The *Manchester Guardian* states that there is every reason to believe that the parties who committed suicide at Kilmarnock, under such extraordinary circumstances, were a Mr. Joseph Barker, formerly of Manchester, and his wife. Mr. Barker was one of the firm of John and Joseph Barker, Cromford-court, who were largely engaged in the German trade, and failed somewhere about the year 1814. Mr. John Barker, we believe, died very shortly afterwards; but Mr. Joseph Barker subsequently resided in London, and more recently travelled for some time for a house at Birmingham. This employment he left a few months ago, with a view to a connexion with a house in London, in which, however, he did not succeed; and it is supposed that disappointment on this score, and probably the exhaustion of his resources, led to the commission of the fatal act.

Accounts from Dublin state that a frightful gale commenced there, and along the neighbouring Irish coast, on Thursday, the 31st ult., and continued the following Friday and Saturday. The casualties to the shipping are said to be numerous and severe. The vessels moored in the Liffey were knocked to and fro by the heavy ground swell in that river, and serious apprehensions were entertained for their safety. At Kingstown the sea dashed up to the height of fifty feet, and several vessels were greatly damaged. The mail packets to Liverpool were detained many hours beyond their customary time, and caused much alarm for their safety. The *Drogheda Conservative*, of Saturday, reports a steamer trading between Dublin and Liverpool, with all hands on board, as lost off Lambay; a vessel driven on shore at Skerries; another near Balbriggan; and a third wrecked near the North Bull, at the mouth of the Drogheda harbour. The Shannon, of Whitehaven, was wrecked; the crew were saved with great difficulty, one man perishing.

A large quantity of timber and other things belonging to ships were picked up between Balbriggan and Drogheda; the figure-head of a ship, and a piece of board with the name "Fairy Queen," were found at Balbriggan. Several small craft were more or less injured at Baldoyle, Malahide, and along the coast. A large vessel, supposed to be an Indiaman—but all inquiry proved unsuccessful to ascertain anything about her—was seen in a wrecked condition off Ireland's Eye. The Drogheda Railway did not sustain the slightest damage, although the trees and bridges adjoining the line suffered to a very great extent from the severity of the gale.—A collision took place at Kingstown, between the Capricorn of Liverpool, a West India vessel from St. Domingo, and a brig called the Kingston, which seriously damaged both vessels. On Saturday night the latter vessel caught fire, and was consumed to the water's edge.—Of over 50 vessels riding in the harbour, which had to put in from stress of weather, some were deprived of their jibbooms, bowsprits, &c., but no otherwise material injury had occurred to them. Several other wrecks were also ascertained to have taken place.

On Friday forenoon, about twelve o'clock, a fire broke out in the quiet little town of Strathaven, by which upwards of forty houses, with a brewery and tanwork, were burned to the ground, nearly 100 poor families thrown destitute on the street, and the annihilation of the entire town seriously threatened. The conflagration commenced at the south end of the town, a little way beyond a place named Todd's-hill, where the houses are nearly all covered with thatch, and where the population are chiefly weavers; and the wind being high at the time, and blowing from the south-east, rapidly spread the flames from house to house on both sides of the street, until, in the space of a few hours, notwithstanding the efforts of a body of the inhabitants who turned out to check the flames, forty houses or thereabouts were completely destroyed, in addition to the brewery of Mr. Vallance, and the large tanwork of Mr. Semple, where it is alleged not less than £2000 worth of property has been consumed. It is calculated that from fifty to sixty looms, with webs, principally belonging to Glasgow manufacturers, have been consumed; and it will take a long time indeed before the loss to the operative weavers can be made up.—*Glasgow Saturday Post.*

On Friday night, the 25th ult., a party of young men met at a dance in the townland of Doneen, in the county of Sligo, within a few miles of Ballina. Some dispute arising, they attacked two men, brothers, named Foody, and beat them severely. Immediately after, another brother rushed into the party with a knife, and killed one of them on the spot, by stabbing him in the heart. He also wounded several others, who are so dangerously ill that their lives are despaired of.—*Sligo Journal.*

The Repeal Association met on Monday at the Conciliation-hall, Dublin. A resolution, pledging the association to give its aid in the collection of the O'Connell tribute, passed unanimously. A letter from Mr. S. O'Brien was read, in which he expressed a decided preference for simple repeal; but he was not prepared to reject any plan for the repeal of the Union which should appear to be now practicable. A letter from Mr. O'Connell was read, denouncing Rechabite societies as secret societies, the members of which rendered themselves liable to transportation; and that no Rechabite could be allowed to remain a member of the Repeal Association. The rent for the week was announced to be £289. 16s. 2d.

On Tuesday, whilst a number of workmen engaged in arching over the Glitting Mill-brook at Derby, which they had just completed, while removing the props the whole mass of material fell in, burying the men in the ruins. Six men, one of them the son of the contractor, Mr. Sims, were taken out of the ruins quite dead. The cause of the calamity is supposed to have been the removal of the centres before the setting of the material.

On Friday, the 1st inst., a meeting of noblemen and gentlemen was held at Dublin, for the purpose of considering and adopting measures for the relief of Father Mathew from his pecuniary difficulties; when it was resolved, that it was advisable to raise a sum of £20,000 first, for the discharge of his debts, and next to purchase him an annuity, so that he might henceforth continue his benevolent labours in the promotion of temperance free from all embarrassments of a pecuniary nature.

It appears that one of the soldiers stationed in Wigan recently received 150 lashes for disobedience of orders, in the Wigan Barracks; and although, according to report, "he stood it like a man,"—that is, never winced under the lash,—still some of the inhabitants complain that such disgraceful scenes should take place within the borough.

There is at present a great competition amongst the butchers in Gateshead. On market days mutton and beef are ticketed at 4d. per lb., and, in some instances, it has been offered at 3½d.

There were 966 deaths within the bills of mortality last week; more than had been in any week for the three preceding months, except in one. The mortality from small-pox and scarletina continues to be about twice as great as usual; but it has slightly diminished since last week.

Upwards of 300 engineers, sub-engineers, draftsmen, chain-bearers, and assistants, are now employed, at salaries from £2 to 13s. a week, surveying the lands for the projected railways in the south of Ireland.

About eleven o'clock on Saturday, between fifty and sixty yards of the south-eastern wall of the new market, now in course of erection at Birkenhead by the contractors, Messrs. Fox, Henderson and Co., fell down, with a tremendous crash, burying six of the workmen in the ruins. Three were seriously injured, but no life was lost.

The cost of rebuilding the Royal Exchange, together with the improvements in its immediate vicinity, is stated to be upwards of £400,000. The rental of the Royal Exchange is estimated at about £14,000 per annum. The Royal Exchange Assurance Company is rented at £2400; Lloyd's at £2000; and the London Assurance at £1400.

The Worshipful Company of Grocers have forwarded the munificent donation of £100 towards the fund now collecting for the establishment of baths and washhouses for the poor. Queen Adelaide has also subscribed £100 to the fund for providing baths and wash-houses for the labouring classes.

Fall of a Cotton Mill, at Oldham, and Loss of Life.—At half-past three o'clock on Thursday afternoon, the 31st ult., the new end of a cotton-mill, six stories in height, and seven windows in length, belonging to Messrs. Samuel Radcliffe and Co., fell to the ground, near to Greenacre's-moor Church, Oldham. The building is what is usually called fireproof, and had been erected during last summer. It was partly filled with machinery, the erection of which would have been completed this week. From sixty to seventy persons were employed in putting up machinery when it fell, and, as might have been expected, large crowds of people assembled on the spot after the catastrophe; and the screams of wives and children were beyond description. The other factories in the town and neighbourhood ceased working, and persons began to remove the materials, and continued at work during the whole of the night. On the following morning twenty persons, twelve males and eight females, were got out of the ruins, having lost their lives by the calamity; several others have been more or less injured. An inquest was held on Saturday when several witnesses testified to the fact of the falling of the mill, the gable end going first, the roof and arches following. The inquest was adjourned to give Mr. Fairbairn, engineer, and Mr. Bellhouse, builder, time to make their calculations in order that they might produce such a report as would be satisfactory both to the jury and the public. A public meeting for the relief of the families of the sufferers has been held, and a handsome sum subscribed. Messrs. Radcliffe have contributed £100. The adjourned inquest was held on Wednesday, when Mr. Fairbairn read a report, which entered into full details as to the construction of the mill, and attributed the accident mainly to the weakness of the iron beams which supported the roof. After a short discussion the jury returned the following verdict:—"Accidental death, caused by the falling of the building; and the jury are unanimously of opinion that the causes of the accident are fully pointed out by the able report of Messrs. Fairbairn and Bellhouse." The subscription for the relief of the bereaved families has already reached £800.

Honorary Degree of D.D. conferred on the Rev. J. W. Massie, of Manchester.—The *New York Journal of Commerce* of the 7th of October contains the gratifying announcement that, on the 2nd of that month, the honorary degree of D.D. was conferred on the Rev. J. W. Massie, of Manchester, by the Theological Faculty of Columbia College, Washington, United States. This honourable testimony to the character and attainments of Mr. Massie must be doubly gratifying to that gentleman, from the fact of its having been spontaneously conferred without his cognizance or solicitation, on the representation of several of his warm admirers and friends, who, as citizens of the United States, have not forgotten to honour with just tribute the virtue, zeal, and talents that secured their respect and admiration in another clime. It gives us sincere pleasure also to record this mark of honourable distinction to one who has always been a ready champion of every good cause—the friend of freedom, religious and civil—as well as the earnest and uncompromising advocate of unshackled commerce.

Game Laws.—With respect to the injury done to the maintenance of the poor by the game laws, we must take into account as a subordinate circumstance the heavy expense incurred by keeping a pack of hounds. We were sometime since informed by a gentleman, himself accustomed to hunt, that a certain pack of these animals in this county cost their owner £1000 a year—£1000 a year for the amusement of killing harmless hares, and the pleasurable excitement of chasing them over hedge and ditch, at the hazard of a dislocated limb, or a broken neck.—*Plymouth Journal.*

Poaching.—At the magistrates' office, on Tuesday week, James Rayner, of Marsden, was brought up by Riley, gamekeeper to Captain Armitage, for being with two other persons in pursuit of rabbits, on Sunday morning, the 6th inst., on Marsden Moors. Being the first offence, and the gallant captain not pressing the charge, he was convicted in the mitigated penalty of 10s., and 14s. 6d. expense, or one month to hard labour at Wakefield. [If this be game-law *mercy*, may Heaven help those who are subjected to game-law *justice*.]—*Bradford Observer.*

Midhurst.—A correspondent at Midhurst informs us that "Lord Egmont, the present owner of Midhurst Park, has now laid claim to all the acorns on the estate, which have from time immemorial been considered the property of the tenants, and used by them for the general purpose of feeding their pigs; but it appears," adds our correspondent, "that the tenantry are to feel still further the landlord's oppressive weight, for his little regiment of gamekeepers are employed on the different farms thrashing down and carrying away the acorns to *feed the game during the winter.*" As his lordship has but recently put 10 per cent. on the rents, one would have imagined that he would have been able to keep his game without making further encroachments on the ancient privileges of his already overburdened tenantry.—*Brighton Guardian.*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *TIMES*.

Sir,—My name is Yangfang; I was born at Wangtong, in the province of Quangtong, and I am a distant relation of the poor Keshen that was killed. I learned some English at different ports, as Canton, Macao, Hong-Kong. I came to England about the fifth moon this year to learn better the language, and some of your customs and religion. But I am much confused with those things I see and hear, and must ask your kindness, or some of your correspondents', before I believe, as I am told yours is the largest gazette of these western countries. I shall then believe what you write to me, for I know you will speak nothing but true, and shall thank you for instructions. Pray answer some questions for me.

Do you call our inner land, the flowery country of Cathay, by the name of China? Do you say the needle of the magnet we use for guiding ships in their courses on the great sea points to the north? We discovered it many ages before you knew it, and consider it rather points to the south.

You are Christians by religion. Do you put a tax now on the food and corn for the poor people which is so big that the food cannot come to the poor people? for in Cathay, and all its countries, we are pagans, and worship different gods, which you call idols. I, like most of the other Chinamen, am a worshipper of Budh; but our good Emperor, the Brother of the Sun and Moon, gives a reward to all the big ships which bring in enough rice, or he does not order them to pay the dues of the port where they come, which is a great help to them; this is to make the food cheap and plenty for the poor men; but tell me, do you want to make it dear for the poor men, and very little of it?

Do your good Christian priests give help to make the food dear, that they may get more money, and do they act for our proverb that the full stomach never thinks for the empty stomach? Is it true that the poor really drop down dead for hunger, as I have read in your great paper of news? In our inner land, when people are crying for want, we think it best to give them some work to do and pay them, then with the money they buy the food; but I am told you think it best to give them baths and warm water. In your country is water good for the hunger? Do the kind priests always give the water for the hunger? In our country we and it takes away the thirstiness, but we do not drink it when we want the food. Does the climate here make any difference in this, or is it only in the customs of the English Christian people?

When people are very poor in our land we give them work to do that they may buy the food and eat rice; but you give them what you call charity, or put them in prison, where they must not see their friends; wife must not see husband, husband must not see wife nor children,—is it so? This very bad. Pray, Sir, do tell me if it costs more money to put them in the prisons than it does to let them work and pay for their own food out of the prisons? I think it is in England, but not in Cathay, that the big fish eat the little fish, the little fish eat the shrimps, and the shrimps eat the mud.

But the Mandarins in our country are very bad, and do the people much harm, and steal their food and money, and then they say Mandarin very good indeed to poor man. Are your Mandarins like ours? Pray tell me this plainly, with your own real English honest word.

I hope you will pardon me for asking one more little question. Is it true that you put all your manure and nasty things, not on the lands, but into the rivers? What for do you this? It makes the water not good to drink, but very nasty, and we could not drink it so; but is this why you give water and the bath to feed the hungry people? Let me understand.

In our inner land we save it all and sell it all, even the hairs from shaving the head, and put it on the land to make the rice, and many other things, grow well and fast. Is it true that you send big ships to the other side of the world to get the manure of birds to make the corn grow in the place of what you have, and put into the rivers?

Pray forgive the faults I make in English, and all the mistakes of another land, and give me a true answer to all these doubts which I ask you, that I may tell my countrymen when I get home, which I intend soon to start.

From your humble slave,

Yanofang.

Gloucester-place, Kentish-town.

Cardiganshire Cattle Fairs, &c. — For many years stock has not been so low in Cardiganshire as at present—quite a drug. At Newcastle Emlyn fair last Friday, good 3-year old steers were offering at £5 each, and no bidders. Three years ago, at the same time and place, the very same kind of steers fetched 10 guineas each. Fat stock of the best description met with purchasers at good prices. Sheep also quite a drug. At Capel-cynnon fair last week, most of them were driven home unsold, and scarcely looked at. Everything else at the same fair excessively low. Horses, particularly the best description, found purchasers at fair prices. All kinds of grain are on the advance, about 1s. a bushel. Potatoes also very high, owing to the failure of the crop. Hay is getting up; and fodder is scarce throughout the county, and is likely to be very high. The weather is favourable for sowing wheat, and the farmers are busily employed about it.—*Welshman*

A Question to the Landowners.—Much continues to be said about protection, rents, prices, &c. &c. Now, we have a plain statement and a plain question to put to the landholders. On reference to the Mark-lane prices of wheat, we find the following prices quoted:—Wheat—Essex, Kent, and Suffolk—old red, 40s. to 48s.; white, 44s. to 52s. We refer to the average price of wheat in 1773, it is 51s. 1d.; 1774, it is 52s. 8d.; 1775, it is 48s. 5d. The average price, therefore, of the present market may be taken as about the average price sixty or seventy years ago. This is, we think, a plain fair statement; now for the question. The price of corn is about the same as sixty or seventy years ago; what is the average amount of rents? Are they not double? Are they not treble? Are they not quadruple? Are they not *more* in very many cases? Landlords, you do not condescend to answer us these questions; but if they should be put to you by your victims—by your tenants—as noblemen, men of honour, gentlemen, answer *them* fairly and truly, and they then will see that, whilst Corn Laws have been protecting *you*, they have *not* protected *them*.—*Brighton Herald*.

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. Nov. 2	Mon. Nov. 4	Tues. Nov. 5	Wed. Nov. 6	Thurs. Nov. 7	Fri. Nov. 8
Bank Stock	204	201	[illegible]	206	201	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann.	99	99	[illegible]	99⅜	99½	99½
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	100	99⅞	100	100	100⅛	100⅛
3½ per Ct. An. new	101¾	101⅞	102	102	102⅛	102⅛
Long. An. Ex. 1860	12¾	—	12 1-16	12¾	12¾	—
Cons. for Acc.	100	100	[illegible]	100⅛	100⅛	100⅛
Exc. Bills, pm.	65	66	[illegible]	66	65	—
Ind. Bds. und. 1000l.	66	66	[illegible]	—	—	—
India Stock	—	280	—	287	288	—
Belgian Bonds	—	—	102	101½	103	102½
Brazilian Bonds	84½	85	84	84½	84½	—
Buenos Ayres	37	37	—	—	—	—
Chilian	103	103	—	—	101	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	14½	14	—	14	—	14
Danish	89	89	—	89½	—	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	99	99	99½	99½	99½	99½
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	62½	62½	62½	62½	62½	62½
Mexican	34½	34½	34½	35	34½	—
Peruvian	—	25½	—	—	—	—
Portug. conv.	53	54	55½	55	56	56½
Spanish 5 per Ct.	23½	23½	24	24½	24½	24½
Do. 3 per Cent.	35½	35½	35½	35½	35½	35½

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Monday, Nov. 4.—The supply of English Wheat this morning was moderate, and much of it in inferior condition. The best samples were taken off readily at fully last week's rates, but other descriptions were not disposed of without difficulty, and on scarcely such good terms. There was a steady sale for Foreign at former rates. There was a good supply of English Barley, on which a decline of 1s. to 2s. had to be submitted to before a clearance could be effected. There was a good demand for Foreign Barley from the country, and, notwithstanding the large supplies that have lately arrived, the prices of that article were tolerably well supported. Beans and Peas were scarce, and 1s. dearer. The supply of Oats was short; there was a ready sale at last week's prices.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk Old Red	40 to 48	White	44 to 52
—— Ditto New	40 — 45	—	40 — 50
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Old	40 — 46	—	42 — 48
—— Scotch	40 — 44	—	42 — 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Feed		New	19 — 21
—— Ditto ditto .. Polands		do.	21 — 23
—— Scotch Feed	Old 23 — 25	Potato	26 — 27
—— Limerick	do. 22 — 23	New	21 — 22
—— Ditto	do.	Short	23 — 24
—— Cork		New	20 — 21
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork Black Old and New			20 — 21
—— Sligo		New	21 — 22
—— Galway		do.	19 — 20 6
Barley, New			32 — 39
Beans, Mazagan	Old 33 — 35	New	30 — 32
—— Harrow	do. 38 — 40	do.	32 — 34
—— Small		do.	40 — 42
Peas, White, New			34 — 38
—— Grey	31 to 32	Maple	32 — 33
Flour, Town-made		per sack of 280 lbs	36 — 43
—— Norfolk and Suffolk			34 — 36

FOREIGN.

Per Imperial Quarter.

		Free.	In Bond.
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed		48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.
—— Rostock		47 — 54	
—— Stettin		44 — 52	
—— Hamburgh		42 — 48	
—— Odessa		42 — 46	
—— Ditto	Yellow	47 — 50	
—— Russian	soft	42 — 46	
—— Ditto	hard	40 — 44	
—— Spanish	Red	45 — 49	
—— Ditto	White	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding		26 — 30	— —
—— Distilling		30 — 32	— —
Oats, Archangel		20 — 21	14 — 15
—— Swedish		20 — 22	14 — 16
—— Danish		21 — 23	15 — 17
—— Stralsund		22 — 23	16 — 17
—— Dutch Brew		22 — 23	16 — 17
—— —— Polands		— —	19 — 20
Beans, Egyptian		29 — 30	23 — 24
Peas, White		33 — 36	— —
—— Ditto Boilers		36 — 38	— —
Flour, Canada	per barrel of 196 lbs	26 — 28	— —
—— United States	—	25 — 28	18 — 20
—— Dantzig	—	26 — 28	18 — 20

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Oct. 28, to Nov. 2. 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	6003	6924	972	1109	1078
Scotch	—	—	310	—	—
Irish	—	—	8260	—	—
Foreign	1430	16121	11181	160	30

Flour, 6174 sacks, 45 bars.

Friday, November 8.—The supply of Wheat since Monday has been moderate; there is a fair demand at Monday's rates. The arrivals of Barley, both English and Foreign, are quite trifling. The holders of Foreign have withdrawn from sale much of the recent arrivals, and the quantity offering is, consequently, not large. There is also a continued demand from the country, and an advance of 6d. to 1s. per quarter on Monday's rates is easily obtained. There is more inquiry for Beans from the country, and Monday's prices are fully supported both for this article and for Peas. The supply of Oats is scanty of all descriptions, and buyers are unable to purchase on quite such favourable terms as Monday. There was an alteration in the duties yesterday.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 3rd of November to the 8th of November, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat	2480	—	
Barley	1370	—	930
Oats	60	1720	1000

Flour, 1760 sacks.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES Weeks ending

	Wheat. s. d.	Barley. s. d.	Oats. s. d.	Rye. s. d.	Beans. s. d.	Peas. s. d.
21st Sept.	45 9	34 5	20 5	37 3	36 8	33 0
5th Oct.	46 1	33 9	20 6	37 5	36 8	33 5
12th „	46 3	33 6	20 6	37 10	36 11	34 0
19th „	46 3	34 0	20 8	39 3	37 0	34 2
26th „	46 0	34 9	20 11	39 3	37 0	34 2
2nd Nov.	46 0	35 7	21 2	37 3	36 8	35 1

Aggregate Average of the Six Weeks.—Wheat, 46s. 1d.; Barley, 34s. 4d.; Oats, 20s. 8d.; Rye, 37s. 10d.; Beans, 36s. 9d.; Peas, 33s. 11d.

Duty.—Wheat, 20s. 0d.; Barley, 4s. 0d.; Oats, 6s. 0d.; Rye, 5s. 6d.; Beans, 6s. 6d.; Peas, 9s. 6d.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending Nov. 5. 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat	5426	49s. 7d.	Rye	—	—
Barley	5157	30s. 11d.	Beans	1324	35s. 2d.
Oats	22411	22s. 0d.	Peas	783	35s. 10d.

Stock of Corn in Bond, Oct. 10, 1844.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.	Flour. Cwts.
In London,	122075	93531	39209	—	3143	1205	70317
Unit. King.	846105	196673	[illegible]	—	15006	7001	[illegible]

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, November 1.

BANKRUPTS.

W. CHANDLER, Minories, chemist. [Shearman and Slater, Great Tower-street.

T. GOLDSWORTHY, Clifton-villas, Maida-vale, merchant. [Lawrance and Co., Bucklersbury.

W. BROOKE, Snow-hill, ale housekeeper. [Wood and Blake, Falcon-street, Aldersgate-street.

A. ROBERTSON and L. H. FOLGER, High-street, Shoreditch, cabinet makers. [Messrs. Harrison, Walbrook.

R. OWEN, Manchester, provision dealer. [Gregory, Faulkner, Gregory, and Bourdillon, Bedford-row; Cooper, Manchester.

C. PITT, Bristol, licensed victualler. [Watts, Bristol.

W. B. BRIDDICK, Durham, dealer in iron and steel. [Hartley, Southampton-street, Bloomsbury; Brignal, Durham.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 26. S. E. Welldon, Cambridge, butcher—Nov. 22. J. Harley, Woburn, plumber—Nov. 22. J. E. Bunker, Lower Shadwell, merchant—Nov. 26. J. F. Sporer and J. Miley, St. James's-street, tailors—Nov. 26. F. Sharman, Barge-yard, Bucklersbury, shoe factor—Nov. 26. S. Southey, South-street, Finsbury-market, and Kingsland-road, cabinet manufacturer—Nov. 22. W. Brown, Rickmansworth, auctioneer—Nov. 22. J. Crambrook, Deal, draper—Nov. 22. A. Crossfield, Whitechapel-road, and Leyburne, Kent, scrivener—Nov. 22. W. E. Dray, Heathfield, Sussex, grocer—Nov. 22. R. Cross, Jermyn-street, saddler—Nov. 22. J. Groombridge, Abbey-street, Bermondsey, licensed victualler—Nov. 22. J. Green, Great Winchester-street, merchant—Nov. 27. J. Jones, Stafford, bookseller—Nov. 25. J. Parker, Kingston-upon-Hull, corn miller—Dec. 6. S. Appleyard, Manchester, stuff merchant—Nov. 27. G. D. Thomas, Wem, Shropshire, grocer—Nov. 25. W. Webb, Leamington, hotel keeper—Nov. 25. J. Perry, Birmingham, maltster.

CERTIFICATES.

Nov. 22. H. Rodd, Great Newport-street, commission agent—Nov. 22. F. C. Hopkins, Tottenham-court-road, commission agent—Nov. 22. A. Tregear and T. C. Lewis, Cheapside, piano-forte sellers—Nov. 25. H. Clarke, Sheffield, builder—Nov. 25. T. Sedgwick, Leeds, grocer—Nov. 28. N. Roskell, Liverpool, and New York, merchant—Nov. 28. T. Kemp and R. Davies, Aston nigh Birmingham, builders—Nov. 22. T. Ashley, Lyonshall, Herefordshire, builder—Nov. 22. J. Holdroyd, North Moor, Northumberland, farmer—Nov. 22. T. Griffiths, Stoke-upon-Trent, tailor—Nov. 22. R. Williams, Bristol, butter dealer—H. J. Dixon, Kidderminster, and Aldermanbury, carpet manufacturer—J. Todd, jun., Bury-street, Bloomsbury, ironmonger.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

J. GRAHAME, Edinburgh, wine merchant.

TUESDAY, November 5.

DECLARATION OF INSOLVENCY.

J. JACKSON, Hopton, Yorkshire, farmer.

BANKRUPTS.

J. CLARK, City-road, carman. [Messrs. Tucker, Sun-street-chambers.

G. B. RUDGE and A. J. RUDGE, Gloucester-street, Curtain-road, japan leather manufacturers. [Norton and Son, New-street-buildings.

R. EATON, Featherstone-street, City-road, butcher. [Taylor and Wickings, Finsbury-terrace, City-road.

J. STAPLES, Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, plumber. [Johnson, Walcot-square, Lambeth.

J. B. PIM, Tweed's-court, Great Trinity-lane, stationer. [Buchanan and Grainger, Basinghall-street.

W. HOLBEIN, Upper Seymour-street, New-road, St. Pancras, dealer in flour. [Buchanan and Co., Basinghall-street.

H. BRAGG, Montague-close, Southwark, bottle merchant. [Ashley, Shoreditch.

W. H. FITZHUGH and R. E. WALKER, Liverpool, merchants. [Bridger and Blake, London-wall; Dodge, Liverpool.

M. I. JACOBS, Ashton-under-Lyne, tailor. [Reed and Shaw, Friday-street, Cheapside; Sale and Worthington, Manchester.

T. CROSFIELD, sen., Kirkham, Lancashire, linendraper. [Cornthwaite and Adams, Old Jewry Chambers; Fisher and Stone, Liverpool.

J. CREARER, jun., Coventry, victualler. [Troughton and Lea, Coventry.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 28. J. Cockburn, New Broad-street, merchant—Dec. 6. I. N. and C. Wigney, Brighton, bankers—Nov. 29. T. and T. P. Trapp, Church-street, Southwark, tallow chandlers—Nov. 26. J. Saunders, J. Fanner, and T. H. Saunders, Basinghall-street, woollen manufacturers—Nov. 29. J. H. Loup and G. Godber, Cateaton-street, City, cotton factors—Nov. 29. C. Alderton, Brighton, tailor—Nov. 26. T. Reynolds, jun., Great St. Helen's, Bishopsgate-street, merchant—Nov. 26. C. Newton and C. Worssam, Kingsland-road, engineers—Nov. 26. D. Pope, Fenchurch-street, merchant—Nov. 26. J. Hoar, Oxford, ironmonger—Nov. 26. T. Brand, Stamford-street, Blackfriars, livery stable keeper—Nov. 29. J. Tarver, Daventry, Northamptonshire, iron founder—Dec. 3. T. Miller, Green-street, Leicester-square, baker—Nov. 29. J. Cadbury, New Bond-street, cheesemonger—Nov. 28. C. Sharpe and W. D. Clark, Berners-street, Marylebone, upholsterers—Nov. 27. T. Balls, Thames-street, City, iron merchant—Nov. 27. J. Ball, St. George's-place, Hyde-park-corner, tailor—Nov. 27. E. Foster, Dover, tailor—Nov. 27. J. Thompson, Oxford-street, dealer in paper hangings—Nov. 27. P. Rosselli, Lime-street, City, merchant—Nov. 27. T. Curtis, Totton-street, Stepney, shipping butcher—Nov. 28. G. Hammond, sen., Havant, Hampshire, brewer—Nov. 28. J. Dunphy, Burford, Oxfordshire, victualler—Nov. 28. J. H. Brown, Duke-street, Manchester-square, chemist—Nov. 29. C. Duffield, Bath, grocer—Nov. 29. H. L. Orton and E. Paxton, Box, Wiltshire, builders—Nov. 29. A. Ogden, Spotland, Lancashire, sizer—Nov. 29. D. Thomas, Manchester, merchant—Nov. 27. E. Hilton, Over Darwen, Lancashire, paper maker—Nov. 26. J. Shore, Rochdale, Lancashire, flannel manufacturer—Nov. 28. G., J., and H. Hutchinson and T. Place, Stockton-upon-Tees, Durham, bankers—Nov. 27. W. Hayton, Sunderland-near-the-Sea, coal fitters—Nov. 27. J. Buckton, Darlington, Durham, grocer—Nov. 27. R. Allinson, Whitehaven, ironmonger—Nov. 26. J. Spence, Bishopwearmouth, Durham, dealer and chapman—Nov. 27. G. Brown, Carlisle, draper—Nov. 26. E. Roberts, Oswestry, Shropshire, draper—Nov. 28. T. Carter, jun., Waltham, Leicestershire, butcher.

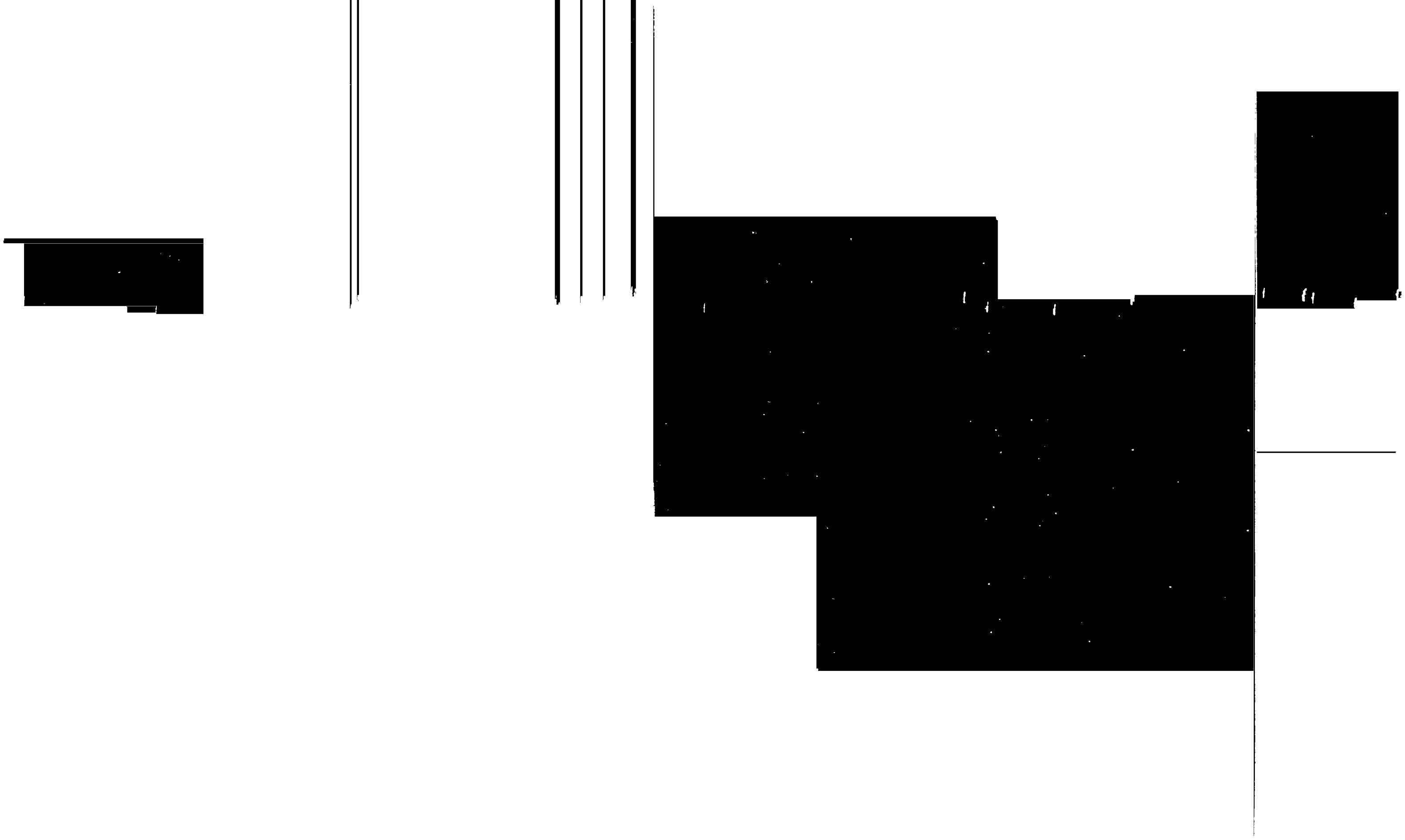
CERTIFICATES.

Nov. 28. H. R. Harraden, Cambridge, printseller—Nov. 27. I. Alden, Oxford, butcher—Nov. 27. P. R. Morrison, Hammersmith, merchant—Nov. 28. W. Bailey, jun., Whitecross-street, currier—Nov. 29. T. M. Monckman, Bradford, Yorkshire, tobacconist—Nov. 27. W. H. Darke, Birmingham, chemist—Nov. 28. W. Orrell, Manchester, commission agent—Nov. 26. W. Wyrill, Bradford, Yorkshire, ironmonger—Nov. 29. R. Hodgson, Bishop Auckland, Durham, mercer—Nov. 26. J. Smith and H. Titford, King-street, Snow-hill, engravers—Nov. 26. R. Jackson, Leeds, engineer—Nov. 26. J. [illegible], Walbrook-buildings, City, merchant.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

W. STEPHEN, Muchalls, Kincardineshire, farmer—J. STEWART, Esq., late of Fasnacloich, Appin, deceased—D. LEIGHTON, Dundee, baker.

London: Printed by Robert Palmer (of Providence-place, Upper Kennington-lane, Lambeth, in the County of Surrey) and Joseph Clayton (of Number 320, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at their Printing-office, Number 10, Crane-court, in the Parish of St. Dunstan-in-the-West, in the City of London, and published by Abraham Walter Paulton (of Number 32, Norfolk-street, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at the Office of The League, Number 67, Fleet-street, in St. Dunstan-in-the-West.—Saturday, November 9, 1844.



THE LEAGUE.

No. 60.] SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1844. [3*d*.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All Subscribers of £1 and upwards to the One Hundred Thousand Pound Fund, *will be entitled to, and receive, a copy weekly of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of The League, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and* addresses *to the Offices of* The League, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* The League Fund *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the League *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

We beg to inform our subscribers that bound volumes of the League *newspaper, containing the whole of the first year's numbers, may be had on application at the Offices either in London or Manchester.*

Persons wishing to be on the Register next year, as Freeholders for County votes, must be in possession of the property before the 31st of January.

QUALIFY, QUALIFY, QUALIFY.

Practical Instructions for Electoral Qualification.

The electors for counties are as follows:—Freeholders, copyholders, leaseholders, occupying tenants.

Freeholders.—The following persons are entitled to vote as freeholders:—1. Any person possessed of a freehold estate for himself and his heirs, or, as it is called, an estate of inheritance, of the yearly value of 40s. 2. Any person possessed of a freehold estate for life or lives of the yearly value of £10. 3. Any person possessed of such an estate for life or lives of the yearly value of 40s., under any one of the following circumstances:—If the estate was acquired on or before the 7th of June, 1832; or since, if by marriage or marriage settlement, by devise (*i. e.*, by will), or by promotion to any benefice or office, or if the freeholder is himself the actual occupier of the property. In any of these cases it is sufficient if the property be of the yearly value of 40s. Parish clerks, sextons, schoolmasters, Dissenting ministers, and holders of offices have a right to vote if entitled to emoluments of 40s. per annum, arising out of, or charged upon, land, and may be registered as voters in the parish wherein the land is situate. The appointment must, however, be for life, not for a temporary purpose, or at the pleasure of any other party; but an appointment during good behaviour is considered to be an appointment for life. If the freeholder occupy his own freehold property in a borough, of such a nature and value as would confer upon *him* the right to vote for the borough, he will not be entitled, in respect of that property, to vote for the county. But if the freehold will not confer the right of voting for the borough, that is, if it be not of the annual value of £10, or if it be land without building, the freeholder may vote for the county, though he occupy it himself. And if the freeholder do not occupy his freehold situate within a borough, he may then vote in respect of it for the county, and his tenant may also vote for the borough. Six months' possession prior to the 31st of July will entitle a freeholder to be registered. And if the freehold lands or tenements should have come to him by descent, succession, marriage, marriage-settlement, will, or promotion to any benefice in a church, or to any office, no definite period of previous possession will be necessary.

Copyholders.—Any person possessed of any lands or tenements of the clear yearly value of £10, whether of copyhold or *any other* tenure than freehold, is entitled to vote. Tenants in ancient demesne may in general vote as freeholders, if they do not hold by copy of court-roll, but otherwise they will be entitled as copyholders. As freeholders, 40s. per annum will be sufficient; but as copyholders, £10 a year is required. The same period of possession previous to registration is required, in respect to copyholders, as in respect to freeholders. Copyhold property within a borough, if of such a nature as would qualify any person to vote for the borough, will not, under any circumstances, give a right to vote for the county.

Leaseholders.—The right of voting in respect of leasehold property extends to—1. Any person who is entitled by virtue of a lease made or assigned to him of any lands or tenements for the unexpired residue of any term originally created for a period of not less than 60 years, if the property is of the clear yearly value of £10 above all rents and charges. 2. Any person who is in like manner entitled to the unexpired residue of a term originally of 20 years, if the lands and tenements are of the clear yearly value of £50. The party to whom the lease was originally made, or a party to whom such lease may have assigned the original lease, may vote, though not in occupation of the premises. Any sub-lessee or assignee of an underlease may also vote, but only when in occupation of the premises. Lessees or assignees must have been in actual possession for 12 months previous to the 31st of July, unless the qualification is acquired by any of the modes before mentioned as excepted; that is to say, by the death of a relative, by marriage, by will, or by promotion to any benefice or office. Leasehold property in a borough, if of such nature and value as will give any person a vote for the borough, will not give a vote for the county.

Occupying Tenant.—Any person occupying lands or tenements for which he is liable to pay a yearly rent of £50 is entitled to vote, if not within a borough, and not of such nature as would qualify a person to vote for the borough. In respect of the period of previous possession required, occupying tenants are placed on the same footing as leaseholders; but it is not requisite that the occupation be of the same lands or tenements: different lands and tenements occupied in immediate succession for twelve months previous to the 31st of July in each year will give the qualification.

General Observations.—Besides lands, houses, buildings, and the like, property and interests of the following description will entitle the owner to be registered and to vote, viz.—tithes, an annuity charged on land, a rent-charge,* fee-farm rents issuing out of an estate in fee; shares in navigable rivers, canals, &c., where the shareholders possess an interest in the soil; tolls of bridges, tolls of fairs and markets, purchases of unredeemed land-tax. Persons who have entered into an agreement of purchase of property, or who have paid any part of the purchase-money, or done any other act in part performance of the agreement, are considered to have equitable estates, and are entitled to vote and to be registered. Joint tenants and tenants in common have each a right to vote, provided the property be of sufficient amount to give to the share of each the value required. Mortgagees may vote, if in actual possession or in receipt of the rents and profits, but not otherwise. Trustees are expressly excluded from voting for any trust estate; the right of voting in respect of trust property is reserved for the *c'estui que* trust. In estimating the value of freehold or copyhold property, the marketable value of the property to let is the criterion to be attended to. If, owing to accidental circumstances, the rent should be less than might be obtained, the property will still give a right to vote. As regards leaseholds, the value required does not depend on the amount of rent. It is to be estimated by the profit which the tenant can make of the property, over and above the amount of rent reserved and any encumbrance charged on the property. The value required is to be "above all rents and charges." Under these words are included all encumbrances affecting the property, but not any public or parliamentary taxes.

BOROUGH FRANCHISE FOR 1845.

In order to secure a borough vote next year, those who occupy premises giving a qualification should immediately see that their names are placed on the poor's rate-book.

A claimant must be rated, or have claimed to be rated, to all rates made during the year ending the 31st of July. If, therefore, his name is omitted from any rate made during that time, he should immediately claim to be rated. The overseers are required to put the name of a person so claiming on the rate last made; consequently, if the claimant suffers two rates to be made before he claims, he will be unable to get upon the former one, and will thereby lose his vote for one year.

No particular form of claim to be rated is prescribed by the Reform or Registration Acts; but the following form may be adopted:—

"CLAIM TO BE RATED.

"To the Overseers of the Parish of ————.

"I hereby give you notice that I occupy a —— at No. —— in ——— Street, in your parish, and I claim to be rated to the relief of the poor in respect of such premises, in order that I may be entitled to vote in the election of a member (or members) of Parliament for the city (or borough) of ————.

"Dated this —— day of ———, 1844.

"(Signed) ————————

of ————————."

Insert the name of the parish, the nature of the premises, as *house, shop, room*, or as the case may be, and the name of the street, &c., and of the city or borough, also the date. The christian and surname and place of residence of the claimant should be inserted at full length. Give the claim to an overseer, keeping a correct copy, on which should be written the date when, and the name of the overseer on whom, it was served. If any poor's rates are due for the premises at the time of making the claim they must be paid, or the amount due tendered. Should the overseer refuse to accept the money, or omit to enter the claimant's name in the rate-book, he will be deemed to be rated notwithstanding; but, if the claimant's name be omitted from any future rate, he should again claim to be rated.

HOW TO WIN COUNTIES.

THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

Few persons are aware how greatly the West Riding of Yorkshire surpasses in importance any other electoral district of the United Kingdom. The superiority in point of population and number of voters will be best understood by a few comparisons. In population it exceeds the following ten English counties, sending 25 members to Parliament, viz.:—

Bedford,	Huntingdon,
Berks,	Monmouth,
Bucks,	Oxford,
Hereford,	Rutland,
Hertford,	Westmorland.

By the last census, the 12 Welsh counties contained a population of 911,603 souls, whilst the West Riding gave a return of 1,154,101. The number of its registered voters exceeds the aggregate constituencies of 22 Irish counties returning 44 members, and outnumbers, in a similar comparison, 28 of the 33 counties of Scotland. London and South Lancashire contain each about 20,000 registered voters; they are next in importance to the West Riding, which, however, beats either of them on the register by upwards of 50 per cent.! These facts constitute the moral power of the two members for this vast district,—a power which surpasses the mere numerical votes of the representatives of a dozen ordinary counties. These, too, are the facts which compel our statesmen and politicians to concentrate their attention at a general election upon the contest for the West Riding, the result of which goes far to decide the policy, and even the fate, of cabinets. It was the election of Henry Brougham for Yorkshire that gave the *coup de grace* to the rotten boroughs, and when, at the last election, Lords Morpeth and Milton were defeated, it was the signal for the fall of the Whig Government. Sir Robert Peel, seeing the whole force of the West Riding triumph, when the new Parliament assembled in 1841, placed in the hands of Mr. Stuart Wortley the motion for an amendment to the Address, declaring a want of confidence in the late Ministry. "It is not long," said the latter in the commencement of his speech, "since her Majesty put a question to the country, and asked them to return an answer that might serve as some guidance to her in the future conduct of her Government. Now, I appear here as the bearer of a portion of that answer, and I hope that, without presumption, I may say I appear as the bearer of not the least significant portion of that answer." Loud and long were the cheers with which the speaker was greeted by the monopolist majority; and well might they cheer, for they knew that whilst the West Riding sent such an answer, monopoly was secure.

It cannot be for a moment expected, by any sane mind, that the Corn Law will be repealed until this constituency shall have so decreed at another election. We do not say that such a decision will of itself determine the fate of monopoly, but no Minister will ever dare to propose the total repeal of the Corn Law, unless he can reckon amongst his supporters both the members for the West Riding of Yorkshire. Its present representation, then, blocks the way to our success, and until this obstacle be removed the triumph of our principles is impossible. Nothing is so certain as that this impediment may and will be flung aside by the vigorous efforts of the Free-Traders of Yorkshire. If any person doubts this, let him take a map of the county and run his eye over the district, from Sheffield in the extreme south, to Pateley Bridge in the north, and from Saddleworth in the south-west, over that chain of populous towns and villages running north-east, and including Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, and Huddersfield, let him count the numbers, estimate the wealth, and remember the spirit and liberality of this great manufacturing community, and then ask himself if it be possible that such a population will submit to be imprisoned and fettered by the squirearchy, who domineer over the comparative wastes and wildernesses of the county? No! such a fate for such a people is impossible; it could befal none but willing slaves. It requires but the *will* to emancipate themselves; the means are everywhere at hand; *our* plan of operations is already known. Let every Free-Trader fortify himself with the constitutional weapons of war, by purchasing a forty-shilling freehold. This is his first duty; the next is to induce his unregistered friends and neighbours to do likewise. Let an active canvass be entered upon as for an election—*the registration is, in fact, virtually the election*—to persuade all who take an interest in the success of our cause to place themselves in a position to aid in the polling booth. Let nobody believe that everything possible has already been done, whilst so much that is absolutely indispensable remains undone. At the last revision for the West Riding, we had a gain of less than 100 upon the register of 30,000 names, whilst in South Lancashire the Free-Traders gained upwards of 1700, upon a register of only 19,000, which was accomplished by a bold, determined, and successful effort

* No registration of annuities or rent-charges with the clerk of the peace is requisite. The 3rd Geo. III., c. 14, is repealed.

to win the county. Whatever can be done in Lancashire, Yorkshiremen can do. The task to which they have to set themselves is to qualify at least 2000 new voters before the 31st of January. Nothing less than this must be aimed at. There are 16 *manufacturing* polling districts; an increase on an average of 130 in each will more than give the required number. This can, and, we have no doubt, will be done. Then there are our friends across the borders in Lancashire, the North Riding, and in Westmorland; we have no doubt they will send their contingent of new qualifications from Clitheroe, Colne, Rochdale, Oldham, York City, Kendal, &c., to swell the noble army of Free-Traders at the next general election. The Manchester Leaguers have, we take it for granted, all qualified, or are preparing to do so, for the West Riding. We tell them, for their encouragement, that Messrs. Wortley and Dennison's stronghold is in the non-resident monopolist voters, their friends and partisans in all parts of the north of England having been induced to qualify.

There is one circumstance of an encouraging kind to be noticed. The West Riding contains a far larger number of towns which have not the borough franchise than South Lancashire. This is especially advantageous to the Free-Traders in the county registration. Those persons who occupy their own property, if of the value of £10 a year, *in Parliamentary boroughs*, are disqualified from voting, in right of that property, for the county; but all occupiers of their own freeholds in Barnsley, Rotherham, Saddleworth, Holmfirth, Dewsbury, Hebdenbridge, and the other unenfranchised towns and large villages of the West Riding, are entitled to be on the county register. It is the only vote they can have, and it is far more easily obtained and retained than a borough vote; for how few can afford to enter upon or occupy a £10 house, compared with those who may conveniently invest £40 or £50 in a freehold qualification, paying good interest! We venture to predict that a very large number of persons already qualified to vote will be found, who have been omitted from the register. We heed not those who, having been employed upon the late revision, declare that every voter is registered. Such reports are mere matters of course. The same was said of South Lancashire this time last year; but the chance contest of the summer roused the enthusiasm of both parties, and led to a determined struggle in the registration courts, which has resulted in an increase of 3000 voters.

One word as to the *modus operandi*. Let not our friends fear giving publicity to their movement. They need not be afraid of rousing the enemy. He is wide awake to the importance of the registration, and has been so whilst we have been sleeping. The monopolists have left themselves no work to do in the subdividing of their farms, and placing their dependants, down to their gamekeepers and park-lodge keepers, upon the county list. They have done their worst in packing the register with spurious votes, and if there be a thorough ferreting of the rural polling districts, as was done in South Lancashire, a thousand of their bad votes may be struck off at the next year's revision. But the important object to be kept in view up to the 31st of January, is to increase the number of new qualifications. To this end the exertions of every Free-Trader should be directed without the loss of a day. Let committees be called together in every borough, town, and village; let each district be subdivided and canvassed; let books be opened for the names of all who are willing to qualify, and a register be kept of any freehold property for sale in the neighbourhood. We may add, as a hint, that we know an enterprising young *lawyer*, in Lancashire, who, through his own exertions in finding qualifications, has been employed in preparing the title deeds for upwards of 100 freeholds since the contest for that county. We trust there are as good lawyers as he in Yorkshire.

Men of the West Riding! Yours is a proud pre-eminence. The country looks up to you for a sign of its deliverance. Yours will in all probability be the casting vote, for or against Monopoly. Your verdict will be potent to set free our industry, or to rivet more closely its fetters. How say you, gentlemen, is Monopoly guilty or not guilty? A nation awaits your decision at the polling booth.

QUALIFY, QUALIFY, QUALIFY!

FALSE PUBLIC MORALITY—ALMS *versus* JUSTICE.

The subject of allotments still occupies the provincial press; but we think we can perceive a disposition on the part of the more crafty of the monopolist writers to shirk the controversy by changing the question at issue into one of *gardens or no gardens for the poor*. They are afraid of their own nostrum. "We have pill-box No. 1, where is No. 2," was cuttingly remarked by the *Times*, and we have no doubt that another and another will be produced for the amusement, if not cure, of the national patient. But our business is with No. 1. It is not true that the allotment system, as put forth by the monopolist party, meant only cottage gardens for the agricultural labourers. No man in his senses would oppose the attaching gardens to cottages: nay, it will surprise many of our town readers to learn that, as a rule, such a convenience is not enjoyed by every peasant householder in England. There is no controversy about cottage gardens. The real question which we have to deal with is, how to furnish employment and subsistence for a distressed population. *That* was the question which drew the 700 persons together at the Highworth meeting, and it was with strict reference to this object that Lord Radnor declared himself in favour of the abolition of the Corn Law, and against the allotment system. His lordship at the same time vindicated the right of the owners of land to dispose of their property at its full market value—a principle, by the way, already acted on so universally, that land varies in price more than any other commodity, according to the adventitious circumstances which determine its value, from the plot at the Royal Exchange worth £20 a square yard, to the allotment at Highworth paying a rent of 4d. a "lug;" and for this avowal of a doctrine which every body follows in practice, and which is indispensable alike to the rights of property and the independence of the labourer, he has brought down upon himself a full measure of that obloquy which always awaits the man who encounters a pleasant popular delusion with a disagreeable truth. "Most abominable!" cries the *Post;* "What a principle!" ejaculates the *Chronicle;* while the *Examiner*, we are sorry to add—a journal usually foremost to mark and correct the aberrations of public opinion and morality—criticises the speech in two successive weeks' articles, in which such epithets as "screw-driving," "griping," "inhumanity," and "tyrant" are applied, directly or by implication, to the speaker and his doctrines; and the attempt to enlighten the poor labourers on the real facts of their condition, and the causes and remedies of their distress, is stigmatized as "pedantic prating."

We do not recur to this subject—which may now, perhaps, be regarded as pretty well worn out—with any especial purpose of defending Lord Radnor. Such defence as may be deemed necessary to vindicate, from the charge of inhumanity and tyranny, the acts or words of a man who has laboured through a lifetime in the cause of the people, has been already more than sufficiently supplied by his lordship's manly and straightforward letter to the *Examiner*, given by our contemporary last week. But we cannot be satisfied to let this matter drop out of public notice, without entering our protest against the false moralities to which the recent attacks on the Highworth speech have given sanction and currency. In the bitter and unsparing censure directed against Lord Radnor, by the press, for the offence of refusing to adopt a particular description of almsgiving as a rule in the management of his property; in the fact that Lord Radnor, with all his substantial claims on public esteem and honour, has brought upon himself a not small share of temporary unpopularity, by speaking a few plain, unsentimental truths in season, while others of his order, with not one-hundredth part of his title to the people's confidence, are lauded to the skies as pattern-philanthropists, at the very moment that they have their hands in the poor man's pocket;—in this we see the signs of a radically false public morality, a purblind intelligence and perverted conscience, which is a greater public evil than even the Corn Law itself, for it is the element in which Corn Laws and all other iniquities live and thrive. Any injustice which newspaper criticism may do to Lord Radnor is an affair of very secondary importance: the way of thinking, on the part of newspaper writers and the portion of the public represented by them, which prompts and sanctions injustice is an evil of first-class magnitude. The peer who tells peasants, in a clear, strong way, the real facts of their condition, traces their distress to the iniquitous and sordid legislation of his own order, and refuses to have anything to do with wretched patchwork expedients which, while *that* lasts, can only tend (as he believes) to increase the mischief, is denounced as little better than a monster. The peer who taxes peasants in their food, and (the proceeds of the extortion jingling the while in his pocket) plays cricket with them and drinks their health, is extolled as a philanthropist. We accept a little bad bowling, or a ten-hours bill, as a composition in lieu of justice, and an atonement for robbery. Too truly is it said, by a weekly literary critic, in the number of the *Examiner* containing the first of the articles we have alluded to, "*The character of* PECKSNIFF *is emphatically English:* not that Englishmen are Pecksniffs, but that *the ruling weakness is to countenance and encourage the race.*"

What is the ground of the odium sought, by our contemporaries, to be heaped on Lord Radnor?

Simply, that Lord Radnor declines to make a practice of letting his land on charity; refuses to adopt almsgiving as his rule in the management of his estates; stating, at the same time, special reasons for believing the particular mode of almsgiving in question to be ineffectual and mischievous.

The principle which it is attempted to fasten on Lord Radnor and other owners of land, would strike every one as outrageously absurd if applied to any other class of proprietors. We do not require a merchant or shopkeeper to show his charity, by advertising a promise to carry on his mercantile concerns on other than the mercantile principle—nor raise the cry of cruelty and hardheartedness against the baker who declines selling loaves for sixpence when he might get sevenpence. If the baker is charitably disposed, he may give away a loaf to a poor man privately; and if the prosperous trader feels the obligation of ministering from his abundance to the needs of poverty, he does it, not by renouncing or curtailing the profits of his trade, but by appropriating a per centage of them after they are realized. Why set up a different rule for the landowner's charities? If the landed proprietor be desirous of assigning to eleemosynary purposes a portion of the rents which his land will fetch in the land market—"making a present" to the poor of the parish "of the difference" between the market price and the charity price of land—he can do so, without introducing a new, uncertain, and most dangerous principle into the land-letting line of business: he may receive his rents publicly, in the way of business, and distribute a portion of the proceeds privately, in the way of charity.

For our own part, we see not what else he could do, on system. Now, suppose Lord Radnor did make a rule of accepting low bids in preference to high ones, and giving the difference as a present, what would follow? First, on what principle—the business principle being renounced—would he be governed in his selection of charity tenants? Probably by the rule of *the greater destitution*. Superior poverty would be the tenant test—a large family being, of course, taken as constituting a main element of the poverty required; which would immediately let in a potent inducement to that most dangerous and fatal form of pauper improvidence—reckless marriages. Under the new allotment system, as under the old poor-law system, the "burden" of a large family would be a passport to privileges and comforts unattainable by prudent, self-supporting celibacy. Or, perhaps, the distribution would be by the rule of *religious and moral character*, certified by the clergyman and churchwardens of the parish;—a fair-seeming device for inundating the parish with knavery, hypocrisy, servility, and cant. And then, what is to be done with the rejected, disappointed, and exasperated highest bidder?—the very fact of the existence of competition showing, be it always remembered, that a surplus of unsatisfied applicants will remain, after the favoured lowest bidders are provided for. Is he to go landless till he has acquired the due qualification for pauper landholding—a starving pauper progeny? Is he to have an equivalent for the land that is refused him, in a grant from the landlord's private purse? Or is it to be made up to him out of the rates, in the shape of a more liberal scale of out-door parish pay? Or shall every parish have its pair of pauper factions—the faction of landlords' favourites, and the faction of rejected candidates for landlord favours—with all the feuds and jealousies, the envy, hatred, and malice, the mutual bickerings and worryings, possibly the faction fights and murders, which such a state of things would but too naturally bring forth. Take it how we will, we can see nothing in this charity-allotment system, at its best, but a dubious and transient palliative for the ills of the labourer's condition—founded on the most dangerous of principles—and tending ultimately both to the increase of all existing evils, and the creation of new and worse ones.

And it is for refusing to adopt this system of administering his property, and publicly justifying his refusal on its plain, true grounds, that Lord Radnor is to be lectured for hardhearted principles and screw-driving doctrines. The *Examiner* of last Saturday says, that his lordship's Highworth speech

"Was a speech *of bad example*, for, whatever his practice to the contrary may be, his speech would serve for a sanction of the screw-driving of every griping landlord.

"*There is not a Tory landlord in the United Kingdom who durst have uttered such a speech*, however it may have squared with his practice and with his ideas, excepting only the few words about Free Trade. In saying this we do not mean to imply that the Tory landlords are generally severe and rapacious; *there are many kind and just men amongst them;* but amongst them also have been oppressors, who have asserted their right to make merciless use of their powers of property, as 'doing what they would with their own.' Had one of those men uttered the speech delivered by Lord Radnor, omitting only the allusions to Free Trade, the whole country would have rung with the expressions of disgust and abhorrence, and it would have been agreed that the tyrant's old offence of the claim 'to do as he willed with his own' was immeasurably surpassed."

We quite agree with the *Examiner* that no contemplating landlord, Tory or Whig, "durst have uttered such a speech" as that which Lord Radnor addressed to the Highworth labourers. Lord Radnor dared it, precisely because he is not of this school of landlordism. It is the privilege and reward of a life of public honesty and justice, that it enables a man to

"dare" many things from which he would else shrink; in particular, it gives him daring to speak disagreeable and unpalatable truths to his fellow-citizens. Lord Radnor, by his upright and straightforward political course, has earned the right to "dare" to set himself against a popular delusion, and announce, broadly and freely, an unpopular conviction. He can look the poor man in the face, and tell him roundly that systematic almsgiving, under the name of "allotments at fair rents," is not the remedy for the poor man's distress, and that, whatever others may do, he will be no party to the experiment. He can tell the poor man this, with a plainness that critics call hardhearted, for he is not of those who make the poor man poorer still, by blocking up his industry and taking toll on his wages. He can expound to a labourers' meeting the rights of property, for he has never legislated against the rights of labour. He can set his face against all the miserable expedients of the philanthropy that substitutes alms for justice, for his own hands are clean of injustice. The difference which seems so much to surprise the *Examiner* between the daring of Lord Radnor and the daring of "Tory landlords" is a most legitimate and natural difference: the "allusions to Free Trade" (which, by the way, was not "alluded to"—it was the very business of the meeting) furnish an adequate explanation of this piece of lordly and landowning daring. The right and power to tell the people truths which they do not like—the most precious of all the rewards that wait on public integrity and consistency—are the well-earned meed of Lord Radnor's political career.

The epithets of "kind and just" applied by our contemporary to a certain class of Tory landlords afford a notable instance of that false public morality, that want of keeping and proportion in the distribution of praise and blame, against which we are protesting. "Kind and just" are the men who use their legislative power to put money in their own pockets; who clutch a per centage out of the revenues of destitution to add a trifle to their own superfluities; who tax hungry and toiling labour to grace their own idleness with extra luxuries; whom not even national distress, wide and deep as that of the years from 1838 to 1842, can move to relax their hold: they may be greedy as Midas, and obdurate as Pharaoh, still they are "kind" when they play cricket matches with labourers, and "just" when they remit to farmers some ten or twenty per cent. of the rents which their own legislation has pushed up unnaturally high. "Kind and just" is the *Examiner's* designation of men on whose virtues, whatever these may be, there is always this drawback—that they pinch poverty, tax starvation, and oppress and plunder industry:—while "screw-driving," "griping," "pedantic prating," and so forth, are bestowed on the man whose first object, throughout a long public life, has been to undo the wrongs which his order have inflicted on the community; who shows his sympathy with the poor, by seeking to emancipate their industry and untax their bread; and, not the smallest of his public services, by exposing the true nature of those wretched and equivocal makeshifts, those pitiful beggars' "boons," which landlordism tenders them in lieu of justice. We regard all this, to use the *Examiner's* phrase, as decidedly "of bad example." To the way of thinking, feeling, and speaking of public men and their acts, which the recent attacks of the press on Lord Radnor tend to foster and confirm, we English people owe our Pecksniffs. The race will continue to thrive so long as there is a public opinion to cry "most abominable" and the like on an honest man who declines publicly, as all do privately, parting with his property under market price, and to fall into ecstasies with the philanthropy which legislates to raise food above market price. A people that compounds felony in consideration of philanthropy and cricket, and will bear being robbed more quietly than being refused alms—a people that rapturously cheers amiable and well-meaning sentimentalities that cost nothing, and hisses disagreeable facts, is in a fair way to be Pecksniffed to the end of time. There is no one thing which we English people more need to learn, than how and where to bestow our indignation.

THE BAZAAR.

In the early part of May last, it was announced in the columns of this journal that, at the suggestion of several ladies of distinction, the Council of the League had determined upon holding a Bazaar in Covent-garden Theatre in July.

Several of our contemporaries in the provinces also noticed the proposed undertaking, and urged it upon the prompt attention of their readers. It was afterwards found necessary to postpone the holding of the Bazaar, and a statement to that effect was made in this paper.

From these circumstances our readers will be in some degree prepared for the announcement, that the Council have finally determined that the Bazaar shall be held in May, 1845, and they have again appealed to the friends of Free Trade for the assistance necessary to crown the enterprise with success.

During the brief space which elapsed between the previous announcement of the Bazaar and its postponement, offers of contributions and co-operation were received from all sides to an extent which exceeded expectation, and rendered it certain that it would have surpassed in interest and success the splendid Manchester demonstration of 1842.

The principal element of success will be, undoubtedly, the zealous co-operation of the ladies. They have attended our meetings in London and the country in great numbers; they have been foremost in making the requisite preparations for any festive occasion, when some eminent advocate of commercial freedom was to be welcomed, in most of our large towns. In the coming Bazaar another opportunity presents itself of appropriate and effective aid. The glory of success will, in this instance, be entirely their own. The ladies who have suggested the present Bazaar, and who have undertaken an important part of the preparations connected with it, will, we doubt not, receive the most cordial and sympathising support from their own sex.

We are strongly of opinion that the Bazaar, considered apart from its probable pecuniary results, is one of the most effective exhibitions of public opinion, perhaps even more so than public meetings, or the other ordinary modes of its expression.

The ladies, it is notorious, are the most efficient collectors on behalf of institutions having for their object the relief of indigence or suffering, or the propagation of truth. Their co-operation is essential to the success of our benevolent enterprise. We invite them to renew their efforts in this work of humanity and justice.

"Ours are the plans of policy and peace:
To live like brothers, and, conjunctive all,
Embellish life."

We subjoin the prospectus recently issued by the Council of the League, and earnestly commend it to the attention of our readers, who will, we hope, lose no time in acting upon its suggestions.

BAZAAR,
To be held in Covent Garden Theatre, London, May, 1845.

"The Council of the League, at the earnest entreaty of a number of ladies, have determined upon holding a Bazaar in the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, London, during the month of May, 1845, in aid of the £100,000 Fund now in the course of collection. This mode of assisting the efforts of the Council the ladies have themselves suggested, as being the most appropriate method of expressing their sympathy with the objects of the League, and their approval of its proceedings. In accepting the co-operation so nobly proffered, the Council cannot omit to record their grateful acknowledgments to those ladies by whose exertions alone the Bazaar held in Manchester, in the early part of the year 1842, was begun, carried on, and brought to a most triumphant conclusion, giving an impulse to the public mind on the subject of the Corn Laws of greater and more permanent value than the pecuniary results of that undertaking, unprecedentedly large as they were.

"From the commencement of the Anti-Corn-Law agitation, no point has been more scrupulously adhered to than its entire disseverance from all party or political connexion whatever. Of the wisdom of this determination every day's experience furnishes additional evidence; and this, coupled with the oft-repeated determination still to adhere to it under all circumstances, renders the co-operation thus gracefully tendered not an unnatural intrusion into the arena of politics, but an evidence of active humanity and generous zeal which form some of the highest embellishments of human character.

"The objects of the League and its proceedings are now matters of daily discussion, so that a momentary reference to them here will be all that is necessary. To give to labour its just remuneration for reasonable exertion, to give to commercial skill and enterprise a fair field for their employment, are in themselves noble objects, and may appear to some the only principles involved in the present controversy; but it ought never to be forgotten, that until the monopoly in the food of the people, with others of a kindred character, are abolished, the best sustained efforts for the social and intellectual improvement of the great body of our countrymen must prove abortive. The settlement of this great question involves a nation's prosperity; and the Council hope that the efforts of those who have suggested the holding of the present Bazaar will receive support proportioned to the importance of the movement to which it is auxiliary.

"The recent partial revival of trade, whilst justifying this renewed appeal, will not tend to abate the ardour of those who have reflected on the principles of Free Trade, or regarded the pernicious influence of the Corn Laws, both on agriculture and commerce; for such reflection will convince them that the cloud of depression, out of which we have so lately emerged, will again envelop us, and cause probably more enduring embarrassment to the manufacturer and capitalist, and more protracted and accumulated misery to the operative, unless the only remedy capable of averting such an otherwise inevitable calamity be applied. It would be a reproach to our principles and our humanity, were we to become careless or apathetic, when the interests of the labourer, of agriculture, of commerce, and, in some degree, of civilization itself, are committed to our care.

"The first particular requiring the attention of those who may be desirous of assisting the promoters of the Bazaar will be the formation of a *Ladies' Local Committee* in each town, whose names should be immediately transmitted to London or Manchester, distinguishing that of the Secretary, in order that a correspondence may be opened and carried on between such Committee and the Council during the preparations for the Bazaar.

"Each town should, if practicable, endeavour to furnish a stall entirely; and the Committees are requested to depute one or more ladies to superintend its arrangements, and the disposal of the various articles during the days of sale.

"The Council would also recommend the formation of a *Committee of Gentlemen*, whose names should also be transmitted to London or Manchester, a part of whose duties will be to canvass for contributions of various fabrics, to be worked into useful and ornamental articles.

"It is respectfully suggested that if the contributions from each town were to consist in a great degree of articles for the manufacture of which it may be celebrated, this would secure a suitable variety, and, by so doing, contribute to the success of the undertaking. This, the Council are aware, cannot be always accomplished, but they consider it worthy of some attention.

"There will doubtless be many places where the formation of a Local Committee will be found impracticable, but the Council trust that this will not deter individuals from assisting the ladies at whose instance the undertaking has been commenced, and upon whom, from that circumstance, some slight responsibility rests. The Council will be happy to correspond with such persons, from whom they hope to receive timely notice of their intentions, in order that the necessary directions may be given for the transmission of the contributions to London.

"It now only remains for the Council to observe, that any article that the taste of the donor may suggest or his ability dictate will be most cheerfully and gratefully accepted, although the following classification specifies the articles most suitable for such an occasion.—

1. Articles usually contributed to Bazaars.
2. Articles of Manufacture, British and Foreign.
3. Models of Mechanism, &c.
4. Designs, Architectural and Fancy.
5. Specimens of Coins, Minerals, Birds, Insects, &c.
6. Books and other Publications from Authors, with Autograph.
7. Autograph Letters from celebrated Men and Women of the present and former times.
8. Portraits, Pictures, and Illustrated Works.
9. Philosophical Instruments.
10. Music.
11. Original Poetry and Tales.
12. Pecuniary Contributions.

"The Council would, in conclusion, beg respectfully to request that, as the time for preparation is comparatively limited, immediate attention may be given to the subject, in order that the full and complete success of the undertaking may be secured.

"By order of the Council,
"GEORGE WILSON, CHAIRMAN.
"5, *Newall's Buildings, Manchester*,
Nov. 11, 1844."

NOTES OF A TRAVELLER IN THE SUMMER OF 1844.

No. XI.

Hamburgh, Aug. 20, 1844.

One would think that the Germans felt sufficiently the inconvenience attending the position of the Rhine, whose mouth is commanded by a rival that makes its power weigh heavily on their commercial interests. The rivers over which the Confederation have power in their whole length might be expected to be regulated with every regard to the interests of the trader, who is the representative of all the other classes, whether buyers or sellers. This is, however, far from being the case with the many noble streams that present the easiest thoroughfares on long continued lines in nearly every direction. In making the tour, which I sketched out in a former letter, through the iron district along the valley of the Ruhr into Westphalia, and coming down by the Sieg again to the Rhine, the traveller sees the advantage which these rivers present to the country which they traverse, with no great depth of stream, but with an evenness of current that admits of their being navigated by small craft to a great distance up the stream. The Germans are not fond of boating, and pleasure-boats are amongst the rarest objects that the traveller sees. But in the use of simple means to turn their rivers to account they are unrivalled; and, if they had been spared the protracted infliction of baronial and corporation influence, they would have long since derived more profit from their skill. The Ruhr is but a few miles distant from the Lippe, that runs parallel to it; and from Hamm on the latter river the distance is not great to Münster, the chief town of the Prussian province of Westphalia. Nothing is more striking than the state of this province after being long under the rule of an active government like that of Prussia. Westphalia, the land of lords and squires, formerly of princely abbots and clerical institutions, is nearly a hundred years behind the Rhenish province, with which it is now only connected by two high roads. And yet this province, besides the rivers that flow into the Rhine, is in one part crossed by the Weser, and in another by the Ems, both flowing into the North Sea. A third communication with the sea is by the Vechte, which has been prolonged by a canal to Münster, and which runs through the Dutch province of Overyssel into the Zuyder Sea. The northern part of this large province is flat, and covered with vast moors, between which spots of rich land intervene as oases. The southern circuits are hilly, and a large portion is covered with forests. Some of the scenery is highly romantic, and the Ruhr and the Lenne afford a very pretty variety of scenery that has given artists employment. In the valleys of the Weser and the Lippe flax is very much cultivated on the rich soils, and the domestic linen manufacture is still carried on to a large extent. Grain, too, is produced in much greater abundance than is required, but the general appearance of the country is not cheering. The peasants are wretchedly poor, and have a neglected look. This wretched exterior of the peasants increases as you traverse the frontier into Hanover, although you follow the course of the Ems, which is (or ought to be) navigable. The duchy of Aremberg, and the bishoprick of Osnabruck, the most southern district of Hanover, are the poorest and most neglected parts of Western Germany. Proceeding northwards through Oldenburg to the seacoast, you leave the sandy

plain, and reach the belt of rich marsh land which I described in my first letter as running all round the coast of the North Sea, and forming a remarkable contrast to the country at the back of it, both in the agricultural advantages it offers to the inhabitants, and in the character of these inhabitants. To the north of the Zuyder Sea this rich marsh belt stretches through the Dutch provinces of Friesland and Groningen, which, although densely peopled, send hundreds of tons of butter and cheese to the London market. East or Hanoverian Friesland is a continuation of the same, as is the coast of Oldenburg, and the line of coast between the mouths of the Weser and the Elbe. The marsh land runs up the mouth of this river to near Hamburgh, and on the north side covers the Danish duchy of Holstein.

All these districts are well known to our merchants, who, in spite of the enormous duties imposed on articles of food, carry on a large importation, especially of butter, from them. For practical purposes the omission to report on this rich tract of country in the instructions given to Mr. Meek, in his well-known posting tour, was of no great importance, although it affords a curious instance of the degree of information which is supposed to suffice when trade is to be legislated for. Harlingen, in Dutch Friesland, and Emden, in Hanoverian Friesland, are the principal points where this trade is carried on: our neighbours wisely profiting by our fancy for the culture of wheat to supply us with an article more regular in its return in a northern climate, and which yields a better return to the farmer than grain.

This country preserves the character of the Netherlands in the lands being intersected by numerous fleets, which form harbours for coasting vessels and small canals. Behind these natural bulwarks the Frisians and Ditmarshers maintained their freedom against the encroachments of barons and bishops; and all the efforts made at an early age to establish a great northern bishopric at Bremen were ineffectual. A fine race of hardy farmers and mariners maintained in these tracts a republican indifference to political speculations, and now stand as distinguished from their neighbours in their superior mode of farming, and in the fine breeds of horses and cattle that fill their stables, as well as in their hardihood as seamen, as they did when they manned the fleets of the Hanseatic League, and asserted their freedom against the nominal Earls of Friesland.

As in few parts of Germany the people have retained both the feeling of independence which anciently characterized them, and the habit of displaying it, the traveller crosses this marsh district with peculiar interest. By the cession of East Friesland by Prussia to Hanover, this district lost the exceptional position it so long maintained, and has, formally at least, been amalgamated with the rest of the kingdom. The inhabitants, however, sympathized but little with the political combinations that were forged beyond the heaths, or their opinions on this subject of the overthrow of the constitution would in all probability have commanded respect.

Of the large rivers that traverse the land at their backs the Frisians and Ditmarshers have all along made good use. Of these the Ems is, in the upper part of its course, in a most neglected state. The Weser has derived some advantage from an understanding which the numerous lords of its banks have come to respecting the tolls which they are to levy from its trade, but more from the establishment of a steam-boat company by the merchants of Bremen. The ships of this company now ply between Bremen and Hanoverian Münden, and will, doubtless, soon introduce the enlivening play of industrial interchange into a country in which it is very imperfectly known. Prussia obtained, in exchange for Friesland, the district of Lauenburg, on the north bank of the Elbe, by which it became the neighbour of Hamburgh and Lübeck. Lauenburg was afterwards ceded to Denmark.

At Bremen I was shown the treaty of navigation concluded between the liberal potentates that control the destinies of the Weser, and which was the fruit of long years of negotiation. It will serve to exemplify the nature of such arguments, and the condition of Germany with regard to these questions.

This document is dated 10th of September, 1823, and begins with the declaration that all privileges, whether held by corporations or individuals, regarding the navigation of the river, are abolished, and cannot be renewed. Exceptions are the case of ferries, and the navigation of the river within the territories of each separate state. All rights of staple, or of unloading and reloading, such as were enjoyed at Bremen, Minden, and Munden, are abolished.

Each government shall be able to grant the privilege of navigating the river, and shall judge of the competency of those who apply for the privilege. The conditions of freight and charges are left to free agreement, as is the power of establishing regular passage-boats between one town and another. The following liberal states agree, in lieu of all tolls, to levy one rate, in the proportions for the ship's pound (500½ kilogrammes):—

Prussia ..	59	Pfenninge.
Hanover..	126	,,
Hesse ..	41	,,
Brunswick	16	,,
Lippe ..	13	,,
Bremen ..	60	,,
	315	Pfenninge, or 1 dollar 3 groshen.

Thus, for about 1s. per cwt., or 20s. per ton, the right of navigating is purchased from Hanoverian Minden (where the Weser is formed by the junction of the Werra and the Fulda) to the sea, a distance of about 100 miles in a straight line, or 150 miles by the river. In return the governments undertake to keep the trackway in a serviceable condition. Now, it must be confessed that the charge made for this service is a very high one, and it cannot well be otherwise, for, besides the outlay for repairing the path, the dues have to defray the salaries of a set of officers employed in the control bureaux of the six contracting powers, and of inspectors and police, who watch that the drivers do no damage on the way. Thus, before boats are built and men are hired, a preliminary expense equal to the average freight paid from London to any European harbour is incurred, besides the inconvenience of weighing, inspecting, and controlling goods that are exempted from import dues, but on which these navigation dues fall in common with foreign wares. Heavy articles for inland consumption, corn, lime, timber, and coarse goods, are, on the Weser, and generally on the other rivers, allowed to pass at a reduced rate of duty. Still, the charge forms a heavy deduction from the small profits of trade in such articles; and its calculation by weight, which saves the inconvenience of inspection, makes it fall unequally, and, consequently, unfairly. This tariff is, however, an improved one. If we look at the condition of the river previous to its establishment, or to that of the Elbe and the Rhine at the commencement of the present century, we shall not wonder that the German rivers contributed so little to facilitate inland trade as we find was the case. Even now, the wool sent from Breslau and Vienna to Hamburgh, for England, is carried by land in preference to the Elbe, or to the route by Stettin and the Oder. The total of the tolls levied on the Elbe from Metnik, in Bohemia, to Hamburgh, amounts to 1 dollar per centner, or about 3s. per cwt., consequently, to a transatlantic freight before any carriage charges are incurred. Below Hamburgh the goods again encounter the disgraceful relic of barbarous times, the "Stade Zoll," which is alone now supported by party connexion in England, to the injury of our trade and the serious diminution of our legitimate political influence with the German Confederation and the Zollverein.

The navigable length of the Elbe may be compared with our seaboard from London to Aberdeen. Let us suppose that a toll of 30s. per ton were levied at Scarborough Castle or Languard Fort on all our coasters, what would become of Newcastle, Shields, Sunderland, Hull, Berwick, or Leith? Yet this is the case with the German rivers. It will be argued, perhaps, that this constitutes the difference between a seacoast and inland navigation, and that trackroads must be kept up. I do not wish to enter into the merits or the necessity of such an imposition: I merely look at its effects upon the trade of Leipsig, Frankfort on the Oder, and Bohemia, and find that, while these tolls, with their effect in diminishing the means of cheap carriage, form a serious addition to the present heavy import duties on foreign goods, they, in a still greater proportion, impede the accumulation of wealth in domestic trade. Their effects cannot, perhaps, be traced in a diminution of trade that they have prevented from springing up; but the general result of large and industrial populations remaining poor through years of exertion must be traced to some such causes.

The establishment of bonded warehouses, and the privilege of sending goods *in transitu*, for which Germany is indebted in a great measure to the Zollverein, has been of but little effect, owing to the inconveniences attending the inland navigation. The traffic has increased so little (in merchandise) ever since the introduction of steamboats, that no foreign powers have thought it necessary to name consular agents at any place marked by the navigation treaties, or the "Zollverein" resolutions, as places for bonding. England has no consul, as far as I am aware, in the whole course of the German portions of the Rhine, the Elbe, or the Danube.

The introduction of steamers is of the greatest importance on the large rivers, whose occasional breadth exposes barges to the wind, and whose varying depth and rapidity offer innumerable obstructions. All parties are interested in seeing steam-tugs substituted for horses, and then the pitiful excuse of the trackway would disappear, and the rivers be left free as they were by nature intended. In this case the increase in the import duties would richly compensate the respective Governments for the small sums now derived from the tolls that occasionally figure (not very creditably) in their budgets.

An amusing instance of the manner in which the consolidation of small into large states affects these minute questions that trammel the prosperity of whole countries has been told me as a result of the cession of the duchy of Lauenburg, on the north bank of the Elbe, to Prussia, that obtained it as part exchange for East Friesland to Denmark. A water communication between Lübeck and the Elbe subsists by means of the little rivers Stecknitz and Delvenau. This line forms the communication between the Baltic and the mouth of the Elbe; and, during the flourishing period of the Hanseatic League, was preferred to the passage round the Belt. The productions of Russia, and a large proportion of the wares sent thither, took therefore this route, and formed a source of gain for the boatmen on the rivers, in whose gilds the names of nobles and princes anciently flourished. The toll was one of the sources of the power of the Dukes of Saxe-Lauenburg, who participated in the gains of the Dukes of Luneburg and Brunswick, who were very creditable salt-merchants through a long period of their history. The effect of tolls and corporations is to increase in burden in proportion as trade extends and profits lower in rate. It will, therefore, not be found surprising that the navigation of the Stecknitz diminished as the direct communication between Western Europe and the Baltic increased and became secure. It appears from the registers that in 1740 the freights from Lübeck through the Stecknitz amounted to 2445 lasts, while in 1838 only 2062 lasts came down the river. In 1841 the quantity increased to 3547 lasts, of about 20 tons each. These figures give a curious insight into the stationary character of the inland trade of Germany. With the navigation of the Stecknitz the right of staple, or of discharging and reloading into boats of Lauenberg, was united, as was the custom on all small rivers, and is still on some of the large ones. The Commission united to regulate the navigation of the Elbe, and which arrived in 1821 at the result I have mentioned, proclaimed the suppression of all rights of the kind, and of the privileges of all gilds, both on that river and its tributaries. Lauenburg still made a hard stand for its old immunities; but in the present year it has been decided by the Danish Government that the privilege is to cease. This right of the Lauenburg gild is now nearly the last of the old monopolies, the growth of which tended to wean the affections of the people from the old Imperial Government, that was too feeble to protect them, and whose yoke was therefore shaken off.

This little river Stecknitz can afford us an illustration of the operation of impediments to rapid movements in trade, by which all parties are losers. The little town of Mollen, on the Stecknitz, was the seat of a large corn trade, a great deal of grain from Mecklenburg being sold there for shipment to the Elbe. Owing, it is said, to the carelessness of the privileged boatmen of Lauenburg, the want of security in their mode of loading corn, and their high charges, the greater portion of the trade has been transferred to Boitzenburg on the Elbe, whither the grain goes by land. Land carriage for 50 or 60 miles is a serious addition to the price of corn, and can only be incurred when the market price is high enough to cover it. The tendency of our corn laws is to make the recurrence of such prices rare in Germany, because not only the price of wheat, but the fluctuations of our duties, must be taken into account by the German grower. The corn monopolist in England has thus been protected not only by his own enactments, but by the circumstances of the Continent, from the competition with farmers who produce cheaper; for, whoever takes the trouble to follow the thousand restrictions on trade that exist here in the manner that I have done, these will soon discover the mass of energies that is paralyzed, and the amount of wealth that is restricted from starting into life in every quarter.

With every successive improvement in machinery, and with every extension of knowledge in the political world, some one or other of these stifled sources is opened; and if the peace continues their stream will soon be too powerful to be again impeded. These fetters and impediments are what have given North Germany the appearance that Mr. Jacob has described in his report, and on which it was at one time attempted to found the argument, that the abolition of the Corn Laws would be of no use, because these countries cannot produce sufficient to supply us with what we require. The argument took in a great measure the effect for the cause, because every country is careful to grow no more corn than it can sell. But the argument will be found to be nugatory, and the requisities stated by Mr. Jacob will be found to be immediately furnished, when the improvement of the communications shall ensure a sale for the produce of the soil. The excellent farming of the nobility and gentry generally in these parts, and the scientific views that they have circulated amongst their poorer countrymen, will cause the latter to lose no time in increasing the quantity of produce which they raise as soon as they see the prospect of getting rid of it. Draining and enclosures, the value of which is well understood, would soon employ capital if it promised to remunerate the invester, and the result of this increased activity in the home manufactures and foreign trade of the country would be magical. Circumstances are now favourable for such a change, and we may hope to see our prohibitive duties fall with even more rapidity than the Germans improve their communications.

The Sound dues are a parallel nuisance to the toll at Stade; although they have at least the pretence of supporting a lighthouse. If anything diminished the sympathy felt generally for the catastrophe which has recently deprived the heir presumptive of the Danish crown of his young and beautiful consort, it was the fear alone that Denmark might rely upon the aid of Russia to support this odious impost against the loudly-spoken public opinion of all Europe. If anything is likely to add to the complication threatened on the extinction of the present dynasty respecting the succession to Schleswig and Holstein, and to justify foreign interference in the internal concerns of Denmark, it will be the persistance of the latter in the levy of this obnoxious tribute.

The Sound dues, the Stade toll, and the transit duties on the Rhine levied by Holland are impediments to the prosperity of trade in Germany that, in the present temper of the times, will not be submitted to; and, in the event of any political crisis, would infallibly set the political independence of the countries persisting in an ob-

noxious course at stake. Political as well as commercial prudence warn all parties to come to an early understanding on the subject. The sacrifice is trifling, indeed it may be said to be *nil*, when compared with the gain resulting from improved trade. On the other hand, the consolidation of governments and dynasties at the present day is only achieved by identifying their interests with those of humanity at large. This description of policy may be sneered at by diplomatists, but will be found to outlive court intrigues.

As far as England is concerned it must not be forgotten that the removal of these obstructions to internal communication operate two ways. If they tend to facilitate trade with us, they have the same effect in other places. If Prussia opens the Elbe, and cheapens the cost of transport on the large rivers and their tributaries, her own manufactures from the Rhine can go up, and those of Saxony can go down, those streams as well as our own; and the produce of the plains of the north can be sent to the manufacturing districts of other countries, the advantage of which we deny to our manufacturing labourers. This gradual opening of the sluices of internal trade comes to the aid of the efforts I mentioned in my last as making by Prussia to open a market for her Baltic produce on the Rhine. The railroads will, at all events, gradually effect what may be overlooked in the improvement of the inland navigation; and, while central Europe is thus freed from the shackles that have so long kept it back in the scale of material wealth, we may find ourselves left, with our policy and institutions of times gone by, in the presence of youthful rivals whose intellectual vigour we have been taught to respect, but whose material resources we are inclined to undervalue.

As I stated in my last letter, the first shipload of corn that enters Cologne from Stettin must cause the abolition of our Corn Laws. The burden of my letter to-day I wish to be the importance for a nation of keeping the means at its disposal for promoting industrial exertion in a healthy state, and the necessity of attending to every complaint of obstructions to constantly increasing activity. The removal of the impediments to domestic trade in Germany can only give a greater stimulus to foreign commerce; and instead of looking with jealousy at the prospect held out to Prussia of improving her position by extending her internal trade, or that which Bavaria is preparing by the completion of the Danube and Maine Canal, which again opens to the Rhine a rich source of abundance, I rejoice at the expectation of the increased demands upon our own industry which must be the result of these changes. But, as an Englishman, I must, too, wish that the good sense of the nation would speak out a little more imperatively than it has hitherto done, and demand that our means of production and transport should, too, be freed from the trammels that now obstruct them, not, perhaps, in the shape of corporations and obnoxious imposts, but in sundry acts of Parliament that are quite as antiquated in their spirit, and fully as mischievous in their tendency, as the grievances which the Germans have undertaken to remove.

STATISTICS OF THE MACHINE-WROUGHT HOSIERY TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

(*Continued from page* 85.)

We will now proceed to the numerical statistics of machinery, wages, and the ultimate results of operations in this trade. The machines (usually called frames, and from which these workpeople have acquired the name of frame-work knitters) for the manufacture of hosiery are spread chiefly over upwards of 240 parishes in the three midland counties of Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester, lying between Chesterfield northwards, Newark on the east, Ashby-de-la-Zouch westward, and Market Harborough to the south. This district is about seventy miles in length, and forty-five in its greatest breadth. Within its limits there are sixty parishes in Nottinghamshire, where are more than six stocking-frames in each at work. These have all been visited for the purposes of this inquiry, and an account has been taken of each frame, its gauge, width, and employment. The number of the separate workshops was ascertained to be 4621, giving an average of little more than three frames to a shop, exclusive of a few of those in the town of Nottingham, the whole of which were not separately visited, though the particulars have been ascertained, except as to gauges. And the number of frames in employ in this county is ascertained to be 14,879; out of employ, or in frame-smiths' hands for repairs, 1503. Total in Nottinghamshire, 16,302. In Leicestershire, 100 parishes contain more than 6 frames each; of these 60 have been visited, and most of them counted. Returns of the number and employment of the machines in the other 40 parishes have been furnished to me by the secretaries of the trade at Leicester, Hinckley, and Loughborough respectively, including the 6750 frames in those three important seats of this manufacture. The number of frames in Leicestershire is—at work, 18,558; unemployed, or at smiths' shops, 2303: total, 20,861. There are also 60 parishes in Derbyshire in each of which are more than 6 frames; 50 of these have been visited and counted; and as to the other 10, including the frames in the town of Derby, local trade returns have been obtained. The number of frames employed is 6005, and unemployed, 792,—total, 6797 in the county of Derby. The parishes not enumerated by the parties sent out by me for this purpose are distinguished by a cross in the tables appended to this report. Having tested several of the most important of this class of returns, I find them to be very nearly correct. This remark equally applies to the statements of frames in Nottingham, furnished by the trade secretary there. In this case the names of the shop-masters having been furnished, make the returns nearly complete, and very satisfactory. The frames in each county are chiefly employed in the trade carried on at the county town—worsted and coarse cotton at Leicester, finer cotton and silk at Nottingham, silk at Derby, &c. Discrepancies between the statements of the masters and the men, as to earnings, will be noticed as we proceed; but there is one occurring between the numbers of frames supposed hitherto to have been in the trade, and the numbers shown by this paper, which requires remark here. At no former time have the machines been estimated at above 33,000 to 36,000. These were the numbers stated in 1833. We have above enumerated in the midland counties as employed, 39,442; unemployed, 4598: together, 44,040. To which add, those in other counties of England, 1572; in Ireland, 265; in Scotland, 2605: there will prove to be 42,652 employed, and 5830 unemployed—thus making 48,482 frames as the available machinery of this trade. This number will undoubtedly surprise many well acquainted with the business, as it has done myself; but former estimates were formed in times of great trade distress, and on those occasions no account was taken of the then very numerous unemployed frames. This was a great oversight; and, together with defective enumeration of those then employed, will probably account for the otherwise inexplicable apparent increase of frames during this period of ten or twelve years; in which I find from frame-smiths, the best authority on the subject, that only about 450 new frames have been constructed in the counties of Nottingham and Derby, and not more than 550 in Leicestershire—none of moment being made elsewhere—say 1000 in all. The number unemployed is smaller than ever before known during the present century.

An account may be taken of the gauge, width, and employ of about 1000 machines, with very cursory remarks upon wages and condition, by an active agent, per week, when enumerating Notts and Leicestershire, where the people usually live in house-rows in towns, and even in some villages; but not more than 700 or 800 can be taken account of in a week in Derbyshire, where the cottage dwellings are spread over the whole face of the various parishes. My enumerators were persons well conversant with the trade, active, and of good character and intelligence.

