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The Political Economist.

THE TRADE RETURNS FOR 1849.

In another part of this paper will be found the Board of Trade tables, completed for the year. All things considered, the results are at once the most remarkable and the most satisfactory which we have witnessed for many years. There have been former years in which the home consumption of most of imported articles has been nearly as large; there have been other years in which our exports, great as they have been in 1849, were larger. But when we consider the numerous and very obvious drawbacks to which the commerce of last year was exposed—when we consider that in the home market consumption must have been materially checked among one very large and extensive class of persons, the holders of railway stock, whose dividends, and the value of whose property, have been reduced to a lower scale than in any other year whatever—when we consider that at least the classes immediately dependent upon land, whether as owners or occupiers (whether from the bad harvest of 1848 or from free trade we need not here stop to inquire), have unquestionably suffered greatly in their ordinary means of expenditure—we might fairly have expected a considerable reduction in the home trade. And when we refer to the still disorganised condition of the continent, the continued complaints from many of our colonies, especially Canada and the West Indies, and the frequent checks which our trade has experienced in China and the Eastern markets, it is with as much surprise as satisfaction that we find an increase in our exports of about 10,000,000*l.*, as compared with those of 1848.

That there is an intimate connection between our increased exports and the large imports of grain which have taken place during the last year, we think we shall be able clearly to show. That the great abundance and consequently the cheapness of the first necessities of life have enabled the masses of the people to consume much larger quantities of other less necessary articles of food, and to purchase more largely of clothing, we believe no one will deny. If these two propositions are true, then both the favourable condition of our home trade, and the rapid increase of our exports, may be traced immediately to the effects of the measures passed in 1846, but which only took full effect in the beginning of 1849.

The quantity of foreign grain, exclusive of Indian corn, entered for home consumption in the past year, was much larger than in any year on record—even than the year of famine, 1847—when

the corn law and the navigation law were suspended, in order to facilitate its admission. The following table shows a comparison of the quantities of grain, flour, and meal, entered for consumption in 1847, 1848, and 1849:—

GRAIN, FLOUR, and MEAL entered for Consumption.

| | 1847 | 1848 | 1849 |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Wheat | 2,851,983 | 1,865,294 | 4,519,626 |
| Barley | 795,490 | 893,960 | 1,534,860 |
| Oats | 1,761,248 | 882,559 | 1,368,673 |
| Rye | 68,956 | 49,721 | 256,308 |
| Peas | 194,171 | 167,083 | 285,487 |
| Beans | 487,846 | 452,460 | 483,430 |
| Indian corn | 3,615,219 | 1,582,755 | 2,249,571 |
| Buckwheat | 23,349 | 205 | 308 |
| Beer or Bigg | ... | ... | 1,749 |
| Total qrs. | 9,799,262 | 5,899,037 | 10,710,012 |
| Flour | 6,810,843 | 1,227,754 | 3,537,219 |
| Barley meal | 11,790 | 64 | 224 |
| Oatmeal | 58,009 | 6,165 | 40,055 |
| Rye meal | 785,412 | 30,534 | 24,031 |
| Pea meal | ... | 104 | 300 |
| Bean meal | 88 | 28 | 2 |
| Indian meal | 1,452,147 | 233,880 | 102,181 |
| Buckwheat meal | 923 | 194 | 1,095 |
| Total cwt. | 9,119,212 | 1,498,723 | 4,105,107 |

Converting the above quantities of flour and meal into their equivalents of quarters of grain, then we have the entire quantities entered for consumption in each year as follows:—

| | qrs |
|------------|------------|
| 1847 | 12,363,751 |
| 1848 | 6,327,243 |
| 1849 | 11,882,900 |

Including Indian corn, which on account of the special circumstances of Ireland in 1847, must be considered as an exceptional importation, the entire quantity of foreign grain consumed in 1849, was 420,851 quarters less than in 1847, but excluding Indian corn, the quantities of all other descriptions of grain entered for consumption in 1849 were much larger than in any former year whatever. Of wheat and flour the comparison of the last three years is as follows:—

WHEAT and FLOUR entered for Consumption, as Quarters of Wheat.

| | qrs |
|------------|-----------|
| 1847 | 4,797,538 |
| 1848 | 2,216,081 |
| 1849 | 5,634,545 |

So that during the last year there have been entered for home consumption, 5,634,545 quarters of wheat, or at the rate of little less than *half a million* of quarters monthly. Of live cattle the importations in 1849 have been less than in 1848 and in some former years, but of preserved and salted meats of all kinds, the quantities imported in 1849 have greatly exceeded those of any former year.

Of that large branch of our commerce generally designated as "foreign and colonial produce," the trade of the last year has been of a very extensive character, whether viewed in relation to our imports, re-exports, or consumption. The consumption of coffee is perhaps the only exception. Of some of these chief articles the quantities imported have been as follows:—

IMPORTED.

| | 1848 | 1849 |
|------------------------|------------|------------|
| Coffee | 57,053,450 | 63,329,506 |
| Sugar:—Unrefined | 6,969,931 | 6,925,851 |
| — Refined | 226,758 | 297,292 |
| — Molasses | 517,534 | 1,062,661 |
| Tea | 47,774,755 | 53,460,751 |
| Cocoa | 6,442,986 | 7,769,234 |
| Tobacco | 31,090,360 | 41,946,848 |

Of coffee the consumption shows a very considerable reduction, which is justly attributed to the increasing extent to which adulteration takes place. The quantity on which duty was paid in 1849 was only 34,431,074*lb.*, against 37,107,279*lb.* in 1848, and 37,472,153*lb.* in 1847. Owing to the rapid increase in the production of colonial coffee (the growth of Ceylon), the whole of this diminution has taken place in foreign coffee paying the higher duty, and thus affecting the amount of revenue received from it, even in a greater proportion than the decline in the consumption. The following is a comparison of quantities of foreign and colonial coffee taken for consumption in each of the last five years:—

| | COFFEE entered for Consumption. | | |
|------|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Colonial lb | Foreign lb | Total lb |
| 1845 | 20,807,165 | 13,510,956 | 34,318,121 |
| 1846 | 23,796,782 | 12,986,609 | 36,783,391 |
| 1847 | 27,032,849 | 10,439,394 | 37,472,243 |
| 1848 | 30,147,771 | 6,959,508 | 37,107,279 |
| 1849 | 29,769,730 | 4,661,344 | 34,431,074 |

So that while the consumption of colonial coffee has increased in five years from 20,807,165lb to 29,769,730lb, that of foreign coffee has diminished in the same time from 13,510,956lb to 4,661,344lb. During the last year the quantity of colonial coffee imported was 40,334,630lb, being nearly six millions of pounds more than our entire consumption, thus leaving a considerable surplus for exportation. It is therefore plain that as long as any difference of duty exists in favour of our colonies, the home consumption must be exclusively confined to that description, except to the small extent to which Mocha and some other descriptions of foreign coffee are consumed on account of their peculiar quality. So far then as the colonial producer is concerned, any protection which he enjoyed has become a dead letter. Of colonial coffee alone no less than 6,968,885lb have been re-exported in the past year, chiefly to the continent of Europe, in open competition with the coffee of foreign countries; and the still rapidly increasing production of Ceylon makes it a matter of certainty that the quantity of colonial coffee which must find a market abroad will annually increase. Nothing, therefore, is more clear than that the colonist is no longer interested in maintaining a protective duty on this article. The sooner the duties are equalised, the better for all parties. The net revenue received from coffee in 1849 was 643,210*l*, against 710,292*l* in 1848, and 746,435*l* in 1847, thus showing a decrease of more than 100,000*l* in three years. It is certainly time something was done to arrest this downward course.

Of sugar, the consumption has increased very rapidly of late years. At first sight, it may appear that the consumption of 1849 has not kept up to the unprecedented rate of 1848. But, on considering all the bearings of this question, it will be found that this is rather apparent than real. In the first place, the figures as they appear in the accounts published, are as follows:—

| Sugar consumed. | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1848 cwt | 1849 cwt |
| Unrefined— | | |
| Colonial | 4,536,355 | 5,424,390 |
| Foreign | 1,225,866 | 497,764 |
| Refined— | | |
| Colonial | 20,933 | 60,090 |
| Foreign | 25,359 | 13,309 |
| Molasses— | | |
| Colonial | 212,350 | 270,775 |
| Foreign | | |
| Total | 6,440,653 | 6,265,319 |

There is, therefore, an apparent decrease in the consumption of 1849 of 152,544 cwt. But, as we have on former occasions explained, there remained in warehouse 12,000 tons of foreign sugar on the 31st of December 1848, on which duty had been paid in July of that year, and which therefore increased the *apparent* consumption beyond the *actual* consumption, and which as it was really consumed in 1849, diminished the *apparent* consumption of the latter year, when tested by the quantity on which duty was paid, below the actual consumption. Making allowance for that accidental circumstance, the consumption of sugar in 1848 was 6,188,363 cwts, and in 1849 it was 6,508,319 cwts, or 309,043 tons in the former year, and 325,415 tons in the latter year. In order to show the rapid increase which has taken place in the consumption of sugar since the first commencement of the free trade measures in respect to it, in 1844, we may quote the consumption of each year since that time, calculated in the same way as the above:—

| SUGAR and MOLASSES consumed. | | tons |
|------------------------------|--|---------|
| 1844 | | 217,254 |
| 1845 | | 254,621 |
| 1846 | | 272,224 |
| 1847 | | 301,488 |
| 1848 | | 309,013 |
| 1849 | | 325,415 |

Thus showing an increase of *fifty per cent* in five years.

Of tea, the consumption shows a steady and considerable increase; the quantity entered for duty in 1849 being 50,024,688 lbs, against 48,735,696 lbs in 1848, and 46,326,000 lbs in 1847. Of cocoa, these accounts also show a very considerable increase in the quantity entered for duty.

But, with regard to these articles of colonial and foreign production, there is a feature in our trade which is becoming more important every year. We allude to the extensive re-exportations of these articles to other parts of the world. It has long been foreseen, by those who were the chief advocates of free trade, that one of the important consequences of the system would be to make this country the great emporium for Europe. Many circumstances pointed to such a result, and although until now the existence of our Navigation Laws has materially interfered with its development, yet, even in spite of those impediments, our warehousing trade has already greatly increased. The following is a comparison of the quantities of some of the chief articles of foreign produce re-exported from this country, and chiefly to the continent of Europe, in each of the last four years:—

| | RE-EXPORTED. | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 1846 | 1847 | 1848 | 1849 |
| Coffee.....lb | 11,739,999 | 12,358,802 | 24,088,477 | 34,847,296 |
| Sugar.....cwt | 240,835 | 804,024 | 332,569 | 558,641 |
| — refined | 29,026 | 58,592 | 102,565 | 198,217 |
| Tea.....lb | 3,533,668 | 4,718,138 | 3,551,528 | 4,845,617 |
| Cocoa.....lb | 683,616 | 411,421 | 1,604,813 | 3,398,156 |
| Tobacco..... | 12,982,249 | 11,519,140 | 10,075,121 | 14,992,068 |

This very important branch of British commerce we may fairly expect to see increase at a still more rapid rate now that the impediment of the Navigation Laws is removed.

But perhaps the most important feature in these annual accounts is the large increase which has taken place in the exports of British manufactures in 1849, in spite of the circumstances to which we have already referred as being calculated to prejudice their amount. The declared value of the exports of the chief articles included in the return before us amounts to no less a sum than 58,848,042*l*, against 48,946,325*l* in 1848. On reference to the table itself it will be found that the increase applies to nearly every article of export. But it is chiefly observable in the four great articles of our staple manufactures, cotton, linen, silk, and woollen. Of cotton goods and cotton yarn the exports of 1849 amount to 26,890,794*l*, against 22,681,200*l* in 1848. Of linen goods and yarn the exports of 1849 amount to 4,103,463*l*, against 3,296,238*l* in 1848. Of silk goods, twist, and yarn, the exports of 1849 amount to 1,000,357*l*, against 588,117*l* in 1848. And of woollen goods and yarn the exports of 1849 amount to 8,419,342*l*, against 6,510,803*l* in 1848.

In our last number we published an account exhibiting a classification of the countries to which the chief articles of exports took place in 1849, compared with 1848. In another number it is our intention to trace the connection which we have already indicated between these increased exports and the extensive imports of grain which we received in the course of last year. We shall conclude these remarks in the meantime, by calling attention to the fact which the same Parliamentary return indicates, of the great increase of employment for the shipping of the country, which has accompanied our increased trade during the last year. In 1848, the quantity of British ships entered inwards, was 4,020,415 tons, and in 1849 it increased to 4,390,375 tons; while of shipping, foreign and British, the quantity entered inwards in 1848 was 5,579,461 tons, and in 1849, 6,071,269 tons. In 1848 the quantity of British shipping entered outwards was 3,553,777 tons, and in 1849, 3,762,182 tons; while of shipping, British and foreign, the quantities entered outwards were 5,051,287 tons, and 5,429,908 in the two years respectively.

Whatever view, then, we take of the commerce of the country of the past year, we have only subject for congratulation; and so far as we can now judge by the small portion of the present year already expired, and from what is going forward now in our chief seats of trade, we have every reason for anticipating even more favourable results in 1850.

LEGAL DECISION ON THE FACTORY ACT.

THE legal decision by the Court of Exchequer on the prepared case of Mills, mentioned in the *Economist* of December 29 last year, concerning the disputed clauses of the Factory Act, has at length been obtained. The Court, by the mouth of Mr Baron Parke, has set aside Mr Horner's construction of the Act, and has affirmed the legality of the shift, or relay system. The Court agrees very closely with the decision given by Mr Trafford and Mr Brande in the case of Messrs Wilson and Benson, also mentioned in the *Economist*, December 29th. It holds, in common with all the authorities, that the time of commencing work for all the young persons in a mill dates from the hour when *any one* young person begins to work, but, like the two magistrates above mentioned, the Court states that this is a penal statute, that it must be construed strictly, and that men must not be punished for the violation of a supposed intendment of the Legislature which is not expressed. The Court is of opinion that the Act does not forbid leaving off work at any particular hour, or different hours, and, therefore, the Court concludes that millowners may leave off when they please, and make what agreements they please with their workmen and young people, as long as they do not work the restricted classes more than ten hours in one day. That decision, contrary to what Mr Horner, even in his last report, declares from positive knowledge to have been the intention of the Legislature, gives an interpretation to the Act favourable to the views taken of it by the masters, and contrary to the views taken of it by the Ten-hours agitators and the Factory Inspectors. It has the advantage of clearly defining the law, putting an end to all doubt on the subject, and throwing it on the Legislature—if it deliberately concludes that it is right to vex one branch of trade by some 300 informations in a year, and restricting the industry of honest men—to put its intentions in a certain and precise form.

Last year the Ministers intended to propose a bill to effect a reasonable adjustment of the differences; but their views did not agree with those either of the millowners or the promoters of the Ten-hours Act, and their intentions were not carried into effect. This decision, which agrees in the main, probably, with their views, saves them from the necessity of proposing any new law on the subject. It may be presumed that they will acquiesce in

the views of the judges, and leave it to the advocates of restriction to bring forward amendments to the present law, if they think them necessary. The only amendments we should like to see, would be to get rid of the law altogether, it being a perfect specimen of class legislation, the produce, mainly, of a pseudo philanthropic agitation. It is an offset of that system of regulating industry which is so mischievously prevalent on the continent, and of which we have lately got rid of the two principal stems. The trade in food and the carrying trade by sea are now set free, and freedom in them requires—and will enforce—freedom in every other branch of industry.

One of Mr Horner's great arguments in favour of the law, stated in his latest report, is "that a large majority of the operatives, and, among them, those whose earnings have been most reduced by the restriction, appear to be in favour of the shortened hours of labour." Now, that is no reason at all why such a law should be passed and maintained. Admitting the appearance to be a reality, it will not be denied that the law affects the masters, and that the operatives, being certainly not the most instructed classes in the community, it cannot for one moment be conceded that their ignorant wishes—the wishes of a party with a supposed adverse interest—should be embodied into a law for the rule of the masters and of the whole community. It is idle to speak of the Act as only affecting factories; it is a law taxing us all—restricting us all—and a law which employs the united strength of the community to give it effect. It is at least a task for the community; and if not beneficial, it is a waste of the common strength. While we are not disposed to deny to the operatives, or any class or classes, a voice in making the laws, it is most dangerous and most injurious to allow the wishes of one class, whether landlords or factory labourers—and that class not the most instructed—to dictate laws for all the rest. We demur to Mr Horner's argument, even supposing the appearance on which he founds it—because the appearance is agreeable to his own hopes—were much more a reality than it is.

The confirmation which he quotes of the appearance is, that only one petition has proceeded from the workpeople in his district, praying "their hours of work may be extended," "while numerous petitions have proceeded from public meetings, held in various parts of the kingdom, praying that the existing Act may be more generally enforced." It would be wonderful if workmen generally prayed to extend their hours of labour, but when any do, there is a strong presumption that the law which pretends to benefit them has failed. That they should generally pray for a diminution of the hours of labour when they believe—and Mr Horner encourages the belief—that they will get as much wages for short as for long time, when agitators have been systematically and continually working them up to this object for years past, is neither extraordinary nor convincing. But knowing their belief is ill founded—knowing that they cannot impose restrictions on their employers without injuring themselves—a whole cart-load of such petitions can have no weight in deciding the question, whether the law be good or bad. To the workmen it is a proved deceit and delusion, to the masters it is a wrong; the young people it deprives of bread, and the public it taxes to pay for a new species of advocacy of bad legislation by Inspectors.

The agitating adult operatives and their abettors in the press, we see, announce that they "have no longer a Ten Hours Act." "The judges of the Court of Exchequer (they say) have decided that the HORRIBLE relay and shift system is legal." They have adopted "the most firm and determined resolutions to maintain the principle of ten hours' work, and that it be continuous." "That it is of the utmost advantage to both masters and men that an uniform working of ten hours per day be enforced by Act of Parliament;" and they have pledged themselves never to rest satisfied until it be made universal. But if they have forgotten the principle put forward by them and their advocates, and on which the Legislature was induced to pass the Ten Hours Act, they must not expect that other persons have equally treacherous memories. It was not passed for them. The Legislature declined to interfere with adult labour; the Act was passed for behoof of women and young persons; and if the male operatives found their hours of labour reduced by the Act, it was only in consequence of limiting the hours of labour of women and children, and the limitation for them was not directly enacted by the Legislature. So far as women and children are concerned, the Act continues in full force. They cannot be worked more than ten hours per day; but now it is made apparent that their advantage was a pretext, and that it was always intended by the agitators to place a limitation on the hours of adult labour. On that once secret, but now avowed project, they say that "they have no longer a Ten Hours Act."

One of the recommendations of the measure, when it was passed, was, that the limitation of time would extend employment for females and young persons. Its advocates, therefore, led the Legislature to believe that they contemplated the relay system. The measure was passed to promote relays. The decision of the Court of Exchequer only gives effect to the professions of its advocates. The limitation to the hours of labour for the young, and for females, is as complete as ever; but by relays the mills may be kept running longer than ten hours, the adults

may be employed longer; and at once they denounce their own measure, carried into execution in the sense in which they recommended it to the Legislature, and declare that "they have no longer a Ten Hours Act." How will their advocates in Parliament and in the press defend this double dealing?—this cowardly creeping into a short day's work for themselves under the cloaks of women and children?—this pretext of philanthropy to cover idleness?—this pretended regard for the gentler beings committed to their charge, their own children and wives, and their imposition of a legal restriction on the rights, and their interference with the property, of their employers? The decision of the Court of Exchequer has not only settled the legal meaning of the Act—it has unmasked the designs of those who promoted it, and who made certain philanthropic noblemen and gentlemen the tools to effect their purposes. The adult operatives may get a Ten Hours Act for themselves; but when they do the time will not be far distant when the Legislature will have to settle, according to the fashion of socialist France, the hours of labour in every occupation in the kingdom, including reporters for the *Times* as well as workers in factories—in none of which will they be suffered at first to exceed ten, afterwards to be reduced to any number the omnipotent operatives may desire.

Numerous complaints are made, particularly by the restrictionists, that the moral relations between employers and employed are not what they ought to be. They are made what they are, chiefly by such laws as the Factory Act, and to place them on a proper basis and make them what they ought to be, the mutual dependence of employers and employed on each other, and the eminent advantages to both which invariably accrue from reciprocal good feeling and good behaviour, should be continually present to the minds of all. Such motives for kindness and attention are swept out of existence by a statute which substitutes for them and enforces as a law the rude demands of one class. Nobody, we presume, now doubts that the relation of employers and employed—leader and follower—the relation between superior intelligence in one, and manual dexterity in the other—is a natural relation, not the result of statute law, or mere custom; and being a natural relation, should be permitted to develop itself, like division of labour, of which it is one part, fully and perfectly, without interruption or interference. To us, it seems one of those many relations connected with individual property, continually growing from it, and developing themselves in the progress of society which all Governments are established to defend. In our judgment, then, a far more sacred principle is at stake in all such regulations, than the gratification of the whims of philanthropists and the wishes of workmen—the rights of property.

LAND DRAINAGE.

It has been well said, that to ameliorate the stubborn clays of this country, and to render them—what they are yet destined to become—some of our richest corn-bearing soils, is the next great feat of British agriculture. This is indeed a subject of national importance. The extent of land requiring drainage is enormous, and no little exertion of energy, with large outlays, will be needed to accomplish the work. But neither the energy nor the capital will be wanting, whenever land shall be freed from the fetters now imposed upon it. In the meantime the great improvement of land drainage will go on partially and irregularly. And it is a good sign that men of education and eminent engineering skill are devoting themselves to the subject. Essays and disquisitions on land-draining are no longer confined to works professedly devoted to agriculture; the reviews and literary periodicals deem the subject one of such general interest that articles upon it frequently grace their pages. In the last number of the *Quarterly Review* we find a paper on "Agriculture—Draining," from the pen of a writer, who brings classical reading and scientific knowledge to bear on this topic. Perhaps the subject has never before been treated so popularly, and yet so soundly. We believe it will do much to extend the drainage and improve the management of strong land for it will be largely read by landowners, and by landowners, in the main, must drainage works be performed. They are so essentially durable improvements, and it is so important to an estate that when drained it should be done properly and once for all, that no landowner, who has a due regard to his own interest, will hesitate to make any sacrifice to perfect, under his own supervision, the drainage of his wet land. We cannot on this occasion stop to consider the practical obstacles which exist to such improvements on the part of landowners, but will proceed at once to the art of draining, as developed in the *Quarterly's* article, and the essays "On the Philosophy and Art of Land Drainage," by Mr Josiah Parkes, C.E. In the warmer climes "water is wealth," but here the devices of science and the forces of labour are directed to relieve our cultivated soils from superabundant moisture; draining is the foundation of agricultural improvement on perhaps one-third of the land of England, and on nine-tenths of that third such foundation has not yet been laid.

After carrying his readers through the history of ancient drainage, in a style at once graphic and entertaining, the *Quarterly* reviewer explains Elkington's plan of spring drainage, and then fairly enters on the subject of modern land draining, commencing with Smith of Deanston and his practice. Springs, that is water

flowing from other and higher strata, are still to be dealt with, each according to its own circumstances, by very deep drains; but "the surface water is the main point;" the rain which falls in greater abundance than non-porous soils can absorb is the great thing to be drained off. "In England everybody farms." Princes and peers, chancellors and attorney-generals, warriors by sea and land, politicians and professional men, are now agriculturists; hence this review. The soil will attract and retain a certain quantity of water, and that quantity will promote vegetation; but if a greater quantity exists among the particles of the soil, it is "water of drainage," redundant moisture which requires to be removed. "The water of drainage" in any soil will stand at a level like any other dammed-up water. This level the reviewer calls "the water table."

Mr Smith (of Deanston) made generally known the advantages of frequent drains placed deeper than had previously been usual. His drains were laid at thirty inches; he filled them with broken stones, and carried them down the line of the steepest descent. For these things British agriculture is greatly indebted to him. Mr Parkes, however, has been the boldest and most philosophical drainer. His essays, to which we have referred, should be read and studied by every man who has occasion to lay a drain, whether to dry his lawn or his kitchen-garden or to improve a farm or an estate. Stagnant water retained in the soil beyond what the soil itself will attract is prejudicial to vegetation, and from adhesive land, when undrained, this stagnant water is removed chiefly by evaporation. Now evaporation renders the land very cold and is most rapid at that season of the year, the spring, when vegetation should be pushing forward most vigorously. Draining raises the temperature of retentive soils by discharging the water through the drains that otherwise must be removed by evaporation, and each particle of water so discharged is replaced by an equal bulk of air, at a higher temperature than the discharged water, whereby warmth is carried down into the earth. In order to prevent cold by the evaporation of the water of attraction—which, when evaporated, will be replaced in the upper soil from the drainage water below—the remedy is to "remove your water of attraction to such a depth that evaporation cannot act upon it, or but feebly." That depth the reviewer takes to be four feet. He says, "If the water table is removed to the depth of four feet, when we have allowed eighteen inches of attraction—that is, above the water table—we shall still have thirty inches of defence against evaporation." Thus the great practical questions are the depth, frequency, and direction of the drains. These are the points on which differences exist among drainers, though we entirely agree with Mr Parkes and the reviewer, that deep drains straight down the steepest line of descent are rules from which there can be no useful deviation. Here is the *rationale* of drainage:—

Water can only get into drains by gravity, which only acts by descent—technically, by fall; the fall must be proportioned to the friction which the water encounters on its passage. Suppose drains four feet deep to be placed twelve yards apart on level land, it is plain that water at that depth, lying at the intermediate point between the two drains, will not get into either of them. A fall of some inches will be required to enable it to overcome the friction of six yards of retentive soil. In order, therefore, to lower the water-table to four feet at all points, the drains must be some inches deeper than four feet. If the land lies on a slope (say four inches to the yard), drains of four feet, if driven on the line of steepest descent, will effect the object; because, though water at four feet, lying at the intermediate point between two drains, in a line at right angles to them, cannot for want of fall get into either of them by travelling six yards; it will find a fall of four inches at less than seven, and of eight inches at less than eight yards. If we must speak quite correctly, this intermediate water will never get into the drain till there is a fresh supply; it will descend perpendicularly, pushing out that which lies below it, and will be itself displaced by a fresh arrival from the heavens. In order that the whole soil, if homogeneous, or nearly so, may be drained evenly, it is manifest that the drains must be parallel. Extra friction in the soil must be met either by making the drains deeper, or by placing them nearer. On this point, which is one of practice rather than of principle, each case must be left to the sagacity of the operator. We doubt whether in any natural soil the friction is so great as to resist a fall of one inch in a yard. If we are right in this point, we should always attain the object of lowering the water-table to four feet by four feet six inch drains, parallel, and twelve yards apart. We have already stated one advantage which results on a slope from driving the parallel drains in the line of steepest descent: to wit, that when they are so driven, all water which lies at the same depth from the surface as the bottom of the drains, can find a fall into one or the other by travelling a little more than half the distance between them; whereas, if the drains are driven in the line of the slope, half the water so situated as to depth can only find a fall into the lower drain, and in order to reach it, must travel distances varying from one-half to the full interval between the two. Smith, of Deanston, stated one reason for the steep course, namely, that on slopes alternate horizontal beds of porous and retentive soil frequently cropped out; that the water issuing from the lower edge of the porous runs over the surface of the retentive; that a drain driven across the slope in the retentive leaves this issue untouched; whereas, a drain driven in the line of the slope cuts every one of these horizontal beds, draws the water to the depth of the drain out of the porous, and stops the overflow. But perhaps the greatest recommendation of the steep drain is that the water gets so freely out of it: it is no sooner in the drain than you are rid of it; whereas, in the horizontal drain it lingers, lying against the lower side, oozing through the land and inviting attraction.

The materials for making the conduit should be circular pipes—if of an inch in diameter, they must be collared to prevent displacement. The reviewer, however, treats the cheaper materials—sods, bushes, alder, willow, and so forth—somewhat too cavalierly when he says, "that in no situation is it advisable to use them." This is not so. Landlords will wisely drain, once and for

ever, if they can find the means, by using pipe tiles only; but tenants, when unaided by their landlords, will very prudently use the cheaper materials. A turf drain laid in pasture land, at thirty inches or deeper, and in a clay soil, will last thirty, forty, or fifty years; and a drain formed with bushes or the like, at three or four feet in strong arable land, will be quite effectual for a 21 years' lease. That will serve the tenant's purpose, and if the landlord is wise he will come forward and furnish his quota, to secure a more permanent drainage. Then, on much of our clay land, the vast hedge-rows furnish on the spot the material for draining, and such use of them will lead to their removal. To require only the best modes of improvement is, under the actual circumstances of the land of this country, to prohibit improvement altogether in many cases.

Then, as to the question, whether water will run freely through pipes laid deep in stiff soils; thus, says the reviewer:—

We will assume the drain to be four feet deep, and the water-table to be at one foot below the surface of the earth. Every particle of water which lies at three feet below the water-table has on it the pressure of a column of water three feet high; this pressure will drive the particle in any direction in which it finds no resistance, with a rapidity varying inversely to the friction of the medium through which the column acts. The bottom of our drain will offer no resistance, and into it particles of water will be pushed, in conformity with the rule which we have stated; rapidly, if the medium opposes little friction; slowly, if it opposes much. The water so pushed in runs off by the drain, the column of pressure being diminished in proportion to the water which runs off. Into the spot which offers no resistance, be it large or be it small, the water above that level must be pushed till the column is so reduced that its weight will not overcome friction. As friction will be greatest at the intermediate point between two parallel drains, the water will stand a little highest at that point, and will decline in a regular gradation to the level of the bottom of each drain.

And again,—

Representations are made of soils which consist of some inches of a moderately porous material reposing on a subsoil which is said to be impervious; and we are told that it is of no use to make the drain deeper into the impervious matter than will suffice for laying the conduit. If the subsoil is impervious, as glass or even as cast-iron or caoutchouc are impervious, we at once admit the soundness of the argument. We only want to ask one question—Is your subsoil moister after the rains of midwinter than it is after the drought of midsummer? If it is, it will drain. Mr Mechi asks, shrewdly enough, "If your soil is impervious how did it get wet?" This imperviousness is always predicated of strong clays—plastic clays they are sometimes called. We really thought that no one was so ignorant as not to be aware that clay lands always shrink and crack with drought, and the stiffer the clay the greater the shrinking, as brickmakers well know. In the great drought 36 years ago, we saw in a very retentive soil in the Vale of Belvoir, cracks which it was not very pleasant to ride among. This very summer, on land which, with reference to this very subject, the owner stated to be impervious, we put a walking-stick three feet into a sun-crack without finding a bottom, and the whole surface was what Mr Parkes not inappropriately calls a net-work of cracks. When heavy rain comes upon the soil in this state, of course the cracks fill, the clay imbibes the water, expands, and the cracks are abolished. But if there are four or five feet parallel drains in the land, the water passes at once into them, and is carried off. In fact, when heavy rain falls upon clay lands in this cracked state, it passes off too quickly and without adequate filtration. Into the fissures of the undrained soil the roots only penetrate to be perished by the cold and wet of the succeeding winter. But in the drained soil the roots follow the threads of vegetable mould which have been washed into the cracks, and get an abiding tenure. Earth-worms follow either the roots or the mould. Permanent schisms are established in the clay, and its whole character is changed. An old farmer in a midland county began with 20-inch drains across the hill, and, without ever reading a word, or, we believe, conversing with any one on the subject, poked his way step by step to four or five feet drains in the line of steepest descent. Showing us his drains this spring, he said—"They do better year by year; the water gets a habit of coming to them." A very correct statement of the fact, though not a very philosophical explanation. Year by year the average dryness of the soil increases, the cracks are farther extended, and seldom obliterated. A man may drain retentive soils deep and well, but he will be disappointed if he expects what is unreasonable. No intelligent and honest operator will say more, than that money judiciously expended in draining them will pay good, and generally very good, interest. If you eat off turnips with sheep, if you plough the land, or cart on it, or in any way puddle it when it is wet, of course the water will lie on the surface, and will not go to your drains. We thought that every one knew that water-courses almost invariably puddle their beds, and that the same effect is produced in pits by the treading of cattle and even by the motion of the water produced by wind. A very thin film of puddle always wet on one side is impervious because it cannot crack. No system of draining can relieve soils of water-of-attraction. That can only be exhausted by evaporation. Retentive soils hold it in excess; its reduction by evaporation produces cold; and therefore retentive soils never can be so warm as porous. Expect reasonable things only of your drained retentive soils, and you will not be disappointed.

One passage more, giving the reviewer's personal experience, which is a practical lesson to landowners, and we shall have exhausted our space:—

After thirty-six years of experience, we became tired of struggling with unskilful workmen, bad tools, and worse supervision. A perusal of one of Mr Parkes's essays induced us to look carefully into his works, and we then asked his assistance. Of course we do not mention Mr Parkes's name to the exclusion of, or even in preference to, that of any other engineer, who may have equal abilities and attainments; and if we did, we should only lead the great majority of those who wish to drain into error, for we believe that, except in cases of considerable extent, it is hardly possible to secure his services. We cannot disparage our own skill, and in truth we called in Mr Parkes as a measure of economy. A short detail of our proceedings (similar, no doubt, to those of other landowners with other engineers) will best explain how we have secured that advantage. We proceeded together to the ground, where we made trial holes, and concerted out-falls, and directions, and depths and frequency. We have no doubt that Mr Parkes would have been quite as well satisfied to settle all these points without any concert on our part. Then we began to differ. We were impatient, and wanted to begin, but Mr Parkes would not turn a sod till he saw pipes and tools and fifteen tolerable spademen, with their ordinary spades and picks, on the ground. He furnished us with a list of tools, which we procured from Mr A. Lyndon of Birmingham. They appear to be of a very enduring sort, and are extremely liked by the workmen: a set for from fifteen to twenty men costs five

guineas. Mr Parkes calculated the number and sizes of the pipes which would be required, and then made the contract for them—certainly ten per cent lower than we should have procured them, simply because the makers knew that Mr Parkes was well aware at what price they could be afforded, and was prepared, in case of necessity, to establish a tiliary, as he had previously done on estates in several counties. Pipes, tools, and spademen being at length provided, Mr Parkes brought a foreman, with whom he set out drains, and left the work under his superintendence. To this man we paid 20s per week. He understood pretty accurately the prices of work, and dealt fairly between the employer and the labourers. He instructed them in the use of the new tools. He measured up the work, kept the accounts, paid the men, and laid every pipe and collar with his own hands. It would be scarcely more absurd to set a common blacksmith to eye needles, than to employ common labourers to lay pipes and collars. For these services we pay to Mr Parkes 5s per acre drained, and some travelling expenses. In each of the two years preceding that on which we had Mr Parkes's assistance, we drained similar and adjoining land. We do not believe that Mr Parkes would have varied either the direction or the depth of any of our drains. He would have made them less frequent—intervals of twelve yards instead of ten, and ten instead of eight. Allowing for this, we find that the saving on Mr Parkes's draining, after it is debited with every charge, is more than 10s per acre. We verily believe that, in the case of a totally inexperienced landowner or bailiff, the saving would be reckoned by pounds, not by shillings. Our readers will expect that we should say something about cost. We do not think that we ever saw so favourable a combination of circumstances, that efficient thorough-draining of retentive land could be executed, at from four to five feet deep, under 4l per acre. We have seen few or no cases in which it might not be executed for 5l.

The time has come when to own or to occupy undrained stiff-land can afford but uncertain income and indifferent profits, while land of that sort offers the greatest field for improvement. Here, too, the system of house feeding can be adopted with great advantage; indeed, without, it the capacity of strong land for production cannot be developed; and who would think of house feeding till, by draining the heavy soil, he can secure large and certain crops of roots?

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND.

We have to express our deep regret that Mr Labouchere has not adopted the course which he said on Monday was open to him in dealing with the subject of the Merchant Seamen's Fund, "to undertake the responsibility of discharging all legitimate claims upon the fund, and at the same time to put an end to the system as one which had proved to be vicious." The right hon. gentleman showed that the pensions paid to the seamen under it, were "wretched doles," and unequal, bearing no proportion to the amount of their contributions to the fund, or their need; that as the seamen happened to settle at Belfast, their average pension was 7l 10s; at Liverpool, 7l; at Dundee, 6l; at Newcastle, 1l 16s; at Whitehaven, 1l 10s; at Poole, 1l 4s; at Sunderland, no return, but the rate there probably lower still; that the fund was insolvent, and in a short time would be unable to pay the pensions which the public had guaranteed. He showed at the same time, that the subject had frequently engaged the attention of Parliament, and that the mischief was entirely the result of previous acts of the Legislature to compel the seamen to provide pensions for themselves. He admitted that there was amongst the seamen great and growing discontent with the present regulations; and we believe any person acquainted with them could have informed him that this discontent has prevailed for many years. We do not believe those who have stated that the seamen will, under some promises of future support, or under any conditions whatever, readily accede to the proposed additional mulet from their wages of 6d per month. After the Legislature has levied a tax on the seamen of 1s per man per month for the express purpose of providing pensions for them, we quite agree with Mr Labouchere that they cannot be left destitute or deprived of those pensions under any pretext of mismanagement, or insufficiency of the fund; but the want of success hitherto, seems to us an adequate reason why the whole project should be henceforth abandoned, all legitimate claims on the fund paid, and the sailors hereafter allowed, like any and every other class of men to provide without compulsion, or assistance from the Government, for the wants of age.

The great objection to this is the supposition that sailors are not like other men; that they are generous and reckless; have few domestic ties; no inclination, or even power, to save a few shillings or pounds, and that they must be taken care of like children. Civilians have generally seen them in their frolicsome moods—full of pleasure at merely treading on the green earth, and inhaling its balmy air, and at having escaped from the narrow and close spot in which they have been "cribbed, cabined, and confined" for months. Civilians have generally had their attention attracted to seamen, by their mad freaks when they are really drunk by the change from sea to land, with a greater delight than ever is imparted by the most costly wine, and they have concluded that they were always equally beside themselves, and always equally unfit to be trusted. They act towards the seamen on that principle; the Legislature has taken them under its protection and care, and it has helped to make them always as childish and reckless as when they are intoxicated by the sweet breath of their mother earth. The delight they feel when they return to the land after a long voyage, cannot be altered. It is beyond the reach of legislation, but our law has assumed that the moment of intoxication is the rule of a seaman's existence, and has treated him as if he were generally out of his senses.

Mr Labouchere said that since 1746 the Seaman's Fund has existed. But he added that before that time the seamen were compelled to pay 6d a month to Greenwich Hospital, from which, unless they entered the Royal navy, they derived no benefit. That tax was continued, with not a few other injuries inflicted on the merchant seamen; and from 1746 they were compelled to pay an additional 6d a month to provide an hospital for themselves. The hospital never was provided, though the money was levied by Act of Parliament, and all the traditions of the sea are erroneous if that injustice did not for many a long day rankle in the minds of the thrice-injured seamen. The private subscriptions to the fund fell off, and in 1833 a new act was passed, which act, if not as unjust, has been quite as inefficient as the act of 1746. The seamen have never been allowed to act as free agents, and all the improvidence which is supposed to be natural to them was aggravated by the law or custom which appropriated them to the service of the state as slaves, and pretended to take charge of them as children.

From what we have heard and seen of seamen, we consider that the judgment passed on them from their momentary aberrations is very erroneous, and that they are just as capable of taking care of themselves as any portion of the community. The seamen in the coasting trade, particularly those of the North of England and Scotland, are as remarkable for prudence as any class of their countrymen. At present the shortened voyages, the use of steamers, the certainty of navigation, the improvements in the mode of victualling the seamen, all tend to approximate other navigation, so far as the habits of seamen are concerned, to a coasting trade. Dutch seamen, Danish seamen, and Norwegian seamen, we have always understood, are not addicted to the vices and recklessness attributed to English seamen. On the character of the latter, our naval victories have had perhaps a sinister influence. They have been the parents of much arrogance and presumption, and some contempt for the peaceful art of a carrier. No men have a better opportunity than seamen of saving a little money. Provided with lodging and food, without the power for weeks or months of spending money, their wages accumulate and amount to a little fund at the end of a voyage. No men are naturally more impressed than they are with the uncertainty of life and health. Their occupation exposes them to many injuries, and to sudden destruction. Captains of merchant vessels and naval officers are not deficient in prudence; and we are inclined to conclude that were the sailors treated like men bound to take care of themselves, they would be as saving, or more saving, than many of the other labouring classes. They have the means and motives to save, both of which are wanted by the wretched agricultural labourer, with the poorest possible pittance for wages, and sure of parish support.

Certainly our present system of taking ships into wet docks on their arrival, and instantly discharging all the seamen, leaving them without employment or engagement of any kind, is injurious to them. In former times a closer connection existed between ship-owners and the seamen, and the same men served the same employers for years. Now, in most cases, a fresh crew is shipped for every voyage. The employers take any seamen they can get, and the seamen go in any vessel that wants hands. But if this system be economically beneficial, it has its disadvantages. Promiscuous crews are not much to be confided in, and the cargoes of English ships are more stowed and taken care of than those of the ships of other nations. The abolition of the Navigation Laws has made it necessary for English shipowners to take care that their ships are provided with respectable crews. Mr Lindsay has begun well by proposing "prizes to be given to seamen for general good conduct and long service, and by having strict religious and moral rules printed for each ship." That must be carried further. To have good servants, the employers must take an interest in their welfare. The shipowners must remove their men from the influence and power of crimps, instead of hiring their abominable services, and they must show their servants how they can advantageously invest their hard-won earnings. They must do this for their own sake; we believe they will do it, and that the men having the means, will, in the majority of cases, take care to lay by for themselves. Such reforms are not effected in a day; but they are already begun—they are sure to continue—and at no distant day they will at least make English seamen as moral and provident as those of Holland and Denmark.

But, just as this prospect is opening on us, it is found necessary to deal with the Merchant Seamen's Fund; and Mr Labouchere, whom we should like to see indignantly cast aside such a system, proposes to extend it. He is to compel the seamen to pay 1s 6d a month instead of a shilling, and he is to come to the aid of the fund thus raised with a grant of 30,000l a-year from the public taxes. We cannot conceive anything more calculated to prevent the employers from taking a proper interest in their men, and to prevent the men from getting out of their habits of recklessness. The law tells them to rely on the state instead of on themselves. It undertakes to appropriate a portion of their income in the best manner, and gives them pensions in their old age. Such a law really panders to recklessness, and converts the drunkenness of a moment into negligence for life.

The proposed appropriation of the public money, too, seems essentially unjust. It taxes other classes of labourers—many of whom

are not so well paid—to provide pensions for the seamen. It will not, at the same time, serve the seamen. If it be an advantage, it will only tempt more persons into the employment, and beat down wages. Nor will it serve the shipowners, though it lower wages; for it will degrade the character of the seamen, place a worse class of men in the ships, and, now that our ships are exposed to competition, diminish freights. If it be good to act in this manner for the seamen, it must be good to act in a similar manner towards all other labourers, and levy twopence a week from the farm labourer and fourpence a week from the factory worker, to be appropriated, with some help from the state, to provide them with pensions in their old age. The plan seems like the beginning, or the continuance, of a kind of Louis-Blancism, against which, in the present disposition of our philanthropical and socialist classes, the Legislature cannot be too much on its guard.

Persuaded that the future well-being of our shipping, perhaps even our maritime superiority hangs on the character of our seamen, we deeply regret to see a measure proposed, calculated, in our judgment, to increase and perpetuate their degradation. As navigation is free, why are not the seamen to be free? All history demonstrates that this kind of paternal care, taken by the Legislature, whether of men or of interests, ends by weakening or destroying the protected object. It has done injury to farmers, it has done injury to seamen, and, by what process of reasoning can it be supposed that it will benefit them hereafter? We know, from the long and honourable career of the right hon. gentleman, that he has no other motive but to serve the seamen and benefit the empire; but we believe, in this case, he has allowed his good-nest of heart to run away with his usually sound judgment. Influenced, perhaps, by some of the philanthropic doctrines of the day, he believes for the moment that by this kind of regulation he can, in defiance of principle, raise the character of our seamen and soothe the declining days of many a veteran.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE MANUFACTURE OF SUGAR.

WHATEVER facilitates the manufacture of sugar is now of vital importance to our colonies and possessions within the tropics. We recur, therefore, to the subject of Dr Scoffern's improvements, noticed a fortnight ago. An inspection of the process has enabled us to speak more decidedly of it, and believing that it is calculated to benefit the sugar growers we shall describe it more at length.

It is admitted by all the authorities that we have ever consulted, that there is great waste in the manufacture of sugar. The juice is imperfectly extracted from the cane; when made it is mixed with many impurities, and only a portion of the sugar contained in the juice is ever realised. A large quantity, varying in different colonies, and according to the modes employed in the manufacture, is thrown away with the refuse. With that part of the process which is wholly mechanical, and consists in grinding the cane, and expressing the juice, Dr Scoffern's plan does not interfere. It is confined to separating the impurities from the juice, and extracting from that the utmost possible amount of sugar. It is applicable equally to refining sugar in Europe, and to obtaining in the sugar-growing countries a larger quantity of sugar of a better quality. It seems easily brought into use: it requires no new and expensive apparatus: it may be immediately adopted in all sugar refineries, and is one of those practical improvements which connects itself with all the improvements already in operation.

It is generally asserted that the quantity of sugar extracted from cane juice does not much exceed 7 per cent, and frequently falls short of that, while the juice is known to contain from 15 to 23 per cent. By the present mode of manufacture, therefore, from a half to two-thirds of the sugar is thrown away, and the great object proposed is to save that half, or two-thirds, and without any additional, or even less, labour and cost, to get a much larger quantity.

It has long been known that acetate of lead is one of the best agents for combining with the various ingredients contained in cane juice, besides the sugar, and for separating them from the sugar. But the poisonous nature of the lead was a bar to its use. The discovery of a cheap method of wholly removing it from the sugar is the gist of the new invention. Acetate of lead, or rather sub-acetate, is already manufactured for a variety of purposes; it is found in commerce in the shape of a very coarse powder, and is not a costly article. To use it for refining sugar, it is moistened with water, and brought to the consistence of cream. It is then added in sufficient quantity to the cane juice or to the sugar in solution which is intended to be refined, to take away from the sugar all the impurities. The acetic acid is liberated, the lead combines with the impurities which are deposited, and the sugar remains in solution. By far the greater portion of the lead is combined with the impurities, and is removed with them; to get rid of the whole of it, and be quite sure that it is altogether banished, sulphurous acid is added, which forms with the lead an innocuous compound called sulphite of lead, which is also separated from the sugar, and deposited. The addition of acetate of lead requires no explanation. The sulphurous acid is made on the spot by burning common brimstone in a stove constructed for the purpose. It is pumped

from a reservoir into the vessel containing the cane juice or the dissolved sugar, and the workman judges by the appearance of the liquid when enough has been applied. To make quite sure, however, of the total removal of the lead, he carries a glassful to an overseer, who applies to it a very delicate test, which indicates the presence of a millionth portion of lead in the juice, and if the presence of lead be indicated by the test, more sulphurous acid is added. The superfluous acid, all which does not combine with the lead, is blown off in the shape of gas by the high temperature of the boiling sugar. Some free acetic acid is perhaps left in the sugar, and this is removed by the application of a small quantity of ground chalk, which combines with the acid and is deposited. The sugar is then crystallised, and dried in the usual manner.

It is calculated that by this process the quantity of sugar extracted from the cane juice, or from the sugar dissolved for refining, may be increased in the former case from 50 to 100 per cent, and in the latter very considerably, in proportion to the quality of the sugar refined. For our refiners the discovery is of great advantage, as it enables them to use coarser sugar, with as beneficial results as if they used finer sugars. It will enable them to dispense with the animal charcoal, and the blood they now use for the same purpose as the acetate of lead. The refined sugar produced by the new process is considered superior to the old, though obtained from sugar of a lower quality. It is found sufficiently advantageous to enable the refiners to pay Dr Scoffern, the discoverer, a considerable per centage on all the sugar refined by his method.

But it will be of most value in the sugar colonies. It will enable a planter, at the same cost, to make one-third, one-half, or even twice as much sugar from the same quantity of cane. It will reduce the cost of his sugar very considerably. It will enable him, too, at the same cost, to produce a much better article, and send home a sugar refined to a great degree, instead of cramming his hogsheads and loading his ships with a mixture of sugar and worthless impurities. The acetate of lead may be cheaply manufactured in any of the islands. It is only a combination of lead and the commonest kind of vinegar. A saving of time will be effected, as the combination of the lead with the impurities is immediate, and the sugar may be strained without waiting till the impurities are deposited. The use of lime, which is injurious to sugar, is dispensed with. Of course there will be nothing to prevent other sugar colonies, as well as our own, from adopting these improvements, but adopted, we are persuaded, they will be, and those who neglect to adopt them will suffer. Competition can no longer be excluded, and henceforth success will be due exclusively to skill and industry. If these be not sufficient to counterbalance all the presumed advantages of soil and climate and slave labour, they play such a large part in the production of all saleable commodities, that without them no colony, no trade, no individual, can now prosper.

SUPPLY OF WATER TO THE METROPOLIS.

THE EAST LONDON COMPANY.

WE have received the following communication from Mr Wicksteed, the engineer to the East London Water Works Company, and publish it to set that company right with the public. The error obviously arose from the Report of the Commissioners, and from its not being known that the Company had taken means to remove the source of their supply higher up the river. To explain why the subject has been allowed to stand over till now, we must add that circumstances prevented the communication reaching us till the present week, though it was made and transmitted to a third party upwards of a fortnight ago:—

In an article published in the *Economist*, Jan. 12th 1850, and headed "Water for the Metropolis," it is stated that "The East London draws its supply from the river Lee near its confluence with the Thames, is charged with occasionally taking up some of the impurities of the latter, has large reservoirs at Bow," &c.

The East London draws its supply from the river Lee, near to the Lee Bridge Mills, at a point in the river upwards of six miles from the Thames, and far above the influence even of the tide.

That the Report of the Royal Commissioners upon the supply of water to the metropolis in the year 1828, contained the following statement:—

"That the East London Water Works are situated at Old Ford on the river Lee, but as the tide of the Thames flows up that river to the extent of a mile beyond the works, and as their supplies are taken during the ascending tide, the description of water thus furnished will closely approximate to that of the Thames."

In consequence of this statement in the Report, the Company immediately applied to Parliament for powers to enable them to take their water from a higher point in the river, and beyond the influence of the tide.

In June 1829, they obtained an Act of Parliament, and in June 1834, their new works were completed, since which period the water supplied by them has been conveyed from Lee Bridge Mills "by means of a new aqueduct insulated from all other water," these being the words used by Mr Telford in his report to the Lords of the Treasury in 1834.

In doing this, the Company incurred a very large outlay, but did not in consequence increase their rates.

In another part of the article in the *Economist*, the following words appear:—"It astonishes us to learn on such unquestionable authority as that of Sir William Clay, that the bulk of the water consumed in the metropolis is taken from the Thames and the Lee, and taken from them at points comparatively low down."

The fact is, that the New River and East London Water Companies distribute two-thirds of the water supplied to the metropolis, and neither of them at present take their water from the Thames, but from the river Lee, at points where it is impossible there can be any admixture of Thames water.

Facts and Figures.

POOR RATES.—The following very important table is extracted from the Appendix to the Second Annual Report of the Poor Law Board, presented in the present week to parliament. It contains a comparative statement of the numbers of able-bodied persons who were receiving relief in England and Wales, on the 1st of January 1848, and on the same day in 1849; by which it will be seen that at the later date, the numbers were 31,142 fewer than at the former date. Moreover, it will be observed that in the great majority of agricultural counties a considerable diminution has taken place:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT, showing the number of Adult Able-bodied Paupers (Male and Female) in Receipt of Relief on the 1st of January 1849, and the 1st of January 1850, respectively, in 548 Unions and Single Parishes in England and Wales, under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, exclusive of Vagrants and Insane Persons.

| Names of Counties. | Number of Unions in each. | Population in 1841. | Total Number of Adult Able-bodied relieved, In-door and Out door. | | Increase or Decrease per Cent. | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------|---|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| | | | Jan. 1, 1849. | Jan. 1, 1850. | Inc. | Dec. |
| ENGLAND:— | | | | | | |
| Bedford | 6 | 112,379 | 1,780 | 1,277 | ... | 28.3 |
| Berks | 12 | 190,367 | 3,234 | 2,692 | ... | 16.8 |
| Buckingham | 7 | 138,255 | 8,009 | 2,747 | ... | 8.7 |
| Cambridge | 9 | 171,848 | 3,950 | 3,786 | ... | 4.2 |
| Chester | 9 | 344,860 | 3,096 | 2,315 | ... | 25.2 |
| Cornwall | 13 | 340,728 | 3,967 | 3,143 | ... | 19.6 |
| Cumberland | 9 | 177,912 | 1,762 | 1,334 | ... | 24.3 |
| Derby | 9 | 242,786 | 1,365 | 1,021 | ... | 25.2 |
| Devon | 17 | 430,221 | 4,847 | 4,347 | ... | 10.3 |
| Dorset | 12 | 167,874 | 2,234 | 2,979 | ... | 7.9 |
| Durham | 14 | 320,055 | 3,941 | 4,170 | ... | 5.8 |
| Essex | 17 | 320,818 | 5,883 | 6,041 | ... | 2.7 |
| Gloucester | 16 | 330,562 | 4,343 | 3,685 | ... | 15.2 |
| Hertford | 8 | 110,675 | 1,899 | 1,561 | ... | 17.8 |
| Huntingdon | 13 | 176,173 | 3,085 | 2,539 | ... | 18.0 |
| Kent | 3 | 55,573 | 774 | 689 | ... | 14.9 |
| Lancaster | 27 | 534,882 | 7,584 | 7,511 | ... | 1.0 |
| Leicester | 26 | 1,496,602 | 28,379 | 17,822 | ... | 37.2 |
| Lincoln | 11 | 226,232 | 4,275 | 3,255 | ... | 23.9 |
| Middlesex | 14 | 356,347 | 2,969 | 3,289 | ... | 10.8 |
| Monmouth | 18 | 679,914 | 13,638 | 11,600 | ... | 16.2 |
| Norfolk | 6 | 156,222 | 2,057 | 1,445 | ... | 29.8 |
| Northampton | 20 | 319,246 | 5,073 | 5,058 | ... | 0.3 |
| Northumberland | 12 | 192,104 | 3,089 | 2,764 | ... | 10.5 |
| Nottingham | 12 | 295,988 | 3,386 | 3,704 | ... | 9.4 |
| Oxford | 9 | 270,719 | 2,835 | 2,109 | ... | 25.6 |
| Rutland | 8 | 143,510 | 3,082 | 2,633 | ... | 14.6 |
| Salop | 2 | 23,150 | 192 | 208 | ... | 8.3 |
| Somerset | 13 | 191,052 | 1,725 | 1,568 | ... | 9.1 |
| Southampton | 17 | 454,446 | 6,649 | 5,742 | ... | 13.6 |
| Stafford | 23 | 268,989 | 5,605 | 5,261 | ... | 6.1 |
| Suffolk | 15 | 396,057 | 3,337 | 3,019 | ... | 9.5 |
| Surrey | 16 | 302,178 | 4,815 | 5,638 | ... | 17.1 |
| Sussex | 15 | 311,870 | 6,299 | 5,053 | ... | 19.8 |
| Warwick | 20 | 223,623 | 4,120 | 3,781 | ... | 8.2 |
| Westmoreland | 12 | 358,244 | 5,728 | 3,860 | ... | 32.6 |
| Wiltshire | 3 | 56,469 | 655 | 578 | ... | 11.8 |
| Worcester | 17 | 223,246 | 4,596 | 3,922 | ... | 14.7 |
| York, East Riding | 13 | 336,168 | 3,434 | 3,412 | ... | 0.6 |
| York, West Riding | 9 | 180,218 | 1,703 | 1,668 | ... | 2.1 |
| North Riding | 15 | 180,643 | 1,280 | 1,233 | ... | 3.7 |
| West Riding | 21 | 886,098 | 14,299 | 8,980 | ... | 37.2 |
| 548 Unions in England | 548 | 12,666,243 | 191,113 | 159,629 | ... | 16.5 |
| WALES:— | | | | | | |
| Anglesey | 1 | 38,105 | 781 | 768 | ... | 1.7 |
| Brecon | 4 | 55,399 | 277 | 272 | ... | 1.8 |
| Cardigan | 5 | 75,136 | 748 | 731 | ... | 2.3 |
| Cardarvan | 5 | 110,404 | 934 | 1,016 | ... | 8.8 |
| Cardarvan | 3 | 86,728 | 1,745 | 1,732 | ... | 0.7 |
| Denbigh | 4 | 68,493 | 774 | 577 | ... | 25.5 |
| Flint | 2 | 64,355 | 668 | 512 | ... | 25.6 |
| Glamorgan | 8 | 178,641 | 2,094 | 2,691 | ... | 28.5 |
| Merioneth | 4 | 50,696 | 664 | 645 | ... | 2.9 |
| Montgomery | 3 | 58,709 | 874 | 934 | ... | 6.9 |
| Pembroke | 3 | 78,563 | 621 | 667 | ... | 6.9 |
| Radnor | 3 | 19,554 | 328 | 328 | ... | ... |
| 42 Unions in Wales | 42 | 884,173 | 10,531 | 10,873 | ... | 3.2 |
| 590 Unions in England and Wales | 590 | 13,550,416 | 201,644 | 170,502 | ... | 15.4 |

Agriculture.

IRELAND, A FIELD FOR AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE.

THAT English land is not half cultivated is admitted; and that by the division of farms in many districts, much would be done both to supply the existing demand for farms, and to improve our husbandry, is beyond all question. Such changes, however, must be the result of arrangements which will require more or less time to accomplish. In the meantime, attention has been turned to Ireland as a country in which farming capital and skill are much wanted, and where, as there is some reason to believe, English capitalists may either buy or rent land with a fair prospect of remuneration. There are various signs that British enterprise is likely to take that direction. Some Scotch and English farmers have taken farms in Ireland; a few British capitalists have recently bought land there. Projects are in agitation for the formation of joint stock companies to deal in land, and more than one agency has been opened in London for facilitating transactions for the purchase or hiring of Irish land.

But by far the most practical, and, to the British farmer, the most satisfactory evidence on the subject is to be found in the recent work of Mr Caird (of Baldoon), "On the West of Ireland as a Field for Investment." In the autumn of last year, Mr Caird made a six week's tour in the West and South-West of Ireland, in order to judge of

the chance of success for some such plantation scheme as that suggested by Sir Robert Peel; and though the writer in form recommends such a plan, the facts and details he states, show that the more natural and wholesome operation of individual or corporate enterprise is most likely to effect the "regeneration of Ireland." As showing that there is room and fair expectation of reward for such enterprise, his information is most valuable; but it cannot be doubted that he has passed somewhat too lightly over some of the chief difficulties which would beset the British farmer in Ireland. And it is as a field for British agricultural enterprise, that we shall on this occasion chiefly notice this work. For the purchase of land, Ireland is likely to hold out still greater inducements, as we may hereafter have occasion to show.

First, then, the English farmer, who contemplates embarking in husbandry in Ireland, especially in the West and South, must throw overboard much of his fondness for wheat growing, and must form his calculations mainly on stock husbandry of some kind.

The character of the climate, the mildness of the winters, and the constant moisture in the atmosphere, render this absolutely certain. But for stock farming, Ireland, by nature, is, perhaps, the most favourable country in the world, and the soil of many extensive districts is most fertile. The people, however, have yet to learn habits of industry. At Mullingar, in Westmeath, Mr Caird arrived on market-day, and had an opportunity of seeing much of the defects of Irish husbandmen. From thence to Athlone, 31 miles, "you pass continuous fields of the finest feeding land," and this is the general character of Westmeath. But the land is wretchedly mismanaged.

The people employed in the fields seemed everywhere to take things easy. All the reapers had on that apparently indispensable garment, a long-tailed frieze-coat, and they certainly did not look as if their work would keep them warm without it. In haymaking, a good deal of which was going on, the men all worked with the coat on; indeed, I did not see a man at fieldwork of any kind without it. Who ever saw a harvest-field in Scotland, or a hay-field, with the men working in long-tailed coats? There, an Irishman strips to his work in harvest, and does it well. Here, the frog-like appearance of the men, with the tails of their coats jerking behind them, as they bend to their work, presents a striking contrast to the conduct of the same men when on the other side of the channel, under proper superintendence, and with the stimulus of good wages.

Perhaps one of the worst symptoms mentioned by the writer is the decrease of sheep in these parts of Ireland, partly because graziers are obliged to stock their land with cattle instead of sheep, on account of the difficulty of preventing sheep-stealing in the more distressed districts. It appears from the Constabulary Returns for 1847 and 1848, that the number of sheep in Connaught in the latter, as compared with the preceding year, had diminished by one-fourth of the whole stock, or from 595,737 in 1847, to 471,205 in 1848. This is partly attributable to the great quantity of land which has fallen into the landlord's hands, and remains unstocked and unoccupied. At Ballinasloe fair, which Mr Caird attended, "the sheep were generally splendid, the best three year-old wethers selling at upwards of 50s each." This, with the fact that good hay sells at 18s to 20s a-ton, will show the English stock-farmer what he might do in Ireland. The following plan of providing for the winter consumption strikes us as being more ingenious than economical:—

On the grazing farms, the method of providing the winter food seems to be this. Certain fields are shut up for hay. When it is made, it is built in very large round ricks, a pole being first fixed in the ground, round which as a centre the hay is built. The rick is then encircled with a paling, 12 feet or so distant from it all round. The paling is open below, so as to admit sheep but not cattle. The field is then shut up from stock, that there may be a good aftergrowth. At the fall of the season the sheep and young cattle are admitted to these fields. When the weather is severe, the sheep go through the paling to eat the hay, at the same time pulling out much more than they eat. The shepherd throws this over to the young cattle. As the sheep eat into the bottom of the rick, it gradually slides down the pole which keeps it all together. The whole plan is economical and ingenious. One rick, with the aftergrowth of grass, generally affords food for 200 sheep and 10 young cattle. In some cases, the meadow land round the rick is too soft for cattle, or might be injured by their feet in winter. When this is the case, the cattle are kept outside of the field within which the hay is stacked, the sheep getting access to it by the sheep-holes in the walls. The shepherd then carries the hay for the cattle to the outside of the wall, laying it down for them at the most sheltered part.