It appears that there are 16,826 frames making *fashioned* COTTON hosiery, 4936 *spurious*, 1336 *gloves*, 1280 *drawers, shirts, &c.*, 445 *fancies*—total, 24,823—producing 2,872,000 dozens annually, and of the market value of £998,700. 9156 frames make *fashioned* WOOLLEN hosiery, 2014 *spurious*, 923 *gloves*, 1376 *drawers, shirts, &c.*, 314 *fancies*—total, 14,083—producing 2,360,000 dozens, value £1,223,750. 1055 frames work upon *fashioned* SILK goods, 362 *spurious*, 2206 *gloves*, 148 *rib-tops*—total, 3771—making 470,000 dozens, of the value of £333,763. 86 frames use FLAX thread, and produce 3600 dozens, worth £6500. The total number of frames making *fashioned* work is 27,423; *spurious*, 7312; *gloves*, 4465; *drawers, shirts, &c.*, 2656; *fancies*, 759; silk *rib-tops*, 148. There are 34,991 *narrow*, and 8951 *wide* frames. They used up, in the last year, 147,960 lbs. of *raw* SILK, which, when *thrown*, weighed 141,880 lbs., worth £159,256; 5,590,000 lbs. of *raw* COTTON *wool*, when *spun and doubled*, 4,851,000 lbs., worth £233,200; 8,000,000 lbs. of ANIMAL *wool*, when *carded and spun*, 6,701,000 lbs., worth £650,000; 9000 lbs. of raw FLAX, prepared into 8000 lbs. of *yarn*, worth £3000. Total prime cost of raw materials *imported*, £301,880; of *home growth*, £400,900; together, £705,780, but costing the hosiers as *yarn* £1,015,456. On this was expended in *wages* to frame-work knitters, including all charges to them, £1,049,130, producing 5,700,000 *dozens* of hosiery goods; in finishing which, including all charges and profits to the customers, there was added £468,127, making the total returns of the trade, in 1843, £2,562,713. The pecuniary benefit directly accruing to the country by the operations of the hosiery branch has been the circulation of £1,856,933 in wages and profits during the past year. In all, about 100,000 persons have been wholly or partially employed; winding and seaming, being operations usually performed by the wives and children of the operatives themselves, are often in part supplementary to domestic engagements. The total consumption, and indeed almost the total production, of machine-wrought hosiery in the United Kingdom, is not more than would supply each year to its inhabitants one pair of stockings or socks, and one pair of gloves, at a cost, together, of 1s. 6d. to each person.

In connexion with statements of the rates of wages prevalent in various departments of the trade, as it is carried on in different localities, out of a very large mass of individual cases which have been received, the highest paid and the worst paid have been noted, and an average account has been struck, as showing the condition of the workpeople in the principal places where this trade is carried on. In Leicester, 3620 frames at work. Of these, 1200 make gloves. The masters state the earnings to be 16s. by best hands, 12s. inferior ones, per week. Four shops of 126 best hands in this branch, earned 15s. 11½d. clear, during the three or four first months of this year, in a brisk trade. The employment is, however, very irregular; and some of these hands have occasionally received tickets, certifying non-employment, entitling them to parish relief. This is the best paid department of the hosiery trade. The hosiers estimate the drawer and shirt hands (700 frames) earnings to be 11s. 7d.; 1200 wide hose frames 7s. 10d. to 10s. 6d. The men state *clear* earnings in Leicester to be 6s. to 7s. a week, taking all kinds together. The medium would be, I conceive, nearest the truth. The clear earnings of the country hands are, according to the masters' estimate, upon narrow frames 5s. 6d. to 6s.; wide, 6s. 3d. The men's statement is 5s. per week, on an average of the whole of the Leicestershire country hands. Men in the best work seldom earn enough to enable them to provide against bad trade, sickness, or age and decrepitude. Take a case which I visited accidentally in Leicester:—A female at work by candlelight, between nine and ten at night, her husband and two journeymen labouring over head, up a step-ladder, above the damp kitchen which she occupied. Her age was fifty-three, but she had the appearance of seventy—skin, sinews, and bones,—no flesh. Was the mother of fifteen children, ten of whom were bred up framework-knitters. Not being strong enough, could not work before breakfast, but laboured (making three hose at once) until towards ten every night. Clear wages about 2s. 6d. weekly. She had worked the same frame nineteen years; it had been "patched up" twice. The frame rent was 1s. 6d. a week. She was cheerful and uncomplaining. The house rent was 2s. 6d. a week: an ill-drained, damp, unhealthy place, as are all around it. If any family could have laid by, surely this might, and have saved this poor woman from any necessity to labour thus. But cases like this are not by any means uncommon. Charges upon frames throughout Leicestershire are levied in proportion to width and quality; and it is to be feared, that when only partly employed, the full amount is often charged. Rent of frames varies from 9d. to 5s. per week, besides charges, sometimes, for "standing," "winding," "taking in," "turning hose," &c. The workman finds "needles," "fire," &c. A shop of 60 frames making gloves will bring in to the undertaker (if his own property) £575 a year, less the expense of repairs, say £75; or £500 clear, for his original outlay in machinery of £500, and his labour and skill in management.

At Hinckley 1600 frames are at work, chiefly making very coarse cotton hose. The earnings here, as stated by hosiers, are 5s. 3d. a week; the trade secretary states the average not to be more than 5s. 6d. My agent makes them 5s. 3d.; and adds, "that the condition of the hands here is so deplorably bad as to beggar all description." 1s. 1½d. per head per week is the average left the families for food, fuel, clothing, rent, &c. *Rothley*, net earnings 4s. 6d.; *Bosworth*, 4s. 6d.; *Burbage*, 5s. 6d.;—hands described to be in a miserable condition. At Barwell the small earnings are assisted by cultivating large plots of ground with the spade. In *Stoke Golding* there is much distress. At Dadlington the people dwell in houses built on the waste, paying a mere acknowledgment as rent. At *Markfield*, net wages 4s. 6d. At *Ibstock*, 4s. At *Barleston* the hands are in deep poverty. At Oadby the frame rents are charged from 1s. 10d. to 3s. 6d. a week; out of 350 frames, the earnings on 150 are paid by truck. At *Glen* the net wages are 5s. a week. At *Kibworth*, 5s. 6d. At Smeeton the workpeople are steeped in poverty. Earnings at *Fleckney* 4s. 6d. a week. At *Kilby* the hands were unable to earn enough to give bread to their families. At Barrow much misery was witnessed; clear wages here 4s. 6d. a week. At *Loughborough*, where are 667 frames at work, the hands earn better wages when employed on wide and rotary frames; but the common hands obtain but little above the common average: eight families' income was found to be, for 41 persons, 29s. 7d., or 9d. a head per week. At *Belgrave* the hands are very much impoverished, but their dwellings were remarkably clean and neat. At *Countesthorpe* the gross average earnings were found to be 11s. 6d., cut down by charges to 5s. 6d. a week clear. The hands at *Great Peatling* found to be very poor. At *Willoughby-Waterless* they are described as steeped in poverty. At *Blaby* the gross average wages were found to be 5s. 4d., net 3s. 1½d. a week. Men earn here, however, 7s., leaving 4s. 9½d. clear; the amount left per head per week to subsist upon, in eight families, including 31 persons, was 12¾d., cases taken at hazard. *Whetstone*, clear earnings 4s. 6d. At *Knighton*, 4s. 6d. At *Sheepshead*, where are 1055 frames at work upon wrought hose, the clear wages are 5s. 6d. on an average. In a row of nine houses here, not selected cases, the clear earnings were 5s. 0½d. per frame; there were 43 individuals; the income from all sources, after paying rent of cottages, and fuel and light, was 11½d. per head per week. This includes the best case found, that of a young man and wife, both workers, 2s. per head; and the worst case found, that of an old man and wife, both workers, 3½d. per head per week, to find clothing and food. Take the expenditure of one of these nine families, seven in number, four workers earn: man, 4s. 6½d.; wife, 1s. 6d.; two children, 1s. 9d.: together, 7s. 9½d. Pay for rent of house, 1s.; coals, 10d.; candles, &c., 9d.; rice, 4d.; salt, ½d.; milk, 3½d.; bacon, 7d.; bread, 2s. 2½d.; sugar, 3½d.; potatoes, 1s. 5½d.

The average hours of labour are in Leicester about 60 hours clear a week; in the country villages 70 hours. The more fully fashioned work is the worst paid; the hands have often to carry out materials and return the

wrought goods great distances. They complain grievously of charges, and that deductions are made for inferior work, arising, they allege, from being obliged to use up rough materials. Also mutual complaints arise between them and the hosiers about the state of the materials when weighed out, and the hose when weighed in. Each side charges the other with often weighting the articles for a fraudulent purpose. It is certain that the produce of such frauds on the part of the workpeople is disposed of indirectly to some of the masters at an inferior price, to the great detriment of the fair trader, and the disgrace of the trade. On the other hand, if a man's account of materials be declared deficient, he is often a very serious, though he may be an innocent sufferer. These are only symptoms of the injury and demoralization resulting inevitably from competition for labour and profit in an overloaded and crippled business.

In *Derby* there are 620 frames at work, chiefly making silk hose and gloves; the earnings upon the former are 7s. 6d., and 9s. the latter, when employed regularly; the average of the year is, however, not more than 6s. 6d. a week clear. At *Melbourn* there are 100 warp looms, on which 25s. are earned by making fancy gloves. At *Shirland* the clear earnings are 6s. At *Chesterfield*, 5s. 6d. South Wingfield, 6s. Here is the finest gauged frame (a 70 gauge) making cotton hose, using No. 210 doubled yarn, at 8s. a pair workman's wages. In this parish, and at Selston, Bugthorpe, and a few other places, they cultivate gardens, or have a right of common, keep a pig, and some a cow, helping out their resources very greatly, so that they live in comfort. Of how many commons have the labourers been deprived, without any compensative use of their own land! But, in prosecuting this inquiry, it has been ascertained that gardens once attached to cottages on the road sides have been added to the neighbouring fields or parks; and sometimes the separate, neat, and quiet dwellings themselves have disappeared too. While, however, in some districts the cultivation of gardens has diminished, in others it has increased. Wherever the framework-knitter has preserved or obtained his fair plot of ground, especially if *attached to his separate dwelling*, his means have increased in far greater proportion than his outlay; and the superior cleanliness, comfort, and order of his family have been very perceptible. Their bodily powers are also decidedly improved by the greater amount of wholesome food they are enabled to consume.

At *South Normanton*, net earnings on narrow frames 5s., on wide 7s., a week; and frame rents on "top" frames 2s., and "bottoms" 3s., a week, and are complained of as being as much as was paid for their use when labour was paid for at double the present prices. This is the view taken on the subject of frame rent by the workmen through the whole trade; and does not appear to be an unreasonable one.

At *Kirkby* are 471 frames at work, earnings being 6s. a week clear. At *Hucknall*, 815 frames at work, on which the average earnings are, for plain goods 6s. 6d., for open fancies 7s. 6d., a week. There is much *trucking* in this place: bread and other articles, charged at very high prices, are given in return for labour, much to the dissatisfaction of the hands. At *Eastwood*, clear earnings 5s. At *Kimberley* 197 workpeople earned 4s. 1d. clear, all upon fashioned cotton hose, with twelve hours' labour. At *Bulwell* 596 frames make chiefly cotton gloves; gross earnings 11s., clear 7s. 6d. a week; ten hours' labour a day. This business fluctuates; and the average of the year is therefore given in this estimate.

At *Skegby and Hucknall-under-Hustwayte* are 410 frames, nearly all paid by truck; 200 to 300 acres are here let, clear of charge, at 40s. per acre, for cottages, gardens, &c.

At *Sutton-in-Ashfield* there are 1702 frames at work, chiefly upon spurious cotton hosiery; the gross earnings upon which run from 7s. 6d. to 16s. a week, and the net receipts from 5s. 9d. to 10s. 8d., all paid in cash, trucking having ceased here. A row of eight houses taken at hazard, in which were dwelling 42 persons, averaged 9s. 1d. per frame, and gave 1s. 3½d. per head per week for food and clothing; 500 to 600 of these hands have gardens, hired, at the rate of 35s. per acre per annum, of the Duke of Portland.

At *Mansfield* are 770 frames. Here is the singular practice of hands working in silk-knotted frames part of the year, and in other frames the remainder of it. For the former, rent is paid only during the time they are employed; but for the latter during the whole year, whether at work or not. In all this district the work passes through the hands of middle men - practically, in bad times, full charges come on the limited employment,—and the parish rates must, in one way or other, keep the operatives from absolute want.

Arnold, Calverton, Woodborough, Carlton, and *Southwell*.—The wages in this district, where wrought cotton hose are made, are for 30 gauge and under 5s. 6d. clear, 6s. 6d. on 32 gauge and above. A row of eight houses at Arnold, taken by lot, gave the following returns:—The wages clear upon 23 frames, 4s. 8d. each frame; each family's earnings clear 16s. The amount left per head per week for the 10 persons was 2s. 7d. This is the largest average I have yet found; and therefore I may state, as showing how low their situation is, that one of these men had a new coat 16 years ago; another a velveteen jacket three years since; a third a new coat 20 years ago; the rest of them could not remember when they had had any new outside clothing. All the families were found in a ragged state in clothing, and with little furniture. They stated generally that they purchased their clothes usually at the second-hand shops or old clothes stalls. In Arnold, not one child in twenty attends any day school, owing to their poverty; many of the parents never attend divine worship. Here, as elsewhere, a fearfully moody and irreligous state of mind is evidenced by too many of the framework-knitters. Nor is this much to be wondered at; for, after a general review of the visits made throughout the whole of the fashioned cotton-hose districts of the three counties (including 15,890 frames), the condition of these people is found to be *very deplorable*. They labour generally from daylight until 10 at night in winter, and during daylight in summer, at least five days in the week, averaging about 14 hours a day. This inquiry shows, by a variety of particulars, great differences as to the conduct towards hands and the rate of wages paid on the part of different hosiers, and in the regularity and application of the hands to labour or otherwise. It is a great advantage to be employed by certain houses; but some hands are so loose and vicious in their habits as to indispose them to earn even the moderate amount which may, by extreme diligence, be obtained at present in this underpaid manufacture.

At *Tewkesbury*, an ancient seat of the fabrication of full-fashioned cotton hose of excellent quality, there are 380 frames at work, 550 unemployed. Wages are exceedingly depressed. Distress prevails amongst the hands to a greater extent than had been known to some even of themselves. "Such scenes of wretchedness as those witnessed this day," says my correspondent, "I never saw before, and hope never to see the like again."

In *Nottingham* and *Sneinton* there are 755 frames making out up, 1107 gloves, 682 drawers, shirts, &c., besides many others; altogether 3090 at work.

Gloves are irregular work. When employed, a hosier estimates that a good hand may earn 12s., an inferior one 10s., a week. *Drawers* and *shirts* are more regular employ. Some get for making these 15s. a week, warehouse pay; the employers think they pay on an average 12s. a week; but the shop charges are from 2s. to 5s. a week. A middle master in this branch, employing 30 frames in his shop, clears £250 a year by rent, standing, winding, seaming, making up, and taking in. The *cut-ups* earn on an average 12s. gross, or 8s. clear, a week.

At *Gotham*, steady good hands earn on "dandies" 9s., inferior 7s., a week clear.

The average clear earnings, taking the whole of the past year for 60 hours' labour, throughout the counties of Nottingham and Derby, I believe to be as follows:—Wrought cotton hose, 6s. a week; silk hose, 7s. 3d.; silk knotts, 8s; silk gloves, 7s. 9d.; cotton cut-up hose, 8s.; wrought cotton gloves, 6s. 6d.; cut-up cotton gloves, 7s. 6d.; drawers and shirts, 7s. 6d. This scale differs considerably from the estimates I have received from employers, especially in the glove and drawer branches; but the discrepancy may be partly accounted for by want of constancy of employment, partly by the introduction of middle masters, and partly by the superior kind of work given out by some hosiers, which, though raising their own average of payment, affects but in a slight degree the general average of the trade.

In conclusion, I must remark, that most frame-work knitters have been for some years at the minimum point as to consumption, even of the commonest necessaries of life—bread and potatoes; sometimes brought to the starvation level. With clothing and furniture they are but very scantily supplied, and can rarely purchase any new. Their houses are, as I can testify from personal observation, often the abodes of filth, discontent, and misery.

GATESHEAD FREE-TRADE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday evening a respectable meeting of the Free-Trade Association of Gateshead was held in the large room of the Grey Horse Inn, in that borough. Mr. Fawcett, having been voted to the chair, called on Mr. George Crawshay to address the meeting. Mr. Crawshay opened by dwelling on the soundness of Free-Trade principles, principles in the promulgation of which he sympathised with the Anti-Corn Law League. After pointing out the interest which every man had in the repeal of the tax on corn, he said that they would be fools, and worse than fools, if they allowed their partial prosperity to lull them into forgetfulness of the Corn Law. A fixed duty would have the same effect as a sliding scale—increase the price of corn by limiting the supply. By imposing a tax on foreign corn, they benefited the monopolists rather than the Government, for where the latter received 1s., 9s. went into the pockets of the former. Their principles were promulgated, and they had a right to expect a beneficial result from them. Two hundred and fifty-two members had signed a requisition, expressing their wish to be represented in Parliament by a total repealer. In briefly touching upon the conduct of their member in reference to this question, he should be delighted if he thought he had misunderstood that gentleman. On a previous occasion, Mr. Hutt did not vote for Mr. Villiers's motion for the abolition of the Corn Laws; had he done so, probably their society would not have been heard of. The last time that Mr. Villiers brought forward a motion for an unconditional repeal of the Corn Law, an intimation was conveyed to them that Mr. Hutt would support it. He certainly did vote with Mr. Villiers; but in the course of the evening he made a speech, intimating that he was still in favour of a fixed duty. (Applause and laughter.) The meaning of this was, that Mr. Hutt would vote with total repealers so long as he saw there was no chance of a repeal being carried; but that when that event appeared likely, he would throw the repealers aside, and stick to a fixed duty. At the dinner recently given in that town to Mr. Hutt, that gentleman promised such an exposition of his views as would satisfy them; but they had no reason to conclude that anything which he said upon that occasion was satisfactory. They had plenty of fine words and praise of Free Trade, but that was all. The speaker then proceeded to quote passages from Mr. Hutt's speech, in order to show that their construction was by no means favourable to the cause of Free Trade. He especially referred to that part of the honourable member's speech in which he said that he distinguished between duties raised for the purposes of revenue, and said that in the word "purposes" there was a juggle and an ambiguity. Mr. Hutt considers the purpose of a fixed duty in corn, instead of looking to what would be its *effect*. He (Mr. Crawshay) contended that it was a duty for monopoly and not for revenue; if it were for the latter purpose, they were bound to show that the greater part of it went into the exchequer. He asked them if they could believe that a fixed duty on corn was intended for revenue. As a sensible man, Mr. Hutt must make up his mind before the next election, and come forward as a fixed-duty man, or a Free-Trader. The voters of that town owed it to themselves to say whether Gateshead should be a Whig fixed-duty borough, or be foremost in the ranks of Free Trade. Let them follow the example of the Anti-Corn-Law League in hearing of no compromise, and Free Trade must flourish among them. The question whether they were to have a fixed duty or a total repeal would be decided by the members of either party that might be returned to the House of Commons. It was the duty of the electors, whatever their creed, to return a Free-Trader instead of a fixed-duty man to Parliament at the next election. Unless the League became predominant, the Whigs would, whenever it was possible, adopt a fixed duty, and there would be no removal of differential duties. If the League became predominant—they could trust them—they would not only repeal the Corn Law, but take off every protective duty. It was their intention to canvass the whole of the electors to ascertain whether they were in favour of the total repeal of the Corn Laws, and whether they would come forward and put their shoulders to the wheel to aid their removal. They wished to see Gateshead represented by a man who would vote for the total repeal of these laws and no compromise. There would be no disgrace in being defeated, but there would be if they did not try for victory. (Applause.) It would now go forth to the world that there was a party in Gateshead not satisfied with the declaration of their member. In conclusion he begged to move that this meeting is decidedly opposed to any tax upon corn, and that it pledges itself to remove every impediment by every lawful means in its power.

Mr. T. Pringle seconded the motion, and said that, if private friendship were sacrificed to principle, Gateshead might be represented by a Free-Trade member. He did not doubt but that, if Colonel Thompson were put forth as their representative, he would meet with support from even the friends of Mr. Hutt. He exhorted them to persevere in their exertions for a repeal of the duty on corn.

Mr. Wm. Cooke thought Mr. Crawshay did not go far enough. If he would act with decision by bringing forth Colonel Thompson the cause would be much strengthened. Colonel Thompson was a Free-Trader, not only in corn but in legislation; he would give to every man a right to vote. He moved that this meeting take steps to communicate with Colonel Thompson, requesting him to stand for the borough.

Mr. Crawshay thought such a step would be premature before the Free-Traders had ascertained their strength, and requested Mr. Cooke to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Cooke courteously acceded to this suggestion, and the original motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. Blackburn moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which Mr. Crawshay seconded. The resolution having been carried, the meeting separated.—*Tyne Mercury.*

Free-Trade Lecture at Southampton.—On Monday evening, the 11th inst., a lecture on the evils of the corn and provision laws was delivered by Mr. Falvey in the Royal Victoria Rooms, Southampton. Francis Cooper, Esq., the President of the Free-Trade Association, occupied the chair. Mr. Falvey spoke for nearly two hours, and his exposition of the evils of monopoly elicited loud cheers from his audience, which was both numerous and highly respectable. At the close of his address, on the motion of Mr. Andrews, a vote of thanks was given to the lecturer, and three hearty cheers for Free Trade. A vote of thanks was then, on the motion of Mr. Falvey, given to the chairman by acclamation.

Free-Trade Lectures.—On Thursday the 7th and Friday the 8th of Nov., Mr. Acland, of the League, delivered lectures in the Music Saloon, Wood-street, Wakefield, on the Free-Trade question. On Thursday evening the audience was numerous and respectable, being comprised of tradesmen, manufacturers, and mechanics. A more orderly and attentive audience we never saw met together on any political question, and the conduct of the people of Wakefield when left to the exercise of their reason, free from their foreign exciters, shone out to their credit. The admission was free, and the proceedings passed off without a dissenting voice. Mr. O'Connor lectured in the Theatre, at the same time, with a charge for admission.—*Leeds Mercury.*

THE REGISTRATION.

Wallingford.—(From a Correspondent.)—Benson, Nov. 10, 1844.—I beg to inform you that no public statement of the result of the revision for the borough and district of Wallingford has taken place; but from an analyzation of it, carefully gone into by the parties employed by Mr. Morrison to defend the Liberal interest, we find we have a clear gain over last year of 38 votes. In Benson, which has my particular care, I trust, by great attention and perseverance, I have enlarged the franchise at least by 15 votes; and on this register of voters I placed six names for properties never on before, and succeeded in every case. The Monopolist objections were four, two were retained, and two struck out: one of these left the place; and the other not being in occupation long enough, *will* be all right next year.

Nottingham Registration.—Free-Trade claims, 162; sustained, 125; failed, 37. Monopolist claims, 60; sustained, 37; failed, 23. Free Trade objections, 135; sustained, 78; failed, 57. Monopolist objections, 116; sustained, 68; failed, 48.

Total Free-Trade claims sustained over Monopolist ..	68
" Free-Trade objections sustained over Monopolist	10
Free Trade gain	78

IPSWICH.—The following is the result of the revision of the list of voters for the borough of Ipswich :—

Objections by Free-Traders sustained ..	30
Claims by do. allowed	6
	36
Objections by Monopolists sustained ..	20
Claims by do. allowed	7
	27

Majority in favour of Free-Traders 9.

THE COUNTY REGISTERS FOR NORTH AND SOUTH LANCASHIRE.—It is now officially ascertained that the number of names on the register of county voters for North Lancashire, for the present year, is 10,507; and for South Lancashire, 21,940; so that the entire number of county electors in this county may be taken to be 32,447. There has been a small increase in the number of names on the register for North Lancashire, and a large one, exceeding 3200, on that for South Lancashire, as compared with the registers of last year. The following are the numbers for the two years :—

	1843.	1844.	Increase.
North Lancashire ..	10,336 ..	10,507 ..	171
South Lancashire ..	18,666 ..	21,940 ..	3,274
Total county ..	29,002 ..	32,447 ..	3,445

We understand that the register for North Lancashire is printed and ready for delivery; and that that for this division of the county is in progress of being printed, and will probably be ready for delivery in about a fortnight.—*Manchester Guardian.*

REGISTRATION APPEALS.

In the Court of Common Pleas, notice has been given that the court has appointed the following days for hearing of appeals from the decision of the revising barristers, under the act of the 6th Vict., cap. 18, viz., Monday, the 18th day of November, and Thursday, the 21st day of November, on which days the court will proceed to hear the same in the order in which they are entered, as follows :—

No.	Place from which the appeal comes.	Appellants.	Respondents.
1	Westminster, City of ..	Pitts.	Smedley.
2	Tewkesbury, Boro' of ..	Whithorn.	Thomas.
3	Lancashire, South. Div.	Gadsby.	Barrow.
4	Do.	Do.	Warburton.
5	Do.	Eckersley.	Barker.
6	Totnes, Boro' of ..	Cuming.	Toms.
7	Yorkshire, West Riding	Baxter.	Overseers of Doncaster.
8	Do.	Do.	Newman.
9	Northampton, Nth. Div.	Davis.	Waddington.
10	Do.	Simpson.	Wilkinson.
11	Bury St. Edmund's ..	Nunn.	Denton.
12	Lichfield, City of	Moss.	Overseer of St. Michael, Lichfield.
13	Do.	Marshall.	Brown.
14	Totnes, Boro' of	Toms.	Cuming.
15	Westminster, City of ..	Score.	Huggett.
16	Bristol, City of	Daniel.	Camplin.
17	Do.	Do.	Coulsting.
18	Northampton, Boro' of	Jeffery.	Kitchener.
19	Do.	Stanton.	Jeffery.
20	Cambridge, Boro' of ..	Cooper.	Harris, Town-clk. of Cambridge.
21	Do.	Do.	
22	London, City of	Wansey.	Perkins.
23	Do.	Do.	Do.
24	Do.	Do.	Do.
25	Do.	Bags.	Do.
26	Westbury, Boro' of ..	Dyer.	Gough.
27	Taunton, Boro' of	Allen.	House.
28	Lambeth, Boro' of.. ..	Crocker	Overseers of St. Mary, Lambeth.
29	London, City of	Wansey.	Overseers of St. Peter-le-Poor.
30	Wenlock, Boro' of.. ..	Hinton.	Hinton, Town-clk. of Wenlock.
31	Do.	Do.	
32	Wakefield, Boro' of, York	Nettleton.	Burrell.
33	Blackburn, Boro' of, Nth. Division of Lancashire	Dewhurst.	Fielden.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE REGISTRATION.

Offices of the League, Manchester, Nov. 13.

Since our last publication there have been two meetings of the Registration Committee. The first was held on Friday evening, the 8th instant, R. Cobden, Esq., M.P., in the chair; and the second yesterday evening, Mr. G. Wilson in the chair. The latter meeting was convened by circular, and was very numerously attended, a great number of the most active members of the League in Manchester and the neighbourhood being present.

The CHAIRMAN in opening the proceedings, explained the particular business to which the attention of the gentlemen present would have to be directed during the next two months, namely, the continuation of the canvass, which had been but partially commenced, for the names of Free-Traders who would be willing to qualify for South Lancashire. While doing this, whenever they met with gentlemen who were already on the register for South Lancashire, they would endeavour to induce them to give their names for qualifications, in either or all of the following counties—North Cheshire, the West Riding of Yorkshire, and North Lancashire. He was happy to inform them that their friends in other parts of their own division were moving in the work, and by the end of January he hoped many hundreds of new qualifications would be taken up, which would not have been but for the exertions of their friends of the League.

Mr. COBDEN, M.P., and Mr. BRIGHT, M.P., also addressed the meeting. The latter gentleman explained the course adopted by their friends in Rochdale, and stated that he had no doubt that by the end of January next at least a hundred names of persons in that town and neighbourhood would be found to have possessed themselves of new qualifications for this division.

The Secretary, Mr. HICKIN, informed the meeting that since the 5th instant he had entered sixty names for South Lancashire qualifications, and a considerable number for the other counties to which the chairman had called their attention.

Mr. J. E. ROYLE reported that, in addition to six names which he had given on Friday evening, he had now three others for South Lancashire, and four for the West Riding.

Mr. S. LEES handed in four names, and several others were given by other gentlemen present.

Mr. JOHN BRAGG said he would take a qualification in each of the divisions.

Mr. JOHN LEDBEATER, who is on the register for South Lancashire, said he would also qualify for the other three.

The CHAIRMAN then urged upon the meeting the necessity of completing the arrangements for a full canvass of the Manchester polling district, and he would be glad to receive the names of gentlemen who could render the necessary assistance.

The names of 25 persons were handed in *seriatim*, and these were appropriated to the various districts, and will proceed with their canvass forthwith. The meeeting then adjourned to Friday evening at six o'clock.

GRAND GAME MEETING.

(*From Punch's own Correspondent.*)

Last night a very numerous meeting of the game of Lord COPPERCAP was held in one of his lordship's preserves. The meeting was very numerous: so much so that it would have brought the water into the mouths of those wretched animals, destitute labourers, to behold the hares, pheasants, and partridges, present on the genial occasion. They all appeared in their very best sleekness, and in their finest feathers.

The chair was taken by the Rev. Mr. SLYPUSS (a jack-hare of the very first respectability), who briefly stated the purposes of the meeting. He said it was impossible for them to witness the unceasing efforts of the owners of the soil in the cause of all that was sacred—need he say he alluded to the game laws?—(loud cheers)—without feeling the heaviest debt of gratitude towards the English landlord. It was to express this gratitude, that they had met. They could not but feel that they were privileged creatures of the earth—beings guarded by peculiar laws—creatures consecrated from the vulgar mouth, and protected even at the cost of human blood and suffering. (Cheers.) Hence their gratitude to those enlightened and patriotic men who had protected them by statutes. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. FINEWHISKER (a young hare, of very jaunty appearance) moved the first resolution. Whilst it might be proper to express gratitude and all that, it was onerous upon them to call for further protection. The present laws were not sufficiently strong to appal the poor and starving. Nothing could exceed the arrogance of the lower orders: he himself had that morning had a stone thrown at him by a famishing hedger (*Sensation*); whilst a friend of his, whom he regretted not to see present, had, three nights ago, narrowly escaped wires, evidently laid down by one of the inferior classes. Something must be done to check this arrogance, or there was an end to the best interests of the society.

Mr. OLDSCUT (a sedate, middle-aged hare), in seconding the resolution, remarked that new vigour was necessary, otherwise "their order" would soon be confounded with that of rabbits and vulgar barn-door poultry. Though suffering under severe domestic affliction, he could not refrain from appearing among them. A week ago, he was a happy husband; the meeting now beheld a disconsolate widower. (*Sensation.*) The wife of his bosom had been snared from him by a labourer: yes, one of themselves—for it was their common cause—had been caught and killed by a low unlicensed person, and devoured by a boor and his wretched family! Had his wife been killed by a gentleman, by one duly lincensed to shoot, he trusted that he should have been the last of husbands to complain; but to be butchered by the starving vulgar—to be consumed for a mere dinner, not used as a dainty—it was too much to endure with resignation. He could have been content to lose his wife to the nobility or gentry, but that she should have been eaten without currant-jelly sauce was too much for his conjugal affection. The speaker concluded by calling for more vigorous measures.

Mr. SILVERCROW (a cock-pheasant, in very bright feather) moved the second resolution. He was not, he said, much of a genealogist or antiquary; nevertheless, he believed that his brethren were originally of Asiatic stock; and if, indeed, there needed an argument to prove this, it might be found in the beneficent laws passed by English senators for their protection. Was it not a cause of gratification to all of them, that at that very moment the English labourer was made a slave to them—that even the English farmer was compelled to see them devour his grain, nor yet, but at his peril, to kill or wound them? Had they not the grand satisfaction of tempting the fingers of famine to break its fast and the law at the same time? Had they not the sweet consolation to know that at that moment there were scores and scores of men—husbands and fathers—locked up in gaol, and their bits of household furniture seized and sold—for indignities offered, ay, even to members of that meeting? Besides, if they had any wrong to complain of against men in general, were they not sweetly revenged for the injustice; for did not they, as game, tend to work more immorality, more tyranny, more heart-burning (with now and then a little wholesome blood-spilling) than any other beasts of the field, or birds of the air? For himself, he never thought of the men that he and his fellows caused to be locked up for felons, that in the exulting feeling of his high privilege he did not crow the louder for it. Nevertheless, with the last speaker, he thought they should petition their landlords for more vigorous measures.

Mr. SHORTTAIL (an elderly and very respectable partridge) seconded this resolution. He said he begged to call the attention of the meeting to a paragraph which he would read from the *Oxford Chronicle.* It was to this effect; that—

"RICHARD NUTT, of Postcomb, a lad about 15 years of age, was charged by PALMER *with looking at seven wires* on the 15th of October. The poor boy said he was coming down the footpath *and saw the wires, and only stopped to look at them, but did not touch them.* Fined 15s., including costs, and in default 14 days' imprisonment!"

The speaker observed that such a paragraph must be especially sweet to the feelings of the meeting (loud cheers), as it assured them of the more than paternal care exercised towards them by their enlightened landlords. Looking upon himself as of the aristocracy of birds, he could not but feel grateful for such protection. Seeing that the country had a superabundant population, nothing could be wiser than to continually sacrifice the peasant to the pheasant. (Cheers and laughter.) Instead, however, of fining a labourer for *looking* at wires or at any game soever, he would stop the chance of such disrespect, by compelling every labourer—unless upon lawful work—to walk blindfolded! (Cheers.) He hoped another session would not pass away ere this was done. It was an axiom that could not be too sternly preached, that the poor were made for game, and not game for the poor.

The resolutions were passed, thanks returned, and the meeting separated.—*Punch.*

TO MR. JOHN BULL.

(From the *Times.*)

DEAR MR. JOHN BULL,—When I received the pleasure of your chop in answer to my questions, I was struck dumb with surprise how you could be so learned, and possess so much milk of kindness as to choose to lighten the darkness of a poor Chinese Fanqui.

I rested so long a time with my head upon the ground in honour of you, that a violent rush of blood into it forced me to get up again, or else I truly believe I should have remained so till the present time. This it is which has emboldened me to trouble you once more for the last time; but I humbly petition you to hand me over to the board of punishment for my great temerity in venturing to ask you any more favours.

I should tell you that, since I have been in your western land, a wonderful new light has beamed upon my mind; I have been as good as born again, for I am become a new man; your immense wisdom will at once tell you I am become a Christian. I now look with pity on the follies, the errors, and vices of Buddhism, my former religion, and I feel most anxious, through your help and the help of Heaven, to bring all my countrymen in the way that leads to everlasting bliss! There is only one difficulty in my path, which your infinite knowledge and condescension will remove from before my feet, that they stumble not. I will tremble to tell those new doctrines of eternal life to the ignorant men of Cathay, only for fear of their saying to me, that the tree I desire to plant among them, though it smells so nice and looks so green, is like the upas of the East, surrounded with destruction, and that the fruit which I shall bid them taste, as being so sweet that it will confer on them the knowledge of salvation, looks to their pagan eyes like the berries of the deadly nightshade! How wicked and foolish is such a thought! Pray help me, that I may put it out of their minds. They will put many questions to me.

Why, they will ask me, do the Christian good people not live and let live? Why not do as they would be done by, and love their neighbours as themselves? This they preach, but do not practise. Why do they make rice so dear and scarce, and men's blood, bones, and sinews so cheap, that their people faint and die of hunger? Why may not the poor of the outer land change the fruit of their industry for meat, and eat bread by the sweat of their brow? Why are provisions shut out of their reach by the hand of the tax-man, while you say the victims of famine linger in every street covered only in part with the clothes of wretchedness; while the eye of the western land is dimmed by grief, and the pages of the great gazette of the *Times* are sullied every day with tales of death and starvation in that Christian country that make pale the cheek, appal the heart, wring the bowels of compassion, and fill the eye of the reader with big tears, that he can no longer continue to read? And all this time among us, whom you call idolaters, our Ko-zu, which you call a premium, is given to ships for bringing in plenty of rice. In a word, why do those who know the only true religion of the Holy Cross make scarcity and dearth, while we inner barbarians desire to make plenty, cheapness, and fatness, always to wait at the door of industry? Why should the poor man be forced, against his will, to eat the cold rice of charity, and why should he not have, if his industry can buy them, not only the necessaries, but even the luxuries of life? Why, if he can honestly pay for them, should he not even taste salted earth-worms, young rats, nice fat little puppies, half-hatched chickens, sharks' fins, birds' nests, and even sea slugs? All he wants is fairly to sell the produce of his labour in the dearest market, and to buy his food in the cheapest, as your great mandarin, the eye of your beloved Queen, has promulgated in his great chop.

You have, no doubt, studied the works of our divine sage, Confutzee, who you will recollect in the 499th chapter of his great work on morals has these words,—"For while on the left hand of blooming benevolence sits soft Charity, Justice, with her healthy face, sits on the right hand, occupying the more honourable station."

Deign, then, most honourable Mandarin, to help me in my difficulty, and throw the effulgence of your wisdom into my misty mind, by telling me what I am to answer to those questions, and my heart will leap with lightness, I will sing a new hymn of gladness, and I shall quickly carry the good tidings of great joy through all the land of Cathay. I will, dear Mr. Bull, hang a garland of gratitude, love, and affection, on your horns. I will drop the sweets of faith like flowers all over my native country. I will illuminate the minds of men as the dews of heaven fructify and fertilize each blade of grass. I will make them to destroy all their wicked joss-houses and trumpery temples, lighted with thousands of painted paper lamps; and I will cause them to break in pieces their stupid, senseless idols.

I promise never more to trouble you with my dull, foolish questions, for next moon I go away to China. I bid you an eternal farewell, and bless you, dear Mr. Bull; my eye fills with water, and I can write no more. I have knocked my head nine times against the ground with the utmost force to do you royal honour. A respectful memorial from your slave,

YANGFANG.

Gloucester-place, Kentish-town.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, November 13, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the League of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

	£	s.	d.
Brooks, John, Mosley-street, Manchester ..	£500	0	0
Whittaker, John, and Sons, Ashton under-Lyne ..	300	0	0
Smith, John Benjamin, Cotton-court, Manchester ..	100	0	0
Rawson, W. and H., Higher Ardwick, do. ..	50	0	0
Howard, Edmund, Industry House, Rochdale ..	15	0	0
An old Anti-Corn-Law Agitator	5	0	0
*Parson, T., St Ann's square, Manchester	2	2	0
*Todman, George, 57, Oldham-street, do.	2	0	0
*Morris, Robert, Cavendish Cottage, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester	2	0	0
*Walker, J., 6, Lime-place, Higher Broughton, do...	1	1	0
*Lee, John, cabinet maker, King-street, do...	1	0	0
*C. M.	1	0	0
*Bennett, Alfred, druggist, Newton Moor, near Hyde, Cheshire, per Benjamin Marler	1	0	0
*Ainsworth, James, Ramsgrave, near Blackburn ..	1	0	0
*Burton, William, 61, Oldham-street, Manchester	1	0	0
*Murray, Wm., 5, Edward-street, Shudehill, do. ..	1	0	0
*M'Gill, Francis, 7, do., do., do. ..	1	0	0
*Bunting, Robert, Land of Nod, Pendleton, do. ..	1	0	0
*Froggatt, Robert, 13, Joiner-street, do. ..	1	0	0
*Mawson, Moses, Rose grove, Ardwick, do. ..	1	0	0
Bratt, Ann, and friends, 85, Plymouth-grove, do. ..	0	3	0
*Wood, John, 17, Cumming-street, Pentonville ..	10	0	0
*Cumming, J. D., Carpenters'-hall, London-wall ..	5	0	0
*Towgood, John, 64, Chancery-lane	3	3	0
*Darwen, Charles, Down, near Bromley, Kent ..	1	10	0
Amory, Samuel, 23, Throgmorton-street	1	1	0
Thompson, Wm., Western Coffee Rooms, 39, Drury-lane	1	1	0
*Montgomery, James, Brentford	1	1	0
Sim, William, 8, King's Bench-walk, Temple ..	1	1	0
*Peel, John, 17, Golden-square	1	1	0
*Edmiston, Charles, 69, Strand	1	1	0
J. R., by S. Harrison, jun.	1	1	0
Cousins, William, 7, Chester-terrace, Eaton-square, Pimlico	1	1	0
*Harris and Cumming, Stourport	1	1	0
*Davis, R. P., 42, Lothbury	1	1	0
*Colling, John, 87, Bartholomew-close..	1	1	0
*Booth, H., 1, Haberdasher-street, Hoxton	1	1	0
*Marillier, J. W., Leicester	1	1	0
*Cox, Arthur A., Brighton	1	1	0
*Abby, James, 122, Camden Villas, Camden-town ..	1	1	0
Drake, John, and Co., Russell-street, Bermondsey ..	1	1	0
Williamson, Thomas, 9, Bermondsey New-road ..	1	1	0
Ostler, Jonah, 19, White's Grounds, Bermondsey ..	1	1	0
A few of the Men in Mr Allingham's manufactory, 2, Upper Russell-street, Bermondsey	1	1	0
Wright, Samuel E., 49, Regent's Quadrant	1	1	0
Crane, Joseph, Commercial-road East..	1	0	0
*Harsant, C., 229, Strand..	1	0	0
Dyer, T. J., 11, Gloucester-street, Clerkenwell ..	1	0	0
*Monkhouse, A., 6, Green-street, Grosvenor-square	1	0	0
*Wornum, A. N., 1, Bedford-place, Hampstead-road	1	0	0
*Cooper, Robert, Maidstone	1	0	0
*Andrews, William, jun., 1, Albion-villas, Liverpool-road, Islington	1	0	0
*Peachey, James, 38, Goswell-street	1	0	0
*G. L., an Enemy to Corn Laws..	1	0	0
*Tapp, J., Bath-road, Hounslow	1	0	0
*Pitty, David, 12, New-road, Whitechapel	1	0	0
*Reed, John Frederick, 5, White Hart-street, Newgate-market	1	0	0
*Southall, John, Leominster	1	0	0
*Hirman, T., Loughborough	1	0	0
*Barker, Richard, Whitehaven	1	0	0
*Horsfall, James, Liverpool	1	0	0
A hard Labourer in the Cause, Sheffield	1	0	0
*Stirratt, James, Paisley	1	0	0
*Baker, David, Guisborough	1	0	0
*Hooker, J. S., Maidstone	1	0	0
*Charleton, R., Sunderland	1	0	0
*Fox, Joseph, Leeds	1	0	0
*Greening, W. A., Bromsgrove	1	0	0
*Hanson, William, Littleborough, near Rochdale ..	1	0	0
*Swindells, Mrs., do., do. ..	1	0	0
*Kell, William, Gateshead	1	0	0
*Platt, Richard, shoe manufacturer, 91, Oldham-street, Manchester	1	0	0
*Hurbert, John, Carlisle	1	0	0
*Millie, Thomas, Kirkaldy, N.B	1	0	0
*Allen, William, 62, Warren street, Fitzroy-square..	1	0	0
54, Wood-street, { *Shore, A.	1	0	0
{ Russell, J.	1	0	0
{ *Smith, Thomas	1	0	0
{ Five Free-Traders	1	0	0
{ *Tracy, L.	1	0	0
*J. T.	1	0	0
*French, Josh. Barnabas, 201, High-street, Chatham	1	0	0
*Robertson, John, 15, Saville row, Burlington-gardens	1	0	0
Blackie, John, 49, Regent's Quadrant	1	0	0
Turner, Thomas, 49, do.	1	0	0
Price, Robert, 16, Cheapside	1	0	0
*Goodwin, James, 129, Bethnal-green-road	1	0	0
Hayward Thomas, Mount Etna, Mile End road ..	0	5	0
Framingham, Charles, 187, Church-street, Bethnal-green	0	5	0
Mouse, George, 13, Randolph-street, Camden town .	0	5	0
Kidd, Samuel George, 15, Camden street North, do.	0	5	0
Revane, Peter, 11, Magdalen-street, Bermondsey-st.	0	5	0
Jacobs, B., 132, Curtain-road, Shoreditch	0	5	0
Atkinson, Thomas, 7, Norfolk place, Lower-road, Islington	0	5	0
Curtis, Joseph, 1, St. James's terrace, Camden-town	0	5	0
Graham, George, 28, Randolph-street, do. ..	0	5	0
Smith, Samuel, 7, Bartholomew-place, Kentish-town	0	5	0
Barr, George, 7, High-street, Stepney	0	2	6
Gladston, George, Ship Tavern, Anthony-street, Commercial-road	0	2	6
Hunter, James, 1, Jubilee-place, Commercial-road East	0	2	6
Reynolds, George, 271, Bethnal green-road	0	2	6
Ashford, R. H., 41, do.	0	2	6
J. K.	0	2	6
Carpenter, Thomas, 31, Melton street, Euston-square	0	2	6
Adams, Mrs., Grove-lodge, King's road, Camden-town..	0	2	6
Barker, Robert, 34, Pratt-street, do.	0	2	6
Beatley, William, 1, Athol-place, New-road	0	2	6
Roberts, Robert, 15, Claremont-place, Pentonville ..	0	2	6
Argent, Edward, 3, do., do. ..	0	2	6
Gun, Chas., 3, Norfolk-place, Lower-road, Islington	0	2	6
Peake, Henry, Rosoman-row, Islington-green ..	0	2	6
Dain, John, 28, Lower-street, Islington	0	2	6
Webb, Walter, 26, Winskin-street, Clerkenwell ..	0	2	6
Whitwell, William, 1, High-street, Islington.. ..	0	2	6
Matthew, T. B., 9, Athol place, Pentonville	0	2	6
Frow, Nathan, 3, Sherrard-street, Golden-square ..	0	2	6
Bennett, R. D., 15, Stanhope-street, Clare market ..	0	2	6
Pulsley, James, 4, Brett's buildings, Hoxton ..	0	2	6
Kerr, David, 9, Brecknock-terrace, Camden-town ..	0	2	6
Noake, F. W., 2, Harrington-street North, Hampstead-road	0	2	6
Freeman, Samuel, 13, Jeffrey's-street, Camden-town	0	2	6
Summers, Henry, 7, Holmes-terrace, Kentish-town	£0	2	6
Austin, A., do., do. ..	0	2	6
Haslock, John, 6, Southampton-terrace, do. ..	0	2	6
Sandford, Henry, 16, Providence-place, do. ..	0	2	6
Allam, William, 65, Wapping-wall	0	2	6
Subscriptions under 2s. 6d. each	1	0	6
Paisley. *Clark, J. and J., and Co.	2	0	0
*Walker, Son, and Co.	1	1	0
*Hutchison, Archibald, Forbes-street.. ..	1	0	0
*Brown, Hugh, Causeyside-street	1	0	0
*Boyd, William, High-street	1	0	0
*Wallace, Hugh, Causeyside-street	1	0	0
*Erskine, D. and J., do.	1	1	0
*Brodie, Robert, Western Bank..	1	1	0
*Mitchell, George, Bladda	1	0	0
*Macfarlane, Hugh, jun., Causeyside-street..	1	1	0
*Macfarlane, John, tobacconist..	1	0	0
*Murray, J. and G., Causeyside-street ..	1	0	0
*Millar, James, do.	1	0	0
*A Friend	1	0	0
*Boyd and Forrett, Causeyside-street.. ..	1	0	0
*Rowat, Robert, do.	1	0	0
Rochester. *Edwards, J..	1	0	0
*Aldridge, W., High-street	1	0	0
*Harrow, Philip	1	0	0
*Gould, W., St. Margaret's Bank	1	0	0
*Gouldston, Paul, East Gate	1	0	0
*Howard, G., High-street	1	0	0

* Those names marked with an asterisk are renewed subscriptions.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor *of the* League.

Calne, Wilts, Nov. 11.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding the following, which be pleased to insert in your paper, thinking it may be beneficial to some of my brethren.

My land joining a gentleman's preserve, and being annoyed by his vermin's depredations, I tried every art I could think of, till at last I hit upon the following plan:—I hung tar-twine (loosely) round my wheat, and let it hang about one or two feet from the ground; afterwards I sent my boy once or twice a fortnight with a tarpot to fresh tar the twine. Sir, I can safely say that I did not see six hares on the piece after I had done this; when before I have seen from two to three dozen at a time.

By inserting the above you will oblige a brother-worker in your cause, and a Friend to the Farmer.

To the Editor *of the* League.

Sir,—Mr. Cobden's injunction to create 40s. freeholders in counties is one mode to be adopted to secure counties; and I think it is worth the attention of Free-Traders to consider how easily freeholders in one county may become freeholders of another county merely by a reciprocal change of interests, by granting rent-charges of £10 for life on each other's estates; the cost of obtaining votes in this way might be kept under £5. Hundreds and thousands of votes might in this way be created, and many counties secured from monopoly. The plan would not in any way affect the title of the estates or their sale, as it is not necessary for electoral purposes that the deeds should be registered.—Yours, &c.,

A Leaguer.

ADVANCE OF WAGES.—STRIKES.

"Cheap bread — low wages."—*Quarterly Review.*

Chorley.—We are happy to state that the power-loom weavers have resumed work at the advance of wages for which they turned out. One part commenced on the 1st, another part on the 4th, and the remaining on the 5th instant. In consequence of a number of families removing to other towns, where they had got employment, it appears masters took the alarm, knowing that there would be a deficiency of hands. Had it not been for this circumstance, it is probable that the matter would not have been settled so early.

Oldham.—On Monday morning the spinners, card-room, and other hands of Messrs. Wild, Moss Hey, Crompton, turned out for an advance of wages, of about 1s. per week. Messrs. Wild had offered an advance of 6d., but it was rejected. On Thursday morning last, the cotton-spinners and card-room hands in the employment of Mr. Benjamin Wrigley, of Littlewood Mill, Hey Side, Royton, turned out for an advance of wages. Their demand amounts to 1s. 6d. per week; Mr. Wrigley offered about 1s. per hand, but this the operatives declined to accede to.

Bolton.—A meeting of delegates from Manchester, Ashton-under-Lyne, Oldham, Stockport, Heywood, Bury, Blackburn, Preston, Chowbent District, Wigan, Hindley, Farrington, Cuerden Green, Lees, Waterhead Mill, Chorley, Horwich, Ashton-in-Mackerfield, Hyde, &c., was held at Bolton on Sunday last, at which it was resolved to engage Mr. Roberts ("attorney-general" for the colliers), "to obtain a redress of the grievances of some of the members." It was also resolved, "That it is the opinion of this meeting that each district should do all in its power for the men of Stockport during their present struggle for an advance of wages, and that each district shall call meetings next week, for the purpose of taking the subject into their most serious consideration."

Hindley.—On Friday se'nnight, the throstle-spinners, doffers, reelers, &c., in the employ of Mr. Richard Pennington, struck for an advance of wages. Mr. Pennington, we understand, made the throstle-piecers an advance of sixpence, but, as he reduced them a shilling each at the last reduction, they wish to have that shilling restored. The power-loom weavers have held several meetings during the past week.

Ashton-under-Lyne.—The miners in the employ of the Fairbottom Coal Company still remain out. At present there is no prospect of an amicable arrangement being come to.

Stockport.—Deputations from the workpeople in all the mills have waited upon their employers, and the spinners have demanded an advance of 10 per cent., and the self-acting piecers, as they are called, have asked an advance of 20 per cent. above their present rate of wages. This being refused by the masters, the usual notice has been given, and on Saturday the workpeople employed at several establishments left their employment, and are now walking about the streets. The masters have met several times at the Warren Bulkeley Arms, and offered the men a general advance of five per cent. This advance the workpeople decline to accept, and stand firmly by their demand. The associated masters met on Friday, and, after some deliberation, passed a resolution expressing their determination to adhere to their present offer, and thus the matter stands.

LETTERS ON THE CORN LAWS, No. VII.

TO THE BISHOPS.

Right Rev. Prelates,—There is a delusion abroad, derogatory to the glory of Divine Providence, and mischievous in its influence upon Christian morals. The author of those laws by which material agency is exerted, and voluntary conduct directed, has also constituted laws for the regulation of those industrial efforts by which the wealth of nations is produced, and for the reward of such efforts by its appropriate distribution. The knowledge of these laws is the science of political economy. Like all other sciences, it has its worth in a system of natural theology. Like all other sciences, which are in fact only interpretations of the will and ways of creative power, it has its propitious bearing upon rectitude and beneficence of character. Yet there are many who treat it scornfully or scoffingly; and vilify its influence, without regard to its being taught correctly or incorrectly, as tending to coldheartedness, and destructive of the kindly charities of life. For clergymen to do this, and to abet it in others, is surely an unseemly act; though not an uncommon one. I pray you, look to it; for the credit of the Church, and for the sake of truth and usefulness.

In the intercourse of merchants, the exportation and importation of commodities, the adjustment of the capitalist's profits and the operative's wages, the effects of allowed facilities of exchange, or of interposed difficulties, nothing happens by chance, any more than in the rising and setting of the sun, and the fulfilment of her courses by the moon. The phenomena of trade and labour are as much under law, *Divine law*, as the phenomena of the seasons. Ought we not to aim at understanding those laws? Does not the fact of our being placed by Providence in a great commercial country render it a duty? If they have been erroneously interpreted, whether by Adam Smith or any other received authority, let the error be corrected, but not the knowledge depreciated. No human error can make vicious the effort to trace His footsteps "whose paths drop fatness." Whether the pursuit of wealth be sinful, either in itself or beyond certain limitations, is a different question. The philosophy of light is not less valuable because some may gaze on the sun till they are blind. To know how wealth is produced and distributed, no more makes the miser than the spendthrift. I shall endeavour to show your lordships that it tends to render the Christian yet more devout, and the philanthropist yet more beneficent.

You take your texts from David, and bid your hearers consider the starry heavens. The difference of the stars in glory is not greater than the diversity of earth's regions in fertility. The mutual relation pervading this difference is more apparent in the produce at our feet than in the sky above us. Some lands are rich in fruits and some in minerals. One region contributes the cotton or the silk, and another the skill and toil that fashion them for purposes of clothing or adornment. The spice trees and the bread corn are parted by oceans. Materials for the humble dish on the peasant's table are brought from the ends of the earth. The distribution of the means of subsistence and enjoyment is not the work of chance. The stimulating effect of their interchange upon intellect, industry, and civilization is not the work of chance. Plan and purpose are everywhere visible. Material nature points to unrestricted commerce as its result; as the distributor of the surplus which it pours forth in one place; the corrector of the sterility which it has marked on another region; and the equalizer, in proportion to man's industry, of Heaven's gifts to all that dwell on the face of the earth.

And is this lesson of piety not to be observed because certain petty and sordid interests obstruct the freedom of interchange, and bid the profusion rot in one region that deficient supply may enhance prices in another region? Must Heaven's laws be scorned theoretically, because they are violated practically? Must a chapter be torn from the proof of Divine wisdom and goodness, because it contradicts a blackleaf in the statute-book? Philosophy has often been called the handmaid of Divinity; is Divinity only the dumb bond slave of Monopoly?

In old and limited countries the population tends to increase faster than the means of subsistence; and its redundancy is checked by war, vice, and misery. That doctrine, my lords, was put in proof by a clergyman. The unbeliever forthwith pointed out that here was a plan for the production of evil attributed to Providence. What is the reply? That with Free Trade, the limitation of soil and the increase of population no longer signify. The multitudes of manufacturing countries have their fertile fields across the Atlantic. Earth and ocean must be exhausted before mankind are redundant, or the horrible corrections of war, vice, and misery are necessarily applied. People may inhabit wherever they are born, or like best, or find most scope for their industry. The world is theirs. "Now, Infidel, I have thee on the hip." The objection vanishes, unless monopoly be in the laws of nature or of morals. To that reply must we come or

leave the pages of our Bibles blotted. Only Free Trade overturns the altars of the demon triad of War, Vice, and Misery. Priests of the Gospel of peace and goodness, have you no concern in this?

That we should "buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest," is undoubtedly the maxim of political economy. It is often reprobated, but with what reason? Why is an article cheap, but because it is abundant? Why dear, but because it is scarce in proportion to the want? Those who inhabit the locality of the two supposed markets are alike inconvenienced: these from a superfluous supply, those from a deficient supply. Acting on the above maxim, the merchant who buys from the one assists in obviating the evil of superfluity, and raising the price so as to repay the producer; and when he sells in the other, the act tends to lower the price, and remove the evil of insufficiency. He benefits both parties, and has his own advantage in recompense of his services. Let him spend a fortune in doing the reverse of this. He will make the cheap market cheaper, and the dear market dearer. Those will have more who had too much; and those have less who had too little. The man deserves to be beggared for his pains. It is the punishment of Nature and Providence upon his pernicious folly. And, eventually, Nature and Providence will beggar the nation whose laborious children are compelled to buy their food artificially dear, and consequently sell their products artificially cheap, by the class cupidity, or the wrong-headedness, of their legislators. Beggary for beneficence is honourable. But the beggary whose blundering has only beggared others is neither moral nor Christian: it is condemned for wickedness unless excused by imbecility.

Sometimes it is assumed that there is a want of Christian and neighbourly charity in buying of the foreigner rather than of a countryman, the foreigner being supposed the cheapest vender. The existing laws say we shall not do this. They raise, by duties, the price of the foreigner's corn up to that of home-grown produce. And this is done although the home produce of food for the population is notoriously inadequate. May not the multitudes who must go unfed unless they buy of the foreigner, and unemployed unless allowed to work for the payment which he proffers, ask the question, "Who is my neighbour?" Whoever finds them work and food is their good Samaritan. Whoever diminishes their profitable employment is but the churlish brother of that other parable, though born on the same soil. A churlish brother indeed; for his restrictions occasion suffering, destitution, crime, disease, and death. Compare, my lords, the annual returns of the prices of corn, and the number of commitments. They are demonstrative of the demoralizing tendency of the present system. It is a wholesale agency of sin and guilt. Adam Smith might not be a sound believer; but his economical principles, in their application, co-operate powerfully with Christianity for the diminution of crime.

There is one circumstance which should make your lordships, as the heads of the Church, particularly sensitive at the present time. The incomes of your clergy are in course of augmentation by the working of the Tithe Commutation Act. Incumbents are enriched by high prices. In direct proportion to the distress of the poor is the stipend of the clergyman. The position is an unfortunate one. It can scarcely fail to bias the mind of such a body as the clergy. And the temptation is strengthened by the landed aristocracy, amongst whom they look for patrons, being the great supporters of commercial restrictions. Humanity, even under holy vows, is a weak thing in such circumstances. You are the shepherds of the shepherds: remember their frailty. Rebuke their compromise of the interests of morality with the dictates of Mammon. Counsel them to be the friends of the needy. Uphold their feebleness when it sinks before the frowns of lords, the wealth of monopoly, and the attractions of augmented tithe. Admonish them that gain reaped from robbery of the poor man's loaf is an accursed thing, which they should dread to touch. Church revenues increased by laws which diminish the food of the industrious, and abridge their industry itself, are worse than money-changers in the temple of the Lord, and make it more a den of thieves. Tell your clergy this, my lords: and if the love of the world render them refractory, scourge them to their duty, and so discharge your own.

A Norwich Weaver Boy.

Railway Extension.—An additional *Gazette* was published on Saturday last, on account of the great number of notices concerning applications to Parliament for railways.

Irish Railways.—The Board of Trade, we are informed by a private communication from London, have determined to send a commissioner to this country, about the close of the present month, to make some important inquiries into the various railway projects which now engage public attention. Our correspondent states that the gentlemen who will be deputed on this most important mission are Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Laing, and Mr. Porter, who are all members of the railway department of the Board of Trade.—*Irish Railway Gazette.*

REVIEW.

Essays. Second Series. By R. W. Emerson. London: Chapman.

"Think wrongly, if you please," said Lessing, "but in all cases, *think for yourself.*" In all ancient systems of philosophy and legislation the object proposed was the advancement of the community at the expense of the individual; society, or the state, was every thing, and the man nothing. It was the peculiar attribute of Christianity that it appealed to man in his individual consciousness, and laid down no laws for the regulation of masses, or the guidance of society. The Christian was required "to believe" before a definite formulary was presented to him as a creed,—"to do justice" before a moral code had fixed the principles of equity,—"to love mercy" before ethics had explained the cases to which that feeling was applicable, and "to walk humbly before God," ere casuists had supplied the weights and measures of true humility. The philosophy of the Gospel required not that a man should be Jew or Gentile, bond or free, patrician or plebeian, royalist or republican: it simply required him to be *himself*, and, as such, to hold fast to his own personal responsibilities. But while the Christian philosophy did not interfere with the framework of society, so neither did it supersede social existence; it was a new science, revealing to man a new form of life in his inner soul, but leaving all his outward relations unaltered.

To appreciate the value of such a philosophy we have only to reflect on our own experience, and see how difficult is the attainment of that self-reliance which makes within its own consciousness the standard of its own opinion; or, should self-love hide the mortifying secret, we have only to cast a glance around, and see how few are the persons whom we can recognise in their perfect individuality.

"Seek not thyself *outside thyself* to find,"

said a poet to whom the world has not done justice, the true-hearted Persius; the precept has been ill-obeyed, for it is *outside themselves* that we have to look for the greater part of mankind. Investigate the constituent elements of their mental existence:—ask for their religion? it is in their church;—for their politics? it is in their party;—for their moral code? it is in the public opinion of the circle in which they move;—or for their philosophy? and it is in the last new school that has won the homage of fashion. It is right that there should be a social science, with its weights and measures, its cold axioms and its rigid formularies,—there must inevitably be such a science, because there must inevitably be society. But beyond that social science, because beyond and outside social existence, there lies the science of self, the development of man in his individual existence, within himself and for himself. Of this latter science, which may perhaps be called the philosophy of individuality, Mr. Emerson is an able apostle and interpreter. He perhaps is rather disposed to underrate social science, for we find him not free from the mockery of arbitrary rules of social life, which is as often a sign of weakness as of strength; but, unlike the vulgar herd of sneerers against political economy and its sister sciences, he revolts not against universality of rule, but partiality of application.

In the essay entitled "The Poet," he sets himself against the conventional trammels of schools; he refuses allegiance to Aristotle, snubs Longinus, defies Dacier, and openly revolts against Boileau:—

"For poetry was all written before time was, and whenever we are so finely organized that we can penetrate into that region where the air is music, we hear those primal warblings, and attempt to write them down, but we lose ever and anon a word, or a verse, and substitute something of our own, and thus miswrite the poem. The men of more delicate ear write down these cadences more faithfully, and these transcripts, though imperfect, become the songs of the nations. For nature is as truly beautiful as it is good, or as it is reasonable, and must as much appear, as it must be done, or be known. Words and deeds are quite indifferent modes of the divine energy. Words are also actions, and actions are a kind of words."

The distinction which he makes between the natural and factitious poet is eminently just, and is at the same time one of the most beautiful examples of judicious illustration with which we are acquainted:—

"He does not stand out of our low limitations, like a Chimborazo under the line, running up from the torrid base through all the climates of the globe, with belts of the herbage of every latitude on its high and mottled sides; but this genius is the landscape garden of a modern house, adorned with fountains and statues, with well-bred men and women standing and sitting in the walks and terraces. We hear, through all the varied music, the ground-tone of conventional life. Our poets are men of talents who sing, and not the children of music. The argument is secondary, the finish of the verses is primary."

There are some principles enunciated in the "Essay on Experience" which cannot be received without very large qualifications. Mr. Emerson seems to limit experience to all that is brought under the consideration of the mind subjectively, and to set aside the category of objective truths:—

"Life will be imaged, but cannot be divided nor doubled. Any invasion of its unity would be chaos. The soul is not twin-born, but the only begotten, and though revealing itself as child in time, child in appearance, is of a fatal and universal power, admitting no co-life. Every day, every act, betrays the ill-concealed deity. We believe in ourselves, as we do not believe in others. We permit all things to ourselves, and that which we call sin in others, is experiment for us. It is an instance of our faith in ourselves, that men never speak of crime as lightly as they think: or, every man thinks a latitude safe for himself, which is nowise to be indulged to another. The act looks very differently on the inside, and on the outside; in its quality and in its consequences. Murder in the murderer is no such ruinous thought as poets and romancers will have it; it does not unsettle him, or fright him from his ordinary notice of trifles: it is an act quite easy to be contemplated, but in its sequel, it turns out to be a horrible jangle and confounding of all relations. Especially the crimes that spring from love, seem right and fair from the actor's point of view, but, when acted, are found destructive of society. No man at last believes that he can be lost, nor that the crime in him is as black as in the felon; because the intellect qualifies in our own case the moral judgments. For there is no crime to the intellect."

Now, in this passage the moral judgment is set up as a thing perfectly distinct from the intellect: the one belonging to the science of society, and the other to the science of individuality. If this distinction be admissible, the commencement of the paragraph is negatived: there must be duality in man, for there is no man whose moral judgment has not been moulded and formed from external sources. It is true that we possess a power of assimilation, whereby what comes from abroad is so united with our own framework as ultimately to form part of our individual consciousness.

Social science has real existence within us: those who sneer at political economy have a political economy of their own—a pet system which they would gladly force upon the world, though it contradicts the demonstrable laws of public utility and public happiness. There are persons who call themselves "practical men," and sneer at all theory, while they are themselves the greatest theorists in existence. The difference is simply that the philosopher infers his theory by a copious induction from all ascertainable facts, while the practical man bases his theory on his own narrow and limited experience. Mr. Emerson justly remarks:—

"The life of truth is cold, and so far mournful; but it is not the slave of tears, contritions, and perturbations. It does not attempt another's work, nor adopt another's facts. It is a main lesson of wisdom to know your own from another's. I have learned that I cannot dispose of other people's facts; but I possess such a key to my own as persuades me against all their denials that they also have a key to theirs. A sympathetic person is placed in the dilemma of a swimmer among drowning men, who all catch at him, and, if he gives so much as a leg or a finger, they will drown him. *They wish to be saved from the mischief of their vices, but not from their vices.* Charity would be wasted on this poor waiting on the symptoms. A wise and hardy physician will say, *Come out of that*, as the first condition of advice."

This "treatment of the symptoms," which he justly reprobates, is the fashionable quackery of our day. A limited demand for labour, the necessary result of restrictive laws imposed by interested monopolists, has narrowed the field of employment, and consequently lowered wages to the point were they are insufficient to produce the necessaries, much less the comforts, of life. The poor labourers are hungry, sad, and discontented. Men begin to be alarmed at such results, and they propose, as a cure for hunger, out-door relief;—for sadness, a game of cricket;—and for discontent, a bundle of tracts preaching the virtue of resignation! We say, remove the source of the disease, and you will soon get rid of the symptoms.

The "Essay on Character" contains many passages on which we would gladly comment; but the following is to us the most pregnant with instruction:—

"The hero sees that the event is ancillary: it must follow *him*. A given order of events has no power to secure to him the satisfaction which the imagination attaches to it; the soul of goodness escapes from any set of circumstances, whilst prosperity belongs to a certain mind, and will introduce that power and victory which is its natural fruit, into any order of events. No change of circumstances can repair a defect of character. We boast our emancipation from many superstitions; but, if we have broken any idols, it is through a transfer of the idolatry. What have I gained that I no longer immolate a bull to Jove, or to Neptune, or a mouse to Hecate; that I do not tremble before the Eumenides, or the Catholic Purgatory, or the Calvinistic Judgment-day,—if I quake at opinion, the public opinion, as we call it; or at the threat of assault, or contumely, or bad neighbours, or poverty, or mutilation, or at the rumour of revolution, or of murder? If I quake, what matters it what I quake at? Our proper vice takes form in one or another shape, according to the sex, age, or temperament of the person, and, if we are capable of fear, will readily find terrors. The covetousness or the malignity which saddens me, when I ascribe it to society, is my own. I am always environed by myself. On the other part, rectitude is a perpetual victory, celebrated not by odes of joy, but by serenity, which is joy fixed or habitual. It is disgraceful to fly to events for confirmation of our truth and worth. The capitalist does not run every hour to the broker to coin his advantages into current money of the realm: he is satisfied to read in the quotations of the market that his stocks have risen. The same transport which the occurrence of the best events in the best order would occasion me, I must learn to taste purer in the perception that my position is every hour mellorated, and does already command those events I desire. The exultation

is only to be checked by the foresight of an order of things so excellent, as to throw all our prosperities into the deepest shade.

"The face which character wears to me is self-sufficingness. I revere the person who is riches; so that I cannot think of him as alone, or poor, or exiled, or unhappy, or a client, but as perpetual patron, benefactor, and beatified man. Character is centrality, the impossibility of being displaced or overset. A man should give us a sense of mass. Society is frivolous, and shreds its day into scraps, its conversation into ceremonies and escapes. But if I go to see an ingenious man, I shall think myself poorly entertained if he give me nimble pieces of benevolence and etiquette; rather he shall stand stoutly in his place, and let me apprehend, if it were only his resistance, and know that I have encountered a new and positive quality;—great refreshment for both of us. It is much that he does not accept the conventional opinions and practices. His non-conformity will remain a goad and a remembrancer, and every inquirer will have to dispose of him in the first place. There is nothing real or useful that is not a seat of war."

This truth is even more signally manifest in classes of society than in individuals. Why is not the commercial character, with its high moral principle of integrity, undeniably demonstrated by the enormous extent of commercial credit, as highly estimated in England as it was in Tyre, Corinth, Carthage, Venice, and the Lombard cities? Simply because commercial men look everywhere but to their own order for the evidences of their respectability and worth. There is a sad want of self-sufficingness among the mercantile men of England: they look for their character not among their brothers, the sellers of bales, but among the squires, the sellers of bullocks. Emerson follows up the value of self-dependence in his "Essay on Manners:"

"The word *gentleman* has not any correlative abstract to express the quality. *Gentility* is mean, and *gentilesse* is obsolete. But we must keep alive in the vernacular the distinction between *fashion*, a word of narrow and often sinister meaning, and the heroic character which the gentleman imports. The usual words, however, must be respected: they will be found to contain the root of the matter. The point of distinction in all this class of names, as courtesy, chivalry, fashion, and the like, is, that the flower and the fruit, not the grain of the tree, are contemplated. It is beauty which is the aim this time, and not worth. The result is now in question, although our words intimate well enough the popular feeling, that the appearance supposes a substance. The gentleman is a man of truth, lord of his own actions, and expressing that lordship in his behaviour, not in any manner dependent and servile, either on persons, or opinions, or possessions. Beyond this fact of truth and real force, the word denotes good-nature or benevolence: manhood first, and then gentleness. The popular notion certainly adds a condition of ease and fortune. But that is a natural result of personal force and love, that they should possess and dispense the goods of the world. In times of violence, every eminent person must fall in with many opportunities to approve his stoutness and worth; therefore, every man's name that emerged at all from the mass in the feudal age, rattles in our ear like a flourish of trumpets. But personal force never goes out of fashion. That is still paramount to-day, and, in the moving crowd of good society, the men of valour and reality are known, and rise to their natural place. The competition is transferred from war to politics and trade, but the personal force appears readily enough in these new arenas."

Reluctantly passing over much that is valuable, we turn to the "Essay on Politics," which opens with the following development of a great but too often a neglected truth:—

"In dealing with the state, we ought to remember that its institutions are not aboriginal, though they existed before we were born: that they are not superior to the citizen: that every one of them was once the act of a single man: every law and usage was a man's expedient to meet a particular case; that they all are mutable, all alterable; we may make as good; we may make better. Society is an illusion to the young citizen. It lies before him in rigid repose, with certain names, men, and institutions, rooted like oak-trees to the centre, round which all arrange themselves the best they can. But the old statesman knows that society is fluid; there are no such roots and centres; but any particle may suddenly become the centre of the movement, and compel the system to gyrate round it, as every man of strong will, like Pisistratus, or Cromwell, does for a time, and every man of truth, like Plato, or Paul, does for ever. But politics rest on necessary foundations, and cannot be treated with levity. Republics abound in young civilians, who believe that the laws make the city; that grave modifications of the policy and modes of living, and employments of the population; that commerce, education, and religion, may be voted in or out; and that any measure, though it were absurd, may be imposed on a people, if only you can get sufficient voices to make it a law. But the wise know that foolish legislation is a rope of sand, which perishes in the twisting."

This is a decisive answer to all the nonsense that has been talked about finality, immutable laws, and essential principles of the constitution. The greatest change that could be made in the constitution would be to declare any one of its parts incapable of change. Its royalty was altered when James II. was expelled;—its peerage when the Tudors attainted old peers by wholesale, and James I. created new peers with greater lavishness; its House of Commons when the power of issuing writs to new boroughs was abandoned by the sovereign, and when the power of abolishing and creating boroughs was conceded to the Reform Bill. The bugbear that haunts the mind of the advocates of finality is, that some revolutionary change may destroy the due influence of property; but this is precisely the result which it is impossible for any revolution to produce.

"Things have their laws as well as men; and things refuse to be trifled with. Property will be protected. Corn will not grow unless it is planted and manured; but the farmer will not plant or hoe it unless the chances are a hundred to one that he will cut and harvest it. Under any forms, persons and property must and will have their just sway. They exert their power as steadily as matter its attraction. Cover up a pound of earth never so cunningly, divide and subdivide it; melt it to liquid, convert it to gas; it will always weigh a pound: it will always attract and resist other matter by the full virtue of one pound weight;—and the attributes of a person, his wit and his moral energy, will exercise, under any law or extinguishing tyranny, their proper force,—if not overtly, then covertly; if not for the law, then against it; with right, or by might.

"The boundaries of personal influence it is impossible to fix, as persons are organs of moral or supernatural force. Under the dominion of an idea, which possesses the minds of multitudes, as civil freedom, or the religious sentiment, the powers of persons are no longer subjects of calculation. A nation of men unanimously bent on freedom, or conquest, can easily confound the arithmetic of statists, and achieve extravagant actions, out of all proportion to their means; as the Greeks, the Saracens, the Swiss, the Americans, and the French have done.

"In like manner to every particle of property belongs its own attraction. A cent is the representative of a certain quantity of corn or other commodity. Its value is in the necessities of the animal man. It is so much warmth, so much bread, so much water, so much land. The law may do what it will with the owner of property, its just power will still attach to the cent. The law may in a mad freak say that all shall have power except the owners of property: they shall have no vote. Nevertheless, by a higher law, the property will, year after year, write every statute that respects property. The non-proprietor will be the scribe of the proprietor. What the owners wish to do, the whole power of property will do, either through the law, or else in defiance of it. Of course I speak of all the property, not merely of the great estates. When the rich are out-voted, as frequently happens, it is the joint treasury of the poor which exceeds their accumulations. Every man owns something, if it is only a cow or a wheelbarrow, or his arms, and so has that property to dispose of."

We had marked several other passages for extract, but our limits warn us to conclude. Before doing so, however, we must say a few words on the objections which we find most commonly urged against the social sciences, as if they were necessarily fatal to the exercise of man's individuality. In fact, the objections ignorantly made to political economy are all based on the stupid assumption that the establishment of general rules destroys individual freedom. The object of political economy, "the greatest happiness of the greatest number," may easily be misrepresented, inasmuch as it admits of exceptional cases. There are some who write as if the object should be "the absolute and perfect happiness of the universe;" now such, if attainable, is clearly the same as that of the political, whose formulary does not admit the necessary existence of exceptional cases, but merely their possibility. But what will the economists do with these exceptions? When economic rules are fairly applied, and when exceptions arise, it will be quite time enough to answer the question. The philosophy of individuality is that which must deal with the exceptional cases, and pass sentence on the minute differences which shut those cases from the general rule, just as the practical knowledge of the sailor enables him to correct the general guidance afforded by chart, chronometer, and compass.

We are not of those who regard it as an evil sign of the times that the utility of the social sciences has been called into question; we should be much more alarmed at seeing their principles received with unhesitating and implicit faith. Controversy is necessary to make belief something more than otiose assent; we all want to be stirred not only to believing, but to acting on our belief. It is also useful for us to see into what mazes the advocates of monopoly fall when they allow their rhetoric to run away with their logic; we have a heap of such illustrations, but we gladly spare our readers the weary task of wading through absurdity: they all serve but to establish the truth of the old aphorism, that men set themselves against reason, so soon as they find reason set against them.

But while we insist on the value of general rules, or, what is the same thing, scientific principles, for the guidance of social life, we are not less strenuous advocates for the assertion of man's individuality than Mr. Emerson. We would have every man be himself, and not the ape of somebody else. Neither would we consent to limit language or feeling to abstractions, no more than we should confine the description or enjoyment of a landscape to the geological formation of its strata, or the botanical structure of its plants. Facts and figures are but the dry bones of humanity: the spirit of individuality must pass over them to give them life, motion, and active value. The true economist is as little likely to lose sympathy as the anatomist his taste for physical beauty; the botanist will receive as much delight from a garden as the student of floriculture. But, while it is necessary to proclaim this to the world, it may not be inexpedient to whisper to men of science, that economic truths need not be enunciated in terms of inflexible rigidity, and set forward as if their results were as independent of human volition as the law of gravitation.

Impressions of Ireland and the Irish. By the Author of "The Great Metropolis," &c. London, Cunningham.

Mr. Grant has in these two volumes given a very graphic and correct account of the impressions which Irish scenery and Irish society produce on the mind of a casual visitor gifted with more than ordinary powers of observation, and free from the warpings of political bias or national prejudice. He made his brief tour in Ireland at a period of considerable interest and excitement. O'Connell and his associates were confined to the Richmond Penitentiary; the movement which they had organized was placed under the direction of new leaders; and the Irish people remained in that state of deceptive apathy which often occurs in political agitation when men look to their neighbours, anxiously inquiring—what will come next? With the political results of any of the facts recorded by Mr. Grant it is not our purpose to meddle: we shall best discharge our duty to the author and the public by selecting some of his most striking pictures of the Irish land and people, and leave the inferences which they suggest to be drawn by the reader.

Like every other stranger, Mr. Grant was both surprised and pleased by the aspect of Dublin—in architectural beauty, judicious arrangement of streets, cleanliness, and completeness of municipal arrangements. He is even inclined to pardon the inconvenient Irish cars for the sake of the carmen:—

"In speaking of the Dublin cars, I must not overlook the Dublin carmen. They are a most amusing class of persons. They are always full of spirits, and ever ready with their repartee or joke. You cannot put them out of temper. They know not what it is to abuse a customer; and, what may appear still more extraordinary, they rarely attempt to make an overcharge. They are, considering their occupation, a singularly civil and honest set of men. A more perfect contrast, in this respect, to their brethren in London, it were impossible to imagine. So harmless and good humoured is this class of persons, that they very seldom quarrel, or have any misunderstanding, even among themselves. They are, to a man, repealers, and, with very few exceptions, teetotallers also, having, in the majority of cases, received the pledge from the hands of Father Mathew himself.

"It will be inferred, from what I have already said, that Dublin is a remarkably fine city. It is singularly fortunate in its promenades for pedestrians, and in its drives for vehicles of all descriptions. What could be finer for either than the Quay? It extends for nearly three miles along the centre of the town. On either side of the Liffey, the road is about sixty feet wide, and is beautifully Macadamized. The shops which front the Quay are appropriated to a variety of purposes; and, from the tasteful manner in which they are fitted up, give a very pleasing appearance to this part of the city. It may be doubted whether a finer place for walking, riding or driving, is to be met with in the centre of any city in the world."

In contrasting Dublin and London, Mr. Grant justly declares that the Irish metropolis is free from those exhibitions of revolting misery which are to be found in the pauperized localities of the capital of England:—

"I could not discern any symptoms of the misery which are so visible in many parts of London. Here we often read details of destitution ending in death, which make the blood curdle in one's veins. In Dublin such cases are exceedingly rare. In the lower and most wretched districts of that city I saw a measure of contentment and a buoyancy of spirits which filled me equally with surprise and gratification. The houses in these districts are so old and ruinous, as to threaten every moment to fall about your ears as you pass along the streets. You are unable to discover a single pane of glass which has not been broken in a dozen places—in many instances it is a question whether there ever were any glass in the window-frames at all; you wonder how human beings can bring themselves to live a single hour in such wretched and ruinous abodes; and yet in these very abodes I found a cheerful and contented people. At almost every window you saw one or more smiling faces. The children looked redolent of health and happiness. And what pleased and gratified me exceedingly, was the fact of seeing flower-pots in the windows with flowers of various kinds, which had every appearance of being well attended to; and cages with canaries and other birds for their inmates. I believe I did not omit visiting any of the poorer or more miserable localities of Dublin; and yet I saw nothing which, either as respects filth or wretchedness, could be compared to many districts in London. They who would form their ideas of the lower localities of Dublin from our St. Giles's, would do Dublin a great injustice. There is no place in the latter city so low and filthy as the St. Giles's of London. The creatures who grovel in the latter locality are not fair specimens of the poorer class of Irish character; nor are their manners and habits fair specimens of the manners and habits of their countrymen in Dublin."

The ladies of Dublin seem to have charmed our observant traveller, and the warm eulogy he has bestowed upon them is sure to win him extensive popularity at the western side of St. George's Channel:—

"The claims of the ladies in the one country and the other are so nicely balanced, that it would be difficult to say which of the two countries carries off the palm. But this, I am sure, will be admitted by every unprejudiced Englishman who has walked, on a fine afternoon in August, on the promenade at Kingston Harbour, that he never, in any part of England, saw, in an assemblage of women of the same extent, an equal number of fine figures. There is, too, in the carriage and manner of the better order of Irish ladies generally, a marked superiority to the English women. There is comparatively little in Ireland of that cold reserve and distant demeanour which strike foreigners

as so unfavourable a characteristic of our English women. The Irish ladies have much of the ease, gracefulness, and vivacity of the French, without any of their exceptionable qualities. There is not in the world a more modest race of women than the Irish; a remark which equally applies to all ranks and classes among them."

Having obtained letters of introduction to the State prisoners, Mr. Grant visited them in the Richmond Penitentiary, and was much pleased with his reception. He has portrayed the characters of each with so much individuality that even those who are strangers to these gentlemen must feel convinced of the accuracy of each likeness. We shall take a glance at them when collected at the dinner-table:—

"At five o'clock we all dined together. The party numbered about twenty-five, there being, in addition to the wives of several of the prisoners, ten or twelve of their particular friends. I should here observe that the day was Saturday, and, consequently, not one of the three days on which there was a general admission of the friends of the prisoners. We had an excellent dinner, and spent a remarkably pleasant evening. One thing that struck me much, during my intercourse with the traversers, was, the perfect cordiality of feeling which subsisted amongst them. There seemed not the slightest indication of any disposition on the part of either of them to be considered a greater lion or greater martyr than the rest. Even the three journalists, Mr. Barrett, Dr. Gray, and Mr. Duffy, in whom a little sort of rivalry might have been excusable—even they appeared to regard each other with the warmest and most sincere friendship. The feeling of all seemed to be, that they were suffering for their country; and that, if their country's interests were only promoted by their imprisonment, it mattered but little as to which of them should receive most of the glory. What I have said of Mr. O'Connell in reference to his cheerful submission to his fate, and his determination to listen to no terms which would, in the slightest degree, compromise the cause for which they were suffering a living martyrdom, may be said with the same truth of one and all of the prisoners. They bore their incarceration without a murmur; no indication of impatience was visible in their countenances, or in their words, or conduct. They seemed rather to rejoice in their sufferings, because they were for what they considered to be the cause of their country."

Turning to a more amusing topic, we have been much entertained by Mr. Grant's description of Donnybrook Fair, the glories of which have not departed in consequence of the temperance movement:—

"The 'swings' were crowded; they seemed to be objects of very great attraction. The wooden horses enjoyed no rest. Wooden though they were, you could not help pitying them. Theirs was, indeed, a *hard* condition; they performed the same circuitous journey times without end. The tents or marquees were not neglected. There Pat, with his arm around his sweetheart's neck, or her hand affectionately grasped in his, poured into her ear the honeyed accents of love, and into her mouth some harmless liquid, which cheered while it did not inebriate. Lemonade and ginger beer—such as they were, met on that day with a brisk demand. Nor was there any lack of tea and coffee. A small turf fire, lighted in a little hollow made in the ground, served to keep up the needful supply of boiling water. Meat, hams, cheese, bread, were piled up mountain high in every tent. Need I say that music, that indispensable element to humour and happiness among the Irish peasantry, was not wanting? From every marquee issued the sounds of the violin; and here and there were to be heard—of all instruments in the world—the tones of the Scotch bagpipes. The latter instrument did discourse music; but, truth to tell, it was not 'sweet.' At one and the same moment, though proceeding from different quarters, your ears were regaled with 'Rory O'More' and some standard strathspey. The musicians did not play in vain. Their 'heavenly strains' met with a ready and hearty response from the crowds whose ears were regaled by them. You saw, as you glanced at the patrons of the marquees, happiness in every eye, joy in every countenance, and motion in every leg. The Irish peasantry cannot resist the witching tones of the violin or other popular instrument. If you would keep them in their seats, you must fasten them down. On this occasion, they seemed to have gone all mad. Any one, unacquainted with the genius of the patrons of Donnybrook, must have come to the conclusion that they were set in motion by some electrical agency. Who could have believed—yet such was the fact—that among the light-hearted and happy thousands then and there assembled together, there were many who had not partaken of a meal that day, and probably would not partake of one on the morrow."

Our traveller gives a very honest, impartial, and suggestive account of the College of Maynooth. The unmeasured attacks which have been made on this institution, made up for the most part of patent falsehoods and palpable absurdities, have diverted public attention from the real nature of the defects of that establishment. It is a college forming no part of a university, and is thus a counterpoise to an older Irish anomaly, a college co-extensive with a university. Maynooth confers no degree and has no power of giving rewards to literary or scientific merit: it is essentially nothing more than a theological seminary; and, though provision has been made for an extended course of classical and scientific instruction, no incentive of honour or emolument has been offered to induce students to devote their attention to anything but theology. There are no scholarships, no fellowships, no bursaries, and no exhibitions. Degrees giving literary rank are not to be obtained in Maynooth, though such would be eagerly sought by candidates for the Irish priesthood, because there is no part of the world in which established claims to literary merit are so highly respected, we might almost say venerated, as in Ireland. A reconstruction of the Irish University which would include Maynooth as well as Trinity College would be of incalculable benefit to both institutions. In the latter the important distinction between the College and the University can scarcely be said to exist, and hence University offices have become mere sinecures, and are for the most part held by persons who have already very ample revenues from the proper funds of the College:—

"Maynooth College is under the government of trustees appointed by Parliament, but the executive department is confided to the president and vice-president, assisted by the various other professors. The salary of the president is £326 per annum, and that of the vice-president £150. The prefect of the Dunboyne establishment and librarian receives £140 a year. The senior dean, the burser, the professors of theology, and professor of scripture, respectively receive £122; while the salaries of the junior dean and remaining professors are severally £112 per annum."

Such salaries are miserably inadequate to the exigencies of a common school, much less to an institution for training the spiritual instructors of six millions of people. Mr. Grant shows good reason for believing that bigotry is not inculcated in Maynooth, and the facts on which he rests his argument are too notorious to be denied:—

"It is alleged that, not only is the old Roman Catholic doctrine, that no faith is to be kept with heretics, and that there is no hope for them hereafter, systematically inculcated at Maynooth, but that the inculcation of all kinds of uncharitableness and bitter feeling towards the Protestant part of the community forms a portion of the daily occupation of the professors. There never was a greater calumny. And that it is a calumny, may be inferred from the fact, that no unkindness of feeling towards Protestants, merely because they are Protestants, is ever shown by the Roman Catholics of Ireland. I appeal to any man who has travelled through the more Catholic parts of that country, whether, so far from observing any such bitterness of feeling towards the Protestant portion of the population, he did not observe just the reverse. Nothing more forcibly struck me in my travels through Ireland, than the very marked manifestations I everywhere saw, of a friendly feeling towards those Protestants who do not demean themselves in an unkindly manner towards the Catholics. Nor is this Catholic regard for liberal Protestants confined to mere feeling; it is shown in action. In how many instances are Protestant candidates returned to Parliament by the exertions and votes of the Catholics, even where candidates of their own persuasion were in the field. Still more numerous are the cases in which Protestants are chosen by the Catholics, for municipal offices, in preference to persons of their own religious views."

The subject of university and collegiate education, not only in Ireland but in England, is far too important to be discussed incidentally. We shall, therefore, pass onward to matter of a lighter character, and we are sure that our readers will be amused with the sagacity of the Limerick pigs:—

"I was amused with some details which were furnished me respecting the intelligent habits of the Limerick pigs. I was surprised at seeing in the suburbs several groups of the swinish species proceeding, in the most staid and orderly manner, from house to house; sometimes entering for a few moments, and at other times going no farther than the door. This was beyond the compass of my philosophy to comprehend. The mystery was explained to me. There is a certain number of their pigships who, in detachments of threes and fours, make the tour of the poorer districts of the town, with unfailing punctuality, twice every day. Their first visit is paid in the morning, and the other in the afternoon. Their object is to solicit something to eat, or rather to take whatever the gods have provided for them at the doors of the good people to whose humble habitations they pay their respects. Not more punctual is a lover 'to the moment sworn,' than are these four-footed mendicants in making their rounds. They answer all the purposes of a clock to those who have no other means of ascertaining what is the hour of the day. What may appear very extraordinary is, that their pigships never deviate from their prescribed 'walks.' Neither does one of the groups ever quarrel with the other when they meet. They are also remarkable for the silence they observe in going their rounds. Not only does the most friendly feeling and perfect harmony subsist among them, but they maintain a wondrous silence. They keep their music to themselves; or, at all events, reserve it for other occasions. They rarely indulge in a grunt, and never so far forget themselves as to utter a squeak. It is a curious fact, that these swinish tourists never visit the better class of streets. Whether it be that they are aware that their presence would not be tolerated there, or that there is nothing to be picked up in such places, is a point which I must leave to be determined by more competent authorities than myself."

Mr. Grant's hurried tour to Limerick, Killarney, Glengarriff, and back to Dublin by Cork and Kilkenny, afforded him but limited opportunities of observation; and, though he certainly has made the most of them, his sketches are inferior to those of Mr. and Mrs. Hall. There is, however, something so picturesque in his description of the Irish beggars that we are tempted to extract it:—

"Being led to speak of Irish beggars, I may mention that the first thing that gives the stranger an idea of the poverty of Ireland, is the immense numbers of mendicants who beslege him for a few pence. They meet him wherever he goes; they cross his path in all directions. They are generally most deplorably clad. Clothing, properly speaking, they have none. Your philosophy is puzzled to know how they continue to keep together the mass of rags which is attached to their persons. You are afraid they will drop off their backs while soliciting your charity. I could not resist the suspicion that many of the Irish mendicants are actually in love with their rags, and that to put them into a suit of new clothes would be to render them altogether miserable. Of this I am quite certain, that they would never rest satisfied until they had made a number of holes in their coat; for a coat would seem to them incomplete without a few holes in it. You are struck with the fact, that many of the large perforations which you see in their apparel are easily susceptible of being mended, and that if they were patched up, the appearance of this class of persons would be greatly improved. The use of the needle, however, is comparatively unknown to the Irish mendicant. Nature has not made him a tailor, and he has no notion of attempting to set at nought the purposes of nature. That, he thinks, would be a reflection on her. He seems to find a peculiar pleasure in his tattered garments. You will always see more holes in an Irish beggar's coat than buttons on it. And yet, amidst all his rags, there is the absence of that actual misery in the Irish mendicant which you see in the English beggar. You are surprised at the jolly-looking and often ruddy countenance which you see associated with so much outward seeming wretchedness. No one can be half an hour in Ireland without being impressed with the conviction that the Irish possess constitutionally all the elements of happiness, and that, if their physical condition were but ameliorated, they would be the happiest people on the face of the earth."

Some amusing anecdotes are related illustrating the whimsicality of the Irish character. We take one, not as the best, but as the most novel:—

"The oddity of the Irish character is not confined to their life. In some instances it accompanies them unconsciously even to the grave. In a small churchyard in the county of Kerry there is the following inscription on a tombstone:—'Timothy O'Connor died in 1779 for himself and his posterity.' Now, just let the reader, before he comes to my explanation, here pause for a few moments, and try if he can make any meaning out of this. I in vain attempted for a part of two days to throw some light upon it; and possibly might have been at this hour as much in the dark on the subject as when the inscription first met my eye, but for the aid of a gentleman who had previously had the thing explained to him. The explanation is, not that Timothy O'Connor, as the inscription would have led one to suppose, died in 1779 for himself and his *posterity*, but that he died in that year, and that the burial-ground in which his remains were interred was for himself and his posterity."