But to go more directly to the question of farms to be hired. And first it may be mentioned that the much-talked-of Martin Estate is little more than bog and mountain, and at best not likely to be converted into anything more profitable than mountain sheep or cattle farms. It is to the more fertile localities English or Scotch farmers look. At Hollymount, near Kiltrush, Mayo, Mr Lindsay, the proprietor, "would build the necessary farmhouse and standing for a tenant of capital on a farm of 400 acres of prime land. It is almost all old pasture, well fenced. It is rich, dry, hazelly land, admirably suited for sheep, intersected by good roads, and in excellent condition." Another farm of the same size, with buildings, might be had at Kiltrush on lease for 19 or 21 years, at 25s per imperial acre, the proprietor completing the drainage, and "taking upon himself all rates and burdens whatsoever." Other farms in the same district are specified. Of one at Kilmain, Mr Caird says:—

There is no wood here, but the stone walls are even more than usually substantial and good. The greatest part of the farm is the finest feeding land for sheep and cattle—dry, friable, undulating land, all on limestone. The fields of rich old grass are superior to anything we have, except in small patches, in any part of Scotland I at present remember. The best of it is too good for tillage, but about one half of it might be profitably brought under the plough. The sheep and cattle then grazing on it were excellent. This is a very desirable farm, though the neighbourhood did not appear so inviting as in any of those which I had previously visited. The proprietor would erect all necessary buildings; and, as there are none at present, these could be constructed on the most approved plan. The present rent paid for this farm by an extensive grazier, an excellent tenant, is not more than 25s per Irish acre, the owner paying all rates of every kind.

And the circumstances of the neighbourhood are generally favourable:—

These farms all lie upon limestone, with access to "turf." They are twenty to twenty-eight miles from Oranmore, the nearest station on the Dublin and Galway railway: which station, when the line is opened, may be five hours' ride to Dublin. They are likewise within from three to ten miles from Lough Corib, which in two years is expected to be navigable by steamers from Galway and the sea, some thirty miles distant. Their height above sea level does not at any point exceed 150 feet. The winters are mild, and the climate most suitable for grass and green crops: the soil is in every way adapted for feeding off green crops if desirable, or for finishing sheep and cattle for the fat market. The milk and butter are of the richest quality. Labourers' wages are at present from 8d to 10d a day,—the people most peaceable, and very intelligent, though negligent and idle to an uncommon degree, if not carefully superintended. Land may be dug over by contract twelve inches deep, all the large stones laid on the surface, and the whole placed in a fine state for further operations for about 11 per English acre. Lime can be burned on every farm at from 5d to 6d a barrel, of three imperial bushels. The rapidity with which the land on this limestone subsoil recovers itself, and, without any seeds being sown, reverts to good pasture, is very remarkable. I saw one instance here of a field exhausted to the last degree, as I was assured, by the con-acre system,—which had been abandoned to nature not more than five years ago, and it is now covered with a rich sward of grass.

Lord Lucan's farms, too, would seem to deserve attention:—

Next day we examined the farms of Cloonagashel and Gallowhill, a portion of Lord Lucan's estate, in the neighbourhood of Ballinrobe. A considerable part of both these farms, which are nearly 2,000 acres in extent, is under tillage; nearly all of it divided into regular enclosures, with excellent stone-and-lime walls. The soil consists partly of a fertile black mould, of great depth, on a limestone gravel, with some stronger land and some lighter, but all admirably adapted for green crops and grass; and, from the level nature of the ground, and its gentle slopes to the sun, well suited for tillage. There are two farm-steadings lately constructed, with threshing machinery, &c. Two or three farms, of from 700 to 1,000 acres of land, could be got here, as good land as the average of East Lothian, at a rent of 18s the imperial acre, and the poor rate guaranteed not to exceed 1s per 1l. The tenant must also pay the grand-jury cess; but Lord Lucan hands his farms over to his tenants with every permanent improvement executed—so that the farmer may have nothing to do, but to stock and work his farm. Wheat and barley are grown on both farms, and lime is to be got on the land at from 5d to 6d a barrel, and has been applied with excellent effect.

If the clearing system be wise, which we doubt, Lord Lucan seems to have carried it out energetically:—

Lord Lucan is probably the most extensive tillage farmer in Great Britain. He has at present upwards of 10,000 acres under his personal superintendence, having farm stewards on the different farms, who take all their instructions from himself. He had this year upwards of 1,000 acres of white crop, and between 400 and 500 acres of green crop. He had a stock of 800 cattle, 60 of which are working bullocks, and 600 sheep. He has 40 workhorses, and gives daily employment on his farms to 600 men, including those who are making drains, &c. The whole of this extensive establishment is managed in the most orderly and systematic way—each department has its separate head, who is answerable for it alone—and the quiet and regular progress with which everything is going on at once convinces the spectator that the ruling mind here is defective neither in energy nor skill. It is a great and most important experiment, and assuredly deserves to be successful.

Landlords generally, even those of the highest class in the empire, might do well to take a lesson from the example of Lord Lucan. He has not thought it beneath his station to acquire an intimate practical knowledge of his own BUSINESS—the management of his estate.

Nor would farmers dealing fairly with the peasantry, find them difficult to manage, but hitherto they have not been fairly dealt by:

The peasantry of Connemara are very intelligent, and make good workmen, when fairly treated and well managed. I was assured by a Kildare man, who manages a small property in this district, that he could get more work done in Connemara for 8d a day than in his own county for 1s 2d. He pays wages every night: and the people, getting their money regularly, and knowing what they are to get, work well for it. The employers of labour, generally, in the West of Ireland, are not overburdened with ready money. They do not pay their labourers with regularity, and accordingly the people become disheartened, and their labour is then indolently and very grudgingly given. I am assured by a gentleman who occasionally had under his direction the employment of several hundred men, that he at first found great unwillingness on their part to task-work; but after some trial with them, they became very fond of it. And what was the reason? Their former employers had given them task-work; but at the end of the week, finding that the people were earning more than the usual rate of wages, they lowered the contracts, and thus discouraged the system altogether. As soon as the men found that the rate for their work was lowered in proportion as they the more exerted themselves, they naturally became disgusted with task-work. But this gentleman continued the same rate throughout; and the men, finding that they were not taken advantage of, worked willingly, and made good wages.

In Clare and Limerick, Mr Caird found much fine land wretchedly managed:—

Proceeding southwards from Ennis, the country improves. The road across the Fergus at Clare, to which town the river is navigable by large vessels. Along both banks of this river to its junction with the Shannon, being a distance of eight or ten miles on each side, are fine tracts of rich alluvial land, called "corcaes," which yielded very high rents before the famine. These rich flats are banked off from the inroads of the tide, being in many places under high-water mark of spring-tides. Where they have been left in their natural state, they are exceedingly fertile, producing heavy crops of hay year after year, or carrying large stocks of sheep and cattle. They have been generally let in farms of considerable extent, and 3l 10s per Irish acre, besides grand jury cess, &c., was no uncommon rent for a large farm. The custom of the tenants was to sublet certain portions to the farmers of the upper country for meadow, at rents varying from 6l to 8l an acre; and being fettered by no restrictions in their management, other parts were con-acred for potatoes at even greater rents, the tenant afterwards putting in the grain crop, and frequently selling it, with the straw, before cutting. In this way the actual tenant employed almost no labourers; and the resources of the farmers in the upper country failing with the potato failure, they were unable to take meadow, while the labouring class, of course, from the same cause, ceased to con-acre. The tenant, thrown on his own resources, had neither capital nor skill to meet this new order of things, and the distress and abandonment of farms is accordingly as great on some of these naturally rich lands as on the poorest. The land which had been con-acred is reverting to grass; but any farmer who has ever been accustomed to strong alluvial land may guess to what a foul state it has been reduced by this most negligent and injudicious management.

On the Shannon the land seems—notwithstanding mismanagement—to have been very productive:—

At Cratloe, four miles west of Limerick, the residence of Mr Augustus Stafford, M.P., which I subsequently visited, I learned from a respectable farmer, and a man of intelligence, that the usual mode of management in this country, is to keep all the tillage-land in a constant succession of crops, and the land which is required for stock always in grass. The course followed is to take—

1. Green crop, wheat, oats, or barley.
2. Green crop, oats or barley, oats.

Then begin again, and so repeat the course: 300 stones of wheat to the Irish acre, equal to 70 imperial bushels, and 300 to 400 stones of barley, equal to 80 to 100 bushels, are said to be no uncommon crops. These are equivalents to 43 bushels of wheat, and 56 to 65 bushels of barley, per English acre, and must be regarded, under the present mode of management, as indicating a soil of the highest fertility. Rents are falling rapidly in this quarter: one farm of fine quality, which used to be let at 2l 10s, is now offered at 1l 5s an Irish acre. Another of 300 acres, principally fine old grass, let to a dairy farmer at nine hundred guineas, has lately been reduced to six hundred.

But Irish landlords seem only to be reducing their rents when the tenants cannot pay, as, for instance, in the following case:—

The fears entertained by the more intelligent class of farmers as to the injury they are likely to suffer from the progressive increase of rates, are illustrated by the case of a tenant, on whose farm I was to-day, and which is now to be let. This man came to the country thirteen years ago with not more than 100l of capital. His landlord lent him 300l, and with this he contrived to stock and carry on a farm of 300 acres. He was very skilful in the management of sheep stock, and introduced the best rams from England, with which he improved his own stock, and then sold their produce at high prices in the surrounding country. So well did this succeed, that in a few years he repaid his landlord the borrowed money, besides, at the same time, greatly increasing the numbers and quality of his farm-stock. The frightful increase of rates, with diminished prices of produce, alarmed him: he found the capital which he had accumulated by skill and industry slipping away; he could not get what he considered an adequate abatement of rent from his landlord, though the increase in his rates amounted to nearly a second rent; so, availing himself of the power of surrender, which is fortunately a clause introduced into most Irish leases, he determined to sell all off, and quit the country for New Zealand. After paying all his debt, he has retired with a capital of 1,000l, and his farm is abandoned to the landlord, who is now anxious to get a solvent tenant at a lower rent than, I am assured, this man would have gladly paid, and remained in the country.

Here is a farm to let in Limerick:—

On the morning of 30th October, accompanied by Mr Cox, I left Tervoe to examine a farm of Sir David Roche's, about two and a half miles to the west of Limerick. It consisted of 300 Irish acres (485 English) of fine dry, red land, laid out into large fields, with an excellent dwelling-house, and extensive, well-arranged farm-buildings. It is adapted for all the usually cultivated crops, and particularly good for grazing. The proximity to Limerick will enable the tenant to draw three loads a day of manure from town with the same horses, paying only 1s a load of 30 cwt for the manure. It, of course, has the same facility for getting away produce. The farm is all in the proprietor's hands; no one will be dispossessed, and a favourable entry would be given to a suitable tenant. It has been farmed for some years by Sir David, and no expense spared to put it in good order. It will be let on lease for 2l 5s an Irish acre, (about 28s an English acre,) the tenant being freed from rates and taxes. The people are quiet and well-disposed; of this I am assured by Mr Irvine, the bailiff, who is a Scotchman. I can very strongly recommend this farm as being well worth the attention of a tenant with adequate capital. Such a man could not fail to make it answer, as there is no risk of his being swamped by an indefinite increase of taxation.

We have space for but one more extract, which will be the writer's general view of farmers' investments in the West of Ireland:—

A farmer taking land in any of the Western counties, with a view to its cultivation, will be welcomed as a benefactor by the labouring population. He will of course wisely avoid any interference with the parties still in possession of land, as there is plenty of land in the country unoccupied; and numerous demesnes which have always hitherto been in the proprietor's hands, but which many are now desirous to let. These are generally provided with good buildings; but, at any rate, there are several landlords willing to erect, at their own expense, all necessary buildings, as mentioned in the foregoing pages. On making their agreements, they must take care that the party with whom they wish to agree has full authority to conclude a bargain; and I would again caution them not to enter into any engagement without fixing precisely the amount of rates of all kinds, as well as rent, for which they are to be liable. If prudent, skilful men, with sufficient capital, go to that country, they can scarcely fail to succeed. Rents are now considerably lower than land of similar quality can yet be got for in this country. Indeed, I think the outlet which farmers from England and Scotland are likely to find in the best parts of the West of Ireland, may prove a wholesome check to the gradual, but constant, rise of rents, which has been going on for many years back on all the green crop lands of the Northern division of Great Britain. There is one point of practical detail in which new men would probably introduce a change. I mean as regards the earlier maturity of sheep. On the great proportion of good land in the West of Ireland there can be nothing to prevent sheep being sold fat at twelve to fifteen months, instead of three years as at present, turnips, or other artificial winter food, being of course provided. The accomplishment of this change would make a very material increase to the wealth of that country.

PROFIT FROM PIG FEEDING.

ACCURATE statements of facts and figures in husbandry are always useful, and especially so at this time when so many hypothetical balance-sheets of farming transactions are put forth to prove the utter hopelessness of profit from farming. The following statement of the produce obtained from pigs on a small farm in Hertfordshire, places in a strong point of view one of the advantages offered to the farmer by cheap grain, if he likes to avail himself of it. The farm consists of 150 acres, of which about 80 are arable, the rest grass. The soil is a strong clay, on which turnips cannot usually be fed off with sheep, and consequently, it is a great object to obtain on the farm as much manure as possible. For that purpose a large stock of pigs has always been kept, and when corn has been high priced, such manure was considered to have been produced at a dear rate. Even then, however, it was thought to be obtained more cheaply, at all events more conveniently, than by drawing it from London—sixteen miles—as

is done to some extent in the neighbourhood, as well as upon this farm. The account of the pigs for the year 1849 is, on the contrary, a very good one.

On the 1st of January 1849, there was a stock of five breeding sows and 32 store pigs, of different ages, only four of them, however, being of large size. In the spring and summer, 37 young pigs were bought at the average price of about 16s or 17s each, and 88 were sold during the year, all being fat except four or five, sold as matter of accommodation to neighbours. Some beans and peas grown on the farm were used, and are charged at the same prices as similar kinds of food actually cost. The young pigs bred have a certain portion of corn from the time they first begin to eat, at about three weeks old, and are thus always kept in a thriving state. From May to November, all the stock of pigs have the run of a three-acre paddock, and after the harvest they are turned into the stubbles until the land is ploughed up. There is also some food from the acorns growing on the farm during parts of September and October. During part of the winter, January and February 1849, some swedes grown on the farm were boiled and given to all the pig stock; perhaps three or four tons were so applied. The fuel consisted of wood, the branches of trees felled on the farm for repairs, and cost the tenant only the labour of carting and cutting into suitable lengths for burning.

A little skim milk was given to each lot of young pigs for four or five weeks, until they could maintain themselves on corn, which, by feeding them as early as possible, they can generally do as soon as weaned; but most of the milk produced is required for rearing calves. No money value has been attributed to these particulars, being little, if any, as most of them would have been merely wasted had there been no pigs. No charge is made for attendance, one man having the care of the sheep and cattle as well as the pigs, and he would have been kept and paid the same wages had there been no pig on the farm. Of the 37 purchased pigs four died, one lot having proved to be rather stunted and delicate, and five of them were partly fat and unsold at the commencement of the present year; consequently, of the 88 pigs sold, 60 were bred on the farm, giving an average yearly produce of 12 pigs from each sow.

| | | | |
|--|-----|----|---|
| 88 pigs sold between 1st Jan. and 31st Dec. 1849, for | £ | s | d |
| The food bought from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec. 1849, consisting of beans, peas, barley, damaged wheat, pollard, middlings, and other miller's offal, and including some beans, peas, and barley, grown on the farm, cost | 99 | 6 | 3 |
| Deduct for food consumed by a considerable stock of poultry, chiefly fed from the corn charged to the pigs | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| | 94 | 6 | 3 |
| Cost of pigs bought from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec. 1849..... | 30 | 4 | 0 |
| | 124 | 10 | 3 |
| Balance of profit | 34 | 15 | 9 |
| | 159 | 6 | 0 |
| Profit | 34 | 15 | 9 |
| To which must be added, the value on the 31st Dec. 1849, of five large pigs then feeding, being part of those purchased as above, at 2l each..... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| | 44 | 15 | 9 |

In addition to which there was the value of a considerable quantity of good manure at 8s per two-horse load, the price paid for manure to jobbing hay carters, who bring it from London.

On the 1st of January 1850 the stock of pigs on the farm consisted, besides the five feeding hogs before referred to, of five breeding sows, one boar, and 33 store pigs; consequently, the stock is now larger by two pigs than at the corresponding period of 1849, and the above food maintained all the breeding and store stock as well as that fattened and sold. The greater part of the pigs were sold as small porkers, each weighing from six to eight stones (eight lbs to the stone); but about 25 large hogs were sold in October and November last at the low rates which then ruled, so no advantage of price was obtained. But, on the other hand, a considerable quantity of foreign wheat, which had been damaged by sea water and afterwards dried, was purchased at 17s a quarter, and on this all the stock, stores and feeding pigs, was mainly kept for several months at a very cheap rate. The above statement, which, unlike "Blackwood's Statistics," is in no degree hypothetical, but the literal results of actual transactions in farming, very much bears out Mr Huxtable's experience in pig feeding, and unquestionably shows how valuable cheap grain may be made to the farmer. It should have been mentioned that a very small boy was engaged for about seven or eight weeks at 2s per week to watch the pigs when on the stubbles and when feeding on the acorns.

SPIRIT OF THE TRADE CIRCULARS.

(From Mr H. F. Menger's Circular.)

Odessa, Jan. 28, 1850.

Grain is at all times the chief article of our trade, and although last year has been far from being favourable for corn merchants, they have shipped to England in 1849 only about 15,000 quarters less than in 1848, but 20,000 quarters more than in 1847, and more than three times the quantity of any previous year. It is evident that the alteration of English corn laws has been followed by a decided increase of our direct trade with the United Kingdom for where formerly only exceptional grain shipments were making, the sliding scale rendering such business too hazardous between distant countries.

Our tables of grain exports since 1844, show that but a small proportion of it formerly went from hence direct to England, and that the bulk of it used to go to Trieste, Leghorn, Genoa, Marseilles, and other free ports, from where no doubt a large portion may have found its way to England, whenever any sudden demand arose, such shipments from thence being less exposed to loss by declining prices and rising duties, on account of the smaller distance, than if the article had been bought and shipped at the more distant place of its growth,—with us.

At present the corn trade with England, not any longer coupled with such enormous risk, has become more respectable in general opinion, and much more capital and intelligence may be and has been already invested in it. As our

country in good years can export largely—more than double of what we have shipped last year, and as it is evident we shall now have a regular trade of it for the United Kingdom, the conveyance of this bulky article will constantly employ a considerable amount of tonnage, and ship-owners may find the Black Sea trade more and more worth their attention.

Hitherto by far the greater portion of the goods shipped from hence to the United Kingdom has been carried by British vessels, and we may fairly expect that the same, at least for some time to come, will continue to have a preference, although the impression is prevailing here, that grain cargoes are less taken care of by English masters and crews than by foreigners. Nevertheless, British first class vessels still use to command nearly five per cent higher freights than foreigners of the same description. Vessels of Northern nations, as German, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, &c., ought to be able to compete successfully with English, but hitherto have little profited by the repeal of the Navigation Act. Such vessels, if built of good materials and well classed, will be well liked here for the grain carrying trade, as their masters enjoy a good reputation for knowledge of navigation, sobriety, and attention to the cargoes entrusted to them.

The plurality of Mediterranean vessels will always prefer voyages within the Straits of Gibraltar if retributing freights can be obtained; there are, however, some very fine vessels amongst the Austrian and Sardinian mercantile fleet, which merchants will be glad to employ for longer voyages, particularly during the good season. Their captains, accustomed to carry grain, know well to take care of such cargoes and offer the, though small, yet here much thought of, advantage of carrying their dunnage with them, thereby saving merchants an onerous expense which mostly proves a dead loss.

Of the shipping employed here in 1849 for the United Kingdom there have been

| | | | | | | |
|--|--------|------|--------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Under British colours | 62,603 | tons | tallow | or about | 89 | per cent |
| — Russian | 17,154 | — | — | — | 16 | — |
| — German and other Northern colonies | 1,880 | — | — | — | less than 2 | — |
| — different Mediterranean | 25,878 | — | — | — | about 23 | — |

Circulars have been received from—

Messrs J. and C. Sturge—Layton, Hulbert, and Co.—R. G. Beesley.

Foreign Correspondence.

From our Paris Correspondent.

Paris, Feb. 14, 1850.

The Government, after a long hesitation, has at length convoked the Electoral Colleges for the 10th of March, and all the candidates are beginning to canvass the electors in each of the sixteen departments which have representatives to return. The Cabinet have little hope of obtaining the return of their candidates in most of the departments; but the struggle will be fierce and obstinate in Paris, where three representatives are to be named. The moderate or conservative party have not yet made choice of their candidates, and they will hardly be united for these names, as the Orleanists and legitimists are at war, and will not make concessions in voting for their enemies' candidates. The socialists and republicans seem ready to agree upon the name of M. Emile de Girardin as their candidate, but they have not yet chosen the two other candidates for Paris.

Louis Napoleon has just taken a measure which is considered by the public as a sort of preparation for the *coup d'etat* which has been so often spoken of, but was not executed out of apprehension of the consequences. A decree, which was published yesterday, extends the districts of several military divisions. General Castellane will command the 12th military division at Bordeaux, and the 14th and 15th at Nantes and Rennes. General Rostolan will command the 8th as well as the 9th and 10th division, at Montpellier, Perpignan, and Toulouse. General Gimeau will command the 6th and 5th divisions, at Lyons and Besancon. Other decrees are in preparation to unite other divisions in the same manner, under the command of general officers, and these nominations have produced a profound sensation.

The Ministerial papers pretend that the Government desire by such a measure to be prepared against the mad attempts of the socialists, who will try a new manifestation on the 24th of February. In that case the whole military district would be put in a state of seige. Many alarming rumours have been incessantly repeated about disturbance which had actually broken out, or was about to break out, at Lyons; but the papers and private letters from that city say that everything is perfectly quiet; and, as the operatives are not wanting work, it is not probable they will assemble in the streets to create riot.

It was said to-day, in the National Assembly, that the socialists would engage all the inhabitants of Paris to make illuminations with coloured lanterns on the 24th of February, and all the citizens who would not obey this injunction would be noted down; a paper has even announced that more than one million of lanterns had been ordered of manufacturers of the suburb Saint Antoine.

I believe that nothing of this kind is to be apprehended—for every riot or disturbance which has been announced for a fixed day has never happened, because it is always easy for the police to know every particular of the conspiracy, and prevent its outbreak.

The President's journal, *le Napoleon*, and all the papers of the Elysée, have contradicted the report of a sort of enmity between the President and General Changarnier. I have, however, every reason to believe that this report was not without foundation. Louis Napoleon has doubts about M. Changarnier's devotedness in case of a *coup d'etat*, and he had decided to replace him by General Magnan. But this measure was anticipated by M. Dupin and the majority of the Assembly, who decided that if M. Changarnier was retained as Commander of the 1st Military Division, he would be chosen to command the troops united for the security of the Assembly. The President was then obliged to renounce his projects, and to declare that he had never intended to get rid of General Changarnier.

There is now a report that General Changarnier desires to declare himself candidate for the future presidency of the Republic, so that

he would oppose every kind of measure to prolong the power of Louis Napoleon, and to revise the Constitution before the legal time which has been prescribed.

The French Cabinet is still about to dissolve, though it has been declared several times by the organs of the Elysée that the present ministers would not be changed. M. Ferdinand Barrot has recognised his awkward situation, and he desires to retire. It is the same with General d'Hautpoul, the Minister-of-War, who desires to take the government of Algeria, and, as the Governor-General Charron has just arrived in Paris, and must be replaced, it is supposed that the modifications of the Cabinet will be made forthwith. It is always spoken of M. Mole and M. Leon Faucher as about to enter the Cabinet; but I doubt of the willingness of Prince Louis Napoleon to take M. Mole as premier. M. Mole is too important a statesman, and the President desires to govern by himself, and to have an omnipotent control in the cabinet. I think that he will never choose for his ministers M. Mole or M. Thiers. He was ever impatient to get rid of M. Odilon Barrot, because that statesman would often resist the desires of the President.

The following are the variations of our securities from Feb. 7 to Feb. 13:—

| | f | c | f | c | f | c |
|---|----|----|------|----|----|---|
| The Three per Cents have improved from 58 25 to 58 85 and remains at 58 0 | 58 | 25 | 58 | 85 | 58 | 0 |
| The Five per Cents | 96 | 10 | 97 | 0 | 96 | 0 |
| The Bank Shares declined..... | 10 | 0 | 2350 | 0 | | |
| Northern | 5 | 0 | 463 | 75 | | |
| Strasbourg | 2 | 50 | 357 | 50 | | |
| Orleans | 2 | 50 | 810 | 0 | | |
| Rouen | 3 | 75 | 571 | 25 | | |
| Havre | 1 | 25 | 250 | 0 | | |
| Marseilles | 3 | 75 | 208 | 75 | | |
| Vierzon | 3 | 75 | 320 | 0 | | |
| Bordeaux | 3 | 75 | 411 | 25 | | |

HALF PAST FOUR.—The beginning of the market was declining, on account of the bad informations from Greece and Switzerland, and because there were apprehensions of disturbances in France; but the prices were pushed up towards the close, as it was said that the budget of 1850, which has been prepared by the committee, will balance by a surplus of twenty millions of francs.

The Three per Cents varied from 57f 35c to 58f; the Five per Cents from 95f 20c to 95f 80c; the Bank shares from 2,350f to 2,355f; Northerns from 460f to 463f 75c; Strasbourg from 358f 75c to 357f 50c; Nantes from 262f 50c to 261f 25c; Marseilles were at 208f 75c; Vierzon at 320f; Bordeaux at 411f 25c.

Imperial Parliament.

PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OF THE WEEK.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday: Conversation on the Greek affairs—New Ecclesiastical Commission bill read a second time. Tuesday: Conversation on the affairs of the Cape. Thursday: Routine.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Friday: Leave given to bring in a bill for the better government of the Australian colonies—Also for bills to restrain party processions in Ireland, to enable persons having limited interests in land in Ireland to make building leases and improving leases, and a bill for facilitating the better securing the due administration of charitable trusts. Monday: Ceylon committee nominated—Pirates (head money) Repeal bill read a second time—House went into committee on Mr Labouchere's measure for improving the condition of masters, mates, and seamen; for the regulation of the merchant seamen's fund; and for the admeasurement of the tonnage of ships—Leave given for a bill to amend registration of voters in Ireland—Select committee granted to inquire into prison discipline. Tuesday: Process and Practice (Ireland) bill read a second time. Wednesday: Debate on second reading of the Highways (District Surveyors) bill adjourned—Bill to amend the management of highways read a first time—Select committee on Ordnance expenditure nominated. Thursday: Leave given for a bill to enable town-councils to establish public libraries and museums—Motion for committee on "ministers' money" in Ireland negatived—Leave for a bill to withdraw the power of her Majesty in council to appoint places for the transportation of felons refused—Leave given to bring in a bill for the improvement of the relation between landlord and tenant in England and Wales.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, Feb. 11.

Lord Stanley again drew the attention of the house to the state of our relations with Greece. He begged to ask Lord Lansdowne whether the mediation of France had been tendered to England, and had been accepted by the English government; and whether that mediation, if it had been accepted, extended merely to the indemnity claimed for certain British subjects, or extended further—to the still more important question as to the right of Greece or of the Ionian Republic to the possession of the islands adjoining them.

The Marquis of Lansdowne replied that the good offices of France had been accepted by the British government, though the offer had been at first declined by Mr Wyse, who did not know whether his acceptance would be sanctioned at home. The nature of our pecuniary claims, and the amount of our pecuniary indemnity, was the only question on which "the good offices" of France had been accepted. The dispute as to the Islands of Sapienza and Elaphonessus had been excluded, as resting entirely on other grounds.

The Earl of Aberdeen was glad that the mediation of France had been accepted by the government, but could not help expressing his regret that such a mode of settling our disputes with Greece had not been tried before resorting to violence. He could not help remarking that the good offices of France were accepted as to claims asserted to be indisputable, while the possession of the islands, confessedly a disputed matter, had been reserved.

After some further discussion, in which Lord Eddisbury, Lord Brougham, and Viscount Canning took part, the matter dropped.

The Marquis of Lansdowne then moved the second reading of the New Ecclesiastical Commission Bill.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, while expressing his concurrence as to the desirableness of making an alteration in the existing commission vindicated it from the imputations which had been cast upon it.

Lord Harrowby, the Bishop of London, and Lord Stanley pressed for an

augmentation in the number of bishops; and after some discussion as to the proposed consolidation of the episcopal and common fund, which the Marquis of Lansdowne declared that the government were determined to effect, the bill was read a second time, and ordered to be committed that day fortnight. Their lordships then adjourned.

Tuesday, Feb. 12.

Lord Stanley presented two petitions from the Cape, praying that convicts might not be transported to that colony. As the order in council complained of had been rescinded, he would not enter into a discussion which might lead to the expression of angry feeling. He should, however, be glad to receive an assurance that the order in question would not be re-issued.

Earl Grey had no hesitation in giving the assurance required. He would only observe that it had never been intended systematically to transport convicts to the Cape.

Lord Brougham thought the conduct of the colonists most cruel and unjustifiable in not allowing the unfortunate convicts to land, after they had experienced the sufferings of a three month's voyage.

Lord Stanley intimated his opinion that the colonists had gone much too far in their opposition to this order. He certainly would not vindicate their conduct.

After some further discussion, the matter dropped.

Some other business was then despatched, and their lordships adjourned.

Thursday, Feb. 14.

The Marquis of Londonderry endeavoured to obtain from Lord Stanley some information as to the motion on the affair at Dolly's Brae, which that noble lord at placed on the notices for Monday next.

Lord Stanley could only promise that he would confine himself to the great constitutional question which he purposed to bring before the house.

The Earl of Lucan then moved for "a nominal return of the poor law unions in Ireland where the affairs have been administered by paid guardians, and stating the periods of such administration, and also for a return of the amounts of the debts, claims, and liabilities against each of these unions when the administration by paid guardians commenced and terminated."

The Marquis of Lansdowne had no objection to furnish the returns, which were accordingly ordered.

Their lordships then adjourned.

Friday, Feb. 15.

In answer to a question from Earl Mountcashel, relative to the misconduct on board the emigrant barque Indian,

Earl Grey said that the government had as yet no further information than was given in the public papers, but that the noble earl might rest assured that that investigation would be pursued with rigour, and that if parties had been guilty of any outrages, they would be punished with the utmost rigour of the law.

The Earl of Glengall moved for a return from the Commissioners of the Court of Incumbered Estates, Ireland, stating the number of petitions lodged in their court to this date; the names of each matter; the rental of the property in each case proposed to be sold, and the gross amount of incumbrances stated to chargeable thereon. He strongly objected to the mode in which the business of the Commission was being carried on.

The Marquis of Lansdowne believed that the Commissioners had taken the greatest possible precautions to prevent an improper sacrifice of property. He had no objection to grant the returns, if the noble earl would consent to a verbal alteration in his motion.

After some further conversation, their lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, Feb. 8.

[CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST]

Lord John Russell went on to say that with respect to the Australian colonies the bill he was about to introduce proposed that there should be but one council two-thirds of the members to be representatives of the people, the rest nominated by the government, the colonies to have the power of altering their constitution and adding another chamber; and the bill contained a provision for an assembly representing the different provinces, empowered to make laws binding upon all and to regulate the prices of waste lands. With regard to both the American and Australian colonies, the desire of the government, he observed, was to introduce the popular element and to give full scope to the wishes of the people. After briefly noticing the changes made, or to be made in other colonies, Lord John turned to a question, which, he observed, was one of considerable importance as regards the colonies, though not simply a colonial question, namely transportation. He then proceeded to discuss another question of the greatest consequence connected with the colonies, that of emigration, which he thought was at present in a satisfactory state. The whole result was, that it should be a cardinal point in our colonial policy not to recede from the principle of free-trade; and that we should, as far as possible, introduce and maintain political freedom in our colonies. If some of these possessions should so grow in population and wealth as to think they were strong enough to be entitled to independence, by qualifying them for self government, whatever might happen to this great empire, it would be a consolation to know that we had contributed to the happiness of the world. He moved for leave to bring in a bill for the better government of the Australian colonies.

Sir W. Molesworth, after severely condemning the system of the Colonial Department, and insisting upon the necessity of an entire reform of our colonial policy, examined at much length the views of Lord J. Russell, and the doctrines of colonial government expounded in his speech, suggesting, as he proceeded, schemes of improvement. Sir William offered to bring in a bill, which he had prepared, embodying his principles of colonial policy.

Mr Anstey passed a very unfavourable judgment upon the plans of Sir W. Molesworth, offering some suggestions to the first minister, of whose measure he generally approved.

Mr Baillie entered into some details respecting the alterations in the constitution of British Guiana.

Mr Labouchere was desirous, as a member of the government, to give the most ample power of self-government and free government to the South African and Australian colonies. Replying to some of the positions of Sir W. Molesworth, he cited the favourable opinions expressed in the last named colonies of the proposed constitutions, and defended the Cape scheme of government.

Mr Roebuck admitted that the noble lord's propositions were most liberal, and they had in a great measure satisfied his mind. With regard to North Africa, he had nothing more to say; but did Lord John think our North American colonies would not ask for elective councils? And why did he arrive at an opposite conclusion as to what was fit for New South Wales? His better spirit had acted in South Africa, but in Australia his evil genius had prevailed, when he copied his five new constitutions in Australia from one faulty example in existence there.

Mr Hawes observed that this "faulty" constitution was one which had given

satisfaction to the colonists, and both New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land objected to any other; in framing new constitutions for Australia, therefore, it was desirable to adopt as a model that form which had worked well and was acceptable to the colonists. But power was left to the colonists, if they pleased, to establish a double chamber. With reference to the South African constitution, it was intended as a declaration of the Government, that they would not object to elective councils in other colonies. Mr Hawes offered a general defence of the colonial department against the strictures of Sir W. Molesworth.

Mr Gladstone urged the Government not to commit a false step in relation to the Australian colonies. Mr Hawes had said the single chamber had been adopted because the people of New South Wales objected to an upper house, and a remedy had been provided for the error, if it be one, in the power given to the colony to remodel its constitution; but the remedy was an imperfect one from the manner in which the single chamber would be constituted, and the question whether they would have a double chamber had never been really put to the colonists, who, when they heard that the Cape was to have an elective upper chamber, would desire one too. He should hereafter press upon the house the expediency of having a double chamber in the scheme of the Australian constitutions.

Mr Hume said, if the noble lord would carry out the principles he had laid laid down as applicable to the Cape in other colonies, he would deserve great credit; but if not, he would offer a premium upon discontent.

Mr Adderley did not see in the scheme of colonial policy now developed any great advance beyond that of last session. He dissented from many of the propositions of Lord J. Russell; from his scheme of government for the Australian colonies, and from his proposed mode of electing the council at the Cape.

Mr Aglionby complained that New Zealand should be altogether excluded from the immediate benefit of the measure; and

Mr Scott denied that there existed any antipathy in New South Wales to an independent double chamber.

Colonel Thompson inquired, whether, in the colonial constitutions a provision was made for admitting aborigines to the privileges of the British constitution? Mr Hawes replied that this was unnecessary; they were British subjects.

The resolution was agreed to.

Sir W. Somerville obtained leave to bring in a bill to restrain party processions in Ireland.

The Solicitor-General obtained leave to bring in a bill to enable persons having limited interests in land in Ireland to make building leases and improving leases; and a bill for facilitating and better securing the due administration of charitable trusts; both bills being substantially the same as those introduced into the house last session.

The house adjourned at half-past eleven o'clock.

Monday, Feb. 11.

Lord Ashley, with reference to the first notice on the paper—a resolution to be moved by Mr Horsman for an inquiry, by a committee, into the truth of the allegations contained in his letter—after expressing his regret that a difference should have arisen between members of a high character, who he was persuaded still entertained an esteem for each other—a difference originating, no doubt, in some misconception, and which could not be adjusted by means of a committee—proposed that the house should pass to the other orders of the day.

Mr Horsman disavowed any intention of attributing bad motives to Lord John Russell, and withdrew cheerfully and fully any possible imputation upon the honour of the noble lord, or of Sir George Grey, and expressed his sincere regret that anything he had written should have been disagreeable to their feelings.

This explanation was accepted in a corresponding spirit by both Lord John Russell and Sir George Grey.

On the motion for the nomination of the Ceylon committee,

Mr Hume declared he did not expect justice could be done by the committee, and Mr Stuart desired an assurance that the necessary witnesses should be summoned.

Lord J. Russell said the original understanding had been that all the witnesses desired by the Committee should be summoned, and when the present Committee met they would have full power to call for witnesses, and every facility would be given by the Secretary of State for their attendance.

After a few words from Mr Adderley,

Mr Disraeli said he should not resume the inquiry with any sanguine hope that it would be satisfactory to the house and the public. Efforts would be made to prevent a thorough and impartial investigation.

Mr Roebuck considered this declaration to be a charge against the government, and asked how the committee could go into this inquiry beneficially, whilst this charge was outstanding against them, of an intention to prevent the investigation? He defended Lord Torrington, who, he believed, if he had confined himself to acting, and had abstained from writing proclamations, would have escaped hostile criticism; his measures had really prevented the effusion of blood.

Mr Baillie said the only charge made against the government was that of refusing to send for witnesses, which had been proved.

Mr Hume characterised Mr Roebuck's speech as tyrannical, and inveighed against the conduct of Lord Torrington, whose own evidence, he insisted, was sufficient to convict him.

Mr Roebuck called upon Mr Hume, if he had confidence in his proofs, to impeach Lord Torrington.

The Committee was then nominated.

On the second reading of the Pirates (Head-money) Repeal bill.

Sir G. Clerk thought it unfair to persons exposed to this dangerous service to deprive them of a reward so long allotted to the navy.

Sir F. Baring said, the existing system of head-money was open to grave objections and rendered the navy liable to imputations highly derogatory to the service. The course adopted by the government, in altering the system, was, not to deprive the persons performing such a service of a fair reward, but to place a discretion in the hands of the Admiralty, instead of the reward being compulsory.

After some observations from Mr Hume and Sir F. Baring,

Mr Cobden took occasion to advert to the "Bornean massacre," as he designated it, and observed that there was no evidence to show that the parties so "murdered" had ever molested an English ship or an English subject. It was not a question of Chinese, or Malay, or Sooloo pirates; they were two small tribes who were engaged in carrying on predatory expeditions against each other, and it was too bad that we should commit a wholesale slaughter of such men.

Sir H. Verney said, if this or any other country desired to carry on commercial transactions between Australia and China, the extermination of the pirates in these seas was absolutely necessary.

Colonel Thompson observed that what was wanted was evidence to show that the Dyaks were pirates. The public entertained a fear and jealousy lest a temptation should be held out to our navy to go about the world, kill parties under the name of pirates, and charge them in the bill.

The bill was read a second time.

The house then went into committee, when

Mr Labouchere called its attention to three measures, embodied in three bills, of great importance to the mercantile marine of this country, namely, one for improving the condition of masters, mates, and seamen; another for the regulation of the Merchant Seaman's Fund; the third, for regulating the admeasurement of the tonnage of ships. The first of these bills was drawn on the same principles as that of last session, though it was materially altered and amended. The existing evils were, the notorious incapacity of some masters of our vessels, the want of discipline in the crews, and the manner in which contracts are entered into between owners and mariners. The remedies he proposed, as in the former bill, were to establish a mercantile marine department of the Board of Trade; a system of examination of masters and mates, and public shipping-offices, under government functionaries, at the various sea-port towns, who should superintend the making of contracts between the sailor and his employer. He proposed in this bill that the shipping officers should have power to adjudicate in money questions only where both parties consented. The bill gave power to abolish the present system of registration, and to engraft it upon the new machinery. He proposed to modify the provision of last year with respect to advance-notes, which the present bill made recoverable by legal process. Regarding the discipline of seamen, the bill, in addition to the provisions of that of last year—giving first-class captains a power of imprisonment, and making acts of misconduct causing loss of the ship or of life a misdemeanour—provided that on application to a consul, or commander of a Queen's ship, in a foreign port, a naval court might be established to try grave charges of misconduct, with summary power in cases of emergency.

Mr Cardwell observed that, amongst other provisions in this bill, which had created apprehensions last year, masters of merchant ships, by the system of certificates, would be made the creatures of the Board of Trade.

Mr Hume suggested various improvements in the scheme; and Mr J. L. Ricardo deprecated the discussion of the bill in its present stage.

The Chairman was ordered to move for leave to bring in the bill.

Mr Labouchere then addressed himself to the important and difficult question of the Merchant Seamen's Fund, and the measures necessary to place it in a more satisfactory condition. After mature consideration, he had come to the conclusion, that the best course was to place the fund under one uniform central management, which he proposed to vest in the Trinity House, in conjunction with the two mercantile members of the new department of the Board of Trade. He proposed that no seaman should receive a less pension than sixpence a day; that the payment to the fund, instead one shilling, should be 1s 6d a month, and that the sum necessary to restore the fund to solvency—namely, 30,000*l.* a year—should be contributed by the state.

Mr Hume objected to consigning to the Trinity House the management of a fund which should be administered by national responsible officers.

Sir George Clerk thought the plan recommended by Lord Ellenborough's Committee simpler and preferable to Mr Labouchere's.

The discussion, which related principally to the details and machinery of the measure, was protracted to some length, Mr W. Fagan, Sir William Clay, Mr Cardwell, and Mr Headlam being the speakers.

The Chairman was authorised to ask for leave to bring in this bill.

Mr Labouchere then brought under the notice of the committee his last bill, for regulating the admeasurement of tonnage, and stated that the new law of measurement which he proposed would ascertain accurately the real power of a vessel to carry cargo.

This resolution was likewise agreed to, and, with the other resolutions, was reported to the house.

Sir William Somerville then obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law which regulate the qualification and registration of parliamentary voters in Ireland, which he had introduced last year.

Sir George Grey moved for a select committee to inquire into the rules and discipline established with regard to the treatment of prisoners in gaols in England and Wales.

Mr Pearson complained that this subject had been taken out of his hands, and intimated that unless the reference to the committee were so moulded as to embrace the objects he had in view, and the committee were fairly named, he should bring forward a specific motion in this matter hereafter.

After a few words from Mr Monsell, suggesting the addition of the word "Ireland" to the motion,

Sir George Grey objected to giving directions to the committee specifically to take up the plan of Mr Pearson.

Lord Naas moved the addition of the words "and Ireland."

Sir George Grey did not wish to overload the committee with too much labour, but if the house was of opinion that it was not too much to intrust to one committee, he should defer to that opinion.

Upon a division, the amendment was negatived by 23 against 18; and the house adjourned at half-past one o'clock.

Tuesday, Feb. 12.

Sir W. Molesworth, who had a notice upon the paper of an intention to move resolutions on the subject of colonial government, said, that, as Lord J. Russell had taken this subject into his own hands, he should abstain from moving those resolutions. At the same time he observed, that, although nothing could be more liberal than the principles laid down by the noble lord, he was sorry that he did not propose to apply them to an extent which would give complete content to the colonies.

Mr Sadlier then moved for a select committee to inquire into the facts connected with the striking of the special jury in the case of "Callanan v. Cameron"—a civil action in the county of Tipperary—Roman Catholics having been excluded from the jury list. He detailed the circumstances of the case at some length; and attacked a system which was at once insulting to the Roman Catholic population and an injury to every Protestant in Ireland.

Mr Hatchell (the Solicitor-General for Ireland) gave a brief explanation of the facts connected with the striking-off of certain jurymen by Mr Kemmis, acting as solicitor for Major Cameron, assuring the house, upon the testimony of Mr Kemmis, that there had been no intention to cast any slur upon the respectable gentlemen struck off, who were excluded, according to legal practice, for reasons irrespective of their religious opinions. If Mr Sadlier declined to withdraw the motion, he should meet it with a direct negative.

Mr Scully spoke in support of the motion, Mr Napier against it, and Mr W. Fagan appeared to take a middle course.

The Attorney-General protested against such questions as this being entertained by the house. If the system was defective, let a general measure be introduced for the reformation of the law.

After a few observations from Mr Hume, Mr Sadlier, in so thin a house, declined to press his motion to a division, and it was accordingly withdrawn by him, after an animated reply.

The Process and Practice (Ireland) Bill was read a second time.

On the second reading of the Court of Chancery (Ireland) Bill,

Mr Turner said it was his intention, either shortly before or immediately after Easter, to move for leave to introduce a bill to remedy the delay and expense attending the proceedings of the Court of Chancery in England. The

remedies he desired to see applied were sound, safe, and practicable; but, upon looking at this bill, the remedies it provided, in his judgment, were calculated to do more mischief, and to create greater delay and expense, than existed at present. The scheme of proceeding by petition was one which had occurred to him, but the result of great consideration was that he had rejected it.

The Solicitor-General, declaring that the observations of Mr Turner had not convinced him, and that he was prepared to expect a strenuous opposition to his bill, replied to the objections of that gentleman, by whose suggestions, however, and those of other members, the government, he said, was anxious to profit, in order to frame an effectual measure, it being nothing less than a denial of justice if (as had been stated in that house by Mr Pemberton Leigh) no suit in Chancery should be commenced where the sum in dispute was less than 1,000*l*.

A member here took notice of the state of the house, which was accordingly counted, and there being only 25 members present, an adjournment took place at a quarter to 10 o'clock.

Wednesday, Feb. 13.

On moving the second reading of the Highways (District Surveyors) bill, Mr Frewen explained that its object was to divide the country into districts for the appointment of paid surveyors of the roads.

Sir W. Jolliffe objected to affirming the principle of the bill until the general measure of the government upon this subject was before the house; and, after some discussion, the second reading of the bill was deferred to a future day.

Mr Gibson moved the second reading of the County-rates and Expenditure bill, which, he observed, was similar to the measure of last session, its object being to establish county councils to control county expenditure, analogous to town councils for the control of town expenditure. There was no ground, he said, for the objection that the bill would supersede the powers of the magistracy; it merely gave the ratepayers a concurrent control with the government over county finances, leaving the judicial functions of the justices untouched. He anticipated a charge threatened by Mr Disraeli, of inconsistency, by observing that rates in the long run were a portion of rent, and were therefore paid by the tenant-occupiers; and he answered another objection—that the margin of reduction was too small to justify the alteration of an old system. He merely asked the house to acquiesce in a most reasonable principle, that taxation and representation should go together. He should propose to refer the bill to a select committee.

Mr Spooner was favourable to the principle of representative control over county expenditure; but some of the details of this bill made him pause, and there had been too little time for their consideration. He, therefore, moved that the debate be adjourned.

Mr Stanford agreed in the principle that taxation and representation should go together; but this bill did not carry out that principle, and he urged the house not to adjourn the debate, but to decide upon the principle at once.

Sir George Grey said he was not at present prepared to express a final or positive opinion upon the general principle of the bill; but he thought the proposition for a postponement of the debate not unreasonable in a measure of so much importance.

Sir R. Peel said the question was what course would most conduce to a full satisfactory, and temperate consideration of this subject, and he thought if Mr Gibson adopted Mr Spooner's proposition, such a course would conduce to that result. He joined in the request for delay, not with a view of defeating the measure, but because he thought the proposition not an unreasonable one, and that if not acquiesced in, feelings might be excited that would prevent a full, fair, and temperate discussion.

Mr Roebuck remarked that all that was at issue was the principle of the bill, and if the government had made up their minds upon that point, the details might be discussed hereafter.

Mr Henley said the principle of such a bill could not be discussed without going into the details.

After a few observations from Mr Newdegate and Sir H. Halford,

Lord J. Russell significantly suggested to Mr Gibson that if he resisted the proposal for an adjournment, he would be in no better situation, and delay could not injure the measure. With respect to the intention of the government, he was so strongly in favour of the principle of the bill that he should give his support to the second reading, without, however, defending its details, and thinking that it was absolutely necessary to refer the bill to a select committee, and probably to take evidence.

Mr Gibson consented to adjourn the debate until the 6th of March.

Mr C. Lewis then moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relative to the management of the highways in England and Wales. The subject, he said, had been considered during the recess, and the result was that the difficulty of combining the two classes of roads—highways and turnpike-roads—in one measure was found to be so great that it had been determined to bring in a bill limited to highways properly so called. During the eight years between 1837 and 1845 the expenditure on highways had increased 606,000*l* a year, whereas that of turnpike trusts had diminished 408,000*l*, the cause being the change in the mode of travelling. All had an interest in the economising of highway expenditure. The great evil consisted in the small area over which the rate was sometimes laid, and in each of the 15,000 districts appointing its own surveyor, who was frequently changed, and who had no remuneration, the result being want of economy, of skill, and of due discrimination in outlay. This bill proposed that the division of parishes into districts and the appointment of paid surveyors should be compulsory; that the districts should be the existing divisions of Poor Law Unions; and that the management of the roads should be placed under the boards of guardians, each parish or county continuing to maintain its own highways, the only common expense being the salary of the surveyor; so that the property upon which the rate would fall, and all the incidents of the present highways, would remain as they are. The bill abolished the parish surveyor and the highway rate *eo nomine*; instead of two rates—poor rate and highway rate—there would be one rate collected by the overseer, and there would still be a *maximum*. It was proposed to give to parishes a power of combining for the maintenance of highways; to provide for the audit of accounts by the Poor Law auditor; to repeal Sir C. Burrell's Act, and to provide instead that the money applied from the highway funds to insolvent trusts should be expended by the paid surveyors. The bill also gave power to boards of guardians to appoint standing committees for the special management of highway affairs.

In the partial discussion which ensued,

Sir R. Peel gave his cordial support to the introduction of the bill. He thought it wise to separate the highways from turnpike-roads, and to require a compulsory combination of parishes. With respect to the mode of management, it was premature to give an opinion; but he thought it well worthy of consideration whether districts might not be established better suited for the management of highways than the present Poor Law Unions; whether boards of guardians had not Poor Law duties which they might discharge more satisfactorily, if exempted from other duties; and whether the proposed plan might not have a tendency to throw the unemployed poor upon the highways. He did not think the proposed audit would be an effectual check.

After some further discussion, leave was given to bring in the bill, which was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on that day fortnight.

On the motion of Mr F. Maule, the Select Committee on Ordnance expenditure was nominated.

The house adjourned at half-past 5 o'clock.

Thursday, Feb. 14.

Mr Ewart moved for leave to bring in a bill for enabling town councils to establish public libraries and museums. No country, he observed, was so ill provided with these institutions; even London was in this respect behind Paris and Dresden, and some of our large towns were totally destitute of public libraries. Not only did the general literature of the country suffer from this deficiency, but the intellectual improvement of the people was retarded, self-education being of greater benefit to the mass of the population than any other form of instruction. The bill proposed to authorise town councils to levy a small rate for the establishment of public libraries and museums; to purchase lands and erect buildings for that purpose, vesting the property in the town councils for ever; and to secure to the public gratuitous admission to these institutions.

Leave was given.

Mr W. Fagan then rose to move (for the third time) for a committee of the whole house, to take into consideration the law relating to the rate or tax called "ministers' money" in Ireland. He urged the obnoxious and unjust nature of an imposition levied upon Dublin, Cork, Clonmel, Kilkenny, Kinsale, Drogheda, and Waterford, inhabited mostly by Roman Catholics, whilst the towns of Protestant Ulster were exempt; which nourished religious rancour, every Roman Catholic feeling the tax to be a stigma on his religion, whilst even Protestants viewed it as odious and offensive. A substitute might easily be found in the revenues of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in Ireland.

Sir G. Grey, in moving the previous question, explained that the tax could not be repealed without providing a substitute; and while agreeing in the opinion that the impost was obnoxious, held out a hope that it might be abolished if hereafter the funds at the disposal of the ecclesiastical commissioners should be sufficiently increased.

Mr M. Power, Mr Hume, and Mr Monsell supported the original motion.

Mr Napier explained the origin and nature of this tax, which, he observed, was a very different charge from what was ordinarily supposed.

Mr Keogh, in supporting the motion, contended that the Government having admitted this to be a grievance, were bound to find a substitute.

After a few observations from Mr Cowan and Colonel Rawdon in favour of the motion, the house divided, when the previous question was carried by 96 against 76; so that the motion was lost.

Mr Adderley moved for leave to bring in a bill to repeal part of the act of George IV., which empowers Her Majesty in Council to appoint places for the transportation of felons; the object of the bill being to vest this power and discretion in Parliament. He gave a rapid sketch of the recent events at the Cape, and their disastrous result, contending that the source of the evil was to be traced to the power lodged in the Colonial Secretary.

Sir G. Grey said the proposition of Mr Adderley, if adopted, would increase the embarrassments of the transportation system tenfold. The power he proposed to withdraw from the Crown had been exercised by it (not, perhaps, by virtue of the prerogative, that might be a question) ever since transportation had been an ordinary punishment by the statute law. Sir George defended the government and Sir H. Smith from the reflections cast upon them in relation to the occurrences at the Cape, and expressed a hope that the motion would not be agreed to.

Sir William Molesworth said the conduct of the Colonial Secretary in the case of the Cape proved that the government should not be trusted with this power. The result of that occurrence affected the security of our colonial empire, since it showed that threats were the most effectual means of dealing with the Colonial office. He should vote for the motion because it was a step to the abolition of transportation, for we had no right to make our colonies our cesspools.

The Attorney-General said that the question was, whether the Crown should retain the power vested in it, and agreed that to take away that power, would throw the whole system of transportation into confusion, for Mr Adderley had suggested no practicable means for carrying that system into effect.

Mr Aglionby supported the motion. He denied that, as transportation and exile were unknown to the common law, this bill would encroach upon the prerogative.

Mr Law could not support the motion, considering that the discretion of the government should not be fettered in carrying out sentences prescribed in the statute-book.

Mr Hume supported the motion, though he differed from Sir W. Molesworth and from Mr Adderley so far as he was disposed to trust the Colonial Secretary.

Lord J. Russell could not see what object Mr Adderley could have in view, except to show that the power vested in the Crown had been abused, and therefore ought to be taken away. But this would be deciding a very important question upon very insufficient data. Supposing Lord Grey's conduct had been wrong, it was illogical to argue from particulars to generals, and conclude that all Secretaries of State would act in the same manner. In the matter of the Cape, however, Lord John defended the proceedings of Earl Grey and of Sir H. Smith, and considered that the colonists had, after the concessions made to them, carried their indignation to a most extravagant length.

After a few words from Mr Stanford, and a reply from Mr Adderley, the motion was negatived by 110 against 32.

On the motion of Mr Ewart, the Committee on Public Libraries was re-appointed.

Mr Pusey moved for leave to bring in a bill for the improvement of the relation between landlord and tenant in England and Wales, which, after a few words from Mr Aglionby, was given.

The house adjourned at 10 o'clock.

Friday, Feb. 15.

In answer to a question from Mr Disraeli,

Lord John Russell said that the Danish Government had not refused to extend the armistice.

Mr Horsman said that, instead of the motion of which he had given notice, he should move for the production of the proceedings of the Ecclesiastical Commission relative to the matter of the secretaries.

The house then went into committee, and

Lord John Russell rose to propose certain resolutions respecting advances and the repayment of advances to distressed unions in Ireland. He had before him the reports of a number of officers engaged under the Board of Works in the different counties in Ireland, some including the distressed counties, and, with the exception of the county of Clare, they generally bear testimony to an increased desire on the part of the people to cultivate the land. He had also reports with regard to the fisheries, and they all gave very satisfactory accounts of the visible improvements in the country. His lordship then went into a detailed account of the finances of the Irish unions, and concluded by saying that the proposal he had to make was, in the first place, that the general sums which had been advanced to Ireland, beginning with the workhouse loans in 1839, and going on to the advances made in 1846 and 1847 and subsequent

years, should, when it was desired, and where the pressure on the poor law unions appeared to be manifestly great, be converted into consolidated annuities, and be payable with interest where interest was due. The next proposal was, that the sum of 300,000*l* should be advanced for the purpose of enabling Boards of Guardians, under the direction of the Poor-Law Commissioners, to pay off the debts incurred for food and clothing during the periods of distress.

After expressions of approval from Mr Monsell and the Earl of Arundel, and of dissent from Colonel Sibthorp,

Mr P. Scrope rose, and was

[LEFT SPEAKING.]

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

1. Public income and expenditure (balance sheet)—account.
266. Juvenile offenders—abstract return—session 1849.
- Revenue, population, commerce, &c.—tables; part 17—session 1849.
- Railway structures (application of iron)—report of commissioners—session 1849.
- Do. do. plans—session 1849.
- Marriages in Ireland—first report of the Registrar-General.
- Liberia—treaty of friendship and commerce.
- Postage (Belgium)—additional convention.
3. Controverted elections (general committee)—Mr Speaker's warrant.
- Millbank prison—sixth report of inspectors.
- Copyholds—eighth report of commissioners.
436. Health of the navy—statistical reports—session 1849.
6. Poor law (medical relief) (Scotland)—return.
7. Universities—return.
10. Railways—return.
19. Smithfield market—copy of commission.
20. Railways (acts passed in session 1849, &c.)—return.
18. Bill—benefices in plurality.
- New Zealand—further papers.
- Episcopal and capitular revenues—report of commissioners.
8. Court of session (Scotland)—return.
9. Lighthouses (Ireland)—account.
2. Bills—highways (district surveyors).
12. — Bankrupt and insolvent members.
14. — Life policies of assurance.
15. — Small tenements rating.
16. — County cess (Ireland).
- Jamaica—papers.
- Cape of Good Hope (representative assembly)—correspondence.
- Cape of Good Hope (reception of convicts)—despatches.

News of the Week.

COURT AND ARISTOCRACY.

HER MAJESTY and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Royal Family, left Windsor Castle, on Wednesday afternoon, for Buckingham Palace, where they arrived at a quarter before four.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert presided on Thursday at a meeting of the Royal Commission for the Promotion of the Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations, to be held in the year 1851.

Her Majesty and Prince Albert honoured the Haymarket Theatre with their presence on Thursday evening.

METROPOLIS.

MR JONES LOYD.—We believe it is no longer a secret that it is her Majesty's gracious intention to create Mr Jones Loyd a peer, by the title of Baron Overstone.—*Times*.

THE REDUCTION OF THE ARMY.—The following regiments are positively to be diminished in number, viz.:—6th Foot, from 1,200 to 750 rank and file. 20th, 36th, 42nd, 44th, 45th, 50th, 67th, 69th, and 76th regiments, and 2nd battalion Rifle Brigade, having two battalions each of 1,200 rank and file, are, in future, to have but one battalion of 1,000 rank and file. The depots of about sixteen regiments (the service companies being in the colonies) are also to be reduced by 20 rank and file each depot. The 11th, 58th, and 65th regiments, serving in New South Wales and New Zealand, and which now consist of 1,000 rank and file each, are to be reduced to 750 rank and file. The total of men to be reduced amounts thus to 3,520 rank and file. The officers not required will hereafter be provided for as vacancies may occur, and *ad interim* will be on the retired or half-pay list.—*Daily News*.

GREAT CENTRAL GAS CONSUMERS' COMPANY.—Yesterday week this company's bill, for better supplying the city with gas, and other places adjacent, was declared to have complied with the standing orders. The capital proposed to be raised for the purpose is 250,000*l*, in 25,000 shares of 10*l* each, with power to borrow 25,000*l*; the price of gas to be limited to 4*s* per 1,000 cubic feet. The promoters propose to construct their works outside the city, and to convey their supplies of gas by mains and pipes laid down to the different localities. At the meeting of the Commissioners of Sewers on Tuesday, Mr Tyrrell, the solicitor to the court, produced the deed of agreement between the Commissioners of Sewers and the Great Central Gas Consumers' Company, and, after considerable discussion, in the course of which all the old arguments for and against the new bill were reiterated, the chief clerk was directed, by a majority of 18 to 13, to sign and seal the instrument.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—The annual return made to Parliament of Exchequer-bills and balances of dividends at the Bank of England has just been printed. On the 5th ult. the dividends due and not demanded were 1,101,342*l* 5*s* 7*d*. The amount advanced to government was 936,690*l* 8*s* 8*d*, leaving in the hands of the bank the sum of 164,651*l* 16*s* 11*d*.

THE PAPER DUTIES.—On Tuesday a deputation of gentlemen, representing paper makers, publishers, and printers, in England and Scotland, had an interview with Lord John Russell, in Downing street. Amongst those present were Mr Charles Cowan, M.P.; Mr T. B. Crompton, of Farnworth, Lancashire; Mr Baldwin, of Sherbourne Mill, Birmingham; Mr Thomas Wrigley, of Bury, Lancashire; Mr James Durham, and Mr Henry Bruce, Edinburghshire; Mr Robert Chambers, of Edinburgh; Mr Charles Knight and Mr W. S. Orr, of London. The deputation was accompanied by Mr Hume, M.P., and by Mr Scholefield and Mr Blair, the members respectively for Birmingham and Bolton.

TAKING THE CORN AVERAGES.—At the monthly meeting of the London Farmers' Club, on the 4th inst, Mr Shaw introduced this subject for discussion, when, after several able speeches, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:—"That by the present system of taking the averages the price of corn is represented to be higher than is actually the case; that the system consequently operates unjustly upon all contracts based upon it, and demands the immediate attention of the legislature."

THE FACTORY ACT.—Yesterday week, Mr Baron Parke gave judgement in the Exchequer on the case of Ryder v. Mills, involving the construction of the Factory Act, and the legality of what is known in the manufacturing districts as the "shift system." His lordship said, the question was whether the owners of factories were liable to a penalty for working the women and young persons under eighteen on the shift system. Now, the act was a penal one, and as such ought to be strictly construed, for a man was not to be punished except on plain enactments. The Court could not act on a conjecture, however strong, that the Legislature intended to prohibit this system. There must be words plainly prohibiting it; and applying that rule of construction, the Court did not think that the language of the statute was sufficiently clear to render this system illegal. It was clear that the time limited to labour must be reckoned from the hour at which the first of the restricted classes begins work at each factory. This is admitted on both sides, and it would be impossible to do otherwise. But it is contended by the defendant that there is no limit provided by the act at the other end of the reckoning; and it was urged that if such had been the intention of the Legislature as was contended to be the case by the inspectors, nothing would have been easier than to say as much in the 26th section as they had done in the 36th section relating to the fixed hours for meal times, where is enacted that there shall be one meal time for all workers. There is, however no such express limit given for the termination of the labour, and in the absence of such we must collect that intention, if we can, from other sections of the statute; and if it can be clearly so collected, then no doubt the defendant may be punished. There can be no doubt that if such an enactment could be discovered in the act, great facility would be afforded for the protection of the children, women, and young persons; the object being to provide for their education and health. This object could only be attained at the expense of the millowners, who would thereby be deprived of the full control of their capital, while the women would be restricted in the employment of their labour, which is their capital also. This restriction ought to be clearly enacted in order to be enforced by penalty; and though the Court may think protection ought thereby to be afforded to those classes, we cannot give weight to those feelings because we think it ought to be so. The prosecutors rely on the general words of the statute and the schedule as evidencing the intention of the Legislature, and it cannot be denied that the form of the schedule was most likely drawn up on the supposition contended for by the inspectors; but that form is also consistent with the construction of the millowners; so that under that form some of the workers may terminate their labour at one hour, and some at another. Indeed if it were not so, no owner of a factory could employ children, as he may undoubtedly, for less hours than ten. Then, again, the 28th section supports the argument of the defendant, for it speaks of notice being given of the times of beginning and ending work of all workers; but the ground on which we decide this case is that, on a general view of the Factory Act (7th and 8th Victoria, chap. 15), coupled with the 10th Victoria, chap. 39, we are not of opinion that there is any such restriction imposed on the labour of women and young persons under 18 as to enforce their continuous work for ten hours, to be reckoned from the earliest hour at which any one of them may begin work. The act does not expressly say that they shall not leave off work at different hours, and the result is, that it remains open to the owner and the workers to agree for any other less time within the limits of half-past five and half-past eight, accompanied with such intervals of leisure as may be found convenient to both parties. We are of opinion, therefore, that the conviction must be quashed.—Judgment accordingly.