Mr. Grant discusses the condition of the agricultural peasantry of Ireland with good feeling and good sense, but we must defer the consideration of this subject until we receive the Report of Lord Devon's Commission. In the meantime we commend these volumes to the attention of those who wish to obtain on easy terms some notion of the present condition of Ireland. Mr. Grant is an amusing and, what is far more important, an honest writer. He has fallen into some errors, which could hardly be avoided in a hurried visit, but on the whole his volumes are equally creditable to his sagacity and his integrity.

THE CRY OF THE PARTRIDGE.

(From *Punch*.)

"The Eagle-King may plume his wing,
Aloft on his granite throne;
The Vulture may boast of the warrior-host
On the plain, for his banquet strewn;
But the first am I of birds that fly,
For *they* are slaves to me,
In whose high hands are the good broad lands
Of the Island of the Free.

"Of Egypt old the Gods, 'tis told,
Were reptile, beast, and fowl;
And temples were raised, and altars blazed
To Ibis, Hawk, and Owl:
But in modern time, in a Christian clime,
I am a bird divine;
And Christian blood in many a flood
Is shed before my shrine.

"My sacred ground they guard around
With arms of deadly strife;
And laws restrain the hand profane
That dares attempt my life;
A felon's pains, a dungeon's chains,
Await the peasant-slave,
Though by famine wrung, with children young,
And a starving wife to save.

"Then who so proud, of the feather'd crowd,
Can vaunt himself as I?
The Idol-Bird, to men preferr'd,
For me condemned to die."
So the PARTRIDGE sung, till the greenwood rung
With his shrilly notes of glee;
And none said Nay to his boastful lay,
So rare a bird was he!

REPEAL OF THE MALT TAX.—The agitation of this question appears to have commenced in earnest. A most powerful and active organization is going on, and a system of appeal to every parish throughout England is about to be established, in order that it may be brought before Parliament as a question for grave consideration in the ensuing session.—*Times*.

LORD STANLEY—FIXITY OF TENURE.—Lord Stanley's accession to this great principle, it is augured, is of the utmost value. But is Lord Stanley sincere? He has considerable property in and around Tipperary and Cashel. His estates are, to a great extent, the most productive, fertile, and best situated of any in either county. Without capital, manure, stock, or skill, no one could fail to pay a reasonable rent for such land, and be comparatively comfortable. Having these advantages from nature, no great encouragement would be needed, on the part of the landlord, to raise the tenants to a position of comfort, cleanliness, and respectability, far beyond any in their neighbourhood. Are they so? But, unfortunately, the facts in this case exclude every inquiry. Not only are they not above their neighbours, but they are infinitely below many of them. We know not where there are a tenantry, as a class, who exhibit less appearance of comfort and culture, such as are visible on the estates of kind, indulgent, and encouraging landlords.—*Tipperary Free Press*.

AGRICULTURE.

ANTI-MALT-TAX AGITATION.

ARE THE FARMERS RUNNING RIOT?

A little knot of farmers and land-agents not many days since gathered together in London, for the purpose of agitating for a repeal of the malt-tax. After laughing heartily at the oratory of their leaders, we began to consider what could be the meaning of this very absurd move. Our first impression was, that it formed a new "dodge" on the part of the monopolist landowners to divert the farmers from the very inconvenient scrutiny with which they have of late began to regard the almost universal mismanagement of land property in England; and we are by no means sure that the first impression was not the correct one. For, first, the most active promoters of the scheme were Mr. Baker, Mr. Ellman, Mr. Ellis, and other well-known tools of the Richmondite monopolists; and next, Mr. Baker, after stating that they had received promises of support and subscriptions from many agriculturists, expressly said, "*there were some also in the background who do not at present appear*, and they thought it better not to call upon members of Parliament in the first instance, but to show them that the cause had been taken up in such a manner that they could not fail in joining them." On the other hand, the *Morning Post* is, or pretends to be, vastly angry with Mr. Baker and his clique, for trying to induce the farmers of England "to waste their energies on a foolish attempt to repeal the malt-tax." Of course the *Post* desires their energies to be directed against what it designates as "the Free-Trade policy of Sir Robert Peel." Now, assuming that journal to represent the opinion of the monopolist landowners—if their crude notions deserve the name of opinion—does its angry denunciation of the malt-tax repeal agitation indicate that the farmers are running riot?

We predicted, when the squires put forward the farmers to "work" the protection societies, that their worships were playing with edged tools. No men of any class have suffered so much at the hands of the landowners as the tenant-farmers, and it was absolutely certain that, after they had been urged to the agitation of their landlords' question, they would go on to agitate their own. Does not this anti-malt-tax meeting point to something of the kind? It is true that the total repeal of the malt-tax would not, upon their own showing, be of the slightest benefit to the farmers; and that the arguments by which the speakers at the late meeting supported their proposition were in the highest degree ridiculous and false. But at the same time there were symptoms of a spirit which brooked landlord domination and performed landlord bidding less readily than of yore. Thus Mr. Baker said, "they were told on all hands that, before they petitioned the Legislature for the repeal of so large an amount of taxation, they should be ready to propose a remedy. Well, he was ready to propose a remedy, and that remedy was—*a continuation of the property-tax*. Nothing could be more just than a property-tax; and if a sufficient sum could not be raised at £3 per cent., he would, without hesitation say, *let it be increased to a sufficiently high per centage to prevent a deficiency*." This was received with loud and long-continued applause. What will the squires think of that?

Mr. Ellis and Mr. Ellman also asserted that the property-tax was a far better tax than the malt-tax. Mr. Baker urged them not to call for assistance "from those above them" until they found they could not obtain assistance among themselves. "He would rather have this question carried by the farmer and the tenant than by those above them." Now, it is something to see the tenant-farmers seeking to act in public matters independently of their landlords, though their first exhibition of independence be neither very wise in its end nor very effective in its means of attainment. Mr. Weall said—as we have again and again said—"There was not any county or parish in this kingdom *where there was one agricultural labourer more than was necessary for the tillage of the soil*. They had been told that farmers should give employment to the labouring men; *but they had never been told how they were to find the means of paying them*." Here the acquiescence of the meeting was expressed by loud cries of, "*It is true*," and "*Hear, hear*."

Even Mr. John Ellman could not forbear giving his patrons, the landowners, a back-handed blow or two. He said he had laboured heartily in the cause on account "of the very reduced circumstances of the tenant-farmers of England. They must all know and feel that, although the prices of farming produce had been so very much reduced, their expenses had been little, if at all, diminished. They had been called upon to employ the labourers; they had been recommended to use science; but it was useless to call upon a man to use the means he did not possess. They had been recommended to lay out their capital in the draining of land and in the cutting of hedge-rows; but let him ask, how was the tenant-farmer to acquire the means for making these improvements?" Now, whether the speakers at this meeting have really broken loose from landlord control, or whether they have been employed to put the farmers upon a false scent, it is plain that, in order to enlist the sympathies of the farmer in their object, they are compelled to give utterance to truths, the dissemination of which will dissipate all the delusions upon which the Corn Laws are based.

How the farmer is to be benefited by a repeal of the malt-tax was not made very clear by the speakers. Thus Mr. Ellis:—"He should be very glad to sow 10, or 15, or 20 acres of barley, and malt it, and give it to the labouring poor, if the Legislature did not call upon him to pay four or five times the rent of the land for permission to give away the produce."

So Mr. Baker said:—"He was sure the value of barley would not advance [if the tax were repealed], but he was equally sure that the growth would increase in a tenfold degree." Now, if there would be no advance of the value of barley from a repeal of the malt-tax, it is difficult to understand why its growth should increase! Yet Mr. Baker afterwards said: "There were two ways in which it would assist the farmer—it would equalize the value of his barley, *and procure him a fair and remunerating price*." These passages do not seem easily reconciled. As regards the agricultural labourers, whose "desperate and deteriorating condition" was admitted by most of the speakers, the repeal of the malt-tax was to benefit them mainly, by enabling them to *brew at home!!!*

This is a proposition so silly, that we wonder any man or men, acquainted with the state and habits of the farming labourers, could state it seriously. If there was no tax on malt the rural labourers would not and could not brew a gallon of beer. They have not the four or five pounds necessary to purchase the plant—the copper, tubs, barrels, and other utensils—nor have they any of the conveniences required for brewing and keeping beer. Then the necessity or value of such a beverage to the labourer is vastly exaggerated. The money which beer costs, expended in food, would be of far more physical benefit to him, to say nothing of the moral good which must arise by his abstinence from his besetting propensity.

Farmers, generally, like giving beer to their workmen, because it stimulates them at particular seasons to make considerable though temporary exertions, and because the beer counts in wages for much more than it is really worth. But we have watched attentively the effect of the practice, and that in a district in which it is a good deal resorted to, and we have no hesitation in saying that payment of part of his wages in beer has most mischievous consequences to the farm-labourer.

SENTIMENTAL BENEVOLENCE TESTED.

The notion that the "allotment system," the giving poor men without capital one or two roods of land, can form any substitute for that wholesome employment of the agricultural labourers which would be the immediate consequence of a free trade in corn, is absurd. Yet in such an illusion are the protectionist landlords just now indulging. They have declared that the Corn Law is necessary for the profit of the farmer, and for the regular employment of the agricultural labourer. Well, they have their Corn Law; yet the farmer is sinking into distress and poverty, his capital is being absorbed to pay rent, while destitution is the only term by which the constant state of the rural labourer can be properly described. Monopolists feel the actual state of the industrious agricultural classes to be decisive evidence against their monopoly; they see that the labourers are becoming aware of the injury which has been inflicted upon them by the landlords' law, and hence with one accord the whole of the monopolist landocracy is seized with a sudden zeal to improve the lot of the labourer by a patch of potato-ground. Monstrous absurdity! But it may be well to test even the sincerity of these new-born professions of sentimental humanity; and it will be found that monopolist landowners sometimes cant and whine over the state of the farm-labourers, whilst they permit their farming tenants to be treated most oppressively.

Amongst the many accounts of landlords petting their "allotment tenants" which have lately appeared, we find, in the *Dorset County Chronicle*, an account of the "interest excited in the town of Cerne by an intimation that Lord Rivers would attend personally the audit for receiving the rents from his numerous allotment tenants." Of course the bells were set ringing, and the "town band assembled," to do honour to his lordship for such active benevolence:—

"The allotments of his lordship in this neighbourhood extend over twenty acres of good land, *and portions of from ten to forty perches*, according to the family, or other circumstances, are let to each person at a small annual rent, *under the superintendence of a committee*, at the head of which is the respected Vicar of Cerne. The present number of allotment tenants is eighty-nine, and a great amount of good has been effected from the judicious adoption of the field-garden system. On this occasion two practical persons, one of whom was entirely unconnected with the parish, were requested to go over and examine the respective allotments, and to make a report, *for the purpose of premiums being awarded to the most deserving*, and other steps taken with those who might have wholly or partially neglected the cultivation of their ground. The noble landlord also walked over the allotment grounds previous to the audit."

The vicar and others of his lordship's train and adherents assembled in the schoolroom:—

"The noble lord having taken his seat, *the names of the tenants were called over, and they came to the table and paid their rent*, there being but four defaulters. Two of the tenants were then called up, and told by his lordship that, in accordance with the report made to him, they were disfranchised, it being considered that they had forfeited their holding, by a breach of the rules, in the great, if not almost total, neglect of the cultivation of their land."

Two others were admonished. The business being ended, his lordship made a speech, in which he expressed "the pleasure he felt at meeting, for the first time in his life, so many of the inhabitants of Cerne, *and especially the poor people, his tenants, to promote whose interests he was most anxious*"—a sentiment which was received with rapturous applause. Oh, there is nothing like sentiment! Lord Rivers then said the success of the system in Cerne "depended upon the judicious supervision of the committee":—

"*He had property in another parish, where he once granted allotments, but the plan failed through bad management*. (Hear, hear.) His lordship then stated to the tenants that there were many of them to have prizes for the good management of their respective allotments, and he had no doubt that generally they had been well managed. *These prizes would be given in money, which would be placed in the hands of the committee, and the tenant who obtained a premium might have it laid out for him in any article, whether of clothing or otherwise, of its value, or towards an article of greater value, if he should wish to add the remainder*. After other observations, *containing much kindness and consideration for the labourers*, his lordship said he had adopted the plan, with the premiums, as he had stated, *believing it to be best adapted for the benefit of those who obtained them*." (Loud applause.)

Could any one believe that all this was addressed to grown, adult, mature men? Uneducated men perhaps, but men who are as capable of forming an opinion within the limits of their observation as their self-satisfied patronizers themselves. It was then announced

"That the fourth rule of the allotment regulations had been altered, *so that the tenants would no longer be restricted from growing wheat, barley, Swedish turnips, &c., which gave the utmost satisfaction*."

A Mr. Digby, his lordship's companion, then advised them to use, what may be called the landlords' specific, *guano* for manuring their potato-patches. The vicar also promised to give two sovereigns as prizes "to be laid out in guano;" and he concluded with this, doubtless deserved, eulogy on his lordship. He said:—

"Lord Rivers would allow him, as the minister of the parish, further to say, in his presence, *that his lordship felt the responsibility of those who held property to Him from whom every 'good and perfect gift' proceeded, and to whom all were accountable for the right use of the talent they had received*. His lordship was desirous that his property should be made conducive to the good of the labourers and poor, *by encouraging the honest, industrious, and well conducted, and such would be encouraged and rewarded by his lordship*."

Such is Lord Rivers at Cerne.

In another parish of which his lordship is the owner, we have had occasion to view his influence in a less favourable light. At *Sturminster Newton*, in Dorsetshire, his lordship had a tenant named Dowding, who had occupied a small farm of about twenty acres for fifteen or sixteen years. He had always paid his rent regularly, three months after it became due, as was usual with his lordship's tenants in that place. According to the opinion of his neighbours, he had considerably improved his land. But within the last two years his lordship's agent—a lawyer—had become desirous of getting Dowding out of the farm, and gave him many hints that he had better quit. This the poor tenant was unwilling to do, for his means were humble, and the dwelling-house, which is a tolerably good one, afforded him an abiding-place for his family—he has six or seven young children and his wife's aged father, a *ruined farmer*, verging upon eighty years of age, dependent upon him—and a bare subsistence. He attributes—whether rightly or wrongly we know not—the agent's anxiety to accommodate a larger tenant of his lordship's, who, with a much more considerable farm, had an inferior house. At all events, the great farmer has now taken poor Dowding's little holding *at an increased rent of £5*, and has moved into the dwelling-house. But we anticipate.

For six weeks previously to Lady-day last Dowding had been seriously ill, having been confined to his bed for several months, and the day after Lady-day, without any notice that the rent would be required before the usual time, the 11th of July, without any previous demand of the money, a distress was sent into the sick man's cottage for the half-year's rent alleged to have become due the preceding day to Lord Rivers!! The wife went to his lordship's agent, and promised to pay the rent as usual after midsummer, if he would let them alone until that time. This he refused to do unless some third person would be answerable for the rent. A neighbouring farmer (apparently to the disappointment of the agent) was kind enough to guarantee the rent, and poor Dowding *and his wife were insulted*, but permitted to remain. The rent was paid in July. The agent, however, refused to allow the landlord's property-tax which the tenant had paid, and which was allowed (as by law it ought to be) to all the other tenants. This shows that Dowding was a marked man. He had now partially recovered his health, and hoped to have gone on in his occupation. But no: the measure of his suffering was not yet full.

On the 8th of last October—three days before the rent became due, and more than three months earlier than the time at which it had usually been paid—another distress was put in for Lord Rivers's rent, and a bailiff remained in possession. On the same day a notice to quit on the 6th of April next was served. Not the slightest hint of this severity was given—no demand of the rent had been made. Poor Dowding, who had supposed that the land-agent had relented, was in despair; he was literally struck to the earth. On the fifth day after the seizure, which was on Saturday, the agent sent to say that if Dowding *would give up possession, and leave the house immediately*, the goods seized should not be sold, otherwise that handbills would be immediately printed and the sale made on the ensuing Monday. They begged hard to be allowed *to remain until Monday*, for—to use the wife's words—"they knew not whither to go;" and their two youngest children were seriously ill with the hooping cough. This was reluctantly granted. On Monday the weather was so bad that they could not move their bedding. At twelve o'clock, however, the agent sent for the key; but "after some entreaty" they were permitted to *sleep on the floor one more night;* all their goods except the beds having been removed into the house of a charitable neighbour. "Next day they tied up their beds, and left the house in which they had resided for sixteen years;" and, with their younger children in arms, they walked "three miles for a night's lodging." "It was," says the wife, "dark and raining when, with two sick and helpless children, we reached our friends' house, but when they found the children had the hooping cough they would not let us in; so we went two miles further."

Such is the way in which the "protected" tenants of our monopolist landowners are dispossessed at the will of an agent. And it is remarkable that in both instances the distresses were levied before the rent was due, and were therefore illegal. His lordship has thus become liable to serious damages, which, we understand, Dowding will be assisted to enforce should such an extremity become necessary. In all probability, however, Lord Rivers knows nothing of this act of harshness which has been perpetrated upon his property; but whilst landlords permit such deeds to be done in their names they must bear all the public obloquy with which recent inquiries into the management of their estates have caused them to be visited. If his lordship merits the eulogy bestowed upon him by the Vicar of Cerne, "that he feels the responsibility to God of those who hold property for the right use of the 'talent' they have received," he must secure agents of a different sort. It would not be the smallest of the benefits of a free trade in corn that landowners would be induced to make their tenants independent, and would emancipate themselves and their estates from the pernicious influence of land-agents.

FEUDAL, SEMI-FEUDAL, AND RATIONAL LANDLORDS.

The injury and destruction of food caused by game is now generally admitted to be so great as to render game-preserving a national calamity. Landlords are being acted upon by public opinion in this matter, though in very different degrees. First, there are your genuine monopolist landowners, who still persist in "sacrificing" the peasantry to game. These are aptly represented by the Duke of Buckingham:—

"Abundance of Game.—The game on the preserves of the Duke of Buckingham at and around Wotton Underwood is immense. A correspondent informs us that, when on his way from Ashendon towards Brill, a few days since, he observed in a field near Ashendon *a countless number of hares, and that they were in such clusters that a good shot, with a double-barrelled gun, might have killed a dozen.*"—*Aylesbury News.*

Such are the feudal landlords.

Then we have the half-and-half landlords, who abandon rabbits, but hesitate to surrender hares and pheasants. Such, it would seem, are represented by the Duke of Bedford:—

"The Duke af Bedford has ordered his tenants to deal with rabbits as rats, and clear their farms of these destructive animals, which only go to gamekeepers, who take care to pursue rabbit poachers to preserve their privileges at the cost of the farmer."—*Bedford Mercury.*

It is no use to give up the rabbits to the farmer whilst the landlord reserves to himself the hares and pheasants. On this matter there can be no half measure; the alternative, game *or* rent, is daily becoming more pressing, and the owners of land must make up their minds to give up the one or the other. Hares as well as rabbits must be thrown overboard, my Grace of Bedford!

Lastly, we have the rational landowners, such as Mr. Pusey and Sir Harry Verney, who frankly and entirely give up the game to their tenants. The latter gentleman, at a dinner given to his tenants, said:—

"That, although he was fully aware of the difficulties which on every side surrounded the British farmer, he had no fear but those difficulties would be surmounted by industry and practical science, aided by the liberal assistance of the landed proprietors, but more particularly by reducing the redundancy of game!" And, in order to show his tenants that his theory and practice agreed, the worthy baronet concluded by saying—"*He wished each of the tenants to shoot the game on each of their several farms!* he, at the same time, did not expect they would have sporting parties; *it would then be the tenant's fault if he suffered the game to increase so as to do him an injury!*"

This is the way in which all landlords will, sooner or later, be compelled to deal with the question. Wild animals *cannot* be kept upon land which is really and highly cultivated.

LEFT-HANDED FREE TRADE.

It appears that the importation of live cattle from abroad has of late slightly increased, and of course the agricultural alarmists are again raising an outcry against the tariff. The facts, however, do not seem to bear out their allegations as to the reality of the competition between foreign and domestic cattle. Thus the *Mark-lane Express* of the 4th of Nov. says:—

"We have remarked, in the foregoing observation, *that a great improvement has taken place in the quality of the beasts lately imported.* This was never more marked than in the supplies brought forward here on Friday last, for out of 135 head in the market on that day, at least 50 of them were in what may be considered good condition: indeed, we saw several that weighed 160 stone (8lbs. to the stone) each. The sheep were better than we have hitherto noticed them; but there were none calling for particular observation.

"*Strange as it may appear, not a single instance has occurred—even though such experiments, both in pasture and stall, have been numerous—in which it has been found possible to fatten foreign beasts in this country with advantage.* Notwithstanding all the care and attention shown, they—arising, no doubt, from change of food—have gradually decreased in weight, and have been very often attacked by the epidemic."

This is true. There is little chance of keeping or feeding foreign-bred cattle with a profit; and it does appear to have been a most erroneous scheme to shut out the cheap foreign provender for feeding our own stock profitably, and to admit lean foreign stock, which die or waste in becoming acclimatized. We had a Norman cow, which, being out one of the cold nights of June, 1843, was attacked by the epidemic—pulmonary consumption—and died; while not one of a herd of English cows was at all affected. The same thing happened to the calf of this cow, which had been weaned in the previous autumn, with a number of English calves. The French calf died consumptive, though no English calf so much as caught cold.

The farmers who fear competition have a right to complain of Sir Robert Peel's one-sided Free Trade, for the idea of rendering lean cattle cheaper by the import of live stock is absolutely ludicrous, while that which would have really benefited the English stock-farmer—cheap foreign grain—is absolutely excluded.

ANOTHER "SACRIFICE TO THE HARE."

The following paragraph, from a provincial paper, gives a fearful account of another sacrifice to the modern Moloch, game:—

"Affray with Poachers.—A dreadful encounter took place on Thursday night between a party of watchers and some poachers on the Ravensworth estate, about three miles from this town, in which two of the keepers were dreadfully wounded, and now lie in a precarious state. It appears from the statement of the head keeper, Henry Wallace, who has been only about six months in the service of Lord Ravensworth, that, having been told that some of the under keepers had heard the report of a gun in the preserves, at Hagg Wood, on Wednesday night, he determined on placing a strong watch there on the following night. Accordingly, he went himself, with three others, named respectively George Grundy, Peter Johnson, and George Ironside, to the south side of the wood, and sat down under a hedge. After remaining there about an hour, two men came down the wood, but the watchers did not observe them till they had approached to within a short distance of where the watchers were sitting. Wallace, on observing the men, shouted, 'Hollo, ye blackguard fellows, what are ye doing here?' He then got on his feet and went towards them, when one of them exclaimed, 'Stand back, ye ——,' and fired immediately, the shot taking effect upon Wallace near the left shoulder. Grundy had made an advance immediately after Wallace, and the other poacher, without saying a word, levelled his piece, and fired almost instantly after the first shot. Grundy was wounded in the groin and thighs. The other two watchers had fallen back into the wood, and were not near enough to render assistance. The poachers then made off, calling out as they retreated, 'Come on, ye ——, we have still more for you.' The poachers then disappeared. It was about nine o'clock at night, and exceedingly dark. Medical aid was procured, and a great number of the shots have been extracted."—*Newcastle Journal.*

And it is to maintain the blood-stained code by which this system is upheld that we are subjected to a Corn Law. It has now been placed beyond all dispute that the soil of this country can scarcely be called half cultivated, that full one-third more of corn might be produced here than is produced, whilst the industrious classes—those whom the *Morning Post* calls the "idle consumers"—are prevented from obtaining corn elsewhere. It has also been demonstrated that the requisite agricultural improvements can never be made until farm-leases become universal.

Now, anxiety to preserve the game forms the principal reason why landlords are unwilling to grant leases, and the uncertainties induced by the Corn Laws are the main cause why tenant-farmers are unwilling—and wisely unwilling—to accept leases. Out of this legislative net there is no escape but in absolutely Free Trade.

The Game Laws.—I sow corn; partridges eat it; and, if I attempt to defend it against the partridges, I am fined or sent to gaol—all this for fear a great man, who is above sowing corn, should be in want of partridges.—*Bentham's Truth to Ashurst.*

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In the League, last week, we answered a letter from Macclesfield respecting the purchase of a freehold cottage for £130, subject to a ground-rent of 11s. Our attention has been drawn to our answer, which we gave under the assumption that our correspondent was in error in calling it a ground-rent; it is presumed it is a *rent-charge.* If the cottage is subject to a ground-rent it cannot be a freehold, and should not be purchased as such.

"A Free-Trader, Stockport."—"I am possessed of freehold property worth £100 per annum, which is assessed at £50. I occupy the entire of it myself, consequently letnone of it to a tenant; will it qualify me as a county voter?"

[Occupation of your own freehold (being in a borough) destroys your county claim.]

"W. W. Nicholson."—"Conjointly with my brother, I hold a copyhold house and premises, situate in High-street, Poplar, which lets for £40 per annum, for which we pay 4d. per year quit rent; are we eligible to vote for the county of Middlesex, and, if eligible, is it too late to claim this year?"

[A copyhold in a borough of the value given (£40 per annum, and 4d. quit rent) will not confer a county vote.]

"B and C, Burnley."—"We purchased a leasehold property in May last, a part of which premises we occupy ourselves as a manufactory, the remainder we underlet for upwards of £100 per annum to several other tenants. We desire to know, if we are entitled to become county voters for the northern division of the county of Lancaster, and how such claim is to be made, &c. One of the partners is an unmarried man, and lives with his parents; the other occupies a house in the township of Burnley, where the above property is located."

[If the lease is an original lease from the freeholder for 20 years, and the premises are not situate within a city or borough, and the value of the lease is £100 over and above the reserved rent and charges, *two* votes may be claimed; if the term was originally for 60 years, then £20 value over the rent and charges will be sufficient.

"Kent."—The holder of the lease for fourteen years, at £90 per annum, is not entitled to vote.

"W. A., Liverpool"—Is incorrect in supposing that the Scotch and English qualifications to claim to vote for members of Parliament are the same. We acquiesce in giving the information he requires. In Scotland the claimant for a county qualification must have been six months previous to the 31st of August in the present, or the last day of July in any future, year, the *owner* of any lands, houses, feu duties, or other heritable subjects, within the shire of the yearly value of £10, after deducting any feu duty, ground, annual, or other consideration which he may be bound to pay, provided he be in actual occupation, or in the receipt of the profits thereof to the extent of £10; or a leaseholder, whether in his personal possession or not, for a period of not less than 57 years, or for the lifetime of the said tenant, of the value of £10 above reprises, or for a period of 19 years, where the value of such interest is not less than £50, or in the actual personal occupation at a rental of £50, or where the sum as a consideration of not less than £300 has been truly paid. In Scotland there is a system of registration before the sheriff, who is generally a judicial officer of considerable experience at the bar. The sheriff is directed to examine every claim whether objected to or not, and he is to write the word "admitted" or "rejected," and mark them with his initials on the claim not objected to, precisely in the same form and manner as he marks the claims which have been objected to. The sheriff's judgment granting or refusing registration is conclusive of the right of the parties. The person claiming the right to vote must give in a claim, subscribed by himself or his agent, to the schoolmaster of that parish of the county within which the property on which he claims is situated, in the form following:—

I, A. B. (designation) hereby claim to be enrolled as a voter in the county (or town) of ——, as proprietor (tenant or occupant) of the lands (or houses, feu duties, *et cetera*) of ——, in the parish (or town) of ——, and county of ——, and *in case within burgh*, in support of my claim I produce herewith (a disposition, sasine, lease, *et cetera*, of date, *et cetera, as the may be*).

"J. T."—"I am possessed of a leasehold house and ground, and in actual occupation; the house is worth £25 a year clear of taxes; the lease is direct from the freeholder for ninety-eight years at a peppercorn ground-rent. Does this give a county vote, and, if not, should I be entitled to a vote by building another house of equal value on the ground?"

[If the lease is an original lease from the freeholder, for any term originally created of sixty years or upwards, and is of the yearly value of £10 above reprises, it will confer a county vote, provided the premises are not situate in a city or borough.]

"R. W." holds a lease (originally granted for a term of years exceeding sixty) of premises situated in a borough. He lets the same to a tenant (for a term of years), who pays him an improved rental of above £10 per annum. Has R. W. a claim to be on the county registry?

[A leasehold in a borough of premises of the value of £10 will not give a vote for a county. The occupier may have a vote for the borough.]

To the Editor *of the* League.

11th mo., 1844.

Respected Friend,—I have perused, with very considerable interest, the account of the late meeting of the League in Manchester, and I highly approve of the plan recommended by our valued friend, Richard Cobden, for increasing the county constituencies; and I believe a reply to the following queries in the next number of the League would tend to facilitate it:—Supposing a person to purchase a 40s. freehold, and afterwards to mortgage it, would he still be considered entitled to have his name inserted upon the register? And supposing, with the like property in a *borough*, and not much exceeding that amount, or rather under £10, would he be qualified to vote for that borough, or for the division of the county in which it is situated?

I have paid a little attention to the subject of registration in my time, but the questions which I have been troubling thee with have until the last week never occurred to me; and I find I am not the only one in ignorance upon these subjects. Hoping I shall not be found troublesome,

I remain a sincere friend to the League, S. J.

[If the property mortgaged yield a clear 40s. after paying interest on the borrowed money, it gives a vote; but not otherwise.

If a person occupies his own freehold house or shop, &c., in a borough, and if it be of £10 a year value or upwards, so as to give him a vote for the borough, he cannot vote for the county in respect of that property. But if he occupy his own house, &c., under the value of £10 a year, he can vote for the county in respect of that property. Or, if a person owns a house in a borough above £10 a year, and lets it, the tenant may vote for the borough, and the landlord may vote in respect of the same property for the county.—Ed. League.]

"A Leaguer," Brighton.—We are of opinion that the payment of *ten pounds* a year only, for rooms in a house of the value of £10 a year, where the owner is himself in occupation, will not carry a vote for the lodger: the owner might, possibly, establish his vote.

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

Any person forwarding 3s. 3d. by Post-office order to the Publisher, 67, Fleet-street, London, will have one quarter's copies of the League forwarded by post on the days of publication. Subscriptions for the paper may also be left with J. Gadsby, Newall's-buildings, Manchester; and the League may be had by order of any news-agent in town or country. Subscribers who receive coloured envelopes on their papers must bear in mind that their subscriptions are due.

POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, November* 16, 1844.

We have just received a file of American papers, and the intelligence they contain affords gratifying evidence of the progress of Free-Trade opinion in the United States. The monstrous fiction that £100,000 had been raised by the English Free-Traders to influence the coming election for President had been most diligently circulated by the monopolists; and the reaction against the detected falsehood is as great among the American mechanics as that against the detected sophism of cheap bread involving low wages has been among the operatives in England. It is not yet certain whether Clay or Polk will succeed; but it is beyond dispute that the Free-Trade party, even as an opposition, will be sufficiently strong to compel the supporters of protection to modify, if not to abolish, their restrictive system. From the many exposures of the iniquity of the tariff, we select one signed "A Mechanic," which would require but slight modifications to be equally applicable at this side of the Atlantic:—

"Fellow Citizens,—Look at the following items (only a part of the system), and then say whether it is deserving of the name of protection to American industry.

"For example, striped shirting, for the labourer, pays a duty of 65 per cent., while gold-edged pays but 33 per cent. Iron chains used by farmers pay more than 100 per cent., while gold watch-chains for the rich are taxed only 74 per cent. Common brown sugar is taxed 70 per cent., and the wines of the rich but 60. The hammer of the blacksmith pays 70; the saws of the carpenter 75; the irons of the hatter and tailor 110; but the silks of the belle pay only 40, and the cigars of the beaux not 20. Common carpets pay 103 per cent., while the finest Brussels and Wilton pay 30 to 50. Coarse cotton goods pay 100 per cent., and the fine only 33. The cheap calicoes pay 100 per cent., and dearer ones 33. Common flannels pay 88 per cent., and fine ones for the rich only 35. The low-priced velvets pay 150 per cent., fine velvets only 40 per cent.

"Are not the pursuits of the farmer, the shipbuilder, carpenter, mason, blacksmith, cartman, stevedore, longshoreman, wheelwright, tinsmith, &c., American industry? and is it just that they should be taxed so enormously upon every thing they consume, for the advantage of the few? I think, upon reflection, you will answer no! "A MECHANIC."

The *New York Journal of Commerce* has published some able articles on Free Trade, and pointed out not only its undeniable economic advantages, but its incidental results in securing international peace and mutual harmony. These articles have produced a marked effect on the public mind in America; we select a passage from one of the most striking:—

"The most perfect exemplification of actual Free Trade which the world ever saw, is to be found in these United States, considered as twenty-six 'sovereign and independent' communities. Each buys what it pleases of the others, and sells what they respectively please to buy of it, without let or hindrance, without the interference of custom-house officers, without charges of duties of any kind. Is it not a convenient system? Is it not a just one? Does it not promote the interests of all?

"Apply the protective system to those states, and each of them would lay duties upon the products of each of the others. New York would prohibit the admission of wheat from the West, and of cotton and woollen manufactures from New England, or charge them with exorbitant duties, because she can produce her own wheat, and manufacture her own cloths. Georgia would prohibit the importation of sugar from Louisiana, and elsewhere, because she could grow her own sugar; and, by making the duty high enough, the business would be eminently profitable to the growers, though eminently unprofitable to the consumers. Every state, instead of exchanging the commodities which she could most naturally and advantageously produce, would, by duties and prohibitions, seek to exclude those foreign commodities. Thus all would do what they could to invert the order of nature, raising oranges in Maine, and ice in Louisiana."

Substitute twenty-six nations for the twenty-six states, and the argument remains unaltered.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT. NINE LIVES LOST.

About five o'clock on Tuesday afternoon a most frightful and fatal accident, involving the death of nine persons, occurred on board the steamboat Gipsy Queen, lying at one of the Blackwall buoys off the Brunswick Pier.

It would appear that the unfortunate vessel (the Gipsy Queen) is a new iron steamboat, of about 500 tons' burden, having two engines of 150 horse power each. The boat is the first built by the firm of Jacob and Joseph Samuda, who, within the last two years, took premises in Bow-creek, for the purpose of carrying out their intention of building steamboats. The engines, too, with which the Gipsy Queen is fitted are upon a new construction, being what are called "bell-crank" engines. At three o'clock in the afternoon the vessel left the creek for an experimental trip, having on board about 20 persons, including Mr. Jacob Samuda, the principal of the firm. She went down the river to below Woolwich in gallant style, answering all the expectations of her constructors. On her return to Blackwall she was moored to one of the buoys, where it was intended she should remain all night, and be got ready for another trip the following day. In a short time after the vessel had been made fast, an explosion was heard by persons on the Brunswick Pier to proceed from the direction of the steamer, and almost immediately afterwards cries for help proceeded from the same quarter. Not a moment was lost in making towards the steamer, when the most heart-rending sight presented itself to those who went to the rescue. Five persons were there found, apparently in a state of madness, running to and fro on the deck, screaming with anguish, while their appearance showed that their lamentations were real. With all speed they were conveyed on shore, and met with every attention that could be afforded to persons in their situation by Captain Routh, managing director of the Blackwall Railway, and assistants. The agonizing cries of these unfortunate persons was said to be dreadful. They were all conveyed, without loss of time, to the London Hospital.

As soon as the engine-room was sufficiently clear, a descent was made, and seven human forms, scalded to death, were there discovered, with features contorted with agony; some bleeding from the nose, ears, and mouth, and their flesh peeling from the bones at the touch. The bodies were taken ashore, and placed in one of the Blackwall Railway warehouses, where six of them were shortly afterwards recognised, and proved to be Mr. Jacob Samuda, the head of the firm; Dodds, engineer; James Saunders, also an engineer, appointed to the Gipsy Queen, and who only went on board a few hours before he lost his life; Mr. Scofield, engine-fitter at the factory of the Messrs. Samuda; Thomas Nugent, an apprentice; John Newman, stoker; and a man whose name is not yet known, he having been employed only a few hours by the firm.

The names of those who were taken to the hospital are —Mr. W. Riley, foreman to the Messrs. Samuda; James Hill, boiler-maker; Charles Mills and William Donovan, stokers; and a third stoker, whose name could not be ascertained.

It is conjectured that the cause of the explosion was that the main steam-pipe to the engine became affected by a stuffing-box in the junction-pipe, the giving way of which let the steam into the engine-room. It is also said that the boilers were made to stand a pressure of 40lbs. per inch, and their working power was 25lbs. per inch.

Amongst those who are injured, and whose lives are saved, three were dragged on deck from the engine-room on the first alarm, and narrowly escaped with their lives.

In addition to the death of Mr. Jacob Samuda, the head of the firm of engineers, who from their ingenious construction of atmospheric railways, have repeatedly been brought under public notice, and of six of his workmen and engineers, who were brought dead from the vessel on Tuesday night, two more of the five conveyed to the London Hospital have since died, viz.: W. Riley, the foreman, and J. Donovan, stoker; J. Hill, boiler-maker, was not expected to live. The inquest on the bodies was held on Wednesday, when the particulars detailed above were stated by several witnesses: no decision was come to by the jury, and an adjournment to Friday took place.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.—The *Moniteur* publishes a royal ordinance authorizing the trial of the atmospheric system of railroad to be made between the station of the Paris and St. Germain's Railway, at Nanterre, and the town of St. Germain.

The *National* states that the French Government, enlightened by the information received as to the causes which led to the late war with Morocco, are about to appoint a special agent to reside with the Emperor of Morocco, and to remain in constant communication with him.

The *Memorial d'Aix*, in giving an account of a storm which took place on Sunday week in that neighbourhood, states that the hailstones which fell were of such an enormous size, that its readers can scarcely form an idea of them. One, it says, weighed ten pounds. Fortunately the storm was of very short duration, and, taking place in the night, neither man nor animal was struck by any of these terrific hailstones.

THE ROTHSCHILDS AND THE FRENCH LOAN.—The *France* says:—"There are in Paris at present the heads of three of the different houses of Rothschild, namely—MM. Anselm, Salomon, and James Rothschild. Their meeting is said to have been occasioned by the approaching adjudication of the loan of 300,000,000 francs. They were all received on Saturday by the Minister of the Finances. It is said that the chief of the London house of Barings is also expected, and will also tender."

The *Semaphore de Marseilles* of the 9th inst. publishes a letter from Leghorn of the 6th instant, giving a distressing account of the disasters occasioned by the overflowing of the Arno. Florence was partly under water, the suspension bridge had been carried away by the flood, the old bridge of the Jewellers threatened ruin, the Customs stores and the fine promenade of the Cascines were completely inundated. The Arno carried along a quantity of agricultural instruments, furniture, and cattle, and the plains of Tuscany, watered by the river, presented the aspect of immense lakes. The railroad between Leghorn and Pisa was so deeply sunk in the water that the communication had been interrupted.

SPAIN.—We learn by the Madrid journals of the 5th instant, that the court-martial on General Prim has broken up, after annulling all that it had done on the ground of irregularity and error in the indictment. It is announced, however, that when the form of procedure shall have been reformed, the court will assemble again, of which due notice is to be given.

The Barcelona journals of the 5th inst. mention the execution, on the preceding day, of Don Antonio St. Just, the son of the unfortunate general who was murdered some years ago in a riot at Malaga. St. Just had been condemned to death for participation in the Centralist conspiracy. He preserved to the last moment an admirable serenity. He made his will, wrote to several of his friends, and received the consolations of religion with edifying piety.

MOROCCO.—The following is an extract of a letter received at Lloyd's from their agent at Gibraltar, dated Nov. 4:—"By private intelligence received here from Morocco, it appears that the state of that country is very unsatisfactory, particularly in the neighbourhood of Mogadore, where there was a scarcity of provisions, owing to the disorders amongst the Kabyles in the interior. However, very little reliance can be placed on such unauthenticated reports."

EGYPT.—The *Augsburg Gazette* of the 6th inst. states that the crops in Egypt have been deficient this year, and that the public revenue has in consequence suffered.

AMERICA AND CHINA.—COMMERCIAL TREATY.—The correspondence of the French papers, and the last arrival of the Indian mail, announce that Mr. Cushing, who had been sent on a mission to China by the United States Government, had effected his purpose, and concluded a commercial treaty with the Chinese Government, which was signed on the 4th of July, the anniversary of the Declaration of American Independence. The Court of Pekin appears to have acceded without difficulty to the wishes of the American Envoy, and Key-ing, an Imperial Commissioner, was at once appointed, with a numerous suite of Mandarins, to treat at Macao. The American merchants at Canton and the adjoining stations discouraged the notion of attempting to proceed to Pekin; and Mr. Cushing prudently yielded to their suggestions. It was said, however, that he would proceed with the American squadron, consisting of the St. Louis, the Brandywine, and a brig, to visit a part of the coast.—*Times.*

UNITED STATES.—By the packet-ship England, which arrived at Liverpool on Saturday, New York papers have been received to the 16th of October, one day later than the previous arrivals. They bring election returns from the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Georgia, which are of importance as bearing upon the contest for the office of President between Mr. Clay, the high tariff and anti-Texas candidate, and Mr. Polk, his Free-Trade and annexation competitor. All these returns are favourable to the latter gentleman, who has now, at least, as fair a prospect of being elected as his better-known opponent.

The Acadia, royal mail steamer, arrived at Liverpool on Thursday morning, bringing New York papers to the 1st instant. The American papers are filled with discussions and speculations on the approaching presidential election. There are accounts from all quarters of the late disastrous gales. In the Havannah especially they seem to have been terrible. The loss of coasting vessels has been very severe, as in the harbour of Havannah alone 76 vessels were totally or partially destroyed. The southern papers report another terrible steam-boat explosion. The vessel, the Lucy Walker, left Louisville for New Orleans, full of passengers, and when about four miles from New Albany, her engine was stopped to make repairs of some of her machinery, and within a few minutes after her three boilers exploded, blowing the upper part of the vessel into atoms and pieces: from 60 to 80 persons were killed and wounded. A fine ship, the Mary Kingsland, loading at New Orleans for Liverpool, has been almost totally destroyed by fire, together with 1700 bales of cotton.

PERU.—Accounts from Peru state that General Castello, with the troops under his command, acting under the provisional government formed by the exertions of Ellias at Lima, had brought Vivanco to an action on the 22nd of July, in which the latter was totally defeated, and the troops acting under his orders completely dispersed. Vivanco had suffered himself to be taken by surprise, and offered but a feeble resistance; he made off with about thirty of his officers, but subsequently they were made prisoners; and afterwards Vivanco and three or four officers were expatriated to the coast of Mexico; the others were set at liberty. The example set by Chile, and the prosperity that country has enjoyed since she got rid of the military domination, has at length aroused the Peruvians, and produced a strong feeling amongst the more respectable classes in support of a rational system of civil government.

WEST INDIES.—The royal mail steamer Kent arrived at Southampton on Friday the 8th inst. The Governor of Jamaica had issued his proclamation for the assembling of the new legislature, and proceeding to business on the 15th of October. The convocation of the house thus early was attributed to the measures taken in England with respect to immigration from India. The West India body in this country having guaranteed the cost of sending 5000 Coolies to Jamaica during the approaching season, the opinion of the House of Assembly upon the scheme was required, as also upon the proposition to raise a loan in England, with the guarantee of the Government, of half a million sterling for carrying on such immigration in future. The island of Cuba was, on the 2nd of October, visited with a most terrific hurricane, which continued, however, only a few hours, passing over without doing much damage from that time until the morning of the 4th.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Cape of Good Hope papers state that the Caffres were still in a restless and excited condition upon the border. Sandilla appears to be a chief most amicably disposed towards the British, and within his district he had desired the presence of the military to crush and disband the native depredators. The murderers of De Lange, the Boer farmer, had been discovered and surrendered to justice, Sandilla at the same time ordering 60 head of cattle found in their possession to be given up to the widow. One communication respecting the state of Caffreland is noticed in the Cape Town papers, and would seem at once to give a contradiction to this rumour, the words being—"The country is very tranquil, and full of corn; and there is now plenty for man and beast." Nothing is reported in the papers with regard to Natal, except the old story that it is a fine and promising country.

SYDNEY.—Sydney papers to the 14th of July have arrived, which give a return of the revenue of New South Wales, exclusive of Port Phillip, for the quarter ending the 30th of June. From this it appears that the gross receipts were £71,832 against £82,129, in 1843, showing a decline of £10,297. Prices for all articles of consumption continued low, and the markets are not reported to be in a better condition. Great hopes are, however, expressed of a revival of business when the export trade should set in; and, from the estimates given in the papers, there is every reason to expect that tallow will before long become an almost equal staple with wool.

DOMESTIC.

The annual civic procession to celebrate the inauguration of the new Lord Mayor took place on Saturday last, and, notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, there was a larger attendance of spectators than is usual on such occasions. The newspaper accounts of the chief magistrate's reception vary as to the extent of unpopular feeling manifested, but they all agree that throughout his progress his lordship was subjected to loud expressions of disapprobation from the crowd, whose frequent references to the Wallbrook accounts must have been anything but pleasant on such an occasion. The banquet took place in the evening in Guildhall, the Lord Mayor in the chair. Among the guests were Sir James Graham, Mr. Gladstone, M.P., Count de St. Aulaire, &c. Sir J. Graham proposed the health of the Lord Mayor. On the health of the Count de St. Aulaire and the foreign Ambassadors being drunk, that nobleman responded, and in the course of his speech said:—"Three years ago, when for the first time I came to London, it seemed to me that this city had

already reached the highest point of splendour, so immense and so magnificent did it even then appear. Yet at the present hour I still see it increasing in size, and adding in every way to its beauty. Within the last few days we have taken part in the ceremony of the inauguration of one of those monuments of art which seem to spring from the earth as by enchantment. That building is itself the temple of commerce, and in asking the presence of the representatives of foreign Sovereigns at the ceremony of its opening, you had in some sort a right to do so, for the transactions of the Exchange of London are important to all the world. Your commerce, gentlemen, is one of the most powerful instruments of the civilization of the universe. Its noble mission is to bear, even to the extremities of the earth, the laws of a holy religion, the discoveries of scientific intelligence, and the comforts of domestic life. Let us work together in this noble cause, and may that temple of commerce, in which but a few days before we met together, endure for many centuries. May it continue an evidence of your prosperity even to the end of the world."

In the Bail Court, on Saturday, the Solicitor-General applied on behalf of Mr. Salomons for, and obtained, a rule calling upon Mr. Moon to show cause why a *quo warranto* should not issue requiring him to show by what authority he claimed to exercise the office of alderman of the ward of Portsoken in the city of London.

On Saturday last, at Manchester, Mr. D. Waddington, millowner, was convicted in the penalty of 20*l.*, under the new act, for not having securely boxed off and guarded an upright shaft in his weaving establishment, in consequence of which a girl, named Emma Hurst, had received several bodily injuries, having been caught by the shaft while in rapid motion. This is the first conviction under the act.

A dreadful encounter took place on Thursday night, the 7th inst., between a party of watchers, Henry Wallace, George Grundy, Peter Johnson, and George Ironside, and some poachers, on the Ravensforth estate, about three miles from this town, in which two of the keepers, Wallace and Grundy, were dreadfully wounded, and now lie in a precarious state.—*Gateshead Observer.*

An Irish landlord, Mr. Arthur Gloster, was, early last week, while on his way from his property at Teonagh to Limerick, shot through the heart by some person or persons unknown. One of the local papers states that on the day of his funeral, as his remains passed along, some of the peasantry turned off from their work to witness it, and exhibited manifest exultation.

A letter received in Dublin on Tuesday, from Limerick, states that the late Mr. Arthur Gloster's steward was murdered the previous morning; and mentioning also that shots were fired into the house of Mr. Samuel Canwell, at Killaloe, a respectable merchant of Limerick, and who had recently purchased an estate near to his property in the county of Clare. Providentially, Mr. Canwell had left the apartment the moment before the shots entered the windows, or otherwise, it is thought, he could not have escaped the doom prepared for him by the assassins.

The Repeal Association met at Dublin on Monday. The attendance was unusually thin, and Mr. M. O'Connell and Mr. Ray were the only leading Repealers present. A long letter was read from Mr. O'Connell, in which he promised to be at the association on Monday the 25th, when he would submit two propositions: first, to consider of the impeachment of the parties principally concerned in getting up and conducting the monster trial, and, as a preliminary step, making an appeal to the English people, either through the press, or by a personal visit to England; and, secondly, the formation of the Preservative Society of 300—a matter which, he says, is encompassed by great difficulties. An address from the council of the Complete Suffrage Union, signed by Mr. Sturge, was read, setting forth the principles of the Suffragists, and urging on the Repealers to adhere to them. The rent for the week, including a sum of £500 from America, was £838. 16s. 3d.

Mr. Serjeant Andrews, who attempted suicide on Saturday, by inflicting several severe cuts on his throat with a razor, died of his wounds on Wednesday morning, at his residence at Hampstead-hill.

The Blundell, a fine brig, bound to Trinidad, started from Liverpool on Saturday last, but meeting with a succession of heavy gales during the night of Sunday and following day, was obliged to put back, after carrying away foretopmast, jibboom, with all the gear connected with them, besides being dreadfully strained. On entering the Mersey she came in contact with the American ship Feronia, and sunk almost immediately off the magazines in 9½ fathoms at low water, the crew saving themselves with difficulty on board the Feronia, which vessel also sustained considerable damage.

For a few weeks past the blue flag, signifying that no more ships can be admitted into the docks, has been flying.—*Hull Advertiser.*

According to the *Mining Journal*, certain London speculators, or rather, swindlers, have hit upon a plan of procuring shares in new railways and other schemes by applying for them in the name of persons resident in Liverpool, Manchester, &c.

The mortality in the Metropolis continues to augment in the proportion of about 1-31th. The deaths last week were 989; the week before, 960. The ravages of smallpox and scarletina remain about double the average for the last five years. The number of violent deaths was last week 29—five more than the five years' average; of these, a dozen were cases of drowning, nearly all of which, it is to be feared, were suicides; added to which are five or six cases of suicide by hanging.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. Sturge—Malting of Barley.—Mr. Joseph Sturge has published the following letter in justification of the resolution of the firm of Joseph and Charles Sturge, cornfactors, Birmingham, not to sell barley for malting:—"To C. D., Corn Exchange, London. Birmingham, 11th month, 5th, 1844. Esteemed Friend,—Thy letter of the 4th ultimo has the following remark on the notice contained in our last monthly circular:—'The singular resolution you have come to, as to not selling malting barley, has been much canvassed here to-day. I regret it much, and the more so as I can discover no good and sound reason for it.'—This observation, and some other circumstances, induce me to give a further explanation why this resolution was adopted, believing that thyself, and many other of our friends, though differing in opinion, will not condemn a course which results from a conviction of duty. Intemperance produces such an incalculable amount of vice and misery, that I consider it right to use my influence to promote the principles of total abstinence. This I feel the more bound to do, as nearly twenty years' personal experience, and much observation in this and other parts of the world, have convinced me that fermented liquors are not necessary to health, and that those who refrain even from what is termed the moderate use of them, are in consequence capable of more bodily and mental exertion, and exempt from many maladies which afflict others. In accordance with these views, our firm has long altogether declined the sale of malt, or the supply of any grain to distilleries, and converted to other uses cellars which many years ago we let to wine and spirit merchants. Our continuing to take commissions for the sale and purchase of barley for the purpose of malting, has for some years caused me much uneasiness; and I have recently been so fully convinced that it is wrong to do so, that I must have withdrawn from our concern had it not been relinquished. The belief that we are responsible for the means of acquiring, as well as for the use we make of our property, and that we cannot exercise too rigid watchfulness over our *own* conduct, is compatible with perfect charity towards those who differ from us in opinion. I am, respectfully, Joseph Sturge."

Expeditious Mode of Conveying Goods *vid* Southampton.—A novel experiment, and one of considerable importance to Southampton, and, as it may turn out, to our merchants also, is about to be tried in the fruit trade. The Eleanor, Captain Wickham, from Fayal, has made the passage to Southampton in eleven days, with a cargo of 950 boxes of oranges. By arrangements now completed, the Dock and Railway Companies respectively having acted with considerable liberality, these boxes will be landed at Southampton, and put on the same trucks at the docks which will run on the railway, and on arrival at the Nine Elms terminus they will be horsed and drawn to the warehouses of Keeling and Hunt in the City, the brokers to whom the management and sale of the cargo is intrusted by the merchants about to try the novel experiment. There will, by the new plan, be no removal of the oranges from the time of their being unshipped until their arrival in Monument-yard, the trucks having been built expressly for the purpose. In hazy or bad weather, together with adverse winds, it is no uncommon occurrence for vessels to be *nine or ten days beating round to the port of London*, which, with perishable cargoes, is an object of importance; the whole voyage from the Azores occupying only eleven days in the present instance. By discharging at Southampton, the vessels will sail again instanter, save the detention and risk of a Channel voyage from London, and will be enabled to make three voyages where only two have been practicable hitherto; and as there will likewise be a considerable saving of port and dock dues, lights, freight, insurance, &c., by the vessel terminating the voyage at Southampton, there is no doubt, should the experiment succeed, that other descriptions of produce will be brought to London by similar means by many of our merchants, where time and saving of charges are considered an object. The Eleanor arrived on Saturday last at Southampton, between twelve and one, and by six o'clock in the afternoon 950 boxes had been landed and despatched to London; and, had not Sunday intervened, the brokers would have been selling the cargo in London 24 hours after it had been landed at Southampton. It is but justice to state, that every facility was afforded by the Customs in expediting the unloading of the cargo, and the railway directors were so impressed with the importance attached to the result of the operation, that special engines were ordered to be applied, if found necessary, to increase the speed to London; and the result being attended with the best success, will, no doubt, be productive of much increased business to the port of Southampton.

The Tenant-Farmer.—The present situation of the tenant-farmer is by no means an easy one. With all the advantage of cheap labour, which the superabundance of that commodity in the market gives him, he cannot get a profit at present prices sufficient to repay him for the capital and labour he expends. The small farmer finds it impossible to maintain a family out of his returns; he throws his farm up, and it is added to another or several other farms, from which a man with larger capital thinks he may succeed in getting that which the small farmer failed to get. Thus it is that small farms are continually disappearing, and that farms may be found in this and every other county within whose extended bounds are to be found half-a-dozen homesteads, the once happy, but now abandoned, homes of the diminishing race of small farmers.—*Brighton Herald.*

Monopolist Arguments.—Thomas Carlyle says that he has never heard an argument adduced in defence of the Corn Laws which was not of a nature, too literally, to make the angels weep. But we have men, of superior powers, who daily speak and write what they mean to be understood as arguments in defence of these laws. These men will admit that plenty of bread is a good thing; also that it is desirable the people should have the easiest access to that plenty. They might as well admit that knowledge is a good thing, and then make and defend a law for the destruction of the printing press.—*Bradford Observer.*

Who are the Teachers.—The people are now the teachers of their rulers. Opinion works up from the lower to the higher gradations of society. Senates and kings but ceremoniously perform the national will. Scarcely ever does it happen that they are in advance of the public mind. From it, but slowly, they gather their information and their decisions.—*Rev. Dr. Hamilton.*

An Example for Landlords.—The example set by Sir Harry Verney, in allowing his tenants to shoot over their respective farms, is the theme of conversation in all companies. The farmers' tables ring with praises to Sir Harry. None rejoice more than the Duke of Buckingham's tenants, because none are greater sufferers than they are from the destruction they yearly witness and feel done to themselves by the enormous abundance of game. No person unacquainted with a nobleman's preserves can form any idea of the injury hares and partridges do the whole country.—*Aylesbury News.*

Manufactures at Perth.—We understand that a manufacturing establishment here has taken premises to commence the manufacture of the goods called unions, that is, dresses of cotton and woollen, combined by means of power-looms. This is the first attempt at the introduction of steam power to manufactures in this place, and we hope it will be successful, and lead to an extension of such establishments. The prices of handloom weaving have advanced a fraction during the last month, and the prospect of the winter trade is here favourable for the workman.—*Perth Courier.*

Belgian Trade.—A memorial was being signed on Thursday last, in Bradford, by the worsted and cotton spinners and manufacturers, to the Board of Trade, praying for the interference of Government with that of Belgium. The memorial states that the Belgian Government has imposed duties upon the English manufactured goods, while those of France and other countries had been admitted at the old rate of duty. This is the return we are to have from the kingdom, the king of which is a pensioner upon England.—*Leeds Times.*

Reduction of Duties on Tea, Coffee, and Sugar.—A reduction of the duty on tea to 1s. per pound, of that on coffee to 2d. per pound, and of that on sugar to 10s. per cwt., while it would afford a very great relief to the labouring classes as consumers, would tend still more to improve their condition by the prodigious impulse it would give to trade, and the consequent demand for additional hands in almost every department of industry which would thus be created. We trust that a movement in this direction will be made speedily and effectually.—*Manchester Guardian.*

Grand Exhibition of National Industry at Berlin.—It is stated, in accounts from Berlin, that the exhibition of national industry to take place in that city promises to be a very grand affair. It was calculated that there would be about 3000 exhibitors, taking all the states comprised in the Zollverein, and that the number of objects would be 30,000.

Foreign Cattle.—Ninety-eight head of horned cattle and 40 sheep have been this week imported by the steam-ships from Hamburgh and Rotterdam.—*Hull Packet.*

The Death of the League.—Cobden and Co. having unexpectedly survived the jokes of the *Morning Herald*, the *New Farmers' Journal* has taken the field, armed with a pocketful of deadly conundrums, one of which was let off on Monday. Here it is:—"Why is a lady's bustle like the Anti-Corn-Law League? Because they wish *it* to be thought a '*great fact.*'" If this does not create an explosion fatal to the ideas of the League, the editor has more combustible conundrums in store. Perhaps Cobden and Co., like Davy Crockett's 'coon, will think it prudent to "give in."—*Gateshead Observer.*

Royal Polytechnic Institution.—Dr. Ryan has been engaged in lecturing on acid poisons, the tests for discovering their presence, and the most effectual means of counteracting them. Prussic acid formed the subject of this, his second lecture. Our columns are too confined to follow the learned Doctor through his valuable lecture, but we will confine ourselves to some of the tests and antidotes. The tests by which its presence may be discovered are—first, its odour. Secondly, the formation of Prussian blue. Add caustic potassa to the suspected liquid, then add a protopersalt of iron, and eventually a few drops of muriatic acid. Thirdly, the formation of cyanide of silver, by adding nitrate of silver to the suspected liquid. The cyanide is distinguished by its solubility in hot nitric acid. Fourthly, by the formation of cyanide of copper and its conversion into a dicyanide; this is done by adding caustic potassa to the suspected liquid; then introduce a few drops of solution of sulphate of copper; the cyanide is formed of a yellowish green. On the addition of muriatic acid a white dicyanide is precipitated. And fifthly, by the action of tincture of guiacum; add the tincture to the prussic acid liquid, a white resin is precipitated. Then introduce a few drops of solution of sulphate of copper, and a beautiful blue results, made more intense by the addition of alcohol. A fallacy may occur here, as tincture of guiacum will produce a similar blue colour, with spirit of nitric ether. Sixthly, where the odour is not detected, distillation will discover the acid. The antidotes are chlorine, ammonia, cold effusions, artificial respiration, and finally the recently discovered method of the celebrated chemists, Messrs. Smith, of Edinburgh. Their antidote is thus prepared:—Boil sulphate of iron with sulphuric acid and water, and add a few drops of nitric acid. In this way a protopersalt of iron is formed. Give to the patient first of all a solution of carbonate of potassia, and then a dose of the protopersalt of iron. The change which takes place is a most beautiful and effective one, resulting in the formation of Prussian blue, which, being insoluble, is consequently inert.

Incendiarism.—An alarming fire broke out on Monday night, about nine o'clock, at a farm called Lilley Hoo, situate about midway between Hitchin and Luton, in Bedfordshire. The farm-buildings, principally thatched, were wholly destroyed, notwithstanding the strenuous exertions of many gentlemen and farmers living in the neighbourhood, assisted by the labouring population, who, with some exceptions, behaved in a most praiseworthy manner. The fire is supposed to be the act of an incendiary.——On Thursday night, the 31st of October last, a fire broke out on a farm called Camps Hill, in the parish of Stevenage, Herts, in the occupation of William Sheffield, which destroyed a barn and other out-buildings, &c.; it was the work of an incendiary. We understand that William Sheffield has been apprehended by Inspector Good, and is now in custody on suspicion of setting fire to the above premises.—*Bedford Mercury.*——On Friday, the 25th ultimo, some men, passing to their work at seven o'clock in the morning, discovered a barley-stack on fire, belonging to Mr. Pearce, of Maulby. The whole of one side was in a blaze, but it had evidently been ignited only a very short time. Assistance was soon procured, and by means of water, and cutting away the burning portion, the fire was extinguished with comparatively a trifling loss.——On Saturday evening, about 10 o'clock, an incendiary fire broke out in a barn in the occupation of Mr. Gorringe, a farmer at Withdean. The barn was full of corn, and, owing to the inadequate supply of water, there was no means of arresting the progress of the flames. The villagers, one and all, hastened to the spot, and exerted themselves to save the corn, but with all their praiseworthy efforts scarcely a handful was saved. The fire continued to rage during the night. The building was built of flint and tiles, but the flames spread so rapidly that the roof was soon on fire, and in a short time the whole fell in. A young man, named Ledbitter, is in custody, suspected of being the guilty person.——A large rick of straw was on Monday week wilfully destroyed by incendiaries, at Box. The value of the rick is estimated at £40. The accused perpetrators of the outrage are stated to be in custody.

PRICES IN AUSTRALIA

(From the *Fife Sentinel*.)

We have been favoured with a sight of a letter from Australia, of date August 10, 1844, to a gentleman of this place, from which we take the following extracts, relative to the prices paid for various commodities and kinds of labour. The information therein contained will, we doubt not, be interesting to our readers:—

"The country is far from being in a good state for any class of men, with the exception of the sheep farmers, who are making fortunes rapidly. Oats are now selling at from 2s. to 3s. per bushel. Wheat from 2s. 6d. to 4s. Potatoes from 30s. to £2 per ton. The four pound loaf, from 5d. to 7d. Tea is from 1s. 6d. to 4s. per pound. Flour is from £9 to £13 per ton. Sugar is from 1½d. to 4d. per pound in the country. Brandy, gin, and whisky are still at 1s. per glass. Mutton is from 1½d. to 2d. per pound. Beef the same. In regard to sheep and cattle, a new system has been commenced here of melting the fat down for tallow, which, however strange it may appear, has increased their value to a great extent. Previous to this scheme being put in operation, sheep were sold as low as 1s. per head, and cattle at 12s., but at the present moment sheep realise from 8s. to 10s., and cattle from £2 10s. to £4. Colonial butter is about 10d. per pound. The butter exported from Ireland to this place is perfectly unsaleable. Cheese is generally sold at 10d. per pound. Clothing is now selling in proportion with everything else. Moleskin trousers from 7s. to 14s. per pair. Striped shirts from 2s. 6d. to 4s. each. Flannel shirts from 5s. to 8s. each. English light boots from 8s. to 10s. per pair; and colonial from 12s. to 14s. What the price of leather is I do not know, but it is considered the best trade in the country. Wages at present are very low. Shepherds from £15 to £18 per annum. Carpenters from £30 to £35, and their victuals. Blacksmiths have from 20s. to 30s. per week, and their board costs them from 12s. to 15s. Shoemakers from 8s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. Women servants £10 per annum. You may give my best respects to every person, whom you know, who intends to come out here, and tell them that it is my opinion that, if they can live at home at all, they are just as well off as we are in this place. If they have less money, they have more domestic comfort, for that is a complete stranger amongst us.

Prices of Provisions in Wales and Jersey.—It is satisfactory to us to know that the wages, added to the privileges of the working classes in this vicinity, are superior to those of the same class in many parts of England, while they have house-rent and provisions much cheaper. It may be interesting to our distant readers to learn the prices of the luxuries of living in Carmarthen; our London friends in particular will be astonished at finding that in the market last Saturday might be bought—fine geese at 2s. each; a fine young turkey, 3s. 3d. to 3s. 6d.; a pair of ducks, 2s. 2d. to 2s. 6d.; and fowls from 1s. to 1s. 6d. a couple. Our poultry is certainly not so large as that from Norfolk, but for succulence and delicacy of flavour it is not to be surpassed. Beef, mutton, and pork are to be bought at 4d. and 4½d.; picked joints of the finest meat, 5d. We have a most plentiful year of potatoes; they may be bought, fine and good, at 1s. the bushel, 60lbs. to 65lbs. to the bushel. Fresh butter, 26 ounces to the lb., at 1s. 5d. Eggs are now 24 a shilling; in the summer they are 30. Good heavy oats, 40lbs. to the bushel, are at 1s. 11d. to 2s. Cheap, however, as all this appears to be, we are quite outdone in Jersey, which, being a free port, is enabled to import duty free, from Brittany, one of the cheapest provinces of France, provisions, wines, &c., at very low rates. There (in Jersey) a turkey is 2s. to 3s.; ducks, 1s. 6d. a pair; gunpowder tea, 5s. per lb.; double-refined sugar, 4½d. to 6½d. a lb.; and Brazil sugar 3d. Very good port and sherry at 24s. the dozen; claret, at 18s. to 21s. the dozen; brandy, 4s. the gallon; very fine and old ditto, 7s.; Hollands, 2s. 10d. to 3s. 4d. the gallon. The prices are still further reduced by the English shilling passing for thirteenpence. Add to all this, there are no taxes, and *there is not a toll-bar in the island.—Carmarthen Journal.*

Edwinstowe Fair and Feast.—On the morning of Oct. 24th, the village crier made proclamation that he had the commands of the lord of the manor to inform the public, that Edwinstowe fair should be held for one day, "to buy and sell." Not much business was done. There were plenty of sheep in the fair, and many exchanged owners, but, being an indifferent sample, they went off at low prices. Before the Corn Laws made barley dear, and the railroads made travelling cheap, this fair had a notoriety for pigs, and the neighbouring villagers were wont to look to Edwinstowe fair as an excellent "bristling" mart. Improved modes of transit have made our larger markets pig fairs for all seasons, and, as a consequence, there were very few customers to be found at this pig fair; the few that were sold were quite a bargain.—*Notts Review.*

Free Trade must precede Emigration.—We know that, down to the most wretched classes of mankind, "home is home, be it ever so homely." But, if circumstances which cannot be controlled force a removal from it upon the agricultural labourers, is a two or a ten hours' flight by the railroad a harder lot than a six months' voyage upon the ocean? Is it a more cruel fate to be moved ten, twenty, fifty, or a hundred miles from the village of their youth, to Manchester or some other manufacturing town, with the certainty of a comfortable house over their heads and full employment wherewith to clothe and feed them in it, than to be shipped off by hundreds and thousands as emigrants to the antipodes, with all the chances of the winds and waves by the way, and some swampy Eden, it may be, in the wilderness or the desert, to receive them when they arrive at their destination? Out upon the hypocrites who so talk, say we. They strain at a gnat while they swallow a camel. And why? A change of mere locality in England is denounced as the very climax of cruelty, because it is proposed in conjunction with Free Trade. But perpetual banishment from their country is a happy idea, because it is hoped that, by its help, monopoly might rub on a little longer. Let us not, however, be mistaken when speaking on this subject. We are not opposed to emigration *when the necessity for it arrives*; but it is an *ultima ratio* which we would not try till then. First let us see what Free Trade will do for the unemployed masses in the rural districts. If it fails, then there will be nothing for it but emigration. *But, let it be tried first.* Previously, to export our people like so much lumber would be the worst of crimes.—*Liverpool Albion.*

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. Nov. 9	Mon. Nov. 11	Tues. Nov. 12	Wed. Nov. 13	Thurs. Nov. 14	Fri. Nov. 15
Bank Stock	—	204½	—	204½	—	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann.	99½	99⅝	99½	99½	99½	99⅝
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	100⅜	100½	100⅜	100½	100⅜	100½
3½ per Ct. An. new	102¼	102¼	102	102	102	102
Long An. Ex. 1860	12 1-16	—	12 1-16	12½	12 5-16	—
Cons. for Acc.	100⅝	100⅝	100½	100½	100½	100½
Exc. Bills, pm.	66	66	62	61	60	—
Ind. Bds. und. 1000l.	—	80	—	83	75	—
India Stock	280	—	—	—	—	—
Belgian Bonds	101½	101½	—	102½	—	—
Brazilian Bonds	—	88	88	88	85	—
Buenos Ayres	34	—	—	—	—	—
Chilian	103	—	—	—	102	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	14½	14	14	14½	14	14
Danish	90	—	89½	—	89½	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	99⅝	99½	99½	99⅝	99½	99½
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	61⅞	62¼	62¼	62⅛	62¼	62¼
Mexican	33½	35⅝	35½	35⅝	35⅝	35⅝
Peruvian	25	—	—	—	—	—
Portug. conv.	56½	55	56½	55	54⅞	55½
Spanish 5 per Ct.	24½	24½	24½	24	24½	24½
Do. 3 per Cent.	34	35⅝	35½	35½	35½	35½

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Monday, Nov. 11.—The supply of English Wheat this morning was moderate; the greatest part of it was in very inferior condition, and for such a decline of 1s. to 2s. per qr. had to be submitted to before a clearance could be effected; the best qualities were taken off at the prices of this day week. Though the supply of English Barley was not large, the trade was not brisk, and secondary qualities of Malting were in some instances sold at a reduction of 1s. per qr. Foreign Barley, on the contrary, both for Grinding and Distilling, was in greater request, and an improvement of 1s. per qr. from last Monday was easily obtained; this was particularly the case with Barley in bond, which was in demand in anticipation of a fall in the duty. Beans, both Old and New, were in short supply, and 1s. to 2s. per qr. dearer. Peas were 1s. dearer. The arrival of the Irish Oat vessels is still delayed by the stormy weather; the supply, in consequence, was very scanty this morning, and an advance of 6d. was maintained, but buyers were unwilling to purchase more than to supply their immediate wants.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk Old	Red 40 to 48	White 44 to 52
—— Ditto.......... New	— 40 — 45	— 40 — 50
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Old	— 40 — 46	— 42 — 48
—— Scotch	— 40 — 44	— 42 — 46
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Feed		New 20 — 22
—— Ditto ...... ditto .. Polands........		do. 22 — 24
—— Scotch Feed	Old 23 — 25	Potato 26 — 27
—— Limerick	do. 22 — 23	New 21 — 22
—— Ditto	do.	Short 23 — 24
—— Cork	New	21 — 22
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork Black Old and New		21 — 22
—— Sligo ...... New		21 — 22
—— Galway .... do.		19 — 20 6
Barley, New		32 — 39
Beans, Mazagan Old 33 — 35	New	30 — 32
—— Harrow .. do. 38 — 40	do.	32 — 34
—— Small .... do.		40 — 42
Peas, White, New		34 — 38
—— Grey .... 31 to 32	Maple	32 — 33
Flour, Town-made .... per sack of 280 lbs....		36 — 43
—— Norfolk and Suffolk		34 — 36

FOREIGN.

Per Imperial Quarter.

	Free.	In Bond.
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed	48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.
—— Rostock	47 — 54	
—— Stettin	44 — 52	
—— Hamburgh	42 — 48	
—— Odessa	42 — 46	
—— Ditto .... Polish	47 — 50	
—— Russian .... soft	42 — 46	
—— Ditto .... hard	40 — 44	
—— Spanish .... Red	45 — 49	
—— Ditto .... White	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding	26 — 30	— —
—— Distilling	30 — 32	— —
Oats, Archangel	21 — 22	15 — 16
—— Swedish	22 — 23	16 — 17
—— Danish	22 — 24	16 — 18
—— Stralsund	22 — 24	16 — 18
—— Dutch Brew	24 — 25	18 — 19
—— —— Polands	— —	19 — 20
Beans, Egyptian	32 — 34	25 — 27
Peas, White	32 — 36	— —
—— Ditto Boilers	36 — 38	— —
Flour, Canada .... per barrel of 196 lbs	26 — 28	— —
—— United States .. — —	26 — 28	18 — 20
—— Dantzig .... — —	26 — 28	18 — 20

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Nov. 4, to Nov. 9, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	3479	2186	106	1408	867
Scotch	—	—	—	—	—
Irish	—	—	2877	—	—
Foreign	3280	2421	1095	—	—

Flour, 5102 sacks, — bars.

Friday, November 15.—The supply of all grain since Monday is moderate; there is a small attendance of Wheat buyers, and the trade in both English and Foreign Wheat is the same as on Monday. The demand of English Barley is slow, Monday's prices are supported, but not without difficulty. Foreign, both in bond and free, is held at such high rates as to prevent sales to any extent being made. The value of Beans and Peas is fully maintained. The change in wind has not brought up more than two or three cargoes of Irish Oats. Buyers are holding off in expectation of further arrivals, and the business doing is consequently not large. The sales made are at fully Monday's rates. The duty on Beans and Peas fell 1s. yesterday.

S. H. Lucas and Son.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 11th of November to the 15th of November, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat..............	1660	—	1310
Barley.	3020	—	2170
Oats...............	250	7900	

Flour, 3790 sacks.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES Weeks ending

	Wheat. s.	d.	Barley. s.	d.	Oats. s.	d.	Rye. s.	d.	Beans. s.	d.	Peas. s.	d.
5th Oct.	46	1	33	9	20	6	37	5	36	5	33	5
12th ,,	46	3	33	6	20	6	37	10	36	11	34	0
19th ,,	46	3	34	0	20	6	39	3	37	0	34	2
26th ,,	46	0	34	9	20	11	39	3	37	0	34	2
2nd Nov.	46	0	35	7	21	2	37	3	36	8	35	1
9th ,,	46	3	36	1	21	0	34	6	37	11	34	7

Aggregate Average of the Six Weeks.—Wheat, 46s. 2d.; Barley, 34s. 7d.; Oats, 20s. 10d.; Rye, 37s. 4d.; Beans, 37s. 0d.; Peas, 34s. 2d.

Duty.—Wheat, 20s. 0d.; Barley, 4s. 0d.; Oats, 6s. 0d.; Rye, 8s. 6d.; Beans, 5s. 6d.; Peas, 8s. 6d.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending Nov. 8, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	4418	46s. 7d.	Rye	4	34s. 0d.
Barley.. ..	6314	36s. 0d.	Beans.. ..	1401	41s. 5d.
Oats	18811	22s. 4d.	Peas	740	[illegible]

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, November 8.

BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.

T. GOOCH, Dalston-terrace West and Whitechapel, timber merchant.

J. WOOD and W. NORTON, Kirkheaton, Yorkshire, fancy cloth manufacturers.

BANKRUPTS.

J. RAPER, Bridge-road, Lambeth, tailor. [Jones, Size-lane.

H. J. DOGOOD, Camden-terrace West, wine merchant. [Ross, Barnard's-inn.

W. EBREY, Aldermanbury, silk dresser. [Jones, Size-lane.

F. E. BLYTHE, Colchester, porter merchant. [Ogle and Younghusband, Great Winchester-street.

J. HUBBARD, Ramsgate, auctioneer. [Dyte, Temple.

J. PEGRUM, Robert-street, North Brixton, carpenter. [Smith, Basinghall-street.

J. MAYNARD, Panton-street, Haymarket, bookseller. [Bennett, Queen's-square, Bloomsbury.

T. SWIFT, Rotherfield-street, Islington, and J. A. HENSMAN, Margate, bill brokers. [Weir and Smith, Coopers'-hall.

S. MAKEPEACE, Mitcham, silk printer. [Reed and Shaw, Friday-street.

W. BROOKES, Gilbert-street, Grosvenor-square, grocer. [Comyn, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

H. G. GIBSON, Northaw, Hertfordshire, wine merchant. [Hughes, Bedford-street, Covent-garden.

J. BRIDICK, jun., Durham, bookseller. [Hodgson, Broad-street-buildings; Maynard and Middleton, Durham.

G. BATE, Birmingham, horse dealer. [Motteram, Birmingham.

J. ROW, Torrington, Devonshire, chemist. [Holme and Co., New-inn; Rowse, Great Torrington; Turner, Exeter.

J. L. TABBERNER, Birmingham, auctioneer. [Slaney, Birmingham.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 29. H. J. Canning, Wood-street, Scotch warehouseman—Nov. 29. W. Mott, Regent-street, laceman—Nov. 29. D. Ross, Little Love-lane, warehouseman—Nov. 29. J. Bradshaw, Mary-lebone-street, woollen draper—Nov. 29. J. Ball, Salisbury, cabinet maker—Nov. 29. W. Harding, Southampton-street, Camberwell, grocer—Nov. 29. J. Tucker, Sutton-street, Commercial-road East, shipowner—Nov. 29. J. and R. Davies, Chiswell-street, linendrapers—Nov. 29. J. Alcock and W. Wilson, Jermyn-street, tailors—Nov. 29. T. Leaver, Great Coxwell, Berkshire, baker—Nov. 30. J. Garnett, Liverpool, merchant—Nov. 30. W. Fairclough and E. Swainson, Liverpool, merchants—Nov. 30. R. Preston, Liverpool, merchant—Nov. 29. R. J. Buddicom, Liverpool, merchant—Nov. 30. M. Seary, Swddn, Flintshire, maltster—Nov. 29. J. Banks, Liverpool, tallow chandler—Nov. 29. R. G. Roberts, Liverpool, timber merchant—Dec. 3. T. Brewer, Liverpool, flag dealer—Dec. 6. G. Cottam and W. Osborn, Leeds, wine merchants—Dec. 3. T. B. Andrew, Ashton-under-Line, tea dealer—Dec. 3. H. Hall, Smalesmouth, Northumberland, cattle dealer—Dec. 13. J. Harford and W. W. Davies, Bristol, and Ebbw Vale and Sirhowy, Monmouthshire, ironmasters—Dec. 10. J. Harford, Bristol, Ebbw Vale and Sirhowy, Monmouthshire, ironmaster.

CERTIFICATES.

Nov. 30. R. Barham, Emsworth, Hampshire, linendraper—Nov. 29. J. Snelling, Blackman-street, Southwark, eating housekeeper—Nov. 29. J. Lowther, Queen's-row, Pentonville, builder—Nov. 29. J. S. Holmes, Liverpool, ship broker—Nov. 30. A. Patterson, Liverpool, livery stable keeper—Dec. 3. J. Ramsey, Somers-town, cheesemonger—Nov. 29. J. Jenkins, Crown-place, Old Kent-road, currier—Nov. 29. E. Walker, Newman-street, Oxford-street, auctioneer—Nov. 29. T. H. Whitmarsh, George-street, Hanover-square, hotel keeper—Nov. 29. R. Beesley, Wells-street, Oxford-street, wine cooper—Nov. 29. W. Ashwin, Birmingham, steel pen maker—Nov. 29. W. Parsons, Upper Eaton-street, and Half Moon-street, starch manufacturer—Nov. 29. B. H. Hunter, Liverpool, merchant—Nov. 29. A. Lett, Commercial-road, Lambeth, timber merchant—Nov. 29. S. Southey, South-street, Finsbury-market, and Kingsland-road, cabinet manufacturer—Nov. 29. T. Harvey, Wandsworth, innkeeper—Nov. 29. R. Marks, Union-street, Southwark, and Liquorpond-street, victualler—Nov. 29. J. Bedford, Westminster-road, iron merchant—Nov. 29. W. E. Dray, Heathfield, Sussex, grocer—Nov. 29. W. Dixon and J. Blee, Kingston-upon-Hull, corn millers—Nov. 29. H. W. Collinson, Stamford-street, hat maker.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. CRICHTON, or STRONG, Kincardine—J. READ, Caldercruix, Lanarkshire, bleacher—T. LESLIE, Port Dundas, near Glasgow, stone merchant—H. M'DONALD, Merkinch, Inverness-shire, grocer.

TUESDAY, November 12.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. T. WILDE and W. WILDE, Basing-lane, Cheapside, merchants.

BANKRUPTS.

J. COX, Norwich, cabinet maker. [Wood and Blake, Falcon-street, Aldersgate-street; Durrant, Norwich.

J. JONES, Berners-street, Oxford-street, apothecary. [Hand, Chancery-lane.

W. SAWYER, William-street, Saint George's East, oilman. [Morel, West-square, Southwark.

J. S. BURROWS, Wimbledon, Surrey, coal merchant. [Ogle, Great Winchester-street.

J. D. BATES, Lower Chapman-street, St. George's-in-the-East, ginger beer, soda water, and blacking manufacturer. [Taylor, North-buildings, Finsbury.

A. HOGGINS, Lime-street-square, City, merchant. [Hutchinson, Crown court, Threadneedle-street.

E. KINSEY, Newtown, Montgomeryshire, innkeeper. [Sergeant, Norfolk-street, Strand; Hughes, Llanidloes, Montgomeryshire; Evans, Liverpool.

G. VAUGHAN, Llanedy, Carmarthenshire, innkeeper. [Jeffreys, Swansea; Haberfield, Bristol.

J. VAILE, Cheltenham, wine and spirit merchant. [Bubb and Co., Cheltenham; Bevan and Co., Bristol.

H. OLIVER and H. HASTINGS, Cheltenham, butchers. [Packwood, Cheltenham.

DIVIDENDS.

Dec. 3. T. Alford, Harrow-road, Paddington, licensed victualler—Dec. 6. E. Condell, Milton-street, Dorset-square, builder—Dec. 5. J. Gale, sen., and J. Gale, jun., Love-lane, Shadwell, rope makers—Dec. 5. C. Williamson, Regent-street, St. James's—Dec. 3. F. T. Trivett, Northumberland-place, Commercial-road East, draper—Dec. 3. W. Oliver, Maidstone, Kent, upholsterer—Dec. 10. S. Price, Blackburn, Lancashire, machine maker—Dec. 10. J. Haddock, Warrington, Lancashire, bookseller—Dec. 10. R. Younghusband, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, brickmaker—Dec. 6. W. Perkins, St. Wollos, Monmouthshire, shipbuilder—Dec. 6. J. Wicks, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, clothier—Dec. 6. J. Courtney, Bristol, banker—Dec. 10. J. B. Pow, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, ship broker—Dec. 4. E. Currie, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, bookseller.

CERTIFICATES.

Dec. 9. H. Walker, Luton, Bedfordshire, cordwainer—Dec. 6. E. M. Good, Peckham, Surrey, cowkeeper—Dec. 6. E. Curtis, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, bookseller—Dec. 6. E. M'Laughlin, Long-lane, Bermondsey, hair merchant—Dec. 3. J. Groom, Regent-street, Lambeth, stone merchant.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

K. M'LEOD and CO., Portmahomack, Ross-shire, merchants—T. LYELL, Newburgh, manufacturer—J. WILSON, Edinburgh, general agent.

London: Printed by Henry Palmer (of Providence-place, Upper Kennington-lane, Lambeth, in the County of Surrey) and Joseph [illegible] (of Number 530, Strand, in the County of Middlesex), at their office, Number 10, Crane-court, in the Parish of St. Dunstan-in-[illegible], in the City of London, and published by Abraham Walter [illegible] (of Number 31, Norfolk-street, Strand, in the County of [illegible]) at the Office of The League, Number 67, Fleet-street, in the [illegible] St. Dunstan-in-the-West.—Saturday, November 16, 1844.

THE LEAGUE.

No. 61.] SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1844. [3*d*.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All Subscribers of £1 and upwards to the One Hundred Thousand Pound Fund, *will be entitled to, and receive, a copy weekly of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of The League, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and* addresses *to the Offices of* The League, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* The League Fund *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the League *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

We beg to inform our subscribers that bound volumes of the League *newspaper, containing the whole of the first year's numbers, may be had on application at the Offices either in London or Manchester.*

Persons wishing to be on the Register next year, as Freeholders for County votes, must be in possession of the property before the 31st of January.

QUALIFY, QUALIFY, QUALIFY.

Practical Instructions for Electoral Qualification.

The electors for counties are as follows:—Freeholders, copyholders, leaseholders, occupying tenants.

Freeholders.—The following persons are entitled to vote as freeholders:—1. Any person possessed of a freehold estate for himself and his heirs, or, as it is called, an estate of inheritance, of the yearly value of 40s. 2. Any person possessed of a freehold estate for life or lives of the yearly value of £10. 3. Any person possessed of such an estate for life or lives of the yearly value of 40s., under any one of the following circumstances:—If the estate was acquired on or before the 7th of June, 1832; or since, if by marriage or marriage settlement, by devise (*i. e.*, by will), or by promotion to any benefice or office, or if the freeholder is himself the actual occupier of the property. In any of these cases it is sufficient if the property be of the yearly value of 40s. Parish clerks, sextons, schoolmasters, Dissenting ministers, and holders of offices have a right to vote if entitled to emoluments of 40s. per annum, arising out of, or charged upon, land, and may be registered as voters in the parish wherein the land is situate. The appointment must, however, be for life, not for a temporary purpose, or at the pleasure of any other party; but an appointment during good behaviour is considered to be an appointment for life. If the freeholder occupy his own freehold property in a borough, of such a nature and value as would confer upon *him* the right to vote for the borough, he will not be entitled, in respect of that property, to vote for the county. But if the freehold will not confer the right of voting for the borough, that is, if it be not of the annual value of £10, or if it be land without building, the freeholder may vote for the county, though he occupy it himself. And if the freeholder do not occupy his freehold situate within a borough, he may then vote in respect of it for the county, and his tenant may also vote for the borough. Six months' possession prior to the 31st of July will entitle a freeholder to be registered. And if the freehold lands or tenements should have come to him by descent, succession, marriage, marriage-settlement, will, or promotion to any benefice in a church, or to any office, no definite period of previous possession will be necessary.

Copyholders.—Any person possessed of any lands or tenements of the clear yearly value of £10, whether of copyhold or *any other* tenure than freehold, is entitled to vote. Tenants in ancient demesne may in general vote as freeholders, if they do not hold by copy of court-roll, but otherwise they will be entitled as copyholders. As freeholders, 40s. per annum will be sufficient; but as copyholders, £10 a year is required. The same period of possession previous to registration is required, in respect to copyholders, as in respect to freeholders. Copyhold property within a borough, if of such a nature as would qualify any person to vote for the borough, will not, under any circumstances, give a right to vote for the county.

Leaseholders.—The right of voting in respect of leasehold property extends to—1. Any person who is entitled by virtue of a lease made or assigned to him of any lands or tenements for the unexpired residue of any term originally created for a period of not less than 60 years, if the property is of the clear yearly value of £10 above all rents and charges. 2. Any person who is in like manner entitled to the unexpired residue of a term originally of 20 years, if the lands and tenements are of the clear yearly value of £20. The party to whom the lease was originally made, or a party to whom such lease may have assigned the original lease, may vote, though not in occupation of the premises. Any sub-lessee or assignee of an underlease may also vote, but only when in occupation of the premises. Lessees or assignees must have been in actual possession for 12 months previous to the 31st of July, unless the qualification is acquired by any of the modes before mentioned as excepted; that is to say, by the death of a relative, by marriage, by will, or by promotion to any benefice or office. Leasehold property in a borough, if of such nature and value as will give any person a vote for the borough, will not give a vote for the county.

Occupying Tenant.—Any person occupying lands or tenements for which he is liable to pay a yearly rent of £50 is entitled to vote, if not within a borough, and not of such nature as would qualify a person to vote for the borough. In respect of the period of previous possession required, occupying tenants are placed on the same footing as leaseholders; but it is not requisite that the occupation be of the same lands or tenements: different lands and tenements occupied in immediate succession for twelve months previous to the 31st of July in each year will give the qualification.

General Observations.—Besides lands, houses, buildings, and the like, property and interests of the following description will entitle the owner to be registered and to vote, viz.—tithes, an annuity charged on land, a rent-charge,* fee-farm rents issuing out of an estate in fee; shares in navigable rivers, canals, &c., where the shareholders possess an interest in the soil; tolls of bridges, tolls of fairs and markets, purchases of unredeemed land-tax. Persons who have entered into an agreement of purchase of property, or who have paid any part of the purchase-money, or done any other act in part performance of the agreement, are considered to have equitable estates, and are entitled to vote and to be registered. Joint tenants and tenants in common have each a right to vote, provided the property be of sufficient amount to give to the share of each the value required. Mortgagees may vote, if in actual possession or in receipt of the rents and profits, but not otherwise. Trustees are expressly excluded from voting for any trust estate; the right of voting in respect of trust property is reserved for the *c'estui que* trust. In estimating the value of freehold or copyhold property, the marketable value of the property to let is the criterion to be attended to. If, owing to accidental circumstances, the rent should be less than might be obtained, the property will still give a right to vote. As regards leaseholds, the value required does not depend on the amount of rent. It is to be estimated by the profit which the tenant can make of the property, over and above the amount of rent reserved and any encumbrance charged on the property. The value required is to be "above all rents and charges." Under these words are included all encumbrances affecting the property, but not any public or parliamentary taxes.

BOROUGH FRANCHISE FOR 1845.

In order to secure a borough vote next year, those who occupy premises giving a qualification should immediately see that their names are placed on the poor's rate-book.

A claimant must be rated, or have claimed to be rated, to all rates made during the year ending the 31st of July. If, therefore, his name is omitted from any rate made during that time, he should immediately claim to be rated. The overseers are required to put the name of a person so claiming on the rate last made; consequently, if the claimant suffers two rates to be made before he claims, he will be unable to get upon the former one, and will thereby lose his vote for one year.

No particular form of claim to be rated is prescribed by the Reform or Registration Acts; but the following form may be adopted:—

"CLAIM TO BE RATED.

"To the Overseers of the Parish of ————.

"I hereby give you notice that I occupy a —— at No. —— in ——— Street, in your parish, and I claim to be rated to the relief of the poor in respect of such premises, in order that I may be entitled to vote in the election of a member (or members) of Parliament for the city (or borough) of ————.

"Dated this —— day of ———, 1844.

"(Signed) ————————,

of ————————."

Insert the name of the parish, the nature of the premises, as *house, shop, room*, or as the case may be, and the name of the street, &c., and of the city or borough, also the date. The christian and surname and place of residence of the claimant should be inserted at full length. Give the claim to an overseer, keeping a correct copy, on which should be written the date when, and the name of the overseer on whom, it was served. If any poor's rates are due for the premises at the time of making the claim they must be paid, or the amount due tendered. Should the overseer refuse to accept the money, or omit to enter the claimant's name in the rate-book, he will be deemed to be rated notwithstanding; but, if the claimant's name be omitted from any future rate, he should again claim to be rated.

THE COUNTIES! THE COUNTIES!

We gather from the letters which reach us from many parts of the kingdom, that fresh hopes have been infused into the minds of our friends since the announcement of the plan for rescuing the more populous counties from the grasp of the monopolists. The counties were regarded as the electoral preserves of the landlords, as sacred as their game covers, until our facts and figures showed that in a large proportion of cases they were more vulnerable to the systematic efforts of the Free-Traders in the towns than many of the small boroughs. The example of South Lancashire has given a new impetus, in a fresh direction, to the exertions of the Corn-Law repealers. As is natural, the movement has extended itself in the first instance into the neighbouring districts of North Cheshire, the West Riding, of Yorkshire, and North Lancashire, where active committees are at work. But it will not stop there. Our friends in the metropolis are rousing themselves to the consciousness of the means within their grasp of returning two Leaguers for Middlesex. From South Staffordshire, a district crammed full of towns, workshops, and furnaces, we hear that an organization is begun, which, if persevered in, will assuredly dispossess the monopolist squires of any share in the representation of that division of the county. In Scotland, too, as we learn from the *Edinburgh Chronicle*, a call is being made upon the Free-Traders to emulate the example of Lancashire; and, although they have not the facility which our 40s. freehold qualification gives us in England, yet we expect that all obstacles in the way of success in several counties will eventually be surmounted by the well-known intelligence and resolution of the Free-Traders of the north. But the good work must not be confined to particular districts. Wherever an individual Free-Trader may happen to reside, be it in Kent, Devon, or Northumberland, let him make it his first duty, after having provided himself with the franchise, to urge all his neighbours and friends, who are favourable to our cause, to qualify themselves with the 40s. freehold. Let him not be deterred by the apparent weakness of our party upon the present register. *Ours is a growing body.* Besides, the register affords an exaggerated idea of the actual strength of the monopolist party. The county registers have seldom undergone a thorough revision. In three cases out of four, they have been left to the care of blundering and partial overseers, to whose lists no objections have been offered in the barristers' courts. But, previous to a League contest for a county, the register will be subjected to a thorough revision, by which all the bad and illegal votes will be struck off the list. Let nobody, therefore, omit to possess himself of a vote from the notion that it will be useless; nor must anybody hesitate to qualify, merely because there happens to be no organization in the neighbourhood for aiding him in the formal business of registering his vote. If every Leaguer in the country will only do his best to secure possession of a 40s. freehold before the 31st of January, and induce such of his friends and neighbours as are Free-Traders to follow his example, we undertake to furnish them afterwards with ample instructions how to enrol their names upon the county list, and to retain it there.

We observe, in some of the monopolist papers, an effort to stigmatize this movement as an attempt to swamp the counties with fictitious or "fa. got" votes; and the old cry of "unconstitutional," which has been raised by the defenders of every time-honoured abuse, is again revived against us. What! is it not constitutional to place ourselves within the electoral pale, by conforming to the letter and spirit of the Reform Act? That act decides that a man, possessed of a freehold of 40s. a year, is entitled to vote for knights of the shire. We say to every unenfranchised Free-Trader who is able to invest £50 at good interest, *buy a freehold cottage, and become a free citizen.* Lay out as much more as you please, or as is convenient, in the purchase of lands, or houses; but, at all events, let your first investment be in that description of property, and to that amount, at least, which the law prescribes to be necessary to secure a county vote. Our scheme involves no agitation for an alteration of the law: we desire to induce a few hundred thousand persons to conform to the spirit and letter of the Reform Act. Our project requires less of public agitation or exciting demonstrations than of close, earnest, and business-like application; and we hope to see our friends in all parts of the kingdom rivalling the Leaguers of Lancashire, in their quiet but effective mode of carrying out a plan which appears to us, the more we consider the matter, to be by far the most important, from its practicability, of any that has been put forward by the League: a plan which, if persevered in for a few years, will solve the problem of—How can just and equal legislation be extorted from the landowners of this country?

COMING ROUND.

Among the many signs of the progress made by the principles of Free Trade none is more signal than

* No registration of annuities or rent-charges with the clerk of the peace is requisite. The 3rd Geo. III., c. 34, is repealed.

the altered tone assumed by such landlords as have ventured to meet the tenant-farmers either at their audit-dinners or agricultural meetings. The Marquis of Londonderry, whatever may be his faults as a politician, has always ranked among the first of good landlords in Ireland, and, as a necessary consequence, his tenantry is one of the most prosperous in the sister country. On the 11th of this month he gave a dinner to his tenants at Newtownards, and addressed them at great length on a variety of topics with most of which we have no concern. In the course of his oration he touched upon the Corn Laws, and declared in very plain terms that it is impossible for any Minister to retain them much longer. We quote from the *Northern Whig's* report of his lordship's speech:—

"There was one question which had agitated the country a great deal since the period to which he had alluded, and to which he felt it necessary to allude—he meant the Corn-Law question. (Hear, hear.) And he did *solemnly adjure* them not to depart from those means to improve their agricultural position which science had opened up to them, lest the question which he had alluded to should be carried. He did not understand how any Minister who thought right to introduce into his policy Free Trade at all—he did not know *how that Minister could make corn an exception.* ('Hear,' and cheers.) He implored them to consider that that might not be the case; and, in order to prepare for such a change, he *implored them to go on cultivating* the soil on which their existence depended. (Hear, hear.) They had seen, during the last twenty years, many changes—they had seen the Minister, by the force of circumstances, by the pressure from without, obliged to follow out a course of policy which was contrary to his mind to pursue; and having seen that, he could not sit down without impressing them with the fact that similar things might take place with regard to the Corn Laws. (Hear, hear.) He wished them to bear in mind that, when every thing else was free, they could not expect that corn alone would be an exception."

This is the declaration made in a speech almost wholly devoted to the advocacy of Sir Robert Peel's Ministerial policy; and similar sentiments were expressed by Lord Castlereagh, the marquis's son, who was almost in terms announced at the meeting as a candidate for office. But, whatever may have been a politician's motive for making such a statement, there can be no mistaking the sentiments of the farmers when the declaration was made. They received it with cheers, and thus virtually disclaimed the mockery of protection with which their order has long been deluded. We doubt not that other farmers would similarly denounce the same monopoly but for the vassalage in which the system of the Corn Laws enables their landlords to hold them. We happen to know that the tenants on the marquis's estate in Ireland are men of great intelligence and rare independence; had the noble lord taken the opposite side and advocated monopoly, his observations would have met a very different reception. The noble marquis further stated:—

"He had always considered the interests of tenant and landlord closely united; *he considered the tenant-right, by which the tenant held his farm, the same as that by which he (Lord Londonderry) held possession of his house.* * * * Having made these observations, he would follow them up by telling them some directions which he had given with respect to his tenants and his property here. He had given directions to have the estate viewed, and to have his instructions, with reference to it, carried into effect. He was aware that there was a large portion of it much improved, and that the rents were fair and just. But what had he done with regard to a large portion which was out of lease? Why, he had directed his agent to join with an individual tenant, such a one as they might select, and have perfect confidence in, and go through every field that was out of lease, and put a fair value upon it; and when that was done he would flat it; but he would not do so until next year—until he would see whether the Legislature would interfere between landlord and tenant. They had, perhaps, been much pleased with the interesting discussions which had lately taken place in England with regard to leases. The question was different in Ireland. In England the landlords had all the buildings and improvements to make; but in Ireland the case was different. *Here the tenant made improvements, and erected the buildings, and was, consequently, better entitled to a lease.* When, therefore, the valuation to which he had referred was completed by his agent and one of their own body, there would be no hesitation, on his part, in giving them leases, and so make them doubly sure."

We have nothing to say to political divisions, and we have never allowed party to guide our decisions or pervert our judgment. We hail these sentiments as worthy of a beneficent landlord and an enlightened tenantry, without caring to inquire what other opinions on questions of Church and State may be held by the parties. But we think that more importance may justly be attributed to the reception of such sentiments by the farmers than even to their utterance by the noble lord. Here was a collection of men, wholly dependent upon agricultural pursuits, protesting against a system professedly devised for their protection, declaring that they would get on much better without it, and rapturously cheering the announcement of its downfal. And here, too, was an intimation of the benefits which tenant-farmers have to expect from the abandonment of such an unnatural system, viz., such security of tenure as will give them fair returns for every investment of capital made in agricultural improvements. The Corn Laws are thus recognised by practical farmers as the chief cause of the agricultural depression of which they so loudly complain. Capital has been so fettered in its application to land by selfish and capricious restrictions, that the farmer has been in the condition of an artisan condemned to work in fetters. A free trade in corn must be followed by a corresponding adjustment of the terms on which land is held; and the farmers who suffer from the present unequal terms cannot long be held in servitude to the monopoly which has enabled such terms to be dictated. The sophism that the Corn Laws were established for the protection of the farmers has been completely demolished; and even the *Standard-Herald*, or, as the twin-journalism is now designated, "The Goose and Shadow," will hardly venture on its repetition.

The sophism that monopoly was designed to protect the farm-labourer has met a similar fate; we take the following from the *Liverpool Mail*, a paper which has long been conspicuous for its advocacy of what are called high Conservative principles:—

"It is impossible to look over the surface of England without seeing that the land is not half cultivated, not half manured, not a tenth part drained—not turned to one quarter of the advantage which it might be. Whose fault is this? The landowners—the aristocracy—the preservers of game—the demoralizers of the poor—the fine poverty-park and lawn men—the keepers of hounds—the preservers of rabbits, who rejoice in hunters, and whose dogs are better fed and more kindly treated than their Christian hedgers and ditchers, and whom they tempt to steal and assist to transport, or take a degree in felony under a gaol education, which ultimately leads to the same result.

"*We have from the first start in life supported the Corn Laws*, for the sake of the noblest portion of our countrymen, the agricultural labourers. But if their former happy condition is no longer to be upheld—if they are to have no prospect beyond a union workhouse in their latter days—if they are to be treated as felons, and worse than felons, for no sin or crime but that of poverty—*then, we say, we shall not support the Corn Laws one hour longer.* If the farmers cannot afford to pay labourers fair wages for such improvements as their farms require, simply because the rents are too high, THE RENTS MUST GIVE WAY! He that has twenty thousand a year must be content to live upon ten thousand, and so on in proportion. The nobleman or gentleman who thinks that the pride of his family is involved in his spending two or three thousand a year upon hounds and horses, must drop the quadrupeds, and devote the expenditure to the amelioration of his labourers. If he refuse to do this, his lands and parks must be transferred to more discreet and charitable owners. He may resist for a while, but it will be foolish and vain. This is too small a country now for fox preserves and pheasant retreats, and rabbit warrens; *we want corn, and labour, and industry*, and an increased portion of an indispensable article in the present day—common sense."

The want of corn has been the source of the want of labour and industry; for corn is the remuneration for both, and when the price of any article is restricted, the supply must necessarily fall short. As to the want of common sense, Æsop long ago described the policy of food-monopolists in the fable of "The Boy and the Goose that laid Golden Eggs;" there could be no better illustration of the old parable than to impoverish the manufacturers who are the consumers of agricultural produce, and then to look for high rents from the farmers who are its producers.

Until the League commenced its operations, the condition of the agricultural labourer excited less attention in England than that of the Negroes or the Esquimaux. Every attempt to direct public attention to their depressed state was met with an indignant howl of reprobation from the whole monopolist press. But the League persevered: it has brought into broad light the miserable condition of a decaying peasantry, and shown the true results of pretended protection so strongly that none but the self-interested can any longer resist such evidence, and those who were honest dupes are coming round to the cause of truth and justice.

THE BITTER FRUITS OF IGNORANCE.

THE SUGAR MONOPOLY AND THE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

It was a grievous spectacle to the reflective friends of the abolition of slavery to behold a section of the Anti-Slavery Society on a recent occasion banded together with ex-slaveowners to uphold the sugar monopoly. We wonder it never occurred to these benevolent monopolists to ask themselves the question, How is it that we find ourselves in union with those who have ever been the most uncompromising enemies of the great object for which our society was established? Wherefore is this new-born regard for the welfare of the negro on the part of those who but a few years ago defended the flogging of negro women with cart-whips? Is there nothing suspicious in these extraordinary professions of humanity? Are they dictated by a kindred spirit with our own, or does there lurk some hidden object in the background? Reflections like these might have saved them the regrets with which they will one day look back on their past imprudence and folly.

It was one of the great maxims of the first and most enlightened leaders of the anti-slavery party, that slavery is *unprofitable* as well as *inhuman*. The late James Cropper of Liverpool, who will be long remembered as one of the most ardent friends of emancipation, and who combined with large philanthropy great intelligence and sagacity, proved beyond controversy, thirty years ago, that free labour *is cheaper* than slave labour. This view was formerly considered the strong argument in favour of the abolition of slavery, and it was also the ground of the opposition to the grant of £20,000,000 to the slaveowners, because the gain by *free* labour, it was urged, would more than compensate for the loss of property in the slave. But what say the anti-slavery *monopolists?* Why, in effect, "that the great maxim of the early abolitionists is false; that free labour is *not* cheaper than slave labour; that the *free* negroes in our colonies cannot compete with the cheap *slave* labour of Cuba and Brazil; that it is, therefore, unchristian to allow slave-grown sugar to be eaten, because slavery and the slave trade will be thereby encouraged."

We cannot conceive a more fatal blow to the cause of the abolition of slavery than this departure from the practical wisdom of the early abolitionists, and it has already been the source, as we shall show, of an amount of crime and misery such as the heart sickens to contemplate.

The rational course to accomplish the great end in view, and the course pointed out by the great and good men who are "gone to their rest," was to convince the slaveowner that *his own interest* and humanity went hand in hand—to prove to him, not by wordy and offensive declamation, but by practical demonstration, that by *free* labour he could grow a larger quantity of sugar, and at a less cost, than by slave labour. But what course have the Legislature, influenced by the Anti-Slavery Society, pursued? No sooner was slavery abolished in our colonies than the advantages of free labour, about which so much had been said, were not only forgotten, but it was contended that the emancipated labourer ought not to be exposed to competition with the slave labourer. No course could have been adopted better calculated to *make* free less productive than slave labour, than thus upholding and cherishing the blighting monopoly under which the British colonies have become the worst cultivated countries in the world. In fact, the growth and process of making sugar has undergone little change since it was introduced into the colonies about three centuries ago. On this subject the *West Indian* and the *Globe*, Barbadoes papers, in an elaborate and well-written article observe:—

"It is a most remarkable fact, that the art and practice of manufacturing sugar in the colonies should have been so long stationary, or should have made so little progress towards perfection, while almost every other branch of manufacture has been so greatly benefited by the discoveries which science has made, and by the application of scientific principles to purposes of general utility. This is the more remarkable, when we reflect upon the vast magnitude of the interest involved, and the wealth and intelligence of those persons most deeply interested in this important branch of their staple production. It cannot be that the most decided enemies to innovation, those whose predilections are the strongest in favour of long-established custom, can contend that the present system is so perfect as to admit of no improvement, that none or so little has been made. *In point of fact, the process of making sugar has proceeded in nearly the same undeviating course for centuries, and still continues to exhibit the rudest and most destructive features, involving a principle which in its operation subjects the planter to an enormous loss, the full amount of which he has been unable to estimate, because the absence of a better system has left him without the means of comparing its results.*

"Three centuries have now completed their revolution since the sugar cane was first introduced into the island of Barbadoes, from the Brazils. Considerable improvement appears to have been made in the quality of sugar, between the years 1611 and 1656, the date at which Jamaica first fell into the possession of the British; at which period, it is said, there were only three small sugar plantations established in this Queen of the English Antilles. *After the lapse of three centuries of practical experience the manufacture of sugar has effected so little in the shape of improvement, that it strongly tends to confirm the assumption, that the system hitherto pursued is radically defective, and that the evil is inherent and inseparable.*"

Here is proof enough how little *protection* has stimulated or contributed to improvements, and how little *production* has been advanced by monopoly. It would be almost incredible were the fact not so notorious, that to this day the plough is almost a stranger in our West India colonies. The land is still cultivated by scratching it with the hoe; and the Governor of Jamaica, a few months ago, in his address to the Legislature, actually congratulated them on the increasing use of the plough as an era in his administration!!*

Whilst, however, the British colonies have been slumbering under monopoly, and sinking into ruin and decay, foreign sugar-growers have been highly prosperous—*not because slave labour is cheaper than free labour*, but because, being exposed to wholesome competition with all the world, instead of living at a distance of 3000 or 4000 miles from their estates, and leaving them to the management of attorneys and agents like the West Indian planters, they have been obliged to reside on and to manage their own plantations, to practise economy, and to

* The cultivation of cotton by the plough, instead of the hoe, was introduced into the United States about 36 years ago. The result is an increase in the growth since that period of 700 per cent., and a diminution in the cost of production of 60 per cent.

adopt improved modes of cultivation. By these means capital has been accumulated, cultivation increased, new labour called into operation, and that labour supplied by the horrible slave trade. But who is to blame for all this? Who, but the British Legislature and the Anti-Slavery Society, who, by fostering and upholding monopoly, have made slavery and the slave trade profitable.

It were well if the consequences of monopoly ended here; but, as too frequently happens when men lose sight of principles, one error leads to others, and with the best intentions they become the unconscious instruments of crimes as revolting to their own natures as they are horrible to contemplate. Such has been the case in the means resorted to by the upholders of monopoly, to put down by the sword *the evil of their own creation*—the slave trade.

Sir Fowell Buxton estimates the sum spent by Great Britain in bounties, payments to foreign powers on account of the slave trade, and of the armed force in various parts of the world to intercept the traffic, at the enormous sum of £15,000,000; and yet not only have all these efforts entirely failed, but in spite of our exertions the traffic has greatly increased in extent, and in the degree of suffering inflicted upon the negroes. Sir Fowell gives the most horrible and revolting details of the existing slave trade:—"Of 400,000 annual victims torn from their homes (says he), one-half perish before embarkation from casualties incident to the seizure, march, and detention; one-fourth die on the passage; one-fifth die in the seasoning: so that there only remain available to the planter 120,000."* He further shows that *by far the greater portion of this awful waste of human life is the result of our armed interference to repress the trade.* It is impossible to make an exact estimate, but, if the statements referred to are correct, we shall be safe in calculating that, whereas under an open and unfettered trade 120,000 available slaves would be procured by a loss to Africa of 250,000 negroes, the same number now costs that devoted country 400,000 of her sons. For the difference of 150,000 yearly the British squadron is responsible.

These are startling statements, but they rest on the authority of the leaders of the anti-slavery party, and are supported by the testimony of our ablest officers on the African station. The *auta da fés* of the Inquisition, and the human sacrifices of Mexico to a bloody superstition, fall into insignificance when compared with the appalling cruelties, misery, and suffering inflicted on the negro race by the decrees of a *Christian* (?) Parliament "under our *most religious* and gracious Queen assembled." Few, we think, are aware of the horrible truth, that ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND HUMAN VICTIMS ARE ANNUALLY SACRIFICED AT THE BRITISH ALTAR OF MONOPOLY; a number equal to the entire population—men, women, and children—of the borough of Leeds!!!

Such are the bitter fruits of the false-directed efforts of well-meaning but ignorant statesmen and enthusiasts! We need scarcely ask, is it fitting that such a state of things should continue? Will not the British people sweep away this horrible disgrace to a Christian name and nation? We feel assured they will. But is it vain to hope to put an end to slavery? We answer, No. As sure as there is a just God, slavery will come to an end; but there never was a greater mistake than the attempts to put an end to it by the sword. Such attempts are founded on the most extraordinary ignorance of human nature. Mr. Laird, than whom no man living has had equal means of judging from personal acquaintance with Africa and its people, says, that the interference of our cruisers has been a fearful aggravation of the horrors of the slave trade, and has proved to the negro a curse in place of a blessing. "Our interference (says he) has made it a smuggling trade, and has raised the mortality to from 25 to 33 per cent. The numbers exported are not diminished. Each individual has more to endure; and the number of individuals has increased to twice what it was. The result, therefore, is, that aggravated suffering reaches multiplied numbers." Our interference has made the slave trade a smuggling trade. Can smuggling be put down by the sword? Have we put it down by such means in our own country? How absurd, then, is the attempt to put it down on the death-devouring shores of Africa.

The course pursued to put down smuggling at home is founded in the same error as the attempt to put down the slave trade. Smuggling is the offspring of high duties. The Legislature, first by bounties on fraud and dishonesty in the shape of exorbitant taxes on articles of consumption, excite cupidity—the absorbing passion of bad natures—and then spend millions in the vain attempt to put down by force the evil of their own creation. The smuggler laughed at the great Napoleon, even at the height of his power, as he does now at our cruisers by sea, and our hosts of coast-guards and customs officers by land, which, at an expense to the country of about a million per annum, cannot prevent him from supplying one-half the silk goods, one-half the tobacco, and a considerable portion of the brandy imported.* The remedy for this evil is palpable enough: *render smuggling unprofitable* by reducing the enormous duties on smuggled goods. Is not the remedy for slavery and the slave trade equally palpable? *Render slavery unprofitable.* Let the Anti-Slavery Society retrace their steps, and instead of warring against nature, upholding blighting monopoly, and the putting down of the slave trade by the sword, let them return to the golden maxim of the early abolitionists, that free labour is *cheaper* than slave labour; for it were a libel on human nature to contend that the slave turned out of his hut in the morning to the crack of the whip, worked under its lash during the day, and taking his allotted portion of food and rest, not as the price of his labour, but as the means of subsistence—mere necessaries—given because they could not be withheld, can successfully compete with the free independent labourer, stimulated by the receipt of the whole reward of his toil. We have the best evidence that he cannot; and this is a cheering fact to all who are prone to think that Free Trade has no natural alliance with moral turpitude.

The *free* labour of Java is a perfect reply to all the assertions in favour of the cheapness of slave labour. Notwithstanding Java has had openly to compete with the slave labour of the whole world, the productions of that island, in the face of low prices (prices varying from 25 to 50 per cent. less than the British planter has obtained for his produce), have increased in a manner without parallel in the history of the world. Independently of its enormous increase of the production of coffee, indigo, and some minor articles, that of sugar only has gradually increased since 1826 as follows:—

1826	..	..	23,565 cwts.
1836	..	..	607,330 ,,
1843	..	..	1,300,000 ,,

But we need not travel to foreign lands to convince ourselves of the superior cheapness of *free* labour. Our able contemporary, the *Economist*, of the 26th of October last, contains a letter from an intelligent West Indian, ridiculing the alarm of the West Indian planters at the recent alterations in the sugar duties, which they assert (in petitions to the Queen), with so small a bounty as 10s. per cwt., will bring ruin on the colonies; in the face of which, their own newspapers contain the following extraordinary facts;—

In the "Jamaica Royal Agricultural Society's Reporter" of June and July last, are contained the particulars of a competition for a prize of £20, offered by the "Clarendon Agricultural Society," "to the manager in the parish making the greatest quantity of sugar at the smallest cost from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 1843, all things considered." Two competitors appeared, one of whom obtained the prize. The result, as showing the actual cost of the sugar produced, appeared in the *Economist* of the 26th ult., and to which we must refer our readers for the particulars of the calculation. It appears that the successful competitor produced 3105 cwt. of sugar at a total cost (inclusive of every charge except rent of land) of 6s. 9½d. per cwt. In the other case, 2567 cwt. were produced at a cost of 10s. 2d. per cwt. Now, adding one-third for rent., and for freight and all other charges attending transmission to this country, 8s. per cwt.,* we have in the one case 17s., and in the other 21s. 7d., as the price of the sugar here. The prices of foreign sugar of a similar kind now in bond range from 14s. to 20s. per cwt. But if, as suggested by "A West Indian," we deduct the extra cost of overseers and assistants, consequent on a delegated management, the total cost on the spot would be brought down, in these two instances, to 4s. 6½d. and 7s. 5d. per cwt., and, making the allowance for rent and profit 50 per cent., we have the prices here at 14s. 9d. and 19s. 1d. Here we have evidence, upon West Indian authority, of what may be done by the very first effort of competition, extended over only one parish in Jamaica, *and with no greater stimulus than a £20 prize.*

Talk of slave labour being cheaper than free labour, indeed! In what country in the world shall we find slave labour so cheap as is the free labour of our East Indian territory? What can prevent that country, which is capable of supplying all Europe with sugar—where the sugar cane is indigenous—where there is abundance of cheap free labour, and a fruitful soil—what can prevent it from growing sugar cheaper than foreign slave-growers, who are forced to pay high wages in the shape of exorbitant prices for slaves? Nothing—nothing but the continuance of blighting monopoly. *To uphold monopoly, then, is to uphold slavery.*

We have the pleasure of being acquainted with the intelligent "West Indian," the writer of the letter addressed to the *Economist*, and we are happy to know that he is preparing to proceed to the West Indies next year, to demonstrate to the eyes of his countrymen, by actual experiment, that their fears of competition with slave labour are as groundless as was their dread of the results of emancipation. We have no doubts of his success; and we anticipate happier results from his labours than from all the labours of the Anti-Slavery Society, and all the blood and treasure squandered by the Government in the vain attempt to put down slavery and the slave trade by force of arms. God speed the holy enterprise.

In conclusion, we conjure our anti-slavery friends to reflect that there are mightier weapons than the sword; and when this truth shall be again appreciated—when the eternal laws of the Almighty shall be permitted to resume their sway, and take the place of the feebleness and folly of man—when trade shall stretch her unfettered wings to the ends of the earth—when free labour, unshackled by monopoly, shall assume her natural dignity and rights—then will it be manifest that mightier than the sword in crushing slavery are the operations of the simple truth, that FREE LABOUR IS CHEAPER THAN SLAVE LABOUR.

* Buxton's "Slave Trade," 1840.

* The poor West India planters are eaten up with charges: the merchants, who are mortgagees of their estates, monopolize the carrying of the sugar, and charge them £5 to £6 per ton freight, besides exorbitant commissions for the sale of their produce, whilst, with Free Trade, the freight of sugar from Brazil ranges from 30s. to 60s. per ton; from the East Indies, 30s. to 60s. per ton; and from Manilla, a distance five times as great as to the West Indies, the freight ranges 60s. to 80s. per ton.

* We are cognizant of a fact which will probably be made public in the forthcoming parliamentary report on the frauds in the tobacco trade. Small quantities of tobacco were purchased in a certain large town at twenty-six tobacco shops; twenty-five of the parcels were adulterated, and only one was genuine tobacco. The duty on tobacco is 1000 per cent. an its value no small temptation to fraud.

MEETINGS.

GREAT LEAGUE MEETING AT ROCHDALE.

A meeting of the League was held at Rochdale on Wednesday night, in the New Hall, Baillie-street, preceded by a tea-party, which was most numerously and respectably attended. Indeed, so great had been the application for tickets that it was found necessary at the tea-party to divide the company into two rooms—the tables being removed afterwards so as to make room for the whole company in the hall, to take part in the meeting. The gentlemen invited to be present, and who had accepted invitations to address the meeting, were—George Wilson, Esq. (Chairman of the Council of the League), Richard Cobden, Esq., William Sharman Crawford, Esq., John Bright, Esq., and Wm. Brown, Esq. (late candidate for the county); and, in addition to these gentlemen, we noticed the following influential parties resident in Rochdale—Mr. George Ashworth (magistrate), Mr. George Ashworth, jun., Mr. James Littlewood, Mr. R. Schofield, Mr. John Petrie, Rev. Mr. Thorburn (Independent minister), Messrs. Holgate and Roberts (attorneys), Mr. Robert Heape, Mr. Benjamin Heape, Mr. Jacob Bright, Mr. Pagan, Mr. Turner, Mr. Frederick Lane, and Mr. Gibson.

George Wilson, Esq., in taking the chair, after congratulating the Liberals of Rochdale on the public spirit displayed by them in the erection of the magnificent hall in which the meeting was assembled, said:—Ladies and gentlemen, I do not believe that the most sanguine amongst us expects to be able to introduce any novel topic on the subject of Free Trade this evening, and yet I take it for granted that there is not one here who holds it to be out of place for us again and again to reiterate and express our uncompromising hostility to the continuance—the endurance, for a single day longer than possible, of that iniquitous tax, the food-tax. (Loud applause.) It is true that it has been greatly modified of late in its pernicious influence; not by the influence of the Minister, but by the interposition of a higher and more beneficent Power (applause); but it is abstracting by its operation from the just interest, the just reward, of that large class whose only inheritance at the best is hard and protracted labour, and whose right it is to have a just reward for their remuneration, uninterfered with by any act of the Legislature. (Hear, hear.) We may have few topics that are new to speak of, but we may look back at the ground with pleasure over which we have passed, and with anticipations of hope and certainty to that over which we may have to pass; and, though we may have a strong army of monopolists to contend with, we may draw an assurance from the past, and take courage from knowing that the day is coming which shall scatter to the winds every combination, however powerful, which interferes with the just rights of the people. Ladies and gentlemen, although we have few topics that are novel to speak of, I trust that the experience of the last few months has shown that we are not undeserving of the confidence reposed in us by our fellow-countrymen. I allude, of course, to the efforts made to purge the registration lists, and place the boroughs and divisions of this county in their right, and just, and true position. (Applause.) In the first place, I would express most unqualifiedly my thanks to your fellow-labourer in the good cause, Mr. Charles Walker, of this town—(applause)—without whose constant and persevering assistance we should not nearly have had the gratifying result which has been obtained. Since we first met on the subject of Free Trade, a great many changes have taken place in opinion. A great many of the old joint-stock fallacies which existed in this neighbourhood have been removed. We hear no more of over-production. (Hear, hear.) A great many of those who were loud and confident in their hostility to the Corn Laws, were accustomed to use the charge that all the distress then existing was the

consequences of over-production. Well, we see many of these gentlemen now erecting large mills for the purpose of increasing this production. ("Hear, hear," and a laugh.) We heard also that cheap food means low wages: I see my friend, Mr. Brown, from Liverpool, here, yet I imagine he would not now, with all his influence, induce a certain gentleman there to come forward again now and repeat his opinions on that subject in public. If he did I think he would not find three sensible people who should be listeners who would believe him. (Applause and laughter.) We have seen, since this agitation commenced, the relative positions of the agricultural and manufacturing districts almost entirely changed. While we have had our heavy and unjust restrictions to contend against, they have had their monopolies and their agricultural societies for the protection of those monopolies; yet we have emerged from suffering, while they, according to their own accounts, are sinking into a state similar to that from which we have risen. But the question naturally arises, "Where are their protection societies now? If protection will relieve them from their distress, why are they not meeting in every town and hamlet of the country for the avowed purpose of obtaining more employment for their population? (Hear, hear.) They cannot say that protection is not sufficiently given, so far as the present law is concerned, for during some weeks past the scale, the gauge, has been at its full maximum, and they have had all the protection that Sir Robert Peel intended to give them. (Hear.) And yet the protection societies are entirely out of the field: we hear of cricket bats, and of cricket balls (laughter), and of allotments, and yet not one word do we hear of the meeting of agricultural protection societies for increasing the effect of protection. (Applause.) I have spoken of the registration. We believe it is the only lever by which we shall be able to acquire, without danger, without convulsion, without violence in this country, the total abolition of the Corn Laws. We have devoted years of labour—we have spared no means, no time, no expense—in order that every person should acquire a useful and comprehensive knowledge of the subject with which we profess to deal. We have sacrificed private friendships; we have given up all the usual enjoyments and occupations of men in the same station of life with ourselves; we have appealed to men in the agricultural districts; the doctrines of Free Trade have never been modified to suit the views of this or that politician—they have been maintained in open argument and open debate by my friends on the left (Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright) in open air country meetings, and in every one of those meetings, except one, the decision has been against monopoly. (Applause.) After speaking of the eminent support, pecuniary and otherwise, at all times given by the Free-Traders of Rochdale to the League, and of the desirability of the county having a commercial representative such as Mr. Brown, who had a majority at Rochdale in the late contest, the Chairman proceeded to caution against those men who it was pretended were Free-Traders, and yet would not join the League: they were not to be believed: there was no neutral ground. (Applause.) The battle of Free Trade must be fought on Free-Trade principles alone; and the man who should strike his opinions on the day of trial, under any pretence, was little better than a monopolist. (Loud applause.) They had petitioned, memorialised, and sent deputations in vain to Government for the repeal of this law: they had now changed their course of action—they were now determined to work out their object through the registration courts, and, calling upon their friends who could afford it to secure a vote, they would become independent of Ministerial caprice, or the patronage of lofty names: they were determined to rely upon their own strength, and when the day of contest should come they would thus be able to measure strength with their antagonists, and obtain for the people of this country the second charter of their liberties—unrestricted commerce. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Cobden, M.P., was received with loud and protracted cheering. He spoke as follows:—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I was saying to my friend Mr. Bright that I never spoke so badly any where as at Rochdale, and I never came here yet that I did not give you a very bad speech, and a very short one; I promise you that I shall do no more to-night, and I can also tell you what is the reason. When I have to speak, I like to fancy, at all events, that I have somebody to be convinced, or somebody opposed to me: but I always have the impression that at Rochdale your minds are pretty well made up on the subject of the Corn Laws; and your kind reception of us to-night convinces me more and more that I have no work to do here. (Applause.) It makes no matter what our errand may be. In going to some places to beg money one has to brace up one's nerves, and get up a face for the occasion; but when we come to Rochdale to beg money—though I am happy to say we have not come to beg to-night (applause)—I am always sure to be told that the money has been all subscribed and collected in Rochdale some days beforehand. (Applause.) And now, when our object, as my friend in the chair has said, is to induce as many people in Rochdale as possible to become freeholders, and qualify themselves to vote in this and the neighbouring divisions of counties, I am told that an active canvasser in the room has a book in which there are already down somewhere about one hundred names of persons intending to become freeholders, so that our work is done before we begin to talk about it. (Applause.) Our chairman has told you correctly that the labours of the League have hitherto been those of preparation; that is, they have been trying to convince the minds of their fellow countrymen that Free Trade is a good thing, and the Corn Laws a very bad one. But something more than that must be done before we can convince the House of Commons. Only one argument goes down in that House: it is, as Mr. Gisborne once said, a *majority*; no other argument but a majority goes down there. (Applause.) Now we want to alter the majority in that House; and that is to be done out of the House and not in it. It is to be done not merely by converting some of those who make members of Parliament, but by adding as many as possible to those who are qualified to elect representatives. Hitherto we have been an Anti-Corn-Law League, instructing the people and agitating them about Free Trade: now, I really think we are going to take my friend Sherman Crawford's business out of his hands, and advocate an extension of the suffrage. (Applause.) We want to persuade our fellow-countrymen to buy the property that will qualify them to vote; and I most sincerely wish that every head of a family in this county was worth the money necessary to buy that vote. But it is much easier done than many people suppose. Another light has dawned upon us within the last few months. We pledged ourselves some time ago to contest the boroughs and try what we could do to gain them; but it never occurred to us that we could win counties in this country. And yet, with 252 county members in the House, and not six of them voting for Free Trade, it has occurred to us that, unless we can make some change there, we shall not be likely to get a majority in that House. (Hear, hear.) Now, I believe, the counties may be won in many instances, as I have before said, much easier than the little pocket boroughs. There has been a great misapprehension—both as to the nature of the county representation, and the means by which votes may be had for a county. We have such a superstitious notion about landowners and land, that people in the towns have tacitly agreed to allow that, to a certain number of lords and squires, who dress in top-boots, and waste most of their time in hunting or worse idleness, belongs the county representation,—that this representation belongs to a totally different class from the town representation. Now, this is the old superstition derived from feudal times, which it behoves us to get rid of. (Applause.) What is the county representation? Not the representation of acres, or cattle, or sheep. There can be no interest in a county apart from the interests of the towns within that county; for counties without the towns contained in them would be about as valuable as the unreclaimed land in New Holland. (Applause.) The counties belong to the towns, and not the towns to the counties; and to the towns ought to belong the county representation. (Applause.) I believe England is the only country in the world having a constitutional form of government, where the distinction has been kept up of votes for counties and votes for boroughs; in all other countries with which I am acquainted the votes are given from sections of country, or by a population of particular districts; but in no other country is the absurdity continued of sending one description of representatives for the towns and another for the counties. We have derived this from our own feudal system; it sprung up at a time when there was a general belief, and when probably that belief was founded on something like fact, that there was an antagonism between the interests of towns and the interests of counties; in fact, when our representative system first dawned in this country there was an antagonism between towns and counties. The towns were the residences of men who had attained a certain amount of freedom, having escaped from the clutches of their feudal lords; the counties were still in their hands; and whilst the towns sent up their citizens, their burgesses, to vote in Parliament, the feudal lords and the counties sent up their knights of the shire to vote in Parliament also; and they were at times very much at war with each other, having separate and distinct rights. But all that is gone by; nobody pretends now that the people in counties can have different interests from those in boroughs; and what I want to bring to your conviction is, that, as there is but one common interest in country and town, you have an undoubted right to take a part in the representation of the counties; and, in fact, it cannot be a representation of the county unless it represents the large towns in the county. (Applause.) Now, there has been another great misapprehension: people have had an idea—"Oh, it's out of my power to be an elector for the county; it costs so much to be an elector for the county, I shall never be able to get a vote." (Hear.) They have a notion that it must be a rich man with an estate to vote for a county, or somebody renting at least fifty acres of land. Now, a vote for a county may be much more easily gained, and much more cheaply kept, than a vote for a borough. How few of you in this borough, now, can afford to take and to keep a £10 house; that is, how few to what there ought to be. (Hear, hear, hear.) But how many more of you can manage to lay out £10 or £50 in buying a cottage, or a share of a cottage, and getting 7 or 8 per cent. for your money. It is your own; the purchase-money is invested instead of putting it into the savings' banks; you get your interest and your vote besides; and you have not to pay something additional every year, but the investment is paying you something additional every year instead. (Applause.) Now, seeing how much easier it is to have a county vote than a borough vote, we come here to agitate, to try to induce you to get as many county votes as you can. (Applause.) Don't let us merely talk about theories for getting the franchise in some great sweep, which can be carried some day, I don't know when; but let us do something as well as talk; let every body who can manage to get a vote for the county, get it as soon as he can, and it will help him to get every thing else right and just that he wants to get. (Applause.) A little while ago there was an election for North Lancashire. Well, Mr. Townley Parker, a leading man amongst the squires, not a very wise man, you suppose, -it does not require a very wise man to lead that order- (applause and laughter),—in addressing the constituency at one of the towns, said —"I should like to see any one come forward here to oppose Mr. Talbot Clifton. Look at the requisition that has been presented to him; it is signed by people whose income amounts to £400,000 a year; and I should like to know who would contend against such an amount of influence as that." Nothing so easy as to contend against it; and I'll show you how. £400,000 a year; how many votes will that give the landowners? for that is what he meant? (Hear, hear.) We know that £50 a year gives a vote; a rent of £50 gives a vote to the tenant, and that vote the landlord puts in his pocket along with the rent. (Applause.) But farms are not divided now into £50 each; it is not convenient to do so. Mr. Talbot Clifton's father finds it necessary to make up his land into farms of 400 or 500 acres, and to get Scotchmen with money to manage them in order that he may get his rent. Now, I'll suppose that they have this £400,000 a year let in farms of £400 a year each, and that will give them their 4000 tenants-at-will; and we'll suppose that they command the votes of all of them. This £400,000 a year of landed property represents a capital, at thirty years' purchase (which land is worth), of twelve millions. Twelve millions of money, paying £400,000 a year of rent, let to 4000 tenants-at-will at £100 a year, gives 4000 votes. Now, let us see how many votes may be owned in the towns in North Lancashire—Blackburn, Lancaster, Preston, Clitheroe, and the rest—and what will they cost? Why, 4000 votes at £50 each, of capital, mind you (for you may buy a vote for that sum, I mean the property that will give you a vote, quite easily), 4000 people might qualify themselves at £50 each of capital, which would be £200,000. Thus, the mere investment of £200,000 in cottage property in the towns of North Lancashire, would just give the same power to the owners of that property in the polling booth as Mr. Townley Parker and his brother squires get by investing their twelve millions in the land. (Applause.) Well, now, if these squires will come out, and swagger and point to their requisition, and say—"See what an amount of property it represents, how can you stand against such an amount of influence as this?"—I say, "Town against country—plain pantaloons against top-boots and breeches, if you will." (Loud applause and laughter.) And I have no doubt, if we can only raise our fellow-countrymen to that feeling of self-respect which I long to see within them, that the towns are better prepared now to make a fight, in this constitutional and peaceful way, against the squirearchy who are attempting to retain a portion of that old feudal barbarism which is exploded in every other civilized country in the world,—money for money, in the polling-booth,—than ever our ancestors were when they knocked them out of those old castles of theirs, and brought their houses about their ears. (Loud applause.) Now, we shall be told that this is very unconstitutional, if it is not illegal,—that is, that we should be adding to the constituency of the country. Why, what does Sir Robert Peel say? "Register—register—register;" and we are but taking his advice. (Loud applause.) But you cannot register—register—register till you have obtained a qualification to be put upon the register. Now, the very plan that he proposed for increasing his strength, and the strength of his motley party in the polling-booth, is the plan we propose in our case; but we don't endeavour or intend to do that which the monopolist lords and squires have done,—that is, not to make fictitious, or put spurious and fictitious votes upon the register. (Hear, hear.) We have no convenient gamekeepers, or park lodge-keepers, whom we can cram on,—no sons, or brothers, or nephews of farmers, whom we can compel to register, and to swear that they are partners, if necessary, when they are no more partners than I am. (Applause.) What I say is this: lay out £40 or £50 in property which will bring you in £4 or £5 a year, and get yourselves upon the county register, and have a vote. Now, I was not born and bred a lawyer; but I will defy all the lawyers in the land, including Mr. Smith, the Irish Attorney-General—(loud laughter)—to prove that there's any illegality in a man buying a freehold property that will give him a vote, along with interest for his money. (Applause.) Whether it is constitutional or unconstitutional I don't profess exactly to understand; for I never yet knew any thing good in this country got—whether it was abolishing the old borough-mongering system, or getting rid of Catholic disabilities, or of the Test and Corporation Acts, or abolishing the hanging of people for a matter of 5s. (loud applause),—I never knew any thing good of that kind accomplished in the shape of reform, but there was one party in the state—that party who used to be led on by the venerable Lord Eldon—who were always sure to get out their white pocket handkerchiefs, begin a-crying, and declare that if that measure passed the constitution would be irretrievably ruined. (Loud applause.) Now, I don't profess to know what is constitutional; but if there be anything unconstitutional in becoming a county voter, I think, as there happen to be already a great many 40s. freeholders, the constitution has been pretty much tried in that point already. (Applause.) But I would guard you against supposing that there is anything like trick, or manœuvre, anything savouring of finesse, in endeavouring to increase the voters on the register. It is in accordance with the spirit, as well as with the letter of the law, that men should aim at becoming voters. Why is 40s. mentioned, and not £10, as it is, unhappily, in Ireland, as Scotland? Why, because it is considered that an Englishman, having the intelligence, and the spirit, and the desire to possess 40s. a year of interest for an investment, will be a prudent, careful, thoughtful man, who will be likely to send proper representatives; and, therefore, the qualification is fixed at that amount. (Applause.) It holds out an invitation to every man who has the means to qualify himself, and become a voter for representatives in Parliament. And I cannot imagine anything more calculated to do good to that honest and large class of operatives, who cannot afford to live in a £10 house, and who yet ought not to be excluded from the franchise; I cannot imagine anything more calculated to raise them as a class in their own estimation (and you cannot raise a man unless by raising him in his own estimation), than by inducing and persuading as many of them as possible to possess themselves of the county franchise by investing their savings in a freehold purchase. (Applause.) You thus do good not only to those who are encouraged to save money with such a prospect, but to a large class besides, amongst whom you scatter men who have themselves obtained a vote, and who will act as missionaries in trying to induce those with whom they work—stimulating them by example and by a spirit of rivalry also to become freeholders, and thereby have a vote in the representation of the county. (Applause.) After a few general observations upon the Corn Laws, the hon. gentleman concluded his speech, and sat down amidst enthusiastic cheering.

William Brown, Esq. (late candidate for South Lancashire), said, his friend Mr. Cobden had told them that, on the occasion of the late contest, they went on a "forlorn hope." Such was the fact: they were repulsed, but they were not defeated. (Loud cheers.) He felt convinced, after the care taken in the registration, that, whenever another contest should take place, they would be able to return not only one, but two candidates. (Applause.) He very much questioned whether they should not gallop in to the victory without the enemy daring to take the field and fire a shot. (Laughter and applause.) During his late canvass he stated on several occasions some facts regarding the commercial position of this country with the United States of America, and, with their permission, he would now further allude to the subject. In 1805, 1806, and 1807, our exports to that country were nearly £3,000,000 per annum. The population of the country was then six millions. It was nearly one-third of the whole export trade of the kingdom, if we took the official value. Embargoes, orders in council, and other decrees, interrupted the trade for several years after that; and in 1815 came those abominable

Corn Laws—laws which were daily shutting us out of the best markets of the world, and, by inducing retaliation, were a positive injury not only to the manufacturers of this country, but to the parties for whose protection and advantage they were designed. (Applause.) Looking at the intercourse of this country with the United States from 1833 to 1837, he found that our exports had increased from £7,900,000 to £8,400,000, while in the succeeding five years they had fallen to £6,467,086, and in the succeeding year (1842), to £3 528,000. (Hear, hear.) And when he told the meeting that our Corn Laws, our heavy duties on tobacco and timber, had induced them to retaliate by encouraging manufactures at home, so that it had recently been ascertained, on the authority of statistics collected by Government itself, that those home manufactures amounted to £50,000,000 sterling per annum, and that they had engaged at work no less than 2585 fulling mills, and 1420 woollen manufactories, it would be seen to what an extent we had been injured by our unwise and insane protective policy. (Hear, hear.) But the markets of the United States would not have been long limited to even this population: the population there was increasing at the rate of thirty-five per cent., and ere the end of the century would probably be equal to 100,000,000; and these were people we should not have sacrificed our trade with, when the only obstacle to their continuing to deal with us was the condition that we should take in payment that which alone they were able to pay with. (Hear, hear.) He might give some idea of what our trade with the States might ultimately have reached when he told them that one of its rivers alone (the Mississippi), with its tributaries and streams, had a shore to which our goods might have been carried of 58,000 of miles. (Hear, hear.) And did the landed interest pretend that our trade with that country would not have promoted their prosperity? Why, commerce had made them what they were (hear, hear, hear); and upon what principle would they argue that its further prosperity would work to their injury? It might be interesting to consider what a people under prosperous circumstances could consume of agricultural produce; and he found it stated that the consumption of the people of the United States amounted to about 27 bushels of grain per head, with 5 bushels of potatoes, while the consumption of this country was only 16 bushels of grain, with a proportionate amount of potatoes. (Hear.) The landowners fell into the error of supposing that the consumption of the people was a fixed quantity; the example of the United States showed that the consumption of a people in food, as well as of other things, was in proportion to their means. (Hear, hear.)

John Bright, Esq., M.P., next addressed the meeting, and forcibly pointed out the practical illustration of the truth of Anti-Corn-Law doctrines afforded by the depression and improvement of trade, in conjunction with good and bad harvests, within the last few years. He said it was within the memory of all that the late period of bad trade commenced with the failure of the harvests; and then, when the season of Corn-Law protection, of high prices to agriculture, and great excitement among landlords because rents were constantly rising, passed away, and a power infinitely above all human power, infinitely more benevolent than human governments, stepped in and gave to this country abundance from its own soil—when the sun shone and the rain fell, and the labour of the husbandman was repaid by the bountiful profusion of the earth—when, in fact, dealers in famine (for they are nothing else) were baffled of their prey (loud applause)—you found all these bad symptoms disappearing, and, as if by magic, the country rose from its depression, and exhibited a state of things such as you had not known since the similar period which existed in the years 1835 and 1836. (Hear, hear.) I cannot understand how it is, after this, that there should be certain manufacturers in this town in favour of the Corn Law. (Applause.) During the last county election I spoke to a gentleman in the British School, then one of the polling booths—a gentleman who, I believe, always acts with our opponents. I was endeavouring to reason with him, and really it seemed a very foolish thing (laughter); and I asked whether it was not possible for us manufacturers all to unite and hold one opinion on this great question. I believe he is a partner in the very largest cotton concern in this town. And he had the simplicity to state that in his opinion, if the Corn Laws were abolished, the people of this country would be very like what their ancestors were a long time ago—that, if a man had a coat when he was married, the same coat would have to last him till he was buried. (Laughter.) He held the opinion, that by some extraordinary combination of circumstances which he could not explain, and which nobody else can understand, that the working people all over the country would somehow or other be quite unable to buy clothing if they got their food for anything less. (Applause and laughter.) You may be sure I was not disposed to enter into a long discussion with a man who held an opinion like this. I should think, after the experience of the last ten years, that man's case must be set down as a very hopeless one. (Laughter.) But, if the ranks of Monopoly are filled with troops such as these, it does not need any very sagacious man to discover which way the victory will incline when the discussion on this subject has gone on a year or two longer in the country. I believe no man has ever yet been able to assign any cause for the late period of depression but the recurrence of bad harvests; and the existence of a Corn Law prevents us from removing the evil effects of those bad harvests. (Applause.) Speaking of the decay of the woollen trade in Rochdale as the consequence of protection, Mr. Bright said, had it not been that another trade, cotton, had been introduced there, which was almost entirely an export trade, the town and district would have gone to ruin. The woollen manufacturers were now almost all going into the cotton trade. Why? Not because they liked it better; but there was no field for them in their own trade, one-half of which had been cut off by the American tariff. And yet there were men in this town who would not lift a finger to remove that tariff, and the Corn Law which caused it. (Applause.) Contemptible fellows! Men like all such as they, the country would soon be in a state of anarchy. They had heard the course about to be taken by the League. They had been charged with sedition and with stimulating insurrection. Abandoning everything which could countenance such a charge, they would lay hold of that truly constitutional weapon, the electoral franchise, and would lay claim to the county representation (hear, hear); and, if there were any truth in the opinions they had formed as to the prevalence of Free-Trade principles, the bulk of the middle and working classes would unite with them. (Applause.) He was delighted to think what an outcry there would be in a few months, when they found the West Riding of Yorkshire and North Cheshire were wrested from the monopolists. Squire after squire, noodle after noodle (laughter), would rise to protest against the unconstitutional proceedings of the League, and would call on the Secretary of State to interfere. (Hear, hear.) But when those counties, the seats of the manufactures, were secured, and the system was extending to Warwickshire and other large midland and southern counties, the monopolists would take alarm, and surrender the question of Free Trade in corn, in the hope of preventing further progress in that direction; but he hoped that, having once obtained possession of a weapon so powerful, Free-Traders would not so easily resign it. (Applause.)

Mr. Sharman Crawford next came forward, and was received with great applause. In the course of his address he alluded to the expressions which had fallen from Mr. Cobden relative to the registration, and said:—He rejoiced to hear from his hon. friend the course which it was the intention of the League to take in reference to the franchise. He had had the honour of his support in the House on the Suffrage, and he was happy to see that he was now making an improvement on his (Mr. Crawford's) attempt: he was trying to bring about practically, by means of an existing law, what he (Mr. Crawford) was attempting by a more circuitous route. (Hear, hear.) If there was anything calculated to obtain for the League the enthusiastic support of that portion of the working classes which had hitherto held aloof, he should think it was their conduct in this respect. (Applause.)

The meeting, which did not break up till a late hour, was characterised by the best feeling throughout; and at its conclusion a vote of thanks was given to the gentlemen who had taken part in the proceedings.

Anti-Corn-Law Lectures in Wiltshire.—A second lecture on the Evils of the Corn Laws was delivered by Mr. Falvey, in the Independent Chapel, Malmsbury, on Monday evening. The chapel was crowded—every seat being occupied—and many standing at the door for want of sitting room. Henry Gale, Esq., who stands so high in the estimation of his townsmen for his invariable defence of the interests of the poor and the rights of labour, was again called to the chair. He said that, although labouring under considerable indisposition, he had attended that meeting because he had the fullest confidence in the potency of Free Trade for increasing the happiness and prosperity of the people. He (Mr. Gale) was convinced as firmly of the truth and goodness of commercial freedom as he was of any demonstrated fact. He believed in it as faithfully as he believed in Scripture, because freedom of exchange with other nations was in accordance with the language and commands of Scripture. After expressing his pleasure at the numerous attendance, the chairman introduced the lecturer to the meeting. Mr. Falvey commenced by expressing his thanks to the Rev. Mr. Whitmore, for the use of the chapel on that occasion. He said, the most fastidious casuist must admit that the question of Free Trade involved the best interests of all classes of society, and must, therefore, be worthy the attention and consideration of every philanthropist and Christian. He had often lectured in schools and chapels, and the ministers, directors, and congregations had never regretted having lent them for so righteous and all-important a purpose. Freedom of industry was not only an economical, but a moral and religious question; and in this view of the case he was borne out by more than a thousand Christian ministers of all denominations, who, in Manchester and Edinburgh—in public conference assembled—had entered their solemn protest against the continuance of the bread-tax. Mr. Falvey then entered into the general question, as it relates to the farmer, the labourer, the manufacturer, and artisan; and proved to the evident satisfaction of his hearers that each and all of them had suffered, and were suffering, from the injurious effects of the corn and colonial monopolies. At the close of the lecture, which occupied more than two hours in the delivery, Mr. Gale again addressed the meeting, urging upon them the necessity of using all legal and constitutional means for the establishment of Free Trade and the destruction of monopoly. Votes of thanks were then given to the chairman and lecturer, and to the Rev. Mr. Whitmore for the use of the chapel. A vote of thanks was also (on the suggestion of Mr. Gale) given to the National Anti-Corn-Law League, for their great exertions in favour of Free Trade, for the instruction afforded the country by their lecturers, and for their successful efforts in the registration courts.—*Wiltshire Independent.*

Winchester, Nov. 15, 1844.—(From a Correspondent.)—Last Thursday evening, Mr. Falvey delivered a lecture on the Corn and Provision Laws in St. John's House, in this city. Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, the attendance was numerous and respectable. The lecture was exceedingly instructive and convincing; expressions of approbation were given repeatedly during the delivery of it; and at the conclusion the whole assembly rose and gave three hearty cheers for Free Trade and Mr. Falvey. Though the lecture was more than two hours long, and though eleven o'clock had nearly arrived, the company, I believe, would have cheerfully remained an hour longer to listen to the arguments and anecdotes of the eloquent and able lecturer. The impression left on the minds of the company is deep, and in perfect unison with the objects of the League.

AN INQUIRY INTO THE EFFECTS OF ENGLISH LEGISLATION UPON AGRICULTURAL WAGES, PROFITS, AND RENT.

By a Barrister.

(*Continued from page* 102.)

Chapter VII.

Seventh Period—From the Passing of the Poor Law of 1834 to the present Time.

Section II.

We have seen that the necessary expense of a labourer's family consisting of six persons, the father, mother, and four children, was estimated in the time of Charles II., by competent authorities, at 10s. a week, or twenty-pence a head. It follows that the necessary expense of a family like Robert Crick's, consisting of seven persons, would at that time have been 11s. 8d. a week. We have also seen that the average price of the Winchester quarter of wheat, for the 20 years from 1666 to 1685, was £1. 16s. 7 1-9th d., and from 1686 to 1705, was £1. 16s. 3 1-9th d. The average price of wheat per quarter during the quarter ended Lady-day, 1842, was £3. 0s. 7½d., or very nearly double what it was when 10s. a week was the necessary cost of subsistence of a labourer, his wife, and four children.

It might be shown that most of the other articles on which the labourer expends his 13s. 9d. (with the exception of tea and sugar) have increased in at least as great a proportion as wheat. Thus Richard Dunning states the labourer's house rent in 1698 to be upwards of 4d. weekly, his fuel not to be less than 3d.,* being about one-third of the sums specified in the above-cited account of the weekly expenditure of Robert Crick. Dunning indeed states, in his pamphlet referred to,† that the labourer's "full wages in some parts of the country (Devonshire) are, weekly 2s. 6d.; in others, 2s. 8d.; in some places less; and where more is paid, house rent and wood are dearer." "But this," observes Mr. Craik, "apparently, must have been his money wages only—what he received in addition to his diet, which, it will be observed, is charged, in the above account of his expenditure, only for Sunday. This circumstance, strangely enough, appears to have escaped Sir Frederick Eden, who, in his work on the state of the poor, assumes, from what is here stated by Dunning, that in Devonshire, in the latter end of the seventeenth century, a working man's income was only about £6. 10s. a year, and labours through a long quarto page to reconcile this account with those of other contemporary authorities—with that of Sir Matthew Hale, for instance, who, as formerly noted, computes the necessary expense of a labourer's family of six individuals, in Gloucestershire, about the time of the Restoration, at £26 a year; and with that of Gregory King, who, as we have just seen, estimates the ordinary income of a labourer, having a wife and two children to support, at £15, within a few years of the very time when Dunning's pamphlet was published. If we suppose the cost of the Devonshire labourer's food to be equal to the amount of his wages, Dunning's statement will very nearly agree both with King's and Hale's. In that part of the island, where there were no manufactures, and where living was cheap, it may be supposed that wages would be rather below the average."‡

It is abundantly evident from what has been said, that even the *money* wages of the agricultural labourer have hardly, if at all, increased for more than 150 years; his actual wages, we need scarcely add, have consequently very much decreased. Ten shillings a week have been shown to be the means of subsistence of a family of six persons about 150 years ago; and, at the moment at which we write, the number of families of agricultural labourers in England whose whole amount of wages is less than 10s. a week very far exceeds the number whose amount of wages is greater than 10s. a week. Let us now endeavour to discover what has been the fate of rent during that same period of time: whether it has increased or diminished, or remained stationary. It so happens that we possess, in parliamentary papers, the means of performing this investigation with a more than ordinary degree of accuracy. In the Population Abstracts of England and Wales, 1801-1831, is given the annual value of the real property as assessed April, 1815; and the returns moved for by Mr. Charles Villiers in 1843 give the annual value of real property assessed to the property-tax for the year ended April, 1843; also the quota of land-tax assessed on each parish for the year 1798, under the act 38 Geo. III., c. 5. This quota of land-tax was the same as that levied in 1695 (the last year in which the land-tax was assessed according to the "*full true yearly value at the time of assessing thereof*§"), viz., 4s. in the pound upon the full true yearly value of the property in that year. The rental of 1695, taken then at five times the land-tax of 1798, will be about the same approximation to the truth as the property-tax assessments of 1815 and 1843; and, the proportions rather than the actual amounts being what we want for the present purpose, the results thus obtained may be considered as possessing a high degree of accuracy.

These returns, however, are made out with so little uniformity, that it is impossible to give almost any district complete; the same name being in one return attached to a parish, in another to a township or tithing, or part of a parish, so that the returns in the Population Abstracts of 1815 often do not correspond to the property-tax returns of 1843. This circumstance reduces the number of parishes very much in some of the districts which we have selected.

It will be recollected that wages are stated to be higher in the Blandford division of Dorsetshire than in not only the other parts of Dorsetshire, but in Somersetshire and Wiltshire; and that Mr. Alfred Austin has stated his opinion that, were the case accurately investigated, it would probably be found that in Somersetshire the la-

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* Cited in "Pict. Hist. of England," vol. iv., p. 814.
† Intitoled "Bread for the Poor," printed at Exeter in 1698.
‡ Pict. Hist. of England, vol. iv., p. 844.
§ These are the words of the act 4 W. and M., c. 1 (1692); and of the subsequent acts 5 W. and M., c. 1.; 6 and 7 W. and M., c. 3; 7 and 8 W. and M., c. 5.

bourer is worse off than in Wiltshire, and *considerably* worse off than in Dorsetshire and Devonshire. Now, with this kept in mind, let us look at the results of the following tables:—

Blandford Division, County of Dorset.

PARISH.	Quota of Land-tax in 1695.			Rent in 1695.	1815.	1843.	Increase per cent. between 1695&1843
	£	s.	d.	£	£	£	
Anderton	81	9	4	407	1,323	985	142
Blandford, St. Mary	60	2	0	400	2,378	2,600	550
Bryanstone	87	14	8	438	1,260	1,309	198
Hinton Tarrant ..	63	12	0	318	1,460	1,831	476
Launceston Tarrant	42	14	8	213	1,192	1,090	411
Pawstone Tarrant..	30	8	0	152	489	616	305
Whitcombe	22	13	4	113	570	1,245	1,001
Winterborne Zelstone	57	14	8	288	1,406	1,163	303
					9,978	10,842	3,386
Average increase per cent. from the year 1695 to the year 1843							423
Average increase per cent. from the year 1815 to the year 1843							8

Bridport Division, County of Dorset.

PARISH.	Quota of Land-tax in 1695.			Rent in 1695.	1815.	1843.	Increase per cent. between 1695&1843
	£	s.	d.	£	£	£	
Allington	50	2	2	250	2,226	4,361	1,644
Bettiscombe	53	2	0	265	731	1,342	399
Bathenhampton ..	70	7	5	351	1,927	2,576	633
Bradpole	122	15	0	613	4,299	4,164	579
Burstock	47	12	0	238	1,925	1,793	652
Burton Bradstock..	92	14	7	463	4,159	4,416	853
Charmouth	57	9	4	287	1,779	3,212	1,019
Cheddington	60	0	0	300	1,584	1,428	376
Chilborn', E. and W.	84	1	2	420	1,922	1,284	205
Chideock	212	4	0	1,061	4,188	3,746	253
Corscombe	135	16	0	679	4,613	5,010	637
Halstock	181	10	0	907	3,986	2,968	227
Mapperton	172	16	7	864	4,267	1,227	42
Marshwood	233	15	0	1,168	5,134	5,210	346
Monkton	35	8	0	177	1,717	1,842	940
Pilsdon	49	17	0	249	710	933	274
Poorton, North ..	33	0	2	165	956	859	420
Shipton George ..	38	18	0	194	1,274	1,849	853
South Perrat ..	49	6	0	246	2,356	2,753	1,019
Stanton, St. Gabriel's	39	16	0	199	1,140	1,373	589
Toller Fratrum ..	34	13	2	173	595	744	330
Waddick	43	16	0	99	794	1,377	1,595
Warmbrook	60	6	10	301	1,453	1,799	497
Wootton Fitzpaine	95	5	0	476	1,563	1,772	272
					55,208	58,037	14,954
Average increase per cent. from the year 1695 to the year 1843							623
Average increase per cent. from the year 1815 to the year 1843							5

Highworth Division, County of Wilts.

PARISH.	Quota of Land tax in 1695.			Rent in 1695	1815.	1843.	Increase per cent. between 1695&1843
	£	s.	d.	£	£	£	
Ashton Keynes	131	13	4	658	4,009	5,435	729
Bishopsden, St. Andrew	122	15	4	613	1,968	1,610	162
Castle Eaton	126	19	4	634	3,224	2,359	272
Hannington	274	14	8	1,307	4,167	4,632	238
Inglesham	54	9	4	272	849	879	223
Latton	124	14	8	624	3,213	5,211	736
Liddiard Millicent ..	217	6	8	1,086	4,016	3,900	259
Marston Maisey	104	19	0	529	1,742	2,223	330
Purton	421	10	0	2,107	10,054	13,137	523
Rodbourne Cheney ..	248	3	4½	1,240	4,711	4,992	302
Shorncutt	46	16	0	234	599	505	176
Somerford Keynes ..	113	16	8	569	2,350	2,142	276
Stanton Fitzwarren ..	88	12	10½	443	2,323	2,254	408
Stratton, St. Margaret's	183	0	0	915	4,766	5,587	510
					48,690	54,946	5,150
Average increase per cent. from the year 1695 to the year 1843							367
Average increase per cent. from the year 1815 to the year 1843							13

Chewton Division, County of Somerset.

PARISH.	Quota of Land tax in 1695.			Rent in 1695	1815	1843.	Increase per cent. between 1695&1843
	£	s.	d.	£	£	£	
Camley	39	16	8	319	3,913	2,881	735
Chewstoke	81	1	0	405	3,691	4,309	963
Chewton Mendip ..	244	0	0	1,220	6,124	7,356	534
Chilcompton	79	11	8	397	2,097	3,011	658
Clutton	94	1	4	470	3,888	4,842	908
Compton Martin ..	100	10	10	502	1,743	3,069	511
Emborow	76	8	0	382	1,426	1,450	279
Farrington Gurney	72	7	0	361	2,225	2,485	588
Hinton Blewitt ..	69	0	4	340	1,542	2,085	593
Knowle	34	4	0	171	1,157	2,434	1,323
Paulton	77	0	0	385	3,711	7,551	1,861
Ston Easton	84	4	0	421	2,627	2,960	603
Stowey	41	13	8	208	1,468	1,481	612
Timsbury	74	13	0	364	6,777	10,730	2,855
Ubley	63	19	0	319	1,739	2,260	608
					43,258	58,882	13,843
Average increase per cent. from the year 1695 to the year 1843							909
Average increase per cent. from the year 1815 to the year 1843							36

On looking carefully over these tables, it will be observed, 1st, That the rise of rent is 200 per cent. less in the Blandford division of the county of Dorset, where the labourer is stated to be better off, than in the Bridport division of the same county; 2nd, That in the county of Somerset, where the labourer is stated to be worse off than in either Dorsetshire or Wiltshire, the rise of rent is more than double what it is in Dorsetshire, and nearly treble what it is in Wiltshire; being, upon the average of these fifteen parishes in the Chewton division of the county—which have not been picked out, but taken simply because they were the only ones the descriptions of which corresponded in the returns of 1815 and 1843—no less than 909 per cent. from 1695 to 1843. The average increase upon about double the number of parishes which we calculated for the time between 1695 and 1843 was quite as large. We shall be enabled to throw further light on this subject in the next section.

It appears from the parliamentary returns of the annual average price of wheat from 1646 to 1841,* that the average for the 80 years from 1690 to 1769 was 39s. 8d. There is reason to believe that during this period there was scarcely any rise of rent. "It is a remarkable fact," observes Mr. Joseph Lowe,† "that from the beginning of the century until towards 1770, they had hardly experienced any rise." Mr. Lowe then quotes the following passage from the great agricultural authority, Arthur Young:—"'A neighbour of mine in Suffolk,' says Mr. Young (Inquiry, p. 102), 'who inherited a considerable landed property, informed me that, in various conversations which he had, between thirty and forty years ago (between 1770 and 1780), with a relation far advanced in years, and from whom much of that property was derived, that much surprise was expressed at the rise of rents, which then began to take place. Through the long period of his relation's experience no rise was ever thought of; and lease after lease, in long succession, was signed without a word passing on the question of rent. That was an object considered as fixed; and grandfather, father, and son succeeded without a thought of any rise. In many cases landlords were much more apprehensive of losing a tenant at the old rent than having the smallest conception of raising it to a new one.'"

Now, a glance at the course of the prices of wheat for the next 45 or 50 years, viz., from 1770 or 1765 to 1814, will sufficiently explain the 300, 400, 600, 900 per cent. rise of rent between 1695, or rather between 1765 or 1770, and the present time. And at the same time it will be satisfactory to exhibit at one view the averages from 1690 to 1814:—

	s.	d.
1690-9	51	6
1700-9	36	1
1710-19	44	10
1720-29	38	6
1730-39	32	9
1740-49	32	7
1750-59	38	6
1760-69	42	8
8)	317	4
Average of 80 years ..	39	8
1770-79	46	7
1780-89	46	1
1790-94	49	6
1795-99	65	8
1800-4	84	10
1805-9	84	6
1811-14	101	5

We should therefore, we think, be very near the truth if, for the heading of the column in our tables, "Rent in 1695," we were to substitute "Rent in 1695-1770." There certainly appears to be a very high degree of probability that nearly the whole of the vast rise in rents specified above took place since 1770.

But one of the most curious phenomena which the tables given above present to our contemplation is this, that while, on the one hand, during the forty-five years in which the prices of agricultural produce were advancing, rents were tripling, quadrupling, and in many cases more than quadrupling, on the other, while prices of produce have fallen back to the level of 1770, rents have remained at, in a majority of cases in the general average, somewhat above the level of 1815. This fact surely throws some light upon the causes of the distress of the farmers and their labourers, more particularly when taken in connexion with the other fact of the rise of rent being the greatest in those districts where the condition of the labourer appears to be the worst.

The great rise of rent exhibited in the foregoing tables is corroborated by other evidence of the strongest and most unexceptionable character. Thus it appears, in the case of the Attorney-General *v.* Caius College, Cambridge,‡ that under the will of Dr. Stephen Perse, dated 27th of Sept., 1615, the sum of £5000 was invested in the purchase of land, producing at that time £250 a year: that the income of this land had increased from £250 in 1615, to upwards of £2000 a year in 1837. It also appears from the case of the Attorney-General *v.* the Master of Catherine Hall, Cambridge,§ that rents, which in 1745 amounted to £674 a year, had in 1820 increased to nearly £2000 a year. In the case of land built upon, the increase has been very much greater. Thus it appears, from the case of the Attorney-General *v.* the Master and Wardens of the Skinners' Company,‖ that certain lands and tenements situate in the parish of St. Pancras, in the county of Middlesex, and in the parishes of All Saints, and St. Pulteney, in London, which in 1558 were of the yearly value of £50. 13s. 4d., in 1820 yielded a yearly rental of nearly £1000. And in some situations it will be found that a still greater increase has taken place in the same time.

Thirteen shillings and nine pence being, as we have seen, rather above than below the general average of the means of subsistence in the year 1843 of an English agricultural labourer's family consisting of seven persons; and 11s. 8d. being shown to be the means of subsistence of an English agricultural labourer's family of seven persons more than 150 years before, it follows that, during this period of upwards of 150 years, the money income of an agricultural labourer has increased only in the proportion of 11s. 8d. to 13s. 9d. We have already shown the increase of the incomes of the receivers of rent that has taken place. There is no doubt that the money incomes of other classes have also greatly increased during the same period.

Mr. Gregory King, in the same work in which he computes the ordinary income of a labourer with a family, estimates the incomes of the nobility as averaging £2800; of the bishops, £1300; of the baronets, £880; of the knights, £650; of the esquires, or untitled landed gentry, £450; of the gentlemen, £280; of one-half of the public functionaries, £240; of the other, £120; of the foreign merchants, £400; of the home merchants, £200; of the lawyers, £140; of one-fifth of the clergy, £60; of the remaining four-fifths, only £45; of two-ninths of the freeholders, £84; of the remaining seven-ninths, £50; of the farmers, £44; of the men of science and the liberal arts, £60; of the officers of the navy, £80; of the officers of the army, £60; of the shopkeepers and tradesmen, £45. Compare the rise that has taken place in all these classes of incomes with the rise in the income of the agricultural labourer. But, as King's calculations can only be considered as an approximation to the true results, let us see if we cannot obtain evidence establishing more positive conclusions.

The Honourable Roger North, in his life of his brother Francis North, Baron of Guilford, who was Lord Keeper of the Great Seal under Charles II. and James II., states that the allowance made to his brother Francis for his support as a student of the Middle Temple, by his father, Sir Dudley North (eldest son of the first Dudley Lord North, and himself afterwards the second Dudley Lord North), was £60 per annum. And, to show that this was all his brother had to subsist on, Roger mentions immediately after that the sum was reduced to £50 on his receiving £20 a year from his grandfather. Now, the allowance that would be made for the support of a young man at one of the Inns of Court at the present time by a family, even though not rich, of the rank of a peer, cannot at the lowest be estimated at less than four or rather five times the sum which was considered sufficient for the maintenance of Francis North at the time at which the necessary expense of a labourer, with a family consisting of six persons, was computed to be 10s. a week, or £26 a year.

We have mentioned the county of Kent as one of those in which the condition of the agricultural labourer is better than in most other parts of England. It appears from the following table that the average increase upon 20 parishes in the Ashford Division of Kent is 372 per cent. between 1695 and 1843, and 6 per cent. between 1815 and 1843. This appears to be a moderate rise when compared with that in the Bridport Division of Dorsetshire, or still more when compared with that in the Chewton Division of Somersetshire, in both of which districts the labourer is worse off than in Kent.

Ashford Division, County of Kent.

PARISH.	Quota of Land tax in 1695.			Rent in 1695.	1815.	1843.	Increase per cent. between 1695&1843
	£	s.	d.	£	£	£	
Ashford	322	10	0	1,612	8,387	13,230	721
Bethersden	242	18	0	1,214	4,906	4,285	249
Boughton Aluph.. ..	149	16	0	749	3,193	3,115	315
Brensett	95	4	0	476	3,605	4,061	753
Burmarsh	273	11	0	1,367	5,675	4,173	205
Chart, Great	238	16	0	1,194	3,960	4,500	276
Chart, Little	86	8	0	432	2,232	1,102	155
Charing	227	5	0	1,136	6,147	6,755	494
Chilham	237	8	0	1,187	6,951	6,733	468
Chartham	227	11	0	1,137	4,882	4,775	319
Challock	81	0	0	405	1,867	2,110	421
Dymchurch	122	1	0	610	4,523	2,833	363
Eastwell	145	15	0	728	1,040	880	20
Ebney	88	8	0	442	3,726	2,990	576
Gollinersham	150	0	0	750	2,479	3,000	300
Hinxhill	48	17	0	244	868	1,204	393
Hothfield	149	4	0	746	2,340	2,172	191
Willesborough	151	17	0	759	2,358	3,602	374
Kennington	96	12	0	483	2,484	2,890	496
Kingsnorth	190	5	0	951	3,198	3,775	296
					73,499	78,049	7,440
Average increase per cent. from the year 1695 to the year 1843							372
Average increase per cent. from the year 1695 to the year 1843							6

We do not say that the rule holds universally: we do not even say that the facts are sufficiently uniform to warrant the conclusion that such a rule exists at all. But the results we have given above have struck us as remarkable; and, as far as they go, they certainly do appear to lead to the conclusion that frequently when the condition of the labourer is found to be the worst, the rise of rent is found to have been the greatest.

There is one case that, at first sight, appears so marked an exception to the course of facts given above that it may be worth while to bestow some special attention upon it. We allude to Northumberland, where the rise of rent appears to have been prodigious; while the condition of the peasant, though bad enough in some respects—particularly lodging—is by no means on the whole to be reckoned among the worst in England. There are, however, special causes for the rise in Northumberland, and which take it out of the category or class of cases to which the midland and southern counties of England belong, and place it in that of the Scotch agricultural districts upon which it borders. Two of the principal of these causes

* Parliamentary Return, 18—1. 1842, pp. 16, 17.
† Present State of England. Appendix, pp. 55, 56.
‡ 2 Keen, 150. § Jacob, 386. ‖ 2 Russ., 407.

are the comparative security, the result of the union with Scotland, and the superior system of cultivation. But it is to be observed that the labourers, though principally from their being hired by the year, and consequently having constant employment, not in that state of extreme misery to which so many of their brethren in the south are subjected, have by no means advanced in anything like a degree proportioned to the advance of the value of the land they cultivate; their food being of the coarsest, and their dwellings of the most wretched description.

Morpeth Ward, County of Northumberland.

PARISH.	Quota of Land-tax in 1695.			Rent in 1695.	Rent in 1815.*	Rent in 1843.	Increase per cent. between 1695 & 1843
	£	s.	d	£	£	£	
Bolam	80	10	0	492		2,251	459
Bothal	80	4	0	401		6,892	1,618
Brinkburn, South ..	7	2	0	35		541	1,445
Chivington	78	8	0	392		6,120	1,461
Felton, South side..	72	4	0	361		5,787	1.503
Hartburn	84	4	0	421		10,650	2,429
Hebburn	73	0	0	365		5,415	1,383
Longhorsley	81	12	0	408		6 967	1.607
Mitford	98	8	0	492		7.445	1,413
Morpeth, South ..	202	0	0	1,010		10,045	894
Netherwitton ..	72	14	8	363		3,733	928
Newbiggin	2	9	8	12		1 225	10,108
Ulgham	29	14	0	148		3,578	2,317
Warkworth	151	17	0	759		16,648	2,093
Weddrington	97	0	0	485		4,177	761
Woodhorn	140	6	4	701		9,918	1,314
							31,733
Average increase per cent. from 1695 to 1843							1,983

(*To be continued.*)

THE REGISTRATION.

LUDLOW.—Free-Trade objections allowed, 13; claims sustained, 1=14. Monopolist objections allowed, 4; claims sustained, 2=6. Free-Trade majority, 8.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT.—A valued correspondent sends us the following statement of the state of the register at the close of the present year's revision. Free-Traders, 858; Monopolists, 511; Splits, 20; Neutrals, 195.

REGISTRATION APPEALS.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE CASES DECIDED ON MONDAY IN FAVOUR OF THE LEAGUE.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.—Before the LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, Mr. Justice MAULE, Mr. Justice COLTMAN, and Mr. Justice ERLE.

John Gadsby, appellant; and James Barrows, respondent.

CASE.

The respondent's name appeared in the list of persons claiming to be entitled to vote in the election of a knight of the shire for the southern division of the county of Lancaster, in respect of property situate within the township of Failsworth, being a township within the polling district of Manchester. The respondent was objected to by the appellant. The qualification in respect of which the respondent claimed to be entitled to vote was described in the column of the said list headed "nature of qualification," in the following words and figures, namely, "occupation of land and buildings at a rental of £50 and upwards."

It appeared in evidence that the respondent occupied land and buildings for which he paid £50 a year, under two different landlords: to one of whom he paid a rental of £35 per annum, and to the other a rental of £20 per annum, and that he occupied the said land and buildings as tenant, and was and is *bonâ fide* liable to the several yearly rents aforesaid, amounting together to the said sum of £55 a year; but that he did not occupy as tenant under one and the same landlord any lands or tenements for which he was and is *bonâ fide* liable to pay to the same landlord the yearly rent of not less than £50. It was contended on behalf of the appellant that the occupation of the respondent not amounting to the yearly rental of £50 to any *one* landlord, he could not unite the *two* occupations of rental so as to qualify him to vote as tenant of lands or tenements for which he was *bonâ fide* liable to a yearly rent of not less than £50.

The revising barrister was of opinion that the respondent was an occupier of lands or tenements for which he was or is *bonâ fide* liable to a yearly rent of not less than £50 within the meaning of the statutes 2 Wm. IV., cap. 45, and 6 Vic., cap. 18, and *retained* his name on the list of voters accordingly. The question for the opinion of the court was, whether, under the circumstances mentioned and set forth in the above statement of facts, the name of the respondent was rightly retained on the said list of voters. If the court should be of that opinion, the said list is to stand without amendment; but if the court should be of the contrary opinion, then the said list is to be amended by expunging the name of the respondent therefrom.

Mr. COCKBURN, Q.C., with Mr. Serjeant KINGLAKE, appeared for the appellant, and Mr. CARDWELL for the respondent.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, in giving judgment on the case, said:—This question arises upon the latter part of the 20th section of the Reform Act, 2 Wm. IV., cap. 45, "or who shall occupy as tenant any lands or tenements for which he shall be *bonâ fide* liable to a yearly rent of not less than £50, shall be entitled to a vote," &c. Looking to this word "rent," I think the sense of the word, not only in grammar but in looking to the construction of the sentence, "for which he shall be *bonâ fide* liable to a yearly rent of not less than fifty pounds," if the Legislature meant rents, it was just as easy to alter the sentence to "shall be *bonâ fide* liable to a yearly rent or rents of not less than £50." Now, in reference to that being the construction of the act, see what the same section says in giving a right of voting in two other cases. First of all it gives a right of voting where any person is entitled as lessee or assignee of any lands or tenements, whether freehold or any other tenure whatsoever, for the unexpired residue, whatever it may be, of any term originally created for a period of not less than sixty years (whether determinable on a life or lives or not), of the clear yearly value of not less than £10. In that case there can be no doubt what the meaning is. It may be made up of several tenements of smaller value, so as to make up £10, because the expression is of any term. So, in the next, the right of voting in respect of an unexpired residue, whatever it may be, of any term originally created for a period of not less than twenty years (whether determinable on a life or lives or not), of the clear yearly value of not less than £50: there, again, you have a description in respect of the single term. And when you come further on, "or who shall occupy as tenant any lands or tenements for which he shall be *bonâ fide* liable to a yearly rent of not less than £50," by that it is clear what is meant. The language of the clause I should say is, that he should show himself to be liable to a *single* yearly rent not less than £50; and when we come to the 27th section, which has been referred to, the proper reading is, who shall *occupy*, not who shall be liable to a yearly rent. In the 27th section there is no mention at all of a yearly rent. There he is the occupier, as tenant or owner, of any house, warehouse, counting-house, shop, or other building, being, either separately or jointly with any land within such city, borough, or place occupied therewith by him as tenant, under the same landlord, of the clear yearly value of not less than £10; and the term which is used in the 20th section is, "the yearly rent of not less than £50." It seems to me also, if you look to the 6 Vic., cap. 18, sec. 73, which recites this former section, if it had been the intention of the Legislature to alter the former section, they would have put it in this; but it is not so. It says, in the first place, that any successive occupation of £50 shall be sufficient, and then joint occupiers may vote; they have used the singular number, and therefore the singular number in this case also must be used. On these grounds the proper construction is, that the party was not entitled; therefore the construction put on it by the revising barrister was wrong.

Mr. Justice COLTMAN: If we look to the words of the section, it is for which he "shall be *bonâ fide* liable to a yearly rent." Suppose he held under two landlords, one at £40 and the other at £40, it cannot be said in either case he occupies at a yearly rent of £50. I think there is nothing in the 20th clause which leads to the inference that the intention of the act of Parliament was that these lands, which are occupied under two different landlords, should give the franchise: he might not know which of them to oblige, or to whom he owes allegiance; and that which appears to be the intention of the act is, that any lands or tenements held under the same landlord of the required value would confer the franchise, and those held under different landlords would not. The voter not being liable to "*a yearly rent*" of £50, which is necessary, on these grounds I am of opinion that the party was not entitled to a vote.

Mr. Justice MAULE: I am also of opinion that he was not entitled to vote for the county. I cannot see anything in the act which induces me to think that the Legislature intended to make two occupations a sufficient qualification; and for this reason I think the decision of the revising barrister ought to be reversed.

Mr. Justice ERLE: I am of the same opinion. I think no person can construe that section to mean any other than a *single rent* of £50, and that appears to me to be the language and meaning of the words. I think the Legislature could never mean to give a qualification made out of two occupations. It therefore appears to me clear that this was not a proper decision of the revising barrister.

John Gadsby, appellant; and Samuel Warburton, respondent.

The respondent's name appeared on the list of persons entitled to vote in the election of any knight of the shire for the southern division of Lancashire, in respect of property situate in the township of Harpurhey, within the polling district of Manchester, and the place of his abode was correctly stated in the said list to be "Newton, near Hyde, Cheshire." The appellant had sent to the respondent, through the Post-office, an objection, as follows, that is to say:—

"To Mr. Samuel Warburton, of Newton, near Hyde, Cheshire.—Take notice, that I object to your name being retained on the Harpurhey list of voters for the southern division of the county of Lancashire, dated this 18th day of August, 1844. (Signed) John Gadsby, of Poplar-grove, Didsbury, on the register of voters for the township of Manchester."

The appellant's name appeared on the register of voters for the township of Manchester, and the place of his abode was stated in the said register to be, as stated in the said notice of objection, Poplar-grove, Didsbury.

It appeared that the place of the appellant's abode was truly described in the notice of objection, to the extent that it appeared in that notice that he had himself described it on the register of voters to entitle him to vote; but it was objected on behalf of the respondent, that the description of the appellants place of abode, as it appeared in the notice of objection, was not sufficient to sustain the notice of objection against the voter on the list for the purpose of expunging his name, though it might be sufficient on the register to entitle the appellant to retain his name on the list of voters. The revising barrister held that notice *invalid*—in fact, that something ought to have been added to the description of the appellant's place of abode, as Lancashire, or near Manchester, Didsbury being a few miles only from Manchester, and the township within the polling district of Manchester, or the like, as the case might be; and retained the respondent's name on the list without calling upon him to prove his qualification. It was then contended on behalf of the appellant, that he had described his place of abode in the notice of objection in the same words as he had described it on the register of voters to entitle him to vote, and that it was sufficient; and that by law he was not bound to describe his place of abode in the notice of objection more fully than he had previously described it on the register of voters then in force. The revising barrister ruled the contrary.

The question for the opinion of the court was, whether the appellant's statement in the notice of objection of his place of abode as he had stated it for the purpose of his own vote is, under the facts and circumstances before mentioned, sufficient in law to sustain the said notice of objection against the respondent. If the court should be of opinion that the description of the place of abode is sufficient, the respondent's name is to be expunged from the list of voters, otherwise to remain.

Mr. COCKBURN, Q.C., with Mr. Serjeant KINGLAKE, were for the appellant, and Mr. CARDWELL for the respondent.

The Lord Chief Justice TINDAL, in giving judgment, said:—I think the best way is to lay the notice side by side with the form of notice and objection which is given in the Schedule A, No. 5, to the act, to see whether it does or does not agree; and, when I look at the notice against the respondent, I find it the same as the form in the schedule, "place of abode, on the register and voters for the parish of ———." The notice is signed, and the place of abode is stated, according to statute. If you look to the section which refers to the schedule, there is no difference in that: the section is, it "shall be given according to the form in the schedule, or to the like effect," and this notice is in compliance with the form in the schedule. The notice is to be given by merely giving it according to the form No. 5. With regard to the objection that has been raised, that there may be two Didsburys, I think the learned gentleman who revised the list should have had it shown to him that there were two Didsburys before he gave his decision, and the case might then have been very different. The notice of objection is to give the party objected to an opportunity of knowing whether the person who objects is a proper person to object; and in this case I think sufficient has been done to give him that opportunity, and, therefore, the decision must be reversed.

Mr. Justice COLTMAN: It appears that the voter has had sufficient notice where the objector is to be found. I think it is sufficient if the objector puts the same residence in the objection as he has stated in his claim. It has been said that a party may change his residence after registration: that may give rise to a question; but that is not the question in this case; I therefore think the notice is sufficient.

Mr. Justice MAULE: I think, also, that this decision must be reversed. I agree with the rest of the court in thinking sufficient notice has been given to enable the party objected to to identify the objector with the register as a person entitled to object; and I think the same residence should be put in the notice of objection as is stated in the register: if it were not so there might be two voters of the same name, and it would be very difficult to identify the objector; and at all events it would be very convenient that it should be stated as is described in the register of voters. It is not necessary that the objection should be in the precise words of the form No. 5, Schedule A, but to the like effect. This notice is to the like effect. The object being to give the party the means of ascertaining that the party objecting has a right to object, that is, that he is on the register of voters, I think on these grounds that the barrister was in error, and accordingly the name must be struck out.

Mr. Justice ERLE: It appears to me also that the revising barrister was wrong; it appears to me that the same description should be given in the objection as is given in the register, the object being to enable the voter to know whether the voter is entitled to object. I should be inclined to think, if the residence was sufficiently stated in the register, it would be bad if stated differently in the notice of objection. I am therefore of opinion that, it being stated the same as in the register, the notice was sufficient.—Decision reversed.*

One of the appeals in the Southern Division of Lancashire, namely, "Eckersley, appellant, and Barker, respondent," was heard; but the court took time to consider its judgment.

BOROUGH OF TOWNESS.

Cumming, appellant; and Tours, respondent.

The question in this case was, whether under the 100th section of the 6th Vic., c. 18, the production of the stamped duplicate notice of objection must necessarily be made by the party who posted such notice, in order to make it evidence of the delivery of the notice to the party objected to. The revising barrister decided that the duplicate could only be produced by the party who posted the notice; and, as that person happened to be ill at the time of the revision, he held the proof of the service of the notice of objection had failed.

Mr. COCKBURN, Q.C., appeared for the appellant; and Mr. Serjeant KINGLAKE for the respondent.

Lord Chief-Justice TINDAL said:—I cannot see any reason why the general maxim of law, *qui facit per alium, facit per se*, should not apply in this particular instance. The whole faith and credit is given to the stamp of the Post-office, and that stamp is the same whether it is produced by the clerk or by the principal. The words of the section are, "And whenever any person shall be desirous of sending any such notice of objection by the post, he shall deliver the same, duly directed, open, and in duplicate, to the postmaster of any post-office where money-orders are received or paid;" and after paying the fee which shall from time to time be imposed, the postmaster shall stamp the duplicate; and if you can get over the difficulty of the objector being bound to take the notice to the post-office himself, it seems consistent, under the circumstances, that the proof of service should be sufficient, whether the notice is produced by the clerk or by the principal himself. Therefore the decision must be reversed.

Mr. Justice COLTMAN: We had a case before the court last year, where the notice had been received by the clerk in the post-office, and not by the postmaster; it was then held by this court that the delivery of the notice to the clerk was sufficient. It appears to me that this is a similar case. I cannot see why the objector should be the person actually putting the notice in the post, or why the objector should be obliged to produce it himself. The decision must, therefore, be reversed.

Mr. Justice MAULE: It would require very strict words to make the court depart from the common law. It does not require the delivery or service to be personal, unless it is expressly and particularly required to be so. There is nothing in the section of this act of Parliament that requires us to put so unusual a construction on the language of the section in question. I am, therefore, of opinion that the production of the stamped duplicate by a person other than the person who took it to the post-office is sufficient.

Mr. Justice ERLE: I am of the same opinion. I think by the words of the statute it would be sufficient if produced by a person other than the person who posted it.—Decision reversed.

* In the returns for 1815 the description and classification differ so much from those of the returns for 1843 that it has been found impossible to fill up the 1815 column in this table, and ascertain the progress between 1815 and 1843.