THE HEALTH OF LONDON.—In the week ending last Saturday the deaths registered in the metropolitan districts were 957, a number which exhibits a considerable decrease on the returns of the last two months, December and January, during which the deaths were usually above 1,050, and in one week were 1,156. The result is also favourable as compared with the average, corrected for increase of population, of corresponding weeks in 10 previous years, 1840-9, which is 1,144, showing a decrease of 187. The mean height of the barometer in the week at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, was 29.457 in. The mean temperature was 44 deg, showing an excess of 10.7 deg on the average of the same week of seven years.

PROVINCES.

ANOTHER SAVINGS BANK DEFALCATION.—In consequence of the late exposures of the Rochdale and other savings banks, the managers of the Dartford bank adopted means of having the books and accounts examined, when it was found that the actuary, Mr Jardine, was a defaulter to the amount of 2,000*l*. His bond and property, however, nearly cover the amount.

THE TEN HOURS BILL.—The result of the argument in the Court of Exchequer has thrown the operatives of this district into the greatest state of excitement. Meetings are being nightly held in the various public houses in which they are accustomed to assemble, at which the most firm and determined resolutions to maintain the principle of ten hours work, and that it be continuous, are passed. Manchester, Bolton, Blackburn, Preston, Ashton, Oldham, Bury—in fact, every town in Lancashire is on the move. On Sunday last, a very numerous meeting of overlookers and managers was held at the White Horse Tavern, Bolton, at which the following, amongst other resolutions, were unanimously adopted:—"That in the opinion of this meeting, it is of the utmost advantage to both masters and men that an uniform working of ten hours per day be enforced by act of Parliament, and that we pledge ourselves never to rest satisfied until it be made universal." Last night the Lancashire Central Committee held its third meeting since the decision, at which it was agreed to call a delegate meeting from every town in the kingdom. On the same night the committee of the Manchester overlookers held a meeting, and have issued a circular calling a general meeting of the whole body, and from which the following is an extract:—"Gentlemen, —We are now in the midst of a most solemn and important crisis. 'We have no longer a Ten Hours Act.' The Judges of the Court of Exchequer have decided that the horrible relay and shift system is legal, and although we have all been grievously disappointed, yet it would be perfectly useless to murmur or complain at this unfortunate decision. Prepare yourselves, then, for another conflict! 'Sound an alarm!' through every mill in Manchester and Salford." The corders, the power-loom overlookers and managers, and several other bodies, are holding similar meetings, and the forthcoming delegate meeting will be the most numerous and important ever held.

LAUNCHES ON THE WEAR.—There is, everlastingly, in Sunderland, a ship rushing out of air into water. Only on Monday last, Rogerson and Wilkinson, and Briggs and Candlish, and Haswell and Nseeby, and the veteran Laing, were all showing new ships into the Wear; and it comforts us to know that Mr Laing's splendid barque, the Talavera, 916 tons, classed at Lloyd's A 1, thirteen years, has found a purchaser in Mr David Dunbar—who had once a crotchet in his head (now happily expelled) that shipping was going to the dogs.—*Galeshead Observer*.

COLCHESTER ELECTION.—Lord John Manners has been returned. The numbers polled were—for Lord John Manners, 622; for Mr G. Wingrove Cooke, 492; majority for Lord John Manners, 220.

IRELAND.

REPRESENTATION OF SLIGO.—The resignation of Mr Ffolliott being no longer a matter of doubt, Sir Robert Gore Booth has already issued his address to the electors, and of his success there is scarcely a rational doubt.

THE IRISH PROTECTIONISTS.—Defeated in parliament and out of doors, and although scarcely a ray of hope beams to cheer on their desperate enterprise, the Irish protectionists are not yet altogether driven from the field. A meeting of the committee appointed at the Rotunda demonstration of the 17th ult., to consider the best means of carrying out the resolutions adopted thereat, has been held in the same building, the Earl of Mayo presiding. The object was the establishing a permanent protectionist society in Ireland; in other words, to lay the foundation of a third grand confederation for the elevation of Ireland in the social scale, acting in conjunction with Mr John O'Connell's Repeal Association and Mr Gavan Duffy's Irish Alliance.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

[Great pressure of matter obliges us to omit much of our foreign news.—ED. ECON.]

PRUSSIA.

The work of the Constitution was completed on the 6th by the ceremony of the King and the Ministers and the members of both Chambers taking the oath to it in solemn form.

Before taking the oath, the King read a discourse, in which, with great emotion, he alluded to the events of recent occurrence. In speaking of the constitution, he said that it had been much ameliorated by the co-operation of the two chambers, and he tendered to those bodies his most cordial thanks for their good services. He also declared that he entertained for the present ministry feelings of gratitude which would only cease with his life.

After the conclusion of the solemnity, the royal princes, the ministers, and the deputies of both chambers were invited to the King's table. His Majesty was in the highest spirits; he spoke like one restored to complete health after a long and painful illness. He exclaimed frequently, with a fervent expression of joy, "Now, thank God, the revolution is closed!"

The preparations for the sitting of the German Parliament at Erfurt are going forward very actively, and with an outlay on the part of the Prussian Government that seems to anticipate for the body a long existence.

AUSTRIA.

It is the intention of the Austrian Government to abolish all prohibitive and excessive duties, and to place Austria, as far as possible, on the same footing in regard to commercial matters as the rest of Germany, it being the openly expressed opinion of the Austrian Cabinet that the unity of Germany is more likely to be effected by closely uniting the material interests of the several states than by convoking parliaments, whether at Erfurt or Frankfort. The Austrian Government has accordingly, instead of attempting to effect a commercial compromise between the German "Zollverein" and the Austrian empire, presented a formal address to the German Central Power, to the effect, "that it may be pleased to convoke a Customs Congress, to be composed of Plenipotentiaries from the different German States, in order to take into consideration the question of customs and commerce."

The Austrian Government published on the 3rd the Provincial Constitution of Bohemia. It declares that the different races shall enjoy equal political rights, and guarantees them the preservation of their respective nationalities and languages. The Diet is to consist of 220 deputies, of whom 70 are to be elected by the principal tax-payers, 71 by certain towns and districts, and 79 by the other communes. The qualification for an elector is to be the payment of taxes, varying in amount from five florins to fifteen florins, according to towns and districts.

GREECE.

Vienna letters of the 3rd state that the Austrian government has directed its ambassador at Athens to conform his conduct to that of the Russian ambassador in the difference between Greece and England.

The *Munich Gazette* publishes a telegraphic despatch from Trieste, with news from Athens of the 29th January. It says, "The coercive measures announced by England are rigidly executed. Greek vessels are not allowed to leave Greek ports. Athens, and the whole country is quiet, and great enthusiasm is manifested for the king and government. M. Trikups has left on a mission to Paris, and M. Zographos on a mission to St Petersburg, taking Vienna en route."

BIRTHS.

On the 12th inst, at Brighton, the Lady Agneta Bevan, of a daughter.
On the 9th inst, at 17 Imperial square, Cheltenham, the lady of Commander J. G. Mackenzie, R.N., of a son.
On the 6th inst, at Wormley house, Herts, Mrs Joseph Dodson, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 9th inst, at the French Catholic Chapel, Little George street, Portman square, by the Very Rev. Pierre Maily, Domenico Braggiotti, Esq., of Lombard street, to Anna Maria Josephine Simon, second daughter of the late James Simon, Esq., barrister, of Dublin.

On the 22nd of November last, at the residence of D. T. Money, Esq., Berhampore, Spencer Charles Dudley Ryder, Lieutenant 14th N.I., youngest son of the late Hon. and Right Rev. Henry Ryder, D.D., Lord Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, to Julia, eldest daughter of the Rev. W. Money.

On the 12th inst, at Wotton, Surrey, Arthur Edward, second son of the late Lord Arthur Somerset, to Frances, daughter of the Hon. and Rev. J. E. Boscawen.

DEATHS.

On the 7th inst, at Leamington, Margaret, Lady Campbell, widow of the late Vice-Admiral Sir Patrick Campbell, C.B.

On the 10th inst, at his house, North end, Fulham, George Thomas, Commander, R.N., in his 68th year.

On the 7th inst, at Brompton, Miss Frances de Mounteney, niece of the late Capt. Sir James Barclay, Bart, R.N.

MUSIC, THE DRAMA, &c.

DRURY LANE.—"Julius Caesar," was revived on Thursday evening, Mr Anderson playing the part of Marc Antony with great effect. He was most ably seconded by Mr Vandenhoff as Brutus, and Miss Phillips as Portia. The scenery, mostly new, was worthy of great praise, and at the fall of the curtain, the applause from a densely crowded house, was long and unanimous.

FRENCH PLAYS, ST JAMES'S.—Adolphe Adam's celebrated opera "Le Roi d'Yvetot," was produced here for the first time in England on Monday last, and with complete success. It is founded on an old French tradition, which informs us that one of the early monarchs of France erected one day, in a freak of good humour, the little village of Yvetot into a kingdom. At the commencement of the piece, the throne of Yvetot is vacant. There are two competitors for the diadem. A certain commander of Malta, and Messire Josseleyn, a re-

tired tradesman; the latter being the favourite of the people. The commander has a certain nephew in love with Marguerite, Josseleyn's daughter. At this he is exceedingly indignant, and does all in his power to thwart the young couple's wishes. But they are befriended by Josseleyn and Jeanneton, his servant, by whom the commander is eventually obliged to consent to the match, as Jeanneton discovers the will of the late king, appointing Josseleyn his successor to the village purple, and it is also discovered that Marguerite, instead of being Josseleyn's daughter, is in reality the daughter of the commander, who is too glad to hush the matter up by agreeing to her union with his nephew. The music of the opera is most lively, and keeps the audience in the best of humours from beginning to end. Chollet played the "Roi d'Yvetot," his original part, and a better representation of a potentate of the "Old King Cole" school we have never seen, whilst his singing drew down frequent applause, and obtained an encore in the finale to the second act. Mademoiselle Danhauser was a most fascinating Marguerite, and the sly, laughing Jeanneton was admirably played by Mademoiselle Guichard, who, together with Chollet, were obliged to re-appear at the fall of the curtain. "Le Roi d'Yvetot" may be regarded as one of the most pleasing operas which the spirited manager has ever produced.

Literature.

OUTLINES OF PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY, &c. A MANUAL OF EXPLANATORY ARITHMETIC, &c. Both by EDWARD HUGHES, Head Master of the Royal Naval Lower School, Greenwich Hospital. Longman, Green, and Co.

BOTH these books answer to their very compendious titles, of which we give only the initial phrase. They will be extremely useful to learners. The arithmetic is full of examples explaining and illustrating every rule. The Physical Geography is a tolerably complete outline, embracing all modern discoveries and opinions. It includes the distribution of plants and animals, as well as meteorological phenomena. We know not, however, why the length of the two diameters of the globe and of its circumference should not be given, as well as the number of square miles contained on its surface. To omit these seems an oversight. In a second edition, which the book is sure to reach, for it is a sort of work much wanted, this must be remedied. It contains nothing superfluous, and is a plain, vigorous, and sensible production. The author knows what he is about, and unites a capability of imparting what he knows to considerable knowledge of the subject. It contains some very useful and novel maps, illustrating the movements of the ocean, the localities of commerce, &c., but they are on so small a scale, and the letters in which the explanations are given so very minute that very young and good eyes, or powerful magnifying glasses, are required to understand them. This is the engraver's fault.

THE PEERAGE, BARONETAGE, AND KNIGHTAGE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, FOR 1850; including all the Titled Classes. By CHARLES R. DOD, Esq. Whitaker and Co.

THAT Mr Dod's work has reached its tenth year, is the best proof that can be offered of its public utility. Each year, too, has added to its improvement—has rounded some feature it before possessed, or given it a new one. For a mass of information concerning all the titled classes, which the Herald's College might envy, Mr Dod's book is, we think, unexampled. A very important part of the work is a full account of all gentlemen and ladies bearing courtesy titles, giving at once an answer to the question, Who is my Lady This, and who is the Hon. Mr That? The book is full, too, of historical and courtly information, telling both the origin of titles of distinction and the precedence at present of different ranks. No man or woman living in the world should be without Mr Dod.

THE YEAR-BOOK OF FACTS IN SCIENCE AND ART, &c. By JOHN TIMBS. David Bogue, Fleet street.

IN a very compact, closely printed book, of 288 pages, Mr Timbs has collected all the important facts brought to light in the year 1849, at home and abroad, concerning Mechanical, Useful, and Decorative Arts, Natural Philosophy, Electrical Science, Chemical Science, Natural History, Geology, and Physical Geography, Astronomical and Meteorological Phenomena, &c. For a book of instructive, though very desultory, reading, it will be a charming volume to youth eager to gather knowledge from every quarter, while for the already well informed it will be extremely useful as a book of reference, as a refresher of extinct thought, or of facts heard or read of and forgotten. The collection of the whole series from the beginning must constitute an extremely valuable repertory of facts.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The People's Review. No. I. Mitchell.
The Economy of the British Empire. No. III. By T. C. Banfield, Esq. D. Bogue.
The Year Book of Facts. By John Timbs. Bogue.
Railway Audit. (Pamphlet.) By Daniel Hardcastle, jun. Whitaker.
On Copyright in Design, in Art, and Manufactures. By T. Turner. Elsworth.
The History of Ancient Art among the Greeks. From the German of Winckelmann. By G. Henry Lodge. Chapman.
The Cottage Gardener for January. Orr and Co.
France and its Revolutions. Part XX. Knight.
The History of England during the Thirty Years' Peace. Part XII. Knight.
The Land we Live in. Part XXX. Knight.
The National Cyclopaedia of Useful Knowledge. Part XXXVII. Knight.
The Struggles of a Book against Excessive Taxation. (Pamphlet.) By Chas. Knight.
Richard Oastler's Reply to Richard Cobden's Speech. (Pamphlet.) Cleaver.
The African Squadron Vindicated. (Pamphlet.) By Lieut. Henry Yuel. Ridgway.
British Diplomacy in Greece. (Pamphlet.) Smith, Elder, and Co.
Freehold Assurance and the Farmers' Estate Society. (Pamphlet.) By W. Bridges. Saunders.
Statistics of the Scotch Iron Trade. (Pamphlet.) By J. Barclay. Hedderwick, Glasgow.
Political Principles and Political Consistency. Second Edition. Olivier.
The Geography of Great Britain. By George Long, M.A., and George R. Porter, Esq. Part I. Baldwin.
Dan Daisy; or, the Lady and the Sweep. Maclehose, Glasgow.
The Gardeners' Magazine of Botany. Part I. W. S. Orr and Co.

Agricultural Distress and its Remedies. (Pamphlet.) By W. P. Urquhart. Blackwood and Sons.
Farming Essays. Second Series. (Pamphlet.) By Hewitt Davis.
A Cyclopaedia of Agriculture. Part II. By John C. Morton. Blackie and Son.
Music from Messrs Cocks and Co.

To Readers and Correspondents.

Communications must be authenticated by the name of the writer.

SIR DAVID BAIRD has rendered it unnecessary that we should publish the letter which we had the pleasure to receive, too late for our last number, by having sent a copy of it to a morning paper, in which it appeared. We may, however, perhaps, take an opportunity of referring to some of the arguments it contains.
W. V., Belfast, is thanked for the interesting document forwarded.
E. J., Plymouth.—We cannot agree with our correspondent in the one particular to which he refers, with respect to our colonial policy. Our navy employed in distant seas is quite as much, or more, for the protection of British trade and ships as for that of our colonies. We shall, however, have occasion to refer to this subject again.
J. H., Manchester.—If this correspondent will refer to the tables in our last number, he will find that the exports of metals are given only for the ports of London and Clyde, while all the other articles extend to London, Liverpool, Bristol, Hull, and Clyde. This difference arises from a defect in the Customs' published bills, from which these tables are computed. The official classification given in the Economist of last week will not be presented to Parliament for at least a year from this time.
SHAREHOLDERS in railways are not responsible to creditors beyond the amount of their shares.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK RETURNS AND MONEY MARKET.

BANK OF ENGLAND.
(From the Gazette.)

AN ACCOUNT, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 2nd day of Feb., 1850:—

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Notes issued | £ 20,125,385 | Government debt | £ 11,015,100 |
| | | Other Securities | 2,984,900 |
| | | Gold coin and bullion | 15,848,308 |
| | | Silver bullion | 277,077 |
| | £ 20,125,385 | | £ 30,125,385 |

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

| | | | |
|---|--------------|--|--------------|
| Proprietors' capital | £ 14,553,000 | Government Securities, including Dead Weight Annuity | £ 14,296,554 |
| Rest | 3,317,603 | Other Securities | 9,712,705 |
| Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) | 6,272,033 | Notes | 10,704,010 |
| Other Deposits | 10,160,268 | Gold and Silver Coin | 724,870 |
| Seven Day and other Bills | 1,135,238 | | |
| | £ 35,438,139 | | £ 35,438,139 |

Dated the 14th Feb. 1850.

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

THE OLD FORM.

The above Bank accounts would, if made out in the old form, present the following result:—

| | | | |
|--|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| Liabilities. | £ | Assets. | £ |
| Circulation inc. Bank post bills | 20,556,613 | Securities | 23,456,259 |
| Public Deposits | 6,272,030 | Bullion | 16,850,255 |
| Other or private Deposits | 10,160,268 | | |
| | £ 36,988,911 | | £ 40,306,514 |

The balance of assets above liabilities being £3,317,603, as stated in the above accounts under the head REST.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

THE preceding accounts, compared with those of last week, exhibit,—

| | |
|---|-----------|
| A decrease of Circulation of | £ 274,783 |
| An increase of Public Deposits of | 544,269 |
| A decrease of Other Deposits of | 431,433 |
| A decrease of Securities of | 116,034 |
| An increase of Bullion of | 39,096 |
| An increase of Rest of | 85,009 |
| An increase of Reserve of | 243,161 |

The Bank returns to the 9th inst, now published, show a decrease in the circulation of 274,783l. At the same time, the increase of the public deposits is 544,269l, the decrease of the circulation being 269,486l less than the sum paid into the Bank on account of the public. The private deposits have decreased 431,433l. Securities have decreased 116,034l, the decrease being wholly of private securities. The bullion has increased 39,096l, 18,521l being coin in the banking department, and 20,575l bullion and coin in the issue department. The rest has increased 85,009l, and the reserve has increased 243,161l. It amounts at present to 11,428,880l. The returns are chiefly interesting as showing the steadiness of the Bank business, and the almost uniformity of its action.

The Money Market, in the course of the week, has shown a tendency to become firmer, and we must quote an advance in the terms. For money at call, two per cent is now given, and the very best bills are discounted at 2½. In the Stock Exchange, where money is in demand on account of the settlement, 3 and 3½ per cent have been given for it. In the general market a still further rise is looked for, though it may be prevented by the Bank, which is understood not to get many bills, making considerable loans at a low rate on other securities.

The funds have not recovered the fall we noticed last week. On the contrary they again fell on Wednesday and Thursday. Consols opened to-day at 94½ and fell to 94½, but closed firm at the opening prices. The demand for money on the Stock Exchange consequent on the settlement, and the reports of an end having been put to the armistice between Denmark and Prussia, on the

Holstein Schleswig dispute, and of the Danes being resolved to fight it out, and begin by subjecting Germany to a rigid blockade, are the causes to which the decline this week is attributed. Such causes would, however, be less operative were there no call for money for the purposes of commerce. Notwithstanding a temporary slackness in business, the demand is extensive, and seems sure to increase with the certain increase of every species of industry. The following list shows the price of Consols on opening and closing every day of the week, and the closing prices last Friday and this day of the other principal stocks:—

| | CONSOLS. | | March 13 Account | |
|-----------------|----------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | Money | Money | Money | Money |
| Saturday | 95½ | 95½ | 96½ | 95½ |
| Monday | 95½ | 95½ | 95½ | 95½ |
| Tuesday | 95½ | 95½ | 95½ | 95½ |
| Wednesday | 95½ | 95½ | 95½ | 95½ |
| Thursday | 94½ | 94½ | 94½ | 94½ |
| Friday | 94½ | 94½ | 94½ | 94½ |

| | Closing prices last Friday. | Closing prices this day. |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 per cent consols, account .. | 95½ | 94½ |
| — money | 95½ | 94½ |
| 2½ per cents | 98½ | 97½ |
| 3 per cent reduced | 95½ | 95 |
| Exchequer bills, large | 55s 6s | 54s 7s |
| Bank stock | 205½ | 205½ |
| East India stock | 266 5 | 265 5 |
| Spanish 3 per cents | 36½ | 36½ |
| Portuguese 4 per cents | 34 5 | 34 5 |
| Mexican 5 per cents | 29 ½ | 29 ½ |
| Dutch 2½ per cents | 85½ | 85½ |
| — 4 per cents | 86½ | 86½ |
| Russian loan | 2½ pm | 1½ 2½ pm |

The Railway Market declined in the week, particularly on Thursday, on account of its being supposed that the half-yearly dividends about to be paid would be at a lower rate than the last dividends. It closed firmer to-day, however, in consequence of the meeting of the shareholders of the Great Western yesterday, and the declaration of a dividend of 2 per cent for the half year. North Western Shares, which have been done at 109, closed to-day at 111½, and Great Western closed at 64½, after they had been done in the week at 61 and 62. The following is our usual list of the closing prices last Friday and this day of the principal railway shares:—

| | Closing prices last Friday. | Closing prices this day. |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| London and North Western .. | 115 16 | 110 11½ |
| Midland counties | 43½ 4½ | 43 4 |
| Brightons | 80½ 1½ ex div. | 79½ 80½ |
| Great Western | 65 6 | 63½ 4½ |
| Eastern Counties | 7½ | 7½ |
| South Westerns | 67½ 8½ | 67 8 |
| South Easterns | 19½ 2 | 18½ 19½ |
| Norfolk | 26 8 | 27 9 |
| Great North of England | 230 35 | 225 30 ex div. |
| York and North Midland | 18½ 19 | 19½ 2 |
| York, Newcastle, and Berwick .. | 15½ 6½ | 15½ 16 |
| Newcastle and Berwick Ext. | 45 3 dis. | 46 44 |
| Lancashire and Yorkshire | 11 8 | 10½ 8 |
| Edinburgh and Glasgow | 27 8 | 27 8 |
| Hull and Selby | 97 9 | 98 9 |
| Lancaster and Carlisle | 50 2 | 50 2 |
| North Staffordshire | 10½ ½ dis. | 11 10½ |
| Birmingham and Oxford | 26 7 | 26 7 |
| Birmingham and Dudley | 5 6 pm | 5 6 pm. ex div. |
| Caledonian | 11½ ½ | 11½ ½ |
| Aberdeen | 12 13 | 12 13 |
| Northern of France | 1½ ½ dis. | 2 1½ dis. |
| Central | 12½ ½ | 11½ 12½ |
| Paris and Rouen | 23½ ½ | 22½ ex div. |
| Rouen and Havre | 9½ 10 | 9½ 8 |
| Dutch Rhenish | 6½ 5½ dis. | 6½ 5½ |

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON AT THE LATEST DATES.

| | Latest Date. | Rate of Exchange on London. | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Paris | Feb. 14 | 2.25 45 | 8ight |
| | | 25 35 | 1 month's date |
| Antwerp | — 14 | £.25 47½ | 3 days' sight |
| | | | 3 months' date |
| Amsterdam | — 12 | fl.12 2½ | 3 days' sight |
| | | 11 97½ | 2 months' date |
| Hamburg | — 8 | m.13 10½ | 3 days' sight |
| | | 13 9 | 3 months' date |
| St Petersburg .. | — 2 | 37½ to 38d | 3 |
| Madrid | — 2 | 50 25-100d | 3 |
| Lisbon | — 9 | 54½d | 3 |
| Gibraltar | — 6 | 50½d | 2 |
| New York | Jan. 25 | 7½ to 8½ per cent pm | 60 days' sight |
| | | ... per cent pm | 30 |
| Jamaica | 7 | ... per cent pm | 60 |
| | | 1 per cent pm | 90 |
| Havana | — 10 | 10½ to 11 per cent pm | 90 |
| Rio de Janeiro .. | Dec. 17 | 27½ to 28d | 60 |
| Bahia | Jan. 10 | 27½d | 60 |
| Pernambuco | — 14 | 27½d | 60 |
| Buenos Ayres .. | Nov. 26 | 3d | 60 |
| Valparaiso | 30 | 45½d | 90 |
| Mauritius | Nov. 18 | 3 per cent pm | 1 month's sight |
| | | 2 per cent pm | 2 |
| | | 3 to 4 per cent dis | 3 |
| Singapore | Dec. 6 | 4s 5½d | 30 days' sight |
| | | ... to ... per cent pm | 6 months' sight |
| Ceylon | — 18 | ... per cent pm | 1 |
| | | ... per cent pm | 6 |
| Hong Kong | Nov. 30 | 4s 3d | 6 |
| | | ... per cent pm | 1 |
| Bombay | Jan. 3 | 1s 10½ to 1s 11d | 3 |
| | | 1s 11½ to 1s 11½d | 6 |
| Calcutta | Dec. 24 | ... per cent pm | 4 |
| | | ... per cent pm | 1 |
| Sydney | Oct. 22 | 3 per cent pm | 30 days' sight |

THE BANKERS' PRICE CURRENT.

Table with columns for stock types (Bank Stock, Anns., India Stock, etc.) and days of the week (Sat, Mon, Tues, Wed, Thur, Fri).

COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Table with columns for city (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, etc.), time, and prices for Tuesday and Friday.

FRENCH FUNDS.

Table with columns for fund types (5 per Cent Rentes, Bank Shares, etc.) and dates (Feb. 11, 13, 12, 14, 13, 15).

PRICES OF FOREIGN STOCKS.

Table with columns for stock types (Brazilian Bonds, Spanish Bonds, etc.) and days of the week (Sat, Mon, Tues, Wed, Thur, Fri).

LATEST PRICES OF AMERICAN STOCKS

Table with columns for stock names (United States, Alabama, etc.), payable amounts, dividends, and prices.

Exchange at New York 108.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Table with columns for company names (Albion, Alliance British and Foreign, etc.), shares, and prices.

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

Table with columns for bank names (Australasia, British North American, etc.), shares, and prices.

DOCKS.

Table with columns for dock names (Commercial, East and West India, etc.), shares, and prices.

COMPARATIVE EXCHANGES.

The premium on gold at Paris is 12 per mille, which, at the English mint price of 31 17s 10½d per ounce for standard gold, gives an exchange of 25·47; and the exchange at Paris on London at short being 25·47½, it follows that gold is 0·02 per cent dearer in London than in Paris.

By advices from Hamburg the price of gold is 424½ per mark, which, at the English mint price of 31 17s 10½d per ounce for standard gold, gives an exchange of 13·9½; and the exchange at Hamburg on London at short being 13·11½, it follows that gold is 0·63 per cent dearer in London than in Hamburg.

The Commercial Times.

Mails Arrived.

LATEST DATES.

On 9th Feb., GIBRALTAR, Feb. 2, per *Exzine* steamer, via Southampton.
 On 12th Feb., NEW YORK, Jan. 25, per *Queen of the West*, via Liverpool.
 On 15th Feb., PENINSULAR, per *Pacha* steamer, via Southampton—Gibraltar, Feb. 6; Cadiz, 7; Lisbon, 9; Oporto, 10; Vigo, 11.
 On 15th Feb., BRAZILS, per *Emperor*, via Liverpool—Bahia, Jan. 10; Pernambuco, 14.

Mails will be Despatched FROM LONDON

On 18th Feb. (morning), for MADEIRA and WEST INDIES; also for Venezuela, New Grenada, Grey Town, Chagres, Panama, and Western Coast of America (Bermuda, Nassau, Porto Rico, Havana, Mobile Point, Vera Cruz, Tampico, and Honduras excepted; mails to these places on the 2nd of each month only), per *Great Western* steamer, via Southampton.
 On 18th Feb. (morning), for VIGO, OPORTO, LISBON, CADIZ, and GIBRALTAR, per steamer, via Southampton.
 On 20th Feb. (morning), for GIBRALTAR, MALTA, GREECE, IONIAN ISLANDS, SYRIA, EGYPT, INDIA, and CHINA per *Ripon* steamer, via Southampton.
 On 22nd Feb. (evening), for BRITISH NORTH AMERICA, BERMUDA, and UNITED STATES, per *Canada* steamer, via Liverpool.
 On 25th Feb. (evening), for the MEDITERRANEAN, EGYPT, INDIA, and CHINA, via Marseilles.

WEEKLY CORN RETURNS.

From the Gazette of last night.

| | Wheat. | Barley. | Oats. | Rye. | Beans. | Peas. |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Sold.....qrs | 93,976 | 84,694 | 26,111 | 102 | 10,274 | 2,133 |
| Weekly average, Feb. 9..... | 38 6 | 24 7 | 15 3 | 22 1 | 25 3 | 26 4 |
| — 2..... | 39 4 | 25 4 | 15 2 | 23 10 | 25 6 | 27 0 |
| — Jan. 26..... | 40 1 | 25 9 | 15 10 | 21 2 | 26 1 | 28 5 |
| — 19..... | 41 0 | 26 3 | 16 0 | 23 9 | 26 6 | 27 6 |
| — 12..... | 41 1 | 26 4 | 15 6 | 23 4 | 26 6 | 28 6 |
| — 5..... | 40 0 | 25 11 | 15 10 | 24 11 | 26 11 | 28 5 |
| Six weeks' average | 40 0 | 25 8 | 15 7 | 23 2 | 26 2 | 27 8 |
| Same time last year | 45 5 | 29 5 | 17 2 | 27 10 | 31 2 | 34 3 |
| Duties..... | 1 0 | 1 0 | 1 0 | 1 0 | 1 0 | 1 0 |

GRAIN IMPORTED.

An account of the total quantities of each kind of corn, distinguishing foreign and colonial, imported into the principal ports of Great Britain, viz:—London, Liverpool, Hull, Newcastle, Bristol, Gloucester, Plymouth, Leith, Glasgow, Dundee, and Perth, in the week ending Feb. 6, 1850.

| | Wheat and wheat flour | Barley and barley-meal | Oats and oatmeal | Rye and rye-meal | Peas and peameal | Beans & bean-meal | Indian corn and Indian-meal | Buck-wheat & buck-wheat meal |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Foreign ... | qrs 29,933 | qrs 2,427 | qrs 1,554 | qrs ... | qrs 384 | qrs 9,250 | qrs 9,594 | qrs 1 |
| Colonial ... | 28 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total ... | 29,961 | 2,427 | 1,554 | ... | 384 | 9,250 | 9,594 | 1 |

Total imports of the week 53,174 qrs.

COMMERCIAL EPITOME.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

Notwithstanding unusually short supplies of wheat in Mark Lane, the whole quantity of home and foreign growth imported into London between the 10th and the 14th inst. inclusive having only been 1,680 quarters, with 850 sacks of flour, the price remained unchanged. The market was firmer, but we can quote no advance of price. Flour from France continues to be imported, though the price indicates that it is imported at a loss. A feeling of insecurity is still very strong in France, and something, it is concluded, will be saved, if the flour be sold in England at a sum not equal to its value. We see by extracts from the reports of the French markets and mercantile circulars, that good red wheat was held at Nantes on 9th inst., for 34s to 35s the 480 lbs; at Luçon on February 5, the same, and the price here for 496 lbs is from 37s to 39s. At the same time freights are high at Nantes, no foreign vessels can be had, and it is said to be advisable to send vessels from England. Yet purchases are making there on English account, though at these prices wheat can only be imported at a loss. The speculators must calculate on a rise, and they are getting into stock to meet it.

The Produce markets have been generally dull through the week, like most other markets. There has been no reduction in the price of sugar, though the market has been flat and importers have shown an inclination to meet the buyers.

Coffee till to-day was extremely dull and declining. Native Ceylon, which sold last week at 62s 6d, fell to 59s on Tuesday, and no buyers. To-day the market has rallied, and closed firmly at 61s 6d. Plantation sorts have been heavy, and the price has

declined from 2s to 3s. The prime sorts have sold for 65s 6d to 66s 6d.

For rice and other colonial products there has been no inquiry. The quarterly sales of colonial wool commenced on Thursday. There was a full attendance of buyers both from abroad and from our own clothing districts. The quantity for sale is about 15,000 bales, and, in anticipation of a brisk demand for woollens for the American trade, the prices advanced from 1d to 3d, according to the quality of the wool. The sales went forward to-day with considerable briskness and keen competition. With this exception, business has been generally dull through the week. People had their faith in the continuance of peace and quietness a little shaken by the reports of political disturbances and disputes, and the uncertainty which such reports spread over mercantile transactions, immediately suspends some operations. Falling prices, too, whether after undue speculation, or in consequence of diminished consumption, are generally disagreeable. Though Abundance, and its companion Cheapness, are inestimable blessings, a tendency to rise in prices indicates increased demand, it is a healthy stimulus to exertion—it is consistent with the course of nature, which is ever, by increasing population, exciting energy to keep pace with the increased demand for food and all other things; it is in most cases a sign of prosperity, and excites cheerfulness in all the holders of stock. In the course of the week generally the demand for consumption has been slackened, or speculation had gone too far, prices have been declining, and a slight gloom, comparatively, has been the consequence.

The following extract of a commercial letter, dated Smyrna, Jan. 26, mentions a fact that is likely to be of considerable importance to the trade with the Levant for the next year:—

For the past few days we have had one of the most intense frosts ever remembered here. Several poor persons have been frozen to death in their beds. It has also caused much injury to our fruit trees; indeed it is feared that many of them have been completely destroyed. Orange and lemon trees have all the appearance of having been burnt up. Vessels keep very scarce, which is very unfortunate for us; another season we must endeavour to provide against this by chartering some on your side.

It is probable that this severe cold has extended over a considerable breadth of country, and also probable that it has affected the olive, as well as the orange and lemon trees. In that case we may look forward to another failure of the olive oil crop next year, as last year. Should that be the case, the Dutch farmers who have given up growing wheat and taken to cultivate rape seed, as we mentioned a fortnight ago, will find it much for their advantage.

That ships cannot be got at Smyrna, is partly accounted for by the fact, that Mediterranean seamen do not like to leave that inland sea. They are not very skillful navigators on this side the Pillars of Hercules, and their vessels, loftily masted, with large square yards, are better adapted to the generally light breezes and almost coasting navigation of the Mediterranean, than for the heavy gales and long sea voyages across the Atlantic.

Letters from Stockholm of Jan. 29, and from Christiania, in Norway, of the same date, speak of the severe cold at both places. It seems, therefore, to have been very general. The Stockholm letter says:—

The winter has been very severe, and it seems as if we should not get open water before late in the spring. Our foreign mails have not arrived on account of the severe weather.

The Christiania letter says:—

We have now five English mails due, which will account for my being deprived of your esteemed. Since I have been in the country, I do not recollect such a long detention of the mails. It may be interesting to you to see the gradual increase that has taken place in the consumption of coffee in Norway. I therefore inclose a brief note of the amount that has paid duty during the last fourteen years; a similar gradual increase is found to have taken place in a variety of other articles, although not in the same ratio; the fact, however may be taken as an example of the progressive improvement in the trade resources of the country. The following table shows the progressive increase in the consumption of coffee in Norway, from 1835 to 1848 inclusive, in English lbs:—

| | lbs. | | lbs. |
|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1835 | 2,412,484 | 1842 | 5,756,930 |
| 1836 | 3,044,785 | 1843 | 6,098,769 |
| 1837 | 3,575,831 | 1844 | 5,765,959 |
| 1838 | 2,705,641 | 1845 | 7,540,971 |
| 1839 | 3,354,112 | 1846 | 7,411,411 |
| 1840 | 4,897,458 | 1847 | 8,596,769 |
| 1841 | 5,122,187 | 1848 | 8,710,986 |

What has taken place in Norway is more or less the case amongst all the persevering steady people of the North of Europe. The demand for colonial produce is increasing, and there will be no want of a market for that which our own colonies and all other tropical countries can supply.

INDIGO.

The quarterly sales commenced on Tuesday last, 12th inst. comprising a total of 14,369 chests of all sorts, and have since continued daily. At the close of to-day's (fourth) sitting, the following result has been obtained;—Total withdrawn, 2,490 chests; total bought in, 924 chests; total *bona fide* sold, 2,563 chests. Consequently 8,392 chests remain to come forward next week. The sales will be resumed on Monday.

Buyers are operating with great caution, and, on the whole, the demand in these sales is less active than it was previously expected. Orders from abroad are very moderate, and, as for the home trade, the attendance of country buyers is decidedly small.

Compared with the average rates of the October sales last year, the prices now rule as follows:—

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|--------|-------|---------------|
| Bengal, &c., fine..... | from | 5 to 6 | d. d. | per lb higher |
| — middling | — | 6—7 | — | — |
| — ordinary | — | 4—5 | — | — |
| Oude | — | 2—3 | — | — |
| Madras and Kurpah | — | 3—4 | — | — |

It seems likely that these rates will be maintained during the further progress of the sales—

MONTHLY IMPORTS OF COLONIAL AND FOREIGN WOOL.

Colonial and foreign wool imported into London, Liverpool, and Hull, from the 1st of Jan. to the 1st of Feb. in the years 1849 and 1850, and the total imports, including Bristol and Leith.

| | London. | | Liverpool. | | Hull. | | Totals, inc. Bristol and Leith. | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| | 1849 | 1850 | 1849 | 1850 | 1849 | 1850 | 1849 | 1850 |
| | Bags | Bags | Bags | Bags | Bags | Bags | Bags | Bags |
| Colonial. | | | | | | | | |
| New South Wales | 357 | 1821 | ... | 235 | ... | ... | 357 | 2056 |
| Van Diemen's Land | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| P. Philip & Adelaide | ... | 2147 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2147 |
| Cape of Good Hope | 483 | 460 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 483 | 460 |
| East Indies | 13 | 234 | 17 | 428 | ... | ... | 207 | 662 |
| Total Colonial | 853 | 4662 | 17 | 663 | ... | ... | 1047 | 5325 |
| Foreign. | | | | | | | | |
| Germany | 151 | 130 | ... | ... | 1000 | ... | 1153 | 130 |
| Spain and Portugal | ... | 51 | 115 | 811 | ... | ... | 106 | 862 |
| Russia | 273 | 922 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | 273 | 922 |
| South America | 4026 | 963 | 11907 | 3726 | ... | ... | 12499 | 4689 |
| Barbary and Turkey | 107 | 1002 | 21 | ... | ... | ... | 223 | 1002 |
| Syria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Trieste, Leghorn, &c. | ... | ... | 95 | ... | ... | ... | 116 | ... |
| Denmark | ... | ... | ... | ... | 55 | ... | 55 | ... |
| United States | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sundry | 99 | 386 | 35 | 105 | ... | ... | 186 | 491 |
| Total | 5509 | 8116 | 12196 | 5305 | 1055 | ... | 15658 | 13421 |

COTTON.

LIVERPOOL MARKET, FEB. 15. PRICE CURRENT.

| | 1849—Same period | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|
| | Ord. | Mid. | Fair. | Good Fair. | Good. | Fine. |
| | per lb | per lb | per lb | per lb | per lb | per lb |
| Upland | 6½ | 6½d | 6½d | 7c | 7½d | 7½d |
| New Orleans | 6½ | 6½ | 7 | 7½ | 8 | 8½ |
| Pernambuco | 6½ | 6½ | 6½ | 7 | 7½ | 7½ |
| Egyptian | 6½ | 6½ | 7½ | 7½ | 8½ | 9½ |
| Surat and Madras | 4½ | 4½ | 4½ | 5 | 5½ | 5½ |

IMPORTS, CONSUMPTION, EXPORTS, &c.

| Whole Import, Jan. 1 to Feb. 15. | | Consumption, Jan. 1 to Feb. 15. | | Exports, Jan. 1 to Feb. 15. | | Computed Stock, Feb. 15. | |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|--------|--------------------------|---------|
| 1850 | 1849 | 1850 | 1849 | 1850 | 1849 | 1850 | 1849 |
| bales | bales | bales | bales | bales | bales | bales | bales |
| 224,586 | 250,539 | 173,950 | 232,290 | 6,690 | 22,090 | 515,180 | 589,490 |

The cotton market has been extremely quiet this week, and prices of most descriptions of cotton have been daily drooping. We have reduced our quotations for American 4d per lb, and it is with difficulty that sales are made at this decline. Brazil, with the exception of Maranhao, are 4d per lb lower, which is also the case as regards Egyptian and East India. The sales, this day, are 3,500 bales. The market is somewhat irregular, and very dull. Speculation this week, 4,340 American, 250 Pernam, 480 Egyptian, and 70 Surat. Export, 480 American and 470 Surat. Vessels arrived and not reported, 1 from North America and 1 from Brazil.

MARKETS OF THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS.

MANCHESTER, THURSDAY EVENING, Feb. 14, 1850.

(From our own Correspondent.)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE COTTON TRADE.

| | Price Feb. 14, 1850. | | Price Feb. 1849. | | Price Feb. 1848. | | Price Feb. 1847. | | Price Feb. 1846. | | Price Feb. 1845. | |
|--|----------------------|-----|------------------|-----|------------------|----|------------------|----|------------------|----|------------------|-----|
| | s | d | s | d | s | d | s | d | s | d | s | d |
| RAW COTTON:— | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Upland fair.....per lb | 0 | 6½ | 0 | 4½ | 0 | 5½ | 0 | 6½ | 0 | 4½ | 0 | 4½ |
| Ditto good fair | 0 | 7 | 0 | 4½ | 0 | 5½ | 0 | 7½ | 0 | 4½ | 0 | 4½ |
| Pernambuco fair | 0 | 6½ | 0 | 5½ | 0 | 6½ | 0 | 7½ | 0 | 6½ | 0 | 6½ |
| Ditto good fair | 0 | 7 | 0 | 5½ | 0 | 6½ | 0 | 8½ | 0 | 6½ | 0 | 6½ |
| No. 40 MULE YARN, fair, 2nd qual..... | 0 | 10½ | 0 | 8½ | 0 | 8½ | 0 | 9½ | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10½ |
| No. 30 WATER do do | 0 | 9½ | 0 | 8 | 0 | 8½ | 0 | 9½ | 0 | 9½ | 0 | 9½ |
| 26-in., 66 reed, Printer, 29yds, 4lbs 2oz | 5 | 1½ | 4 | 7½ | 4 | 2 | 4 | 7½ | 4 | 8 | 5 | 8 |
| 27-in., 72 reed, do, do, 5lbs 2oz | 6 | 4½ | 5 | 4½ | 5 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| 29-in., 60 reed, Gold End Shirtings, 37½ yds, 8lbs 4oz | 8 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 9 | 1½ |
| 40-in., 66 reed, do, do, do, 8lbs 12oz | 9 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 7½ | 9 | 9 |
| 40-in., 72 reed, do, do, do, 9lbs 4oz.... | 10 | 6 | 8 | 10½ | 8 | 9 | 10 | 1½ | 9 | 7½ | 10 | 6 |
| 39-in., 48 reed, Red End Long Cloth 36 yds, 9lbs | 7 | 7½ | 6 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 9 |

Since our last we have experienced nothing but excessive flatness; little or nothing doing, with a growing disposition to accept lower prices. In printing cloth, considering the general dullness that exists, there is a fair amount of business doing, but at rather lower prices. For cloth suitable for India, there are many large orders in the hands of buying agents, but which are being held over for the chance of executing them at lower rates. All descriptions of heavy cloth are very much depressed, and many producers of such qualities are putting their works on short time, and some few stopping altogether. The lower counts of yarn are in a state similar to the heavy makes of cloth; qualities suitable for home use, Nos. 30 to 36, are more neglected than they have been for some months past, and consequently prices are considerably lower; finer counts are still in good demand, and prices perfectly firm, both for shipping and home consumption, if we except

one or two India qualities which are rather lower. Altogether the market evidences great want of confidence.

The arrival of the next steamer from America is looked forward to with considerable interest by spinners and manufacturers; and on the part of cotton speculators, we may safely say with no little anxiety. Whatever the news be, we are prepared to expect a larger business, owing to the small business done by the trade during the last four weeks, which must have reduced their stocks very considerably.

CORN.

CONTINENTAL CORN MARKETS.

ANTWERP, Feb. 13.—We have been sparingly supplied with all sorts of grain lately, but our inland navigation being now re-opened, we expect soon large arrivals of wheat at our market towns, which we hope to secure at low rates, viz, 62lb Louvain 36s 6d, 61 to 62lb Antwerp 35s 6d, 61 to 62lb white Ghent 39s 6d, 60lb white Zealand 39s 6d, all f.o.b.

ALTONA, Feb. 10.—There has been little doing in our market during last week, holders of wheat insisting on their former demands, and we see little prospect of a further decline of prices, as there is much disposition amongst our capitalists to speculate, the present rates being considered quite safe. For 62lbs Rostock wheat 35s 6d per qr, f.o.b., there, was in vain offered, and 61½lbs Wismar is firmly held at 35s per qr, f.o.b., there; 61 to 62lbs Waren wheat on the spot must be quoted 38s to 39s; 59 to 62lbs Mark Magdeburg and Saale 35s 6d to 39s; 58 to 60lbs white Upland 39s 6d to 40s 6d; 60½ to 61½ lbs Mecklenburg 38s to 39s 6d; 58 to 59lbs Holstein 38s to 36s per qr, f.o.b. Saal barley is less inquired for, but there is no alteration in prices; 52lbs is held at 20s, secondary qualities 19s 6d per qr f.o.b. There are a good many offers of barley from the outports, and 51lbs Zealand could be bought at 14s; 53 to 54lbs Jutland at 15s 4d to 15s 9d per qr, f.o.b. there. Prices of oats are unaltered, and 37 to 38lbs Holstein held at 18s 6d to 14s; 38 to 39lbs Jutland 12s 6d; 37½lbs to be shipped from the west coast of Schleswig at 11s 6d per qr, f.o.b. Peas and beans 23s to 24s 6d; large tares 29s to 30s, and small ditto 21s per qr, f.o.b.

STETTIN, Feb. 10.—We are not able to report a decline in our prices, there being much speculative demand in our market, and we quote 62 lb Pommeranian wheat 35s 6d, 61 to 62 lb Uckermark 35s, 61 lb white Silesian 35s to 35s 6d, red Silesian 34s per qr. Barley is also held at former rates say: 52 lb Pommeranian 17s to 17s 6d, 52 lb Oderbruch 17s per qr, f.o.b. Oats are not to be had below 12s 6d per qr. Peas 22s to 24s per qr f.o.b. in spring.

ROSTOCK, Feb. 9.—In spite of the dull accounts from England, holders of wheat show much firmness, and there is nothing to be had weighing 62 to 63lb below 35s to 36s per qr, f.o.b. Barley meets with little attention, but late rates were maintained, and 52lb qualities fetched 15s 6d to 16s per qr, f.o.b. in spring.

STRALSUND, Feb. 9.—Owing to the smallness of our supplies, prices of wheat are fully supported, and I must quote best 62lb 35s per qr, f.o.b. Large 52lb barley is not to be had below 16s, small ditto 14s 6d per qr, f.o.b. in spring.

GRIFFSWALD, Feb. 9.—In the face of the dull accounts from England, holders of grain remain very firm, and as purchases on speculation are continually made, there is no prospect of seeing a decline in our prices, even if the English markets should continue to be depressed. We quote 61 to 62 lbs wheat 35s; 52lb barley 15s 6d per qr, f.o.b. in spring.

ANCLAM, Feb. 9.—No alteration in the value of grain has taken place. I quote 62 lbs wheat 35s to 35s 6d; 52 lbs barley 16s per qr, f.o.b., in spring.

DANZIG, Feb. 8.—The roads here being much injured by heavy falls of snow and subsequent thaw, supplies from the neighbourhood are very trifling, and business during the week has been confined to retail transactions. We quote 61 lbs high mixed wheat 38s, 60 to 63 lbs good mixed 36s, and common runs 35s per qr, f.o.b. Barley a shade lower than last week, say 54 lbs large 16s, 49 to 50 lbs small 13s 6d to 14s. Boiling peas 20s 6d to 21s per qr, f.o.b., in spring.

KONIGSBERG, Feb. 8.—Owing to the bad state of our roads, our supplies have been short of late, which tends to maintain prices, and I quote 61 lbs high mixed wheat 35s, 61 lbs good mixed 34s, 61 lbs red 33s per qr. The stocks of the latter description are exceedingly small. Rye has been in good demand of late for shipment to Ireland, at prices equal to 16s 9d per qr, f.o.b. 53 lbs large barley is held at 14s 9d, 49 to 50 lbs small 13s to 13s 6d, 36 lbs oats 9s 9d to 10s, beans 20s 9d to 21s, boiling peas 19s, feeders 18s, tares 15s 6d per qr, f.o.b., in spring.

MEMEL, Feb. 7.—Our farmers do not seem inclined to bring forward supplies at present prices, and our market continues to be in a state of perfect inactivity. I quote nominally 61 lbs high mixed wheat 37s, 50 lb barley 13s, 36 lb oats 9s 6d, 57 lb rye 16s 9d per qr, f.o.b., in spring.

LONDON MARKETS.

STATE OF THE CORN TRADE FOR THE WEEK.

MARK LANE, FRIDAY MORNING.

There were very short fresh supplies of wheat from Essex and Kent by land carriage at last Monday's market in Mark Lane; the condition was indifferent, caused by the unsettled state of the weather, still it met a good steady demand at prices fully equal to those current on that day se'night. The imports were quite trifling, there being only 503 qrs from Bruges and 90 qrs from Ostend; this description was held with much firmness, and fully as much money was obtained for all sorts, and a fair amount of business was transacted. The supplies of flour consisted of—1,355 sacks from our own coast, 5,086 sacks by the Eastern Counties Railway, and 1,989 sacks from various foreign ports; good country marks met a somewhat better demand, and there was no variation in the value of any sort. The arrivals of barley amounted to 6,778 qrs; 3,445 qrs coastwise, 533 qrs from Scotland, and 2,800 qrs from Constantinople; fine malting realised full prices with a steady sale, other sorts met a slow demand, except foreign grinding, which brought former rates readily. Beans in good condition sold at fully as much money. Peas met a moderate request at previous currency. Oats were in limited supply—937 qrs coastwise and 2,611 qrs from Scotland, and no foreign whatever: the consumers were the principal buyers, who took the best heavy qualities to a fair extent, for which they paid the prices of the previous Monday.

At Liverpool on Tuesday there was a very thin attendance of country buyers, and the trade was not brisk, consequently no advance could be established in any description of wheat: average 37s 2d on 536 qrs. Barley, beans, and peas met a slow sale at former prices. Oats were unchanged in

value. Oatmeal the turn cheaper. Flour in limited request for all sorts at previous terms. No change occurred in the value of Indian corn.

The farmers brought forward a good supply of wheat at Hull, and fine samples were 1s higher than on the last market day. Foreign wheat was a trifle in favour of the seller: average 3s 1d on 613 qrs. There was not much doing in any kind of spring corn.

At Leeds an advance of 1s per qr was realised on wheat, with a fair demand for consumption: average 3s 7½d on 3,105 qrs. Barley was in little request at somewhat lower rates. Oats and beans met a better sale at rather enhanced prices.

The supply of wheat at Ipswich was short, for which there was an improved inquiry, and a clearance was effected at 1s per qr more money: average 3s 5d on 100 qrs. Barley was held firmly without alteration. Oats very dull. Beans and peas met a good steady demand at fully the currency of the previous week.

At Mark lane on Wednesday the fresh arrivals of English and Scotch oats were fair, but limited of other articles, with no importations of foreign grain. Wheat brought quite as much money, with a steady sale. Barley, beans, and peas were in moderate request at Monday's prices. The consumers were the chief buyers of oats, who took fine qualities at fully previous rates.

The weekly averages announced on Thursday were 3s 6d on 92,976 qrs wheat, 2s 7d on 84,694 qrs barley, 1s 3d on 26,111 qrs oats, 2s 1d on 102 qrs rye, 2s 3d on 10,274 qrs beans, and 2s 4d on 2,133 qrs peas.

The supply of wheat at Birmingham was short from the growers, and the demand was slow at 6d to 1s per qr more money; average 3s 8d on 2,124 qrs.

At Bristol the supplies were moderate, and although there was more inquiry, still no advance could be realised on any description; average 3s 2d on 404 qrs.

The demand at Uxbridge was better, and an improvement in the value by 1s per qr took place; average 4s 5d on 691 qrs.

At Newbury market there was a short supply, for which a steady sale was experienced at an advance of 1s to 2s per qr; average 4s 4d on 806 qrs.

At Mark-lane on Friday the supplies of English oats were fair, but short of wheat, whilst the importations of foreign were very limited. Wheat was held firmly at the currency of Monday. Barley, beans, and peas were without any variation in price, with a moderate sale. Fine oats met a fair demand for consumption at fully previous rates.

The London averages announced this day were:—

Table with columns: Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Beans, Peas. Rows: Qrs. s d, 3,808 at 41 3, 2,494 24 10, 3,498 16 10, 966 24 10, 697 28 1.

Arrivals this Week.

Table with columns: Wheat, Barley, Malt, Oats, Flour. Rows: English, Irish, Foreign. Includes sack counts for flour.

PRICES CURRENT OF CORN, &c.

BRITISH AND IRISH.

Main table of British and Irish corn prices. Columns: Commodity, Price per quarter, Price per bushel. Includes entries for Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Beans, Peas, and Flour.

FOREIGN.

Table of foreign corn prices. Columns: Commodity, Price per quarter, Price per bushel. Includes entries for Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Beans, Peas, and Flour from various regions like Danzig, Russian, and Egyptian.

SEEDS.

Table of seed prices. Columns: Commodity, Price per bushel, Price per cwt. Includes entries for Linseed, Rape, Hemp, Mustard, and Clover seeds.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL PRODUCE MARKETS.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

MINCING LANE, FRIDAY MORNING.

(For Report of This Day's Markets see "Postscript.")

SUGAR.—The market remains in the same dull state as noticed for some weeks past, and prices occasionally show a decline of 6d, as considerable supplies of foreign have been brought forward, and arrivals are still large. About 800 casks West India were sold privately to yesterday, and in some instances at 6d reduction upon the lower qualities; grocery continues scarce, but the deficiency is greatly relieved by the plentiful supplies of Porto Rico. On Tuesday,

144 casks Barbadoes sold steadily, and at full prices, the stock in first hands being nearly exhausted: low mid to good went at 3s to 4s; fine, 4s 6d to 4s 12s per cwt. The consumption of foreign sugar to present date, has been 2,100 tons larger than in 1849, but upon colonial there is a decrease amounting to 4,167 tons. Total deliveries last week were estimated at 3,373 tons, 2,447 tons being colonial. The stocks of colonial on 9th inst were 34,196, against 47,270 tons last year; and of foreign, &c., 41,338, against 28,100, making an aggregate surplus of only 138 tons. The stock of West India is very low.

Mauritius.—There was no improvement in the demand on Tuesday, when the public sales comprised 9,042 bags, of which only 3,500 found buyers, at 6d under last week's rates: fine grocery, 40s to 40s 6d; middling to good, 37s 6d to 39s 6d; good strong dry grey, 38s to 39s; low to middling, refining kinds, 37s to 37s 6d; soft brown, 33s 6d; syrupy, low to fair, 29s 6d to 33s per cwt. Further supplies have come in, and the stock is increasing, but at present continues to show a serious deficiency as compared with that of last year.

Bengal.—Only 976 bags, consisting of white Benares were submitted at the commencement of the week, yet prices ruled 6d lower in many instances; good brought 41s 6d; low middling, 39s to 39s 6d; low soft, 38s to 38s 6d per cwt. There has not been much inquiry made by private treaty, as stocks in first hands are still large, and the market likely to be well supplied for some time.

Other East India.—On Wednesday 10,045 bags Manilla were brought upon the market, duty paid, or allowed, but the whole taken in as there did not appear to be buyers at previous rates: good brown and low yellow, 38s to 38s 6d, and dark heavy brown (17s duty), 32s 6d. Yesterday 4,211 bags, in bond, were withdrawn.

Few sales have been made by private treaty, and no improvement in demand for export. Some large parcels duty paid sugars brought forward have sold at rather lower rates. Of 850 casks 200 bris Porto Rico on Wednesday, about 300 casks realised 40s to 42s 6d for good to fine grocery; low to fair greyish, 37s to 39s 6d; brown, middling heavy to good, 35s to 36s 6d. 2,417 boxes Havana, duty paid or allowed, sold from 37s 6d to 40s 6d for brown to good yellow. 307 boxes washed brown and yellow, went from 18s to 22s 6d. 297 casks 2 bris Bahia were taken in at extreme rates. The only transactions reported are in Pernams, at 19s; and 2,000 boxes yellow Havana, at 40s, duty paid.

Refined.—Although refiners have accepted a further decline of 6d upon the lower class of goods, there has not been a very active demand by the trade. Brown lumps have sold at 48s 6d; titlers, middling to good and fine, 49s to 52s; wet lumps, 46s to 48s. There is a steady inquiry for pieces and bastards, at the prices quoted last week. Treacle remains quiet at 14s 6d to 19s, as in quality. The market for bonded sugars still presents a dull appearance, scarcely any sales of importance having been made. Crushed is quoted at 30s to 31s; No. 2, 29s 6d to 29s 9d. Loaves are neglected; 10lb, 34s to 34s 6d. Dutch crushed sugars have not been so active, and a few sales made at easier rates, from 26s to 28s 3d per cwt. Other goods remain without change.

COFFEE.—This has been a very dull week in the market, and less business done than for some considerable time past; holders having shown more disposition to realise, prices are again lower, and the decline upon native Ceylon is fully 2s 6d for the week. On Saturday last business was done at 60s: since then the market has been flat at 59s, and in one instance 58s accepted for good ordinary quality, and the extent of business reported has not exceeded 5,000 to 6,000 bags. The sales of plantation kinds went off flatly, and at a reduction of 2s to 3s, yet 300 casks 1,326 bags were only about half disposed of: good marks taken in as high as 85s; middling bold realised 72s to 75s, dull and low middling 68s to 71s 6d, fine to fine ordinary colour 63s 6d to 66s 6d, ragged and ordinary 59s to 61s 6d; triage 51s to 60s; peas 61s to 75s. The deliveries do not improve. Stock on 9th inst, 105,052 bags, 12,182 casks, and at same date last year, 117,646 bags 2,895 casks. 150 bales and half bales Mocha chiefly sold at rather easier rates: long berry, middling, rather ragged to fair, 73s to 80s; triage 35s to 55s. 630 bags other East India were bought in; very superior bold yellow Java 58s to 59s; Padang 50s per cwt. The foreign market is dull: 795 bags Costa Rica found buyers at 3s to 4s under the rates of the last public sales, from 56s 6d to 61s for fine ordinary dingy to low middling. 600 bags Brazil were bought in at high prices; Rio, ordinary pale and ragged to fine ordinary, 54s to 58s: Bahia the same, with lot fine fine ordinary 60s. The Dutch Trading Company's sales will comprise 303,000 bags Java, and commence at Rotterdam on the 11th proximo.

Cocoa.—The demand has not improved, and the market remains very flat. About 1,000 bags Trinidad have been brought to public sale, and all taken in, there being no buyers, unless at a considerable decline: grey to fair red 41s to 46s, with a few lots good 47s to 48s. The deliveries are steady, and the stock is nearly 2,000 bags, &c., in excess of last year's at this period. Of foreign 563 bags Bahia were withdrawn; good red 35s, low 33s per cwt.

TEA.—No further alteration this week, although the market is well supplied. Congous, ranging from 11d to 1s 3d, continue to meet with much attention; common remains at 9½d to 10d per lb. A steady business in scented teas, at previous rates. Canton kinds of green maintain the late advance. About 5,000 packages tea are declared for public sale on Wednesday next.

RICE.—There have been few sales made by private treaty in any kind. 420 bags Bengal realised former rates, viz, 9s 6d to 10s for middling broken white.

PIMENTO.—A vessel from Jamaica has been lost with 1,200 bags, yet the market is quiet at present, and a small parcel sold yesterday in public sale at 7d. Privately 7½d per lb has been obtained.

PEPPER.—Few inquiries have been made this week, as the market is very dull, and 185 bags Penang realised 4d for good half heavy, which was a decline of fully ½d per lb, considering the quality. White is in steady demand. 158 bags sold at 6½d to 7d per lb for middling to fair even.

OTHER SPICES.—Yesterday, a cargo of 3,916 boxes cassia lignea was brought on the market, and the whole found ready buyers at higher rates than generally anticipated. Pile 1, good, 105s to 111s; coarse and good middling, 105s 6d to 109s for 2nd and 3rd piles, being several shillings advance on the last sale's prices. The greater portion was taken by export buyers. 76 bags Bombay cloves partly sold from 8½d to 8½d. There have not been any public sales of nutmegs or mace. All kinds of ginger are quiet.

SALTPETRE.—Importers have not yet brought forward any of the late imports, and the market being quiet, there has been a limited business done by private treaty at previous rates. The few parcels sold were chiefly in second hands. The stock is about 1,300 tons larger than last year's at this time.

NITRATE SODA has been sold to some extent at 14s 6d, and now 3d to 6d more is demanded.