* Two thousand notices of objection were taken by the League, and lost by the revising barrister's decision.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, November 20, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

	£	s.	d.
Agnew, Thomas, St. Ann's-street, Manchester	£10	0	0
*Barker, Brothers, Nantwich, Cheshire	5	0	0
Knowles, Mr., Yorkshire-street, Burnley, Lancashire	5	0	0
Webb, Martin, Huddersfield	3	0	0
*Hood, David, 39, Brazennose-street, Manchester	2	2	0
Shaw, Thomas, boiler maker, Burnley, Lancashire	2	2	0
*Thomas, D., draper, Oswestry, Shropshire	2	0	0
*Marsden, Wm., 32, Hanging-ditch, Manchester	1	1	0
*Lockyer, Thomas, 69, St. Stephen's-street, Salford	1	1	0
*Patchett, Ebenezer, 9, Piccadilly, Manchester	1	1	0
Nadin, Joseph, Cheadle, Hulme, do.	1	1	0
*Taylor, W. G., Leamington, Warwickshire	1	1	0
*Worthington, J., 12 a, Back Mosley-st., Manchester	1	1	0
*Bottomley, J. and W., Pinmill Brow, Ardwick, do.	1	1	0
*Hargreave, George, 1, Witley-grove, do.	1	0	0
*Peraley, Thomas, 79, Church-street, do.	1	0	0
*Cockbain, J. H., 51, Piccadilly, do.	1	0	0
*Sutcliffe, Joseph, 92, High street, do.	1	0	0
*Gray, Wm., Olympic Tavern, Stevenson's sq., do.	1	0	0
*Cockshoot, Joseph, do., do.	1	0	0
*Kearsley, William, do., do.	1	0	0
*J. B	1	0	0
*M'Connel, Gordon, 9, Mosskell-street, C.-on-M., Manchester	1	0	0
*Aspell, Robert, Lamb Inn, Oldham-road, do.	1	0	0
*Read W., 47, Stretford New-road, Hulme, do.	1	0	0
*Reather, H. P., 316, Oldham-road, do.	1	0	0
*Winterbottom, A., at H. Bannerman & Sons, York-street, Manchester	1	0	0
*Salt, John, 72, London-road do.	1	0	0
*Baylis, Charles, O., 103, Pleasant-street, Liverpool	1	0	0
*Appleby, W. S. and H., 14, Half-street, Manchester	1	0	0
Winstanley, David, Argyle-street, Oldham-road, do.	0	5	0
H. C.	0	2	8
Smith, James, warper, Hawkshill, Dundee	0	2	6
*Sheldon, S. and J. J., Swan-street, Manchester	1	0	0
*Lord, Richard, Cannon-street, do.	1	0	0
*Derbishire, Thomas, 18, Islington-square, Salford	1	0	0
*Carnigie, David, Cannon-court, Cannon-street, Manchester	1	0	0
G. E.	1	0	0
*Watson, John, 12, George-street, Manchester	1	0	0
A Friend, per J. H. Waters, do.	0	2	6
Rochdale, 14th Remit. — Heaton, William, solicitor, Townhead	10	0	0
Leach, Edmund, machine maker, Drake-street	10	0	0
Howarth, Thomas, druggist, Cheetham-street	3	0	0
Taylor, Edward, druggist, Old Market-place	3	3	0
A Free-Trader	1	0	0
Smith, Henry, Yorkshire-street	1	0	0
*Porrett, R., Ordnance Department, Tower of London	8	0	0
Eastington Mills Association, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, per William Clarke (3rd remittance)	5	0	0
*Cumberland, John, 89, Wood-street, Cheapside	2	2	0
*Garrett, Edward, 89, do., do.	2	2	0
*Sharp, Leonard, 89, do., do.	2	2	0
Lister, William, 15, Manchester-buildings, Westminster	2	2	0
*Collins and Waters, drapers, Knightsbridge	2	2	0
*Lloyd, John Cressy, Potton, Bedfordshire	2	0	0
*Brodie, Rev. R., 19 Somerset-street, Portman-sq.	2	0	0
*Flanders, William, 8, Upper Woburn place	2	0	0
*Jackson, Henry, 69, Red Lion-street, Clerkenwell	1	1	0
*Jackson, William Henry, 66, do., do.	1	1	0
Kidlingbury, William, 23, High Holborn	1	1	0
*Gidemarsen, M. P., 1, Northwick-terrace, St. John's wood	1	1	0
Inglis, William, 75, St. Paul's Churchyard	1	1	0
*Lee, T. H., Daventry	1	1	0
Bradshaw, John, 27, Warwick-street, Regent-street	1	1	0
*Meyers, Michael, 9, Great Alie-street, Goodman's-fields	1	1	0
*Hubbuck, Thomas, jun., 115, East Smithfield	1	1	0
*Jones, James, 430, West Strand	1	1	0
*Hepburn, Thomas, Clapham	1	1	0
Morton, W. J. T., College House, King's-road, St. Pancras	1	1	0
*Coulse, T., brewery, Mortlake	1	1	0
*Rose, Richard James, 45, George-street, Portman-square	1	1	0
*Whittaker, William, 69, Hatton garden	1	1	0
*Wainwright, William, 58, Fore street, Cripplegate	1	1	0
*Southby, J. L., 15, Upper Thames-street	1	1	0
*Hall, Robert Willis, Friern Cottage, Peckham-rye R. P., St. P.	1	1	0
*Smith, Charles, 2, Kenton-street, Brunswick-square	1	1	0
*Mitchell, Richard, 94, Oxford street	1	1	0
*Prosser, Robert, 9, King's-place, Commercial-road East	1	1	0
Manning, Henry, Holmes-terrace, Kentish-town	1	1	0
*Noble, Frederick, 8, Onslow-place, Brompton	1	0	0
*Smith, Walter, Fisherton-street, Salisbury	1	0	0
*Hastings, H., 2, Castle street, Falcon-square	1	0	0
*King, J. T., 10, Camden-street, Islington-green	1	0	0
Bailey, William, 36, Hemingford-terrace, Islington	1	0	0
*Iglivie, William, 35, Threadneedle-street	1	0	0
Wood, John, Barnsley	1	0	0
*Hart, Edwin, Woodville Cottage, Gravesend	1	0	0
Reeling, Gabriel, High street, do.	1	0	0
*Lindsay, William, 9, Aldgate High-street	1	0	0
*Curtis, James, Harpenden, near St. Alban's	1	0	0
*Naish, William, jun., Witton	1	0	0
*Southall, Samuel, Leominster	1	0	0
*Monro, Frederick, Cheltenham	1	0	0
Pilkington, T., Promenade, do.	1	0	0
*Smith, John and Son, Stamford-street, Ashton-under-Lyne	1	0	0
*Welfare, Henry, 5, Mason-street, Edge-hill Liverpool	1	0	0
*Jones, Edward, News-room, Port Madoc, Carnarvonshire	1	0	0
*Tromper, John, Rock Ferry, near Liverpool	1	0	0
*Hymer, James, Gateshead	1	0	0
Cuthbert, J., 17, Upper Ebury-street, Pimlico	1	0	0
R. W.	1	0	0
*Crossley, Thomas, Kingsland-green	1	0	0
Bedford, J., 97, Long lane, Bermondsey	1	0	0
Hallett, Joseph, 2 Upper Craven place, Kentish town	1	0	0
Stores, James, 19, York-place, City-road	1	0	0
*Greece, Henry, Chart Lodge, Reigate	1	0	0
*Mallesoh, Rev. J. P., R. N., Brighton	1	0	0
*Thom, John, 15, Russell-street, Manchester	1	0	0
Buxton, John, M. D., 5, Brownlow street, Bedford-row	1	0	0
*Keith, Daniel, 124, Wood street, Cheapside	1	0	0
Walters, Joseph, Alfreton, Derbyshire	1	0	0
*Atell, Martin, Worcester	1	0	0
*Hutchinson, W., Reading	1	0	0
*Young, Joseph, Chatham	1	0	0
*Fawcett, Samuel, Kidderminster	1	0	0
Rowe, Charles, Blakeney, Gloucestershire	1	0	0
*Marsh, James, Rochester	1	0	0
*Buckland, G., Exeter	1	0	0
*Fletcher, James, 4, Albion-place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne	1	0	0
*Baxter, W. E., Dundee	1	0	0
*Dowling, Thomas, 21, Panton-street, Haymarket	1	0	0
*Barford, Richard, 18, Wharf-road, City-road	1	0	0
*Beale, Samuel, 17, Rutland-street, Commercial-road East	£1	0	0
*Andrews, J., 18, Wood-street, Cheapside	1	0	0
*Murray, A., 18, do., do.	1	0	0
*Thompson, J. W., 1, Carter-street, Walworth	1	0	0
*Gisborne, F., 10, John-street, Berkeley-square	1	0	0
*Silvanus, Daniel, 93, Whitechapel	1	0	0
*Stevens, M. C., Greenfield, Holywell, Flintshire	1	0	0
Craft, John, 20, Philpot-lane	1	0	0
*Hall, John, 31, Orchard-street, Portman-square	1	0	0
Lickfold, Charles, cheesemonger, 5, Lower-street, Islington	0	10	6
S. S.	0	10	0
Storer, Egbert, 19, York-place, City-road	0	10	0
Robertson, Robert, surgeon, R.N., Kelso	0	10	0
Handford, Thomas, 29, Charles-street, Hampstead-road	0	10	0
Strangways, Thomas, 11, King's-road, Bedford-row	0	5	0
Hignett, John, North Briton, New North-road, Hoxton	0	5	0
H. C. K.	0	5	0
Rowlands, Robert, 35, Meredith-street, Clerkenwell	0	5	0
A Friend to the just influence of public opinion	0	5	0
Roberts, Thomas, 6, Waterloo-place, Commercial-road East	0	5	0
Gamman, Robert, 68, Wapping-wall	0	5	0
T. R. S.	0	2	6
Matsell, Thomas, 44, White-street, Southwark	0	2	6
Fuller, John, 95 and 96, Long-lane, Bermondsey	0	2	6
Smith, Saml., 8, Chapel-place, do., do.	0	2	6
Brackenbury, Samuel, 10, do., do.	0	2	6
Jack, John, 5, Willow-walk, Kentish-town	0	2	6
Gale, John, 3, Lower York-place, do.	0	2	6
Townsend, John, 8, College-terrace, do.	0	2	6
Brown, Hervey, 1, Hawley-place, do.	0	2	6
Tansley, P., 122, St. John-street, Smithfield	0	2	6
Billingham, Joseph, 126, do., do.	0	2	6
Billingham, J. N., 126, do., do.	0	2	6
J. W. P.	0	2	6
M'Craight, Charles, 94, Goswell-street	0	2	6
Arnall, James, 15, Lower-road, Islington	0	2	6
Vining, James, 7, High-street, do.	0	2	6
Shipton, John, 24 and 25, Liverpool road, Islington	0	2	6
Coate, John, 109, St. John-street, Smithfield	0	2	6
Hinton, John, 6, West-place, Islington-green (2nd subscription)	0	2	6
Gibson, John, East Dulwich (3rd subscription)	0	2	6
*Adcock, John, 9, Somerset-street, Portman-square	0	2	6
A Friend	0	2	6
Hansford, John C., 10 a, Northumberland-street, Portman-square	0	2	6
Andrew, Frederick W., 23, do., do.	0	2	6
Trotman, Thomas, 96, High-street, Camden-town	0	2	6
Thompson, David, 1, College-terrace, do.	0	2	6
Ford, John, 7, Robert's-place, Commercial-road East	0	2	6
Hales, Matthew, 3, King's-terrace, do.	0	2	6
Hollingsworth, Charles, 206, Bermondsey-street	0	2	6
Finn, Alexander, Nile-street, Hoxton	0	2	6
Shaw, Thomas, 27, Plumber-street, do.	0	2	6
19, Old Change. — Farmer, W.	0	2	6
Earwaker, R.	0	2	6
Little, M.	0	2	6
Ashwell, Joseph	0	2	6
Nunn, J.	0	2	6
W. G. D.	0	2	6
Wells, Mr.	0	2	6
S. G.	0	2	6
Roberts, D.	0	2	6
S. C.	0	2	6
Ashwell, Wm.	0	2	6
James, R.	0	2	6
Birch, W.	0	2	6
Subscriptions under 2s. 6d. each	0	10	0
Subscriptions under 2s. 6d. each	1	18	6

* Those names marked with an asterisk are renewed subscriptions.

THE GOLDEN FLAX.—A specimen of Irish linen, denominated "The Golden Flax," has recently come before us, as a manufacture in this neighbourhood; and we cannot withhold our testimony to the beauty of its bleach and fabric, uniting the greatest softness and brightness with the strongest fibre. This bids fair to put further off than ever all foreign competition with Ireland in the linen fabric, and to extend our home consumption for this beautiful manufacture; affording, at the same time, an additional encouragement for the production of the finest qualities of flax at home, for which our soil and climate are found, in every way, suitable. We cannot help indulging the hope, that, ere long, Belfast may be to the linen trade what Manchester is to the cotton, with this further advantage on the side of the former, that her looms may be working up the product of a happy industry—gradually extending itself throughout our agricultural districts in the south—yielding food and clothing—an appreciation of comfort, with means for its gratification; and, above all, issuing in an honest independence of mind, capable of discerning, and daring to choose the truth.—*Belfast paper.*

THE TIMBER, WOOL, AND GUANO TRADES.—It is said that the above trades are the only ones in which large sums of money have not been lost by importers during the present year; and it is a fact worthy of notice, that in two out of the three of these trades the protective system has been, in whole or in part, abandoned during the last four years. It will be remembered that one of Sir Robert Peel's earliest measures was to diminish the amount of protection on colonial timber, and that it was most confidently predicted at the time that the colonists would be ruined by the change. The result has shown that this was a false prophecy, for the timber trade has never been in a more healthy or prosperous state. This is partly the result of the breaking up of a system of speculation and overtrading, but still more of the revival of trade and commerce. People have once more begun to build houses, mills, warehouses, and ships; and the result has been to create a brisk demand for timber, and to show that commercial and manufacturing prosperity are of infinitely more value to the timber trade than all the protecting duties that ever were invented. Another trade which has prospered, either in consequence or in spite of the repeal of protective duties, is that in sheep's wool. The repeal of the duty of 1d. a pound on foreign wool has not only been followed by great briskness in the demand for that kind of wool, but also by equal briskness in the demand for colonial and British wools, to which the duty served as a sort of protection. They have seldom sold better than during the present year; and although it would be too much to say that this is owing to the change in the duties, yet it is clear that the change has had no injurious effect upon the wool-growers, whilst it has greatly benefited the manufacturers and all dependent upon them. The import of colonial wool, which twenty years ago was a mere nothing, has now reached the large amount of 70,000 bales from Australia alone.—*Liverpool Times.*

LETTERS ON THE CORN LAWS, No. VIII.

TO THE WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN.

LADIES,—By a majority of the other sex you are excluded from direct interference in political matters. On the wisdom or justice of this exclusion I make no comment. It suffices that by this same majority, and by universal consent, you are invited to interpose in matters of charity. There, your right is unquestioned; and, by inference, your duty also. When there is the power to relieve suffering, especially if it be unjustly inflicted, right and duty are identical. To a good work of this description you are invited (and invited at the suggestion of some of yourselves) by the Council of the Anti-Corn-Law League. The peculiar reason why you should respond to that invitation may be given in one word: the Corn Laws are INHUMAN.

Who of you has not sympathized with the poor sempstresses of London, stitching through fifteen hours a day for 3s. per week? Who has not grieved over that weary toil and that wretched remuneration? Who of you, with all the legislative power combined of Queen, Lords, and Commons, would abridge that pittance by the worth of one farthing? It *is* abridged by the Corn Laws. Measuring its worth in bread, on which most of it must needs be expended; and comparing the Free-Trade price of grain here, close at hand, in our own Channel Islands, with the Corn-Law price, even in this comparatively cheap year, paid by the poor of this island, there is a difference of one-sixth which fixes itself directly and distinctly on the Corn Laws. A difference of one-sixth, *i.e.*, sixpence a week, is taken by the Corn Laws out of the sempstresses' wages of 3s. It is the worth of one day, every week, of that eye-blinding and heart-bleeding work. Is not this inhumanity?

You have been exhorted to compassionate these wretched people by Lord Ashley; yes, by Lord Ashley, who votes in the House of Commons for robbing them of this weekly sixpence, and belongs to the class for whose benefit the robbery is perpetrated! Take his advice, and estimate his conduct. Your injured sisters are not helped by society meetings, and sentimental resolutions, and reports, and patrons or patronesses' names, and vituperation of Moses and Son. The first help is to get back for each her stolen sixpence. Repeal of the Corn Laws would give her that; and by indirect influence on other monopolies, and on the state of trade, a great deal more withal. Help to obtain justice for her; else is charity an insult.

While the Paisley weavers were at their lowest depression, three years ago, a poor old man and woman there, overlooked perhaps amid the starving multitudes, were not forgotten by their sons who had migrated to Canada. The dutiful youths were mindful of the first commandment with promise. They thought to honour father and mother by some of the first fruits of the produce of their little farm. The Custom-house of a monopolist Legislature cares not for commandments. It respects filial piety as little as it pities starvation. The aged couple heard of the arrival of the package of oatmeal from their distant children—its opportune arrival—for they had neither food nor money for the purchase of food: they were famishing, and the Corn Laws told them to famish on, for there could be no delivery of the oatmeal without payment of the duty. This, too, I call inhumanity.

Many of you are not unfamiliar with the dwellings of the poor. You witness the host of privations which they endure, from the fluctuations of employment, and the prices, often beyond their reach, of various articles deemed necessaries of life. To a large extent both the want of work, and the disproportion of prices to their means, are demonstrated results of monopolist legislation. Bread and sugar are at the head of the list thus rendered more costly. They are taxed to the toiling poor that British land and West Indian plantations may yield a larger revenue to the proprietary. The natural course of commerce is thus disturbed, and the manufacturer, by foreign retaliation, shut out of markets which else would enable him to give steady employment to multitudes. This is the soul of evil that presents itself to your sight in so many affecting particulars. You see families that are ragged because even an insufficient purchase of food leaves them no surplus for clothing; boys that cannot avail themselves of your gratuitous teaching because they must be earning something towards the scanty common stock; men and women that absent themselves from church because they cannot appear there decently. Your moral and religious efforts are baffled by physical misery; and your attempt to alleviate that, aided by all the contributions of your relatives and friends, still beats unavailingly against the iron pressure that forces down the objects of your compassion. Your kindly energy wages an unequal contest. A fiend confronts your angel visitations, and battles with your benevolence for every cottage and hovel. You are overborne by INHUMAN LAW. It grasps its prey like a tiger. It is merciless as the devouring waves. The law must be conquered, or your mission is done.

feated, though it be one of light and love from heaven. While monopoly triumphs, charity is powerless.

Some of you have, in the daring of a beneficence intent upon spiritual good, ventured beyond the hovel of the wretched into the cell of the criminal. In seeking to relieve the wants and heal the diseases of the moral being, has it not occurred to you that causes are at work in society for the multiplication of crime which are capable of being abated? The tendency of law is again, in this case, a counteracting power to your zeal for good. A long course of years proves that the number of committals for crime varies with the price of food. The dearness of bread is the frequency of offences. A law to uphold prices is a law to promote crime. Such is the Corn Law. It wounds faster than you can heal; it does the work of evil by wholesale; it stimulates depravity, and breaks down conscience; it is a legally-erected direction-post to the gates of perdition. As you value the souls you try to bring back to the good shepherd's fold, encourage those who would abolish the cause of temptation; strengthen the hands of those who would destroy some of the fruits of unrighteousness, by laying the axe to the root of the tree of monopoly.

In a thousand other ways must sorrow and privation fall under your observance, traceable, either entirely or in their heavy aggravation, to the laws which enhance the cost of provisions, and obstruct the extension and regularity of trade. You know the secrets of hearts which are doomed to endurance by limited or failing means, with, perhaps, increasing demands for their application. The system which annually pauperizes or banishes nearly 300,000 persons, is a blight on many homes that once were happy. There must be fearful struggles, and hidden tears, and the martyrdom of ceaseless sacrifice. On your sex, especially, falls this heavy burden. On them, out of the turmoil of exertion, comes the care of savings, and retrenchments, and self-denial; theirs is the daily plan, and contrivance, and suffering. They are surrounded by the omnipresence of iniquitous law, ever taxing to the utmost their capacity of ingenious effort and of patient endurance. What wonder if spirits often fail in the ceaseless endeavour, and hearts break in the repeated disappointment. For their sakes—for your own, suffering in their sorrows even when your circumstances are happiest—is your co-operation sought: such co-operation as it becomes philanthropic men to ask, and you to render.

The proposed Bazaar, to be held in Covent-garden Theatre, affords a most unquestionable mode in which your aid may be as efficient as it will be welcome. Information as to all requisite particulars is already given, in the appeal put forth by the Council of the League, and need not be repeated here. On you must the plan be mainly dependent for success. Often have distinguished individuals of your sex adopted similar means for promoting charities of a limited and transitory description. What *mere* charity can be compared with the great and sacred cause of justice which you are thus invited to advance? And in this, as in the attendance with which you grace our meetings, it is not only the direct countenance and aid that is sought, but the moral power of Woman in whatever public good she advocates. How much you achieved towards the abolition of the slave trade; and how much you may achieve towards the abolition of the starvation-trade! Monopoly, like slavery, will shrink from your withering rebuke. You will exalt the coming victory of policy in the triumph of humanity. Of you the toil-worn will gratefully think, as the table is spread for a better meal; of you the fainting heart, renovated by the dawn of more prosperous days; and on you will come the blessing of those who were ready to perish. It is fitting that not without your aid should this battle be won, but that, foremost amongst the elements of triumphant success, should be the strong and true heart of the Women of Great Britain.

A Norwich Weaver Boy.

Importation of Foreign Beasts and Sheep.—On Wednesday last were landed from off board the Emerald Isle, Captain Bouch, from Rotterdam, seven oxen and twelve sheep. Same day, from off board the Helen Macgregor, Captain Frost, from Hamburgh, 39 oxen.—*Hull Advertiser*, Nov. 16.

Plenty the Parent of Agricultural Despondency.—In all ages and in all countries, bountiful harvests have been reckoned amongst the choicest blessings of Providence. The sacred writings are full of the most beautiful allusions to the joy and gladness produced when, in abundance, "the earth brings forth her increase;" the prayers of the church are for plenty; and, if there be one thing in which the whole human family agree more than in another, it is, that there can scarcely be an over-production of food for the use of man and beast. Such is the feeling which has its birth in the natural instincts and universal common-sense of mankind. Surely, then, there must be something radically vicious in any system which alters this state of things; which makes the husbandman despond in times of plenty, and rejoice in times of comparative scarcity; and which, so far as one large and important class of the community is concerned, reverses the order of nature, and turns the bounties of Providence into mockeries.—*Bristol Mercury*.

A JOURNEY THROUGH SUSSEX.

Explanatory Note.—In my last communication I stated that there was now no Earl of Egremont, and that, therefore, the Earl of Egmont, who is a "new nobleman" in that part of the country, must not be confounded with the late Earl of Egremont. But it seems there is an Earl of Egremont. It is true, as I said, that the late earl left no legitimate offspring; and that he left all his property in Sussex to his illegitimate sons; but it seems the title descended to a nephew; and I believe some property which is not in Sussex, and which could not be disposed of by will, went with the title. In Sussex his very large estates went wholly to his sons, Colonel Ge rge and Colonel Charles Wyndham; and I, not having consulted a peerage list, but going with the common belief of most people that I talked with near the Egremont property, was led to say that there was no Earl of Egremont. It is, however, as requisite now, as it was said to be before, to understand that the Earl of Egmont, of whose estate and tenantry I am about to write, is not the Earl of Egremont so long and so lately well-known in that same part of Sussex.

THE PARISH OF HARTING.

From Rogate I went three miles southward over a good district of soil. Here I found 8s. a week to be the common wages of the labourers. At Harting, a pleasant village near the bottom of the chalky ridge called the Downs, I found many people out of work; to those in work the wages were somewhat better, a carter or ploughman getting 10s. a week.

The soil here is rich, and exceedingly fertile. It is the property of Sir Harry Featherstone. Including a part of the Downs upon which his residence stands, it is said his property amounts to 10,000 acres. It is mostly in his own hands, managed by bailiffs. The tenantry who used to be on it are now, some of them, in the workhouse as paupers; some have gone elsewhere to compete for land, and raise its price by their competition; and, as a matter of course, some are deposited in the churchyard.

Besides the loss to the respective families who were driven from their land by increased rentals and other means which I need not specify, the loss to the village is great, by the destruction of the middle class who supported its tradesmen. I was told that Sir Harry, through his steward, was very kind to the poor. "For instance," said my informant, "since this steward came here he allows them to *lease* on the fields. And, that they may all have fair play, he orders that the gate of the field they lease on is not to be opened until eight in the morning. So you see a poor woman who has a family can get them all ready to come with her to the *leasing* by that hour, whereas, if every one began as soon as they liked, single persons would go and *lease* by daylight in the morning."

"This is very well, so far," said I, "yet, I do not see more kindness to the poor than merely a little, a very little, discretionary regulation."

"But," said my informant—who was rather desirous to say something good for Sir Harry, to cover the melancholy truth that in the wars of the rents the best of the population had been reduced to pauperism—"But," said he, "this is not all that has been done for them: the steward sends out on the first day of leasing, from the barn, a *shock* for the leasers, and this is put in the field, and they all go and pull from it as soon as eight o'clock comes."

This shock of ten or twelve sheaves of wheat contains at most from one to one bushel and a half of grain. The number of leasers who crowd around it and tear it to pieces, and appropriate it to themselves, and who are expected to bless God and Sir Harry's steward for this munificent gift to them, "the poor of the land," is seldom less than about one hundred persons. Some of them have been small owners of that land which is now Sir Harry's; some have been occupiers; and all the others have been workers on it, or are the children of workers.

What beautiful humanity it is! The benevolent and noble-minded Lord Ashley recommended the farmers of Dorsetshire, last year, to remember the poor when they gathered in their harvest, and not to rake up every head of grain; but to obey the scriptural injunction. This is worthy of so good a lord, who votes for a tax on the bread of the poor, to put money in his own and his father's pockets.

Would not such a generous mind be delighted to stand in the parish of Harting, and see the scriptural injunction observed of leaving something to the poor? "And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest. * * * Thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger."—Leviticus xix. 9, 10.

In lieu of the corners of the fields, a shock of ten sheaves is brought from the barn. It is laid down, and none must enter the field until the larger and the smaller families, the aged and the very young, the widow and the fatherless, are all at the gate. The gate is opened, and they rush in to tear the sheaves to pieces, and appropriate them. Sir Harry's foxhounds, in his hunting days, if kept hungry, and *one bone* had been thrown among them, would have scrambled for it, and growled and threatened to worry one another: those farthest from the bone would have sprung over the backs of those nearest it: still there would have only been a scene of hungry strife; and nobody would have thought such an exhibition of dog torture a very cruel one save the most benevolent of men. But infirm paupers and young children do not spring over one another like foxhounds. The more feeble the aged man and the aged woman are, the more need have they to hasten forward to the shock of grain. The more numerous the family of young children, the more need have they of what they can get for bread. The more strong and eager those are who have strength on their side, the sooner will they get hold of the sheaves. Hence there is a scramble far outdoing the scene of Sir Harry's hounds and the bone. The old fall on the young, because the strong push them down; the young lie and scream, because they cannot get from below those above them. Their mothers, who should be *leasing*, must fight and scramble to extricate them. The strongest, in the meantime, appropriate the largest share of the sheaves. At last some families find themselves in possession of a peck of wheat, torn clothes, and scratched faces; other families have half a peck of wheat, and sprained ancles; some have bruises, and no wheat at all. All of them have as many quarrels to settle and to dispute about as keep them in hot water and animosity until Christmas.

But the consciences of the steward and Sir Harry are appeased. Lord Ashley and his injunction have been obeyed. Restitution has been made to the poor of that landed property and produce which was once wrung from them. And nobody can longer say that such supporters of the bread-tax grow rich at the expense of the bread eaters, and do not return *anything* to the poor. It must be a great comfort to such benevolent bread-taxers as Lord Ashley to hear of the generosity of the rich owner of ten thousand acres in the parish of Harting. What a loss to the nation that each of the other owners of ten thousand acres does not carry out a shock of wheat after harvest as a gift to the poor! To a sporting man there must be capital fun in seeing a hundred persons, comprising old men, old women, little children, mothers with babies, and babies left at the gate while their mothers scramble. What genuine fun for a sporting lord! and what genuine balm and comfort to the conscience of a very benevolent lord, who makes bread scarce and dear for the sake of his own pocket!

JOURNEY TO MIDHURST.

Leaving Harting after being told of many curious things of Sir Harry, which need not be repeated as they concern domestic matters only, and not the public questions which we are all interested in, I returned by Rogate, and proceeded eastward to the parliamentary borough of Midhurst, distant from Rogate six or seven miles.

At about three miles from Midhurst I was in the parish of Trotton. The village stands beautifully in a wooded valley by a stream. The road had skirted the side of the wooded park belonging to the parson of Trotton for half a mile, perhaps more, I found some people at work near the road, as also a farmer riding along, who occupied land there; and once more, as at Rogate, all was complaint of low wages, and rabbits and hares. The workmen complained of the low wages, and the farmer of the rabbits and hares. The *parson* was the game-preserver here. He is the brother, and this is the native place, of one of the police magistrates of the metropolis.

Still nearer Midhurst, on this road, I passed through the parish of Woolbedding, where the same complaints prevail as to the swarms of game. Here the owners of the land are Liberals in politics, and, I believe, not much opposed to Free Trade. But, having mentioned what is said of their neighbours as game-preservers, I think fit to mention them. Indeed, Liberalism is worse than useless if it is not practical. And how any body can be excused for doing such prodigious mischief to the farmers, and indirectly to the whole population, as is done there by the game and the rabbit vermin, I cannot conceive.

From near this I had a man on the road with me who had been about fifty years in and around Midhurst. He was not very profoundly learned in even the common topics of the day. But he was willing to talk, and seemed to have a store of olden recollections upon which he could draw liberally. Amongst other things, he remembered since the road we were now upon was so deep in mud that the axle-trees of carts sank in the earth. At a part within five hundred yards of Midhurst it used to be called "Cobden's Lane"; but it was now enlarged, and called the Petersfield Road, it being the direct line to Petersfield, in Hampshire, through Rogate.

I had before heard that Midhurst was the native place of the honourable member for Stockport; and, hearing this man mention "Cobden's Lane," I asked a question or two. But he did not know anything of the gentleman whom I named, only he had heard that one of them was "grown a great man up about London." He could not tell me if he had heard of Lancashire. He had heard talk of the Corn Law, but did not know what it meant. He had heard that one of the "young Cobdens had grown wonderful great;" but did not know what the greatness consisted of. He understood, however, that, if there were fewer men seeking work in the parish of Woolbedding than there were masters seeking men, the masters would have to give higher wages than they give now. He understood that if three farmers need a farm, and there be only one farm that they can get, they are likely to offer more for it than it is worth. He understood that, if the landlords promise to the farmers to pass a law to keep corn at a high price; that if the farmers believe them, and bid high rents for the farms accordingly; and if that law does not keep corn always at a high price, but lets it down as often as it keeps it up, he understood that the farmers must be defrauded and made poor.

He understood that, if a farmer must pay away the greatest part of his money in rent to the landlord, he cannot pay wages as he should do to labouring men, nor get such crops from his farm as he would get if he employed and paid for a sufficient number of labourers.

He understood that if farmers continue to have children growing up to men and women, the men to become farmers and the women to be the wives of farmers, there must be more farms made for them, or else they must remain in the families of their fathers And he understood that, if England is not growing larger than it was a hundred years ago, the children of farmers must not expect farms; but that, if they are not to be a burden on their parents and leave off marrying, they must go and follow some trade or profession.

He understood that the families of farm-labourers would be left in the same difficulties if it were not that they were crowded back into the workhouses.

He understood that if bread be so high in price that all the wages of a man must be paid for bread for his family, while nothing can be paid for clothes, that all the makers of cloth and those who sell it, and those who make clothes, must have bad trade, and be less able to buy the bread and beef of the farmers; and again in their turn be less able to buy clothes, which would still add to the badness of trade and the inability of others to buy bread and beef.

I told him that these were a few, and only a few, of the great questions affecting everybody in the kingdom, and affecting, less or more, everybody in the world, which his fellow-townsman, Mr. Cobden, was endeavouring to make people understand, and more especially the farmers and the members of Parliament; and that the law, which the landlords who sat in Parliament made, called the Corn Law, to keep corn scarce and at a high price that they might get high rents—I told him that this was the question which led to all the others which I had explained to him.

We had lingered on the road near the side of a heath while speaking of these things. And then he pointed out to me a modern-looking villa, amid some trees in a field, which stands on the site of the farmstead and malting works of old "Maltster Cobden." Such was the popular designation of the grandfather of the member for Stockport. All the elderly people remember Maltster Cobden as a substantial yeoman of the olden school, who for several years filled the chief office of bailiff of the borough; and some of them said they remembered the beer he brewed, and wished they had some of it now, at that moment of speaking to me. One recollected the goat which he kept, and which used to butt the boys who went into the malthouse or the yard who had no business there. Another recollected the life they used to lead the old goat. Then they all recollected that this goat used to go out to the heath at a certain hour every evening and bring home the cows. There were four cows belonging to Maltster Cobden that the goat would go and fetch from among others, to be milked, and would take them out again when they were milked.

ODDS AND ENDS ABOUT MIDHURST.

Midhurst is a town containing, with its parish, 1536 inhabitants, and returning one member to Parliament—Sir Horace Seymour. It is alleged by some, who pretend to know this gentleman's opinions, that, though a Tory, he is persuaded of the justice of the Free-Trade cause. But such is the constituency of Midhurst that he could not expect to be returned for that borough again if he voted against the Corn Law, and the wishes of Earl Egmont and Colonel Wyndham of Petworth. The largest portion of the voters are farmers, holding under one or other of these landlords. The town is very small; but its parliamentary extension into the country is as wide as the Reform Act allows. It used to return Whig members; but on the sale of the Cowdroy estate to Earl Egmont, the majority of the borough voters went with the estate.

Before the Reform Act this place returned two members; but the tradesmen were then saved the trouble and danger of voting. At a certain part of a stone wall the question was asked officially if a certain stone in the wall had any objection to return so and so as members of Parliament; and, if the stone did not object, so and so were returned. This convenient custom of election is now done away with. The Reform Act disfranchised the stone, and gave the votes to the tradesmen and farmers: to the grocers, shoemakers, tailors, and such like. And now the grocers, knowing that the earl has all his household goods in which they deal from London, must vote for the earl's nominee lest they lose the earl's custom. The tailors know that no one of them is the *Stultz* who clothes the person of the earl; yet they cannot afford to offend his lordship. He *might* condescend to get a coat made with them some day. So with the shoemakers. They have less discretion than the *stone*, for it said nothing and did nothing, and offended nobody when asked for its suffrage. But they vote for the earl's nominee lest they lose their trade. They vote for dear corn and little trade lest they lose the little trade they have got. And, not without cause, as will be seen in the following paragraphs:—

LORD EGMONT SETS UP AS A MILLER AND A BAKER.

It seems that a large new mill, called the North-mill, was found by a tenant to be too dear. He left it. Other offering tenants thought it too dear also, and his lordship could not get the required rent for it. He said he would prove it to be worth that rent. Accordingly, he took it into his own hands; turned miller himself; had the sacks all marked with his own name and title; had the waggons marked with his own name and title; and then he set vigorously to work. There were four other mills on his estate, all competitors with this. He employed his steward, Mr. Brown, to go round the estate to the customers of the other mills, and desire them to go and deal at the North-mill. And Mr. Brown went to all the labourers over whom he had any control; he said you must buy your flour at the North-mill. At a brickfield he set up a flour-store for the workmen, and gave them to know that they must deal at that store if they expected to continue in work. The store was, of course, supplied from the North-mill. Some of the men at that work, and also the woodmen in Farnhurst, said, "But we be dealing with Mr. Ayling, at his mill, and we owe him for a sack of flour. He let us have flour when we was out of a job; we pays one sack and owes another; what must we do with him?"

This Ayling was also a tenant of Lord Egmont, paying rent to his lordship for his mill and for his farm; but the reply was, "You must have your flour at Lord Egmont's store, and pay Mr. Ayling as you can."

Also the bakers of Midhurst were canvassed for custom. One said that he would willingly become a customer to the earl at the North-mill, but he had been many years dealing at another mill, which was held by one of his lordship's tenants, and he did not like to take away his custom from it; but Mr. Brown gave him to know that, if he did not deal at the North-mill, his lordship would set up a baker's shop in Midhurst, and draw away his (the baker's) customers.

This baker was stubborn. So the threat is fulfilled; and his lordship has sent a new baker to the town, who deals at the North-mill; and, to make this baker's custom all the greater, the influence of his lordship and of Mr. Brown has procured for him the contract to serve the union workhouse with flour.

THE FARMERS IN NEED OF PROTECTION.

The tenant-farmers on that great property I found to be in a state of discontent equal to that of the millers and the bakers. Last winter some of them were obliged to kindle fires around their turnip-fields to frighten off the hares and rabbits, but they have been told that they must not do so this year. They make the game of less value by so doing; and the game is *rented* from Lord Egmont by gentlemen who shoot it.

Last year 10 per cent. was deducted from all their rents. This year they got notice that the 10 per cent. was again put on. They grumbled, and asked what for? Some of them would not go to the audit dinner; one, a Mr. S., who used to lead the "*hip, hip*, hurraahs" at the dinner, stayed gloomily away this year. He, like some others, paid away some of his labourers as soon as he had to pay this 10 per cent. Upon which Mr. Brown mounted his horse and rode round among the farmers, telling them that they must not pay away their labourers. He said the 10 per cent. had been taken off last year that they might employ more labour, and they had not done so, which was the reason for putting it on again. To this they replied, that even with the 10 per cent. off, and all the game to feed, which was again let at a rent on some parts of the estate, they could not employ sufficient labour. They were then told that if they were not satisfied they might leave their farms. And some of them are leaving; but the greater part would not know where to go if they did leave.

It is expected that such tenants, holding on such a tenure—the tenure by which the scullion in the kitchen holds her place—should be improvers of their land! This is a practical joke on the poor yeomen. But there is a better joke still. Mr. Brown calls them together every week in Midhurst to support a society for *protection* to agriculture. And they have been all called upon to subscribe to it, and have subscribed. Such tenants do want *protection*: there is no question of that.

Scarcely inferior is the joke of some of the Midhurst shopkeepers who subscribed to the Anti-Corn-Law League having subscribed to Mr. Brown's Protection Society, which is a branch of the Duke of Richmond's great rent league. Some who gave half a crown to the Anti-Corn-Law League, gave five shillings to the other side when they found themselves in the dilemma of seeing two Leagues. They, seeing what Lord Egmont had done with refractory millers and bakers, did not know but he would fill the town with rival tailors, shoemakers, and grocers. So they gave five shillings to the rent league, as if to say, "Pray don't!"

A hundred other remarkable particulars of this place and neighbourhood remain to be told, but they must be deferred until another letter.

ONE WHO HAS WHISTLED AT THE PLOUGH.

WANT OF EMPLOYMENT AMONG AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.—The October agricultural report for the neighbourhood of Reading, appearing in the *Farmers' Journal*, thus alludes to the non-employment of our agricultural population:—"The hiring trade for farm-servants which takes place at this time of the year, has been extremely dull, which we fear is a sign of bad times; instead of their coming as formerly to our markets at New Michaelmas and old Michaelmas only when places were to be obtained, they are now obliged to come continually every week, and after all many return unprovided with situations.—*Oxford Chronicle.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the EDITOR *of the* LEAGUE.

Edinburgh, Nov. 10, 1844.

SIR,—I beg to offer a remark upon the letter signed "A Leaguer" in your last paper, recommending the exchange of county votes by granting life rent-charges of £10. This plan appears to me to favour the creation of fictitious votes, and to be unworthy of the adoption of the Free-Traders. It has been largely resorted to by the landed proprietors of Scotland for swamping the counties, but is attended with so much inconvenience by complicating the titles to their estates that I think the scheme has been virtually abandoned by all parties. If report speaks truly, one of the members of the present Cabinet could speak feelingly on this subject. Instead of resorting to any such legal manœuvres, I beg to advise the Free-Traders of England to carry out the recommendation of Mr. Cobden, by possessing themselves of the *bonâ fide* 40s. freehold. If we had the same low qualification in Scotland, a dozen counties might easily be rescued from the monopolists in a couple of years; and, with your superior wealth in England, I cannot doubt that you will carry out the object with complete success.

A WRITER TO THE SIGNET.

[We heartily join in the opinion and recommendation of our correspondent.—ED. LEAGUE.]

To the EDITOR *of the* LEAGUE.

Manchester, Nov. 20, 1844.

SIR,—I fear the remark in your notices to correspondents in last LEAGUE, in which you say, "if a cottage be subject to a ground rent it cannot be a freehold," may mislead our friends in Lancashire or elsewhere, unless explained in your next. Half the freehold property in Manchester is subject to a "chief" rent, which is a perpetual ground-rent or *rent-charge*. In some places these perpetual rent-charges are called ground-rents, and in others rent-charges; but, whatever they may be called, they do not affect the character of the freehold, or the right to vote for the county, *provided the land be bought for ever*, and provided there be a clear surplus of 40s. rent accruing to the owner, over and above the ground, or "chief" rent. I apprehend your remark was made more particularly in reference to the building land in London, which, when subject to a ground-rent, is almost invariably sold for a term of years. The principal guide for your readers in all cases is to bear in mind that freehold land means ownership for ever, and not for a term, whether 99 or 10,000 years.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A LANCASHIRE LEAGUER.

[Our correspondent is correct in his definition. The misapprehension has arisen from the different interpretations of the term "rent-charge." The safest, because the simplest, rule to follow is that which he has laid down.—ED. LEAGUE.]

Bridport, Nov. 18, 1844.

DEAR SIR,—I send you herewith the *Wilts and Dorset Herald*, containing an account of Mr. Cochrane's annual meeting with his constituents, and in which you will find a most audacious attack on Mr. Cobden by him. The meeting was altogether well worthy of the man, the object of his visit (judging from its effect) being to demoralize the constituency, who were regaled in the Town-hall with bread and cheese and beer. From all accounts the scene of drunkenness and debauchery baffles description.

Believe me to remain, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

A LEAGUER.

[We are much obliged to our correspondent for his attention; but we have no time to waste either upon the puerilities or the other *very congenial* pursuits of *baby* Cochrane. Let the electors of Bridport look to it.—ED. LEAGUE.]

ADVANCE OF WAGES.—STRIKES.

"Cheap bread = low wages."—*Quarterly Review.*

OLDHAM.—On Saturday, Mr. Birch, of Lower Lees Hall mill, raised the wages of his spinners five per cent., and took off the charge for gas. He also gave an advance of from five to ten per cent. to his card-room hands and reelers. Most of the millowners in the neighbourhood of Waterhead have taken off the charge for gas, which will be equivalent to an advance of 2d. per thousand hanks, or about 2s. weekly. The spinners employed by Mrs. Mary Broadbent and Son, Hopwood-mill, Side of Moor, have given notice of an intention to turn out, for the purpose of obtaining an advance of 3d. per thousand hanks. Their employers are understood to have offered an advance of half that amount, to which the men will not accede. The operatives at the cotton mill of Messrs. Wild, Moss, and Hey, Shaw, Crompton, have returned to their employment, on the understanding that their wages should be advanced about 1s. per week; but the dispute does not appear to be yet fully settled. On Saturday, the turn-outs at Mr. Wrigley's factory, Littlewood-mill, Heyside, returned to work at an advance of about 1s. per week. On Saturday, the hands of Messrs. Milne, Travis, and Milne, of Shaw, Crompton, struck work for the purpose of obtaining an advance of wages; and they are still out.—*Manchester Guardian.*

WARRINGTON.—Messrs Hadfield and Frost, cotton manufacturers, have advanced the wages of their work-people ten per cent.

HINDLEY.—The throstle spinners employed at Mr. Gidlow's mill, Ince, turned out on Saturday last for an advance of 1s. per week. Mr. Gidlow proposed to advance them 6d. per head, but this they declined to accept, and, in consequence, the mill was stopped, and the hands remained out until Monday, when some of them returned to their work, and the mill partially resumed work in the afternoon.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—There appears to be a general move among the factory operatives of this district, for the purpose of obtaining an advance of wages. For several weeks past, various meetings have been held by almost every branch of factory operatives, at which preparations have been making to adopt some steps to obtain an advance.

STOCKPORT.—The turn-outs having notified to the masters that they were disposed to return to their employment, the strike may be considered as at an end.

WIGAN.—On Friday, the 8th inst., the reelers employed at Mr. Acton's mills struck work for an advance of wages, and, in consequence, the mills were stopped

altogether. The reelers at some of the other mills also tendered their notice to their employers on the same day. Mr. Acton having consented to advance the wages of his reelers one penny per score, the mills resumed work on Monday afternoon. The hand-loom weavers struck against the length of the pieces of another master in this town; and, according to report, they were making preparations for a succession of strikes against the most obstinate of their employers.

The Tailors of Exeter.—The respectable well-conducted body of working tailors of this city struck in the early part of the week; but we are happy to say that, from the equitable spirit in which they proceeded, and the moderation of the masters, the disputes are all but adjusted, and some of the leading houses have given in their adherence to the list of prices submitted by the men. We hope that further concessions on both sides will be made, and harmony restored.—*Western Times.*

Shipwrights of South Shields.—A part of the shipwrights of South Shields, we regret to hear, have this week struck work, claiming an advance of 6d. per day on their present wages.—*Tyne Mercury.*

New Lanark.—The workers in the extensive spinning mills at this place struck work on Thursday for an advance of wages; and in the afternoon of the same day, Mr. Walker, the managing proprietor, agreed to give them a rise of 1d. on the shilling, or 8½ per cent. There had been no previous advance of wages at this establishment since the late improvement in trade.—*Scottish Herald.*

Montrose.—We are happy to learn that an advance in the wages of all hands employed by the three extensive flax-spinning establishments here has taken place this week. The rise is from 10 to 15 per cent., making an aggregate increase to the income of that section of our population of about £50 per week. We sincerely hope that the advance will be general throughout the country, and that the state of trade will justify its continuance. Notwithstanding this appearance of prosperity, we could wish to see the manufacturing interest in a more favourable relation, for the seller finds it impossible to realize an advance on linen equivalent to the rise on yarns.—*Montrose Review.*

SCOTCH COUNTY REGISTRATIONS.

(From the *Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle.*)

The skill and success with which the League at its head-quarters has recently brought its efforts to bear on the county registrations, while eliciting the admiration of the Free-Traders throughout the country, should also stimulate their efforts. There are many districts in England in which the Free-Traders might, by means especially of the forty-shilling qualification, do much for the good cause—quicker, cheaper, and easier than it could be done, by efforts emanating more directly from the executive of the League. The instrument which has been found in the forty-shilling qualification, is of too useful and formidable a character not to be employed to the utmost of its capabilities. There are other means also by which much may be effected towards making the constituencies somewhat less the instruments of the monopolists, and somewhat more the organs and representatives of the people.

In Scotland, unfortunately, the Free-Traders, though able to do much more, in some districts, than they have yet done, do not possess the same facilities for purifying and increasing the county constituencies as exist in England. The difference in price between a property of £10 and one of £2 annual value is of itself a great obstacle; but there are several other difficulties co-operating with it; for instance, the greater proportional quantity of entailed property in Scotland, and the greater strictness of the entails, rendering it much more difficult than in England to obtain property qualifying for a vote. Besides this, the different qualification affords to the monopolist landowners the means, in all cases, of materially counteracting, and in some cases of completely overwhelming by fictitious voters, almost any number of *bonâ fide* £10 owners whom it would be practicable to place on the roll. In some counties, however, especially in the West of Scotland, these difficulties are less formidable, and the means of overcoming them considerable. In some of these—as Dumbartonshire—the monopolist landowners have been vigorously, though not always successfully, met; but others, having been given over to the monopolists through apathy and mismanagement, are in a position to be retrieved by the exertions which the times and the cause now claim from the Free-Traders.

Ayrshire, for instance, is not a county which should ever have fallen into the hands of the monopolists, or which should be permitted to remain in them. At the first election under the Reform Bill, an anti-monopolist—the most liberal county member ever sent from Scotland—was returned with ease, and by an overwhelming majority; and even in 1835, when the monopolists had "worked" the register, and when their opponents possessed a less popular and influential candidate than on the first occasion, the monopolist lost the election by a majority of nearly two to one. This county is now in the possession of the monopolists, *not* because monopoly is more popular in Ayrshire in 1844 than it was in 1835, but because the monopolists have been swelling their numbers on the register, while their opponents have been standing idle. That this, and not "reaction," has been the cause of Ayrshire falling into the hands of the enemy, is demonstrated by the fact that, in 1837, the last occasion on which an anti-monopolist was returned by a very narrow majority, he polled upwards of a hundred votes *more* than he polled in 1835, when he had a majority of two to one. Had the anti-monopolists of the west of Scotland acted with ordinary energy and union, these things could not have been. Would they now but imitate, to the best of the means at their disposal, the example set by the men of Lancashire, the lost ground would be more than reconquered. Possessing a less proportional amount of entailed property than any other county of Scotland, a large admixture of manufactures, and an active and acute population, Ayrshire presents a most favourable field for a rally of the friends of Free Trade, and an effective assault, with honest weapons, on the system of trickery and fabrication, by means of which the monopolist lairds have, in so many instances, swamped the real constituencies of the Scottish counties.

There are other Scotch counties in which the Free-Traders might do much towards bringing the register into a healthier state, by efforts even much less energetic than those we have lately witnessed in England. In such counties as Dumbarton, Lanark, Renfrew, Stirling, Forfar, and Fife, although the immediate result could not be so brilliant as in the case of Lancashire, much might be effected, and a good beginning made.

As the period is now approaching at which all persons desiring to be enrolled as county voters at next registration must acquire the subjects on which they intend to claim, the following memoranda as to the persons qualified as county voters in Scotland may be useful:—

1. Any persons are qualified to be registered as county electors who, not being subject to any legal incapacity (as peers, minors, women, aliens, lunatics, &c.), are *proprietors* or *life-renters* of lands, houses, feu-duties, or other heritable subjects (but *not* heritable bonds and debts) within the shire, of the yearly value of £10, after deducting feu-duty and ground annual, provided the claimants be in possession either of subjects or of rents. Fiars are not entitled to enrolment during the life of the life-renter.

2. But persons acquiring such property by purchase, or by other means than those mentioned in the next article, must have been in possession for six months previous to the 31st of July of the year in which they claim.

3. Where the party acquires by inheritance, by marriage, by testamentary or marriage settlement, or by appointment to place or office, six months' possession is not necessary.

4. A *joint-proprietor*, whose share or interest is of the yearly value of £10, after all deductions.

5. *Husbands* who, in right of their wives, enjoy subjects worth £10 of yearly rent, after all deductions.

6. *Tenants* who shall have been in possession for *twelve months* prior to the 31st of July, under a lease of not less than nineteen years, of subjects for which the tenant pays £50 of yearly rent, or which are worth £50 yearly, after paying the rent.

7. *Tenants* who shall have been in possession for *twelve months* prior to the 31st of July, under a lease of not less than fifty-seven years, or for lifetime of tenant, of subjects worth at least £10 yearly more than the rent paid.

8. *Tenants* in possession for twelve months prior to the 31st of July, of any subjects, for the lease of which, whatever may be the rent, they have paid a price, grassum, or consideration of not less than £300.

9. In cases where the rent is payable in grain, to be estimated by the fiars of the last three years; where payable in other kinds of produce, to be estimated according to the market prices of the neighbourhood.

10. Tenants who have succeeded to their lease by inheritance, or testamentary or marriage settlement, do not require to have been in possession previously for either twelve or six months.

DUTY OF A CLERGYMAN.—FOOD AND WAGES.

"If the price of bread go down, the price of labour will go down too."—*Rev. H. M'Neile.*

The thinking part of the public will remember that the Rev. Hugh M'Neile, not being sufficiently occupied by his other duties, has occasionally lectured on political economy; and that he took an active interest in propagating that doctrine, which none but those with large vacancies in their heads could possibly take in, but which the bread-taxers of the aristocracy and the monopolists of warehouses and schools have been anxious that all their apologists should foist upon the ignorant, for it was a capital delusion, namely, that, "cheap food meant low wages;" that the demand of employers for the one only intimated their desire to pay the other. In vain did the Free-Traders argue that they cared not for price in the abstract: freedom of trade was the object sought, and as to prices of food and labour, they would soon find their proper level; in vain was it shown that the people of this country were eating dear bread, while foreigners were eating cheap bread, and both parties were trading to many of the same countries; and that this inequality ought to be put an end to. The argument was disregarded; the delusion referred to was propounded and swallowed, and Tory dupes and Tory Chartists united in declaring it a truth—that "cheap food meant low wages."

Mr. M'Neile showed either his deplorable want of knowledge on the subject, or his more lamentable love of delusion, when it serves a Tory purpose, by adopting and cherishing this absurdity. He contended that dear bread was a blessing to the poor man; that when provisions were double the usual price, wages were of course double; and that, after paying for food, the working classes had always then a larger surplus left for clothing and various comforts, than they could possibly have as the result of cheap food and the necessarily low wages which would be its concomitant.

For some time past it has happened that prices of food have very decidedly declined; and what is the case with respect to wages? Why, we never now open a provincial paper, from Manchester, Leeds, Bolton, or the mining districts, but we find instances not only of a demand for advanced wages, but of advances being actually made. North, east, west, and south, we look around, and find that while food has been falling, wages have been rising—the latter being, indeed, a very natural and very satisfactory consequence of the former.

We were gratified to hear Mr. Alderman Sands, during the last week of his mayoralty, speak as follows to several hundreds of the industrious classes, amongst whom a decided improvement in appearance had recently taken place. He said, "I ascribe your better condition as to dress to the good harvest which Providence has bestowed upon us; for, in consequence of food being cheaper, you have more money to spend in clothing and other things, and this increases the demand for labour so much as to cause wages, in many businesses, to advance, and this again adds to the comfort of the people at large."

Of course, this is the inevitable result of a fruitful harvest, such as Free Trade would secure to us *every* year, having all the world to derive it from; and, though we know a deficient harvest must be a loss to the farmer, yet, as it is seldom that *all* his products fail in any one year, he would be better paid for whatever crops he had, by a busy, flourishing community, than by one reduced to poverty by dear bread and short employment.

Now, on the question of food and wages, Mr. M'Neile has propagated an error. He professes to be a disciple of truth; what, then, is his duty? In reply to this question we do not hesitate to record three opinions:—1st. That it is clearly his duty to undeceive the ignorant crowd of whose state of intellect he has taken advantage; 2ndly, That he will feel it to be his duty, as a man and a Christian, so to do; and 3rdly, That he will not do it.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

REVIEW.

The History of British Commerce.—The Camp of Refuge. (Knight's Weekly Volume, XX. and XXII.)

Barrow's Life of Sir Francis Drake. (Murray's Foreign and Colonial Library, No. XIV.)

The history of British commerce and maritime enterprise is almost identical with the history of social progress in England; and the circumstances which moulded and formed the political condition of the people of England at home have been the same as those which gave it a foreign commerce and a colonial library. Until the publication of the "Pictorial History of England" we had no history of the British people, and no collected materials for estimating the successive steps of national progress. Historians seemed to think it their duty to record nothing but what was striking and exceptional—wars, usurpations, changes of dynasty, and insurrections—from which it was just as impossible to form any accurate notion of the real state of affairs as for a geologist to discover the nature of the stratification of a country from a collection of its rarest and most curious fossils. In fact, our first glimpses of the truths in English history were derived from fiction: Scott's "Ivanhoe" for the first time revealed to the great mass of historical students that, long after the Conquest, England continued to be divided between an upper and a lower nation—a tyrannical ascendency and a struggling serfdom. It is to the successful struggle of that serfdom that England owes all the social happiness and prosperity which it has ever gained; it is to the predominance of any of the principles on which the Norman ascendency was based that the country owes every disgrace abroad and every misery at home.

The Norman Conquest is too often regarded as a mere change of dynasty; it was the subjugation of an industrious race to a band of mercenary barbarians, who had no principle but plunder, and no policy but the supply of means for licentious pleasure. We have heard persons declare with pride that the names of their ancestors were to be found in the roll of Battle Abbey; it would be a far more legitimate subject of boast that they occupied a conspicuous place in the "Newgate Calendar." A fierce resistance, protracted for more than five years, was made to the barbarous invaders; but the robbers finally triumphed, and soon began to quarrel for their shares of the spoil.

But though the independence and freedom of the Saxons was cloven down—though their chiefs capitulated and their prelates bowed to the yoke—the stubborn spirit of the English nation was unbroken. Mountains and forests gave shelter to daring bands that scorned all servitude; and even those who submitted to become tenant-vassals gave the full support of their sympathies to the gallant outlaws. The Normans were sufficiently wise to discover that civilization is the worst foe to tyranny; they applied themselves to devising a scheme by which both the land and the people should be kept in barbarism; and for this purpose they devised the horrible forest laws, which the course of time has frittered down into the modern game laws. It was a plan worthy of a band of ignorant robbers, to reserve a large portion of the land in savage wildness for the sport of savages; but for this a plausible pretext was devised: it was declared to be part of a system of "protection," a name which for nearly eight centuries has been identical with legalized robbery.

The plea for the forest laws was, that the lands of England having been portioned out on the condition that its new owners should take upon themselves the sole charge of the defence of the realm, it was necessary to preserve the chase—that "mimicry of noble war"—to have them trained in military habits. The conditions on which the estates had been granted were soon violated by the Norman nobles; but, notwithstanding this, they kept their lands and their game laws into the bargain.

Thucydides has remarked that all ancient oligarchies fell so soon as their infantry became of more military value than their cavalry. The forest laws had very considerable influence in training the English infantry: the bow was the great weapon of the poacher, and the poacher was the true patriot in the days of the Plantagenets. Large as were the grants which the Conqueror made to his mercenary followers, they failed to satisfy the avarice of the titled plunderers. Private wars broke out between the barons; and whichever party prevailed placed a new sovereign on the throne, to have a pretence for making new forfeitures. The contests between Stephen and Henry II. were wars for land between the barons who had arrayed themselves on each side. Neither faction had yet discovered the value of the support to be derived from the English people; but both perpetrated on the Saxons every outrage that cruelty could dictate. Recourse was frequently had to torture by the titled brigands, to extort from the people the produce of their industry. "Some," says the "Saxon Chronicle," "they hanged up by the feet, and smoked with foul smoke; some by the thumbs or by the beard, and hung coats of mail on their feet. They put them into

dungeons with adders, and snakes, and toads. Many thousands they wore out with hunger." Such was the old nobility, for the restoration of which a noble poet has declared himself willing to sacrifice all the learning, arts, and commerce of the nineteenth century!

Henry II. ascended the throne of a distracted kingdom: to curb the turbulence of the nobles, he was obliged to seek the aid of the people; and in order to conciliate the Saxons, he made one of their race, Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Chancellor of the kingdom. History has never done justice to the character of Becket: he lived in an age and country when the Church alone possessed any elements of social order. The sovereign was proverbially the greatest liar in Christendom, ever ready to use the basest artifices to gratify the meanest and most depraved passions; his queen was one of the most notorious profligates in Europe before he married her, and a wife engaged in fomenting rebellions not wholly without excuse ever afterwards; the nobles and the younger scions of the aristocracy had formed themselves into troops of armed banditti, and not only plundered travellers on the high roads, but attacked and sacked several villages and even towns. Becket laboured to establish some principle of sanctity in the midst of such demoralization; and he aimed at giving preponderance to ecclesiastical influence, for no other power existed which could make the slightest pretension to moral principle. Becket's death was even more advantageous to the Saxons than his life: they saw one of their proscribed race honoured as a saint, and the most powerful of their oppressors compelled to do penance at his tomb.

The "Camp of Refuge" is designed to illustrate the early part of the Anglo-Saxon struggle, when the Isle of Ely and the Fens of Lincoln gave shelter to a few who would not consent to be treated as aliens in the land of their fathers, and is intended to show how this strugggle was likely to be viewed in the reign of Henry II. by the descendants of those who had witnessed the result of the ineffectual strife. We have as yet only a portion of the work; but we shall take the opportunity afforded by the publication of the second volume to continue the subject.

Agincourt; a Historical Romance. By G. P. R. James, Esq. London, Bentley.

Mr. James is the most prolific of modern novelists; he has produced three volumes after three volumes with a rapidity which Scott himself has not surpassed.

Reviews behold him spurn their bounded reign,
And panting Time toils after him in vain.

With many excellencies he has some glaring defects, and one of the worst of these is the substitution of sentimentalism for science, whenever a point of ethics or political economy comes under his cognizance. Fiction, as a supplement to history, ought to be a generalization of facts; now, in Agincourt there is no such thing as judicious generalization: it has much merit as a story, and contains several passages of great dramatic and graphic power; but it throws no light on the peculiar character of the age in which the story is laid, and with a mere change of names would be as applicable to any period of history previous to the invention of gunpowder as it is to the reign of Henry V. The great merit of Scott's historical romances was, that they always afforded us some glimpses of the condition of the people; James writes as if the people formed an element of society quite unworthy of his notice. He defends the Corn Laws as a means of preventing the middle class from pressing too hard on the position and privileges of the titled orders; and that such would be his policy might have been inferred from his novels, in which the titled orders are represented as alone worthy of any share of human sympathy. Acting on these principles, he can but produce such historical pictures as would be thrown from the slides of a magic lantern, fit only to amuse persons who have resigned themselves to voluntary darkness.

Railways in Prussia.—The *Cologne Gazette* states, that forty-eight lines of railroad have been proposed in Prussia, extending over a space of 641 German miles, since the 1st of the present month. The capital expended on the lines already opened amounts to 35,551,143 crowns. The roads in construction require a capital of 56,619,500 crowns. The roads projected will require a capital of 68,000,000 crowns.

The Game Laws.—These are among the most fertile of all the sources of rustic demoralization. They produce irregularities which lead to the corruption, through example, of numerous families; they familiarize the peasantry with breaches of the law, and with the interior of the gaol; and they break up accustomed habits of steady industry, to substitute for them reckless daring, a love of excitement, and a thirst after money, gotten without prescribed toil. And, then, the cost of maintaining these obnoxious laws. The worth of all the preserved game in the kingdom would not cover the sums paid yearly for the trials of poachers, their maintenance in gaol, the keep of their families under the poor law, and the proportionate burdens which they add to the expenditure of the country for local constabulary service.—*Preston Chronicle.*

AGRICULTURE.

LEASES AND TENANT-RIGHTS.

The examination and discussion of the question of Free Trade is now rapidly drawing to a close. The benefits free trade in grain—and free trade in grain implies free trade in everything—would bestow upon the community are generally admitted, and the only doubters to be found are amongst the agricultural classes. But in truth the condition of British agriculture furnishes the strongest arguments against monopoly, and in favour of Free Trade. Of this comparatively few were aware until the inquiries of the League brought out the fact, that the greater part of the land of England is under a very inferior state of cultivation. Many causes have conduced to this, most of which may be traced to the Corn Laws, but one of the most prominent is the absence of secure tenures by tenant-farmers. So sensible have the landed interests become of this, that most proprietors, who claim to be considered good landlords, are offering leases, while nearly every farmer of spirit declares that a lease is indispensable to successful farming. Still a lease containing all the barbarous or useless covenants and restrictions hitherto commonly inserted in such documents, is little better than a snare to the farmer, and a demand has arisen not merely for leases, but for rational leases.

Now, a rational lease implies the grant to the tenant of so much of uncontrolled dominion over his farm, that landlords have great difficulty in conceding them. The relation of landlord and tenant in this country has hitherto had so much of a quasi-feudal character that proprietors scarcely believe they are owners of the land if their tenants be not subjected to more or less of petty interference. At the same time we believe that the great majority of English landlords will do everything that is just and fair towards their tenants short of absolutely surrendering their social and political influence over them.

This has led to the suggestion, and in some partial degree to the practical adoption, of a middle course, by which, under a system of tenant-right, the tenant, who has spent money in permanently improving his farm, is supposed to receive back what he has so expended, in the event of his being summarily dispossessed. Upon this principle Lord Portman's bill of last session, for securing "compensation to tenants who shall make permanent improvements on the lands they occupy," was founded, by which it was proposed to establish and enforce by law some system of tenant-right to payment for outlays. Although we are well aware that in some parts of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire considerable improvements have been made by tenants upon the faith of such tenant-rights, together with a personal confidence in the honour and integrity of their landlords, we have no hesitation in saying that tenant-rights are not and cannot be any efficient substitute for leases. It is, to use a term which seems to have excited the reprobation of an anonymous correspondent, a mere *makeshift*. Let us not be misunderstood. We do not say that such a right to compensation as Lord Portman's bill proposed to confer, or the Yorkshire tenant-right professes to give, if either could be made available to all yearly tenants who have already expended money in improvements, would not place them in a condition of much greater security than they at present enjoy; but to assert that any tenant-right will generally form an effective protection to the enterprising farmer is a sheer delusion. To attribute such influence to tenant-right, because certain farmers, in some districts, have improved upon the faith of tenant-rights, is to convert the exception into the rule, and will only lead to error and mystification.

The tenant-rights of the north have led to much litigation; and though, in some instances, the landlord or succeeding tenant, who pays for such right "according to the custom of the country," may receive the full value for his payment, yet in many cases payment is made for much that is absolutely useless. That is an objection which a landlord or an incoming tenant might fairly make to them. Besides, mere payment for outlays judiciously made in improvements or high farming is no sufficient compensation for depriving a tenant of his farm, and the profits which, under a lease, he would have obtained from his expenditure. This concerns the actual tenant. It may be worth while for a landlord or a competing tenant to pay an enterprising farmer the full cost of well-executed improvements, and that according to the highest scale of compensation which any tenant-right in any district sanctions, yet the improver who has been sent adrift to seek a new farm, and begin his improvements over again, will find himself in a very different position from that of a tenant who has expended his capital under the security of a lease. The holder of a lease calculates his outlay and return according to the length of his term; he knows how long his occupation will endure, and has ample time and opportunity to seek a new farm should there be no prospect of renewing his lease. The system of payment to an outgoing tenant for acts of husbandry, according to the custom of the country, is not confined to Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, &c.: it exists throughout England, and is often made the source of much imposition on an incoming tenant. And it is certain that the system which has grown up to be the "custom of the country" will not be the best, and it is often a very bad, method of cultivation. There may be districts in which the usual system of farming is so high that a good farmer, entering upon a farm and paying the outgoing tenant, in respect of tenant-rights, may pay only for that which is valuable; but such districts are so comparatively limited that it would be absurd to treat them as furnishing any general rule in agricultural management.

We have said that under colour of paying for acts of husbandry the incoming tenant is often, perhaps generally, imposed upon. For instance, to mention cases which have very recently occurred within our personal observation, in Hertfordshire, where, according to the custom, a certain proportion of land is to be left for the incoming tenant's wheat the first year, we lately saw two year's old clover ley, one half, at least, of which consisted of weeds and couch-grass, left for that purpose. The custom was satisfied, but the incoming tenant's chance of a crop of wheat was but slender, and, in fact, he had no crop worthy of the name. Another custom in the same county is, that the incoming tenant pays for summer fallows; and we know a case in which seven ploughings and four harrowings were paid for, though, in fact, not one *good* ploughing had been done upon the land. And in every district, whatever may be the peculiar "custom of the country," it will be found on examination, that nothing like the certainty and security obtainable under leases is believed to exist from any tenant-right. We know of the case of a positive agreement by the landlord to pay his tenant, in the event of his being turned out, for all outlays in respect of which he had not received full remuneration, and on the tenant having received notice to quit, although some £4 per acre was the lowest estimate of the compensation to which the tenant was actually entitled, the probability of successfully enforcing the agreement was deemed by the tenant's legal advisers so remote, that he was recommended to put up with a loss of £1200. Yet this gentleman had been farming under the full belief that his agreement was equivalent to a lease.

In fact, every one, who has observed the state of agriculture in *various* districts, will agree that the practice of granting long and reasonable leases can alone be relied on to raise the standard of cultivation amongst the mass of ordinary, average farmers. Such a practice, however, will never become general until the Corn Law is abolished, for, besides the fluctuations and uncertainties produced by this law, both farmers and landlords have been constantly looking for some artificial enhancement of price.

WHY DO WE ASSAIL THE GAME LAWS?

A correspondent, who signs himself "A Yorkshireman," says, "every Sunday the League arrives I find it abusing game and the game laws. Now, will you oblige some of your friends here by telling us what it is you do wish to be done with game and the game laws." Now, the answer to that query is very short and conclusive. The scheme of the Corn Laws is to prevent the British community from consuming any grain (except when actual famine is imminent) but that grown on British soil. That law, so manifestly unjust, is defended by its authors, the landlords, upon the plea that the British grower is unable to compete with the foreign grower in the production of grain, and therefore requires to be "protected" by duties ordinarily prohibitory of importation. To this the Free-Traders rejoin, first, that if grain can be grown cheaper abroad, it is a grievous wrong to compel the industrious people of this country to eat only the dearer home-grown corn for the benefit of a class; and, secondly, that if the actual state of English husbandry be examined, it will be seen that the home soils are badly cultivated, and mainly in consequence of burdens and obstacles created by the very lawmakers who have imposed the Corn Laws. The landowners prevent the people from importing foreign corn; and, having imposed that restriction, they prevent, for exclusively class or personal objects, so much grain being grown here as might be grown under a natural state of things. Now, the game laws, and the practice of game-preserving, cause an enormous destruction of grain and other farm produce, of which the Corn-Law-burdened people of these realms have a right to demand an account. This brings the game laws strictly within our cognizance; and it is only necessary to notice the occurrences in connexion with game, which are revealed in the public journals from day to day, to be aware of the injury the game laws inflict upon the community.

If the Corn Laws were repealed, we, as Free-Traders, should have no right to inquire whether a proprietor stocked his land with hares and rabbits, or sheep and cattle; that would be a simple question between him and his tenants and his neighbours; but so long as the British people are for the exclusive advantage of the landowners, made solely dependent upon British produce for their daily food, we have a right to inquire "why are not larger crops produced?" "Why is the people's food devoured by game?" There is no analogy between the interest in game and the property in domestic birds or animals, because,

in the one case, the interest a man has, of necessity ceases as soon as the wild animals have quitted his land; while, in the other, the property of the owner still exists. He can identify his domestic animals, and is liable for any damages they may commit by trespassing. Let landowners keep their game at home, and they will then want no game laws, for they can, of course, prevent persons from trespassing on their land. Bearing in mind the above remarks, let us take a few paragraphs from the newspapers illustrative of our argument:—

"BATTUE SHOOTING.—On Thursday last, Lord Stanley, Lord Lilford, Mr. Talbot Clifton, Mr. Wilson Patten, and two other gentlemen, shot upwards *of* 300 *head of game on Lord Lilford's estate*, near Warrington."—*Provincial paper.*

We shall show presently at what *expense to the corn-law-burdened* people these creatures have been nurtured.

Again:—

"One day last week, C. Scarisbrick, Esq., of Scarisbrick-hall, and another gentleman, killed *upwards of* 900 *hares*, all of which were presented to the tenants."—*Mark-lane Express.*

Next we have the following account of

"EXTRAORDINARY SPORT AT HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF RUTLAND'S.—On Tuesday last, in a small cover called the 'Links,' near Newmarket, his Grace the Duke of Rutland, Colonel Anson, Mr. Stanley, and Mr. Fairlie, *with only four hours' shooting, bagged the extraordinary number of* 714 *head of game—viz., hares*, 336; *pheasants*, 265; *partridges*, 33; *rabbits*, 80; and the following day *upwards of* 50 *hares, pheasants, &c. (wounded the previous day), were picked up.* Out of the four hours' shooting, two of the party were absent an hour and a half, attending a meeting at Newmarket—viz., his Grace and Mr. Fairlie. In the evening a considerable portion of the game was distributed to the tenantry, tradespeople, &c."—*Local newspaper.*

If our correspondent be, as he professes to be, a constant reader of the LEAGUE, he may recollect that, at a recent agricultural meeting where the Duke of Rutland presided, Mr. Beaseley, a farmer, stated, that he had lately seen upon a preserved property, 83 hares in one field, and he estimated that these 83 hares would consume as much food as 23 sheep; in fact, that four hares are equivalent, as consumers of farm produce, to one sheep. We know that estimate is too low; but take it upon that footing, and let us examine the probable amount of loss in human food caused by the two preserves of Mr. Scarisbrick and the Duke of Rutland only. Now, in one day the former killed 900 and the latter 336 hares (without reckoning other game), making a total of 1236. Now, it may fairly be assumed that in this day's slaughter—we can't call it sport—not more than one-fourth of all the hares in the respective preserves were killed; and that the actual number of the creatures fed during the present year upon the crops of these gentlemen's tenants must have amounted to 5034—equal to 1236 sheep!!! This upon two estates only! Does it not form a sufficient reason with those who desire to abrogate the Corn Laws and relieve the country from attempts, by means of those laws, to cause an artificial scarcity, for objecting to game-preserving?

WORKING THE AVERAGES.

We all recollect the outcry raised by the monopolists when, corn having risen to famine price, some dealers in foreign grain were suspected of having "worked up the averages" by means of fictitious sales. The object of such operations, if in fact they occurred at all, was to hasten the period when foreign corn could be imported at a low duty. Doubtless the purpose of the operators was profit to themselves, but the effect was in some small degree to relieve the national distress, to mitigate in a very minute proportion the landlord-created scarcity. How eager were then the demands for the prosecution of those who were supposed to have deprived the farmers of a fraction of their starvation price! How rigidly were the corn returns scrutinized lest a sale too many, or a price too high, hould have been inserted! Yet let us see what is the conduct of these self-same monopolists at this moment. Barley, and other spring corn, as all our readers know, were short crops last year, consequently the prices are now exorbitantly high, and the machinery of the averages is used as the means of excluding relief by importation much beyond the time at which, by the letter of the landlords' law, such relief should be attainable. This has been well exposed by Messrs. Sturge, of Birmingham, in their corn circular of the 6th of November. They say:—

"We alluded, in our circular of the 3rd of last month, *to the glaring omissions in the returns of spring grain in those parts of the kingdom where it is principally consumed; and where, of course, the returns would be comparatively high.* While we deprecate the present Corn Law as injurious to all classes of the community, and amongst other evils include the temptation it holds out to making returns for the purpose of lowering the duties, it is surely equally culpable on the part of the officer appointed for that purpose, practically to defeat the operation of the law, by neglect of making the returns in districts where, if it were properly attended to, the averages would be greatly advanced; as a proof of this, we need only refer to the returns from which the last week's averages are made up. The counties of Suffolk and Norfolk, where less barley is consumed than grown, returned 18,776 quarters; the counties of Lancashire, Warwickshire, and Staffordshire, where an equal quantity is probably sold for consumption, return only 1946 quarters; the former at about 34s. 4d., the latter at about 38s. 1d.; Essex and Kent return 640 quarters of beans, at about 31s. 9d., and 277 quarters of peas, at 30s. 2d.; while Stafford, Warwick, and Worcester, where a much larger quantity are sold than in Essex and Kent, return 196 quarters of the former, at 43s. 8d., and five quarters of the latter, at 40s. The same remark applies to rye and wheat, though not to a similar extent to the latter, while scarcely any oats, except Irish, are entered in the returns. Indeed it would appear, that in almost all the consuming markets, except London, the returns are shamefully neglected; and that, were they equally well attended to in the manufacturing as in the agricultural districts, at the present time the duty on beans, barley, peas, and rye *would all be nearly at the minimum of* 1s. *per quarter, instead of the present rates of* 6s. 6d. *for beans*, 4s. *for barley*, 5s. 6d. *for rye*, 9s. 6d. *for peas.* The quantities returned ought to be greater instead of less in consuming districts than in the producing, as not only is much of the growth of the neighbourhood sold at the former, but a great portion o what has been previously bought in the latter."

Here we have distinct evidence that the protectionists who would keep up duties understand how to work the averages far more effectually than the dealers who seek to lower duties; and yet, at this very moment, these monopolists are sending forth their agents and their creatures to agitate for the repeal of the malt-tax upon the pretence that the great object of their move is to give the labourer cheap beer! Must not the system which encourages and invites such frauds and hypocrisies be one which every well-judging legislator should hasten to abolish?

DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY GAME.

To the Editor of the Times.

SIR,—Having read several letters in your valuable paper concerning the damage done by game, I am induced to offer a few remarks on this important subject, if you will kindly give them space in your valuable paper. I am a renter of a considerable tract of land in the midst of large game preserves, and, take one year with another, I do not lose less than from £150 to £200 a year, reckoning loss of corn, grasses, vetches, turnips, labour, rent of land, bone dust, and other manures. There is an impression on the public mind that the rent of land is lessened according to the stock of game preserved on it. But if any disinterested person would take the trouble to go into a district where game is strictly preserved, to ascertain the real fact, they would find this impression to be a most erroneous one, and that the land there would be rented after the same rate that the uninfested land is. The land I occupy I rent rather above than below the average price of Wiltshire farms; and never since I have occupied it has there been a penny allowed for the damage done by the game. Certainly, when I have asked for some remuneration, I have had a fair share of promises that it shall be kept under; however, the game increases.

The game in this country is now kept in such myriads, that it is become a most serious and iniquitous affair, and one that calls imperatively for a great and immediate change. The whole theme in the markets is of the injury done by the hares and rabbits. Every person is a sufferer, some to a vast extent, even more than myself. I have known the labourers here plant their gardens twice in one season with cabbages, and then have none to eat; and even their potatoes rooted up and devoured by the rabbits and pheasants. Is it right that the many should suffer for the few? If the value could be ascertained of the destruction the game does, what would be the amount? And whose pockets does it come from? Not the game-preservers, but from those who toil to feed it.

It is not a question of politics, but of pounds, shillings, and pence, and ought to be taken up by everybody.

Hoping I have not uselessly occupied space in your valuable paper, I remain, Sir,

Nov. 19. A TENANT FARMER.

LITERARY INSTITUTIONS.—A meeting was held last week in Barnstaple, for the purpose of establishing a literary institution on a basis sufficiently comprehensive to admit of all classes availing themselves of its advantages. Resolutions to that effect were agreed to. Mr. Rock, of Walbrook, London, a native of Barnstaple, has stated his intention to give the munificent sum of £100 as his annual subscription towards the support of the institution.

HOW TO MAKE CLEANLINESS AVAILABLE FOR GOOD.—Tact and intelligence, in addition to an untiring spirit of philanthropy, must be employed to make the means of cleanliness about to be offered to the poor available for good, to an extent in any degree commensurate with the expectations of those who have taken so warm an interest in furnishing them. It is not enough that the means be there. We must also have, in those for whose use they are intended, a disposition to use them. One of the most constant results of a life of poverty in a large city is an indifference to personal cleanliness. Such an indifference is, we believe, at this moment, almost universal among the poor and labouring classes of London. It would, indeed, be surprising if it were otherwise. In the first place, cleanliness is scarcely compatible with the miserable domestic arrangements, and the privation of light, air, and water, to which the poor of a city are always, more or less, closely habituated. Their occupations, also, which, with the industrious, fill up nearly the whole of their waking hours, generally oppose a barrier to the cultivation of a taste for cleanliness. If it could be supposed that there is in man, as there seems to be in some of the lower animals, a natural tendency to be clean, we might, perhaps, depend upon its displaying itself whenever the obstacles to its indulgence might be removed. But experience and observation show that this is not so. Where *food and warmth* are scarce, there is, on the contrary, a strong tendency to shun cleanliness as a positive infliction. There is an old Scottish proverb—"the clartier the cosier"—which recent researches in animal physiology have stamped with the authority of a scientific truth. It is found that men who are insufficiently *fed and clothed* are literally not fitted to bear cleanliness. It augments the rapidity of the process by which the vitality of the body is in a constant course of reduction, and renders an increased supply of food and warmth essential to its preservation in a state of tolerable comfort. These, we apprehend, are causes which will greatly reduce the numbers of those who are expected to take advantage of the establishment of the proposed baths and washhouses for the improvement of their personal habits.—*Globe.*

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"B. A."—First: Four or more persons can vote for a freehold house, &c., if the profit, when divided, will give 40s per annum clear to each. Second: The voter must be 21 years of age. Third: The law expenses of conveyance will vary according to the extent of investigation of title, &c.; in some cases it may not exceed £10. Fourth: The expense of mortgage would be about the same as that of conveyance.

"W. W."—"Will the following property give a vote for the county of Middlesex?—Two houses, coach-house and stabling, with field about four acres. The rent is £60 per annum, on lease for twenty years, wanting ten days."

[It being a sub-lease, without a beneficial interest above the rents and charges, it will not confer the franchise for a county.]

"W. J., High-street, Wapping."—"Will a leasehold, at a rental of £130, give a county vote? I am also a trustee for a rental of £60 per annum on a chapel."

[The leasehold, being in the borough of the Tower Hamlets, will not confer a vote for the county of Middlesex; and trustees, by the new Registration Act, are restricted from voting.]

"J. P."—"I am a freeholder on the register for North Stafford; value £15 per annum. I have three sons, who are of age: can I put any, or all, of them on the register?"

[The value required to qualify four persons would be £8 value, and by your granting a rent charge of 40s. to each of your sons, you may qualify them. This must be done by deed before the 31st day of January next.]

"T. W."—"I am owner of two leasehold houses in Clerkenwell, of 77 years unexpired; rental from *each*, after paying ground-rent and charges, exceeds £30 per annum,—am I entitled to a vote for the county of Middlesex?"

[A leasehold in a borough will not confer a county vote, as the houses will qualify the occupiers for the borough.

"J. D."—Will a small *copyhold estate* situate in North Lancashire, comprising five acres of land, four cottages, and other outbuildings, burdened with a small mortgage, but yielding a *clear* annual value of £10, confer a county vote? If so, how is he to get his name inserted on the list of voters?"

[A copyhold of the value of £10., over and above the interest of the mortgage, will confer a county vote provided the property is not situated in a borough or city. A claim in the form of the statute must be sent in to the overseer of the poor of the parish wherein the property is situated, in the month of July, any day *before* the twenty-first.]

"W. S."—"Will two freehold houses, situated at Edmonton, left to two daughters and their children, one daughter dead; the property now belonging to my wife, entitle me to vote in right of this property?"

[The right to vote will depend whether the property is secured to the wife's sole and separate use or not.]

"A. Z."—Will a lease of eighty years to run, bringing in a rental of £14. per annum, not occupied by the leaseholder, give a county vote?

[To confer the franchise the lease should be an original lease of the value of £10, above all rents and charges.]

"A. Z."—"Will a share in the Grand Junction Canal give a vote for the county of Middlesex?"

[Shares held under corporate bodies will not give a county vote.]

Aberdeen, Nov. 7, 1844.

SIR,—My brother and I rent a house jointly, and both reside in it; the lease is drawn out in our respective names, and signed by both of us. The rent is £13 per annum. Am I entitled to qualify as a parliamentary voter?

Your obedient servant, FREE TRADE.

P.S. My brother has *another* qualification, and I wish to vote upon the house if I can.

[Both our correspondent "Free Trade" and his brother are entitled to vote for the borough, the premises occupied by them being of £20 annual value.]

"T. W., Leicester."—"I have been tenant since Michaelmas of premises: am I entitled to a vote for the ensuing year; or when can I exercise the franchise?"

[If you are *bonâ fide* liable to a rental of £50, and have been in occupation *twelve months prior* to the 31st of July, you can claim in that month to have your name inserted on the list of voters for the ensuing register, provided the property is not situated in a city or borough.]

The communication of "A Stockport Leaguer" is under consideration.

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

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POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, November* 23, 1844.

Baron Langsdorff, the special envoy sent from France to negotiate a commercial treaty with the Brazilian Government, has returned to Europe as unsuccessful as the English Ambassador, Mr. Ellis: both negotiators have failed because they were fettered by the influence of the aristocracy of the sugar-hogshead in their respective countries. Mr. Gladstone's journal, the *Standard-Herald*, or, more properly, "The Goose and Shadow," deems the failure of the French negotiator a proper subject for congratulation, and intimates a hope that the beet-root manufacturers of Germany will be able to prevent the Zollverein from yielding to the terms demanded by the Brazilians. What Brazil particularly wants from England are manufactured articles of wool, cotton, &c., wrought metals, prepared skins, and fermented liquors. The Germans have begun to accommodate several of their manufacturing products to the Brazilian taste, and the beet-root interest would not bear competition with the chance of gaining a market for German manufactures to the amount of about three millions annually at the expense of France and England. But the Gladstone *Goose* has a pet remedy in reserve, "the illicit importation of British goods;" for the first time in English history, smuggling has been recommended as an avowed part of commercial policy in a journal professing to be the organ of the Government, and in an article bearing strong internal evidence of having emanated from the Board of Trade. Because the Government has acted on dishonest pretences, it is deemed necessary that our man-

chants should violate the laws of the countries with which they trade. Because Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer Goulburn has to protect his own sugars in the West Indies, and Mr. President Gladstone his father's sugars in the East Indies, the traders of England are invited to adopt a system of demoralizing fraud, and to proclaim themselves a kind of felon outlaws in the face of the world. The morality of such advice is equal to its modesty, and both are characteristic of the miserable hypocrisy to which the Brazilian trade has been wantonly sacrificed. The Gladstone Goose has for the nonce abandoned the slavery cry, and gone fairly back to the old pretext of protection: it declares that, with a differential duty of ten per cent., the French and English West Indian islands could not compete with Brazil or Cuba, and consequently that such a reduction would give to Brazil the mastery of the sugar market throughout the world. If such a result were attainable, it would only show that the change would render the Brazilians better customers for English manufactures than they have ever been. In order that they should buy, they must be able to pay; we cannot expect them to purchase when we refuse the only return which they have to offer. All commerce resolves itself into barter; and the more we depreciate Brazilian produce, the more we diminish the ability of the Brazilians to become consumers of British manufactures. The custom-houses in England will thus effectually aid in preventing the smuggling recommended by the Gladstone Goose. The only sure means for recovering the Brazilian trade are, the abandonment of fraud and hypocrisy, and the adoption of the principles of common sense and common honesty.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.—The *Revue de Paris*, commenting on the system of solitary confinement, says that practical experiment is not favourable to the system; and that during the six months it has been pursued in the prison of Scelle, two suicides have been committed.

About two o'clock in the morning of Tuesday a considerable mass of earth detached itself from the hill of Montmartre, on the side of the Barrier of Rochechouart, Paris, and fell upon a lime-kiln, a cartwright's factory, a weaver's workshop, and a dwelling-house, which were partly buried under it. The inhabitants were fortunately awoke by the cries of some dogs, and escaped in time. At six o'clock another house experienced a similar fate, and a third was surrounded with earth up to the first story. Fragments of earth and stone continued to roll down the hill, which is extremely steep on that side, during the whole day, and the alarmed inmates of a number of dwellings situate at the bottom of the declivity abandoned their homes, carrying away their furniture and most valuable effects. The event had been long foreseen from the extensive excavations made in the hill to procure "plaster of Paris."

The price of bread in Paris has again been reduced. From the 16th instant the 4lb. loaf, best quality, is to be sold for 62 centimes (6d. British); the 4lb. loaf, second quality, for 48 centimes (4½d. British.

The price of bread at Brussels is at this moment five centimes higher per kilogramme than in Paris; but there is a still greater difference between Paris and Marseilles. In the latter place the price is ten centimes higher. We cannot understand why there should be so great a difference as one-fourth between Paris and Marseilles.—*Galignani.*

A new system of defrauding the revenue has been discovered on the Belgian frontier. The officers of the Customs at Verviers, who, it seems, are always wide awake, having conceived some suspicions of 13 terrines, or earthenware pots, bearing every appearance of containing *pates de foie gras*, from Strasburgh, and even smeared outside with that appetising confection, opened them, and found them to be filled with 980 sealed letters, which, it was hoped, would arrive at Brussels free of postage.

SPAIN. There has been some discussion in the Chamber of Deputies with respect to the commercial policy of the country. Unfavourable as the present Government are to commercial freedom, they were not prepared to go the length of many of their adherents; and they were defeated by a majority of seven, on a motion for taking into consideration the subject of further protection, which, however, was not persevered in. The address was finally voted, after a bold speech from M. Orense, the only Progressista member in the Chamber, in which he spoke very strongly against the Government policy.

The *Journal des Débats* publishes a letter from the frontiers of Arragon, which states that for the last forty years so severe a winter as the present had not been experienced in those mountains. "Neither has there ever been seen so many wolves as during the past month. They proceed in packs and commit great destruction. A few days since they devoured ninety sheep and several horses between the Eaux Chaudes and Gabas."

Another revolt has taken place in Spain, headed by General Zurbano. It is not considered very important. His actual force was only between 50 and 100 men, but his popularity at Logrono and his known courage and enterprise forbid the expectation that El Pastor (Jauregui), who had been sent against him by General Concha, would do more at the outset than compel him to take refuge in France. Other accounts state that the insurrection was spreading rapidly, and that from the character of Zurbano, the strength of his position, and the courage and veteran character of his troops, it is likely to become exceedingly formidable.

MADEIRA.—The *Times* correspondent, writing from Lisbon, says:—"We have very alarming accounts from Madeira. By the *Imparcial* of Funchal, of the 11th inst., I learn that the preaching of Dr. Kalley has led to even a more considerable ferment than I announced to you as probable some time since. The bishop of the island had adopted means of endeavouring to arrest the progress of the doctor's labours, and the authorities, alarmed by the extent of his success, had sought to put him down by measures of a strong character. The administrator of Machico had proceeded to the parish church of San Antonio da Serra to effect the arrest of "one of the propagators of the schism," when the populace arose in large numbers, and prevented him from effecting the capture. This took place on the 16th of September. The superior authorities of Funchal immediately met in council, and the result was, that a body of troops was marched to the refractory parish, accompanied by the *juiz de direito* (principal judge) and the chief law officer of the crown. After the customary legal forms seventeen men and five women were arrested and conveyed prisoners to Machico, all charged with being implicated in a conspiracy to resist the due course of law. The military force remained stationed in the district, and the prisoners had appealed to the Tribunal of Second Instance.

GIBRALTAR, Nov. 9.—A melancholy accident occurred in the Bay in the early part of this week, by which seven unfortunate beings have found a watery grave. The packet-boat which plies daily between Gibraltar and Algesiras having left our port on Monday afternoon rather earlier than usual, six passengers, who arrived too late, hired a small sailing-boat at the quay to convey them across the bay. This boat, with its ill-fated charge, left our shore about three o'clock in the afternoon, but had scarcely proceeded more than half way across to Algesiras, when, from some unknown cause, she was seen to go down, and seven immortal souls were launched into eternity.

A daring act of piracy was committed in the port of Gibraltar on the night of the 5th Nov., on board the Sardinian polacca schooner San Michael, by a party of armed Spaniards, who with their faces masked, boarded the vessel, secured the master and three of the crew who were on board, and then, having failed in obtaining a large sum of money which they expected to find, rifled the vessel and carried off several articles of property. The Governor has offered a reward for the apprehension of the pirates.

BERLIN, Nov. 13.—The late exhibition of the productions of German art and manufactures has given occasion to the formation of a society, the object of which is to ameliorate the condition of the mechanics and workmen in the manufactories, not only by relieving their distress, but by establishing savings' banks and schools, and distributing useful writings. His Majesty the King has written a letter to M. Flottwell, the Minister of Finance, expressing his satisfaction at the institution of this society, and has given a sum of 15,000 dollars to promote its object. His Majesty promised further assistance in proportion to the increased exertion of the society.

The *Prussian State Gazette* contains the following, under date Vienna, 3rd instant:—The changes introduced into the tariff last July have exercised such a beneficial influence over the receipts of our Customs and our manufacturing interests, that the Government is thinking of applying the same system of reduction to several articles of manufacture, either by reducing the import duty or by converting the prohibition into a moderate protecting duty. The duties on fine and mixed cotton goods, printed and others, will be modified, but those on woollen cloths will continue the same.

The *Augsburgh Gazette* states that it is contemplated to effect a commercial arrangement between the city of Hamburgh and the Zollverein. The same journal states that the commercial negotiations commenced between the King of the Two Sicilies and the Governments of France and England make no progress. His Majesty is more favourable to an arrangement with the Zollverein.

The *German Gazette* states that a hairdresser at Ulm has invented a machine with which he pretends to be able to fly from Ulm to Paris in three days.

The *Breslau Gazette* states that of 80,000 children who inhabit the city of Berlin, 40,000 only attend the schools, the remaining 40,000 are employed in manufactures.

THE JEWS IN HUNGARY.—The *Gazette des Postes* of Frankfort publishes the following account of a circumstance which occurred some days since in Hungary:—"An Israelite having been condemned to pay the amount of a bill of exchange which he had accepted in favour of a gentleman, the latter wished to seize his debtor's goods; but, as he possessed none, the tribunal ordered that the Israelite should serve as a slave to his creditor during 15 days. The unfortunate man was then led to the estate of the gentleman, a crowd of ruffians pressing on his footsteps, whilst some hooted and others produced discordant noises with trumpets and other instruments."

The *Cologne Gazette* of the 12th inst. states that the late riots in Bohemia had not a political cause, but that they originated in the excessive taxation imposed upon the people, as well as the seignorial privileges and other abuses.

Letters from St. Petersburg say that negotiations pending for a treaty of commerce between England and Russia are on the eve of being concluded. There are some clauses on which the parties have not yet agreed, but which, it is hoped, will soon be settled.

SYRIA.—Letters from the Levant, received by express, mention that the state of Syria was hourly becoming more deplorable. A proclamation issued at Constantinople, forbidding any person whatever to appear in the streets after sunset, had occasioned some disorders.

ANTIGUA. The *Antigua Observer* of the 24th of October, 1844, says:—"We believe that it may be asserted with truth, that not more than one-third of those who, during slavery, were employed in the field labour of estates, are now continuously employed in that work; or it may be more correct to say that not more than one-third of the amount of manual labour which was formerly dedicated to the growth and manufacture of our staples is so engaged now. We have been told so by persons competent to judge, and from our own observations are convinced of it. A great many have withdrawn from sugar cultivation altogether. The boys and girls, who used to form the weeding and grass gangs of an estate, are no longer there; many work only occasionally as jobbers, when their own independent settlements do not require their presence; others confine their labour to three or four days in the week; and very few give six days. Notwithstanding, however, of this enormous limitation in the amount of labour actually applied—notwithstanding of the idleness and thieving propensities charged against the peasantry—the first ten years of freedom, *with one third the number of labourers*, have given at least as large, and I believe larger, average crops than the last ten years of slavery, *with three times the hands*. How is this fact explained, and how does it comport with the heavy and abounding complaints which we constantly hear? And how does it affect or bear upon the future prospects of the island? We should like to see the subject handled by some intelligent practical man, for really it suggests matter for consideration of vast importance, and well deserving of mature and dispassionate consideration. It would also be satisfactory, and probably useful, to see correct comparative statements of the expenses of an estate during slavery and freedom; for instance, what were the expenses of an estate that made 100 hhds. during slavery, and what are the expenses of the same now, making the same quantity of sugar? Such and similar inquiries would enlighten, and lead to far different results than the mischief and ill-feeling which is created by the dogmatism and gratuitous railing which we so frequently hear in conversations and discussions relating to the state of the island. It is certainly consolatory to reflect that, whatever may have been the fate of some other islands, the average crop of Antigua has not diminished since emancipation, although she has had to strive against the disastrous effects of an unprecedented physical evil [the earthquake on the 8th of February, 1843, is here alluded to], which the others in a great measure escaped. The prospect at present, for next year, is exceedingly favourable; and with a continuance of seasonable weather, and the blessing of God upon our agricultural exertions, the ensuing crop is likely to be as large as the present."

MAURITIUS.—Accounts to August 20, from the Mauritius, state that the new duties were published. On articles not specified, the impost, *ad valorum*, will be 6 per cent. from British colonies, and 10 per cent. from other parts.

DEMERARA.—On Wednesday afternoon, October 16, a dreadful conflagration, the work of incendiaries, broke out on the property of Mr. C. J. Visser, a resident planter in this island, which it desolated, and then spread to several other plantations, committing frightful havoc. The *Georgetown Gazette* says, "Nothing but heavy rain, of which there are not the least symptoms, can, we fear, save the whole of the northern, and by far the most valuable, bank of the canal, from its centre to its head, from complete destruction."

GUADALOUPE.—By a letter from Guadaloupe of the 9th of September, we learn that since the earthquake not less than 429 new houses had been built, of which 118 cost, each, 15,000f. and upwards, exclusive of the purchase of ground; 166, 6000f. to 15,000f.; and 145 under 6000f. At the date of this account 173 houses more were in the course of construction.

TAHITI.—Later accounts have been received from the Society Islands by way of the United States, from which it appears that there has been another battle between the French and the natives, in which great numbers of the latter have been butchered by their well-armed and well-disciplined assailants. Louis Philippe's new officer of the Legion of Honour, Captain Bruat, is, we suppose, the hero of the new slaughter. The Pisguard English frigate has conveyed Queen Pomare to the Island of Bolabola.—*Liverpool Times.*

DOMESTIC.

A total eclipse of the moon will take place on Sunday night. The eclipse will commence at 8h. 36.9m. P.M. mean time at Greenwich. Total darkness will begin at about 10h. 58m. P.M.; middle, at 11h. 44.5m. Total darkness will end at 12h. 31m. A.M. on the morning of Monday, the 25th, and the whole eclipse will finally terminate at 2h. 52.1m. A.M.

A memorial, originated by the East India Association of this town, will lie for signature at the Exchange and Underwriters' Rooms, from and after to-day, praying for a considerable reduction of the duty on tea.—*Liverpool Albion.*

Owing to the late numerous arrivals of vessels from foreign ports, the London docks at present have a very bustling appearance, giving employment to a great number of casual dock labourers and others.

Very large quantities of potatoes have been shipped from Liverpool to New York. If the export continues the stocks in that neighbourhood will be considerably reduced.

On Thursday, the 7th instant, a boat belonging to the island of Eday left Kirkwall for home, about three o'clock P.M., with nine persons on board, viz., three brothers, named Garrioch; two brothers and a sister, named Tulloch; a young man, John Fotheringham; a girl, named Elizabeth Garrioch; and a girl, named Hercus, all belonging to the same island. It is thought that, finding the Stornsay Firth rough, the boat may have returned, and that she was upset in Kirkwall Bay, or near the mouth of the String, off Shapinshay, as the boat was found next morning near Saverock, driven ashore, with the body of one of the sufferers in it, all having perished.—*Caledonian Mercury.*

HONOUR TO THE PRESS.—On Saturday week, Mr. James Steele, editor and proprietor of the *Carlisle Journal*, was elected mayor of the city of Carlisle; and, on the same day, Edward Dowling, Esq., editor of the *Monmouthshire Merlin*, an Irishman and a Catholic, was unanimously elected mayor of Monmouth for the ensuing year.

Andrew Rutherford, Esq., the late Whig Lord Advocate of Scotland, has been elected Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow, by a majority of 92 over his Conservative opponent, Lord Eglinton.

Doctor Abercrombie, of Edinburgh, eminent both as a physician and a writer, died suddenly last week, at his residence in Edinburgh.

On Saturday an inquest was held on the body of Mr. Serjeant Andrews; and on the evidence of two surgeons, who stated that he died in consequence of a flowing of blood in the lungs, and not from the wound inflicted by deceased on his throat, the jury found "That the death of the deceased had been caused by natural disease, produced by a flowing of the blood in the lungs." It is understood that there is in existence a policy of insurance on the life of the late Mr. Serjeant Andrews for the sum of £10,000, and, had it been proved he had committed suicide, the policy would have been vitiated.

In the inquest on the body of Mr. Samuda, and the other victims of the explosion at Blackwall, the jury have found a verdict in which they attribute the fatality to "the false and improper construction of the joint of the main steam pipe, and from its not being sufficiently secure."

An investigation has been going on at Wolverhampton involving a Miss Railton, her sister a Mrs. Hildreth, and a Mr. Sherriff, assistant-surgeon, in the charge of infanticide. The charge mainly rests on the admission of Miss Railton, the mother of a female child whose body

The price of bread in Paris has again been reduced. From the 16th instant the 4lb. loaf, best quality, is to be sold for 62 centimes (6d. British); the 4lb. loaf, second quality, for 48 centimes (4½d. British.

The price of bread at Brussels is at this moment five centimes higher per kilogramme than in Paris; but there is a still greater difference between Paris and Marseilles. In the latter place the price is ten centimes higher. We cannot understand why there should be so great a difference as one-fourth between Paris and Marseilles.—*Galignani.*

A new system of defrauding the revenue has been discovered on the Belgian frontier. The officers of the Customs at Verviers, who, it seems, are always wide awake, having conceived some suspicions of 13 terrines, or earthenware pots, bearing every appearance of containing *pates de foie gras*, from Strasburgh, and even smeared outside with that appetising confection, opened them, and found them to be filled with 980 sealed letters, which, it was hoped, would arrive at Brussels free of postage.

was found on the 28th ultimo at the back of the premises of Mr. Quinton, surgeon, whose assistant, Mr. Sherriff, with the knowledge and consent of this lady and her sister, Mrs. Hildreth, procured abortion. From a *post mortem* examination held on the body it is stated that the child was born alive. A further examination into the circumstances of this distressing case took place at the Wolverhampton police-office on Monday. Evidence was given of the finding of the body of the child, of its having been born alive, and of the part taken by Miss Railton, (on her own admission to the deputy constable of Staffordshire), Mr. Sherriff, and Mrs. Hildreth, in procuring abortion. The prisoners were further remanded until an inquest should have been held on the body of the child, and it was intimated to them that they would have to take their trial at the next assizes.

On Saturday morning last the manufactory of Messrs. Morris and Thompson, coach-builders, Oxford-street, was totally destroyed by fire, with every article it contained. The loss of property is estimated at several thousand pounds. The factory was insured for £20,000.

On Sunday last, being the day appointed for the collection of the O'Connell tribute in Ireland, a sum of between £3000 and £4000 was received at the doors of the chapels in Dublin and its vicinity.

The Irish Repeal Association met on Monday, at the Conciliation Hall, Dublin. The attendance was small. The secretary read a letter from O'Connell, strongly dissenting from the views of Mr. Sharman Crawford on Federalism, and stating his intention to move, on Monday next, for a committee to inquire into and report on Mr. Crawford's project. The rent for the week was announced to be £337.

We state on what we conceive to be good authority, that her Majesty's Ministers have advised the Sovereign to confer a high distinction on Sir Henry Pottinger for his diplomatic services in China.—*Standard.*

From the records in possession of the London Fire Brigade, it appears that no fewer than 800 fires have occurred in the present year; but that they have not been of so extensive a character as in former years. The number of lives lost, however, is, we regret to say, much greater than the average.

In the course of the last few days several vessels laden with guano have arrived in the river Thames. The manure is meeting with a ready sale, at about £6 per ton. The guano is brought over in bags of from 1¼cwt. to 1½cwt., which are sold on board the ship. Several more vessels are expected in a few days from Ichiboe. A few months ago the price varied from £10. 10s. to £11.

A respectable and well-conduted widow woman, named Harriet Chandler, was found brutally murdered on Tuesday night in her shop at Yarmouth. She had drawn, it appears, a sum of £150 left by her husband's mother, and uncle; and she had imprudently mentioned that, as the money was for her son, she should put it under her bed until she should hear from her trustee. This got noised abroad, and parties, doubtless, sedulously watched her movements on the night in question, in order to plunder her, and, as they were recognised and known by her, to murder her rather than be detected. The £150 was taken without disturbing the bed; £100 was in a cheque on Messrs. Gurney and Co.'s bank. During the inquest a portion of money, consisting of gold, silver, and about £8 or £10 in coppers, was found near the Battery, in a bag which was taken from the deceased's premises the night of the murder—the contents of the till, doubtless. The party or parties who perpetrated the frightful crime remain undetected.

The total number of deaths in the metropolis, during the week ending last Saturday, was 1072, showing a considerable increase of mortality, probably caused by the unseasonable warmth of the last ten days. The weekly average for the last five years has been 946.

On Thursday evening, and up to a late hour at night, London was enveloped in a dense fog. All the craft and the steamers on the river were compelled to remain stationary; and the omnibuses, cabs, &c., were obliged, unless where preceded by links, to go at a walking pace; even with such precautions, the crossing of the streets was a matter of no small difficulty and danger.

On Thursday an inquest was held by Mr. Baker, at Stepney, on the body of the Rev. Edward Parsons, who died from the effects of injuries received the previous week by accidentally falling down stairs in his own house. Verdict—"Accidental death."

On Monday morning, about three o'clock, a vessel named the Ranger was accidentally run down on the river near Gravesend, by a collier brig. The master, Mr. Duffield, who was in the cabin at the moment of the collision, perished; the rest of the crew, four in number, narrowly escaped on board the brig.

On Thursday an alarming accident took place on the Midland Railway, at Beeston, about four miles from Nottingham, in consequence of a collision between a London and Derby train. The stoker and four passengers are reported killed, and many others severely wounded.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Anti-Corn-Law League.—Our domestic politics are as dull as the dark days of November. There is an organized party, however, who enjoy no repose. The Anti-Corn-Law League is neither dead, nor dying. It is a great "fact"—a living reality. Its Council has at length adopted the true policy. They have appealed from the Parliament to the people. This, in our judgment, is the dictate of true wisdom. We have the principle of representative government, however imperfectly that principle may be carried out; and in any nation, whose political constitution is based on that glorious principle, the *primary* concern of any party anxious to accomplish any great object, is with the people—the people who are, after all that has been affirmed to the contrary, the "true source of political power." We admire the conduct of the League, then, in transferring their efforts from the high court of Parliament to the humbler sphere of the registration courts. And nobly are they "labouring in their vocation" in these courts. Their success is marvellous in our eyes. In Lancashire alone they have virtually secured the representation of several parliamentary boroughs, and of one, at least, of the divisions of the county; while in several other parts of the country their success has been almost equally signal. No man can say that this system is illegal. It is eminently constitutional. In a recent speech Mr. Cobden has announced a magnificent plan for securing the representation of the English counties. His plan is very feasible, and, though the game he recommends is one at which two parties can play, it is one in which the friends of the League may play with more than ordinary power and effect. It is substantially this—that the friends of Free Trade residing in towns should invest money in the purchase of small freeholds in the several counties, and thus secure parliamentary votes. So convinced are we of the immense power which the friends of freedom—of freedom in commerce and conscience—may obtain by this strictly honest and honourable plan, that, if we possessed the means, we would secure a parliamentary vote in every county of England and Wales, on or before the 1st day of January next. In the meantime we earnestly recommend those who do possess the means, to secure, in every fair and honourable way, the parliamentary franchise, and to remember, that for the *fact of its possession and the mode of its exercise* they are accountable to the nation, and to God. We may take this opportunity of announcing our intention, during the ensuing year, of reporting the progress of the League; while we have high satisfaction in stating that a series of papers—by a distinguished hand—embracing a calm and serious argumentative discussion of all restrictions on the food of the people, will probably enrich our pages during the same period.—*Christian Examiner.*—[We are happy to find that a journal, conducted with so much talent and energy as the "Christian Examiner," and having a large circulation among the most enlightened and public-spirited of the Dissenters of England and Scotland, approves the plan recently commended by the League to the adoption of the people of this country, and intends, moreover, to give publicity to the proceedings of the League, and a series of papers in elucidation of the great principle on which the movement is founded. We have no doubt that the ability which distinguishes the writings of the "Examiner," will be conspicuous also in the promised series of papers.—Ed. League.]

Cheshire Protection Meeting.—At the Cheshire Agricultural Protection Society meeting, lately held, it was stated that the Cheshire farmers were so bound to the factors by being in their debt, that they delivered 120 lbs. or 121 lbs. as the cwt. of 112 lbs. The cause here assigned is altogether a mistake, for every body connected with the trade knows that it has always been a custom in Cheshire to deliver 120 lbs. for the cheese cwt., and to allow a pound over. As to the statement that farmers are in the factors' debt, we leave the Protectionists to reconcile this with the maintenance of the Corn Law, which they pretend was enacted for the farmer's benefit. Instead of factors being in the farmers' debt, which used to be the case, is it come to this that protection has done nothing better for them than to compel them to put their cheese in pawn before they are ready for selling? We need not, however, wonder at the ignorance displayed at this protection meeting, when we learn that the farmers themselves did not think it worth attending. Indeed, the society has dwindled to a mere ghost. The local journals inform us that "only about a dozen landowners were present, among whom were Lord de Tabley, Mr. Wilbraham Egerton, Sir Richard Brooke, Bart., Mr. G. C. Legh, M.P., and Mr. R. E. E. Warburton. Two or three agents were also there, but *no farmers.* In fact the whole meeting did not comprise so many as twenty persons.—*Preston Guardian.*

Meeting in Birmingham for the Establishment of Public Baths and Walks.—The inhabitants of Birmingham have followed the example set before them by the inhabitants of Manchester and the metropolis. For some weeks past a committee has been engaged in making preliminary arrangements, and a public meeting, convened by a requisition to the mayor, and signed by gentlemen of all parties, was held in the Town-hall on Tuesday, with a view of carrying the measures projected by the committee into effect. The Mayor entered the organ-gallery shortly after one o'clock, and was accompanied by Lord Lyttleton, Lord Calthorp, Mr. Adderley, M.P., Mr. Spooner, M.P., Mr. Newdigate, M.P., Mr. Muntz, M.P., Mr. James Taylor, the Hon. and Rev. G. York, Mr. Joseph Sturge, Mr. Hill (Queen's Counsel, the Recorder of the borough), the Rev. J. Garbett, rural dean, most of the municipal officers of the borough, and indeed the leading men of all parties, Tories, Whigs, Complete Suffrageites, and Chartists. Such a complete amalgamation of parties was never before witnessed in Birmingham. The meeting was extremely well attended by the working classes. The Mayor presided, and resolutions in favour of the object were moved, seconded, and supported by Lord Lyttleton; Mr. J. Taylor, of Moseley-hall; Mr. Mason, a Chartist; Lord Calthorp, the Rev. J. Garbett, the Hon. and Rev. G. York, Mr. Spooner, M.P., Mr. Newdigate, M.P., Mr. Harlow, Mr. T. Lee; Mr. Hill, Recorder of the borough; Mr. Sturge, Mr. Muntz, M.P., and others. The subscription at the close of the meeting amounted to nearly £3000.

Duty on Cotton Wool.—An important meeting o the Chamber of Commerce of Manchester, including most of the large manufacturers of this district, was held in the rooms in Town-hall-buildings, King-street, Manchester, on Friday, the 15th instant, for the purpose of considering the propriety of memorializing Government for the repeal of the duty on cotton wool. The attendance of members was large, including a great portion of those manufacturers who, having seceded from the chamber when the Free-Trade party had first gained the ascendency in its councils, have thought fit again to place their names upon the books. Among the members of the chamber present, were—Thomas Bazley, jun., Esq., president; Richard Cobden Esq., M.P., John Bright, Esq., M.P., James Atherton, Esq. (president of the Athenæum), Robert Gardner, Esq., Henry Ashworth, Esq., Edmund Ashworth, Esq., Richard Birley, Esq., Thomas Cooke, Esq., William Rawson, Esq., Edward Shawcross, Esq., George Clarke, Esq., Alexander Henry, Esq., Samuel Lees, Esq., Matthew Curtis, Esq., Edward Tootal, Esq., W. E. Kelsall, Esq., Thomas Ashton, Esq., Lewis Williams, Esq., William Morris, Esq., James Aspinal Turner, Esq., J. B. Smith, Esq., Alderman Murray, Alderman Tyso, Henry Houldsworth, Esq., Solomon Behrens, Esq., J. Guest, Esq., — Wylie, Esq., and — Marshall, Esq. Several gentlemen addressed the meeting, who all agreed in condemning the tax in the strongest terms. In the end, a memorial to the Lords of the Treasury was unanimously adopted in favour of the immediate repeal of the tax.

Game.—Hanover.—At Rostelberg, in five days, 5087 hares, 2393 partridges, 316 pheasants, and 178 rabbits were killed. There were only 29 sportsmen.

Agricultural Distress.—Since Thursday last, not less than *seventy-seven* persons have been admitted into the workhouse of the Banbury Union; and we believe we are not mistaken when we state that an equal number are ready to present themselves for a like purpose. Of the seventy-seven, forty-one are from the parish of Bloxham, and they entered together on Friday last, passing through our town in a melancholy procession.—*Banbury Guardian.*

The Free-Traders of Torrington.—Through the active exertions of the Free-Traders of this town, Thomas Knight Tapley, Esq., surgeon, has been elected to serve the office of town councillor for the ensuing year. The event was celebrated on Monday evening by a dinner, at which Mr. Tapley presided. The health of the champions of the League, and other Free-Trade toasts, were given, and warmly received.—*A Correspondent.*

Worthy of Imitation.—On Tuesday, Nov. 5th, Mr. Peter Woodhead, of Cock-hill Shelf, reduced the rents of all his tenants 10 per cent. We hope this will cause others to follow his example.—*Leeds Times.*

Liberality of Manchester.—The Manchester subscription for public parks and pleasure-grounds now exceeds £27,000; and that for the Rowland Hill testimonial to more than £1400, with every prospect of an increase to both.

Abolition of Slavery.—Most gratifying intelligence has reached us from Sweden. We recorded with pleasure and with hope, the movement made in the Diet of that country in 1841, when an address to the King was voted, praying for the abolition of slavery in the island of St. Bartholomew's. We now learn with high satisfaction, that King Oscar has returned an answer to this address, altogether concurring in its prayer.—*Anti-Slavery Reporter.*

Duty of an Elector.—When a man acts in the capacity of elector he votes for others as well as for himself, and the others expect that he will perform his duty faithfully. He is to consider what candidate will be most useful to society—not, what candidate will give him the most ale, gin, beef, silver, or gold; and if he permits the latter consideration to outweigh the former he is acting just as honestly as a treasurer would do, when intrusted by an association with its funds, in applying them to his own profligacy. As the funds were lodged in the treasurer's hands for different and better purposes, so a vote is intrusted to an elector for a higher purpose than to promote his own sensualism. Nor can the plea be accepted that *one* vote cannot materially affect the issue of an election; for this plea granted to one man must be allowed to every man, so that universal honour or universal depravity becomes in the end a matter of indifference.—*Preston Guardian.*

Incendiarism.—Several incendiary fires have taken place in Norfolk within the last few weeks. On Thursday night, the 7th inst., some barley and straw stacks, the property of Mr. Hickling, Reepham, were consumed.——About the same hour, on the preceding Monday night, another fire broke out in a shed, standing in a meadow, within less than a mile of Reepham, belonging to Mr. Bircham, farmer, and who is also a preacher in the Wesleyan connexion. The shed was burned down before assistance could be procured.——On Friday evening, a fire broke out in a range of buildings intended for saw-mills, at the gas works, near Mousehold, which, being chiefly of timber, were speedily consumed, though an engine was in attendance. The origin of this fire has not been ascertained.——Four other fires, attended with trivial loss, being speedily discovered, have been reported from other parts of the county; and, in addition to these actual outrages, the farmers are kept in a state of alarm by threatening letters, the burden of which is want of employment and low wages. Altogether the state of the peasantry is such as to excite serious apprehension for the security of agricultural property during the ensuing winter, when field operations must be altogether suspended, and from the fact that thrashing, and other indoor work formerly done by manual labour, are now very generally executed by machinery.——About one o'clock on Thursday se'nnight a fire broke out in a detached barn, in the occupation of Mr. John Cooke, of Flempton, near Bury St. Edmund's, belonging to Sir Thomas Gage, Bart., and in a short time the building with its contents, consisting of a large quantity of corn and wool (the latter the produce of three years), were totally destroyed.—*Suffolk paper.*——We regret to state, that about twelve o'clock on Sunday night last, a barn upon Currant's farm, the property of Mr. Gosling, and in the occupation of Mr. John Ratcliff, of Panfield, situate about a mile and a half from the town of Braintree, was discovered to be on fire; but, notwithstanding the exertions of those present, the barn, with its contents, consisting of the produce of nine acres of oats, and 2½ of beans, a stable and cart-lodge, were totally consumed. There appears to be little doubt that this destruction of property was wilfully occasioned, and at present there is no clue to the guilty party. Mr. Ratcliff, it will be remembered, suffered from a similar villanous act in May last.—*Essex Herald.*——On Tuesday evening last, a fire, which illuminated the surrounding villages, took place in the stackyard belonging to Mr. Henry Skipworth, of Rothwell, when a large barley-stack, straw, &c., were entirely consumed. It is to be lamented, there is great reason to believe, that the catastrophe is the work of an incendiary.—*Hull Advertiser.*——About one o'clock on Friday morning, the 15th inst., a straw-stack was discovered on fire, on the farm of Mr. Silverstone, of Saxham (which is the second fire on the same farm within the last few weeks), contiguous to the extensive farm premises, attached to which are several cottages in a direct line. When the straw-stack was nearly consumed, a wheat-stack, some hundred yards distant, was also discovered to be on fire; owing to the prompt arrival of the engines, it was soon got under, but not before another wheat-stack on the same farm, about a mile distant, was also blazing away. There was but little damage done to the two wheat-stacks; the principal danger being at the time that the straw-stack was on fire, a change of wind occurring, which placed the farm-buildings and cottages in a most perilous situation, but owing to the arrival of the Norwich engine, and its effectual assistance to that of the Suffolk Fire-office, the flames were prevented from spreading their devastation to the contiguous premises. No clue has yet been obtained which may lead to the authors of this diabolical transaction.—*Bury and Suffolk Farmer's Post.*

OUR CORN LAWS.—AUSTRIAN MANUFACTURES.

(From the *Fife Herald.*)

We astonish foreigners. Our laws absolutely surprise them. *We* are enveloped in a mist of interests. *We* cannot for the mist see clearly how we stand. Austria sees clear enough whither our Corn Laws are driving us. Could we but see the rapid changes that have in a very brief period of years come over that country, we would soon see with equal clearness.

The granaries of Austria overflow with grain—have always done so. A rich soil produces more than the Austrian nation can waste. Hence cheapness. Eatables are there 50 per cent. cheaper than with us; in Hungary, 25 per cent. cheaper than in Austria. In Austria 105lbs. English of the best wheat costs 4s. 6d.; 12lbs. of the best super-flour, 1s. 2d.; 1 lb. of beef, 2½d.; mutton, 2d.; potatoes, 2d. per score; lump sugar, 7½d.; coffee, 1s.; rice, 2½d. the English lb. But what of manufactures? A few years ago they were wretched. The manufactures were languid, unimproving. The machinery was old: it produced little—of inferior value, with much waste, at an enormous cost. The weavers were prejudiced for our goods. But what of that? They wanted our goods. They could not purchase them. They had their corn to give us for them—they offered us their corn. We refused to take it. What could Austria do. To our cost we know. She imported machinery. She manufactured for herself. She is doing so, and will soon do without us. She has cotton, waterfalls, waterwheels, gearing as good as we have, operatives at lower wages, food at a lower cost. We have been battling to protect agriculture, and this is the fruit of it.

Austria is learning a better lesson. Previous to the 1st of September, she had a protective duty of 30s. on every 120lbs. of cotton yarns. Now it is only 25s. On the 1st of February, 1845, it will be only 20s. What is the effect? Are the spinners ruined? The very contrary. Every step in the progress is stamped with a valuable lesson. The spinners had a 30s. duty. They were not content—they wanted a higher protective duty. They were like our farmers. They believed higher duty to mean higher profit. But the weavers had a distinct opinion to the contrary. They believed it a tax paid to the rich spinners. They did not wish to pay it. They addressed the Government, and the Government lowered it. What did the spinners do? Give up spinning in despair? They did the very thing our farmers would do, and would be forced to do, if the corn duty was abolished. They plucked up spirit—awoke, as it were, from dreaming. They improved—they bought good machinery—they set their Government to railroad-making. Lines are shooting from Vienna to Trieste, and from Dresden to Vienna. The profits of the spinners are not lessened. They are increased. They have pulled down no wages. They have not extended hours. They will soon be content to spin with no duty whatever to protect them.

What if this experiment should be tried upon English agriculture?

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT.—Capt. Bulley, of Dartmouth, brought in the Cremona, from Sydney, 3600 bushels of Adelaide wheat. This wheat had been grown in South Australia, shipped from Adelaide to Sydney, transhipped thence to Old England; and we are informed bore all these expenses with a fair profit to the importer. The wheat cost 3s. 9d. a bushel in Sydney, 30s. a quarter freight, the duty being 5s. a quarter. It stood the voyage exceedingly well, and was perfectly free from weevil when landed. It averages 64lbs. per bushel, and Capt. Bulley gives it as his opinion that, in the event of the duty being reduced, it would become a staple article of trade with this country. —*Western Times.*

SAVINGS' BANK RETURNS.—The following return gives a comparative statement of the progress at specified periods during the last seven years of the St. Marylebone Bank for Savings, 76, Welbeck-street, which was established July 5, 1830.

		Open Deposit Accounts.	Sums invested with National Debt Commissioners.
On 20th November,	1838	11,278	.... £196,334
Do.,	1839	11,935	 223,353
Do.,	1840	12,680	 253,167
Do.,	1841	13,001	 266,407
Do.,	1842	14,349	 285,382
Do.,	1843	14,130	 319,496
Do.,	1844	15,124	 350,089

D. FINNEY, Sec. and Actuary.

LIVE CATTLE TRADE.—This trade is now beginning to assume more importance. From Holland and Belgium transit of fat cattle is becoming rapid. Large quantities of poultry are also shipped weekly. One vessel from Holland to London brought last week 60 head of cattle, in high condition, besides large quantities of poultry. In a few years this trade will make itself felt to some extent; as will the provision and corn trade from Canada and the United States.—*Tyne Mercury.*

IMPORTATION OF DUTCH OXEN, &c.—On Wednesday afternoon, at four o'clock, the steam-packet Batavier, Captain David Dunlop, arrived at the St. Katharine's steam-packet wharf from Rotterdam. She brought 56 head of live oxen and cows, and an immense quantity of live poultry, chiefly geese, turkeys, and ducks. The importation of all kinds of live poultry is now carried on to a greater extent than usual, as the ice on the Dutch coast may be expected to put a stop to the navigation in a few weeks, and dealers are bringing over large quantities at present to be fattened for Christmas.

AGRICULTURAL SERVANTS IN THE NORTH.—Whitsuntide and Martinmas are the usual times of hiring agricultural servants in the more northern counties. At nearly all the hirings this Martinmas the wages of servants of both sexes, taken altogether, have been on the advance, and the engagements more numerous. At Carlisle the attendance of servants was unusually large on Saturday week, and good men servants were engaged at wages ranging from £6. 1s., £8, to £9. 10s. for the half-year; half-grown lads were engaged for £4. 10s., £5, and £5. 10s. each; known women servants were hired at £4, £4. 10s. to £6; and the younger girls got from £3 to £4. 10s. each who were hired. The servants get their victuals, and lodge and sleep in their masters' houses, in the northern counties. The above quotation of wages, with very little variation, will apply to the hirings which took place at Cockermouth, Keswick, Wigton, Brampton, Penrith, Appleby, Kendal, and other places.

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. Nov. 16	Mon. Nov. 18	Tues. Nov. 19	Wed. Nov. 20	Thurs. Nov. 21	Fri. Nov. 22
Bank Stock......	204½	205	205½	206	208	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	99½	99⅝	99⅝	99⅝	99⅝	99⅝
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	100⅜	100⅜	100⅜	100⅜	100½	100⅜
3½ per Ct. An. new	102	102½	102⅝	102⅝	102½	102½
Long. An. Ex. 1860	12 1-16	—	12 1-16	12⅛	12⅛	—
Cons. for Acc. ..	100⅜	100⅜	100½	100⅜	100⅜	100½
Exc. Bills, pm. ..	58	59	60	64	63	—
Ind. Bds. und. 1000l	—	80	80	83	83	—
India Stock	—	—	285	285½	285	—
Belgian Bonds ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brazilian Bonds..	—	89	88½	89	—	—
Buenos Ayres....	—	—	36½	36½	—	—
Chilian..........	—	—	—	—	103	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	—	13½	14	13⅞	—	14⅛
Danish	90	—	—	89½	90	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	99	99½	99½	99	99½	99½
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	62½	62½	62¾	62⅞	62⅞	63
Mexican	36	35½	36½	36½	36	36
Peruvian	—	—	—	—	25½	—
Portug. conv. ..	53	54	53½	—	54½	55½
Spanish 5 per Ct.	23½	23½	24½	24½	24½	24½
Do. 3 per Cent. ..	35⅝	35½	35⅝	35⅝	35⅝	35⅝

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

MARK-LANE, Monday, Nov. 18.—There was a moderate supply of English Wheat this morning in very ordinary condition. The few samples which were fine in quality and condition realized last Monday's rates, but the rest sold very slowly though offered on lower terms, and a clearance had not been effected at the close of the market The trade in Foreign Wheat was slow at last week's rates. The very finest samples of Malting Barley maintained the rates of this day week, but other qualities of English were a dull sale, though not cheaper. Foreign met a good country demand at fully former prices. We were again shortly supplied with Beans and Peas; the land-carriage samples from the near counties were taken off at 1s. advance, but the high rates demanded for those offering ex-granary checked business. About 15 cargoes of Irish Oats have arrived; the stocks of the dealers have been so reduced by the short arrivals we have had of late, that we had a free sale at fully last week's rates. S. H. LUCAS and SON.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk Old Red 42 to 50 White	46 to 54
—— Ditto..........New — 42 — 48 —	44 — 54.
——Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Old — 42 — 48 —	44 — 50
—— Scotch .... — 42 — 46 —	44 — 48
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Feed.......... New	20 — 22
—— Ditto ...... ditto .. Polands........ do.	22 — 24
—— Scotch Feed..................Old 23 — 25 Potato	26 — 27
—— Limerick .... do. 22 — 23 New	21 — 22
—— Ditto .... do.......... Short	23 — 24
—— Cork .... New	21 — 22
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork Black Old and New	21 — 22
—— Sligo ...... New	21 — 22
—— Galway .... do.	19 — 20 6
Barley, New	32 — 39
Beans, Mazagan Old 36 — 38 .... New	33 — 34
—— Harrow .. do. 40 — 42 .... do.	34 — 38
—— Small .... do................................	42 — 46
Peas, White, New	34 — 38
—— Grey .... 31 to 32 .... Maple	32 — 33
Flour, Town-made .... per sack of 280 lbs....	36 — 43
—— Norfolk and Suffolk	34 — 36

FOREIGN.

Per Imperial Quarter.	Free.	In Bond
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed	48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.
—— Rostock	47 — 54	
—— Stettin	44 — 52	
—— Hamburgh	42 — 49	
—— Odessa	42 — 46	
—— Ditto .... Polish	47 — 50	
—— Russian .... soft	42 — 46	
—— Ditto.............. hard	40 — 44	
—— Spanish .... Red	45 — 49	
—— Ditto .... White........	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding	26 — 30	— — —
—— Distilling..............................	30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel..............................	21 — 22	15 — 16
—— Swedish	22 — 23	16 — 17
—— Danish................................	22 — 24	16 — 18
—— Stralsund	22 — 24	16 — 18
—— Dutch Brew	24 — 25	18 — 19
—— —— Polands	— — —	19 — 20
Beans, Egyptian..............................	32 — 34	25 — 27
Peas, White	33 — 36	— — —
—— Ditto Boilers	36 — 38	— — —
Flour, Canada .... per barrel of 196 lbs	26 — 28	— — —
—— United States.. — —	26 — 28	18 — 20
—— Dantzig........ — —	26 — 28	18 — 20

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Nov. 11, to Nov. 16, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	7057	6032	155	683	1023
Scotch	25	787	1480	—	—
Irish........	24	—	17565	—	—
Foreign	2260	2917	—	—	—

Flour, 5307 sacks, 671 bars.

FRIDAY, November 22.—The return below shows a large arrival of English Wheat; it is chiefly from Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire, and most of it direct to the millers. There are, consequently, but few samples of English offering: those in good condition are in request at Monday's prices; for all but these the trade is heavy. There is rather a large supply of English Barley, and, owing to factors being unwilling to submit to lower prices, the business doing is very limited. Distilling and grinding qualities of Foreign maintain former rates. 19,000 quarters of Irish Oats are reported this week; but most of the vessels had arrived in time for Monday's market. Though the trade is not brisk, Monday's rates are firmly supported for all descriptions. There is no alteration in the value of Beans and Peas. The only alteration in the duties yesterday was on Rye, which is 1s. higher. S. H. LUCAS and SON.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 18th of November to the 23th of November, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat..............	11550	—	1930
Barley.	7400	—	3430
Oats..............	1220	10020	1070

Flour, 4950 sacks.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES Weeks ending

	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.		Rye.		Beans.		Peas.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
12th ,,	46	3	33	6	20	6	37	10	35	11	31	0
19th ,,	46	8	34	0	20	8	39	8	37	0	34	2
26th ,,	46	0	34	9	20	11	39	8	37	0	34	2
2nd Nov.	46	0	35	7	21	2	37	8	36	8	35	1
9th ,,	46	3	36	1	21	6	34	6	37	11	34	7
16th ,,	46	4	35	9	21	9	34	2	36	4	35	7

Aggregate Average of the Six Weeks.—Wheat, 46s. 2d.; Barley, 34s. 11d.; Oats, 21s. 1d.; Rye, 36s. 10d.; Beans, [illegible] 5d.; Peas 34s. 6d.

Duty.—Wheat, 20s. 0d.; Barley, 4s. 0d.; Oats, 6s. 0d.; Rye, 0s. 6d.; Beans, 5s. 6d.; Peas, 5s. 6d.

LONDON AVERAGES for the Week ending Nov. 19, 1844.

	Qrs.	Price.		Qrs.	Price.
Wheat.. ..	3323	46s. 4d.	Rye	16	33s. 10d.
Barley.. ..	2570	35s. 7d.	Beans.. ..	928	36s. 9d.
Oats	15854	22s. 0d.	Peas	314	37s. 7d.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15.

DECLARATION OF INSOLVENCY.

T. SHERWOOD, Tilehurst, Berkshire, brickmaker.

BANKRUPTS.

W. L. DORE, Egham, Surrey, innkeeper. [Oliverson, Denby, and Lavie, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry.

C. PARRY, Cleaver-street, Kennington-road, furniture broker. [Rosser, Dyer's-buildings, Holborn.

I. ARGENT, Fleet-street, victualler. [Cooke, King-street, Cheapside.

W. and T. HIGGINS, Old Bond-street, hosiers. [Thomas, Lepard, and Williams, Cloak-lane.

W. NORWOOD, Kettering, Northamptonshire, grocer.

J. G. BOURNE, Battersea, builder. [Pain and Hatherly, Great Marlborough-street.

J. F. BARWICK, Old-street, St. Luke's, wheelwright. [Messrs. Lawrance, Old Fish-street.

G. F. DAVIDSON, John-street, Adelphi, merchant. [Oliverson and Co., Old Jewry.

J. SEDMAN, Queen-street, Cheapside, colour merchant. [Capes and Stuart, Raymond-buildings, Gray's-inn.

T. BOULTER, Cromer, Norfolk, innkeeper. [Brooksbank and Farn, Gray's-inn; Stuff, Norwich.

R. BARRY, Worthing, lodging housekeeper. [Hillier and Co., Gray's-inn; Tribe and Son, Worthing.

C. SOUL, Long-alley, Moorfields, grocer. [Taylor, North-buildings, Finsbury-circus.

W. COLLINSON, East Butterwick, Lincolnshire, shipwright. [Howlett, Kirkton in Lindsey; Payne, Eddison, and Ford, Leeds.

J. WATSON, Carlisle, grocer. [Mounsey, Carlisle; Gray, Staple-inn.

T. DOWDING, Chippenham, Wiltshire, brewer. [Leman, Bristol.

W. JONES, Usk, Monmouthshire, linendraper. [Messrs. Sole, Aldermanbury; Haberfield, Bristol.

J. and H. COLVILLE, Liverpool, merchants. [Vincent and Sherwood, Temple; Littledale and Bardswell, Liverpool.

E. COTTRILL, Redditch, Worcestershire, linendraper. [Motteram, Birmingham.

DIVIDENDS.

Dec. 6. E. Edwards, City-road, draper—Dec. 6. T. Watson, Camomile-street, City, victualler—Dec. 6. H. Tisoe, Hertford, carpenter—Dec. 6. E. Holmes, King-street, Cheapside, warehouseman—Dec. 6. J. Harman, Whitefriars, common brewer—Dec. 13. R. Halford, W. H. Baldock, and O. Snoulten, Canterbury, bankers—Dec. 10. J. Goren, Orchard-street, Portman-square, coachmaker—Dec. 6. W. Broome, Oxford-street, linendraper—Dec. 20. D. Storm, Cardiff, builder—Dec. 10. J Hawksley, Arnald, Northamptonshire, merchant—Dec. 10. J. H. Allen, Newton Nottage, Glamorganshire, timber merchant—Dec. 12. G. Grove, Wick, Gloucestershire, miller—Dec. 11. G. Robertson, J. Garrow, and J. Alexander, ship chandlers—Dec. 10. O. D. Ward, Manchester, merchant—Dec. 10. S. Price, Blackburn, machine maker—Dec. 12. R. and R. D. Dunn, Wakefield, cornfactors—Dec. 12. T. Hill, Uppingham, Rutlandshire, woolstapler.

CERTIFICATES.

Dec. 4. T. Marsh, Canterbury, miller—Dec. 4. E. Peters, Godstone, Surrey, brewer—Dec. 4. T. H. Skelton, Southampton, stationer—Dec. 10. M. Maslin, Croydon, Surrey, coal merchant—Dec 6. T. Turner, Sheffield, grocer—Dec. 21. H. Gibbons, Wolverhampton, chemist—Dec. 6. J. Brown, jun., Tydee, Monmouthshire, ironfounder—Dec. 6. D. and J. Sugden, Springfield, Yorkshire, fancy cloth manufacturers—Dec. 6. R. Catlow, Leeds, victualler—Dec. 6. E. Arnatt, Oxford, baker—Dec. 6. R. A. Haw, Moorgate-street, City, tavern keeper—Dec. 6. T. and R. Barrs, Worcester, tobacco manufacturers—Dec. 6. R. P. Dockery, Dartford, market gardener—Dec. 6. R. Pettigrew, jun., Woolwich, tailor.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19.

DECLARATION OF INSOLVENCY.

J. HOLT, Mirfield, Yorkshire, book keeper.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. HALL and S. VINCENT, St. Mary-axe, City, wholesale tea dealers.

BANKRUPTS.

J. SEDMAN, Queen-street, Cheapside, colour merchant. [Loughborough, Austin-friars.

J. LAWRENCE, Northampton, tobacconist. [Dods and Linklaters, Leadenhall-street.

C. S. HARVEY, George-street, Hanover-square, dress maker. [Clipperton and Impey, Bedford-row.

C. CASH, Whitechapel-road, ironmonger. [Capes and Stuart, Field-court, Gray's-inn; Clark, Wolverhampton.

T. COOPER, Aldgate High-street, coffee housekeeper. [Spriggs, Upper North-place, Gray's-inn-road.

S. HARVEY, East Mersey, Essex, cattle dealer. [Marriott, New-inn.

S. T. WATSON and W. BYERS, Skinner-street, City, Manchester warehousemen. [Dods and Linklaters, Leadenhall-street.

J. CRAVEN, J. HARDMAN, and G. CRAVEN, jun., Wakefield, Yorkshire, dyers. [Gregory and Co., Bedford-row; Taylor and Westmorland, Wakefield.

J. CRAVEN and J. HARDMAN, Thornes, Yorkshire, dyers. [Sudlow and Co., Chancery-lane; Bakewell, Wakefield.

J. BROADBENT, Kexby, Lincolnshire, wheelwright. [Rogerson, Lincoln's-inn-fields; Howlett, Kirton in Lindsey; Payne, Eddison, and Ford, Leeds.

B. OSBORNE, Sheffield, table knife manufacturer. [Ryalls, Sheffield; Blackburn, Leeds; Moss, Cloak-lane.

R. ROCHESTER, Hartlepool, Durham, butcher. [Wilson and Turnbull, Hartlepool; Meggison, Pringle, and Manniaty, London.

R. B. PALMER, Bath, watchmaker. [Kirk, Symond's-inn; Silverthorne, Bath.

C. BONES, Bath, shoemaker. [Messrs. Mogg, Cholwell, Bristol.

T. MANN, Leicester, paper hanger. [Vincent and Sherwood, Temple; Hodgson, Birmingham.

J. SHARPLES, Blackburn, Lancashire, cotton manufacturer. [Bentley, Temple; Robinson and Hulton, Blackburn.

J. SUGDEN, Leeds, machine maker. Mitton and Nealor, Southampton-buildings; Dunning and Stawman, Leeds.

DIVIDENDS.

Dec. 10. T. and J. L. Keasley, Long-lane, Bermondsey, tanners—Dec. 10. J. Bradshaw and J. Williams, Marylebone-street, Piccadilly, woollen drapers—Dec. 10. J. Waddell, Lime-street, City, shipbroker—Dec. 10. T. Giles, St. John's-lane, Clerkenwell, wire worker—Dec. 11. E. Sedgwick, Hythe, Kent, scrivener—Dec. 17. J. Grundy, Ramsbottom, Lancashire, woollen manufacturer—Dec. 11. T. Todd, Manchester, dealer in cotton goods—Dec. 13. J. Wilson, Manchester, warehouseman—Dec. 13. J. Gleadhill, Oldham, Lancashire, cotton spinner—Dec. 13. I. Alderson, Warley, Yorkshire, worsted spinner.

CERTIFICATES.

Dec. 14. C. Alderton, Brighton, tailor—Dec. 14. J. Badcock, Shrivenham, Berkshire, grocer—Dec. 11. F. Howard, Tonbridge-place, New-road, publisher—Dec. 11. J. Dancaster, Brighton, painter—Dec. 13. D. O'Beirne, Bath, wine merchant—Dec. 19. I. Alderson, Warley, Yorkshire, worsted spinner—Dec. 11. H. Brady, Kingston-upon-Hull, brush manufacturer—Dec. 10. J. and B. Yeardley, Ecclesfield, Yorkshire, flax spinners—Dec. 10. H. C. Walton, Liverpool, surgeon—Dec. 10. J. Forth, Nottingham, hatter—Dec. 10. J. Mayn, Flushing, Cornwall, merchant—Dec. 10. T. Brand, Stamford-street, Blackfriars, livery stable keeper.

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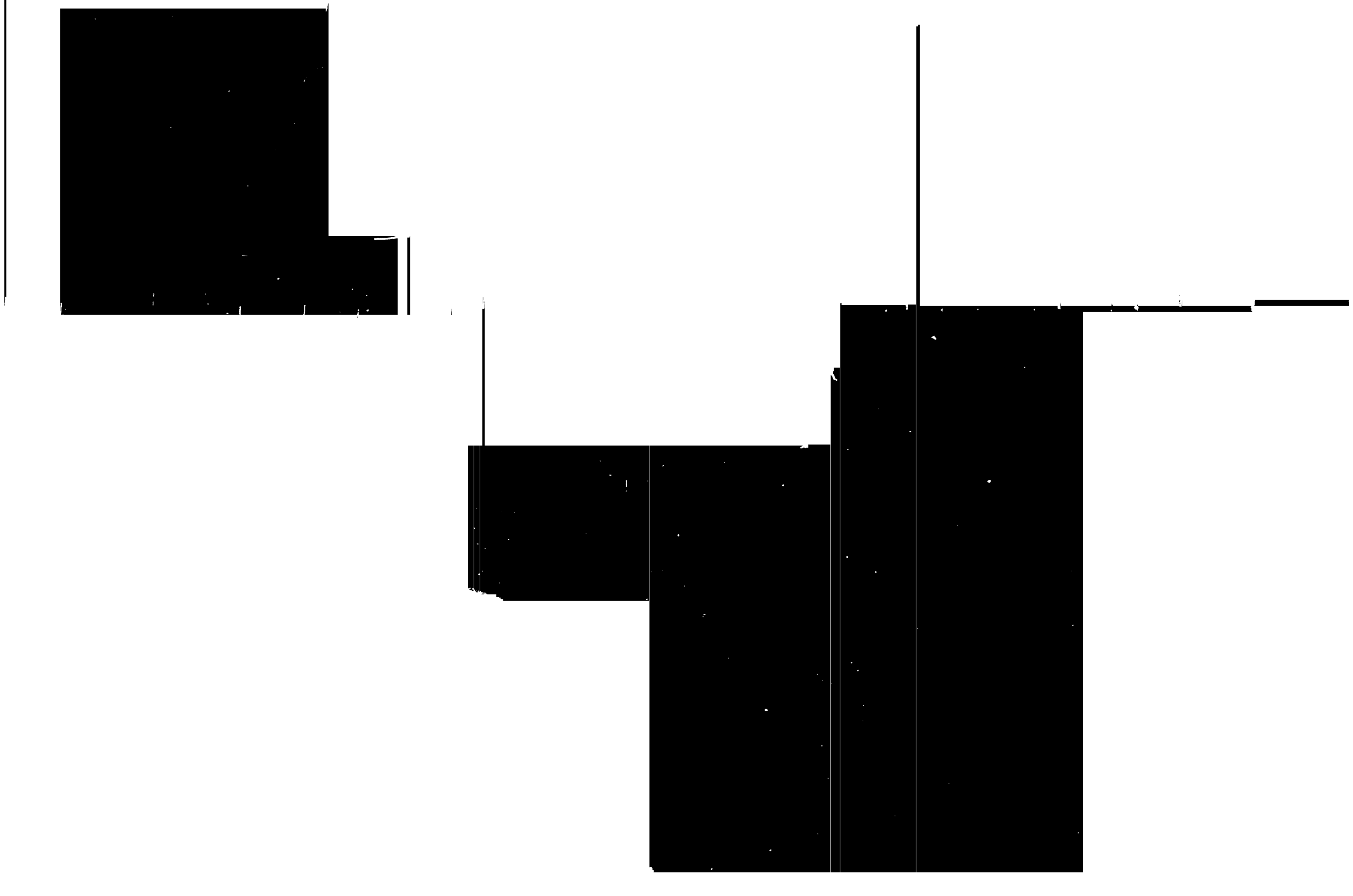

THE LEAGUE.

No. 62.] SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1844. [3*d*.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

LEAGUE FUND, £100,000.

All Subscribers of £1 and upwards to the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUND FUND, *will be entitled to, and receive, a copy weekly of this publication for twelve months from the date of the receipt of their subscription.*

Subscribers of half-a-crown, and under £1, will have forwarded to them a copy of THE LEAGUE, *containing an acknowledgment of their subscription; and it is requested that all subscribers will be kind enough to send their names and addresses to the Offices of* THE LEAGUE, *Newall's-buildings, Manchester, or 67, Fleet-street, London.*

N.B. *As there is considerable risk in the transmission of gold and silver by post, parties wishing to forward small contributions to* THE LEAGUE FUND *are particularly requested to make their remittances by post-office orders.*

The Council of the League would also suggest to their friends in the country, the importance of transmitting their copies of the LEAGUE *newspaper, after perusal, to such parties (more especially farmers) as may be either hostile or indifferent to the question of Free Trade.*

The League Bazaar will be held during the month of May next, in the Theatre Royal Covent Garden.

We beg to inform our subscribers that bound volumes of the LEAGUE *newspaper, containing the whole of the first year's numbers, may be had on application at the Offices either in London or Manchester.*

Persons wishing to be on the Register next year, as Freeholders for County votes, must be in possession of the property before the 31st of January.

QUALIFY, QUALIFY, QUALIFY.

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTORAL QUALIFICATION.

The electors for counties are as follows:—Freeholders, copyholders, leaseholders, occupying tenants.

FREEHOLDERS.—The following persons are entitled to vote as freeholders:—1. Any person possessed of a freehold estate for himself and his heirs, or, as it is called, an estate of inheritance, of the yearly value of 40*s*. 2. Any person possessed of a freehold estate for life or lives of the yearly value of £10. 3. Any person possessed of such an estate for life or lives of the yearly value of 40*s*., under any one of the following circumstances:—If the estate was acquired on or before the 7th of June, 1832; or since, if by marriage or marriage settlement, by devise (*i. e.*, by will), or by promotion to any benefice or office, or if the freeholder is himself the actual occupier of the property. In any of these cases it is sufficient if the property be of the yearly value of 40*s*. Parish clerks, sextons, schoolmasters, Dissenting ministers, and holders of offices have a right to vote if entitled to emoluments of 40*s*. per annum, arising out of, or charged upon, land, and may be registered as voters in the parish wherein the land is situate. The appointment must, however, be for life, not for a temporary purpose, or at the pleasure of any other party; but an appointment during good behaviour is considered to be an appointment for life. If the freeholder occupy his own freehold property in a borough, of such a nature and value as would confer upon *him* the right to vote for the borough, he will not be entitled, in respect of that property, to vote for the county. But if the freehold will not confer the right of voting for the borough, that is, if it be not of the annual value of £10, or if it be land without building, the freeholder may vote for the county, though he occupy it himself. And if the freeholder do not occupy his freehold situate within a borough, he may then vote in respect of it for the county, and his tenant may also vote for the borough. Six months' possession prior to the 31st of July will entitle a freeholder to be registered. And if the freehold lands or tenements should have come to him by descent, succession, marriage, marriage-settlement, will, or promotion to any benefice in a church, or to any office, no definite period of previous possession will be necessary.

COPYHOLDERS.—Any person possessed of any lands or tenements of the clear yearly value of £10, whether of copyhold or *any other* tenure than freehold, is entitled to vote. Tenants in ancient demesne may in general vote as freeholders, if they do not hold by copy of court-roll, but otherwise they will be entitled as copyholders. As freeholders, 40*s*. per annum will be sufficient; but as copyholders, £10 a year is required. The same period of possession previous to registration is required, in respect to copyholders, as in respect to freeholders. Copyhold property within a borough, if of such a nature as would qualify any person to vote for the borough, will not, under any circumstances, give a right to vote for the county.

LEASEHOLDERS.—The right of voting in respect of leasehold property extends to—1. Any person who is entitled by virtue of a lease made or assigned to him of any lands or tenements for the unexpired residue of any term originally created for a period of not less than 60 years, if the property is of the clear yearly value of £10 above all rents and charges. 2. Any person who is in like manner entitled to the unexpired residue of a term originally of 20 years, if the lands and tenements are of the clear yearly value of £50. The party to whom the lease was originally made, or a party to whom such lessee may have assigned the original lease, may vote, though not in occupation of the premises. Any sub-lessee or assignee of an underlease may also vote, but only when in occupation of the premises. Lessees or assignees must have been in actual possession for 12 months previous to the 31st of July, unless the qualification is acquired by any of the modes before mentioned as excepted; that is to say, by the death of a relative, by marriage, by will, or by promotion to any benefice or office. Leasehold property in a borough, if of such nature and value as will give any person a vote for the borough, will not give a vote for the county.

OCCUPYING TENANT.—Any person occupying lands or tenements for which he is liable to pay a yearly rent of £50 is entitled to vote, if not within a borough, and not of such nature as would qualify a person to vote for the borough. In respect of the period of previous possession required, occupying tenants are placed on the same footing as leaseholders; but it is not requisite that the occupation be of the same lands or tenements: different lands and tenements occupied in immediate succession for twelve months previous to the 31st of July in each year will give the qualification.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.—Besides lands, houses, buildings, and the like, property and interests of the following description will entitle the owner to be registered and to vote, viz.—tithes, an annuity charged on land, a rent-charge,* fee-farm rents issuing out of an estate in fee; shares in navigable rivers, canals, &c., where the shareholders possess an interest in the soil; tolls of bridges, tolls of fairs and markets, purchases of unredeemed land-tax. Persons who have entered into an agreement of purchase of property, or who have paid any part of the purchase-money, or done any other act in part performance of the agreement, are considered to have equitable estates, and are entitled to vote and to be registered. Joint tenants and tenants in common have each a right to vote, provided the property be of sufficient amount to give to the share of each the value required. Mortgagees may vote, if in actual possession or in receipt of the rents and profits, but not otherwise. Trustees are expressly excluded from voting for any trust estate; the right of voting in respect of trust property is reserved for the *c'estui que* trust. In estimating the value of freehold or copyhold property, the marketable value of the property to let is the criterion to be attended to. If, owing to accidental circumstances, the rent should be less than might be obtained, the property will still give a right to vote. As regards leaseholds, the value required does not depend on the amount of rent. It is to be estimated by the profit which the tenant can make of the property, over and above the amount of rent reserved and any encumbrance charged on the property. The value required is to be "above all rents and charges." Under these words are included all encumbrances affecting the property, but not any public or parliamentary taxes.

BOROUGH FRANCHISE FOR 1845.

In order to secure a borough vote next year, those who occupy premises giving a qualification should immediately see that their names are placed on the poor's rate-book.

A claimant must be rated, or have claimed to be rated, to all rates made during the year ending the 31st of July. If, therefore, his name is omitted from any rate made during that time, he should immediately claim to be rated. The overseers are required to put the name of a person so claiming on the rate last made; consequently, if the claimant suffers two rates to be made before he claims, he will be unable to get upon the former one, and will thereby lose his vote for one year.

No particular form of claim to be rated is prescribed by the Reform or Registration Acts; but the following form may be adopted:—

"CLAIM TO BE RATED.

"To the Overseers of the Parish of ————————.

"I hereby give you notice that I occupy a —— at No. —— in ———— Street, in your parish, and I claim to be rated to the relief of the poor in respect of such premises, in order that I may be entitled to vote in the election of a member (or members) of Parliament for the city (or borough) of ————————.

"Dated this —— day of ————, 1844.

"(Signed) ————————,

of ————————."

Insert the name of the parish, the nature of the premises, as *house, shop, room*, or as the case may be, and the name of the street, &c., and of the city or borough, also the date. The christian and surname and place of residence of the claimant should be inserted at full length. Give the claim to an overseer, keeping a correct copy, on which should be written the date when, and the name of the overseer on whom, it was served. If any poor's rates are due for the premises at the time of making the claim they must be paid, or the amount due tendered. Should the overseer refuse to accept the money, or omit to enter the claimant's name in the rate-book, he will be deemed to be rated notwithstanding; but, if the claimant's name be omitted from any future rate, he should again claim to be rated.

THE COUNTIES—OBJECTORS ANSWERED.

An able weekly journal, so expert in finding flaws that it might be called the censor-general, in alluding to our plan for increasing the county constituencies, asks—"Is not this a game which two can play at, and will not victory be with the richest?" Our answer, to some extent, has already been given to this objection; we repeat that the monopolists have played this game, and played it out, whilst the inhabitants of the towns seem to have been forgetful that there was such a clause in the Reform Act as a 40*s*. freehold qualification. Take the register of any county containing a mixed manufacturing and agricultural constituency, and it will satisfy even our contemporary, the *Spectator*, that whilst the land-agents have worked the Chandos clause in the rural districts to the last available vote, the middle class in the cities and boroughs have looked on unconscious of the power which the 40*s*. freehold gives them to outnumber the tenants-at-will in the polling booth. To quote an illustration or two from the register for the West Riding of Yorkshire:—There is Huddersfield, containing by the last census a population of 38,454 souls, with only 104 votes on the county register; whilst the obscure rural township of Thorne can boast its 181 electors in a population of 3507. Barnsley, the great seat of the linen manufacture, without the borough franchise, has been so indifferent to the possession of the only vote within its reach, that out of a population of 12,310 there are only 285 county electors. Rotherham, one of the largest unenfranchised towns in the kingdom, with a population of 13,439, contributes 127 voters to the county list; whilst the land-agents in the unheard-of agricultural township of Tickhill have contrived to place 163 electors on the register out of a population of 2040.

There are, we venture to say, 500 Free-Traders in Huddersfield, and half as many at least in Barnsley or Rotherham, who are able and, we have no doubt, willing immediately to purchase property which will give them the county qualification; and there are hundreds of places in England and Wales similarly circumstanced. All that has been wanting is that their attention should be called to the privilege they possess. This could only be done by a public appeal, and, in making it, we must take the risk of rousing a few of our enemies along with the multitude of our friends.

Allowing, for the sake of argument, that our critical contemporary is right—that ours is a game which two may play at—still whatever increases the number of voters favours the Free-Trade party. The aim of the monopolists is restriction of the franchise as well as of commerce. They know that it is far easier to manage a small than a large constituency; they know that the Free-Traders have a better chance of success in the West Riding, South Lancashire, and Middlesex, than in Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, or Monmouthshire.

But we deny that the landlord monopolists can play the game of extending the franchise. It has been said, by another journal, that they may increase the number of voters indefinitely on their estates by granting life rent-charges. Our first answer to this is, that not one in four of the monopolist landlords has his estates at his own disposal, the title-deeds being in the hands of mortgagees. In the next place, supposing the property to be in some cases free, where are the *men* to be found, in sufficient numbers, to whom they dare trust their property or their vote. The farmers? They are already on the register as tenants-at-will. The agricultural labourers? We think the squires will hesitate before they trust a £10 annuity for life to the Lawrence Eborns of their villages. Will they, then, come into the towns, to grant the qualification to the members of the Operative Conservative associations, or Orange lodges? We doubt if the investment would be profitable or safe. From the moment that the landlords begin seriously to stir in the business of increasing the number of their dependent voters, they will find themselves at a dead-lock for want of the three essentials in great public movements—men, money, and enthusiasm. The landed monopolists must expect no active support from the respectable members of the Tory party in the large towns. The latter may give a vote to their party at the day of election, even if that party upholds the Corn Law, which their better judgment, in the absence of any pecuniary stake, utterly condemns. But there will be no organization in the towns, no active efforts of any kind to qualify voters, or in any way to counteract the exertions of the Leaguers. Landlordism is especially at a discount, just now, in the manufacturing boroughs, where Free-Trade principles are tacitly acquiesced in by men of all parties.

We say then, to our opponents, in the first place,—increase the number of county voters if you dare—the more you put upon the register the better chance will there be for some of them to escape from your

* No registration of annuities or rent-charges with the clerk of the peace is requisite. The 3rd Geo. III., c. 24, is repealed.

ranks at the poll. But, secondly,—we defy you, for the reasons given, to meet our challenge in the registration courts with any chance of eventual triumph. Upon this point we have had the opportunity of perusing an interesting letter from an extensive land-agent, who says:—"I could name landed estates with which I am connected, the rent of which amounts to £16,000 a year, worth at thirty years' purchase £480,000, and which makes 68 votes. Now, £3000 invested in cottage property, in any manufacturing town in Lancashire or Cheshire, would pay £6 per cent. interest at least, and qualify 70 votes, or more than are registered from half a million of property in land." The same writer adds:—"You possess the power of increasing the number of county voters which the landlords dare not exercise; but what is more, and I speak with a full knowledge of the class, *they have not the spare money.*"

The writer lays it down as a rule that £50 laid out in towns, in the purchase of cottage property for qualifying voters, will give to the purchaser as much political power as is acquired in an average of cases by the investment of £5000 in land. And there is this important prospective advantage for the towns, that, although the land remains of the same extent, houses are continually multiplying, and whilst it requires 40 or 50 acres to confer a vote upon a tenant-at-will, every twelve yards square of freehold land in a town, if only covered with a cobbler's stall or a butcher's shambles, will give the owner a county vote. In every point of view, we find encouragement in the new field of labour that is opened to the friends of Free Trade, with whom the sole watchword up to the 31st of January must be

QUALIFY, QUALIFY, QUALIFY!

THE *EXAMINER* AND OURSELVES.

"In argument," says the *Examiner*, "we play best at the roughest game, and in the heat of controversy we use the weapons that best press home our points." To which mode of political warfare we make no sort of objection, so long as our contemporary's rough play is kept within the bounds of fair play, and the heat of controversy does not betray him into injustice and misrepresentation. We are sorry, however, that we have to charge him with a very gross instance of that shabbiest sort of controversial unfairness—misstatement of fact, backed by garbled quotation.

On the 16th instant we wrote as follows, of the comments made by the public press on Lord Radnor's speech at the Highworth meeting:—

"For this avowal of a doctrine which everybody follows in practice, and which is indispensable alike to the rights of property and the independence of the labourer, he has brought down upon himself a full measure of that obloquy which always awaits the man who encounters a pleasant popular delusion with a disagreeable truth. "Most abominable!" cries the *Post*; "What a principle!" ejaculates the *Chronicle*; while the *Examiner*, we are sorry to add—a journal usually foremost to mark and correct the aberrations of public opinion and morality—*criticises the speech in two successive weeks' articles*, in which such epithets as "screw-driving," "griping," "inhumanity," and "tyrant" are applied, directly or by implication, to the speaker and his doctrines; and the attempt to enlighten the poor labourers on the real facts of their condition, and the causes and remedies of their distress, is stigmatized as 'pedantic prating.'

"We do not recur to this subject—which may now, perhaps, be regarded as pretty well worn out—with any especial purpose of defending Lord Radnor. Such defence as may be deemed necessary to vindicate, from the charge of inhumanity and tyranny, the acts or words of a man who has laboured through a lifetime in the cause of the people, has been already more than sufficiently supplied by his lordship's manly and straightforward letter to the *Examiner*, given by our contemporary last week. But we cannot be satisfied to let this matter drop out of public notice, without entering our protest against the false moralities to which *the recent attacks on the Highworth speech* have given sanction and currency. In the bitter and unsparing censure directed against Lord Radnor, BY THE PRESS, for the offence of refusing to adopt a particular description of almsgiving as a rule in the management of his property; in the fact that Lord Radnor, with all substantial claims on public esteem and honour, has brought upon himself a not small share of temporary unpopularity, by speaking a few plain, unsentimental truths in season, while others of his order, with not one-hundredth part of his title to the people's confidence, are lauded to the skies as pattern philanthropists, at the very moment that they have their hands in the poor man's pocket;—in this we see the signs of a radically false public morality, a purblind intelligence and perverted conscience, which is a greater public evil than even the Corn Law itself, for it is the element in which Corn Laws and all other iniquities live and thrive. Any injustice which newspaper criticism may do to Lord Radnor is an affair of very secondary importance: the way of thinking, on the part of *newspaper writers and the portion of the public represented by them*, which prompts and sanctions injustice is an evil of first-class magnitude. The peer who tells peasants, in a clear, strong way, the real facts of their condition, traces their distress to the iniquitous and sordid legislation of his own order, and refuses to have anything to do with wretched patchwork expedients which, while *that* lasts, can only tend (as he believes) to increase the mischief, is denounced as little better than a monster. The peer who taxes peasants in their food, and (the proceeds of the extortion jingling the while in his pocket) plays cricket with them and drinks their health, is extolled as a philanthropist. We accept a little bad bowling, or a ten-hours bill, as a composition in lieu of justice, and an atonement for robbery. Too truly is it said, by a weekly literary critic, in the number of the *Examiner* containing the first of the articles *we have alluded to*, "*The character of* PECKSNIFF *is emphatically English:* not that Englishmen are Pecksniffs, but that *the ruling weakness is to countenance and encourage the race.*"

Of the above passage, the *Examiner* quotes from "The peer who tells peasants" to "atonement for robbery," as a calumny *against itself;* and, after very superfluously proving that it does not extol cricketing peers as philanthropists, nor accept ten-hours bills as a composition in lieu of justice, adds:—

"But as our honest contemporary, the preacher of morality, may pretend that he did not point at the *Examiner* in these passages so grossly misrepresenting it, let us put that out of doubt by quoting the commencement of the very next sentence—

"'Too truly is it said, by a weekly literary critic in the number of the *Examiner* containing the first of the articles *we have alluded to*,' &c.

"So much for the candour of our opponent at the outset."

It does not need candour, so much as eyes, to see that we had "alluded" to the "two successive weeks' articles" of our contemporary—not by implication and inuendo, in the sentences quoted by him—but by express and particular mention, in the preceding paragraph. This the *Examiner*—with what we must regard as a breach of faith towards its readers and ourselves (unless apologised for as a blunder)—chooses to suppress; and, by this simple expedient, puts it "out of doubt" that we have committed, not merely the "gross misrepresentation," but the incredibly absurd and impudent falsehood of saying that it extols cricket-playing lords, and accepts ten-hours bills, in two articles in which not one syllable is said of either the one or the other.

We confess we cannot understand how any man, capable of understanding the meaning of written words, can discover a reference to the *Examiner* in the passage which it so perversely appropriates to itself. The *Examiner's* high and well-merited reputation for controversial fairness was not earned by articles like that of last Saturday, and is not, we trust, destined to be further expended at this lavish rate.

The general question as regards Lord Radnor and Lord Radnor's doctrines, and the allotment system, we are contented to leave as it stands. It will be time enough to recur to it when the *Examiner* thinks proper to notice our argument—that *a system of charity allotments, with the Corn Law unrepealed*, would certainly be no real and permanent relief to the agricultural labourer—would probably do more harm than good. We need scarcely remind our readers that we have never objected to allotments, except as a proposed substitute for justice and Free Trade. The allotment system, in itself, we are no more concerned to write up or write down, than the savings'-bank system.

The *Examiner* asks a question which is deserving of notice, though not of a serious reply:—"Do the Anti-Corn-Law League join in denouncing all palliatives, all mitigations of the rural labourer's wretched condition?" Which is about as pertinent a question—as much called for by anything the Anti-Corn-Law League have ever said or done—as though we were to ask, "Does the *Examiner* join in recommending a general division of property?" It is sufficient to say that, while the Anti-Corn-Law League "denounce" only one thing, the efforts of its speakers and writers will, in all probability, never be wanting to expose the true nature of such alleged "palliatives" as, in their judgment, are founded on false principles, and would tend in their practical operation to make bad worse.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.

Moral Botany, a doctrine probably learned from the wooden bible which Lord Sandon paraded in Liverpool—for we know not where else to look for its principles—appears to be one of the most perplexing sciences ever forced on the study of a Cabinet. "Party" has been defined to be "the madness of many for the gain of a few;" Lord Sandon has given it a different form, for his anti-slavery amendment has turned out to be the folly of faction for the gain of nobody. We often wondered how people could keep their countenances when they protested against the importation of slave-grown sugar for home consumption, while they admitted slave-grown cotton, coffee, and tobacco; nay, when they allowed sugar tainted with the crime of slavery to be refined in bond for exportation to the Continent and our colonies; but the result has been no laughing matter: the Brazilian markets are ready to be closed against our manufactures, and we encounter this peril because our rulers will not abandon a hypocritical pretence, too threadbare to cloak dishonesty much longer. The colonial interests, to which the commerce and industry of the country were ruthlessly sacrificed by the system of sugar duties, are now thoroughly understood; the experience of the last year has confirmed what the experience of many preceding years taught our Ministry in vain, that the system of protection gave no real advantage to the West Indies, while it was fraught with the most injurious consequences to the parent state. It is now evident that the Ministry has found out the perilous trap which it set for its opponents, but in which it has been caught itself. Cabinet councils have been held day after day, and the discussions have been anything but sweet, though sugar has been the subject. Mr. Gladstone, who represents his father, and Mr. Goulburn, who represents himself in the conflict of selfish interests, from which the very semblance of principle has been rent away, begin to feel that new sermons on the evils of slavery would be little heeded in the teeth of the fact that a cargo of slave-grown sugar was entered, on Monday last, at the Custom-house of Liverpool. The Brazilian Ambassador, armed with that fact, is proof against all the specious reasonings of Mr. Gladstone, even though backed by the moral botany of Lord Sandon's wooden bible. It is probable that some concessions will be made, for we have a Cabinet whose characteristic policy has been a course of miserable palliatives for evils too gross to be denied, but associated with too much parliamentary support to be removed.

In the meantime confusion has been introduced into the stores and warehouses of London. The sugar trade, like the corn trade, has become a mere gambling speculation, in which sane men shrink from hazarding an investment, not knowing what a day may bring forth. The colonial interests, like the farming interest, suffer more from this uncertainty than any direct diminution of their produce could possibly inflict: they find their credit at the lowest ebb in the money market, because no human being can even approximately calculate the value of the security which they have to offer, and their situation must daily become worse, while it passes their ability to determine what crops they can most profitably cultivate.

There is a general impression that "something must be done." It is, therefore, incumbent on Free-Traders to exert themselves, in order that the "something" should be substantial justice. It is monstrous that the Gladstone scribe of "the Goose and Shadow" should gravely tell a mercantile nation that it may make up for the loss of a legitimate trade by diligent smuggling. The Prussian Minister has effectually cured Lord Aberdeen of preaching political economy and its best lesson, freedom of trade, to the Zollverein, when we ourselves set the example of maintaining the most unprincipled monopolies in Europe. The delusive pretexts under which these monopolies have been supported have been so effectually exposed that they have all been successively exploded; and at length monopoly stands before the country in all its naked deformity of avowed tyranny. We are not doubtful of the issue when once a question is placed upon its right basis.

But we must remember that the sugar question, like that of all other monopolies, must be regarded as a question between a class and the country, not between Tory and Whig or between Ministers and Opposition. It may suit the tactics of party politicians to bid for the support of a class; the duty of all true Leaguers is to look solely to the interests of the country. Difficulties may arise, as they have arisen, from pursuing this upright and independent course. An amendment may be proposed in the interest of monopoly by the opponents of Government, for the ethics of party warfare allow considerable latitude in moral practice. But the League is not a party; it seeks nothing for a class; it seeks everything for the community; and it is because the League is thus identified with the country that it has so often to endure the splenetic effusions of party spirit. On the question of the sugar duties the Leaguers had one opportunity of showing that men of principle are independent of party, and uninfluenced by merely personal considerations. We have already exposed the cavilling objections made to the conduct of the Leaguers on that occasion, and it is not our custom thrice "to slay the slain." But when the probability of a similar crisis looms in the horizon—when the same question threatens at no distant date to bring a renewal of warfare on the same battle-field—it is the duty of the League to declare that it will adhere to no class, make sacrifices to no interest, be led by no party, but that, under all circumstances, it will adhere to its demand of justice for the country. The sacrifice of permanent interests to temporary spite has been unfortunately no rare spectacle in the political history of England. Lord Sandon's raising the anti-slavery cry on the sugar question is a signal instance of it. The permanent interests of the country can only, therefore, be secured by severing them from political party; and it is the duty of the League to keep them apart, because the object of the League is to work by all, with all, and for all.

EFFECTS OF THE CORN LAW ON EMIGRATION, CRIME, AND MORTALITY.

In our last number we were only enabled to give a sketch of the proceedings at the interesting meeting

held last week at Rochdale. On looking over the excellent report in the *Manchester Times*, we find some facts and figures brought forward on that occasion by Mr. Bright, to which we are desirous of directing the especial attention of our readers. The monopolists have asserted that a rise in the price of bread is not injurious to the operative classes, because, as they affirm, the price of that staple article regulates the price of labour and of all other commodities; and they have, on this pretence, appealed to the operatives for support in their struggle with the League. Every person who has examined into this pretence must know that it is altogether false and absurd. The general advance of wages now in progress, or which has recently taken place in almost every manufacturing district, whilst the price of bread has been falling, must be sufficiently conclusive to all candid and disinterested minds. There are, however, other and fearfully conclusive evidences of the appalling effects of scarcity and high prices of food, and by whom those effects are most acutely felt. We are not about to quote from documents prepared by agents of the League, but from returns made to and published by the Government, and which may be fully relied on as giving no more than the bare facts of the case. From the emigration returns we are enabled to give the following figures, showing that, as the price of food advanced during the recent years of deficient harvests, the number of our countrymen who sought a home in foreign lands steadily and rapidly increased, and that, so soon as the scourge of famine was abated by the goodness of Providence, the tide of emigration received a check. The number of emigrants from 1838 to 1843 is as follows:—

1838	33,222
1839	62,207
1840	90,743
1841	118,592
1842	128,314
1843	57,212

When we consider how terrible was the pressure upon the country from 1838 up to the harvest of 1842, we shall not be surprised that increasing multitudes fled from a land which, however dear to them by the ties of birth and association, denied them the first of all rights, that of earning their bread by the sweat of their brows. And of what class were these emigrants composed? Of lords spiritual or temporal, who vote almost unanimously in favour of dear bread? Of members of the House of Commons, a large majority of whom do the bidding of their masters in the Lords? Of rich squires, who pamper their dogs, and preserve game while the labourers on their estates are dying for want of food? Of the comfortable clergy, who bless God for "cheapness and plenty," while they canvass and vote for the bread-taxing candidate? Of the rich merchant or manufacturer, who spurns the industry by which he has risen, and votes away the very living of his poorer neighbours for the paltry recompense of a smile from a squire or a lord? No: the emigrant is drafted from the masses, from the men who toil, and toil incessantly that they may live in honest independence; it is in the cottage of the artisan, and not in the mansion or the palace, that the emigrant ship finds her sorrowing freight: and the tears which fall upon her deck are the tears of the poor whom a cruel and heartless policy has driven out as strangers upon the earth.

But the emigration returns stand not alone in the testimony they offer against the Corn Law. The voice which speaks from our courts of justice proclaims the misery it inflicts; and the hand which is upraised at their bar is a condemnation of the wrong by which men, once honest and upright, are converted into felons. The number of commitments in England and Wales from 1837 to 1843 is as follows:—

1837	23,612
1838	23,094
1839	21,443
1840	27,187
1841	27,760
1842	31,309
1843	29,591

The variation is not important during the years 1837, 38, and 39. In the last-mentioned year the pressure of famine rapidly increased, and from that period to 1842 the number of commitments increased from 24,443 to 31,309, whilst in 1843, when the price of food had considerably fallen, the commitments also fell to 29,591.

The tables of the Registrar-General also tell their tale of woe in the muster-roll of evidence against the laws which decree starvation. We have before us the returns of the number of deaths in nine divisions of the north-western district for the years 1840 and 1843: they are as follows:—

	1840.	1843.
Bolton ..	2,900 ..	2,576
Bury ..	2,170 ..	1,832
Rochdale ..	1,688 ..	1,531
Preston ..	2,637 ..	1,938
Blackburn	2,140 ..	2,031
Wigan ..	2,144 ..	1,832
Prescott ..	1,155 ..	920
Manchester	6,489 ..	6,283
Ashton ...	4,873 ..	4,391
	26,196	23,334

showing a diminution of not less than 2862 deaths during the cheap year 1843, as compared with the dear year in 1840, in nine districts out of 115 to which the report refers.

The 2862 human beings whose removal from life is noted in the return for 1840, and is in excess of the number who died in 1843, were of the poor, may we not say of the poorest of our population.

Have the working classes of this country, then, no interest in the repeal of the Corn Law? Deficient harvests would not have brought famine if the Corn Law had not stood in the path. Our artisans were producing goods of almost every kind; the world begged that they might buy them from us and sell us food in exchange; but our bread-taxing lords and squires interposed lest if the people were thus fed rents should fall. But the working men and their families suffered. From their ranks the Corn Law picked its victims:—they loaded the emigrant ship—they stood in the felon's dock—they were consigned prematurely to the grave! The friend of the Corn Law is the enemy of the artisan, and of every man who lives by the reward of his toil. The League is the foe of the Corn Law, and every blow which tends to break down this grievous usurpation of the landowners, by so much contributes to give independence, and comfort, and happiness to the labourer.

GREAT TRIUMPH OF FREE TRADE IN THE UNITED STATES.

The most remarkable feature in the Presidential election in America, now virtually concluded, is, the utter scorn with which the advocates of a protective tariff have been treated, even in the eastern states; and the contempt manifested for the miserable sophisms of monopoly. Polk, perhaps, owes his decisive triumph to a variety of causes; but the advocacy of Free Trade has been the principal source of his success: it obtained for him the votes of many thousands who differed from him on all other points of democratic policy. Clay and his friends, in fact, staked the election on the Free-Trade issue; Webster expatiated on the virtues of prohibition to the Pennsylvanians with a perversity of logic which might well excite the envy of our oratorical monopolists in England; he adorned the cant of "protection to domestic industry" with all the charms of eloquence and poetry; but the absurdity was too gross and the evil too palpable to be disguised by decoration, and, as the Gentoo proverb says, "the wings of the butterfly did not hide the body of the disgusting caterpillar." Henry Clay himself, at the very eve of the election, exclaimed at Brooklyn, that "Free Trade was but a disguisement of the Tory principle of 1776—a mere renewal of the attempt to tax America for the benefit of England." This was exaggerating our English fallacy of "no dependence on foreigners" with a vengeance; but the very exaggeration helped to expose the delusion, and the voters of New York state revolted from such sophistry with disdain. The American monopolists, like their brethren at this side of the water, did not shrink from inventing the most daring falsehoods: they asserted that our League had interfered in their election, and that one hundred thousand pounds had been subscribed to ensure the return of Polk and Dallas. But this very falsehood helped to ensure the defeat of its inventors: it would have been an additional recommendation to the Free-Traders of America had those candidates possessed the confidence of the League, and consequently, so far as the falsehood was credited, it served rather than injured their cause; while its subsequent detection and exposure showed so strongly the base and unscrupulous character of monopoly, that many, who had before doubted, enlisted under the banners of Free Trade.

It had been vainly supposed that the states of New York and Pennsylvania, the seats of many protected manufactures, would have been found stanch advocates of the Tariff; but monopoly is most distrusted where it is most known: the men of those states discovered that the Tariff was an excuse for high prices, just as the English farmers have found out that the Corn Laws are an excuse for high rents. Monopoly has been defeated on its own chosen grounds, as it would be in the English agricultural counties if farmers dared to give independent votes. The state of Ohio, like South Lancashire at the late election, has made a return opposite to its palpable interests, and this, singularly enough, has been caused by the English Corn Laws. Several efforts have been made by the people of Ohio to obtain English manufactures in exchange for their corn and other provisions; but when they have sent these down to the seaboard, the uncertainties of the English sliding scale have prevented merchants from venturing on so hazardous an export, and the commodities have rotted on the quays. The men of Ohio have voted not so much against Free Trade, in the success of which no portion of the Union is more directly interested, as against the unsuccessful efforts to open trade.

Our joy at the success of a Free-Trader in the Presidential contest is not a little dashed by the doubts that have been thrown on the rectitude of Mr. Polk's opinions in other important matters, and particularly in relation to the great question of American slavery. Though we are not of those who would advocate any interference with the domestic institutions of foreign states, we are always grieved to find any section of Free-Traders who do not fully carry out their own principles: Free Trade includes Free Labour, and must, in its results, lead to the perfect emancipation of industry in all its forms. We earnestly hope that our brethren in America will learn this truth from the calm exercise of reason, before it is forced upon them by the irresistible influence of circumstances which those who best foresee are least willing to contemplate.

On this subject we have been favoured with the following letter, written by an intelligent member of the American Legislature:—

"New York, Nov. 8, 1844.

"I cannot refrain writing you a few lines, to announce to you the triumph of our democratic candidate, Mr. Polk, over the great champion of the Whigs and the father of the American protective tariff. This state has cast its vote for him, which gives him already 142 votes, the majority required being 138. There are also several states to be heard from, which will increase his majority to 152, or perhaps even more.

"Mr. Polk's success will greatly strengthen the Free-Trade party, and lead, as I have before said to you, to the overthrow of the whole system of high duties.

"I find the export of provisions attracting more and more attention; and as this trade increases will the great grain-growing Western States become more Free-Trade in their principles. We could not reach them by reason or argument prior to Sir Robert Peel's bill of 1842; but that measure has enabled us to approach them through their pockets, and that is an argument which requires no reach of understanding to comprehend. The people of the West understand it well, and do not stand in need of the politicians to enlighten them in finding out their true interests. I hesitate not to repeat my firm conviction that a reasonable concession in the duties on beef, pork, and bacon in Great Britain would be followed by a complete change in our tariff; and now that the Free-Trade party is triumphant is the time to strike the blow, and destroy for ever this system of plunder and oppression."

It is constantly urged by the monopolists, that, if we were to take the corn and provisions and timber of America, she would make no change in her tariff—she would still shut out our manufactures; but we have here the statement of an American legislator, that the trifling change in our tariff of 1842, in the article of provisions, has already produced a feeling in the western states in favour of Free Trade with England, and the most decided conviction is expressed, that a "reasonable concession in the duties on beef, pork, and bacon" will be followed by a complete change in the American tariff. The change in our tariff by Sir Robert Peel in 1842, referred to, was as follows:—

		Old Duties.	Sir R. Peel's Duties.
Bacon	per cwt.	28s.	14s.
Hams	..	28s.	14s.
Beef salted, not being corned ..	..	12s.	8s.
Do. fresh, or slightly salted ..		Prohibited	8s.
Lard	..	8s.	2s.

Thrice have we shut the door upon trade with the United States, and vainly hoped that, though we refused to buy their produce, we could still continue to sell them our manufactures. Mark the result of our folly. In 1805, 1806, and 1807 (before the iniquitous Corn Law was passed), our exports to the United States were about £8,000,000 per annum. The population was then about six millions, so that every man, woman, and child of the population annually consumed British manufactures of the value of 26s. 8d. per head. In 1842 our exports had fallen to £3,528,000, and during the present year they will amount to about £5,000,000; and we hear of the market being overstocked, and English goods selling at a loss of 20 to 30 per cent. Taking an export of £4,000,000 per annum as sufficient to supply the demand at the existing rate of American duties, and taking the present population at eighteen millions, the consumption of British manufactures per head now, instead of 26s. 8d. as it was nearly forty years ago, is only 4s. 5d. Such have been the results of our corn and provision laws!!

We have the strongest evidence to prove that the first hostile American tariff was passed in retaliation of our prohibitory duties upon the corn and timber of that country. Mr. Addington, the British Minister at Washington, in his despatch to Mr. Canning on this subject, said, "I have only to add that, had no restrictions on the importation of foreign corn existed in Great Britain, the tariff would never have passed through either House of Congress, since the agricultural states, and especially Pennsylvania, would have been opposed to its enactment." Can it be expected that the corn-growing states of America, which comprise three-fourths of the population and seven-eighths of the wealth of the country, will submit to the continued exclusion of their produce from our markets, without retaliating by the prohibition or the imposition of heavy duties on our manufactures? We know, by bitter experience, they will not. But will our Government and our Legislature learn wisdom by this experience? Will they still persevere in a system so unjust and impolitic, so injurious to the best interests of the coun-

try? We shall see whether, in face of the facts that our population is increasing at the rate of one thousand souls per day,—that in the agricultural districts the existing population cannot find employment, and that, therefore, unless this increasing population are to be kept in idleness, they must all be employed in manufactures,—we shall see whether the Government will dare, in the face of such facts, again traitorously to sacrifice the people to a monopolizing aristocracy, and condemn our industrious population to pauperism by rejecting for the third, and it may be for the last, time the opportunity which now offers of enabling us to exchange the superabundant produce of our industry for the food we so much need, and which America can so abundantly supply.

THE CONSCIENCE-SMITTEN LANDLORDS.

When the lecturers of the League first commenced their labours in the agricultural districts, four or five years ago, we had frequent occasion to record the obstructions they experienced from the stewards, bailiffs, clergy, and other dependants of the landowners. A better spirit, however, has since prevailed; but there are yet some districts in which great fear is manifested lest the people should get a little light. Why is it that "men love darkness rather than light?" Let their own consciences answer. Do they feel that "their deeds are evil?" Mr. Falvey has been lecturing in Wiltshire, and we learn from a correspondent that "It had been announced that Mr. Falvey would deliver a lecture in a malthouse at Christian Malford, the owner (a publican) having given his consent. When, however, he reached the place yesterday, an extraordinary scene presented itself. Men, women, and children came running towards him, shouting that the landlord had been threatened, and that we could not have the room. He went to the house, and found such to be the fact. The owner was quite terrified, and begged that he would not address the people near his house. There were hundreds of labourers with their families present, and they raised a cry for an out-door lecture. The moon was shining brilliantly, and, after retiring from the house to an open green, he got a chair, and spoke to them for more than an hour. In the course of his address he turned to account the dastardly tyranny by which it was sought to "burk" the meeting. The labourers shouted lustily for Free Trade, and declared that they would petition the Queen and Legislature to that effect. It is said that the *parson* of the parish exerted himself to put a stop to the lecture. Be that as it may, the attempt did much service, as it convinced the people that monopoly will not stand the test of investigation."

When our lecturers first visited Huntingdon, a row was got up by the agents of the squires, which succeeded for that time in preventing them from being heard; but the people cried out, "We do not need any lecture now; we know that the Corn Laws injure us, else they would let you be heard." So that, whether our lecturers are allowed to be heard or not, the same effect is produced on the minds of the people. If they are heard, conviction always follows the truths they deliver; if their mouths be stopped, the people naturally infer that the landowners have some object in thus attempting to extinguish truth. Our lecturers always invite discussion, but it is seldom the squires think it prudent to accept such invitations: it is far easier to quash it by the aid of the parson, as at Christian Malford. We hope in future, however, this Christian minister will learn that more pious duties than obstructing lectures on the infamous bread-tax are looked for from one who professes to be the servant of Him who taught us to pray for daily bread.

COUNTIES REGISTRATION MOVEMENT.

WEST RIDING REGISTRATION.

MEETING AT HALIFAX.

A meeting was held at Halifax on Friday, the 22nd inst., to receive a deputation from the Council of the League, on the subject of the registration for the West Riding of Yorkshire. It was called by circular, and about sixty of the most active Free-Traders were present. Mr. Wilson, Chairman of the Council, and Mr. Bright, M.P., attended. The chair was taken by Joseph Thorp, Esq.

Mr. Wilson addressed the meeting on the means to be taken to promote the return of two Free-Traders at the next election, and entered into a statement of what has been done in South Lancashire, showing how easy it is for the manufacturing towns to secure the representation of the manufacturing counties, and urging upon all the Free-Traders of the district the necessity of their procuring qualifications for the county as well as for the boroughs.

Mr. Bright spoke at some length on the same subject, pointing out the absurdity of the opinion that the landed gentry were the natural possessors of the county representation. He argued that the increase of the county register was a duty upon them; and that, inasmuch as the squires had swamped the old county constituency by their tenants-at-will, it was needful to restore it to a healthful and independent state by adding to the number of freeholders. He ridiculed the idea that the landed proprietors have any claim to dictate the law on matters of commercial policy, and expressed a confident opinion that a little zeal and exertion would prevent the possibility of any monopolist venturing in future to appear on the hustings of the West Riding to solicit the suffrages of that great constituency, that he might vote in favour of a system by which trade was crippled, and the vast population dependent upon it impoverished.

Wm. Morris, Esq., and the Chairman also spoke, pledging the Free-Trade Association of Halifax to a hearty co-operation with the League in carrying out the great work in which they were engaged.

The meeting was a very influential one, and seemed moved by one sentiment, and resolved to work earnestly to deliver their division of the county from the disgrace it now labours under; and we have no doubt they will find their efforts attended with complete success.

MEETING AT HEBDEN BRIDGE.

On Monday evening last a meeting of the influential Free-Traders of this important district was held in the large room of the White Lion Inn. It was called by circular, and was attended by Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright, from the Council of the League. James Hodgson, Esq., of Stubbing-house, was called to the chair, and opened the proceedings by expressing his opinion that the Council of the League deserved and would have the cordial support of all the Free-Traders of that town and district.

Mr. Cobden then explained the present operations of the League; its efforts to stimulate the boroughs to defend their commercial rights and existence by a watchful care to improve the electoral register; and its important movement upon the county constituencies. He entered into a statement to show how foolish is the superstitious feeling that has been entertained as to the power of the landed proprietors, and how easily this power may be overthrown or controlled. The landowners had swamped the county constituencies by the creation of £50 tenants-at-will, without exception the most dependent portion of the electoral body of the kingdom; and now it was the duty of all independent men to endeavour to restore the healthy tone of those constituencies by becoming freeholders.

Mr. Bright spoke of the results of the South Lancashire registration, and showed how easily the West Riding might do what South Lancashire had already done. He asked, what had made their beautiful and romantic valley not only habitable, but wealthy and abounding in comfort? Was it not its manufactures, which through that narrow pass had cut a canal, and made a road and a railway, and had built up a succession of villages equal in size to many of the considerable towns of the south? he exhorted them to a just conception of their own importance and their country's interests, and promised them complete success if they would manfully work for it.

Several gentlemen then briefly addressed the meeting; and a committee was appointed to carry out the plan recommended by the League.

In the Hebden Bridge polling district there is an overwhelming majority of Free-Traders, and from the measures now in progress this majority will soon be greatly increased.

THE LEAGUE AND THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.

A very important meeting was held on Monday in the League-rooms, the object of which was to take the necessary steps in reference to the county of Middlesex, so as to make the return of Free-Trade members in any coming election certain. The meeting, which was a very crowded one, was composed of highly influential gentlemen, well known as ardent supporters of the Free-Trade movement. Amongst others, were the Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P.; J. L. Ricardo, Esq., M.P.; Messrs. W. A. Wilkinson, Camberwell; Thomas F. Gibson; W. Leavers, James Harker, W. Cumming, &c. &c.

G. Wilson, Esq., the Chairman of the Council of the League, who presided, opened the proceedings by detailing the plan already adopted with so much success in Lancashire, and now in progress in the West Riding of Yorkshire with every prospect of the same result, viz., of creating a majority of Free-Trade voters by the increase of 40s. freeholders.

Several gentlemen delivered their sentiments, warmly approving of the project, and promising their co-operation to achieve the desired end.

The object proposed was very warmly received, and a most enthusiastic spirit pervaded the meeting.