DRUGS, &c.—Few sales have been made in East India this week, as the markets are dull. Camphor is quoted at 80s, which is rather lower. Gums remain quiet, and prices without material alteration. 100 chests shellac brought 42s 6d to 43s for low broken to fair liver. Gambier is dull, and 12s was accepted for 329 bales. 1,280 bags Catch of fair quality taken in at 22s 6d, there being no buyers at that price. A few lots safflower went from 7l 10s to 8l 15s. There is a limited demand for turmeric at late prices.

DYEWOODS.—110 tons of Manilla Sapan realised 12l 15s to 13l 5s, and about 90 tons Nicaragua, 16l 5s to 16l 17s 6d per ton for good.

COCHINEAL.—The market remains dull. 124 bags Honduras were partly sold, and silvers went 1d to 2d cheaper; blacks nearly as before; the former brought 4s to 4s 6d for ordinary to good; the latter 4s 3d to 5s 6d. 141 bags Teneriffe were partly disposed of at 4s to 4s 3d. A few lots Mexican blacks went at 4s to 4s 4d per lb. A vessel has come in with 420 serons Honduras.

METALS.—Most kinds of British iron have been in steady demand at last week's rates, but speculators do not make any purchases. Scotch pig has again declined, mixed numbers selling at 47s to 47s 6d per ton, cash. Spelter is very dull, and even at 10s to 15s lower rates, there appear to be few buyers. Tin also remains inactive, and prices may be considered nominal, no business having been done. Copper and other metals present no change this week.

HEMP.—Baltic kinds are firm at late prices, but not much business doing. Manila is in steady demand. Jute remains dull, and 2,500 bales offered yesterday were about two-thirds taken in; prices ranged from 10l up to 15l 15s per ton.

FLAX is in great demand at advancing prices. LINSEED.—There has been only a moderate business done this week, and prices are not quite so firm, Black Sea having sold at 44s per quarter. Cakes continue difficult of sale at a further decline in value; finest English made, 7l; fine French, 5l 15s to 6l per ton.

TURPENTINE.—Rough is quiet, at the quotations. Spirits have also been dull, and English drawn are worth 32s per cwt.

OILS.—The market is rather quiet, but there has been rather more doing in common fish for export. Cod, after selling at 30l 10s, is now firm at 31l 10s. Pale seal quiet, as holders ask the late high price. Southern continues rather scarce. Sperm has met with a steady demand at last Friday's rates. Speculators are again in the linseed oil market, and business to a moderate extent is reported; 32s to 32s 3d paid on the spot, and 33s for future delivery, being 3d to 6d dearer. Palm and cocoa are quiet, and prices the same as last week.

TALLOW.—As the trade still buy only for present requirements, the market continues flat, and prices have again given way about 3d, finest Petersburg Y.C. selling at 37s 6d to 37s 9d, and 37s 3d demanded for arrival to the end of next month. Large supplies of South American are yet coming forward, and the stock on Monday was 42,861, or 7,350 casks in excess of that in 1849. Deliveries last week, 1,980 casks. There is a good supply of town melted.

POSTSCRIPT. FRIDAY EVENING.

SUGAR.—No improvement in the demand, the market closing flatly, and with a downward tendency. Only 364 casks West India were sold by private treaty, making the total transactions 1,173, at barely former rates. Mauritius: 5,711 bags were offered to-day, and about half sold at 6d decline on Tuesday's rates. B-n-gal: 3,903 bags were offered, of which nearly 2,000 sold at rather easier rates. Mauritius kinds, middling to fair, 37s to 39s; white Benares, low middling to good, 39s to 41s 6d; damp grainy yellow, 38s to 39s. Madras: 1,000 bags were taken in at 32s for low damp yellow. Penang: 1,660 bags sold at 36s 6d to 40s 6d for low soft to fine yellow. Refined was quiet at yesterday's prices.

COFFEE.—Upon receipt of the Brazil mall prices, advanced 1s for native Ceylon, business being done at 60s; subsequently 61s 6d paid for good ordinary, and about 2,000 bags reported sold, making the market 2s 6d higher than yesterday.

RICE.—97 casks Carolina sold at 20s 6d. SAGO.—100 chests good bold grain sold at 22s to 23s 6d. LAC DYE.—62 packages sold at 10s 1d to 1s 2d for common to middling marks.

OTHER GOODS.—604 bags fair Cutch realised 21s to 21s 6d. 190 bags gum Senegal taken in at 90s.

COCHINEAL.—The market is so flat that 130 serons offered to-day were nearly all withdrawn at previous rates.

JUTE.—1,067 bales were partly sold at 12l 7s 6d to 13l 10s.

OIL.—129 casks cocoa nut partly sold at 32s 6d to 34s for Ceylon and Madras.

TALLOW.—787 casks Australian partly sold from 33s to 37s. 493 chests 740 boxes South American, 33s 9d to 36s 3d per cwt.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

SUGAR.—The home market is very dull, and scarcely any business doing, although 6d to 1s lower prices have been accepted. The bonded is also without demand. Loaves continue the same, from scarcity alone, in which crushed participates. Treacle neglected. About 500 tons Dutch superfine sold at 29s 6d, and 700 tons No. 2 at 27s 9d in Holland for the Italian markets. Belgian, nothing doing.

DRY FRUIT.—No arrivals to report this week, and the market for dry fruit without alteration.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Spanish Raisins, Smyrna Raisins, Almonds. Rows for 1850, 1849, 1848.

GREEN FRUIT.—The market has not been brisk this week, owing to the bad weather checking out-of-door consumption, and the advance obtained in the price of oranges last week has not been sustained. Three cargoes from St Michael and one from Terceira, sold at public sale by Keeling and Hunt, went at a decline of 1s to 2s per box. Barcelona nuts will be higher; a cargo has been withdrawn from the market, the importers refusing to sell at the present price. Not any black Spanish remaining. Lemons in demand, and the price firm. Seville sours of good quality have advanced 10s per chest.

ENGLISH WOOL.—The English wool trade continues steady, and the demand great; prices much the same as of late, and the general feeling is that a gradual improvement in prices must take place.

FOREIGN WOOL.—The public sales of colonial wool began yesterday, with a very great attendance of buyers; the biddings were very spirited, and the prices paid show an advance over last sale's of about 2d per lb.

COTTON.—Since Friday (when 2,300 bales were sold at a decline of 4d per lb.) the market has been heavy, and the transactions inconsiderable, prices are 4d per lb lower; although at this decline holders show little disposition to press sales. Sales of cotton wool from Friday 8th February to Thursday 14th inclusive. Surat, 2,500 bales at 4 1/2d to 5d, middling fair to fully fair.

SILK.—There has been considerable business done during the week in most descriptions of China silk, at an advance of 6d to 1s per lb. In other silks no alteration has taken place.

FLAX AND HEMP.—Flax still improving in price for the lower qualities, and but few sellers. Hemp is very quiet, but a little more inquiry.

LEATHER AND HIDES.—A considerable amount of business has been transacted during the past week. At Leadenhall, on Tuesday, a fair extent of leather was done. Light shaved hides, calf skins, of 40lbs per dozen and under, as well as English shoulders, were scarce and much in request. Some extensive sales of light butts, both English and foreign, have been made at about former rates. The public sales of last week were chiefly of East India hips—about 30,000—and few were suited to the home trade. The lower de-

scriptions at fully former rates. Not much doing in South American hides the sales by private contract are only 1,500 salted Buenos Ayres at previous quotations.

METALS.—We have no alteration to note, except in lead, which is again advanced in price, with much probability of further rise. Generally there is much firmness in the market.

SEEDS.—Brown mustard, rape, and hemp seeds are in better demand, prices from 1s to 2s per qr dearer. Other seeds steady.

TIMBER.—The price of wood continues to be very low—below import cost considerably—and as the weather is open, some business has been done during the month. Some vagueness as to the duties on the refusal of the Government (and with great prudence) to answer the inquiry thereon on Tuesday last in the House of Commons, and the still open question between Denmark and Prussia, will tend to check any further reduction of prices. Consumption seems to be slightly increased.

ENSUING SALES IN LONDON.

TUESDAY, Feb. 19.—150 hhds Barbadoes sugar. 70 hhds Demerara do. 60 tierces do; 2,300 bags Bengal do; 1,800 bags Madras do. 630 pockets East India ginger. 500 bags saltpetre. 1,724 packages gambier. 1,326 bags cutch. 574 bags Bengal turmeric. 82 bags cochineal. 80 bales Bengal safflower. 382 chests lac dye. 18 tons Sapan wood.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 20.—7,615 packages tea. THURSDAY, Jan. 21.—1,000 chests cassia lignea. 472 bags turmeric. 40 chests shellac. 42 bags do.

FRIDAY, Feb. 22.—392 boxes sago. 223 chests lac dye. 200 chests shellac. 30 bags cochineal. 50 tons St Domingo logwood. 35 tons Laguna do.

PROVISIONS.

The bacon market continues very flat, the shippers not willing to give in to lower prices, and the trade here generally disinclined to go into stock at present rates. The supply of American bacon up to present time very small, not above one fourth of what there was last year, corresponding period, price about 2s per cwt lower, while Irish is about 14s per cwt.

In butter a considerable quantity has changed hands; the stock in Liverpool and other provincial towns very small.

Comparative Statement of Stocks and Deliveries

Table with 4 columns: Year, Stock, Delivery, Stock, Deliveries. Rows for 1848, 1849, 1850.

Arrivals for the Past Week.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Quantity. Rows for Irish butter, Foreign do, Bale Bacon.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS.

MONDAY, Feb. 11.—Since our last report very moderate supplies of country-killed meat have been received up to these markets, but those on offer killed in the metropolis have proved seasonably extensive. From its scarcity, prime mutton has commanded a steady sale, at an advance in the quotations of 2d per 8lbs. In veal a full average amount of business has been transacted, at full prices. All other kinds of meat have met a very slow inquiry, and late rates have been with difficulty supported. A few carcasses of house-lamb have been disposed of.

FRIDAY, Feb. 15.—Mutton sold readily, at an advance in the quotations of 2d per 8lbs. In other kinds of meat only a limited business was passing, on the following terms:—

Table with 4 columns: Item, Price. Rows for Inferior beef, Mutton, Midding ditto, Prime large, Prime small, Veal.

SMITHFIELD CATTLE MARKET.

MONDAY, Feb. 11.—As the navigation in Holland is still closed, and as the weather has been extremely boisterous, the imports of foreign stock into London last week were small, viz., 971 head. During the same period, in 1848, the importations amounted to 260; and, at the same time in 1849, to 1,408 head. The general quality of the stock at hand since our last has proved inferior. The items of the import were—beasts 185, sheep 625, calves 161.

Scarcely any stock has reached the outports. From Ireland, 43 oxen and 90 pigs have come to hand, by sea, for this market.

The supply of foreign stock on offer to-day was very limited, and of but middling quality.

Fresh up to our market this morning the arrivals of home-fed beasts were but moderate. Their general condition was, however, somewhat superior to those exhibited for some weeks past. Owing to the unfavourable state of the weather for slaughtering, the beef trade ruled exceedingly inactive, at barely last Monday's quotations; the top figure for the best Scots was 2s 10d per 8lbs, at which a clearance was not effected.

From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, we received 1,940 Scots and shorthorns; from the Northern counties, 300 shorthorns; and from other parts of England, 750 Herefords, runts, Devons, &c. The Scotch supply was only 120 head.

Comparatively speaking, the numbers of sheep were small. As the arrivals of dead meat up to Newgate and Leadenhall have fallen off, the mutton trade ruled steady, at Friday's improvement in value of 2d per 8lbs. The primest old Downs sold at from 4s 2d to 4s 4d per 8lbs.

SUPPLIES.

Table with 4 columns: Item, Feb. 14, 1848, Feb. 12, 1849, Feb. 11, 1850. Rows for Beasts, Sheep, Calves, Pigs.

FRIDAY, Feb. 15.—Although our market was very scantily supplied with beasts, the demand for that description of stock was in a depressed state, at prices barely equal to those obtained on Monday. The extreme value of the best Scots was 3s 10d per 8lbs. The numbers of sheep were small: All kinds moved off readily, at an advance in the quotations of 2d per 8lbs. There were about 600 shorn sheep on offer, at 3s 4d to 3s 8d per 8lbs. Calves at unaltered currencies. Prime small pigs produced full prices. Milch cows were heavy at from 14l to 18l, including their small calf.

Per 8lbs to sink the offals.

Table with 4 columns: Item, Price. Rows for Inferior beasts, Second quality sheep, Prime large oxen, Prime Scots, Large coarse calves, Prime small do, Inferior sheep.

Total supply at market:—Beasts, 735; sheep, 2,610; calves, 225; pigs, 240. Foreign supply:—Beasts, 130; sheep, 200; calves, 124. Scotch supply:—Beasts, 40; sheep, 70.

POTATO MARKETS.

SOUTHWARE, WATERSIDE, Feb. 11.—The arrivals the past week coastwise have been limited, notwithstanding which trade is heavy, and in consequence of the very large supply per rail, it is with difficulty the following prices are sustained:—

| | per ton | | per ton |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|---------|
| York Regents | 90 to 120 | Scotch cups | 60 70 |
| Wisbech do | 70 100 | French whites | 70 80 |
| Scotch do | 70 80 | Belgian do | 65 75 |

YORK, Feb. 2.—A small supply at from 8d to 9d per peck.
 MALTON, Feb. 2.—A short supply, at 8d per peck.
 RICHMOND, Feb. 2.—Potatoes, 3s 4d per bushel.
 SHEFFIELD, Feb. 5.—Regents, 9s 6d to 10s 6d; shaws, 8s 6d to 9s 6d per load.
 MANCHESTER, Feb. 5.—Potatoes, 9s to 12s per 252 lbs.
 LIVERPOOL.—Kemps, 3s 6d to 3s 11d; Cheshire pink eyes, 3s 4d to 3s 8d; white rocks, 3s to 3s 2d; balshaws, 3s to 3s 2d; beldrums, 2s 6d to 2s 7d per 90 lbs.
 CARLISLE, Feb. 2.—Not so well supplied, and a shade higher, viz., 5d to 6d per stone of 14 lbs.
 DURHAM, Feb. 2.—A short supply at 9d per stone.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET.

MONDAY, Feb. 11.—Our market remains in a very inactive state, and the few sales effected are at unaltered rates.
 FRIDAY, Feb. 15.—Notwithstanding that the supply of most kinds of hops on offer continues small, the demand is in a very inactive state, at last week's quotations.

COAL MARKET.

MONDAY, Feb. 11.—Bate's West Hartley 15s—Carr's Hartley 15s 6d—Chester Main 16s—East Adairs Main 14s—Hastings Hartley 15s 9d—Holywell 16s to 16s 6d—North Percy Hartley 15s—New Tanfield 15s—Ord's Redheugh 14s 6d—Ravensworth West Hartley 15s 6d—Tanfield Moor Butes 14s 6d—West Hartley 15s 9d—Wylam 16s 6d—Eden Main 15s—Hartley 15s 3d. Wallsend: Burraton Killingworth 17s 3d—Heaton 17s 6d—Hilda 16s 9d—Belmont 18s—Bradyll 18s 6d—Hetton 19s—Hazwell 19s 3d—Jonasohms 17s—Lambton 18s 6d—Lumley 17s 6d—Stewart's 19s—Caradoc 18s—Cassop 18s—Kelloe 18s 6d—South Kelloe 17s 9d—South Hartlepool 13s—Whitworth 14s 9d—Maclean's Tees 16s 6d—South Durham 17s 6d—Tees 19s. Ships at market 424: sold, 78; unsold, 346.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 13.—Bate's West Hartley 15s 6d—Buddle's West Hartley 15s 9d—Carr's Hartley 15s 9d—East Adairs Main 14s—Hastings Hartley 15s 9d—Holywell 16s 6d—North Percy Hartley 15s 6d—New Tanfield 15s—Ord's Redheugh 14s 6d—Ravensworth West Hartley 15s 6d—Tanfield Moor Butes 14s 6d—Townley 16s—West Adairs 14s—West Hartley 15s 9d—Wylam 17s—Lambton Primrose 18s—Derwentwater Hartley 15s 6d—Sydney's Hartley 16s. Wallsend: Burraton Killingworth 17s 3d—Gosforth 17s 6d—Harton 17s 3d—Hilda 16s 9d—Killingworth 17s 6d—Percy 16s 6d—Walker 16s 9d—Bell 17s 6d—Belmont 18s—Hetton 19s—Haswell 19s 3d—Jonasohms 16s 9d—Lambton 18s 6d—Lumley 17s 6d—Russell's Hetton 18s 6d—Stewart's 19s—Caradoc 18s—Cassop 18s—Fox's Hartlepool 16s 6d—Kelloe 18s 6d—Whitworth 14s 9d—Cowdon Tees 17s 3d—South Durham 17s 6d—Tees 19s. Ships at market, 370; sold, 61; unsold, 309.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

WOOL FRIDAY NIGHT.

(From our own Correspondent.)

We have been less busy this week than for some time past, most of the buyers having gone to the London public sales, which commence to-day. The entire quantity announced is much less than usual, and it is expected the result will be very satisfactory as regards fine wools.

CORN.

(From our own Correspondent.)

There has been great steadiness in the grain market since Tuesday, and although the business passing is not large, there is evidently a firmer feeling in the trade. This morning the transactions in any article were again small; the few parcels of wheat disposed of brought full prices, and the same may be said of oats, but there were few country buyers of either at market. Flour and meal dull at late rates. Indian corn in moderate request at Tuesday's currency.

METALS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

In manufactured iron generally, there has been little doing during the past week, and a dulness unusual at this season pervades the market. Prices are nominally not lower. Scotch pig iron is in a most inactive state, with little demand, and prices remain much the same as last week. Lead has advanced 1/ per ton, owing to a continental demand, and the stocks being low. Other metals without change.

FOREIGN MARKETS.

AMSTERDAM, FEB. 11.

COFFEE.—Our market is calm, without much doing; good ordinary Java may be had at 36c to 36 1/2c.

DYES, &c.—Indigo—A good demand, and prices rather in favour of sellers. Cochineal—With rather more demand, but no change in value.

COTTON.—The considerable advance of cotton prices in America had not that influence on our market as would have been expected. The sales have been confined to a few transactions from second hand, and 250 bales North American imported at Rotterdam, and taken for our place at an advance of full 1c.

METALS.—Although nothing was done in Banca tin, yet holders are unwilling to part with their stock under 49 1/2.

SEEDS.—Rape—Doing little, and prices experienced a reduction. Clover—Fair new red is scarce, and finds ready buyers at 26f to 28f. Old descriptions are firm. A lot of old white Rhenish changed hands at 24f. Mustard experienced an animated demand in the fair sorts; about 500 hect. brown were taken for export at advancing rates. Fair yellow we quote at 12f to 13f. Canary—Fair North Holland, 12 1/2f to 13f. Caraway—16f for North Holland, 12f to 13f for Gueldrian.

CORN.—There was more business doing last week on account of the restored navigation. Wheat was taken for home use. Rye—Several large lots dried found buyers on speculative account. Barley firm. Buckwheat the same.

PETERSBURG, FEB. 2.

FLAX.—Without business for want of sellers, even at advanced rates.
 HEMP.—A considerable amount of business doing, both on the spot and on contract, and the market is firm.

LINSEED.—The contracts amount up to this date to about 30,000 quarters. The market is steady. Rjeff may be bought at 22 1/2 to 23 b. ro., the quality being inferior to last year's.

TALLOW.—On receipt of the advices of the late rise in London, our prices advanced to 106 b. ro., 10 b. ro. down for August, and very large transactions took place. We are now quiet again, with some sellers at the quoted prices.

EXCHANGE, on receipt of the account of the loan being taken, advanced to 3 1/2, but has since somewhat declined.

IMPORTS were in fair demand. Cotton was quiet. 300 tons Campeachy logwood done at 9 b. ro., and 100 tons Cuba fustic at 11 1/2 b. ro. About 350 chests indigo at advancing prices. Lead and tin also bought at higher rates. Olive oil has advanced to 26 b. ro., and sugars firmly held.

The Gazette.

Friday, Feb. 3.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Deane, Youle, and Co., Pernambuco and Manchester, merchants; as far as regards J. W., J. J. M., and T. Brooks—J. and J. Latimore, Sandridge, Hertfordshire, wheelwrights—Edwards and Baker, Goswell street, booksellers—F. and F. H. Lemare, Godalming, Surrey, booksellers—Mincher and Hale, Liverpool, but on manufacturers—T. and E. Kesterton, Long acre, coachmakers—Walton and Boshier, St John street, West Smithfield, general fancy warehousemen—Cooper and Hutchinson, Nottingham, lace manufacturers—Henderson and Sharp—Macmillan, Barclay, and Macmillan, Cambridge, or elsewhere, booksellers; as far as regards E. Barclay—Kendrew and Tomkies, Manchester, smallware manufacturers—Anderson and Trimmer, Old Montague street, Whitechapel, glass manufacturers—Butlin, Howard, and Stenson, Northampton, engineer—Champion and Barham, Austinfriars, Old Broad street, attorneys—J. and D. McNaught, Croydon, tea dealers—W. and W. Lake, Wakefield, millers—Perrott and Adams, Chippenham, Wiltshire, millwrights—J. and J. Blackwall, Birmingham, wholesale grocers—J. and F. Hartley, Colne, Lancashire, timber merchants—Willis and Jay, St James's street, and elsewhere, man's mercers—Jefferies and Groves, Stourport, Worcestershire, boatbuilders—G. and R. Thompson, Fan street, Goswell street, curriers—Sharp and Beasley, Spalding, and Finchbeck, woad growers—Dickinson and Harris, Watling street, sewed muslin manufacturers—Norton and Roberts, Ardwick, near Manchester, sand dealers—Coghill and Sloane, Liverpool, shipbrokers—Pearce and Co., Liverpool, general commission agents—Shrigley and Jackson, Lancaster, painters—Pagan and Son, Dumfries, hosiers.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

W. Oakes, Oldham, clockmaker—first div of 5s, on Tuesday, Feb. 12, or any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr Pott's, Manchester.
 G. Fox, Charlestown, near Glossop, Derbyshire, paper manufacturer—second and final div of 3s 3d and 7s 9d on new proofs, on Tuesday, Feb. 12, or any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr Fraser's, Manchester.
 B. Yeates, Monmouth, draper—first div of 5s 9d, any Wednesday, at Mr Miller's, Bristol.
 P. Chaloner, Clifrow, Radnorshire, innkeeper—first div of 1s 3d, any Wednesday, at Mr Miller's, Bristol.
 D. Lees, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, coach-step manufacturer—first div of 3s 4d, any Thursday, at Mr Whitmore's, Birmingham.
 T. Turner, Northampton, boot manufacturer—first div of 4d, on Saturday next, and the three subsequent Saturdays, at Mr Groom's, Abchurch lane.
 J. Jackson, Talvern, Denbighshire, farmer—first div of 3s 11 1/2d, on Wednesday, Feb. 13, or any subsequent Wednesday, at Mr Morgan's, Liverpool.
 J. Gsalle, New Burlington news, Regent street, job master—second and final div of 3d on Saturday next, and the three subsequent Saturdays, at Mr Groom's, Abchurch lane.
 H. J. Witchell, Carnarvon, bookseller—first div of 10d, on Monday, Feb. 10, or any subsequent Monday, at Mr Bird's, Liverpool.
 L. Jones, Liverpool, merchant—second div of 1/4d, on Monday, Feb. 10, or any subsequent Monday, at Mr Bird's, Liverpool.

Tuesday, Feb. 12.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

White and Bosewitz, leather sellers—King and Co., Whitehill, Durham, paper makers—Hichens and Co., St Heller's, Jersey, timber merchants—Norman and Eden, Uxbridge, wine merchants—Messames Moore and Farrell, Evesham, Worcestershire, schoolmistresses—J. and J. Smith, Standon and Wadesmill, Hertfordshire, millers—Fisher, Perrin, and Co., Liverpool, wine merchants—Waddell and Crichton, Redruth, drapers—Hawkins and Gillings, Pittfield street, Hoxton, linendrapers—Simpson and Short, Bishop Wearmouth, shipbuilders—Brook, Grant, and Co., Bradford, Yorkshire, linendrapers—Brown and Kerr, Norwich, architects—Swindells, Blackburn, and Co., Manchester, manufacturing chymists—Stott and Haden, Huddersfield, woollen merchants—Joynson and Co., Manchester, silk manufacturers; as far as regards P. Joynson—Hunter and Moore, Bishop Wearmouth, brickmakers—T. and J. Ainsworth, Scarborough, printers—S. and S. J. Bayfield, St Thomas street, Southwark, surgeons—Davey, Brothers, and Co., Change alley, Cornhill, law stationers—Rawlings and Son, Trowbridge, cabinetmakers—Nicholson and Mitchell, High street, Aldgate, upholsterers—Jackson and Attay, Stamford Baron, Northamptonshire, and Stamford, Lincolnshire, surgeons—Paddon, Marshall, and Prout, Botolphclaydon, Cornwall, and elsewhere, china merchants.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

R. Nightingale, Bury, Lancashire, common brewer—first div of 7s 1d, any Tuesday, at Mr Hobson's, Manchester.
 J. Green and J. Eley, Birmingham, and Thavies Inn, Holborn, wholesale jeweller—first div of 1s 1d, on the 14th instant, or any subsequent Thursday, on the separate estate of J. Green, at Mr. Valpy's, Birmingham.

BANKRUPTS.

George Woods, Portsea, saddler.
 William Pownall, Macclesfield, silk manufacturer.
 John Baker, Cheltenham and Gloucester, boot manufacturer.
 James Patching, Henfield, Sussex, brewer.
 Edward Steward, Boughton, Norfolk, corn merchant.
 Robert Roberts Croft, Lansdowne villas, Brompton and Haymarket, tavern keeper.
 John Henderson Musgrave, New Bond street, embroiderer.
 William Woodbridge, Mincing lane, colonial broker.
 Robert Savory, Hereford, plumber.
 Benjamin Drewry, Hulme, Lancashire, joiner.
 Robert Chattam, Goolie, innkeeper.
 William Edmund Smith, Plymouth, shipwright.
 John Harrison, Manchester, commission agent.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. Wilson, Cumnock, ironmonger.
 R. Scot, Glasgow, banker.
 J. Brown, Glasgow, commission agent.
 P. Bell, Crosston, Forfarshire, farmer.
 G. Christie, Glasgow, writer.

Gazette of Last Night.

BANKRUPTS.

John Worseldine, upholsterer, Cambridge.
 Thomas Sadler and William E. Sadler, sailmakers, Brightlinges, Essex.
 Richard Noble and George May, fancy cloth manufacturers, Almondbury, York.
 John Price, cabinet maker, Birmingham.
 Hugh Parry, druggist, Abergele, Denbighshire.
 David Blackburn, Thomas Pickles, David Crabtree, and William Blackburn, cotton-spinners, Halifax, Yorkshire.
 Frederick Johnson, watchmaker, Lincoln.
 Abraham D. W. Desforges, brickmaker, Alford, Lincolnshire.
 James Stephenson, draper, Arbour terrace, Commercial road.
 Thomas S. Heightholm, painter, Scarborough.

COMMERCIAL TIMES Weekly Price Current.

The prices in the following list are carefully revised every Friday afternoon, by an eminent house in each department.

Table listing various commodities such as Ashes, Cocoa, Coffee, Cotton, Drugs & Dyes, Dyewoods, Fruit, Flax, Hemp, Hides, Indigo, Leather, Metals, Molasses, Oils, Provisions, Rice, and Sago, with their respective prices.

Table listing various commodities including Hides, Indigo, Leather, Metals, Molasses, Oils, Provisions, Rice, and Sago, with their respective prices.

Table listing various commodities including Seeds, Silk, Spices, Spirits, Sugar, and Tobacco, with their respective prices.

Table listing various commodities including SUGAR-REF. contd., Tallow, Tar, Tea, Timber, and Wool, with their respective prices.

STATEMENT

Of comparative Imports, Exports, and Home Consumption of the following articles from Jan. 1 to Feb. 9, 1849-50, showing the stock on hand on Feb. 9 in each year. FOR THE PORT OF LONDON.
 * If those articles duty free, the deliveries for exportation are included under the head Home Consumption.