A numerous and influential committee was appointed, and after the necessary preliminary arrangements were made the meeting was adjourned till Wednesday, when active operations were commenced.

Thanks were voted to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

A JOURNEY IN SUSSEX.

The rent of land in the Midhurst district of Sussex has not advanced much during the last thirty or forty years. Perhaps it was quite as high forty years ago as now, but of this I could get no distinct information. If a stranger inquires of a farmer what he pays for his land, and what his predecessor paid, he will not readily get an answer, neither here nor elsewhere. The farmers are apt to suspect that you have some design upon them—some intention of bidding for their farms over their heads. The insecurity of their tenures and the great competition for farms—the increasing number of farmers and the decreased number of farms—render them naturally jealous of persons who put questions to them about the produce of the land and the rent they pay for it.

But though rent may have remained the same as thirty or forty years ago—though it be even something an acre less—it is in reality higher, taking the prices of corn as the standard. And it is a matter of regret that farmers should be so unwilling to see that while each successive Corn Law has fixed upon a lower and a lower price—first 80s., then 70s., then 64s., then 56s. as the prices at which the farmer might afford to sell his corn—the makers of those laws never proposed an adjustment of rent to such prices. This one fact, or series of facts, should alone make farmers question if there is any real friendship evinced towards them by those who say they are "farmers' friends."

It struck me as worthy of remark, that in this hilly part of Sussex, as well as on the richer soils lying level between the Downs and the sea, the farmers were laying out all their manure to dry in the fields. It was dry weather, high winds, without a shower of rain, for three weeks together, and all that time I saw the farmyard dung carted out, and laid in little heaps; and fields which were dotted with these heaps when I went first into the county still retained them when I left, excepting in some cases where the dung had been spread out, as if to dry more effectually.

What a curious thing it is that the ammonia brought from the coast of Africa in the guano should be so carefully preserved, so eagerly sought after, so dearly paid for, and that the identical same substance, the ammonia of the stableyard, should be given to the withering winds and the scorching sun.

Mr. Brown (Lord Egmont's steward) has said that nothing will teach tenants but difficulties—nothing will stir them up to good farming but distress. I do not believe Mr. Brown. A tenant will farm better if he can pay his rent easily than if he has a hard struggle to pay it. But to me it would be amazing if they farmed well when they are liable to be ordered to leave their farms at any time a landlord bids them, liable to be told what men they shall employ and what not, as is the case now.

THE GAME AND THE GAMEKEEPERS.

I went through Cowdray-park one day, and walked to Petworth, six miles from Midhurst. Before I had gone many hundred yards beyond the park, the bottoms of the fences on each side of the road showed that rabbits and hares were frequent visitors to the fields within the hedges. Over a space of road not quite two miles and a half I counted between five and six hundred *runs* into and out of the different fields. While counting them I met a farmer who owns some fields and rents a farm close by. He told me that from the fields he owned he had not this year got more barley than would pay seed, labour, and poor-rates: had he been obliged to pay rent for that land he said he must have paid it entirely out of his capital, or have been distrained upon. I remarked to him that, the land being his own, he was surely at liberty to kill the rabbits upon it. He replied that he was; but it mattered little what he did, when his neighbours on each side of him bred the rabbits which came to him to be fed. "But," said he, "they be getting pretty well sick on't." And he went on to prove to me that rabbits and hares, though let at a good rent to gentlemen who shoot them, or though sold in the market by those who feed them, are not profitable; they eat a great deal; but they destroy—he thought he could prove it to any one's satisfaction—twice as much as they eat. He told me, and so did some other farmers, that Colonel Wyndham, of Petworth, did not do them so much harm as a preserver of game. He turned his attention more to foxes. They said the colonel took most interest in breeding, and then hunting and killing foxes. And that where foxes were numerous the rabbits and hares would be kept within bounds.

It was to the north of this road to Petworth, about three miles from where I then stood, that some of the Cowdray tenants were obliged to kindle fires around their turnip-fields last year to frighten off the hares. One of these tenants alleges that he suffered damage from the game last year to the amount of £70. The size of his farm I could not ascertain precisely, but it is not above 200 acres. This year he alleges a loss of £20 in one field. He has had it valued, and the valuers give that sum as the amount of damage done. The gentleman who rents the game on this part of the estate from Lord Egmont has offered £6 for the damage. The tenant had refused to take it; but he had no remedy save at great expense, and then it was doubtful if he would succeed in recovering higher damages. He was, however, leaving his farm. And I was informed of several others who had been told that they were at liberty to go if they did not like their bargains. The renter of the game, and not the landlord, employs the gamekeepers in these outlying districts. It is the business of these gamekeepers to have as much game for their masters as they possibly can; hence they and the farmers are not on the best of terms.

On the road between Cowdray-park and Petworth, where there were so many *runs* through the fences, I observed that almost every field had a gate formed of upright spars of wood nailed to the cross bars. These spars were about two inches apart, and were, when entire, a sufficient barrier to the rabbits; but every one of the gates had one or more of these spars broken away at bottom. I asked the reason why, and was told that the gamekeepers had broken them to let the rabbits and hares get more freely into and out of the turnip fields. There being so many patches of common, so many thickets of furze, and so many coppices in the neighbourhood, the farmers were obliged to resort to many schemes to defend themselves from the game; but the keepers generally took the part of the game and of its owners against the farmer.

WHAT IS MACHINERY?

Petworth is a small town, belonging to the Wyndham estate, containing, with its parish, 3364 inhabitants. Its streets are narrow, intricate, and indifferently paved, but its situation is lovely, on the rising bosom of a beautiful country. Close behind it, and looking over its head, is the park and residence of Colonel Wyndham; both of them extensive, pleasant, and fit to be inhabited by the noblest of the land.

The only thing that struck me at Petworth as noticeable, after looking at the handsome church, with a spire rarely equalled in elegance, was the House-of-Correction, and not the house itself so much as a board stuck up against the wall, painted and lettered. It set forth that a variety of articles could be bought at the house, the work of the prisoners, such as horse-clothes, girths, sacking, canvas, and other textile fabrics of a similar kind; and persons visiting Petworth were recommended to buy these in pre-

ference to what could be bought elsewhere, these being said to be *all woven by hand, and superior to anything made by machinery.* How long the woodcutters and farming men, who get lodgings in the house for poaching and pilfering, take to learn to make goods in this superior style I could not ascertain; but they must get long sentences if they learn to be such very superior weavers; and they must be very extraordinary criminals indeed if they can make such articles without *machinery*, with bare teeth and nails.

Rents vary from 15s. to 30s.; but 30s., including taxes, is a common rent for the average quality of land. Upon this barley is a more frequent crop than wheat; but there is fine wheat land in the lower grounds lying between the sandy heaths behind us and the chalky downs four miles in front of us. Some of that land is as high as £2; and I have heard of some which, including rates, was little short of £3 per acre; but this is an exception. Wages were commonly 9s. a week on the farms; for every man that got 10s. a week there was a man only getting 8s., taking all the estate into estimate; and a great many men were not employed at all.

HEYSHOT PARISH.

I went one day out of Midhurst in another direction, namely, to the south, whereas Petworth lay in the direction of east or north-east.

The sand hills, covered with heath, and in parts planted with scrubby trees, were more frequent on this side, and extended almost to the very bottom of the Downs, interrupting that range of clayey soils which elsewhere bordered the base of the chalky ridge; and yet, amid those sandy heaths, there were spots of high fertility and great beauty. Here, again, I found the noble oak tree strong and healthy, enjoying himself on such soils as he would die upon in the north. Again I found the rabbit warrens and the game preserves on and under these sandy heaths; and again, wherever there was a farm-field, devastating inroads were made upon it by the game. Wherever there was a cottager's garden, complaints of the same kind were made.

At the distance of about two miles from Midhurst I descended from the heath and entered a narrow green lane, in which was a waggon track, hedged on each side by thriving thorns overhung with brambles, the brambles loaded with berries black and ripe. I came to a gate where a footpath led over a stile into the inside of a field, still going the same direction as the waggon track, upon which I stood, but keeping the bank above, while the waggon track went down a cutting between the high banks of soft sandy rock, getting deeper and deeper as it went.

I continued in this lower way; found a little spring of clear water, which trickled in the wheel track, and went by its side until a level was reached, where it spread itself and made a mire across all the road knee deep and more. From this it was necessary to climb to the bank, where the wisdom of the path that kept itself high and dry was demonstrated. But this soon descended to the level of the marshy road, only it did not wet itself. There was a brook, which at a short distance higher up drove a flour-mill, and over this brook the path crossed by a small wooden bridge; then it left the ravine in which the brook ran, and went direct forward to the south, having high ground thickly wooded on the left, and ground not quite so high, yet quite as thickly wooded, on the right.

This wood on the right soon ceased; and where it left off a garden and orchard and house occupied its place, and beyond these one or more farm-fields were indistinctly seen.

The path was still in the hollow, but the hollow widened, and there was an acre or two of a grassy green. In the centre of this green stood a waggon-shed, and at the waggon-shed I stood for some minutes, considering whether I would turn off and go up to the house. I knew nobody lived there but working people; but, from some cause or other which I cannot account for, I feel always a diffidence, as if doing something wrong, when going to a working man's house unbidden and without business that particularly and immediately concerns him. I have heard it complained that those who are in the habit of visiting the houses of the poor do so with an air of freedom that is highly offensive; and I believe there are some such people; but, so far from everybody behaving in that way, I have often stood near a labourer's cottage, or have walked past it and back again, and past it once more, all the time as if looking at something else, before I could muster sufficient assurance to go in. When a man is met in a field at work or on the road breaking stones, it is easy to talk to him. The hardness of the stones he is breaking is an introduction immediately to all you want to know. You remark that they are either very hard, or rather too soft for road metal; and he, ten to one, answers that they be too hard to make a living from; too hard to get enough of bread out of for a family." The information of the wages he earns, the number of his children, and the kind of food he can afford to eat, follow this as naturally and as easily as you can desire.

So also, when in the cottage where there is a family of children, they retreat from a stranger and get behind their mother, or stand up in a corner. But a few pence and kind words never fail to bring them out and elicit their names, ages, and so forth. I never addressed them thus with any other design than to make them feel at ease, and to gratify a natural feeling of my own which takes delight in their friendship; but I would advise those whose sole object is to obtain information from the mother, not to overlook the children. In a great majority of cases the wives of farm-labourers introduce the subject of their incomes and outgoings, which I am unwilling to speak of first, because I am speaking to a child whose toes are out of its shoes, whose pinafore is torn, or whose clothing is otherwise scanty and much worn; and, unhappily, we may go over many miles of country, and across some entire counties, and not alight on a family where this is not the condition of the children's clothes. In these cases the mother very commonly makes a remark on the difficulty of getting clothes for them. Seeing you notice the children, she says, "Ah, poor dears; I had intended all summer to get some new things for them after harvest; but now winter is coming on, and I have not got them yet." Then she says she owed some rent, and that had to be paid out of her husband's harvest wages. It grieved her much to see her children going barefooted; but it was all they could do, even by selling the pig, which they should have kept to eat themselves, to pay the shoemaker for her husband's shoes, for he *must* have them to work in; and to pay for some other small things which they could not possibly do without, unless they went naked altogether.

I have almost always found a conversation of this kind arise out of an attempt to be friendly with the children. Two things ever ready to a mother's thoughts—the love of her offspring, and the struggle she maintains with the world to fill their little mouths and clothe their little backs—are at once appealed to and excited by merely speaking to them, if they be any way ragged. But the pleasure of holding converse with innocence, with those whose souls came latest from Heaven,—the mere pleasure of making them feel that the world does not contain such very bad men, as that every stranger should be one come to steal little children from their mothers and carry them away in bags, as even kind mothers will foolishly frighten them to a belief of,—the mere pleasure of receiving and giving gratification has always secured to me a free and easy conversation with their parents, as soon as I got seated at their fireside.

But I have never been able to overcome the first difficulty of an introduction to a poor man's house with whom I had no business to transact, and from whom I had no invitation. On the occasion now under narration, I stood a short while by the cart-shed on the green, gathering as I best could as much confidence as would introduce me to those who inhabited the old farmhouse, which, with a small garden before and a larger garden behind, stood about a hundred yards to my right.

I went up to it, and entering that part which had once been a scullery or back kitchen, and where a labourer and his family, of wife and five children now lived, I inquired if this was Dunford, and was answered in the affirmative. A few observations about the transition of farmhouses into the dwellings of labourers, and the amalgamation of one farm with another—the making a few large farms out of many small ones—soon brought out the fact that the farm to which this house belonged was still of the same size, or nearly, as when "the late Mr. Cobden occupied it." The farm itself was now occupied by a farmer who had a flour-mill, and who lived at the mill. The family in the kitchen paid £3 a year for their rent; and each of the others paid £4. The garden was divided about equally among them; and was little more, if more at all, than a quarter of an acre. They got turf to burn, and some wood; but never had any coals. The wages were 9s. a week; but the farmers of the parish had just had a meeting, and had given their men notice that they would be reduced to 8s. a week. One reason for this reduction was that they had all got allotments of land, and they could thus live cheaper.

W. A. told me, and on a subsequent day showed me, that his allotment was at best of little value to him, and that this year it had been a loss. In the first place it was a light sandy soil; next, it was three quarters of a mile from his house, and the nearest road by which he could convey manure to it was two miles. Worst of all, it was part of a small field situated with plantations full of game on three sides of it; and a heath, on which the game was also preserved, on the fourth side of it. Every thing which he sowed or planted upon it was eaten up with the game, save his potatoes, and they were also destroyed less or more. I myself counted sixty and odd rabbit holes, mostly made by young rabbits learning to excavate, as young rabbits do, among the potatoes. He had sown peas, expecting a few dinners of green ones with a bit of bacon in the summer; but he only had in all about a gallon, where he should have had at least a bushel. This was entirely the result of the game. He had tried both last year and this to get some turnips and greens for the winter: every blade went to the rabbits. All his neighbours were in the same predicament, less or more. This land was rented from Colonel Wyndham, of Petworth, and the game was his game.

But W. A. was rather worse conditioned this year than any of the others. The neighbouring farmer turned out his hogs into the wood to eat the acorns, and the hogs had got into the allotments; and W. A.'s quarter of an acre being the first met with, they had employed themselves a whole half day rooting up his potatoes with their snouts, and eating them.

He was not better situated with the hogs than with the game: there was no redress for the damage done by either of them. All he could do was to give up his allotment, and that he was about to do; for he said it was a hard thing that it should be no profit to him, and that wages should be falling a shilling a week because it was said that the labourers could live cheaper having allotments.

The difficulty of getting manure to it operated in a twofold degree. It had been the custom for the farmers to cart home the turf for fuel to the labourers on condition of getting the ashes and the dunghills in return. If W. A.'s dunghill were taken to his allotment, it would not only cost the hire of a cart to take it round two miles of road, but he would have to pay for getting his turf carried home.

This turf is very inferior: the vegetable substance is exceedingly thin. The soil is nearly all sand; so that there is only a blaze of dry heath, and then the fire is nothing but black sand. Where there is a thick vegetable mould comprising the turf it is excellent fuel; but this is not the case in this part of Sussex.

W. A.'s wife told me that were it not for the potatoes they would die in the winter. "But, Sir," said she, "how it hurts the constitution of a man to work hard on potatoes, and nothing else but a bit of dry bread." And then she told me that, on an average, there were four days of the week that they had nothing more than potatoes and dry bread. They said nothing evil of their master, far from it; he was as good as the best of them; but this was to what they were reduced in common with all other labourers whose families numbered the same as theirs. W. A.'s mother lived with them, and she had 2s. 6d. a week from the parish.

While I staid in the house I observed what gave me great pain. His wife was preparing some little articles of baby linen; her slender stock, of even the merest fragmentary rags, was collected, from which to patch up one or two of those indispensable articles required for new-born babies. All that "over-production" of clothing, which ill-informed politicians sometimes complain of as coming from the factories, afforded nothing to her. Cheap as the fabrics of the loom now are, the cheapest of them were too dear for her. Her family could not get bread enough. The amount of her purchases in tea and sugar in a week was a penny for the one and a penny for the other. They had often to sit in the dark for want of a candle, because the money must first go for bread. Now there was another mouth coming to be filled, another back to be clothed; and though the world teems with human food, and though those who keep up the Corn Law to keep up the prices of food in England, *all for the good of the labourers*, proclaim that the looms are making too much cloth, there was neither food nor clothing in waiting for the expected little stranger. At best, some of the veriest fragments of rags, more than worn out, were all that awaited it; and for food it would have to compete with those who had not now enough.

A little boy in this family, 12 years old, sometimes got a job to do. He got 3d. a day, and had been some days picking potatoes, where he got 4d. a day. He sometimes drove the plough, for which he got 3d. a day. The hours at plough were eight; but his real hours on the farm altogether being twelve each day, I mention this only to remark that the earnings of a boy at such work for such hours will not supply him with the bread he could eat. I have a lively recollection of my keen appetite when I used to be in the fields for so many hours at this age.

HOW ALLOTMENTS OF LAND BECOME NECESSARY.

Heyshot is the name of the parish in which this farm is situated, and I proceeded to the village of Heyshot. The most remarkable circumstance which came to my knowledge there was the reduction of a class of small copyholders to pauperism by the united working of the Reform Act and the poor law. The labouring men, who had homes and gardens and orchards of their own in the village, were obliged to part with them—all, save one or two, who have as yet withstood the means which are brought to bear against them. The farmers refuse to give work to such owners of houses and gardens, save in harvest time, or when there may be a great scarcity of hands, which seldom happens. These owners of houses and gardens thus find themselves without work; they cannot get parish relief until they have sold their houses and have spent the money; so to get work they have been obliged, one after another, to sell their houses. The money was not difficult to spend. Colonel Wyndham has bought the houses, and has managed to turn them into farmhouses, over which he has the complete control.

THE DUKE OF RICHMOND'S COUNTRY.

Going down to Chichester, and from that to Bognor, I found the farms getting larger, and the soil richer. Three, four, and five hundred acres were but moderate-sized farms there. It is a fine wheat soil, which seems to be fallowed once in every rotation of crops. The want of labour upon this land is very striking to a stranger, such as I was, the more so as there is a large union workhouse close by on the Duke's estate, full of people, most of whom are able and willing to work.

I was told between Chichester and Bognor what is the reason that the farmers in that part are making so many complaints. I do not give the reason as my own, but simply as that given by a gentleman resident there. "I shall tell you, Sir, why it is. The farmers have been ruined because wheat was once £40 a load. Had it never been so dear, they would have been more prosperous now. They became gentlemen all at once; they paid high rents, and yet they could live like gentlemen; they got their blood-horses, their gigs, their servants, and their greyhounds. Prices have come far below £40 a load, but they

cannot get down their rents. And why? Because the present generation of them have been bred to be gentlemen, and gentlemen they will be. And what says the Duke of Richmond, who is landlord to so many of them just here? Why, he says this:—'If my tenants can cut such a dash as they do, with their gigs and silver-mounted harness, and blood-horses to ride on, and greyhounds with them when they ride, they cannot be in great distress; they must be able to pay their rents. If I have a farm to let, there are many of them all ready to offer for it. They offer a high rent, why should I not take it?'"

This may be true. But the Duke should understand that it is not the worth of the farm that makes them compete for it: it is their own numbers; they must get farms or be without the means of living. I am not one who would cavil at their being gentlemen. Every man has the right to live the life of a gentleman if he can do so honestly. The farmers may not be able to live so well and so easily as they did when wheat was £40 a load. But it is the rent-burden that wants reduction. It is the delusion of the Corn Law which wants removal—the delusion that has led them to bid high rents in the expectancy of high prices, which high prices cannot be maintained but by the high prosperity of the consumers of food.

The rents are about £2 in this district; but the poor rates are heavy. The gentleman with whom I talked had no doubt but one half of the whole labouring population would have to seek relief at the workhouse this winter. He remembered since there used to be seven and eight men employed on each 100 acres, that was when farms were smaller. Now the highest number was five to the 100 acres; and only that number on a very few farms.

I may remark, however, that the coast of Sussex was a great smuggling coast once, and the farm-labourers, over many miles inland, used to be in the pay of the smugglers; so that when a seizure was about to be made, in conveying contraband goods inwards, the labourers were ready on an alarm to turn out, with pitchforks or more deadly weapons, and help the smugglers. This was part of their employment.

I saw on the wall of a barn which was near the road, two miles from Chichester, a board nailed up with this warning on it—"Man traps and spring guns set on every part of these premises." On inquiring why this should be put up—knowing, as I did, that no one was allowed to set "man traps and spring guns"—I was answered that everybody did not know that; and that there was no keeping corn from the labourers now-a-days, neither in the barns nor in the stacks. In reply to a question it was added that, in the first place, the morals of the population had not recovered the deterioration undergone in the days of smuggling; and, in the second place, there was neither work enough, nor wages to get food enough when there was work; and that hunger drove men to steal corn. One who had stolen some wheat at that place had been taken to prison, and had committed suicide, so desperate was his sense of misery.

On this farm of 300 acres the number of hands employed was five men and two boys. Some of the men were getting 10s. a week, but were afraid of a reduction. They had to pay 2s. a week of cottage rent, and there was only a very small garden to the cottages.

I found it customary in some parishes to have the men who sought parish relief at work upon the roads. For instance, at Eastbourne, near Midhurst, there were twenty of them working one week and lying out of work one week alternately, at the wages of 9s. a fortnight. Most of these had large families; all of them were married. Some of them had allotments of land, and it was only by having these allotments that they could exist on 4s. 6d. a week. Thus the allotments, though good in themselves if allied with full wages, are made instrumental to a depreciation of wages. In short, they are in this case made to reduce wages and to reduce the poor-rates at the same time. The number of persons who are in the workhouse at Eastbourne is great for such a population, even though the married labourers be thus disposed of upon the roads.

It is certainly a curious question to inquire how such a population as this is to support that *home market* which the manufacturers are so often told is their best market, and the only one they should seek to sell in. But I have not left myself room to go farther into this subject. I have placed some rough facts before the reader: let him draw his own inferences.

ONE WHO HAS WHISTLED AT THE PLOUGH.

AN INQUIRY INTO THE EFFECTS OF ENGLISH LEGISLATION UPON AGRICULTURAL WAGES, PROFITS, AND RENT.

BY A BARRISTER.

(*Continued from page* 135.)

CHAPTER VII.

Seventh Period—From the Passing of the Poor Law of 1834 to the present Time.

SECTION III.

We have already adduced evidence of the operation of the poor laws in sweeping away the small proprietors, by rendering it impossible for a man possessed of a little property to obtain employment while he has any property left. We have also touched upon the fact of the great scarcity of cottages in proportion to the demand, and the consequent exorbitant rent exacted for them. We have seen it stated in the evidence of Henry Drummond, Esq., quoted in a former chapter of this inquiry, that one of the causes of this increased demand and increased rent of cottages was "the farmers being very anxious to get the gardens to throw into their fields."* This cause, in so far as it is traceable to legislation, belongs to the Corn Laws. But though this undoubtedly is one cause of the effect in question, there is another, and a most powerful one in its operation, of which the poor laws are the parent. The landlords, partly in order to prevent an increase of birth settlements and keep down the rates, partly from an unwillingness to invest money in cottage property, not only allow no new cottages to be built, but let the old ones fall into ruin. Mr. Drummond had stated in his evidence before the committee of the House of Commons in 1824—"All around us most proprietors have pulled down cottages because they yield no rent without distraining, which gentlemen are unwilling to do."

This operation appears to have been carried to the greatest extent in a part of the county of Norfolk, where the labouring population are suffering under a complication of evils, moral and physical, which, we will venture to say, are not exceeded in Europe, if they are in those countries where slave labour is employed.

We have seen it given in evidence before the Lords' Committee of 1830-31, how the condition of the receiver of rent in the county of Norfolk had improved under the operation (at all events, in spite of the operation—*post hoc* if not *propter hoc*) of the poor laws and Corn Laws. That the profits of stock and the wages of labour have not risen is quite certain; that the condition of either the farmer or the labourer has improved in any degree we think it would be very unsafe to affirm, if we desire our affirmation to be conformable to truth. And we think most persons will be disposed to be of the same opinion who have read the evidence we have already given as to the prosperity both of the farmers and farm-labourers, and who reads the valuable evidence which we are about to quote from Mr. Denison's Report to the Poor Law Commissioners in 1843, on the employment of women and children in agriculture.

It appears that the proprietors of some ten or a dozen parishes situated around or in the neighbourhood of the parish of Castle Acre in Norfolk have, by the means above described, forced the labourers and their families resident in those parishes to quit them, and go to reside in Castle Acre. Mr. Denison explains this by saying that "Castle Acre is what is called an 'open' parish: that is, in the hands of a considerable number of proprietors, while the neighbouring parishes are each owned by one or two (or very few) proprietors."† The Rev. J. H. Bloom, however, vicar of Castle Acre, in his "History of Castle Acre," recently published, informs us that the Earl of Leicester is the proprietor of Castle Acre, to whom it came by descent from Sir Edward Coke, the celebrated Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, who purchased it from William Cecil, son of Thomas Cecil, Earl of Exeter.‡ Mr. Bloom also dedicates his book to the Earl of Leicester as such proprietor. Perhaps the following remark of Mr. Bloom may help to explain the apparent inconsistency of the inhabitants of other parishes being driven from their parishes, because belonging to one or two proprietors, and being allowed to settle in Castle Acre, though belonging to one proprietor. "There are three principal manors carrying fine arbitrary. The increasing population of the place, and the frequent transfer of copyhold from seller to purchaser, render the manorial privileges of this parish of some importance to their owner."§ The extent to which the above-mentioned practice of depopulating parishes has affected Castle Acre will appear from the following classification of the inhabitants of Castle Acre given in Mr. Denison's Report:‖—

"1 Clergyman.
4 Farmers.
80 Tradesmen and journeymen.
49 Labourers, with families, belonging to Castle Acre.
12 Poor widows, ditto.
103 Labourers, with families, belonging to other parishes."

Of one of the results of this disproportioned distribution of labourers, Mr. Denison gives the following account:—

"In the parish of Castle Acre, near Litcham, in Norfolk, my attention was directed to the gang-system of employment which prevails in that and some of the neighbouring parishes, and is said to be the cause of much hardship and immorality.

"I investigated the matter as carefully as my limited time would permit, and I believe the following to be a true account of it. The system is this:—

"Suppose a farmer, in or near Castle Acre, wishes to have a particular piece of work done, which will demand a number of hands; he applies to a gang-master at Castle Acre, who contracts to do the work, and to furnish the labour. The bargain is made with the gang-master; and it is then his business to make his bargain with the labourers. He accordingly gets together as many hands as he thinks sufficient, and sends them in a gang to their place of work. If the work, as usually happens, is such that it can be done by women and children as well as men, the gang is, in that case, composed of persons of both sexes, and of all ages. They work together, but are superintended by an overseer, whose business it is to see that they are steady to their work, and to check any bad language or conduct. The overseer usually goes with the gang to the place of work, and returns home with them when they leave off for the day.

"This is a general outline of the system; and on paper it may seem not open to much objection; but, in practice, it certainly works very ill for the employed, though very well for the employer and the gang-master."*

As showing the extent of the operation of this system in this particular district, Mr. Denison gives a table† of farms in no less than ten adjoining parishes where the gangs issuing from Castle Acre are employed.

"From these two causes," observes Mr. Denison, "viz., the excess of labourers in Castle Acre, and the defect of them in the neighbouring parishes, sprung the gang-system of employment. The neighbouring occupiers wanted hands, and applied to a person in Castle Acre to supply them. This was easily done, owing to the great numbers living there, all together, anxious for employment. Thus the farmer got his work done well, quickly, and very cheaply (as I shall show presently); and so the system spread by degrees throughout Castle Acre itself, and over all the neighbourhood; and, as it proved very beneficial to the employer, more labourers were continually either driven or drawn to Castle Acre, in order to get work in the gangs, till at length that parish has become (to use the expression of one of the overseers of the gangs) 'the coop of all the scrapings in the county; if a man or a woman do anything wrong, they come here, and they think by getting among them here they are safe.'"‡

Mr. Denison gives the following clear summary of the advantages and disadvantages of this gang system. It will be observed that the advantages are all on the side of the employer, the disadvantages on that of the employed; for the advantage to the former attributed to it by Mr. Denison, being solely applicable to the present viciously artificial state of that district, cannot be considered as an advantage in a natural state of things:—

"It is advantageous—

"1. *To the employer*—because he gets his work done quickly, effectually, and very cheaply.

"2. *To the gang-master*—because it makes him a master instead of a labourer, which he would be if the gang system did not exist.

"Because it gives him great local power and an indefinite sort of patronage.

"Because it enables him to make money, not only as gang master, but as vendor of necessaries to the members of the gangs.

"3. (As there is no unmixed evil in the world) *in some degree to the employed.*

"Because, in the present state of Castle Acre, were it not for the gang system, many persons would be out of work altogether, who are now enabled, by great toil, to earn some sort of livelihood.

"It is disadvantageous—

"*To the employed*—1. Because it is a mode of getting out of them the greatest possible amount of labour, in a given time, for the smallest amount of pay: for, as the gang-master contracts to do a job *by the piece*, he makes his gang work as hard by compulsion as they would do freely were they working by the piece on their own account, while, in reality, they are no more than day labourers, receiving *day labourers' wages*. The farmer thus gets his work done as quickly as though it were done by the piece; the gang-master gets the extra profit which the labourer usually derives from piecework; meanwhile, the labourer undergoes all the toil of piecework without any of its extra compensation.

"2. As the gang-master engages to do a particular piece of work on a particular day (say, to pull turnips in a field five miles off), if it comes on to rain, so that the gang cannot get upon the land, they have to walk there and back for nothing. On a farm they would have a chance of some barn or yard work, or some sort of indoor employ; and, even if unemployed, they would in many cases (as I have frequently found) get half-a-day's pay. The gang system cuts them off from these chances, and subjects them to the chance of going through great fatigue for no pay.—(*See Samuel Peeling's evidence.*)

"3. Children of six years old sometimes have to walk five, six, or seven miles to their work, and then, if it rains, to walk back again without earning anything.

"4. [I give this in the words of one of the witnesses.] 'Unless they do a certain amount of work in the day, they get nothing: they go to do a piece, and are to do so much for the day's work. If they go in a morning and stay a little time only, for rain or other cause, they don't get paid. So they (the gang-masters) get each one of the gang, to do short work, and then don't pay them; but still the work is done: that's the master's gain. The day is divided into quarters: if they stand the time, they're paid for it; if not, they get nothing'—[*i. e.*, a day is divided into four parts, 2d. a part: if they work for one part they get 2d.; if less, they get nothing; and so on with each part].—(*See Mrs. Sculfer's evidence.*)

"5. As children can do many little jobs on the land very well at a very early age, if they are kept close to their work—and as owing to the unnaturally dense population of Castle Acre there are very many children of all ages, and owing to the gang system there are the means of keeping them close to their work, the children

* Evidence—Report on Labourers' Wages in 1834, p. 47.
† Report, p. 221.
‡ Bloom's "Hist. of Castle Acre," p. 100.
§ Bloom's "Hist. of Castle Acre," p. 106.
‖ P. 222.

* Report, pp. 220, 221.
† P. 222.
‡ Report, pp. 220, 221.

are constantly subjected to laborious work—at very early ages (four, five, six), and thereby debarred from all opportunities of school instruction.

"6. As the only object of the gang-master is to fulfil his contract, he regards the labourer solely as a living instrument, valuable only in proportion to its available power: hence all sorts of characters from all the neighbouring parishes are mixed up in the gang, male and female; and, as the large proportion of females consists of grown-up girls, the consequences were thus described to me by one of the overseers of the gangs:—'I believe that, owing to ganging, 70 out of 100 girls are very imprudent girls—prostitutes. They get working along with the lads in the daytime, and make appointments at night; but still, if you was to come in among them when they are at work, you would not know but that they were all very prudent women and girls. * * * I should not like, myself, to take a wife out of the gang.

"'7. As the place of work is sometimes ten miles or more from Castle Acre, the gang-master then sends them over in carts. 'Then they *ought* to stop all night; but my husband would not allow it, for they sleep in barns or anywhere; that's what they said.

"'There's pretty work for boys and girls! We could not agree for ours to stop by no means; not if they lost their work.'—(*See Mrs. Sculfer's evidence.*)

"8. It throws the whole labouring population into the power of the gang-master, who, if he be a low, hard man, illustrates the proverb, that no tyranny is so grinding as that of 'a poor man who oppresseth the poor.' He has neither the will nor the power much to mend their condition; he may, on the other hand, exact any amount of toil from them, on any conditions he pleases.—(*See Mary Churchman's evidence, and Mrs. Sculfer's, about Fuller's shop.*)

"It thus seems that, to *the employed*, the gang system has a large balance of evil; and, as I took great pains to ascertain the general opinion of all classes at Castle Acre respecting it,—from the clergyman of the parish, the Rev. J. H. Bloom, who has very justly described its evils in his 'History of Castle Acre;' from Mr. Hudson, whose letter and evidence I subjoin; from the labourers themselves at their own homes; from one of the overseers of the gangs (*see evidence annexed*); from the talk of a gang of grown-up girls and children, with whom I walked some distance; and also from the neighbouring farmers and clergy (*see Mr. Francis's evidence, and that of Mr. Hogge and others*),—I can come to no other conclusion than that it is a very pernicious system, and very destructive of the real elements of happiness to those who are so employed."*

The hardships of this system are so many and so great, that I do not think it necessary to offer any apology for dwelling upon it at some length: I shall, therefore, add a few extracts from the evidence taken by Mr. Denison.

"*Mr. Hudson, of Castle Acre.*—I think it is owing very much to the neighbouring landowners; in many parishes round, the whole parish belongs to the landlord; he will not allow any new cottages to be built, and he lets the old ones fall into decay. The labourers are by degrees forced to quit those parishes; they then come and settle in ours, which is an open parish. There are very many small tradesmen who let the land at large rents—£4, £4. 10s.; and then new houses are built; and, moreover, it's a great hardship on the old parishioners, because the rents of all houses are raised by the competition; labour is drawn here from the surrounding parishes.

"When I first resided here, the gang system was not known; the work now done by them was performed by women, or rather it was left undone. But from one or two farmers cultivating their lands in a superior manner, getting their farms perfectly clean and free from weeds, many others have been induced to follow their example, and employ more hands; and where there used to be £1 expended in the cultivation of the land twenty years since, there are now £5 expended for the same."†

"*Mrs. Sculfer, labouring woman at Castle Acre.*—I have six children: three girls and three boys; my two eldest girls go out—most to my grief that I am obliged to send them. They worked for Mr. Fuller (the chief gang-master) more than for any one else; one now works for Mr. Moulton: both are large gangsmen. My second girl was nine when she went out; a great many go out at the age of seven. Mr. Fuller has four or five overseers; he has 100 people in his employ. They go out at seven in the morning now, at this time of the year; sometimes two-journey work. If two-journey day, they come back at twelve, go again to work at one; from one till dark, in height of summer sometimes nine o'clock In summer they go out between six and seven; generally two-journey work then; but not more than an hour's rest.

"They seldom come back to dinner; feed themselves—chiefly on bread.

"My eldest girl has a thorough dislike to it. She almost always goes crying to her work. She would almost rather do anything than it. The worst place she could get anywhere, poor thing. I wish I knew of any place I could get for her, but I don't. I am sure I don't know what to do.

"My girls can't read: nor boys: I a very little. My husband can't.

"The children here generally go out so early that there can't be any schooling. There are many go out at six. They can 'quick,' and single turnips. They like the small ones for that better than the large ones.

"Wages, 8d. a day; they have given 9d. wheat-hoeing. Unless they do a certain amount of work in the day they get nothing; they go to do a piece: you're to do so much for your day's work.

"My husband says he's quite astonished to see how the girls work.

"Fuller keeps a flour-shop, and forces all his gang to deal with him. When my husband worked with him, I was obliged to deal with him; my girls don't board themselves, else they'd be obliged to deal with him. He says he would give those who would deal with him a 1d. a day more.

"My children's hands are so blistered pulling the turnips, that I've been obliged to tie them up every night this winter. Pulling turnips blisters the hands very much; they're obliged to pull them up; they must not take turnip-cromes (a sort of fork) for fear of damaging the turnips.

"There can't be healthier children than mine are, they can stand all weathers. I never heard any one who did not say they disliked it. The gangsmen (overseers) have 12s. to 15s. a week in summer."*

One of the most grievous hardships resulting to the labourers and their families from this practice of pulling down cottages, and so driving them altogether out of certain parishes, is the distance they are thus very frequently compelled to walk to and from their day's work. Only think of young girls and children walking *ten*, ay, and fourteen miles a day, in addition to their hard day's work of pulling turnips—"*very back-breaking work*," as one of the witnesses calls it, feelingly alluding to his daughter's sufferings, a child of 11 years of age, who came home sometimes so tired that she could not eat! The same witness said: "Their walks are worse than their work." He might well say so, when his child of 11 years of age "went five miles to her work." The condition of the villeins *regardant* was surely in some respects better than this. The very condition of their being *adscripti glebæ* (bound to the soil) would save them from this cruel hardship of having to walk so far to their daily toil.

"*Hannah Arnold, 19 years old.*—Walked seven miles to Barton; got breakfast as we went along; set off between seven and eight; left off at four, got home about six; got to work at nine or half-past, as soon as we got there; had no rest in middle of the day at all: we walked home. Children of the ages of four, five, six, work in the gangs. Girls and boys earn 3d., 4d., &c. If we're idle he'd mob us or send us home; he daresn't beat us."†

"*Samuel Peeling, labourer.*—The gang system prevents one getting regular work, as on a farm; because, if we could not get out-door work on a farm, we should get in-door; but we can't in a gang, because we've only that particular bit of work to do, so we lose in time. I don't think it a good thing at all for the poor. I have a daughter turned 11 years of age, who has worked two years along with the gang.

"Pulling turnips is very back-breaking work; she's too young to pull turnips; she don't often pull 'em; the man pull and the girls set 'em up.

"I'm forced to let my daughter go, else I'm very much against it. I earn nothing myself; she does not like it at all, she hears so much blackguard bad language, and she's never used to hearing that at home.

"She has complained of pain in her side very often; they drive them along—force them along—they make them work very hard. Gathering stones has hurt my girl's back at times. Pulling turnips is the hardest work, they get such a hold of the ground with their roots; when the land's strong it's as much as we can do sometimes to get 'em out, pull as hard as we can pull. It blisters their hands so that they can hardly touch anything; my child's hands have been blistered by it.

"Ganging is what leads 'em into so many bad ways; that's what causes many girls to be out of nights when they ought to be at home. My girl went five miles yesterday to her work, turniping; she set off between seven and eight; she walked; had a piece of bread before she went; she did not stop work in the middle of the day; ate nothing till she left off; she came home between three and four o'clock. Their walks are worse than their work; she is sometimes so tired she can't eat no victuals when she comes home."‡

"*Mr. B. Francis, Litcham.*—I am quite of opinion that out-door work unfits girls for domestic service; I abominate it; I always set my face against it; their morals are depraved very much by it, particularly in large gangs; where masses are congregated there is more depravity. Ganging is a sort of slave-driving system—a vile system: I am decidedly opposed to it. There must certainly be a superintendent to keep young persons at work. Formerly the mother used to superintend the children. I don't think there's any cruelty practised towards them. I think ganging sprung from slugging turnips—in short, from the high state of cultivation, though you might have it without; but ganging does it quickest."§

"*Letter from the Rev. M. Hogge, Rector of South Acre.*—From your own recent investigation in the parish of Castle Acre, you must be well aware that the congregating together of such numbers as seventy or eighty in each of the two gangs now existing there must naturally produce, from its very composition of good, bad, and indifferent, great immorality. I have been resident in this parish forty years, and can, from my own personal knowledge, affirm that the gang system has produced, and is still producing, on the rising generation, morally, physically, and intellectually, immense evils."*

"*Letter from the Rev. A. Gilbert, Vicar of Gayton.*—The gang system is extremely injurious in most respects to the persons employed. The leader's profit is sometimes, as I have heard, 15s. per day. The only advantages of the gang system are to save the farmer the trouble of keeping his people at work, and forcing the persons composing the gangs to be industrious."†

"*Letter from F. W. Keppel, Esq., Laxham.*—I fear that the gang system will and must increase, particularly upon large farms, as the men not in gangs require more looking after than the farmer can afford, to see that the work is not slurred over."‡

"*Letter from A. Hamond, Esq., of West Acre, Norfolk.*—One of the prime causes of the increase of the gang system (I may almost say its origin) was the new poor law; for previous to that act, if an able-bodied man could not maintain his family, the parish assisted him; that assistance being withdrawn, it became necessary that all who could work should support themselves, and the improved system of agriculture (particularly as regards the cultivation of turnips adopted in this country) gave them an opportunity of so doing."§

It is evident that, with things in their present state, the principle of the new poor law cannot be carried out. "There exists," says Mr. Denison, in his brief but valuable report, in which he has told truths by no means of a pleasing character to those whom such reports have but too often sought to please and to favour, with a courage which does him infinite honour, "there exists in many parts a practice of giving lower wages to single men than to men with families." He cites evidence to show that "it arises from the farmer's giving employment to men with families, as single men can be maintained at a lower rate if compelled to enter the union-house." And he adds, "even if they are not so compelled, the employer, by this threat of the union-house, gets the average amount of work done at the lowest possible rate of wages."‖

The county of Norfolk is, perhaps, the county in England in which agricultural improvements have been carried to the highest point. It appears, then, that with the present Corn Laws in existence, agricultural improvements are not necessarily attended with any improvements in the condition of the agricultural labourers. Several of the witnesses whose evidence is cited in Mr. Denison's Report attribute the gang system to the "high state of cultivation," to the improved system of agriculture,"¶ and intimate that it works beneficially to the farmers, that the work could not be done without it; all which amounts to saying that the farmers could not pay their present rents without it. Let us now see what light our parliamentary return information will throw upon this important point.

The first of the two following tables shows the progress of rent in the division of Norfolk in which Castle Acre is situated, omitting therefrom the parish of Castle Acre itself, and all the other parishes where the gangs resident in Castle Acre are employed. The second shows the progress of rent in Castle Acre, and the parishes where the gangs resident in Castle Acre are employed.

Freebridge Lynn Division of Norfolk.

PARISH.	Quota of Land-tax in 1695.	Rent in 1695.	Rent in 1815.	Rent in 1843.	Increase per cent. between 1695 & 1843
	£ s. d.	£	£	£	
Anmer	43 4 10	216	1,209	1,185	448
Ashwicker	73 0 0	365	1,201	1,040	185
Babingley	61 2 6	305	874	720	130
Bawsey	46 8 4	232	631	464	100
Bilney, West	64 8 10	322	1,080	2,263	602
Castle Rising	70 12 8	353	1,400	1,941	449
Congham	114 7 0	571	2,604	2,775	385
Dersingham	144 17 4	724	3,347	3,585	395
Fitcham	190 18 4	954	3,054	3,305	246
Gaywood	219 15 0	1,098	3,273	6,572	498
Gayton	150 10 6	750	3,200	4,195	459
Grimstone	169 14 8	848	3,193	4,167	391
Harpley	102 1 4	510	2,032	2,618	412
Hillington	105 10 10	527	1,934	1,855	251
Lexcate	62 12 0	313	1,291	1,409	350
Massingham, Great ..	150 2 10	750	4,443	4,729	530
Massingham, Little ..	66 5 0	331	2,412	2,403	644
Middleton	184 10 8	922	3,667	5,028	445
Mintlyn	49 17 8	249	1,125	910	267
Newton, West	64 7 8	321	1,027	1,126	251
Pentney	105 0 8	526	2,161	2,704	414
Roydon	40 8 2	202	687	855	323
Runcton, North ..	147 19 4	739	3,571	3,107	320
Sandringham	32 1 4	160	441	555	246
Setchey	84 10 4	422	1,172	1,294	206
Winch, East	100 12 10	503	2,138	2,906	477
Winch, West	167 6 0	836	2,100	2,996	258
Wootton, North	99 6 4	496	1,726	2,078	318
Wootton, South	59 16 10	299	1,348	1,434	376
Woolverton	94 4 0	471	2,357	2,184	363
		61,293	72,460	10,740	

Average increase per cent. on the whole division between 1695 and 1843 358

Average increase per cent. on the whole division between 1815 and 1843 15

* Report, pp. 228—235. † Report, p. 274.

* *Ib.*, pp. 275, 276. † *Ib.*, p. 276.
‡ *Ib.*, pp. 276, 277. § *Ib.*, p. 277.

* *Report*, p. 278. † *Ib.*, p. 278.
‡ *Ib.*, p. 280 § *Ib.*, p. 280.
‖ Report of Mr. Denison, p. 266.
¶ Mr. Denison's Report, pp. 177, 260.

Parishes in the County of Norfolk where the Gangs resident in Castle Acre are employed.

PARISH.	Quota of Land-tax in 1695.			Rent in 1695.	Rent in 1815.	Rent in 1843.	Increase per cent. between 1695 & 1843
	£	s.	d.	£	£	£	
Castle Acre	121	14	10	608	3,954	4,842	695
Gayton Thorpe	61	9	6	307	1,518	1,210	294
Lexham, East	37	16	0	189	1,350	1,125	495
Lexham, West	35	14	0	178	827	724	306
Narford	70	10	8	352	1,118	1,499	325
Newton by Castle Acre	54	0	0	270	1,021	1,433	430
Rougham	87	0	0	435	2,317	2,291	656
South Acre	69	6	8	346	2,366	2,366	583
Sporle-cum-Palgrave..	148	1	4	740	3,622	5,820	686
Walton, East	77	14	2	388	1,483	1,705	339
Walton, West	393	19	0	1,969	8,809	11,032	460
Weasenham, All Saints	65	4	0	326	1,758	2,656	714
Weasenham, St. Peter	64	18	0	324	1,714	1,982	511
West Acre	102	7	6	511	2,564	2,977	482
					35,921	42,662	6,977

Average increase per cent. on the whole gang-system district between 1695 and 1843.. .. 498
Average increase per cent. on the whole gang-system district between 1815 and 1843.. .. 18

It appears from these tables that in the division of the county in which Castle Acre is situated, exclusive of the parish of Castle Acre itself, and the other parishes in which the gang system prevails, the rise of rent has been 358 per cent.; while in Castle Acre, and the parishes in which the gangs resident in Castle Acre are employed, the rise of rent has been 498 per cent.: appearing to indicate by this rise of 140 per cent. over the surrounding district, that "agricultural prosperity" may be, *if not caused by*, certainly attended with, extreme degradation, hardship, and misery in the condition of the agricultural labourers and their families.

It also appears that between 1695 and 1843 the rent of Castle Acre, the focus of all this moral degradation and physical suffering, has increased 696 per cent. Mr. Denison's explanation throws light upon this rise as regards Castle Acre itself, showing that it is in part owing to the exorbitant cottage rents. He says:—"The competition caused by these new comers raises the house-rent throughout the parish; and, as *they are at the mercy of those who have land at Castle Acre*, they are forced to pay exorbitant rents for very wretched dwellings;"* and Mr. Bloom informs us that "the increasing population of the place, and the *frequent transfer of copyhold from seller to purchaser, render the manorial privileges of the parish of some importance to their owners.*"† No doubt they do; but in this instance, unfortunately, the lucre partakes not a little of the nature of that which arises from the rent of houses of such a description that the proprietors of them do not usually boast of their gains, though they do not pocket them the less on that account.

By the statute 53 Geo. III., c. 40 (1813), the power of the justices of the peace or magistrates of cities or boroughs in England and Scotland to settle wages is taken away: so that the labour market may be now said to be by law free in Great Britain. But, though free from the interference of laws made for the express purpose of interference with it, the agricultural labour market is still not free from the vexatious operation of other laws, which, though not made expressly for that object, exercise a vast influence on the welfare of the labourer.

CONCLUSION.

We must now take a short review of the ground we have gone over, and endeavour to learn what results we have obtained. It appears, from the large body of evidence stated in the preceding pages:—

1. That in the 13th, 14th, and 15th centuries, the wages of the agricultural labourer in England were such as to procure for him more than double the quantity of food which his wages between 1740 and 1794 procured; and that the wages obtained by him from 1834 to the present time, as measured by the quantity of produce, are considerably less than in the period between 1740 and 1794.

2. That from about the middle of the 14th till towards the middle of the 18th century, the wages of the agricultural labourer were fixed, or regulated by successive statutes, or by the justices of the peace acting under the authority of the statutes; the preamble to the statute 12 Richard II., c. 4, assigning as a reason for this "regulation" of wages, that the labourers would not work without "outrageous and excessive hire, by reason of which high price of labour the tenants of the land could not pay their rents."

3. That in consequence of the great fall in the value of money in the course of the 16th century (caused partly by the degradation of the coin, partly by the fall in the real value of the precious metals), and the corresponding rise in the price of all other commodities except labour, the wages of labour being violently kept down by act of Parliament, towards the end of the 16th and about the beginning of the 17th century, the wages of the agricultural labourer did not procure him above a third of the quantity of food which they procured him in the 15th century. That during the 18th century, until 1794, a progressive increase took place in the wages of the agricultural labourer, without a corresponding rise in the cost of subsistence. That after 1794 a considerable rise took place in the cost of subsistence, without a corresponding rise in the wages of the agricultural labourer.

4. That, after the extraordinary rise in the price of provisions which took place in the 16th century, the Legislature, as the labourer could not support a family on the wages they allowed him, made up the difference by a tax called a poor-rate. That, part of this tax in aid of wages being levied on persons who were neither employers of labour nor receivers of rent, the farmer, having to pay less in wages, could and did pay more in rent. That, therefore, such increase of rent was nothing but a tax paid by the rest of the community, not to the state, but to the receivers of rent. That a similar operation, to a still greater extent, was repeated towards the end of the 18th century, when, in 1795, upon the extraordinary rise in the price of food, the county magistrates again exercised their authority under the statute 5 Elizabeth, c. 4, to fix the rate of wages; which they did in such a manner that a practice was established throughout the greater part of England (sanctioned by the statute 36 Geo. III., c. 23) of paying the labourers, not according to the value of their labour, but according to their necessities, whereby they were reduced to the condition of paupers. That under this system, a large portion of the wages of agricultural labour being paid out of the poor-rates, persons who were neither employers of labour nor receivers of rent were taxed to a much greater extent than they had been before, that the farmer might be enabled to pay more than the natural rent of the land.

5. That, from 1795 to 1834, in pursuance of the above system, the farmers, particularly in the midland and southern counties, refusing to employ the labourers as long as they possessed any property; the class of small proprietors was almost wholly swept away in the purely agricultural districts.

6. That, under the combined operation of the Poor Law of 1796 and the Corn Law of 1815, the wages of agricultural labour were lower, and the condition of the agricultural labourer was worse, than at any former period, except that in which the poor law of Elizabeth was passed. That the temporary rise in the wages of agricultural labour which took place in 1832, 1833, being caused by the agricultural riots and burnings of 1830 and 1831, cannot be assumed as a correct index of an improvement in the condition of the agricultural labourer.

7. That, under the combined operation of the poor law of 1834 and the present Corn Law, the wages of the agricultural labourer have not risen, and his physical condition, at least, has not improved. That, therefore, the poor law of 1796 was not, as has been alleged, the sole cause of the wretched condition of the English agricultural labourers.

8. That in the thirteenth century the rent of land in England did not amount to much more than one-thirteenth of the gross produce; that in the sixteenth century it amounted to one-tenth; in the eighteenth century to one-fifth; and that in the nineteenth century it amounts to nearly one-third of the gross, or to nearly one-half of the disposable produce. That, while such is the proportion of the share of the produce set apart for rent, the actual value of that share has increased nearly tenfold within the last two centuries, or a little more.

9. That from 1695, or rather from 1770, to 1815, rents increased in a very great degree; that from 1815 to 1843 there has been, upon the whole, an average increase; and that the average rise has been the greatest in those districts where the condition of the labourer is the worst.

10. That under the Corn Law of 1815 and the subsequent Corn Laws, all professedly made for the benefit of the farmer, the profits of the farmer have been greatly reduced, and his capital has been and is rapidly wasting away. That the capital of the farmer, or the fund from which the farm-labourers are to be paid, being diminished, the wages or share of each labourer must likewise be diminished.

* Report, p. 222.
† Bloom's "Castle Acre," p. 304.

THE LEAGUE AND THE LANDLORDS.—Dread of the League is at the bottom of all the solicitude shown by landlords for the welfare of their tenants during the year—dread of the League impels landlords to turn their attention to allotments—and nothing but dread of the League has caused all England to be now agitated with plans for the relief of the agricultural poor.—*Hull Advertiser.*

THE LEAGUE BAZAAR.—The Council of the League have announced that the Bazaar, which was intended to be held last summer, and which it was found necessary to postpone, is to be held in Covent Garden Theatre, London, next May. It cannot be necessary, at this time of day, to explain the object of this undertaking; and its claims, on the support especially of the ladies, are so forcibly and succinctly stated in the prospectus as to leave nothing to be said. The scheme is, we understand, the suggestion of the ladies of Manchester, and on the co-operation of the ladies of other districts its success must mainly depend. We earnestly hope that the ladies of Scotland who approve of the object will not be found wanting on this occasion, and sure we are that in no cause could their aid be more gracefully or appropriately given. The warm and active zeal which, on a former occasion, many of the ladies of Edinburgh displayed in this cause, has, we doubt not, neither evaporated nor cooled; and the ladies of Glasgow, of Paisley, of Dundee, and of other towns and districts where Free-Trade principles are understood and cherished (and there are few districts which that description does not now include) will, it may be hoped, not be behind in the good work.—*Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle.*——Our readers will see that the postponed Bazaar on behalf of the League is now revived. No town can contribute manufactures more suitable or more valuable to the Bazaar than Sheffield; and we trust our townspeople, both male and female, will do themselves honour by their contributions to this national Bazaar.—*Sheffield Independent.*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND.

Subscriptions received during the week ending Wednesday, November 27, 1844.

N.B. As the subscription list is made up from Wednesday to Wednesday, contributions received on Thursdays and Fridays are not published in the LEAGUE of the Saturday immediately succeeding, but are included in the list of the week following.

*Stewart, Thomas, Stockport, Cheshire	£20	0	0
*Leigh, Henry, Patricroft, near Manchester	1	0	0
*Jackson, John, 122, Ormond-street, C.-on-M.. do.	1	0	0
*Robinson, George, 22, Swan-street, do.	2	2	0
*Mayor, Richard, 34, Booth-street, Mosley-st., do.	1	0	0
*Wilson, James, 168, Great Ancoats-street, do.	1	0	0
Sykes, Henry, and Friends, 2, Tipping-street, Ardwick, do.	1	0	0
Dawson, James, and Friends, at J. Brignall's, South-street, Peter-street, do.	1	3	4
*Woodward, William, 3, Greenwood-street, do.	2	0	0
Johnson, William, Hyde-road, Ardwick, do.	1	0	0
*Bell, R., Walton's-buildings, do.	1	0	0
*Stracy, R. G., Great Ancoats-street, do.	1	0	0
*Higgin, J., Teneriffe-street, Broughton, near do.	1	0	0
*Satterthwaite, Wm., 75, Chester-road, Hulme, do.	1	0	0
*Woolfenden, Thomas, Royton, Oldham	1	0	0
*Smith, Wm., 16, Downing-street, C.-on-M., Manch.	1	1	0
*Lane, Wm., 6, Oldham-street do., do.	1	0	0
*Evans, J. W., 80, do., do., do.	1	0	0
*Hughes, James, 24, do., do., do.	1	0	0
*Walker, Henry, 54, Rusholme-rd., do., do.	1	0	0
*Wilson, G. and R., 31, Church-st., do.	2	2	0
*Banks, Robert, and Co., 27, do., do.	1	0	0
*Hall, Richard, 33, do., do.	1	0	0
*Hanley, Wm., Oldham-road, do.	1	0	0
*Riddihough, John, 28, Hodson-street, Salford	1	0	0
*Brockbank, Andrew, 11, Windmill-street, Manch.	1	0	0
*Taylor, George, 28, Clifford-street, C.-on-M., do.	1	0	0
*Simpson, Robert, 23, Brown-street, do., do.	1	0	0
*Lupton, Benjamin, Cheadle, Cheshire	1	1	0
Paris, W. T., solicitor, Stroud, Gloucestershire ..	2	0	0
Clayfield, S., solicitor, do., do. ..	1	0	0
Fisher, H. and T. Shakespeare, Nailsworth, near Stroud, do.	1	0	0
Hunt, Thomas, and Friends, do., do., do.	1	5	0
Small subscriptions, per J. Clissold, do., do., do.	1	5	3
*Brown, James, 65, High-street, Manchester.. ..	1	0	0
*Scott, W. A., druggist, Rochdale	1	0	0
*Dow, H. T., 37, Thomas-street, Manchester	1	0	0
*Gillibrand, P., at H. Bannerman & Sons', York-st., do.	1	0	0
*Bannerman, C., at do., do., do.	1	0	0
Wilkinson, Mr. T. A., 11, Nelson-street, Hull ..	1	0	0
*Johnson, Thomas, 39, Hanging Ditch, Manchester	1	0	0
*Evans, Edwards, 148, Dean's-gate do.	1	0	0
*Baines, T. M., 112, Lloyd-street, Green Heys, do.	1	1	0
*Heathcote, Wm., 13, Every-street, Ancoats, do.	1	0	0
Shimwell, Isaac, St. Mary's gate, do.	5	5	0
*Tinker, Edward, 5, Scotland-road, Liverpool ..	1	1	0
*Logan, James, 67, Naylor-street, do.	1	1	0
William Lloyd, Cook-street, do.	0	2	6
*Brewerton, C., Forest-vale, Sydenham, Kent ..	5	0	0
*Coleman, John and George, Effingham, near Leatherhead, Surrey	4	0	0
*Searle, Richard, 13, Clarendon-place, Vassal-road, Brixton	4	0	0
*Bragg, John, 6, Throgmorton-street	3	3	0
*Watson, A. K., Esq., 2, Plowden-buildings, Temple	2	2	0
*Alexander, Philip, Swanage, Dorset	2	0	0
*Pullar, Robert and Sons, Perth..	2	0	0
*Jones, George, 10, Bow Churchyard	1	1	0
*Davy, Charles, 100, Upper Thames-street	1	1	0
*Wooldridge, William, 6, Jermyn-street, St. James's	1	1	0
*Hall, T. S., 18, Surrey-place, Old Kent-road ..	1	1	0
Patrick, William, 2, Wellington-place, Commercial-road, Limehouse	1	1	0
J. N. F.	1	1	0
Margetson, James, 11, St. James's-place, Old Kent-road	1	1	0
Child, Tobias, John-street, Dockhead	1	1	0
Darnell, George, 26, Theberton-street, Islington ..	1	1	0
*Nyren, H., 71, Great George-street, Bermondsey ..	1	1	0
*Michell, W. H., 79, Quadrant	1	1	0
*Wakeman, George, Thame	1	0	0
*Lupton, Arthur, Victoria-road, Headingley, near Leeds	1	1	0
*Smith and Buchler, 53, Trinity-street, Borough ..	1	1	0
*Fitzpatrick, Daniel, at Messrs. Maudsley, Field, and Co.'s, Lambeth	1	1	0
*Wood, Samuel, 33, St. Paul's Churchyard	1	1	0
*Cash, William, Peckham-rye	1	1	0
*Simons, Richard, 27, Mincing-lane.	1	1	0
*Mahon, J., 42, Gower-place, per J. P. Burnard ..	1	1	0
*Ross, Thomas, 5, Brunswick-place, Brixton-hill ..	1	1	0
*Lloyd, R., 31, Lower Baker-street, Lloyd-square, Pentonville..	1	1	0
Garrard, William 22, Long-lane, Bermondsey ..	1	1	0
Pickering, Jonathan, Thames-place, Limehouse-hole	1	1	0
Nathan, Thomas, East India-road	1	1	0
Paisley. *Leckie, Archibald, dyer	1	1	0
*Kerr, Robert, Oakshawhead	1	1	0
*Kerr and Wilson, Causeyside	1	1	0
*Harrow, M'Intyre, and Co., Collinsleo ..	1	1	0
*Coats, J. and P.	1	1	0
*Coats, James	1	1	0
*Wotherspoon, William, Moss-street	1	1	0
*Kerr, Peter and Son, New-street	1	0	0
*Arthur, James, draper, High-street	1	0	0
Millar, James, do.	1	0	0
*Barr, David, dyer..	1	0	0
*M'Arthur, John, Causeyside	1	0	0
*Telfer, Baillie	1	0	0
*Rule, Robert, Causeyside	1	0	0
*Briscoe, J., Wath-upon-Dearn, Yorkshire	1	0	0
*Heron, Robert and Co., Fife Pottery	1	0	0
Welch, Thomas, Cockermouth	1	0	0
*Spearman, Thos., 20, Wilderness-street, Bermondsey	1	0	0
*Curtis, James, 42, Union-street, Bishopsgate ..	1	0	0
*Everett, Ebenezer, Lamb-alley, Bermondsey ..	1	0	0
Morris, Thomas, 179, Sloane-street, Chelsea	1	0	0
*Drew, James, 19, Bridge-street, Westminster ..	1	0	0
*Wilson, W. J., 17, Crown-street, Finsbury	1	0	0
*Watts, Henry, 118, Bunhill-row	1	0	0
Raine, Thomas, cheesemonger, Clapham	1	0	0
Stock, Robert, 2, Gloucester-place, Kentish-town ..	1	0	0
*Winter, James, 101, Wardour-street, Soho	1	0	0
*Blyth, Thomas, Langham, Colchester	1	0	0
*Mills, S., 26, Seymour place, Bryanstone-square ..	1	0	0
*Kingdon, William, Plume of Feathers, Market-place, Salisbury	1	0	0
*Williams, J. B., Clipper-lane, do. ..	1	0	0
*Adlam, Thomas, do. ..	1	0	0
*Gummer, Robert, do. ..	1	0	0
*Lambert, John, do. ..	1	0	0
*Bracher, Henry James, the Grange, near do. ..	1	0	0
*A Friend, by W. Pickford Camberworth	1	0	0
Ewart, William, Ramsgate	1	0	0
*A. B. C., Canterbury	1	0	0
*Barnsdall, Nathaniel, Nottingham	1	0	0
*F. S. A. B., Cockermouth	1	0	0
*Barnard, W., 4, Counter-hill-terrace, Lewisham-road, Deptford	1	0	0
*Manley, R., Ide, near Exeter	1	0	0
*Woolis, Thomas, 11, Rooke-street, Manchester ..	1	0	0

*Dutton, Samuel, Highgate, Hunslet, near Leeds ..	£1	0	0
*James, S. and J., Truro	1	0	0
*Lea, Charles, Beauvoir Cottage, Finchley-common	1	0	0
*Ashworth, Benjamin, Fold's Cottage, Bolton ..	1	0	0
*Bury, William Accrington, Lancashire	1	0	0
*Ratcliffe, Henry, Accrington, Lancashire	1	0	0
Per J. H. Wills. *Farnell, J. W., Catherine-st., Salisbury	1	0	0
Per J. H. Wills. *Fawcett, W., farmer, Queen-st., do.	1	0	0
Per J. H. Wills. *Wills, J. H., Castle-street, do.	1	0	0
Per J. H. Wills. *Moore, G., Queen's Arms, Ivy-st., do.	1	0	0
*Warrington, John Brampton, Newcastle-under-Lyne	1	0	0
*Earnshaw, John, Duke-street, Sepulcher's-gate, Doncaster	1	0	0
*Hickson, Samuel, 162, High-street, Chatham ..	1	0	0
*Stephens, Henry William, 71, York-road, Lambeth	1	0	0
*Mann, John, 63, Bartholomew-close	1	0	0
*Marler, Joseph, draper, 33, East-street, Walworth	1	0	0
G. M.	1	0	0
*Howell, J., 1, West-street, Smithfield	1	0	0
*Owen, William, 13, Brewer-street, Pimlico	1	0	0
*Watts, E. W., 119, Wood-street	1	0	0
*Birch, C., 12, Downham-road, Islington	1	0	0
Vallas, John, East India-road	1	0	0
Lambert, Wm., Wellington-place, West India Dock	1	0	0
*Watterston, James, Balgone Barns, by Haddington	1	0	0
Child, George, John-street, Dockhead	0	10	6
Hill, William Matthew, 10, Charlton-place, Islington	0	10	6
Nathan, William, 49, Three Colt-street, Limehouse..	0	10	0
Baker, Thomas, Lombard-street	0	10	0
Gardener, Judith, 8, East-street, Manchester-square	0	5	0
Newcomb, Frederick, 1, Theberton-street, Islington	0	5	0
Dawkins, William, 5, St. John's-street-road	0	5	0
Wilson, W. W., Hunslet, near Leeds	0	5	0
Given, W. S., 19, Workworth-terrace, Commercial-road East	0	5	0
Beecham, Mrs., 44, Gerrard-street, Islington ..	0	5	0
Sherrard, R. W., Bromley, Middlesex	0	5	0
Weaver, Thos., 31, Lower Baker-street, Lloyd-square	0	5	0
Robins, Jas., 2, Sebright-street, Bethnal-green-road	0	5	0
Talbot, W. H., 71, Fore-street, Limehouse.. ..	0	2	6
Heath, Richard, 2, Three Cold-street, do.	0	2	6
Barclay, James, 10, Jamaica-terrace, do.	0	2	6
Schultz, Christopher, 24, Limehouse-causeway ..	0	2	6
Yabeley, G., 3, Britannia-place, Limehouse	0	2	6
Cusens, T. H., 49, Long-acre	0	2	6
Spencer, William, 19, Camden-passage, Lower-road, Islington	0	2	6
Reed, Thomas, 2, Church-row, do.	0	2	6
Monson, Henry, 30, East-street, Manchester-square	0	2	6
Holderness, Henry, 21, High-street, Islington ..	0	2	6
Russ, William, Meredith-street, Clerkenwell.. ..	0	2	6
Gellatly, Alexander, 4, Ann's-terrace, Liverpool-road	0	2	6
Amery, Thomas, Old Ford New Town	0	2	6
Emblin, Rev. Mr., Fairfield-place, Bow	0	2	6
Sorrell, Joseph, do., do.	0	2	6
Evans, George, Greystoke-place, Fetter-lane	0	2	6
Ingram, John, 29, City-road	0	2	6
Bell, Frederick, 25, Sekforde-street, Clerkenwell ..	0	2	6
Hill, Charles, 146, St. John's-street-road	0	2	6
Wood, Octavius, 147, do.	0	2	6
Dear, John, 52, Ropemaker's-fields, Limehouse ..	0	2	6
Rooke, Thomas James, 5, Colebrook-row, Islington	0	2	6
Ferry, Richard, 11, do., do. ..	0	2	6
Simson, Rev. Robert, 3, do., do. ..	0	2	6
Fairhead, James, 1, Montagu-place, do. ..	0	2	6
Tabor, James, 11, Pierrepoint-row, do. ..	0	2	6
Weaver, Mrs., 31, Lower Baker-street, Lloyd-square	0	2	6
A. B. C. D.	0	2	6
Hobbs, Robert, 85, West Smithfield	0	2	6
Wright, John, 13, Ashley-crescent, City-road ..	0	2	6
Oldridge, Wm., Queen's-square, Aldersgate-street..	0	2	6
Small subscriptions	1	12	0

* Those names marked with an asterisk are renewed subscriptions.

THE NEXT ELECTION.

(From the *Wesleyan Chronicle.*)

"I think our landlords made a great mistake when they retained the forty-shilling freehold qualification: and, mark my words, it is a rod in pickle for them."—*Cobden.*

By an unrepealed statute every man who possesses a freehold, of the clear annual value of forty shillings, is entitled to a county vote. This fact, so important in its consequences to public liberty, has remained unnoticed. An earnest cry has been raised in the country for an extension of the suffrage; but no one took notice of the fact that, by this statute, it is in the power of thousands to enfranchise themselves. Thanks to the energetic and faithful, though quiet, labours of the League, the fact is now published through the length and breadth of the land. The League has shown the people of England in what way they may most legally make a key which will open the locks of their prison-house. British citizens may now be free: ay, *and may free themselves*, and thereby not be under the disagreeable necessity of thanking their oppressors for relaxing their tyranny. Britons may have the franchise extended whether class legislators will it or *nil* it.

How is it to be done? Purchase a freehold of £50 value, and you are immediately entitled to a vote. And this vote will go as far as the vote of the country squire or of the landed legislator who owns 100,000 acres. The votes of the 30,000 landed proprietors must be swamped. They do as they will with their own: and it is their will to legislate for the few at the expense of the many. Again, we say, these votes must be swamped by the people's votes; and this plan will swamp them.

Who can do it? Thousands of the masses. Many who already have a vote in one county, may, by purchasing a freehold of this trifling value, in another county, have an additional vote at an election. The superior classes of operatives have it in their power thus to emancipate themselves and their children. Not a few of these are laying by money from year to year, against a rainy day in savings' banks or elsewhere. Can they do better than make the purchase of such a freehold, which will return them good interest, which they can at any time dispose of, and which will give them, in addition, a vote at the county election? We cannot think of a safer or more advantageous investment that a mechanic and operative, or a tradesman, can make.

How soon an election may take place, none, in the present state of parties, can tell. The people should be prepared; their arms should be ready piled. God, in his providence, has given us great power. Let us then use it. "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Let no man sin against his God and his country, by despising his birthright. Let each that can, make use of this 40s. freehold qualification without delay. Let it be done before January 31st. And let no man who purposely omits availing himself of this power, secretly curse the monopolists for the wrongs they inflict upon the nation; but let him reproach himself as one who would be likely to sell his dearest privileges for "a mess of pottage."

LETTERS ON THE CORN LAWS, No. IX.

TO SIR E. L. BULWER-LITTON, BART.

SIR.—Is apology necessary for addressing to you a letter on the Anti-Corn-Law agitation? If so, I find it in your political career, ere long, I trust, to be resumed with the spirit unchanged by which it was animated; I find it in your literary position, a commanding and princely one, and made unrivalled by the degree in which your works blend the pursuit of the good with the enjoyment of the beautiful; and I find it in the fact that you are the author of "England and the English," and of "The Last of the Barons"—one, the most striking delineation which has been produced of our present condition, and the other, a masterly tracing to its source the conflict between the new and old, by which that condition is characterised. To whom can a Free-Trader, pleading for the enfranchisement of national industry, address himself with greater fitness than to the writer of the following passage, in the first book of "England and the English?—

"I think, however, that I need take no pains to prove the next characteristic of the English people—a characteristic that I shall but just touch upon—viz., their wonderful spirit of industry. This has been the saving principle of the nation, counteracting the errors of our laws, and the imperfections of our constitution. We have been a great people, because we have been always active; and a moral people, because we have not left ourselves time to be vicious. Industry is, in a word, *the* distinguishing quality of our nation—the pervading genius of our riches, our grandeur, and our power!

"Every great people has its main principle of greatness—some one quality—the developing, and tracing, and feeding, and watching of which has *made* it great. * * * With France that principle is the love of glory; with America it is the love of liberty; with England it is the love of action—the safest and most comprehensive principle of the three, for it gains glory without seeking it too madly, and it requires liberty in order to exist. * * *

"When we have once discovered the national quality which has chiefly made a nation great, we cannot too warmly foster, and too largely encourage it; we should break down all barriers that oppose it; foresee, and betimes destroy, all principles that are likely to check or prevent it. It is the Vestal Fire, which daily and nightly we must keep alive; and we should consider all our prosperity to be coupled with its existence. Thus, then, if *industry* be the principle of our power, we cannot too zealously guard it from all obstacle, or too extensively widen the sphere for its exertions: a truth which our statesmen have, to be sure, diligently cultivated by poor laws that encourage idleness; and bounties, prohibitions, and monopolies, that cut away the sinews of action."

This is only one out of many admirable passages in a work so full of political philosophy and prescience that every year which has elapsed from the date of its publication has increased its interest. If more be required as a reason for the use of your name at this particular juncture of the Anti-Corn-Law agitation, I may refer to an expression of yours when the Whig Cabinet made the question of the Corn Laws an open one: "*By that move* they have LOST THE COUNTIES." It is the recovery of these same lost counties that is now in question: not their restoration to the ranks of party, but their redemption from the grasp of class monopoly.

The county suffrage is capable of an extension not easily calculated. Every annual forty shillings' worth of freehold land or building is a vote *in posse*. The little shopkeeper, or the frugal and thriving artisan, may become a county voter. No organic change is required, nor any manufacture of fagot votes, to create county constituencies that will acknowledge no allegiance to the present county dictators. An immense mass of property, entitled by law to representation, has hitherto, from ignorance, indolence, or indifference, been left without that sort of legal protection implied in the suffrage. To stimulate those who have the means to become purchasers of the qualification, and those who possess it to claim their right, are the present objects of the Anti-Corn-Law League. In the towns they seek the independent spirit that will counteract the abuses of territorial influence. Already is it apparent that registration lists, enlarged and purged as the law warrants, are tantamount to a representative revolution. The process is completed in Lancashire, progressing in Yorkshire, commencing in Middlesex, and contemplated in Surrey. Rapidly will it spread, even for the next registration, into other counties—all counties in which there is much of a town population; and everywhere must the magnates of the bread-taxing prepare themselves for electoral strife, frequently for signal defeat, on their hitherto undisputed territory. They have canted about agricultural protection until the portent of agricultural democracy is in course of generation.

There is every probability, if the plans of the League continue—as assuredly they will continue—to be vigorously pursued, that the next Parliament will exhibit an array of the members for many of the largest counties and most of the great towns, on the side of Free Trade. The main strength of monopoly will consist of members for the small and venal constituencies, the pocket boroughs. Can a contest between such parties be long protracted? Any attempt to prolong so flagrant an outrage on public decency would raise a tempest which Free-Trade reforms must fail to appease unless accompanied by organic changes, in the representative system, to prevent the recurrence of so shameful an anomaly.

By this move, then, the counties are won. Won for the Whigs, if the Whigs please to accept the counties and Free Trade together; and if not, not. Won for Sir Robert Peel should he be sufficiently tired of his thraldom to throw off the yoke which evidently frets his spirit, and follow the suggestion of his true path to the honours of statesmanship marked out for him in "England and the English." The opportunity you have there described is now far more easily within his grasp:—

"It is one of the phenomena of our aristocratic customs, that a man especially marked out by birth and circumstance to be the leader of the popular, should be the defender of the oligarchical party. Sprung from the people, he identifies himself with the patricians. His pure and cold moral character, untinctured by the vices, unseduced by the pursuits, of an aristocracy, seems to ally him naturally to the decorous respectabilities of the great middle class to which his connexions attach him; and even ambition might suggest that his wealth would have made him the first of the one class, though it elevates him to no distinction in the other. Had he placed himself in his natural position among the ranks of the people, he would have been undeniably what he now just fails of being—a GREAT MAN. He would not have been Secretary for Ireland at so early an age, but he would now have been Prime Minister, or what is a higher position, the leader and centre of the moral power of England. As it is, he has knit himself to a cause which requires passion in its defenders, and is regarded with suspicion by his allies, because he supports it with discretion."

The "suspicious" of 1835 have become the reproaches of 1844. And in the interval a new power has arisen, independent of Whig or Tory politics, and capable of honourable junction with any honest political elements. Nay more: capable of absorbing and obliterating all existing party demarcations, and of marshalling the battle, compared with which all others are but sham fights, between the one great public interest and the mightiest of class interests.

The commercial towns, the great trading communities of the empire, are in a position analogous to that of the period so graphically portrayed in your "Last of the Barons." Industry and Invention working out their original question with Feudalism. Again flies the serf of the fields for shelter to the city. Again is growing wealth at war with noble blood. Tactics have changed. "The age of chivalry is gone." And so is that of the importance of civic charters. Knights and barons have become traders in land; but still their aim is to make the artisan of the towns work for them without due remuneration. Parliamentary parchment is their banner; the broad seal their shield; and the Custom-house their fortress. It is truly an ignoble warfare, but they wage it as of yore, and the citizens again cry "clubs," to the rescue. Our modern clubs, if the League may be so called, strike harder blows than those of old London. Legislation, like military aggression, has advanced to the point of reaction. The invasion of the towns is retorted upon the counties. Free Trade will send forth its train-bands of freeholders to repel baronial retainers; even the tenantry, that have been scourged to the poll like droves of oxen to market, will learn the lesson of independence. Ownership of the soil will be taught that it does not convey the lordship over political conscience.

The "national party" which you desiderated is arising. Should opposing leaders in Parliament continue to stand aloof, to temporize and compromise, and to coquet with the unconvincible and unmanageable champions of monopoly in food, then that party must find and mature its own leaders. Its objects are national interests. Its indomitable strength consists in being the embodiment of what you justly describe as constituting national character. It cannot fail for want of leaders. It will make them. Substance never perishes for lack of form.

You are isolated from active politics, and have taken leave of fictitious composition. But the world will not believe that you have broken the wand or buried the book whose magic has so often proved its fascination. Should the analysis of national character, or the philosophy of national history, again occupy your pen, what materials have been furnished, by this continued struggle, since last you speculated on "England and the English." You may then describe how this agitation was conceived, not in the passionate assembly of the populous, or in the secret haunt of the demagogue, but in the counting-house, the factory, and the exchange: how men of business, in their peaceful calling, were driven by events to philosophize on the operation of laws and the mischief of commercial prohibitions: how they devoted themselves, their wealth largely, their time and toil unsparingly, to the redress of the evil: how the subject expanded in their minds, until from complainants of a partial injury they became the champions of a universal principle, assertors of the sacred rights of industry: how their crusade proceeded with no violence, but throughout the land they and their coadjutors and agents wrought by instruction, winning the listening ear of crowds to a science which had failed of fixing due attention in the most highly educated: how, their petitions to Parliament disregarded, though signed by unprecedented numbers, they appealed to

the creators of Parliament, and especially to those constituencies which are most identical with the intelligence and moral power of the community: and at last, how the augmentative victory was crowned by the legislative triumph, and the giant Industry (of your own apologue), freed from his bonds, fed all his children to the full, and won for them that peaceful empire over the world which consists in receiving the good that any nation can supply, and dispensing the good that any nation may require. Free Trade is the indestructible "Eureka" of the Anti-Corn-Law League.

A NORWICH WEAVER BOY.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the EDITOR *of the* LEAGUE.

Great Houghton, near Barnesley, Nov. 19, 1844.

SIR,—An unknown correspondent advises me to write words to the tune of the "Marseillaise Hymn," and send them to you. I have taken his advice, not thinking it a device of the enemy, likely to deprive you of one subscriber, however weak, by tempting you to publish the bans of marriage between the revolutionary air and politico-economical sedition. The result is failure—verses too abstract to be popular; but the notes might, even now, be useful, if the monopolists would read them. Pray forgive me for troubling you with an abortion. I have done my best; but doing one's best does not always succeed in poetry: "It must be as God pleases!" said the miracle-monger who bit off his own nose.

I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

EBENEZER ELLIOTT.

A BRITISH MARSEILLAISE.

BY EBENEZER ELLIOTT.

Tune—"The Marseillaise Hymn."

Men! not allow'd to earn your bread;
Or feeding all the basely fed!
Why ask for work in vain?
Or toil for death and pain?
Or toil for death and pain?

Shall brutal things, in human form,
Feed on your souls, like rat and worm?
Bid son with sire for graves compete?
And tell your wives they shall not eat?
No! cry aloud to all, "By good, for good, men live!
By good, for good, men live!
Build not on broken hearts! nor take, unless ye give!
Nor take, unless ye give!"

How long shall drones, in baseness blind,
Breathe plagues, beneath the light of mind? (1)
And curse your skill and toil,
Because they curse the soil?
Where grows the vine, the thistle dies;
From cultur'd man the savage flies;
Then, peasant, merchant, artisan,
Transform the biped brute to man!
Bid truth, bid knowledge turn his mindless night to day!
Bid love and mercy drive the human wolf away!

Tool-making man! whose foodful mind
With harvest freights the wave and wind,
And thoughtfully creates
The bread and life of states!
Say to the fed on tears and blood,
"Production is the root of good!
And scorn'st thou them who all produce,
Thou costliest thing of smallest use?
Mend! or the mill, the rail, the wing of land and sea,
Will teach thy sons to read, and find a book in thee."

The feeble girl, who works to aid
Parents, death-doom'd by fetter'd trade;
The sire, whose hopeless son
Lives, but to be undone;
The husband, slaying child and wife,
In flight from lawless law and life;
The peasant—spurn'd, starv'd, hunted, jail'd,
Because his law-made doom prevail'd;
Will not for ever feed the Moloch of the land,
Nor Rapine always drive his stolen four-in-hand.

Destroyers, No! in vain ye strive
To keep a world's despair alive:
Your baseness is our might,
Your smitten darkness light:
Our sons shall wed, their babes be fed;
It is no crime to love and wed!
Our daughters shall not bring forth slaves;
Nor childless sons seek workhouse graves:
Too oft have idlers said to Toil, "Thou shalt not love, or live!"
Too long have robbers said to Skill, "We take, and thou shalt give!"

Men! ye who sow the earth with good;
Men! ye who earn the price of food; (2)
Toil! strong for good and ill;
And thou, more mighty, Skill!
Arise, and save man's deadliest foe,
Ere Ruin paint his overthrow!
His life of wrong! his death of shame!
His shroud and grave of blood and flame!
Arise, ere victor-slaves, by tyrants' crimes set free,
Cry, "Servants of the damn'd! are ye, too, weak as we?"

NOTES.

1. I say not that man's hand is his mind, but, had he not possessed that thumbed implement, I doubt whether his mind, with his power of communicating and accumulating ideas, would have raised him to his present intellectual eminence. Given a jack-plane, he might have stuck it in his mouth, and worked with it; but what sort of a jack-plane could he have made with his teeth? To his hand principally he is indebted for his success in tool-making; and it is as a tool-maker or manufacturer of such things as spades, ploughs, steam-engines, and railways, that he has wrought all his wonders. One of our most reverend doctors calls the population of such towns as Sheffield extrinsic; not seeming to know that, till there was a manufacturer, there could be no agriculture, unless finger-grubbing for pignuts deserve that name. The first tool-maker was the first farmer; he put an end to finger-grubbing for pignuts, and called agriculture into existence. He, and subsequent tool-makers, may be truly said to have created every ounce of food which industrial science has since produced. If any population deserves to be called intrinsic, it is that which can enable a hundred acres of land, cultivated commercially, to maintain more people than any ten thousand acres, cultivated agriculturally, ever yet did. About eight hundred acres of land at Leeds, cultivated commercially, maintain a hundred and forty thousand persons; where shall we find a hundred thousand acres, cultivated agriculturally, maintaining an equal number? Had there never been a tool-maker, a few hordes of savages, fighting with the bears for roots, would now have constituted the world's intrinsic population.

2. Are the philosophers of the Gun and Standard, who pray for the destruction of trade, aware that six adults are sufficient for the cultivation of one hundred arable acres, and that, if the profits of trade failed to furnish other consumers with an equivalent for the produce, the only cultivated portion of every cultivable hundred acres in Britain, would be that alone which is required for the maintenance of six adults and their families? It is of small import to us what becomes of Messrs. Gun and Standard, but it might be well for them to take into their sapient consideration the possibility, in such a case, of the surplus of victims seizing the land, and the certainty that, without capital, they could not cultivate it. What, then, would happen, Oh, sages of the Gun and Standard? Before the inventions of Watt and Arkwright, the people depended on the land for subsistence; they have since depended on the profits of those and other inventions—the landlords pocketing the surplus profits both of trade and agriculture. Destroy the profits of trade, and the landlords must perish, with two-thirds of the people—unless the displaced population, seizing the land, can also appropriate capital previously amassed.

To the EDITOR *of the* LEAGUE.

Hull, Nov. 25, 1844.

SIR,—In the LEAGUE of last Saturday, under the head of "Registration Appeals," in the case of *Gadsby appellant, Barrows respondent*, Mr. Justice Coltman is reported as giving as one reason why a party holding under *two landlords*, one at £40 and the other at £40, cannot be entitled to vote—"he," the tenant, "might not know *which of them to oblige*, or to whom he owes allegiance." Now, Sir, what has voting to do with obliging a landlord? Surely, Mr. Justice Coltman does not mean, at any rate on the bench, to recognise the right of landlords to interfere with the tenants' voting. I have always understood it to be the undeniable right of every voter to use the same irrespective of either allegiance to landlord or any other party.

I think, if I have not mistaken Mr. Justice Coltman's meaning, such language from a judge is at least indiscreet.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

C. T. F.

To the EDITOR *of the* LEAGUE.

Uxbridge, Wednesday, 10m. past 11 o'clock, p.m.

SIR,—Having been much gratified by the perusal of the "Norwich Weaver Boy's" truly excellent letter, contained in your last impression, I read it to the members of my large family; whereupon I instantly obtained from three of the ladies present the voluntary promise to work for the forthcoming Bazaar. I was much gratified by this unexpected result of my reading; and cannot retire to rest to-night before I communicate the fact to you, with a view of urging your numerous readers to the adoption of the same course of action. Wishing prayerfully a speedy and propitious issue to your righteous efforts,

I am, in haste, yours truly,

AMICUS.

N.B.—Would it not be desirable to re-insert the letter in question?—it will bear reiteration.

Gloucester-place, Portman-square, Nov. 25, 1844.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your letter, I beg leave to inform you, that I have a vote for Middlesex, as well as for the counties of Bedford, Cambridge, and Huntingdon; and I rejoice to hear that the League are stimulating Free-Traders to purchase *bonâ fide* votes in the counties, as no arguments will persuade the farmers to vote against their powerful landlords.—Yours, truly, M. T.

A. W. Paulton, Esq.

WELWYN, HERTFORDSHIRE.—FORMATION OF A FREE-TRADE ASSOCIATION.

An important meeting was held on the 22nd inst., at the Wellington Inn, Welwyn, for the purpose of forming a Free-Trade Association in connexion with the Anti-Corn-Law League. A requisition, signed by 23 freeholders and inhabitants of the locality, was presented to William Blake, Esq.—an extensive landowner and a magistrate of the county—requesting him to preside at the meeting. A reply was received from that gentleman, expressing his cordial concurrence with the objects of the requisitionists and the inhabitants of the district, but regretting his inability from previous engagements to be present. By the hour appointed for commencing the proceedings the large room of the Wellington Inn, together with the avenues leading to it, were completely filled, and crowds, who were unable to obtain admittance, assembled under the windows in the street, where the proceedings could be distinctly heard. A great number of the farmers of the neighbourhood were present, and, although the district is purely agricultural, not one hand or voice was raised in favour of the Corn Laws. Mr. C. Lattimore and the Rev. T. Gilbert, of Wheathampstead, attended by special invitation, and were received with loud cheers upon their entrance.

The Rev. JOHN ROWE (of Welwyn) having been voted to the chair, briefly addressed the meeting.

Mr. LATTIMORE then rose and delivered an eloquent and argumentative speech, pointing out the injurious influence of the corn and sugar monopolies upon the whole community, but more especially upon the interests of the tenant-farmer and labourer. Mr. Lattimore also forcibly depicted the evils resulting from the game laws, and pointed out the probability, without some extensive alteration, of their producing an injurious effect upon the rights of property. [A full report of this important speech (which occupied an hour and a half in the delivery) will be given in the *Hertford Mercury* of the present week, of which we shall endeavour to avail ourselves in our next number.]

The Rev. T. GILBERT then delivered an impressive address. The rev. gentleman stated that he was not himself an agriculturist, but he had nevertheless been an attentive observer of the pernicious working of that system of which Mr. Lattimore had spoken. Ever since the present Corn Law had been palmed upon the country, our national prosperity had been upon the wane, and, if it were suffered to continue much longer, it must prostrate the whole community in the dust. With an annual increase in the population of 400,000, a mere temporary revival of trade would not suffice to prevent those evils under which we had heretofore laboured. He had received a statement of the condition of one agricultural town at the present moment, showing the declining state of its trade, and the consequent pauperization of its inhabitants. The poor rates had increased to 22s. on the pound. Out of the whole number of the manufacturers in the place, there was but one who had not either become bankrupt or compounded with his creditors. Within a circle of three miles, twelve farms had recently changed hands, most of the tenants of which had retired from their holdings greatly impoverished. This was a living picture of the results of the Corn Laws; and who would lift up their voices in favour of a system branded with such foul injustice? It had been said that Joseph was a lively type of the monopolists; but in truth he was not, for in the time of famine the son of Jacob opened the storehouses, and saved the Egyptians. But, so far from the monopolists being saviours of their country, they bound the people with burdens too grievous to be borne, and did not touch them themselves with so much as the tip of their finger. He was, however, happy to add his testimony to that of Mr. Lattimore, that there were many honourable exceptions to this rule among the landlords. He had been accused of meddling with politics; but he contended that the present distressed state of those among whom he resided rendered it incumbent upon him so to do. He had that day rebuked a poor woman for her neglect of the ordinances of religion, and remaining, together with her family, week after week, and month after month, without entering the doors of a place of worship. But what was her answer? "My husband has no work; my children are destitute of clothes; our furniture is nearly gone, and our hearts are well-nigh broken. We have very little inclination to go and hear the gospel when we are so weak for want of food that we can hardly stand." Her emaciated countenance attested the truth of her story, and spoke volumes as to the results of the Corn Laws upon the agricultural population of this land. And yet this country by some was still called "happy, prosperous, free-born England." His (Mr. Gilbert's) office continually brought him in contact with those who were literally perishing for lack of the common necessaries of life. In Wheathampstead a large number of labourers were out of employment at the present time, and there was every reason to fear that that number would be fearfully increased, for the farmer's capital was swallowed up by rent and tithe, and those means were taken from him which he would gladly expend upon bettering the condition of his farm. The blame rested, not on the head of the farmer, but upon the men at the head of public affairs, whose ears were impregnable to the cry of the many Lazaruses lying at their gates. It had been said that the Anti-Corn-Law League wished to interfere with vested interests; but he had too high an opinion of that body to believe any such statement. That association was composed of men not only of the greatest talent, but who were the best friends of their country—who sought to unbind those heavy burdens which now pressed so heavily upon the people, to raise the labourer in the scale of intellect, while it taught him that in the sweat of his brow he must earn his bread. He knew from experience that the labourer would much rather work for his living than eat the bread of idleness. He would not accuse any party of being the cause of the late incendiary fires; but every effect must have its cause; and the labourers now said that even the prison itself was much better than starvation and liberty, and transportation preferable to their present condition: for in the former case they would know the worst, which they did not now. He believed that the only prospect of the removal of these evils was in the unrestricted exercise of the elective franchise, which the people did not possess at present. He himself had seen, during an election, a letter addressed to a tenant who had promised to vote for a Free-Trade candidate, concluding in the following terms:—"Sir, I shall vote for so and so. I expect you to do the same." Unless the man had complied he would have been turned out of his farm and ruined. He called upon them, in conclusion, to get rid of those difficulties by repealing the Corn Law. Let them not cry to Hercules any longer, but determine, in God's strength, to kindle such a flame in Welwyn that night as by the grace of God should never be extinguished. (The rev. gentleman was loudly cheered during the delivery of his eloquent address.)

Mr. CANNON then moved, and Mr. T. ENEVER seconded, a resolution for the formation of a Free-Trade Association, which was carried unanimously amidst loud cheering.

Mr. THOMAS then announced that a meeting would be held on the Monday week following, for the appointment of a committee to carry out the object of the association, which was the dissemination of the principles of the Anti-Corn-Law League.

Mr. LATTIMORE, in moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman, strongly urged as many as were able to qualify themselves as county voters, and explained the nature of such qualification. If they neglected so to do, the poorer classes of their fellow-countrymen would have just cause to blame them.

The CHAIRMAN having returned thanks, the meeting separated.

THE REGISTRATION.

NORWICH.—Free-Trade objections sustained, 210; claims allowed, 131 = 341. Monopolist objections sustained, 163; claims allowed, 72 = 235. Free-Trade gain on the revision, 106.

TIVERTON, Nov. 20.—(From a Correspondent.)—I have the satisfaction of informing you that we increased our majority at the last registration; in fact, we have done so every year since our last contested election, when the numbers were as annexed; and although our members may not at present vote for total and immediate repeal, we thank them for approximating towards it, and I hope,

ere long, they may be found in our ranks. Mr. Heathcoat has great claims on the borough: he is idolized here, being considered one of the best masters and kindest landlords in the west of England. Lord Palmerston is totally unconnected with the borough, and is returned as the colleague of our excellent friend from the high ground his lordship has taken, and the very important services he has rendered the kingdom as a diplomatist. We have only two recognised Chartists who are electors, and one of them invariably supports us.

Tiverton contested Election, 1836.

John Heathcoat. Esq.	323
Lord Viscount Palmerston	246
B. B. Dickinson	180

THE COUNCIL-CHAMBER OF THE LEAGUE.

To the Editor of the Sun.

SIR,—I have recently spent a few days in Manchester, having visited that town partly on business, and partly that I might see anything that was worth seeing in it. During this visit I have been greatly interested with many things pointed out to me, and particularly with the wonderful manufactories, and with the skill and energy with which they are carried on. But, however strange it may seem, I have arrived at the conclusion, that the most remarkable sight in Manchester is to be found in the offices of the great Free-Trade Association, or, as it is more commonly called, the Anti-Corn-Law League.

The gentleman at whose house I was staying is a member of that association, and pretty regularly attends the meetings of the Council, and knowing that, from a recent thorough examination of the question of Free Trade, I had become a convert to its doctrines, he introduced me to some of its prominent members, and I spent some portion of almost every day in their society, at the Council-room of the League.

I need not describe the offices of the League further than to say, that they are situate in Market-street, within 100 yards of the Exchange, and consist of extensive and commodious apartments, fitted up in a manner suitable to the importance of the work for which they are engaged. That which struck me as most notable about the whole place, is the regularity and frequency of the meetings of the Council, and the efficient and business-like manner in which its affairs are transacted.

The first time I went with my friend and host to the League offices was on a Monday morning; it was a little after ten o'clock. Mr. Wilson, the Chairman of the Council, had already taken the chair. The Secretary of the League, Mr. Hickin, was upon his left hand, and on each side of the long table sat several gentlemen, who were members of the Council. I was introduced to most of them. Mr. Cobden was there; Mr. Woolley and Mr. Lees, both of whom are manufacturers; Mr. Rawson, a gentleman formerly in the Nottingham trade, but now, I believe, retired from business, and who is treasurer of the League; Mr. Bickham, who is a calico-printer; Mr. Prentice, the proprietor and editor of the *Manchester Times*, a paper which has long laboured zealously in the cause; and Mr. John Brooks, also an extensive calico-printer and merchant, and one or two others whose names at this moment I don't remember. On the desk before the chairman were a number of letters from agents and friends of the League in various parts of the kingdom, which were read aloud to the Council, and the needful replies were agreed upon and noted down by the secretary, to be attended to during the day. Many of these letters had reference to the progress of the registration in different boroughs, and some requested a supply of Free-Trade tracts; others applied for lecturers to be sent into certain districts, or contained reports of their progress from lecturers who were holding meetings in distant parts of the country. Of the last-mentioned, one I remember was from Wiltshire, and informed the Council of the particulars of some meetings recently held in that county. I need not assure you that I felt deeply interested in these proceedings, and that I gladly accepted an invitation to come again the following day. Tuesday is the principal market-day in Manchester, and is also an important day at the offices of the League. At ten o'clock Mr. Wilson was again in his place, and most of the gentlemen I have before named were there. I saw some who were not present on the Monday, among whom were Mr. Bazley, of the firm of Gardner and Bazley, through whose fine spinning-mill I was politely shown; and Mr. J. B. Smith, who, I was informed, contested the borough of Walsall in the year 1841, and is represented to be a gentleman of great experience in all matters of trade, and in questions of political economy. The letters of the day were again read, and the replies dictated to the secretary. During the morning many gentlemen from the neighbouring towns called in and united in the proceedings. Several were pointed out to me:—Mr. Henry Ashworth, from Bolton; Mr. Whitehead, from Rawtenstall; Mr. Bright, M.P., from Rochdale; Mr. Robert Munn, from Bacup; Mr. Whittaker, from Ashton, and several others, came in and stayed for some time. After the regular business was transacted, there was a good deal of conversation on various matters connected with the progress of the Free-Trade cause, but turning chiefly on the recent registration results, and the proceedings for attending to it in future. It is easy to perceive how important such meetings as this must become. The gentlemen who called in were in some degree representatives from the towns from which they came, and reports of what was doing in the different localities would doubtless stimulate each other to continued exertions.

I learned that, besides the daily morning meeting of the Council, which began at ten and generally lasted till half-past eleven or twelve o'clock, there was also an evening meeting at five o'clock, which was often for the discussion and arrangement of some points left over for further consideration from the morning, and which partook also of a social character. On this Tuesday evening the meeting was to receive further reports on the registration for the southern division of the county of Lancaster. Tea was served in the Council-room. The most active members of the Council were present, and many whose engagements prevented their regular attendance in the early part of the day. The London morning papers were in, and their contents formed the subject of conversation during tea. The abuse of the *Herald*, or some fallacy of the *Post*, afforded amusement, whilst satisfaction was expressed that the independent press was laying bare the sufferings of the agricultural labourers. About six o'clock the chairman resumed his place, and business commenced. The result of the late registration in South Lancashire. I had learned from the public papers, had been greatly in favour of the Free-Traders, and this meeting was to take steps for securing the position they had gained. Tuesday and Friday evenings were set apart for this purpose. Mr. Wilson briefly stated what had been done at the previous meetings, and requested reports of their progress since they last met. One gentleman stated that he had the names of five persons to give in for qualifications for South Lancashire, three of whom would also qualify for North Cheshire, and two for the West Riding of Yorkshire. Another handed in the names of five young men employed in a large wholesale warehouse, who were anxious to qualify for South Lancashire. Another gave in the names of himself, his brother, and three of his sons, for South Lancashire. A large number of names were thus handed in, and entered by the secretary in a book kept for the purpose, with the address and occupation of the parties. Mr. Bright was present at this meeting, and reported what was doing in Rochdale, from which it appeared that such was the determination of the Free-Traders in that district to qualify for the county, that they had hopes of making a large increase to their present large majority on the register. One striking part of his report was, that many of the best paid and most intelligent of the working men were making great exertions to obtain a county qualification, and were purchasing freehold cottages with such funds as they had saved, and many were saving, with a view to obtain qualifications. Mr. Cobden informed the meeting that a deputation from the Council had already been appointed to visit all the towns in the county, and also in the West Riding, to have interviews with the Free-Traders, to confer with them on the important duty of enlisting the suffrages of the merchants, manufacturers, shopkeepers, and working men in the contest which must now be resolutely carried on against the infatuated monopolist proprietors of the soil, whose policy, if not counteracted, would shortly bring ruin upon themselves and the country. If it were necessary to come to that, they must have another and a final struggle between the towns and the great proprietors, from whose legislation every truly national interest had suffered so deeply.

At this meeting the Council-room was most uncomfortably crowded, and a spirit and determination were manifested such as I have rarely seen. And, indeed, what has already been done in South Lancashire is most important and decisive, and would seem to have opened a way by which the monopolists can be fairly grappled with.

Before coming to Manchester, I had, of course often heard of the League, and I had read some particulars of its managements and organization in a letter once published in the *Morning Chronicle*, from the pen of a stranger who had visited its head-quarters; but what I have seen has nevertheless very much surprised me. The members of the Council, whose names have been mentioned, attend, I was told, almost invariably every day. Every morning for six days in the week Mr. Wilson is at his post, and several other members are his constant companions in his labours; no one is more regular in his attendance than Mr. Cobden during the parliamentary recess, except when he is engaged in holding meetings throughout the country; and Mr. Bright, who resides at Rochdale, ten or twelve miles distant, is generally present three times a week. Like other persons living at a distance from Manchester, I had heard of few of the Manchester Council, excepting Mr. Wilson as chairman, and Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright, who had both spoken at a meeting, at which I was present, in the town in which I reside; but I found out whilst in Manchester that there were others, and not a few, whose services, if not so much before the public, are to the full as important to sustain the position of the League as the well-known labours of those gentlemen. And it is the one distinguishing feature of this movement, and which elevates it in my view above almost every other, that the *eclat* of public meetings and public applause is not needed as a stimulus to those who are engaged in it. The men whose names the public never hear of, and who are strangers even to the most assiduous readers of the newspapers, are at least as untiring in their labours and as devoted to the cause as those to whom its service has given prominence and position in society. And I may also remark on the singular harmony which has prevailed amongst them. My friend, who has been more or less with them now for five or six years, told me, that during the whole of that period he had never known anything approaching to a serious difference of opinion; and from his account, and from what I saw, they appear to have one heart, and a truly great heart it is, to permit nothing to interfere with the object before them.

I have been induced to ask for the insertion of this letter in your columns, in the hope that it may meet the eyes of the Free-Traders throughout the kingdom. If in half the towns of Great Britain a committee could be formed, whose members would work zealously in unison with the Council in Manchester, what great things might be done! A few intelligent and active men might meet and take tea together in an evening, discuss their progress and prospects, organize a system against which no wrong could long be maintained, and gather round them an influence which would speedily accomplish the deliverance of their country from the evils which an ignorant and very selfish policy is daily inflicting upon it. Why should not Glasgow, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Leeds, Sheffield, Liverpool, Birmingham, Bristol, Plymouth, and the metropolitan boroughs adopt this plan, which has proved so successful in Manchester? Are there not some good, some real men in each of these populous places who are ready for the work which the country is looking for at their hands? From what I have seen in Manchester I am satisfied the foolish system of the monopolists has nearly run its course. The best of causes is in the hands of men who seem never to be weary, to whom a feeling of hopelessness is unknown, and whose disinterested labours are destined, I feel assured, to work a great and peaceful revolution in this country.

I hope this letter may not be too long for your space, and be on that account rejected; it contains only a very meagre sketch of the impressions left on my mind by my visit to Manchester, but I shall take it as a great favour if it be placed before the readers of your widely-circulated journal.

I am yours, &c.,

November 13, 1844. A TRAVELLER.

REVIEW.

The Life and Rebellion of James Duke of Monmouth (natural son of Charles II.). By —— Roberts, Esq., Author of a "History of Lyme Regis." London: Longman and Co.

There is no period of English history which can be studied with less satisfaction than the interval between the Restoration and the Revolution; shame and indignation alternately fill the mind at seeing a civilized nation "bribed by paupers, bullied by cowards, and duped by idiots." The unfortunate individual whose biography has led us to look back at this disgraceful epoch was, through his entire life, a mere puppet in the hands of others—a person designed to give check to a king until more powerful pieces could be brought into play. Mr. Roberts has gone lightly over the early part of Monmouth's life, and has directed his researches for the most part to the history of the close of his career, when his insane rebellion brought calamities on the west of England which have not yet faded from local memory. The causes of this frantic attempt must be traced farther back, and it will be found not the mere result of individual ambition, but part of a system of wicked policy which had for its object the establishment of an oligarchical government.

James Duke of Monmouth was the son of Lucy Waters, one of the many mistresses of Charles II., who helped to keep up the numbers of the British peerage. Some doubts were entertained on the question of his paternity, for Lucy Waters was notoriously very miscellaneous in her affections; and James II. has recorded his belief that the duke was the son of a Colonel Rivers. Still Charles, the reputed father, was fondly attached to the duke: he loaded him with honours, raised him to the first rank in the peerage, and gave him as a wife the heiress of the ancient and powerful family of Buccleuch. The duke was graceful in person, engaging in manners, dissipated in habits, and his mediocrity of intellect was quite overpowered by his vanity. These circumstances rendered him the willing dupe of the most crafty plotter in a plotting age, Anthony Ashley Cooper, afterwards Lord Ashley and Earl of Shaftesbury.

Ashley, as he was generally called, had been an active member in the Presbyterian party, by which the restoration of Charles II. was effected. His affected zeal for religion, and his high pretensions to philanthropy, gave him greater influence than his learning and talents (both of which were of the highest rank) could have obtained. The celebrated John Locke ascribes to Ashley a considerable share in the intrigues which led General Monk to abandon his professed design of establishing a Presbyterian commonwealth, and adopting the royal cause in a few weeks after his solemn protest against royalty. There is little doubt that Monk had some idea of reviving the protectorate in his own person, and it is not improbable that Ashley had a considerable share in defeating the project. But, whatever may have been his conduct on this point, he certainly took the lead in resisting those restrictions on the royal power which Sir Matthew Hale and Prynne proposed—restrictions which would have prevented a generation of misgovernment, and two generations of conspiracies and civil wars. On the restoration of Charles II. Ashley, like several other leading republicans, became a flaming royalist, and, as the union of these converts with the Stuarts could only be cemented by blood, he presided with Annesley, Montague, and others at the trial of the regicides, with most of whom their judges had been associated as friends or colleagues. In another more important though less noted transaction he had a conspicuous share. The overthrow of Charles I. had been in a great degree effected by the smaller landed proprietors in conjunction with the burgesses of the towns. To separate the interests of these classes it was resolved to abolish tenures by knight's service, and the feudal payments to the sovereign as ultimate lord of the soil which they involved, and to give the king an equivalent charged on the excise; industry was thus taxed for the relief of property, and labour was compelled to pay the debts of land.

The influence of Lord Chancellor Hyde was a severe check on the ambition of Ashley. Hyde was zealously supported by the high church party on account of his opposition to the toleration of Dissenters; but he had given great offence to the King by remonstrating against the ostentatious profligacy of the court, and it was resolved to have a less severe censor than Clarendon as keeper of the King's conscience. Soon after the dismissal of the Earl of Clarendon Ashley appears to have canvassed for his place. The Duke of York, who had married the earl's daughter, appears to have taken part with his father-in-law on this occasion; and this was, probably, the first source of inveterate hatred between him and Lord Ashley.

In 1670 the profligate Ministry called the Cabal, from the initial letters of the names of its members, was formed. It consisted of Lords Clifford and Ashley, the Duke of Buckingham, Lord Arlington, and the Earl of Lauderdale. The history of this Administration opens too wide a field to be satisfactorily in-

vestigated in our limited space this week, but we shall return to it at the earliest opportunity.

Essays on the Principles of Morality. By Jonathan Dymond. London: Gilpin.

Morals (*mores*) originally signify the same thing as manners, usages, and customs; but the term is generally used in a more restricted sense, to signify such usages as are approved by the general community. A moral action, primarily considered, is nothing more than an action conformable to the rule of right which has received the sanction of the age or nation in which it is performed; and a moral obligation is nothing more than the obligation of conformity which every body takes upon himself as a member of society. Dymond assumes what is apparently a very different standard: he makes morality to be conformity to "the will of God;" but it is notorious that the Divine will has been differently interpreted in different times and countries, so that while men professed to derive their rules from the Divine direction they really set themselves up as the standard. Those who maintain, in opposition to Dymond, that social opinion is the only real and practical measure of morality, do not by such an assertion discard Divine guidance: for God created not only the individual man but the social man; He endowed him with faculties, appetencies, affections, and emotions, all of which would rest in cold obstruction if he had not companionship; and the intelligence with which man was thus endowed had its first exercise in devising those rules of right and wrong which hold society together.

Morals have no place in the philosophy of individuality: they are purely and completely a social science; there are no morals where there is no society. Alexander Selkirk, on the island of Juan Fernandez, could have no morality; his moral existence was suspended by his shipwreck, and was only restored when he was brought into companionship with his fellow-men. Yet Selkirk in his isolation could have conformed to the will of God, for he might have obeyed the great behest—"My son, give me thy heart."

The object of the Christian revelation was not "to teach man a moral law:" its object was to instruct man in his individual relations to the great Author of his being. That many moral laws or rules are derived from the knowledge of these relations is undeniable, because whatever enlarges the amount of general information must extend the range of moral law; and that the moral rules derived from revelation are among the most important, simply results from the fact that revealed knowledge is the most important of all knowledge. Dymond continually confounds man in his individuality with man in his social capacity, and is thus led to attribute inconsistencies to Paley and other writers on ethics, which really exist only in his own conceptions. The question whether there be a moral sense, independent of our intellectual faculties, could never have been raised if men had accustomed themselves to regard morals as rules of social life, and of nothing else. There is as little need for a new sense to discover our moral relations to society as there is for a separate faculty for each class of our physical relations. The direct responsibility involved in moral agency is to society; and the responsibility to Deity as the author of social existence is indirect, because it is personal and individual. We are responsible to God in ourselves and for ourselves, and not in a corporate and collective capacity. This is no evasion of responsibility: it, in fact, increases our accountableness, for it makes us answerable for the individual use of the moral information which society has accumulated. In the parable of the talents we find neglect punished as well as misappropriation; and he who is immoral from voluntary ignorance cannot escape the penalty.

Though we think that Dymond has fallen into a grievous error by confounding religion with morality, and making the obligations of both identical in their foundation, we must do him the justice to add that he has for the most part avoided a sectarian view of the subject, and that it is only from the disproportionate space he has given to some favourite discussion that we should have known him to be a member of the Society of Friends. In his application of moral principle to the practical purposes of life, he gives evidence of an earnestness and sincerity which could only result from conscious integrity. Many of the lessons he gives are worthy of the highest praise, and he deserves to be particularly noted as an advocate of Free Trade on the simple ground of justice, at a time when the cause had little popularity and few followers. It is, therefore, with some reluctance that we find ourselves obliged to deny him the title of a moral philosopher, though we admit him to be a good moral instructor. There have been good pilots who never understood the Copernican system, and there have been good moralists who were no philosophers.

FALLACIES.—Fallacies are as plenty as blackberries, on any subject where men's passions are engaged. The question, therefore, in any instance, is not how many reasons can be urged, but how many of them can stand the test of a reply.—*Col. T. P. Thompson.*

AGRICULTURE.

LARGE FARMS, SMALL FARMS, AND ALLOTMENTS.

How various and conflicting are the opinions we see put forth upon these topics! Every agricultural newspaper teems with discussions on the comparative merits of large or small farms. One correspondent expends every term of vituperation his imagination can suggest on those who "add farm to farm," and declares that "large farms are large evils;" while another asserts with no less energy that large farms "benefit the landlord, the tenant, the artisan, and the labourer." Then, again, as to allotments, equal diversities of opinion are promulgated. Thus amongst a party of landed gentlemen, met together to benefit the agricultural labourers by the introduction or extension of the "allotment system," we find Squire This declaring that if any more than a rood of land be given to each man the "system" can't succeed; and Sir John That immediately averring that, unless from two to five acres of land are let to every labouring family, the "system" must fail. Yet both benevolent gentlemen try to delude themselves into the belief that their philanthropy is assuming the most practical and effective form.

Now, all this bespeaks the most crude and undefined notions with respect to the state of those classes and those interests with which the writers and speakers ought to be most thoroughly acquainted. The lack-land or non-agricultural observer of these inconsistencies may perhaps be inclined to give up in despair the attempt to reconcile them; but in so doing he will be no less in error than are the farmers and the squires. The solution of these knotty questions is easy enough if the whole subject be examined.

Let us see what is the state of the classes whose condition is on all hands admitted to be most unsatisfactory. The farmers as a body are seen to be carrying on an unequal struggle in the attempt to pay high rents with small produce and low prices. Small farmers are scarcely obtaining the comforts and decencies of day-labourers, while their holdings are neither stocked nor cultivated. Their land is in very many instances almost in a state of nature, and their crops mainly depend upon the inherent unimproved qualities of the soil. Many large farmers also, men with from 500 to 1500 acres of land and some capital, are plainly got out of their depth: they sow large breadths of grain upon land most imperfectly prepared for such crops; their live stock is scanty; they indulge as a part of their system in the slovenly practice of naked fallows; their arable land if wet is undrained, and their pastures full of rushes; and then they obtain only half-crops, and look to artificial scarcity and Corn-Law-created famines for the means of meeting their engagements or making a profit. And the state of the labourers is still worse: many of them are but partially employed, perhaps for half the year only, or for a few months in the year; many in every parish go jobbing about, getting a week's work from one farmer and two or three days from another, but who are invariably without employment in bad weather and short days. And even those who are constantly employed receive the miserable pittances of 7s., 8s., and 9s. a week.

The prospect during the coming winter of heavy poor-rates pressing the already weak and over-rented farmers to the earth, and the more fearful forms of rural discontent threaten the owners of land with serious diminutions of rent. And this is the origin of the "allotment-system" benevolence just now so rife.

As is commonly the case, the suggestions and discussions of the farmers have a more practical and useful tendency than those of the landlords; and hence the question of large or small farms, which is chiefly a farmers' topic, is entitled to more attention than the jejune stuff we hear about allotments. The merits of this question are, however, few and simple. It matters not so much what is the absolute size of a farm, as whether the occupier has or has not sufficient capital to cultivate his farm advantageously. In general, farmers hold farms too large for their capital: the man who has £1000, and could well manage one hundred acres, or perhaps, if intelligent and in good credit, one hundred and fifty acres, takes a farm of two or three times that size; while the farmer with £3000, instead of contenting himself with three hundred or three hundred and fifty acres, takes five or six hundred, or more; and the same thing happens with men of larger capitals. The truth of this statement will be admitted by all intelligent farmers, even by those who have themselves fallen into the same error; and it seems, at first sight, strange that a whole body of industrious capitalists should be so prone to a course avowedly unprofitable.

The fault, however, lies more in the system than with individual farmers. It is produced by several causes, which are to be traced directly to the Corn Laws. Of these amongst the most important are the expectation of high prices for corn, and the prevalence of yearly tenancies, both of which induce men to prefer to half-cultivate a larger tract of land, to farming a smaller one more highly. Upon a great part of the land of this country, in its present state, a certain quantity of corn can be grown without high farming, that is, without a large stock, or very extensive green crops, and when the price of grain happens to be high the farmer may, perhaps, do a little better than make both ends meet. Thus a farm being kept moderately clean by means of summer fallows, from 16 to 25 bushels of wheat to the acre can be grown by means of low farming—that is, farming with small capital—on land that with high farming would produce nearly or quite double those quantities; yet after the first outlay, which is simply the investment of a competent capital, high farming is year by year absolutely less expensive than low farming. The high farmer produces his larger crop at less cost than the low farmer produces his smaller crop. Nor is this so unknown to farmers as might be supposed, from the admonitions to improve their husbandry which landlords plentifully bestow on their tenants. All moderately intelligent farmers are aware that they might advantageously expend more capital in the cultivation of their farms. But then such an expenditure requires more security than is possessed by a yearly tenant. It won't do for him to make an outlay which may require five, six, or seven years to get back; although if he had made it, and continued in his farm for the period required to recover his capital, he might have actually got it back with a handsome profit besides. He has no assurance of gathering more than one crop. He may disoblige a Whig landlord by voting for a Tory candidate, or a Tory proprietor's bile may be aroused should his tenant coquette with Whiggery; he may offend the steward, or quarrel with the gamekeeper; he may not take sufficient care to cherish the partridges, or he may not bow down with sufficient reverence at the "Altar of the Hare:" these or any of these contingent events may deprive an improving yearly tenant not merely of his expected profit, but of a great portion of his actual capital. Consequently, he farms in such a way as to get the most he can in one year: he is always, by possibility, a going-off tenant. Now, if we were going to farm land for one year only, we should sow every acre with corn on which there was any probability of obtaining even an inferior crop, and our outlay would be confined, as nearly as possible, to ploughing, sowing, and reaping. And this is what the great majority of yearly tenants in effect do year after year.

It is not necessary here to dwell on the direct influence of the Corn Laws in upholding the system of yearly tenancies; and the fatal effect of that system upon the prosperity of farmers is indubitable. As a practical instance of the way in which good farmers would cultivate their land, were agriculture freed from its law-made trammels, we may remind the reader of the statement made by Mr. Huttley, at *Witham*, in Essex, not long since, that under the safeguard of a long lease he had just expended £2600 in the bringing into good tillage a farm of 160 acres, and *that he expected to reap a good profit upon his outlay.* So, at a very recent agricultural meeting at *Great Oakley*, Mr. Fisher Hobbs, a well-known and excellent practical farmer, said:—"Looking through the country they would find that *almost the only good farmers were either those who held their own land, or who were blessed (for it undoubtedly was a blessing) with long leases.* So much, then, does good farming depend upon fixity of tenure.

As to the proper size of farms, scarcely any general proposition can be stated; for the farm is too large for the tenant if he has not a sufficient capital, whether it consist of 100, 500, or 1500 acres. It is certain, however, that a large farm, in the hands of a farmer of sufficient capital and of competent skill, will be more productive, will return a larger proportional profit, and will afford more employment to the working classes than a smaller farm. On a large farm employments are more divided and labour better combined, and economy is effected in horse labour, that great stumbling-block of most farmers. A correspondent of the *Mark-lane Express* has rather aptly stated some of the disadvantages of small farms. He says:—

"My experience in farming matters—which is 20 years—gives me ample scope for saying that the small farmer is cut up and his capital dwindled away until his situation is reduced to a farm-labourer, and ultimately he becomes one. Likewise, in my neighbourhood, he is the worst of farmers: neither horses, implements, or men sufficient, or rather not efficient; the small farmer's man is waggoner, ploughman, cowman, pigman, shepherd, thresher—in short, doing something of everything every day, and doing nothing well. Not so the large farmer: he has a separate man or men to all the above-named occupations, consequently from regular practice the different occupations are better performed; and it is my opinion, which is one of experience, that farms ought to be of the size to allow of this division of labour as much as possible. Only think if you put one man to make a watch, what would be the price. You may depend upon it the small farmer cannot compete with his larger rival in the markets. I find the small farmer invariably producing at market an inferior sample of grain and a worse description of stock than the larger farmer."

The agriculturist will have readily suggested to his mind, by the above passage, the innumerable

disadvantages of very small farms—that is, of less than two hundred acres; still, looking at farmers as they are, we believe that very many who now hold five-hundred-acres would have been in a far better position than they are had they employed the same capital on a farm of half that size. On less than two hundred acres, if a man is only a farmer, he cannot expect to make a decent livelihood. It is only because agriculture has been "protected" into helplessness that all these questions in relation to husbandry arise. Let the trade be set free from restriction—let there be no longer a premium, real or ideal, on half cultivation—and the mutual interests of tenants and owners will soon settle what, according to the circumstances of each locality, is the best size for farms. Who ever thought of discussing what is the proper size of a cotton-mill or a merchant-ship? Everybody knows that that must depend on the capital and purposes of the users; then, why are farmers to be subject to any other rule?

Then, as to the allotment system: of what floods of nonsense it has formed the occasion! To a half-employed labourer, a rood of land, let at a low rate, becomes an assistance, by enabling him to grow potatoes, and occasionally a bit of wheat, and so just to keep himself and his family from starving or going to the union workhouse. It is simply a form of out-door relief; comparatively comfortable to the labourer by saving him from the confinement of a workhouse, and comfortable to the landlord by easing his pocket from the drain of heavy poor-rates. All that has been said of the orthodox "allotment system,"—that which is not to withdraw agricultural labourers from dependence on farm-labour,—as a remedy for rural destitution, is fraudulent or delusive.

Call the "allotment system" parish relief by means of potato patches, and in a sentence its whole scope and objects have been expressed. We do not blame those who *really believe* they can improve the condition of the labourers by such means: we only lament the existence—the unnecessary, Corn-Law created existence—of so great a state of habitual destitution amongst the rural working people as to render such a scheme of relief even plausible. The advocates of larger allotments of two, five, or ten acres each, are few and far between. It is obvious that the cultivation of plots of that size, if properly attended to, must take the labourer out of the class dependent upon wages. Such holdings, however, have rarely proved beneficial to the occupiers, for they can only afford them a livelihood by high cultivation, which implies the possession of capital, or as subsidiary to some other avocation, as a jobber, dealer, carrier for hire, and so forth. Now such tenants are usually behind, not in advance, of the general mass of tenant-farmers, and their plan of husbandry is often slovenly in the extreme.

Whether, if agriculture had assumed the position it will occupy when all trade is free, a certain number of little holdings, of less than twenty acres each, might not furnish objects of hope and desire to the most frugal and industrious farm servants, is a question into which landlords would do well to inquire. Our own opinion is that the effects of such little farms might be beneficial. Their tenants might—assuming them to be able to cultivate their land well—be able to supply the poor of populous rural districts with vegetables, milk, and eggs, now more especially milk, practically unattainable by the poor. They might rear pigs and poultry, and perhaps a few calves, with more chance of profit than larger farmers; and all this they could do after their day of vigour as labourers had passed away. This, however, is somewhat speculative, for after all the best labourers often turn out but sorry managers on their own account. The question is mainly interesting from the difficulty the farming labourer who would seek to rise from the condition of a mere servant finds in taking the first steps as an independent man. Such a man might occasionally be benefited by the chance of renting ten or fifteen acres of land. But as a remedy for the existing depression of the peasantry large allotments are worse than useless: they are, moreover, more impracticable than the potato-patch plan.

WARNING TO MONOPOLISTS.

If there be any farmers who still pin their faith upon the Corn Laws, and stake their fortunes upon the rise and fall of the sliding scale, they would do well to remark the conclusions to which men who do exercise their faculties of observation are coming. Thus, the Marquis of Londonderry, at a dinner to his Irish tenants a few days since, told them, in substance, to continue their efforts for increasing the productiveness of their land, because they must soon compete in the world's market with all other growers of grain; that it is not reasonable to expect corn to be prohibited when the trade in all else is free; and that freedom of trade is now the avowed principle of our Government. This announcement from so influential a member of the landed aristocracy, and so strict an adherent of the Ministry, is significant.

Then, at the *Sittingbourne Agricultural Association*, Mr. Pemberton Leigh, the eminent Chancery barrister, but who has lately retired from the bar upon his accession to a very large landed property, held, somewhat more cautiously, the same strain. Now, Mr. Leigh is the last man to be suspected of any Free-Trade or non-aristocratical leaning, yet having passed his life in a profession which compels the examination of evidence, and the looking at realities, he goes at once to the points to which the genuine squires are being slowly and reluctantly driven. In regard to the employment of labourers he said:—

"It was absurd to expect farmers to make labour if the labour was not profitable; but it might, perhaps, sometimes happen that the owners of land, who might have more wealth than was necessary for comfortable enjoyment—gentlemen of high standing, felt more pleasure in seeing a large number of labourers employed in improving their estates *than in seeing themselves surrounded by a large number of menial servants and horses, which were kept for personal gratification, or, in some degree, perhaps, in conformity with feelings of ancient pride.* He could not help thinking, from what he had seen, *that those persons who looked to the land for a livelihood were as charitable, if not more so, than those who possessed much larger resources; and it might be deserving of consideration whether a large amount of labour might not be employed by the landowners with advantage both to themselves and the farmers.* Whether employment could be found in this way for all the labourers *must depend on the number of labourers requiring it.* When he spoke of that part of the hills, however, with which he was best acquainted, he could not help thinking that a great many might be employed profitably. Were all their fields as well cultivated as they ought to be? Had they no thistles or weeds to be seen? He recollected once asking a very intelligent man, the late Mr. Lake of Bapchild, whether it would not pay to eradicate their weeds and thistles, when his reply was, that he did not know whether the land would pay to grow corn, but that he was sure it could not pay to grow thistles. *He could not help thinking that, if much of the land now growing weeds and thistles were to be brought under tillage, it would prove beneficial both to the farmer and the labourer,* and give employment to much of their surplus population, who would thus be maintained in industry, morality, and good order, instead of falling into habits of idleness and demoralization."

And he mentioned his own practice of allowing ten per cent. on his rents to his tenants to be laid out in permanent improvements on the condition of the tenants contributing an equal sum; and he added:—

"*He did not do this as a matter of favour, but as a matter of profit;* and, as an accurate account would be kept of the expenditure of this money, it would be seen the next year whether the outlay had been profitable or not. He believed that such a sum might not only be profitably expended, but that it would also cause a great diminution in the poor-rates, by the employment of those who must otherwise be kept in idleness. Another great source of employment for the labourers was the improvement of their roads. He had taken a portion of the roads in his neighbourhood into his own hands, receiving the rates, *and by employing the best labourers at fair wages, and seeing that they did their work fairly, these roads had been much improved.*"

All this bespeaks an application of common sense to the management of landed property, which the less-instructed owners of acres would do well to imitate.

At the same meeting Mr. Knight, a farmer, said:

"He believed that every farmer could employ four men profitably for every 100 acres, *but the great evil was that too many farmers occupied farms which required double their amount of capital, half of which land, if well cultivated, would return double the profit which could be got from it half cultivated.*"

Than this nothing can be more true. And the origin of all this mismanagement and miscalculation is the unfounded expectation of permanently high prices from the Corn Laws. No man ever advanced so far in the investigation of the wants and difficulties of English agriculture, as our more intelligent landowners and farmers show they have done, without becoming desirous of relieving British husbandry from the blight of monopoly. We have no doubt the influence of such opinions will become obvious in the ensuing session of Parliament.

DESTRUCTION OF GAME.

The Earl of Essex has addressed a letter to a local paper, intended to justify game-preserving, and to show that the complaints of the farmers upon that head are all moonshine; but though the monopolist Earl's letter does not make out the case he intended to prove, it proves a great deal he did not mean to show. We have not space to deal with that production this week; in the meantime let us gather a few of the passages which occur in the journals illustrative of the injury caused by game. A Hampshire correspondent of the *Mark-lane Express*—no League authority, be it observed—in a long letter on the subject, says:—

"The waste of the thing is monstrous; the more it is inquired into, the more it will be seen that the actual loss of valuable produce in this one county is enormous, and would make credulity itself stand aghast. The writer was conversing with an intelligent, industrious, and truth-speaking a farmer as any one he knows, and it being about evening time, 'Now,' said he, 'I will answer for it *that I am at this moment feeding five hundred hares,*' devouring enough to sustain 100 or 120 sheep, if it was hurdled off for them, and they did not consume it indiscriminately. It was said the other day, that of a farm situated in an adjoining county, on which there is a very great deal of cover, *that the farmer has now actually standing to protect his young wheat three miles of hurdles, with the bushes on the tops; the hurdles, if six feet long, would be about 208 dozen—at 7s. 6d. a dozen, would cost about eighty pounds!* This is a heavy tax to a farmer, in addition to all the rest of the expenses of getting a crop of wheat, *and not entirely effectual after all.*"

And the same correspondent tells us, that

"There is one not very large estate in this county, consisting of perhaps ten farms, seven of which are in the proprietor's own occupation; and why? *because the land is so overrun with game that no tenant can occupy.* A very competent judge says, *there are one hundred thousand rabbits, besides hares and other game in abundance, and the other sorts of game.* On these farms, devoured as they now are, it is quite as much as is expected if the land produces *three sacks of wheat to the acre.* Here is a loss of labour, and consequently produce."

Another correspondent of the same paper, who writes from Lancashire and signs himself "A Sufferer," after observing on the paragraph relating to the Duke of Rutland's late letter which has gone the round of the papers, observes:—

"Noblemen and gentlemen do not hesitate to send to prison parties found guilty of trespassing on the property of others. Do they never consider what *ought* to be the fate of those who eat up the bread of poor and industrious tenants by ruining their crops? I have been told *that every hare and rabbit living one year consumes ten times its value.* Is not this a momentous consideration for game-preserving gentlemen, and can they rest contented whilst such an infliction is to be submitted to by their tenants?"

These are merely specimens of the notices which are constantly presented, and they entirely accord with our own observation and experience. And here we must record another instance of the fearful secondary effects o game-preserving:—

"Another Game-Law Tragedy.—We have received a letter from Watlington, describing a painful event which has caused deep feeling in Pryton and the neighbourhood. *Under terror of a conviction and imprisonment for an offence against the game laws, a youth named Henry Pridcheat committed suicide on Wednesday last, by hanging himself on a gate.* The poor boy, it seems, was employed to drive sparrows from the newly-sown wheat of his master, Mr. Dickers, of Pryton, in this county, by whom he was armed with a gun. In an evil hour a licensed plunderer in the form of a pheasant lighted on the field, and the boy yielded to the natural impulse, *took aim, and kill the petted and protected marauder.* But at this moment Clark, one of Lord Parker's gamekeepers, came up, saw the fact, took the gun, and threatened prosecution. The youth was afraid to return to his master without the gun, and wandered about in great agony of mind, and tried to obtain poison; and on the following afternoon he was found in a kneeling posture, partly suspended from a gate by his pocket handkerchief! Here, as at Oakley, the poor labourers are in a reduced and sad condition. No less than thirty-three able-bodied labourers are employed, at wretchedly low wages, by the surveyors in repairing the roads."—*Oxford Chronicle.*

THE UNKINDEST CUT.

The cry against the game laws has now become almost universal, for, in a late leading article upon the subject, the squires' own journal, the *Morning Post*, has this passage:

"It is hard that a man should have to *pay several guineas for leave to shoot the game which may be eating the crops from his own fields.* But almost every one feels *that the system of preserving game has grown into a folly in this country.* The keenest sportsmen are the most convinced of this. What sport would there be in going into a farmyard, with dogs and keepers, and shooting all the fowl as they flew about the yard. Yet shooting in many of our great preserves differs not much from this. For the sake of good sporting, then, as well as for the avoidance of much popular complaint, we should be glad to see a reform in the preserving system."—*Morning Post.*

This looks fair; but those members of the Legislature who are aware of the mischiefs of the game laws must take care that, under this seeming acquiescence in the general reprobation, there may not lurk an intention to defeat any real amendment of the law. Let it be remembered that nothing short of the abrogation of all game laws will meet the necessity of the case. Every man must be entitled to destroy at all times, and in any way, upon his own land, the creatures called game, just as he may kill, if he can, blackbirds and cockrobins.

The Game Laws a Source of Crime and Misery.—It is more as a source of crime and misery among the peasantry in the rural districts than as a remnant of feudal bondage, that we regard the Game Laws with so much abhorrence. They engender suspicion, fear, and hatred between the rich and poor—they hold forth perpetual temptations to the committing of the most violent outrages—and they lead hundreds of idle young men into a career of dissolute and reckless ruffianism. The existence of the Game Laws is a foul blot upon the civilized, free, and Christian character of England.—*Hull Advertiser.*

Public Baths.—In many of the principal towns in Britain meetings have been held to take the necessary steps for erecting baths for the working classes, and by-and-by, we presume, that dignified body named "The Great Unwashed," like many other great bodies that have figured in the world, must cease to exist. A meeting for this purpose, over which the Duke of Buccleuch presided, was held this week in Edinburgh, and the movement may be regarded as important on more than one account. It indicates a growing sympathy in the minds of the wealthier classes with their poorer brethren, and a disposition which they had not, erewhile, manifested to promote their comfort. Physicians and moralists, for thousands of years, have eloquently descanted on the benefits of habits of cleanliness, not only to the outward but also to the inward man. The erection of baths, therefore, in large towns, and on terms so cheap as to render them accessible to the poor, cannot be too highly commended. But it would be far better still if the aristocracy and proprietors of land would combine to procure the abolition of the tax on food, and allow the people to eat, as well as wash, at the lowest rate. Palliatives are all well enough in their place, and when better cannot be had; but they should not be substituted for specifics when these can be obtained.—*Berwick Advertiser.*

GREAT LEAGUE MEETING.

THE FIRST AGGREGATE MEETING of the LEAGUE, in the THEATRE ROYAL COVENT GARDEN, will be held on WEDNESDAY SE'NNIGHT, the 11th of DECEMBER.

GEORGE WILSON, Esq., in the Chair.

The Meeting will be addressed by RICHARD COBDEN, Esq., M.P., and JOHN BRIGHT, Esq., M.P.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"H. L. M."—Our correspondent cannot register next July for the property, unless it be in such a state on the 31st of January next that it would thenceforward produce him 40s. a year, above all charges.

"J. H., Wandsworth-road."—"Having a redeemed land-tax exceeding the sum of 40s. a year, assessed on a copyhold estate situate in Lambeth, will it confer a vote for Surrey?"

[Redeemed land-tax, purchased AFTER the year 1802, will give a county vote. There are many freehold properties which are registered for sale, and the particulars may be seen by application at the Office, Fleet-street.]

"A Subscriber."—You may qualify two persons by granting them each a 40s. rent-charge in *one* deed, if they are content that it should be so.

"D. B., Islington."—We think if he had attended before the barrister he would have got his vote. Overseers are not bound to give notice; we recommend him to claim again.

We are obliged by the communication from Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

We are obliged by the politeness of the Editor of the *Sheffield Iris*, but his communication reached us too late to avail ourselves of it this week.

Mr. Livesay and other Correspondents' letters received.

TO COUNTRY SUBSCRIBERS.

Any person forwarding 3s. 3d. by Post-office order to the Publisher, 67, Fleet-street, London, will have one quarter's copies of the LEAGUE forwarded by post on the days of publication. Subscriptions for the paper may also be left with J. Gadsby, Newall's-buildings, Manchester; and the LEAGUE may be had by order of any news-agent in town or country. Subscribers who receive coloured envelopes on their papers must bear in mind that their subscriptions are due.

METROPOLITAN MEETINGS FIXED FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

To be addressed by George Thompson, Esq., and Robert R. Moore, Esq.

Tuesday, Dec. 3.—Eastern Institution, Commercial-road.
Thursday, 4.—Theatre, Kensington.
Friday, 5.—Albion Hall, Hammersmith.

The chair to be taken at each of the above meetings at half-past seven, *precisely*.

POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, *Saturday Morning, November* 30, 1844.

The first Great League Meeting in Covent Garden, for opening a new campaign against monopoly, will be held on Wednesday the 11th of December, when the Chairman will detail the measures that have been taken and the progress that has been made during the Parliamentary recess. It will then be seen that the death of the League, so often announced by the "Goose and Shadow," is still a very remote contingency, and that at no period of the agitation has the Council exhibited more energy, vigour, and determination. The resolution to meet the enemies of the cause of truth and justice on their own chosen ground, the county constituencies, has been eagerly adopted by the Free-Traders throughout the country; and the preparations for future registration will be conducted with the same skill, perseverance, and prudence which have been characteristic of all the movements of the Council. In purifying the county constituency it is necessary not only to increase the number of legal and independent voters, but also to remove from the registry those names which have been illegally and surreptitiously put on for a corrupt purpose; every dishonest vote neutralizes an honest vote, and the pretended freeholders from the coach-houses, stables, kitchens, and pantries of the monopolists, largely manufactured during the last seven years, must be swept away in order to give room for the fair working of an independent constituency. Insidious efforts may be made by avowed enemies, and still more by pretended friends, to represent this purification of the constituencies as an attempt to limit the exercise of the suffrage; it would be just as honest to describe the arrest of pickpockets as an interference with the liberty of the subject. The object of the League is to secure a sound and practicable extension of the suffrage, by obtaining the right of voting for those who are willing to become *bonâ fide* freeholders, and by removing from the registry those who have been thrust upon it by fraudulent means to swamp the honest voters. Guardians of fictitious freeholders are supporters of the virtual disfranchisement of independent electors: they raise the cry for "no revision" just as the swell mob does that for "no police." The answer to them is, there shall be no revision when there is no fraud, as there would be no police if there were no thievery.

But it is scarcely necessary to take notice of such patent and palpable artifices; it is a far more pleasing duty to record that the committee formed for strengthening the Free-Trade constituency in the county of Middlesex has received such assurances of sympathy and support as render their prospects of success at a future election more favourable than the most sanguine could have anticipated.

In consequence of the continued indisposition of Mr. Fox, he will be unable to attend the Free-Trade Meeting fixed for Tuesday, the 3rd of December, at the Eastern Institution. Mr. George Thompson has, however, kindly consented to take his place.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.—The *Moniteur* of Sunday contains a royal ordonnance, granting to the Minister of the Interior an extraordinary credit of 240,000f., for the purpose of making an experiment on the advantages of the electrical system of telegraphs. The experiment is to be tried on the Paris and Rouen Railway.

It would seem that every year, at the approach of winter, the Parisian operatives suffer severely. The withdrawal of so large a proportion of the deposits lodged in the savings' banks—the state of the hospitals, which are encumbered with sick—the extraordinary number of children, women, and even operatives, seeking for employment, who are found begging in the streets of Paris—all these facts demonstrate the existence of distress. According to the *Moniteur*, the receipts of the Paris Savings' Bank, on Sunday and Monday last, the 24th and 25th inst., amounted to the sum of 689,208f., whilst the deposits withdrawn during the same period amounted to the sum of 740,000f.

At a dinner given at Marseilles to Marshal Bugeaud, on his return from Algiers, he made a speech in which he stated that the conquest of Algiers was now completed, and that an immense progress and improvement had been made in the colony. He also informed the company that Abd-el-Kader had recently dismissed the few followers that had remained with him, and had retired into the interior of the country.

SPAIN.—Accounts from Madrid of the 19th inst., state that the Queen's fête was celebrated on that day by a grand levee in the Palace, and a splendid entertainment given by General Narvaez.

By a royal decree, signed by General Narvaez, Zurbano and his followers are declared outlaws, and as such are to be shot, "without any other delay than what is necessary to enable them to die like Christians."

The accounts of Zurbano's movements are contradictory. The military authorities at Vittoria had received an official report announcing that Cayo Muro, his brother-in-law, and one of his servants, had fallen into the hands of the Queen's troops on the 20th inst., when endeavouring to gain the Ebro. One of Zurbano's sons was also made prisoner on the night of the 20th. Intelligence up to the 24th states that the insurrection is suppressed.

PORTUGAL.—The trade of this country every day declines more and more—in fact, its existence now is entirely factitious, and dependent on the fortuitous regulations of a fiscal kind in Spain. One of the great evils in this country is the smallness of the circulating medium. It is so limited that in the country mercantile transactions are carried on in many places by exchange of agricultural commodities against manufactures. A large portion of the money in circulation comes from Spain, to the extent of upwards of half a million sterling, for contraband goods. It is calculated that one-third of the value of British goods imported into this country is the amount of the contraband introduction of British goods into Spain. The price of every description of native produce has wonderfully diminished. Common wine has descended from 10 milreis to 2 or 3 milreis the pipe; olive oil from 3600 reis to 1700 reis the almude; and wheat from 650 to 320 reis the alquiere. In every instance the reduction is more than 50 per cent. The arguments for a tariff convention with England were never so irresistible as now.

BRUSSELS, Nov. 23.—After a long discussion on the Corn-Law Bill, the Chamber of Representatives adopted the propositions of the Government; but, on the motion of M. Dumortier, it was determined that the provisions of the law of the 29th of December, 1843, shall be applicable to rye only until the 31st of December, 1845, but that they shall continue applicable to barley until the 31st of December, 1846. The Chamber adopted successively the different provisions of the bill, and fixed its duration for the space of two years.

POLISH FRONTIER, Nov. 11.—The cause of temperance societies has received a severe blow in the kingdom of Poland. They had been particularly successful in those parts of the kingdom which border on the republic of Cracow, and in Upper Silesia, where the country people, following the exhortation of the clergy, renounced in a body the use of brandy. But the Government has lately interfered to check the temperance societies, and has published a circular prohibiting them, and forbidding the clergy to promote by addresses from the pulpit an object which is so beneficial to the country people.

DUSSELDORFF, Nov. 13.—M. Buddeeus, bookseller, is printing a work, which gives a most detailed account of the *eighteen coats* of Jesus Christ, which are preserved in different places in Christendom, with engravings of the coats, and the several medals and documents relating to them, and also reports of the miracles which each of these coats, every one alleged to be genuine, has performed in its own sphere.—*Hamburg papers.*

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 20.—A private letter from Batavia, of the 18th of July, says:—"Several pirate vessels have lately again appeared on the coast of Macassar. His Majesty's steamer, the Phœnix, pursued them, and had an engagement with them. The pirates fired chiefly at the chimney of the steamer, but did little damage. After an obstinate combat, three pirate vessels were captured. The Phœnix had seven or eight wounded."

SLAVERY IN THE DANISH COLONIES.—In one of the last sittings of the States of Denmark, a motion was brought in, in order to request the King that he would be pleased to abolish slavery in the Danish colonies. The Assembly decided unanimously, that in a next sitting it would nominate a commission, charged to propose the best means of removing the serious and numerous obstacles which still prevent the realization of this step.

DR. WOLFF.—Dr. Wolff is still at Meshed, from whic place he was unwilling to proceed till he had received an escort from Colonel Shiel at Teheran.

TREBIZONDE.—Letters from Trebizonde describe a very curious occurrence which took place there last month. A Mussulman Cadi having been murdered while on a journey, the assassins were seized by the Pasha, and, instead of being punished according to the usual forms of justice, were delivered to the kindred of the murdered man, by one of whom their throats were deliberately cut in the market-place. According to existing regulations, the power of life and death has been reserved to the Sultan; but Abdallah Pasha having represented to the Porte that the unsettled state of his pashalic rendered a reference to Constantinople inexpedient for the ends of order and justice, he received a summary power of inflicting capital punishment.—*Times Correspondent.*

UNITED STATES.—The Great Western, which arrived at Liverpool on Saturday last, brought the intelligence that the presidential election might be considered as virtually decided in favour of the democratic candidate, Mr. Polk; foremost in whose policy are the annexation of Texas to the United States, the support of the institution of slavery, and, to use his own words, "such a tariff for revenue as will yield a sufficient amount to the Treasury as will defray the expenses of government, economically administered." Other questions are likewise involved in this decision given by the citizens of the United States—the bank question, the distribution of the surplus revenue, affecting the repudiating States, Native Americanism, &c. More troubles amongst the Mormons were anticipated; and it is said that two hundred of the sect were encamped within a few miles of Carthage, but for what purpose is as yet a matter of conjecture. Much excitement prevailed at Carthage in consequence. It is estimated that the recent Mormon war will cost the State of Illinois 20,000 dollars, and that the aggregate expense incurred during the year on account of the Mormons would not fall short of 50,000 dollars. The people of New Hampshire, to whom at the late election was referred the question of abolishing capital punishment, have decided against the measure. James K. Polk was 49 years of age on the 2nd inst. Francis Quenisset, the bravo, who, as our readers will recollect, attempted to assassinate King Louis Philippe, was arrested on the 22nd ult., in New Orleans, for a similar attempt on a citizen of that city. Mr. Jones had been elected President of Texas in opposition to the annexation candidate.

CANADA.—Montreal advices of the 4th inst. give the total returns in favour of the Governor-General at 42, against 27 Radicals, with 4 doubtful, making a total of decided elections of 73, and the whole number is 84. This, we think, is decisive.

BRAZIL.—The Swift, packet ship, arrived at Falmouth on Saturday last, having left Rio Janeiro on the 13th ultimo. The Brazilian Government, in reference to the expiration of the treaty, has published a decree, dated the 9th of October, addressed to the president of each of the provinces, declaring that, although the treaty with Great Britain would expire on the 10th of November, yet the persons and property of British subjects will continue to be protected as carefully as those of any other nation, and calling on the presidents to see that such is the case.

TAHITI.—The intelligence from Tahiti, by way of the United States, is to the 15th of July. On the 20th of June, a body of natives having assembled at Point Venus, Governor Bruat had marched against them at the head of 400 French. The natives having received intelligence of their approach, placed themselves in ambush, and allowed the main body to pass; but, as the rear-guard were passing in front of the English mission-house, they opened their fire upon them in a direct line with the house, and Mr. M'Kean, one of the missionaries, who was walking on his verandah, was struck by a ball, and instantly killed. His death is universally regretted. He was one of those who had lately arrived from England, well educated, and one of the most respected men upon the group. The native loss is unknown. The French loss amounted to three killed and five wounded. At the same time, on the south side, another action took place, in which the natives were routed. In this action, five French were killed and seven wounded. The native loss on this occasion is also unknown; but the day following the natives again advanced upon the town, and succeeded in burning the French mission-house, chapel, &c. The natives had seized three Frenchmen, whom they put to death with great torture. The L. C. Richmond, which left Tahiti on the 15th of July, reported, that a few days previous to sailing an action took place between the French troops and natives, in which a large number of lives were lost, principally on the part of the natives. The French were strongly fortifying the island, the English missionaries were leaving, and confusion reigned among the inhabitants. There were at Tahiti one English steamer, one French steamer, and one French frigate. The French ship Bourbonnaise was lost at Tahiti by striking upon the Middle Ground; she was got off by the assistance of the Government war steamer, but in so doing tore out the keel and sunk in fifteen fathoms water; vessel and cargo a total loss, and nothing was saved by the crew except what they had on.

PORT PHILLIP.—Papers from Port Phillip of the 20th of July state that business was improving. A gentleman of the name of Allan, who had made researches in the interior, reported the discovery of the death of two travellers named Gellibrand and Hesse. Gellibrand, it seemed, from the accounts given by the natives, had been murdered, and in the spot where they alleged he was buried, a skeleton was exhumed in the position described, and the remains of a beaver hat and a pair of trousers were found in the grave. Hesse, the natives say, died of exhaustion before he could reach, with his unfortunate companion, the tribe with whom he (Gellibrand) remained for a long time in friendly intercourse before he was surprised and murdered by hostile parties, who effected their designs in the absence of those affording protection.

DOMESTIC.

A member of the Society of Friends, in Yorkshire, has forwarded the sum of £500 to the Mathew relief fund. The Duke of Devonshire has subscribed £100. Sir E. Codrington, in forwarding a sum of £5, through the hands of Mr. J. S. Buckingham, says:—"But for the vice of drunkenness, we should scarcely ever be called upon to use the lash in the navy, a duty which is always performed with disgust."

Early on Monday morning, a most extensive robbery was discovered to have been committed in the banking-house of Messrs. Rogers, Towgood, and Co., of Clement's-lane, Lombard-street. It is supposed the burglars must have entered by means of skeleton or false keys. During the day some of the swell-mob were observed prowling about Lombard-street, in the vicinity of Clement's-lane, but as yet there is no clue as to the direction they have taken.

Upwards of £40,000 in notes were carried off. The numbers of the notes are advertised, and, of course stopped at the Bank of England; and a reward of £3000 has been offered for their recovery. The house of Rogers and Co. has always been considered one of decided property, though doing a very private business; and the head of the firm, now advanced in age, is well known as the author of the "Pleasures of Memory."

At the last rent audit Mr. Byng, M.P., made a reduction of £10, £20, and £30 per cent., according to the exigencies of his tenantry.

Sir James Williams, of Edwinsford, has set the liberal example in this county, of giving his tenants permission to kill game on their lands, or of inviting any qualified persons they think proper to do so.—*Welshman.*

On Monday some schools were opened in Chequer-alley, Bunhill-row, St. Luke's, for about 300 boys and girls, and which are situated adjoining an open space of ground the property of the Society of Friends. Attached to the school are baths. The foundation-stone of them was laid by Lord John Russell in the course of last summer.

A most affecting suicide occurred on Monday, at a very early hour, at the dwelling of a Mr. Duckett, an accountant, No. 9, Raven-row, Mile-end, viz., the self-destruction of Charles William Duckett, aged 21, his son, and Elizabeth Williams, aged 22, lovers, from the effects of prussic acid. The parties, who were betrothed to each other, left home on Sunday evening as if to go to church, and, as it afterwards appeared, returned secretly to Mr. Duckett's house, where they locked themselves up in a sleeping apartment and then drank the deadly poison. As the bodies lay, it appears that they must have sat on the edge of the bed when they committed the act, and fallen back. The girl was respectably connected, her father being a surgeon in Cannon-street-road. The young man was a clerk in the Tower Hamlets Court of Requests, Whitechapel. From letters of the former addressed to a Miss Chapman, it appears that he had persuaded the girl to terminate her existence with his, and that they had for some time meditated the act of suicide. An inquest was held on Wednesday, when the jury returned a verdict—"That the deceased persons, Charles William Duckett and Elizabeth Williams, died from imbibing a certain quantity of prussic acid, but by whom or how administered there was not sufficient evidence before the jury."

In addition to the frightful collision, attended with such fatal results, which took place last week, on the Midland Counties Railway, near Beeston, three other fatal accidents occurred, owing, it is supposed, to the dense fog: the first, on this railway between Leicester and Rugby, by which a driver, Edward Jowett, lost his life; the second on the Great Western, on the morning of the same day (Thursday), by which two men, Samuel Brooks and William Tuckwell, lost their lives; and the third, on the Birmingham and Gloucester, on Thursday night, when a fireman named Maywood was killed, his head coming unawares in contact with one of the iron pillars which support Cleave Bridge, under which the train was passing. A second fatal accident on the Midland Counties Railway occurred on Wednesday, the 27th; a guard, named Woodford, having been also killed by his head coming into contact with the bridge which crosses the line between Syston and Silesby. These and similar fatal occurrences have called forth comments from some of the leading metropolitan journals, and a demand for the exercise of stricter vigilance, and the employment of a better system of signalling the starting and approach of trains, on the part of railway directors.

During the dense fog which prevailed on Thursday night week, not only in London but over a great part of the country, a collision took place on the river Mersey between the James, steamer, and the Royalist, a timber vessel, when several of the passengers, fearing the steamer would go down, jumped into the boat of the Royalist; but, unfortunately, the boat was stove in between the two vessels, and all were precipitated into the water: in the darkness and confusion four persons perished.

Saturday night last, Mr. Green, gamekeeper to J. S. Lescher, Esq., of South Weald, Essex, was wounded by a gun-shot in an attempt to apprehend a poacher, who escaped. Mr. Green lies in a dangerous state.

Typhus fever is prevalent in Liverpool; great numbers during the past and beginning of the present week having fallen victims to it.

On Tuesday night, shortly after 12 o'clock, the warehouse of Messrs. Wilson, Hawksworth, and Moss, of Arundel-lane, Sheffield, merchants and manufacturers, was discovered to be on fire. About two o'clock the roof of the building, which is about forty yards in length by fourteen or fifteen in breadth, fell in with a tremendous crash, the sparks and flames again rising high in air, to the increased terror of the owners and occupiers of the contiguous property. The roof was composed of stone slate of ordinary thickness. It was with great difficulty, and only by the unceasing exertions of the firemen, police, and others, that the buildings, with the property they contained, could be saved. The warehouse contained an immense stock of saws, edge-tools, files, and indeed a good general stock of cutlery of every description.—*Sheffield Iris.*

The Repeal Association met on Tuesday at Conciliation Hall, Dublin. On the motion of Lord Ffrench, Mr. M. O'Connell, M.P., was called to the chair. Mr. O'Connell, who was present, was rapturously received, and made a long speech, in the course of which he combatted some of the French newspapers which had attacked him for abandoning repeal, and "hurled defiance" at the *Débats*, Louis Philippe's paper, and stated that he would not accept of a repeal of the union at the hands of France:—"He could not forget their immorality and their want of religion, and he detested their base submission to such a crafty and miserable usurper as Louis Philippe. Repeal or no repeal, the Irish people held him and them in the utmost abhorrence." At the close of his speech Mr. O'Connell said he would postpone his motion for the appointment of a preservative society of 300, as he found there were more legal difficulties in the way than he had at first anticipated. The rent for the week was announced to be £541. 2*s.* 8*d.*

The Dublin municipal elections took place on Monday, and went almost entirely in favour of the Repealers. Two of the traversers, Doctor Gray and Mr. C. G. Duffy (editor of the *Nation*) were returned to serve as town councillors.

On Wednesday last, R. M. Bacon, Esq., one of the proprietors and the able editor of the *Norwich Mercury*, died somewhat suddenly. It is a remarkable coincidence that Jonathan Matchett, Esq., the senior proprietor of the *Norfolk Chronicle*, the Conservative journal, and Mr. David Irwin, who for many years filled a confidential situation in the office of the latter paper, also died suddenly, within a few days previous to the decease of Mr. Bacon. The three gentlemen were greatly esteemed. Mr. Bacon was distinguished for his literary attainments, and a comprehensive and vigorous mind, which he embodied in a lucid, eloquent, and polished style.

MISCELLANEOUS.

English Agitation.—Mr. Cobden and the Anti-Corn-Law League have had a great meeting at Rochdale. We regret that we cannot find room even for an outline of the speech of the honourable gentleman. It is one of great interest, certainly. Mr. Cobden contends that North Lancashire may be recovered—nay, if an election occurred at present, he asserts, unhesitatingly, that the great landlords could be dead beaten. But, to make surety doubly sure, he recommends the people of the towns to purchase freeholds in the counties—an operation, it seems, perfectly easy. Fifty pounds will give the proprietor of a cottage an electoral right of voting as a 40*s.* freeholder. He maintains that it would be wiser, on the part of the operative who has amassed this sum, to lay it out in the purchase of a cottage, than invest it in a savings' bank. He asserts that the system is progressing in Yorkshire, and that already the county of Middlesex is secured from any Tory attempts. On this side the water these statements will appear extraordinary enough. Nevertheless, we learn from other quarters that this movement of the League has produced a very startling sensation in the counties of Lancaster, York, and the parts thereabouts. If followed out—that is to say, if trade and manufactures continue prosperous—the system may effect a greater change than the repeal of the Corn Laws. What is rather remarkable, we find that the London Tory journals have given the *go-by* to this movement. The *Morning Post* passes it over as it did, most shamefully, we must say, the speech of Lord Londonderry to his tenantry, at Newtownards, in which speech his lordship, it will be remembered, declaimed on the virtues of high rents, and the necessity of repealing the Corn Laws. As to "the agriculturists" of the sister country, they confine their agitation—to guano, draining, and allotments. The landlords do not speak of lowering the rents; and the farmers say they cannot pay them, with wheat (in the country markets) at 42*s.* per quarter. We opine, without assuming prophetic airs, that this state of things cannot continue much longer than the commencement of the next session of Parliament.—*Dublin Evening Post.*

The Registration.—It is remarkable, although we do not know that it has been remarked, how little has been said upon the subject of the registration, either by the Government or Opposition newspapers. They have by mutual consent, as it were, kept a dead silence about it, and "burked" the whole business, almost as much as if nothing of consequence had been going on. The truth is, neither party at all likes the results as they are believed to stand. It is generally understood that the Tory party have lost, and have been losing ground. The great exertions of 1840 could not be maintained. Apathy, and what is worse, open discontent, have since that time become rife in their camp; and hence they have gone back upon the registers as a party. But, if the Tories have lost, as little can it be said that the Whigs have gained, in the Whig sense of the word. The "Liberal" party (so called) has no doubt advanced much; but that step (and a great one it will be found to be) has been made by the "League." Their unseen exertions are far beyond those that are more public. They are "sappers and miners" of especial science; and this is a state of things that pleases neither Whig nor Tory. The truth is, a new power—a third power—has arisen, which neither faction can control, and hence all this sullen silence. In South Lancashire we learn that "Free Trade" has carried all before it; and so it has in various other places we cannot particularise. The League make no "call" for money this year. It is well. In 1845 it will all be wanted, and then it will be forthcoming with a witness.—*Tyne Mercury.*

Sherston, Wiltshire.—A public lecture on the evils of the Corn and Provision Laws was delivered on Tuesday evening the 19th inst., in the New School room, Sherston, by Mr. Falvey from the Anti-Corn-Law League. Great interest was excited by the announcement of the lecture, as there never had been a meeting on the subject of the Corn Laws previously at Sherston. The room—a very commodious one—was quite full, and Mr. Pritchard, of Easton-Grey, was, on the motion of Mr. Joseph Reynolds, miller, of Malmesbury, seconded by H. Gale, Esq., unanimously called to the chair. Mr. Gale, in the course of his remarks, said it was most gratifying to see a gentleman like Mr. Pritchard—who was not only a considerable *owner* but also an extensive *renter* of land, taking a leading part in the Free Trade movement. It indicated an advance in the direction of Free Trade, even among the farmers of this country, which could not possibly be mistaken by our rulers.—The Chairman said he had great pleasure in taking the chair that evening. As a farmer he had the most solemn conviction—a conviction which every year for the last ten years, had strengthened—that the Corn Laws had not only been of no advantage, but had been a positive injury to the tenant-farmers and farm-labourers. Those laws might have increased rents and tithes—and he had no doubt such had been the case—but no portion of the difference between natural and artificial prices had gone into the pockets of the tenant-farmers. He had heard Mr. Falvey with great pleasure at Malmesbury, and he had no doubt that gentleman would prove to the satisfaction of the meeting that the Corn and Provision Laws had been most mischievous to the people of England.—Mr. Falvey then addressed the meeting, and traced the Corn Laws through their various changes and modifications from 1815 to the present period; proving that those laws were unjust in principle and injurious in effect, and ought to be abolished.—The lecturer was loudly cheered at the close of his address. Votes of thanks were carried by acclamation to the Rev. Mr. Sheriff, for the use of the school-room; to the chairman, and lecturer; together with three cheers for the Anti-Corn-Law League.—*Wiltshire Independent.*

The Power of the League Sustained by the Truth of its Principles.—That the League has made itself felt throughout the length and breadth of the land, no man who studies the manifold signs of the times can for a moment hesitate to believe. In the efforts to establish the allotment system—to find employment for the labourer—in the advice so bountifully dealt out by landowners, to drain, manure, and improve—in the incipient restiveness evinced by tenant-farmers under such advice—in the efforts now taken to obtain a reduction of the malt-tax—in each and all of those projects the League is plainly visible. Each and all are a tribute to the energy—the all-pervading power—of this extraordinary body. But were the power of the League—were its energy and unceasing perseverance ten times that which it has exercised—it could have availed little but for the unassailable truth of its principles, for the promotion of which it moves, breathes, and has its being. It is in the truth of the great principles which the League asserts that its wide and all-powerful influence resides. That truth makes itself felt every where, and no stronger exemplification of this fact can be found than in the universal "bit by bit" adoption of its principles in *all* that does not relate to corn, by all classes, and all shades and denominations of politicians. The truth of the principles which has given life, vigour, and power to the League will never expire. The League itself may die out, but it will be when the breath of monopoly shall no longer furnish forth the aliment that contributes to its great opponent's vitality.—*Sussex Advertiser.*

Algiers and its European Population.—The *Times* correspondent, writing from Algiers, says:—"It is necessary, however, to explain the circumstance of there being two-thirds of the European population of Algeria strangers, or not French. There are several reasons. A Frenchman cannot toil in Africa like a Spaniard or a Maltese. It is also for this reason that the greater part of the strangers are Spaniards or Maltese, who labour in Africa, in the city or in the country, with less difficulty than even the Moors, and are as hardy as the Bedouins. It is impossible for the French labourer or colonist to compete with these men. The Irish labourers who came here 200 strong could not compete with these hardy Spaniards and Maltese, who really live in the sun, and are baked dry, and purified from all distempers in African heat. *Apropos* of the Irish, there are of the 200 three left. A third perished, and the rest got away as they could. The French agents who inveigled them here showed their accustomed inhumanity and improvidence in all such cases.

Game Laws.—Yet from this root (forest laws) has sprung a bastard slip, known by the name of the game laws, now arrived to and wantoning in its highest vigour; both founded upon the same unreasonable notions of permanent property in wild creatures, and both productive of the same tyranny to the commons, but with this difference—that the forest laws established only one mighty hunter through the land; the game laws have raised a little Nimrod in every manor.—*Blackstone.*

Law-made Wages.—We often observe in this country an inclination manifested to regulate by law the rate of wages, not with the view of instituting any such naturally equitable partition, but of establishing a *minimum* below which life cannot be comfortably supported. These reasoners proceed, it will at once be admitted, not on the rights of man, but on the claims of humanity. To such a project there is but one objection: it will assuredly fail of its humane intention. It is presumed that the competition amongst the workmen to obtain employment has so far advanced, that these cease to obtain a sufficient remuneration for their labour. The thousand men whom a great capitalist employs are inadequately paid. The Legislature requires that they should be paid more liberally. But the amount which the capitalist has to expend in wages is limited. The same amount which sustained a thousand men, can, under the new scale of remuneration, sustain only nine hundred. The nine hundred are better fed, but there is one hundred without any food whatever. Our well-intentioned Humanity looks round aghast at the confusion she is making.—*Blackwood.*

Truth.—To discover truth is to do good on a grand scale. The detection of an error, the establishment of a fact, the determination of a doubtful principle, may spread its benefits over large portions of the human race, and be the means of lessening the misery or increasing the happiness of unborn generations.—*Bailey.*

Corn and Sugar Monopolies.—On Tuesday and Wednesday evening, the 19th and 20th inst, two lectures were delivered at Rainford, in the large room at the Eagle and Child Inn, by Mr. Finnigan, of Manchester. On the first evening Mr. Thomas Rimmer was unanimously called to the chair; and at the second lecture Mr. Thomas Penketh, farmer, and one of the guardians of the township, readily consented to preside over the meeting. Both lectures were very numerously attended, and all present appeared unanimously in favour of the principles propounded by Mr. Finnigan in opposition to the monopolies in corn and sugar. At the close of the second meeting three cheers were respectively given for the chairman, the lecturer, and Free Trade.—*Manchester Times.*

The Question of Free Trade.—The question of Free Trade is becoming more and more narrowed every hour—becoming, indeed, merely a question of time, to be settled by the barometer and thermometer. With the exception of the trade with China, which is the result of Lord Palmerston's policy, so much railed at by the Tories, the home market is now almost all upon which our manufacturers have to depend. This is not seen and felt at present, when the weather is propitious, the seasons favourable, and the harvests abundant. Egypt rejoiced in the seven years of plenty. But, when the seven years of famine came, her people were sunk in misery and penury. And just so. All is smiling and sunshine with us at present. We are in our years of plenty. But, let there be a change; let there be a failing harvest, an export of gold, a tightening of the money market, a disarrangement of mercantile engagements, a stoppage in the smooth and easy flow of trade, and a people out of work and out of bread, and what then? Nothing, only a trifle. The pang will be a sharp one. But when it is over, it will be found that the Corn Laws have been swept away with it.—*Liverpool Albion.*

Public Parks, Walks, and Playgrounds.—The committee have laid before the public the outlines of their scheme for giving to the people of Manchester the means of recreation by the opening of parks and walks. They propose, the formation of four places of recreation, of about thirty acres each; that a gymnasium, on a large scale, be erected in each, free of charge; that, where possible,

spaces be obtained for ball alleys, quoits, skittles, archery, and other active sports, and available to players at a charge merely to cover the implements of play that may be used; that each park contain one or more fountains of pure water; that numerous seats be erected in proper situations for general accommodation; that buildings be erected where tea, coffee, and other refreshments may be obtained, but where no intoxicating liquors of any kind shall be allowed; that such parks be open to the public on all days of the week; and that the gymnasium, ball alley, quoit, skittle, or archery grounds shall be closed on Sundays. The committee add that they have every reason to expect that public baths, wash-houses, &c., free, or at a merely nominal charge, will be erected simultaneously with the promotion of the parks and playgrounds.—*Manchester Times.*

INCENDIARISM.—A fire broke out about four in the morning of the 16th inst., in a shed on the New House Farm, in the occupation of James Aylwin, Treyford, which, there is every reason to believe, was the work of an incendiary. A cow-stall adjoining the shed, and part of a barn and cart-house, were destroyed.——On Wednesday se'nnight, a fire broke out on the farm of Mr. F. Lilley, Grantchester, Cambridgeshire, which destroyed the farm-buildings and a quantity of farming property, the whole estimated at the value of nearly £2000. It is suspected to have been the work of an incendiary; but some think it may have been accidental.

WIGAN—HAND-LOOM WEAVERS' STRIKE.—We are happy to inform our readers that the strike which took place about a week ago among the hand-loom weavers employed by Messrs. Pilkington and Son, Mr. T. Howarth, and Messrs. Chappel and Marsden, is finally arranged, the master having consented to abide by the terms offered by their workpeople, viz., to make all kinds of goods that they manufacture into *fifty yards of cloth.* If the strike had continued, the distress which must inevitably have taken place would have been great.—*Preston Guardian.*

CORN DUTIES.—The following appears in the *Cork Southern Reporter*, a journal often having access to correct information on commercial matters:—"There are commercial letters in town from highly respectable houses, stating that the belief is strongly entertained in London that Sir Robert Peel, in the ensuing session, contemplates making extensive alterations in the duties on the importation to the United Kingdom of the principal articles of consumption. It is confidently asserted that a further reduction of the sugar duties will take place; that 50 per cent., that is 10s. per cwt., will be taken off foreign butter, and that relaxations in the corn duties will be made in favour of those corn-growing countries who will reciprocally reduce their import duties on British manufactured goods."—*Chronicle.*

HIRING FAIR.—Servants of both sexes and all ages were numerous in the market,—men and women, boys and girls. Good men might have been hired for the half-year for £5 to £6; women, of known character and usefulness, were in better request, and at fair wages; but few of the younger fry found masters—they went away unhired. The farmers must have as few mouths as possible—they cannot afford it. How cheering must be the agricultural prospects of England, when the tillers of the soil cannot pay for labour to cultivate their land, and the peasantry cannot obtain labour to buy them bread! Ye monopolizers and high-rent men, look ahead—"coming events cast their shadows before."—*Kendal Mercury.*

FIRE INSURANCE.—The great comparative extent to which the business of insurance is carried in Great Britain affords one of the least equivocal tests of our superior progress in civilization, and of the greater diffusion amongst us of habits of providence and foresight. It appears, from the official returns, that the gross duty received on policies of insurance against fire in the United Kingdom, in 1843, amounted, in round numbers, to one million sterling, independent of farming-stock, which is exempt from duty. As the duty is 3s. per cent., the property insured, subject to duty, was valued at the immense sum of nearly £667,000,000. But, vast as this sum certainly is, it is still true that most buildings, with their contents, are not insured at near their full value. Even in towns, many are not insured at all; and in the country the insurance of farm-buildings is comparatively rare. It is difficult to imagine that this disinclination to insure can be owing to any cause other than the exorbitance of the tax.—*Globe.*

NIL DESPERANDUM.—It is a duty not to allow yourselves to think ill of any living man, still less to treat him, as if your hopes of his amendment were utterly gone.—*The Claims of Labour.*

MERCANTILE NAVY OF PRUSSIA.—It is stated that the mercantile navy of Prussia numbers a very respectable force, having greatly increased of late years, and including, as far back as 1839, no less than 619 ships. The accession of Hamburg, Lubeck, an Bremen, would add, it is reckoned, 409 more.

IMPORTS OF FRENCH APPLES.—French apples, of delicious quality, are being brought in large quantities from Ostend and other ports into Hull, from whence they are despatched, by sloop-loads, to Leeds, Halifax, &c. During the past week, the Hiram, Capt. Foster, of Goole, and an Ostend vessel, together have discharged about 5000 bushels. Sailing vessels have been regularly plying from Dunkirk, Rotterdam, &c., with similar cargoes.—*Hull Advertiser.*

THE IRISH POOR LAW.—It appears by the last report of the Irish Poor-law Commissioners that on the 1st of January, 1844, there were in the ninety-two workhouses then open 31,981 paupers, and the charge for their support was £221,090, exclusive of a million and a half expenditure in the erection of workhouses. Yet beggars are as numerous as ever, so that those who pay the rate gain no relief from the importunity of the miserable.—*Sun.*

THE CHINESE CHARACTER.—The more the Chinese come to mix with us, and to be acquainted with our character, the more they seem to fall into our ways; and we cannot but think that, at no distant period, amicable relations will be established without difficulty upon an intimate footing. It has often been remarked that in many respects they resemble Englishmen in their mercantile, industrious habits, their ingenuity, and their readiness to combine together for useful purposes; their independent spirit, and their love of argument. They differ materially from all other eastern nations with which we have hitherto come in contact.—*Voyage of the Nemesis.*

THE FUNDS.

	Sat. Nov. 23	Mon. Nov. 25	Tues. Nov. 26	Wed. Nov 27	Thurs. Nov. 28	Fri. Nov. 29
Bank Stock.....	—	206	208	206	206	—
3 per Ct. Red. Ann	99½	99½	99½	99½	100	100
3 per Ct. Con. Ann.	100⅛	100⅛	100⅛	100⅛	100⅛	100⅛
3½ per Ct. An. new	101½	102¼	102¼	102½	102½	102½
Long. An. Ex. 1860	—	—	12 5-16	12 5-16	12½	—
Cons. for Acc. ..	100½	100½	100½	100½	101½	101
Exc. Bills, pm. ..	62	62	62	61	60	—
Ind. Bds. and 1000l	—	83	84	85	—	—
India Stock	288	—	286½	287	—	—
Belgian Bonds ..	101½	—	—	—	101½	—
Brazilian Bonds,.	89	89	—	89½	88½	—
Buenos Ayres....	—	84½	—	—	—	—
Chilian.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Columb. ex. Venez.	—	13½	—	13½	—	13½
Danish	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dutch 5 per Cent.	99	99½	99½	99½	99½	—
Dutch 2½ per Ct.	63	63	62½	62½	63½	63½
Mexican	36½	35½	35½	35½	36½	36½
Peruvian	—	—	25½	—	24½	—
Portug. conv. ..	54½	55	55½	55½	54½	56
Spanish 5 per Ct.	24½	—	24	24½	24	24½
Do. 3 per Cent. ..	35½	—	35½	35½	35½	35½

MARKETS.

CORN MARKET.

MARK-LANE, Monday, Nov. 25.—The supply of English Wheat last week was large, chiefly from Lincolnshire, and direct to the millers, and there was a good show of land-carriage samples at market this morning. The condition of most of it was very inferior, and 1s. to 2s. cheaper than this day week; the best samples were no cheaper, and were taken off readily. The damp condition of the English Wheat caused a better demand for Foreign, for which there was a fair sale at last week's rates. There was a good supply of English Barley, and all but the very finest qualities were 1s. cheaper; Grinding and Distilling qualities of Foreign maintained former rates, but the demand was scarcely so active as last week. There was a better supply of Beans and Grey Peas, both Old and New, and prices were 1s. lower than last week; Old White Peas were no cheaper, and in rather better demand. The addition to last week's supply of Oats was trifling; there was an improved demand from the country at rather better prices than on this day week.

S. H. LUCAS and SON.

BRITISH.

Per Imperial Quarter.

Wheat Essex, Kent, & Suffolk Old Red	42 to 50	White	46	to 54
—— Ditto..... New	— 42 — 48	—	44	— 54
—— Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Old	— 42 — 48	—	44	— 50
—— Scotch	— 42 — 46	—	44	— 48
Oats, Lincolnshire & Yorkshire Feed		New	20	— 22
—— Ditto ..... ditto .. Polands		do.	22	— 24
—— Scotch Feed.....	Old 23 — 25	Potato	26	— 27
—— Limerick	do. 22 — 23	New	21	— 22
—— Ditto	do.....	Short	23	— 24
—— Cork	New		21	— 22
—— Waterford, Youghal, & Cork	Black Old and New		21	— 22
—— Sligo	New		21	— 22
—— Galway	do.		19	— 20 6
Barley, New			32	— 39
Beans, Mazagan	Old 35 — 37	New	32	— 34
—— Harrow ..	do. 40 — 43	do.	34	— 38
—— Small	do.		42	— 46
Peas, White, New			34	— 38
—— Grey	31 to 33	Maple	32	— 33
Flour, Town-made		per sack of 280 lbs....	36	— 43
—— Norfolk and Suffolk			34	— 36

FOREIGN.

Per Imperial Quarter.

		FREE.	IN BOND.
Wheat, Dantzig, high mixed		48 to 56	The same as free less the duty.
—— Rostock		47 — 54	
—— Stettin		44 — 52	
—— Hamburgh		42 — 48	
—— Odessa		42 — 46	
—— Ditto	Polish	47 — 50	
—— Russian	soft	42 — 46	
—— Ditto.....	hard	40 — 44	
—— Spanish	Red	45 — 49	
—— Ditto	White.....	50 — 54	
Barley, Grinding		26 — 30	— — —
—— Distilling.....		30 — 32	— — —
Oats, Archangel.....		21 — 22	15 — 16
—— Swedish		22 — 23	16 — 17
—— Danish.....		22 — 24	16 — 18
—— Stralsund		22 — 24	16 — 18
—— Dutch Brew		24 — 25	18 — 19
—— —— Polands		— — —	19 — 20
Beans, Egyptian.....		32 — 34	25 — 27
Peas, White.....		33 — 36	— — —
—— Ditto Boilers.....		36 — 38	— — —
Flour, Canada	per barrel of 196 lbs	26 — 28	— — —
—— United States..	— —	26 — 28	18 — 20
—— Dantzig.....	— —	26 — 28	18 — 20

Account of CORN, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from Nov. 18, to Nov. 23, 1844, both days inclusive.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
English	13397	11107	691	1603	1612
Scotch	—	80	1855	—	—
Irish.....	—	—	19020	—	—
Foreign	1937	8772	1082	125	—

Flour, 9001 sacks, 10 bars.

FRIDAY, Nov. 29.—The supply of English Wheat has been liberal again this week. The small proportion of it which is in good condition has been readily taken off at former prices; but the rest is disposed of with great difficulty at some abatement. Though the trade in Foreign Wheat is not brisk, the demand for it, for mixing with the damp English, is sufficient to enable holders to obtain fully former rates. The supply of English Barley has been again fully equal to the demand, and for all descriptions but the very finest qualities, rather lower prices must be accepted. Foreign Malting Barley partakes the dullness of English; but for grinding qualities though the demand is not active, former prices are maintained. Only one vessel, partly laden with Irish Oats, is reported during the week. A large proportion of the recent supply has been taken off; and what remains is held at such high rates as to induce buyers to hold off as long as possible, in expectation of further arrivals. There is, in consequence, but little activity in the trade. Beans and Peas remain the same as on Monday. The duty on Barley fell to 3s., and advanced on Rye to 7s. 6d., yesterday.

S. H. LUCAS and SON.

Account of Corn, &c., arrived in the Port of London, from the 25th of November to the 27th of November, both inclusive.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat.....	7640	—	480
Barley.	6890	—	6750
Oats.....	—	400	740

Flour, 4690 sacks.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES Weeks ending

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
19th Oct.	46 3	34 0	20 9	39 3	37 0	34 2
26th ,,	46 9	34 9	20 11	39 3	37 0	34 2
2nd Nov.	46 9	35 7	21 2	37 3	36 8	35 1
9th ,,	46 3	36 1	21 6	34 6	37 11	34 7
16th ,,	46 4	35 9	21 9	34 2	38 4	35 7
23rd ,,	46 10	35 2	21 8	30 9	38 6	36 2

Aggregate Average of the Six Weeks.—Wheat, 46s. 1d.; Barley, 35s. 3d.; Oats, 21s. 2d.; Rye, 35s. 8d.; Beans, 37s. 6d.; Peas 35s. 11d.

Duty.—Wheat, 20s. 0d.; Barley, 3s. 0d.; Oats, 6s. 0d.; Rye, 7s. 6d.; Beans, 6s. 6d.; Peas, 6s. 6d

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22.

DECLARATION OF INSOLVENCY.

J. WALKER and C. WHITE, Jewry-street, Aldgate, builders.

BANKRUPTS.

J. BURGESS, Cratfield, Suffolk, farmer. [Holmes and Son, Great James-street, Bedford-row.

T. SHERWOOD, Tilehurst, Berkshire, brickmaker. [Holmes and Son, Great James-street, Bedford-row.

J. E. VARDY, Portsmouth, draper. [Moger, Paternoster-row; Devereux, Portsmouth.

J. H. UTTING, Newman-street, Oxford-street, upholsterer. [Hudson, Bucklersbury.

W. JACKSON, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, paper hanger. [May, Queen-square.

F. BLUNDELL, New Sarum, Wiltshire, grocer. [Sanger, Essex-court, Temple.

J. STAPLES, Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, plumber. [Johnson, Walcot-square, Lambeth.

S. ECCLES and C. RIDINGS, Manchester, cotton manufacturers. [Barlow and Aston, Manchester.

R. ROCHESTER, Hartlepool, butcher. [Meggison, Pringle, and Mannisty, London; Wilson and Turnbull, Hartlepool.

W. NEWTON, Bath, coal merchant. [Messrs. Mogg, Cholwell, near Bristol.

M. TOMKINSON, Kidderminster, linendraper. [Messrs. Robinson, Queen-street-place, Upper Thames-street; Hardwick and Davidson, Weavers'-hall, Basinghall-street.

DIVIDENDS.

Dec. 13. R. J. Cranies, Maldon, Essex, butcher—Dec. 18. T. M. Morton, Bishopsgate Within, eating housekeeper—Dec. 18. W. Starie, Cutler-street, Houndsditch, carpenter—Dec. 13. H. Jones, Canterbury, victualler—Dec. 13. H. Kerr, Woolwich, tailor—Dec. 13. R. Palliser, Moorgate-street, saddler—Dec. 18. J. Taylor, Brighton, bookseller—Dec. 13. B. Simmons and J. Brook, Dockhead, iron founders—Dec. 17. E. Hannum, Threadneedle-street, insurance broker—Dec. 13. J. Smith and H. Titford, King-street, Snowhill, engravers—Dec. 18. H. Williams, Faringdon, Berkshire, grocer—Dec. 13. B. Bright, Wigmore-street, Marylebone, licensed victualler—Dec. 21. J. Hedderley, Nottingham, druggist—Dec. 20. J. S. Daintry, J. Ryle, and W. R. Ravenscroft, Manchester and Macclesfield, bankers—Dec. 17. S. Hadfield, Manchester, file manufacturer—Dec. 17. T. Gibson, North Scale, Lancashire, coal merchant—Dec. 18. T. Sedgwick, Leeds, grocer—Dec. 18. T. M. Monckman, Bradford, Yorkshire, tobacconist—Dec. 18. R. Bell, Keighley, Yorkshire, woolstapler—Dec. 18. J. Mallalieu, Halifax, cotton spinner—Dec. 18. J. Swallow, sen., Halifax, corn miller—Dec. 14. S. A. Goddard and R. Hill, Birmingham, merchants.

CERTIFICATES.

Dec. 17. L. D., H., and G. F. Smith, Dulverton, Somersetshire, and Gutter-lane, crape manufacturers—Dec. 17. C. James, Grand Junction-terrace, Paddington, oilman—Dec. 17. E. Sylvester, St. Pancras-road, contractor—Dec. 13. T. Eldridge, Upper North-place, Gray's-inn-road, coach-builder—Dec. 18. W. Bowen, Merthyr Tydvil, grocer—Dec. 16. J. Moorhouse, Rotherham, Yorkshire, cattle dealer—Dec. 13. E. Rigmaiden, Liverpool, wine dealer—Dec. 16. B. Bell, Sharples, Lancashire, bleacher—Dec. 16. T. Gibson, North Scale, Lancashire, coal merchant—Dec. 13. R. G. Plowright, Wells-next the Sea, Norfolk, wine merchant—Dec. 13. S. Hadfield, Manchester, file manufacturer—Dec. 18. J. Dunbar, sen., Tottenham-court-road, iron founder—Dec. 13. L. A. Regnault, Cheltenham, milliner.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. SHAW, Cupar, writer—A. HORN, Auchtermuchty, manufacturer—J. MILLAR, Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, weaving agent.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26.

BANKRUPTS.

J. BURGESS, Cratfield, Suffolk, farmer. [Wilde and Co., College-hill.

J. TOMLIN, St. Michael's-alley, Cornhill, ship broker. [Debborough and Young, Size-lane.

B. VANDERPLANK, Love-lane, City, woollen warehouseman. [James, Basinghall street.

R. WATT, Lime-street, merchant. [Sharpe, Verulam-buildings.

C. H. HAMBLETON, Northampton-street, Bethnal-green, victualler. [Malton and Trollope, Carey-street, Lincoln's-inn.

P. J. MEUGENS, Dunster-court, Mincing-lane, broker. [Nicholson and Parker, Throgmorton-street.

J. C. WHITE, Canterbury, draper. [Messrs. Sole, Aldermanbury.

J. Q. HARRIS, Winchester-place, Southwark, hat manufacturer. [Parker, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

G. STEPHENS, Skinner's-place, Size-lane, and William-street, Knightsbridge, scrivener. [Cox, Size-lane.

W. COX, Crown-street, Soho, general dealer. [Pain and Hatherly, Great Marlborough-street, and Basinghall-street.

J. JOHNSON, North-place, Gray's-inn-lane, apothecary. [Lindsay and Mason, Cateaton-street.

J. F. FIGGE, Dunster-court, Mincing-lane, merchant. [Nicholson and Parker, Throgmorton-street.

W. CLARKE, Sheffield, builder. [Moss, Cloak-lane; Blackburn, Leeds.

J. HUMBLE, Ossett, Yorkshire, manufacturing chemist. [Gregory and Co., Bedford-row; Wavell, Halifax; Courtenay, Leeds.

J. HASELDEN, Bolton-le-Moors, cotton spinner. [Milne, Parry, Milne, and Milne, Temple; Winder and Broadbent, Bolton.

J. HALL, Wallsend, Northumberland, cowkeeper. [Wilson, Sunderland; Bell, Broderick, and Bell, Bow Churchyard.

E. ROBINSON and W. ROBINSON, Swinford, Leicestershire, bakers. [Mash, Lutterworth; Smith, Bedford-row; Motteram, Birmingham.

J. BROWN, Newcastle-under-Lyme, painter. [Harrison and Smith, Birmingham; Jackson, Field-court, Gray's-inn.

DIVIDENDS.

Dec. 19. J. Nutter, Cambridge, miller—Dec. 18. G. Field, Bond-court, Walbrook, packer—Dec. 18. C. Deane, Southampton, coach builder—Dec. 17. W. F. Mills, Hart-street, Mark-lane, gun maker—Dec. 19. J. Dyson, Sheffield, scythe manufacturer—Dec. 19. J. Dixon, Sheffield, linendraper—Dec. 20. J. Prior and H. Brady, Kingston-upon-Hull, brush manufacturers—Dec. 18. J. Naylor, junior, Kingston-upon-Hull, boat builder—Dec. 19. W. Hall, Tredington, Worcestershire, and H. Rainbow, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, corn merchants—Dec. 20. W. Waddell, Liverpool, merchant—Dec. 20. J. Murray and W. Brown, Liverpool, millwrights—Dec. 20. A. Leighton, Liverpool, merchant—Dec. 19. S. Boult and T. Addison, Liverpool, stockbrokers—Dec. 20. R. Warren, Liverpool, druggist—Dec. 27. T. Ledlard, Cirencester, money scrivener—Dec. 19. T. Bulmer and R. Bulmer, South Shields, rope manufacturers.

CERTIFICATES.

Dec. 10. H. C. York, Cheltenham-place, Westminster-road, lodging housekeeper—Dec. 19. W. Armfield, Northampton, draper—Dec. 17. E. Edwards, City-road, draper and hosier—Dec. 17. E. T. Crauford, Piccadilly, wine merchant—Dec. 17. J. Pim, Clapham-common, linendraper—Dec. 17. W. Yuill, Cornhill, tailor—Dec. 19. T. and J. Bailey, King's-cliffe, Northampton, toy dealers—Dec. 19. W. R. Read, Winchester-street, King's-cross, builder—Dec. 19. F. G. Flight, Adam-street, Adelphi, publisher—Dec. 10. G. Rosulter, Bridgewater, Somerset, jeweller—Dec. 19. F. H. West, White Horse Tavern, High-street, Shoreditch.

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