East and West Indian Produce, &c.

| | | Imported | | Duty paid | | Stock | |
|--------------------------|--------|----------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|------|
| | | 1849 | 1850 | 1849 | 1850 | 1849 | 1850 |
| British Plantation. | | tons | tons | tons | tons | tons | tons |
| West India | 4,688 | 4,087 | 11,601 | 9,040 | 18,959 | 11,666 | |
| East India | 4,425 | 10,014 | 5,784 | 5,456 | 19,938 | 19,502 | |
| Mauritius | 4,522 | 2,948 | 3,559 | 2,082 | 12,695 | 6,409 | |
| Foreign | ... | ... | 1,868 | 4,026 | ... | ... | |
| | 17,635 | 17,049 | 22,812 | 20,604 | 51,595 | 37,577 | |
| Foreign Sugar. | | | | Exported | | | |
| Cheribon, Siam, & Manila | 711 | 3,405 | 617 | 239 | 5,164 | 7,193 | |
| Havana | 2,860 | 1,272 | 577 | 654 | 13,446 | 20,867 | |
| Porto Rico | 329 | ... | 211 | 149 | 2,316 | 4,205 | |
| Brazil | 1,351 | 342 | 867 | 683 | 5,126 | 7,393 | |
| | 5,251 | 5,019 | 2,272 | 1,725 | 26,052 | 39,660 | |

PRICE OF SUGARS.—The average prices of Brown or Muscovado Sugar, exclusive of the duties:—
 From the British Possessions in America 26 3/4 per cwt,
 Mauritius 26 5/8 —
 East Indies 24 6 —
 The average price of the three is 25 6 1/2 —

| MOLASSES. | | Imported | | Duty paid | | Stock | |
|------------|--|----------|-----|-----------|-----|-------|-------|
| West India | | 523 | 706 | 812 | 850 | 3,138 | 4,663 |

| | | Imported | | Exported | | Home Consump. | | Stock | |
|------------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|---------------|-----------|-----------|------|
| West India | | 1849 | 1850 | 1849 | 1850 | 1849 | 1850 | 1849 | 1850 |
| | | gal | gal | gal | gal | gal | gal | gal | gal |
| West India | 211,140 | 121,410 | 87,525 | 114,300 | 191,250 | 200,160 | 2,055,185 | 1,844,460 | |
| East India | 169,470 | 69,660 | 52,335 | 59,265 | 16,605 | 17,913 | 556,560 | 416,085 | |
| Foreign | 8,160 | 19,260 | 90 | 6,840 | 90 | 90 | 86,130 | 141,255 | |
| | 388,710 | 210,330 | 139,950 | 180,405 | 207,945 | 218,160 | 2,697,875 | 2,395,800 | |

| COCOA.—Cwts. | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|--------|--------|--|
| Br. Plant | 1,579 | 927 | 12 | 259 | 2,568 | 2,322 | 5,489 | 10,162 | |
| Foreign | 778 | 726 | 2,948 | 1 | 250 | 31 | 9,371 | 8,981 | |
| | 2,357 | 1,653 | 2,960 | 250 | 2,818 | 2,353 | 14,860 | 19,143 | |

| COFFEE.—Cwts. | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--|
| Br. Plant | 84 | 22 | 134 | 6 | 3,340 | 1,726 | 18,624 | 7,890 | |
| Ceylon | 12,816 | 18,118 | 447 | 553 | 29,145 | 24,153 | 150,676 | 192,325 | |
| Total BP | 12,900 | 18,140 | 581 | 559 | 32,485 | 25,879 | 196,300 | 200,115 | |
| Mocha | 174 | 448 | 64 | 208 | 1,579 | 2,013 | 11,178 | 10,605 | |
| Foreign EI | 3,416 | 544 | 957 | 1,048 | 1,951 | 924 | 50,405 | 21,147 | |
| Malabar | ... | ... | ... | ... | 94 | 27 | 193 | 102 | |
| St Domingo | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 | 26 | 2,491 | 1,621 | |
| Hav. & P. Ric | ... | 130 | 30 | 97 | 43 | 111 | 7,240 | 4,993 | |
| Brazil | 17,321 | 5,308 | 4,164 | 714 | 2,988 | 705 | 46,318 | 22,848 | |
| African | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | |
| Total For | 20,941 | 6,530 | 5,215 | 2,080 | 5,781 | 3,780 | 117,835 | 61,319 | |
| Grand tot. | 33,841 | 24,670 | 5,796 | 2,639 | 38,266 | 29,650 | 287,135 | 261,434 | |

| RICE. | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|----------|----------|---------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| British EI | Tons 1,034 | Tons 294 | Tons 181 | Tons 38 | Tons 1,061 | Tons 1,071 | Tons 19,406 | Tons 19,651 | |
| Foreign EI | 81 | 503 | 9 | ... | 34 | 15 | 3,385 | 2,601 | |
| Total | 1,115 | 797 | 190 | 38 | 1,095 | 1,086 | 22,741 | 22,252 | |

| PEPPER. | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|--|
| White | Bags 147 | Bags 258 | Bags 66 | Bags ... | Bags 494 | Bags 463 | Bags 4,967 | Bags 3,418 | |
| Black | 2,093 | 1,213 | 3,124 | 525 | 4,535 | 2,733 | 63,679 | 44,021 | |

| NUTMEGS. | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| Do. Wild. | Pkgs 183 | Pkgs 127 | Pkgs 8 | Pkgs 37 | Pkgs 108 | Pkgs 110 | Pkgs 551 | Pkgs 466 | |
| CAS. LIG. | 9 | ... | ... | ... | 37 | 26 | 1,415 | 1,017 | |
| CINNAMON. | 3,325 | 426 | 1,055 | 621 | 195 | 106 | 2,057 | 586 | |
| | 512 | 2,245 | 293 | 321 | 63 | 112 | 2,511 | 4,081 | |

| PIMENTO. | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|----------|----------|------------|------------|--|
| | bags 5,691 | bags 1,120 | bags 3,149 | bags 96 | bags 388 | bags 345 | bags 4,177 | bags 4,597 | |

Raw Materials, Dye Stuffs, &c.

| COCHINEAL. | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| | Serons 984 | Serons 1,721 | Serons ... | Serons ... | Serons 1,157 | Serons 817 | Serons 4,737 | Serons 4,816 | |
| LAC DYE. | | | | | | | | | |
| | cheats 148 | cheats 569 | cheats ... | cheats ... | cheats 303 | cheats 498 | cheats 4,266 | cheats 3,717 | |
| LOGWOOD. | | | | | | | | | |
| | tons 757 | tons 270 | tons ... | tons ... | tons 793 | tons 457 | tons 1,740 | tons 1,175 | |
| FUSTIC. | | | | | | | | | |
| | 113 | 82 | ... | ... | 317 | 128 | 449 | 420 | |

INDIGO.

| East India. | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| | cheats 1,033 | cheats 1,438 | cheats ... | cheats ... | cheats 2,442 | cheats 3,103 | cheats 27,459 | cheats 27,322 | |
| Spanish. | | | | | | | | | |
| | serons 147 | serons 122 | serons ... | serons ... | serons 163 | serons 111 | serons 949 | serons 408 | |

SALTPETRE.

| Nitrate of Potaas | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|------------|--|
| | tons 1,335 | tons 1,617 | tons ... | tons ... | tons 983 | tons 1,081 | tons 2,135 | tons 3,412 | |
| Nitrate of Soda | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2,348 | 609 | ... | ... | 313 | 314 | 2,975 | 2,746 | |

COTTON.

| American. | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|------------|--|
| | bags 395 | bags 1,114 | bags ... | bags ... | bags 90 | bags 44 | bags 539 | bags 1,272 | |
| Brazil. | | | | | | | | | |
| | 30 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 439 | 165 | |
| East India. | | | | | | | | | |
| | 6,304 | 4,597 | ... | ... | 3,241 | 2,258 | 44,703 | 22,499 | |
| Liverpl., all kinds. | | | | | | | | | |
| | 233,745 | 200,064 | 17,230 | 5,740 | 201,670 | 158,020 | 408,180 | 504,470 | |
| Total | 240,474 | 205,775 | 17,230 | 5,740 | 205,001 | 160,322 | 454,161 | 525,546 | |

The Railway Monitor.

CALLS FOR FEBRUARY.

| Date when due. | Number of Shares. | Amount per Share. | | Total |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| | | Already paid. | Called. | |
| | | £ s d | £ s d | £ |
| Belfast and County Down | 1 | 28 0 0 | ... | 28 |
| Birkenhead, Lancashire, &c, 31/10 | 25 | 20 0 0 | 3 0 0 | 45,000 |
| Ditto, 22/10 | 25 | 13 10 0 | 2 0 0 | 15,000 |
| Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Dudley | 20 | 10 0 0 | 5 0 0 | 35,000 |
| Bolton, Blackburn, &c, A | 1 | 23 0 0 | 1 0 0 | 12,000 |
| East Indian, 3/5 paid | 23 | 3 5 0 | 1 15 0 | Not known |
| Great Indian Peninsula, 10s paid | 23 | 0 10 0 | 0 10 0 | Not known |
| Leeds & Thirsk Preference Fifties | 1 | 2 0 0 | 1 0 0 | 45,000 |
| London & North Western Grand Junction, 40/1 | 25 | 35 0 0 | 5 0 0 | 8,659 |
| *Paris and Strasburg | 20 | 12 0 0 | 1 0 0 | 250,000 |
| South Eastern, No. 2 | 1 | 33 0 0 | 3 6 8 | 42,050 |
| South Yorkshire, Doncaster, and Goole | 3 | 12 0 0 | 1 0 0 | 37,500 |
| Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth | 1 | 45 0 0 | 5 0 0 | 50,000 |
| | | | | 1,030,041 |

* The proportion called by foreign companies is 250,000.

EPITOME OF RAILWAY NEWS.

EXETER AND CREDITON.—It appears that arrangements are being made for leasing this line to the Bristol and Exeter Company for a term of seven years at a net rental equal to one-third of the gross receipts. It is expected that the line will be opened for the traffic early in April. About 30,000/ will have to be raised for the purpose of completing the works.

GREAT WESTERN.—The half-yearly meeting was held on Thursday. The general statement of receipts and payments to the 31st of December last shows that 7,930,484/ had been received on account of share capital, including 180,234/ advances on shares; on mortgage of Great Western, Cheltenham and Great Western Union, Oxford, and new lines, 3,251,685/; loan notes, &c., 902,315/; mortgage of shares on portion of new lines, 1,202,674/.

LONDON AND BLACKWALL.—The half-yearly report of the directors, to be submitted to the shareholders on Monday, states that the gross revenue for the half-year has amounted to 24,303/, and the expenditure (inclusive of 2,907/ for interest on debentures) has been 18,840/, leaving a surplus of 5,454/, which, with the balance of 3,162/ from the previous account, will admit of the payment of a dividend of 1s 6d per share, clear of income-tax, on the 107,240 shares at present entitled to receive dividend. Of the decrease in last year a very great proportion can be traced to the river traffic, and it has doubtless been caused by the attraction of a novel and rival route for the Gravesend and Woolwich traffic, which was opened in August last. The number of passengers conveyed in the half-year ending Dec. 31, 1848, was 1,426,942; receipts, 24,506/; and for the corresponding period of 1849, passengers, 1,219,508; receipts, 20,269/.

RAILWAY SHARE MARKET.

LONDON.

MONDAY, Feb. 11.—The railway market was dull this afternoon, and prices generally showed a tendency to reaction.

TUESDAY, Feb. 12.—The railway share market was heavy, and prices presented some fluctuation in the course of the day.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 13.—The railway share market exhibited a heavy appearance, and the tendency of some prices was in some cases downwards.

THURSDAY, Feb. 14.—The railway market continues extremely heavy, and the fluctuations occurring in London and North Western shares, owing to various rumours connected with the approaching dividend meeting, proportionately affect other descriptions.

FRIDAY, Feb. 15.—Railway shares have been very quiet. North Western are rather better; Great Western about the same, and Caledonian heavy; and South Western rather lower.

The Economist's Railway Share List.

The highest Prices of the day are given.

Main table listing railway shares with columns for No. of shares, Amount of shares, Name of Company, London (M. F.), and various share prices.

Foreign Railways.

OFFICIAL RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS. Table with columns for Capital and Loan, Amount expended, Average cost, Dividend per cent., Name of Railway, Week ending, Receipts (Passengers, Merchandise, Total), Traffic per mile, and Miles open in 1850 and 1849.

ACCOUNTS RELATING TO TRADE AND NAVIGATION.

For the Year 1849.

I. IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

An Account of the Imports of the Principal Articles of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise, and of the Consumption of such Articles, in the year 1849, compared with the year 1848.

| Articles. | Imports. | | Articles. | | Entered for Home Consump. | | Imports. | | Entered for Home Consump. | |
|---|------------|------------|-------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|----------|------|---------------------------|---------|
| | 1848 | 1849 | 1848 | 1849 | 1848 | 1849 | 1848 | 1849 | 1848 | 1849 |
| Animals, living:—Oxen and Bulls | 24,590 | 21,751 | Free | Free | 73,345 | 45,134 | Free | Free | Free | Free |
| Cows | 22,506 | 17,921 | — | — | 277,045 | 245,427 | — | — | — | — |
| Calves | 15,642 | 13,645 | — | — | 27,358 | 40,956 | — | — | 10,367 | 17,790 |
| Sheep | 128,406 | 126,247 | — | — | 528,703 | 448,449 | — | — | Free | Free |
| Lambs | 2,177 | 3,018 | — | — | 62,907 | 45,757 | — | — | — | — |
| Swine and Hogs | 2,119 | 2,653 | — | — | 18,380 | 18,254 | — | — | — | — |
| Ashes, Pearl and Pot | 96,859 | 158,541 | — | — | 59,127 | 81,449 | — | — | — | — |
| Barilla and Alkali | 2,349 | 1,403 | — | — | 23,192 | 13,385 | — | — | — | — |
| Bark for tanners' or dyers' use | 355,348 | 365,755 | — | — | 4,449 | 23,996 | — | — | — | — |
| Bones of Animals, &c., whether burnt or not, or as Animal Charcoal | 32,582 | 29,424 | — | — | 81,261 | 95,914 | — | — | — | — |
| Brimstone | 668,393 | 839,189 | — | — | 139,463 | 161,986 | — | — | — | — |
| Caoutchouc | 4,208 | 5,328 | — | — | 9,617 | 12,590 | — | — | — | — |
| Clocks | 64,652 | 64,682 | 62,481 | 61,957 | 5,623 | 6,851 | — | — | — | — |
| Cocoa | 6,442,986 | 7,769,234 | 2,936,641 | 3,233,372 | 1,186 | 1,636 | — | — | — | — |
| Coffee:—Of British possessions | 35,976,597 | 40,394,630 | 30,147,771 | 29,769,730 | 10,237 | 16,671 | — | — | 64,817 | Free |
| Foreign | 21,082,943 | 22,985,876 | 6,959,508 | 4,661,344 | 96,449 | 104,994 | — | — | Free | 380,500 |
| Total of Coffee | 57,053,450 | 63,320,506 | 37,107,279 | 34,431,074 | 1,463,661 | 1,806,786 | — | — | Free | 433,450 |
| Corn:—Wheat | 2,580,959 | 3,872,134 | 2,1,865,294 | 4,509,626 | 402,267 | 447,206 | — | — | Free | 31,165 |
| Barley | 1,634,274 | 1,389,793 | 899,960 | 1,554,860 | 22,751 | 39,516 | — | — | 25,067 | 296,366 |
| Oats | 967,056 | 1,282,219 | 882,559 | 1,368,673 | 391,033 | 361,166 | — | — | 364,609 | 45,201 |
| Rye | 62,635 | 241,870 | 48,721 | 256,308 | 65,941 | 45,290 | — | — | 55,911 | 10,859 |
| Peas | 216,014 | 236,438 | 167,083 | 285,487 | 3,199 | 3,109 | — | — | 9,192 | 193,811 |
| Beans | 487,929 | 458,650 | 452,460 | 483,430 | 289,669 | 209,452 | — | — | 6,929 | 7,712 |
| Indian Corn, or Maize | 1,575,521 | 2,247,424 | 1,582,755 | 2,249,571 | 31,037 | 25,576 | — | — | — | — |
| Buckwheat | 197 | 308 | 205 | 308 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Beer or Bigg | 906 | 843 | ... | 1,749 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Malt | 1 | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total of Grain | 6,945,492 | 9,739,679 | 5,899,037 | 10,710,012 | 90,442 | 68,253 | — | — | 75,016 | 62,078 |
| Wheatmeal or Flour | 1,754,449 | 3,371,301 | 1,227,754 | 3,937,219 | 154,343 | 70,789 | — | — | 21,410 | 27,919 |
| Barley Meal | 65 | 224 | 64 | 224 | 639,967 | 736,778 | — | — | 415,310 | 575,077 |
| Oatmeal | 6,595 | 40,516 | 6,165 | 40,055 | 71,414 | 82,817 | — | — | Free | Free |
| Rye Meal | 35,984 | 18,826 | 30,534 | 24,031 | 845,771 | 1,061,273 | — | — | — | — |
| Pea Meal | 104 | 300 | 104 | 300 | 132,395 | 143,490 | — | — | — | — |
| Bean Meal | 28 | 2 | 28 | 2 | 414,886 | 535,295 | — | — | — | — |
| Indian Corn Meal | 232,819 | 102,173 | 233,880 | 102,181 | 1,248,647 | 1,809,755 | — | — | — | — |
| Buckwheat Meal | 193 | 1,095 | 191 | 1,095 | 95,686 | 85,307 | — | — | 86,685 | 79,482 |
| Total of Flour and Meal | 2,030,237 | 3,534,437 | 1,498,723 | 4,105,107 | 12,244 | 20,380 | — | — | 10,360 | 15,343 |
| Grand total Grain, Flour and Meal as Grain, qrs Col- on Manufactures, not made up:—East India Piece Goods | 7,525,560 | 10,749,518 | 6,327,244 | 11,882,900 | 4,855 | 4,804 | — | — | 4,906 | 4,769 |
| | 193,849 | 177,317 | Free | Free | — | — | — | — | — | — |

a The consumption of the several species of corn exhibited above for the year 1848 includes those quantities entered previously to the 1st March 1848, which were exempted from duty under the temporary act 11 Vic., c. 64.

| Articles. | Entered for Home Consump. | | Importations. | | Entered for Home Consump. | |
|---|---------------------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| | 1848 | 1849 | 1848 | 1849 | 1848 | 1849 |
| Leather Manufactures (con.)—Women's Shoes of Silk, Satin, Stuff, or Leather.....pairs | 71,199 | 101,785 | 68,628 | 96,951 | 337,601 | 382,847 |
| Men's Boots and Shoes.....pairs | 27,936 | 32,519 | 19,292 | 22,782 | 255,512 | 315,768 |
| Other Sorts..... | 1,184 | 1,311 | 776 | 442 | 9,946 | 6,618 |
| Boot Fronts..... | 491,183 | 540,784 | 486,543 | 544,173 | 53,646 | 45,387 |
| Gloves..... | 3,039,550 | 3,658,464 | 2,693,196 | 2,874,695 | 161,459 | 165,078 |
| Manufactures of Leather not particularly enumerated.....value £ | 4,956 | 4,867 | 4,062 | 4,040 | 39 | 21 |
| Linen Manufactures:—Laws, not French..... | 1,525 | 1,843 | 741 | 856 | 2,567 | 3,512 |
| Cambrics and French Lawns.....pieces | 33,252 | 28,960 | 32,661 | 28,195 | 31,720 | 31,972 |
| Damasks and Damask Diaper.....square yds | 9,917 | 14,502 | 7,151 | 10,033 | 47,365 | 51,853 |
| Plain Linen and Diaper, and Manufactures unenumerated, not made up.....value £ | 21,529 | 33,778 | Free | Free | 161,459 | 165,078 |
| Sails and Articles wholly or in part made up..... | 12,261 | 13,347 | 5,044 | 7,438 | 510,247 | 472,693 |
| Mahogany.....tons | 31,668 | 29,012 | Free | Free | 347,368 | 758,812 |
| Metals: viz.—Copper Ore (entered under act 8 and 9 Vic. c. 90..... | 14,167 | ... | 8,406 | ... | 117,433 | 274,712 |
| Weight of Metal..... | ... | ... | 2,005 | ... | 47,572 | 19,717 |
| Copper Ore (entered under act 11 and 12 Vic. c. 127, and previous resolutions)..... | 35,886 | 47,499 | 42,997 | 47,085 | 336,420 | 167,220 |
| Copper, unwrought and part wrought...cwt | 31,737 | 44,114 | 6,614 | 41,073 | 8,125,545 | 3,189,448 |
| Iron, in bars, unwrought.....tons | 23,869 | 29,396 | Free | Free | 20,773 | 4,230 |
| Steel, unwrought..... | 848 | 1,013 | ... | ... | 6,858,981 | 5,308,447 |
| Lead, pig and sheet..... | 3,789 | 7,332 | 2,210 | 5,581 | 2,429,089 | 1,609,557 |
| Spelter..... | 13,525 | 15,794 | Free | Free | 365,727 | 23,765 |
| Tin in blocks, ingots, bars, or slabs...cwt | 5,975 | 35,545 | 4,698 | 16,715 | 2,793,132 | 2,838,836 |
| Oil:—Train, Blubber, and Spermaceti...cwt | 21,966 | 19,968 | aFree | Free | 216 | 742 |
| Palm.....cwt | 510,218 | 493,331 | ... | ... | 886,068 | 892,782 |
| Coccol-nut.....cwt | 85,453 | 64,451 | ... | ... | 54,273 | 71,056 |
| Olive.....tons | 10,086 | 16,945 | ... | ... | 1,278,474 | 1,396,188 |
| Oil Seed Cakes.....tons | 73,029 | 59,144 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Opium.....lbs | 206,019 | 105,504 | 61,178 | 44,009 | ... | ... |
| Potatoes.....cwt | 940,697 | 1,417,863 | Free | Free | ... | ... |
| Provisions: viz.—Bacon.....cwt | 211,315 | 384,325 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Beef, salted, not corned..... | 144,357 | 144,638 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Fresh, or slightly salted..... | 7,623 | 5,279 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pork, salted..... | 254,070 | 347,352 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Fresh..... | 61 | 924 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Butter..... | 294,427 | 282,501 | 288,145 | 279,462 | ... | ... |
| Cheese..... | 441,635 | 397,648 | 431,101 | 390,978 | ... | ... |
| Eggs.....number | 88,012,585 | 97,903,151 | 88,106,455 | 97,884,557 | ... | ... |
| Hams.....cwt | 7,717 | 12,282 | 6,975 | 9,460 | ... | ... |
| Lard..... | 312,040 | 185,838 | Free | Free | ... | ... |
| Quicksilver.....lbs | 1,562,663 | 2,229,458 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Rice.....cwt | 996,372 | 975,316 | 624,037 | 537,326 | ... | ... |
| In the husk.....cwt | 34,627 | 32,428 | 19,055 | 30,576 | ... | ... |
| Saltpetre and Cubic Nitre.....qrs | 515,076 | 566,379 | Free | Free | ... | ... |
| Seeds: viz.—Clover.....qrs | 99,813 | 130,375 | 124,592 | 166,012 | ... | ... |
| Flaxseed and Linseed.....qrs | 799,650 | 626,459 | Free | Free | ... | ... |
| Rape..... | 79,970 | 29,480 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tares..... | 48,929 | 30,623 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Silk: viz.—Raw.....lbs | 4,471,735 | 4,991,472 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Waste, Knubs, and Husks.....cwt | 9,340 | 12,757 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Thrown.....lbs | 1,070,989 | 614,689 | ... | ... | ... | ... |

Articles.

| | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Silk Manufactures of Europe: viz.—Silk or Satin broad stuffs.....lbs | 357,601 | 382,847 | 382,847 | 183,603 |
| Ribbons..... | 255,512 | 315,768 | 315,768 | 201,010 |
| Gauze or Crape, broad stuffs..... | 9,946 | 6,618 | 6,618 | 5,828 |
| Ribbons..... | 53,646 | 45,387 | 45,387 | 47,154 |
| Gauze mixed with silk, satin, or any other materials, in less proportion than one-half of the fabric: viz.—broad stuffs..... | 39 | 21 | 21 | 8 |
| Ribbons..... | 2,567 | 3,512 | 3,512 | 3,598 |
| Velvet: viz.—Broad stuffs..... | 31,720 | 31,972 | 31,972 | 23,090 |
| Ribbons of velvet or silk embossed with velvet | 47,365 | 51,853 | 51,853 | 48,772 |
| Push for making hats..... | 161,459 | 165,078 | 165,078 | 145,892 |
| Silk Manufactures of India: viz.—Bandannoes and other Silk Handkerchiefs.....pieces | 308,586 | 517,501 | 517,501 | 133,948 |
| Spices: viz. Cassia Lignea.....lbs | 510,247 | 472,693 | 472,693 | 83,500 |
| Cinnamon..... | 347,368 | 758,812 | 758,812 | 62,658 |
| Cloves..... | 117,433 | 274,712 | 274,712 | 134,881 |
| Mace..... | 47,572 | 44,326 | 44,326 | 20,666 |
| Nutmegs..... | 336,420 | 211,202 | 167,220 | 181,255 |
| Pepper..... | 8,125,545 | 4,796,079 | 3,189,448 | 3,257,746 |
| Pimento.....cwt | 20,773 | 24,994 | 4,230 | 3,419 |
| Spirits: viz.—Rum.....proof galls | 6,858,981 | 5,308,447 | 2,987,492 | 3,044,758 |
| Brandy..... | 2,429,089 | 4,480,306 | 1,609,557 | 2,187,500 |
| Geneva..... | 365,727 | 461,390 | 23,765 | 21,209 |
| Sugar, Unrefined: viz.—Of the British Posses. in America:—Equal to white clayed, cwt | 2,179 | 5,971 | 2,568 | 6,395 |
| Not equal to white clayed..... | 2,793,132 | 2,838,836 | 2,768,780 | 3,063,878 |
| Of Mauritius: Equal to white clayed..... | 216 | 742 | 179 | 830 |
| Not equal to white clayed..... | 886,068 | 892,782 | 812,629 | 996,739 |
| Of British Possessions in the East Indies:—Equal to white clayed..... | 54,273 | 71,056 | 39,684 | 85,521 |
| Not equal to white clayed..... | 1,278,474 | 1,396,188 | 1,312,715 | 1,271,027 |
| Foreign:—Equal to white clayed..... | ... | ... | 4,384 | 3,221 |
| Not equal to white clayed..... | ... | ... | 1,211,785 | 470,590 |
| Not equal to brown clayed, entered since July 11, 1848..... | 1,855,589 | 1,720,276 | 9,683 | 23,953 |
| Without distinction of quality..... | ... | ... | 14 | ... |
| Total of Sugar, unrefined..... | 6,869,931 | 6,925,851 | 6,162,221 | 5,922,154 |
| Sugar, Refined, and Candy, of British Pos. | 31,114 | 56,625 | 20,933 | 60,090 |
| Foreign..... | 195,644 | 240,597 | 25,359 | 15,302 |
| Molasses..... | 517,534 | 1,062,661 | 637,050 | 812,330 |
| Tallow..... | 1,498,359 | 1,468,719 | 1,411,972 | 1,415,989 |
| Tar.....lasts | 12,609 | 15,206 | Free | Free |
| Tea.....lbs | 47,774,755 | 53,460,751 | 48,735,696 | 50,024,688 |
| Timber and Wood:—Battens, Batten Ends, Boards, Deals, Deal Ends and Plank, Foreign, entered by tale.....hundreds | 110 | 25 | 87 | 55 |
| Deals, Battens, Boards, or other Timber or Wood sawn or split:—Of Brit. Pos. loads | 496,516 | 471,149 | 486,600 | 483,369 |
| Foreign..... | 365,077 | 339,971 | 364,822 | 335,920 |
| Staves..... | 54,306 | 79,882 | Free | Free |

From March 1. c From March 1.

Spermaceti of Foreign Fishing free from Jan. 1, 1849.

III. EXPORTS OF BRITISH AND IRISH PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.
 An Account of the Exports of the Principal Articles of British and Irish Produce and Manufactures, in the year 1849, compared with the Exports in the year 1848.

| Articles. | Quantities. | | Declared Value. | | Articles. | Quantities. | | Declared Value. | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|---|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | 1848 | 1849 | 1848 | 1849 | | 1848 | 1849 | 1848 | 1849 |
| Alkali: viz.—Soda | 526,857 | 687,375 | 236,277 | 300,584 | Metals: viz.—Iron, Pig | 175,650 | 162,539 | 485,453 | 421,854 |
| Beer and Ale | 136,724 | 135,888 | 410,472 | 405,823 | Bar, bolt and rod | 838,688 | 398,007 | 2,615,554 | 2,567,783 |
| Butter | 45,649 | 62,958 | 186,991 | 210,604 | Wire | 1,913 | 3,399 | 45,058 | 79,639 |
| Candles | 1,663,823 | 2,385,999 | 59,099 | 81,004 | Cast | 19,371 | 16,472 | 208,048 | 174,102 |
| Cheese | 5,645 | 6,767 | 21,550 | 24,912 | Wrought of all sorts | 83,606 | 121,935 | 1,153,153 | 1,401,671 |
| Coals and Culm | 2,785,301 | 2,830,860 | 1,088,221 | 1,088,148 | Steel, unwrought | 6,913 | 8,133 | 270,699 | 322,594 |
| Cordage and Cables | 46,319 | 74,393 | 90,489 | 155,418 | Copper, in bricks and pigs | 85,224 | 153,397 | 363,421 | 658,986 |
| Cotton Manufactures:—Entered by the Yard (exclusive of Lace and Patent Net) ... yards | 109,675,123 | 133,565,475 | 15,710,857 | 18,834,601 | Sheets, nails, &c. (including mixed or yellow metal for sheathing) | 178,948 | 235,669 | 795,255 | 1,001,719 |
| Lace and Patent Net | 72,282,336 | 105,918,378 | 363,255 | 487,300 | Wrought of other sorts | 17,835 | 17,835 | 33,418 | 88,171 |
| Thread for Sewing | 3,728,909 | 4,950,451 | 327,888 | 427,422 | Brass of all sorts | 13,094 | 23,636 | 65,851 | 114,411 |
| Stockings | 210,136 | 293,529 | 77,095 | 118,418 | Lead | 6,129 | 17,017 | 115,547 | 287,337 |
| Of all other descriptions | ... | ... | 274,274 | 321,133 | Tin, unwrought | 35,946 | 35,267 | 143,085 | 141,577 |
| Total Value Cotton Manufac. | ... | ... | 16,753,369 | 20,188,874 | Tin plates | ... | ... | 532,142 | 711,649 |
| Cotton Yarn | 135,831,162 | 149,502,495 | 5,927,831 | 6,701,920 | Oil, Linseed, Hempseed, and Rapeseed | 2,784,868 | 2,720,411 | 261,600 | 278,499 |
| Earthenware | 53,286,076 | 61,605,916 | 722,012 | 807,466 | Painters' colours and materials | ... | ... | 172,707 | 208,113 |
| Fish: viz.—Herrings | 207,131 | 335,652 | 207,634 | 327,040 | Salt | 18,959,322 | 18,604,907 | 266,480 | 254,126 |
| Of other sorts | ... | ... | 56,878 | 99,550 | Silk Manufactures:—Of Silk only: Stuffs, Handkerchiefs and Ribbons | 204,483 | 358,343 | 238,952 | 369,871 |
| Glass Manufactures:—Flint Glass | 15,296 | 18,237 | 79,133 | 84,717 | Stockings | 13,392 | 16,584 | 24,324 | 32,952 |
| Window Glass | 19,708 | 17,255 | 23,689 | 23,949 | Of all other descriptions | ... | ... | 96,653 | 143,245 |
| Bottles, Green or Common | 194,755 | 232,474 | 115,509 | 131,945 | Of Silk mixed with other Materials: Stuffs, Handkerchiefs and Ribbons | 206,665 | 404,417 | 150,012 | 210,920 |
| Plate Glass | ... | ... | 15,242 | 13,564 | Stockings | 34 | 2,051 | 39 | 1,494 |
| Total Value Glass Manufac. | ... | ... | 237,573 | 254,175 | Of all other descriptions | ... | ... | 348 | 17,174 |
| Haberdashery and Millinery | ... | ... | 927,663 | 1,183,229 | Total Value Silk Manufac. | ... | ... | 510,328 | 802,656 |
| Hardware and Cutlery | ... | ... | 1,860,150 | 2,198,597 | Silk, Thrown | 45,693 | 105,334 | 30,554 | 82,014 |
| Leather, Unwrought | ... | ... | 68,808 | 114,941 | Silk Twist and Yarn | 149,122 | 363,751 | 47,235 | 115,687 |
| Wrought: viz.—Gloves | 10,475 | 15,314 | 6,769 | 9,865 | Soap | 100,623 | 101,252 | 156,369 | 159,709 |
| Of other sorts | 1,023,233 | 1,557,616 | 193,962 | 271,037 | Stationery | ... | ... | 264,985 | 314,873 |
| Saddlery and Harness | ... | ... | 102,717 | 102,724 | Sugar, refined | 248,702 | 222,900 | 437,221 | 386,254 |
| Linen Manufactures:—Entered by the Yard (exclusive of Lace of Thread) | 89,002,431 | 106,889,558 | 2,597,573 | 3,073,903 | Wool, Sheep or Lambs' | 3,978,842 | 11,083,645 | 189,060 | 535,801 |
| Lace of Thread | 38,041 | 186,504 | 1,231 | 6,838 | Woolen Manufactures:—Entered by the Piece | 1,755,099 | 2,372,345 | 3,865,077 | 4,550,954 |
| Thread for Sewing | 1,991,672 | 2,880,208 | 199,732 | 268,830 | Entered by the Yard | 32,250,822 | 50,613,578 | 1,840,038 | 2,407,168 |
| Of all other descriptions | ... | ... | 4,253 | 16,242 | Stockings | 88,201 | 164,645 | 50,413 | 86,355 |
| Total Value Linen Manufac. | ... | ... | 2,802,789 | 3,365,813 | Of all other descriptions | ... | ... | 178,300 | 285,998 |
| Linen Yarn | 11,722,182 | 17,668,618 | 493,449 | 737,650 | Total Value Woollen Manufac. | ... | ... | 5,733,828 | 7,330,475 |
| Machinery and Mill Work: viz.—Steam Engines and parts of Steam Engines | ... | ... | 234,182 | 154,707 | Woollen Yarn | 75,260 | 105,340 | 776,975 | 1,089,867 |
| Of all other sorts | ... | ... | 583,474 | 554,364 | Total declared value | ... | ... | 48,946,325 | 58,848,042 |

Statistical Department, Board of Trade, Jan. 1850.