

resisted. No sooner does Sir George attempt to secure his ground by craftily moving the Navy Estimates than upstart in succession Disraeli, Gladstone, and Russell (singular conjunction of names) and insist on the opportunity for a pitched battle, which is to come off on Friday.

Sir G. Lewis reduces the Army and Navy Estimates by £17,000,000. This is not retrenchment; it represents substantially the last year of war expenditure and the first year of peace. The surrender of the sin-pence will deprive him of about £9,000,000. He has to provide, however, during this and the three following years, for an extraordinary annual charge, composed partly of Exchequer Bonds falling due, partly of payments to the Sinking Fund, and partly of interest on debt, which will amount, unless we are mistaken, to £3,650,000 in 1857, £4,800,000 in 1858, £4,720,000 in 1859, and £2,500,000 in 1860. To meet this he appropriates the excess of the income-tax and the tea and sugar duties; as regards the former he sets aside Mr. Gladstone's declining scale, the operation of which has been suspended during the war by the Act of 1854, but which, if now permitted to revive, would bring down the taxes to 5d. for the next two years, and wholly extinguish it in 1860—and makes it 7d. for the next three years, preserving silence as to what will become of it afterwards. On incomes under £150 is to be 5d., as originally fixed by Sir R. Peel. The duties on tea and sugar, which were also stopped in their downward course by the necessities of the war, he serves in a similar way. They are to fall by smaller gradations and at longer intervals—a mode of reduction, generally speaking, extremely advantageous to the consumer. The possible expenses of a Persian war do not figure of course in this account, but the military and naval estimates exceed those of 1853 by about two millions, the explanation of which appears not quite complete. He hazards no remissions; the claims of paper, spirits, and fire-insurances he wholly rejects. The most unsatisfactory feature of the scheme is the uncertainty which it throws over the future of the income tax, and the doubtfulness of the calculations on which the fate of that impost is made to depend. On the whole, the Budget suggests the image of a cautious and uninventive financier, not quite at home in his figures, and compelled to make slashing reductions while somebody is standing over him with a stick.—*London Guardian*.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

In an eloquent speech, on Friday, Lord Broughman, after illustrating by example the present state of the law respecting the property of married women, introduced resolutions affirming that the law urgently required amendment; that a wife ought to have entire control over the whole of her property:—

If parties chose to make a settlement for themselves before, and to tie up their property, then the law need not interfere. Otherwise let the woman obtain her property as a *feme sole*, with the provision that the husband should not be liable to her debts either before marriage or during coverture, and following in all respects the analogy of the *feme sole*. [A noble lord—The children?] The children should be maintained by both husband and wife, the wife being equally liable with the husband. He should then introduce a bill carefully prepared by a learned and worthy colleague of his in the Law Amendment Society, carrying into effect the first and most effectual remedy. He had been told that it was hopeless to expect that such a bill would pass, but remembering that the same had been said of the doing away of the slave trade, of Romilly's Law Reform, and of his own nine bills for the amendment of the law, seven of which had since been carried, he did not despair of seeing his present proposition become law.

Earl Granville, acknowledging the evil, feared it was encumbered by insuperable difficulties, owing to the difference of opinion as to the remedy. Lord Campbell wished to know in case of their being children, if the wife was to be committed to prison in case she refused to contribute her proper share to the expenses of the *menage*? He contended that the proposal would lead to perpetual discord among married persons, and prove detrimental to domestic happiness. He moved the adjournment of the debate for six weeks [Lord Broughman going abroad] which was carried.

The Church-rate Abolition Bill was introduced on Thursday by Sir Wm. Clay, without opposition; Mr. Labouchere promising to state the intentions of Government on the second reading.

Sir George Grey promises a bill on an early day to give effect to the recommendations of the committee

which sat last session on the Ecclesiastical Commission.

The expulsion of Mr. James Sadleir from the house of Commons was unanimously resolved upon on Monday, after a debate, in which complaint was made of the delay on the part of the Government in bringing forward the motion. The resolution specified that Mr. Sadleir was expelled, having been found guilty of fraudulent practises, and fled from justice.

The appeal in the case of Alicia Race has been heard by Vice-Chancellor Kindersley in his private room. No report, therefore, has transpired, but the order is as follows, the Court of Equity reversing the decision of the Common Law Court:—

An undertaking being given by the Rev. E. W. Bickersteth and four other parties to clothe, maintain, and educate the infant, Alicia Race, in a manner suitable to her station, and to an amount not exceeding £25 a year, declare that the infant ought to be brought up in the Protestant faith, appoint Captain Conolly, and J. E. Woodroffe, Esq., guardians, if they will undertake the office, of the said infant; if not, refer it to chambers to appoint a fit and proper guardian. Child to be delivered to the matron of the Sailors' Orphan School, Hampstead.

A frightful explosion took place at the Lund-hill colliery, Wombwell, near Barnsley, on Thursday morning. There were from 150 to 200 men in the pit at the time, at dinner. The explosion was so powerful that the frame which descends the shaft was blown out at the mouth of the pit and lodged in the gearing above. The interior was set on fire by the explosion, which took place about noon; and at four o'clock fire was blazing from the air-shaft, which is 220 yards deep, and more than twenty yards above the mouth of the pit. Under these circumstances, after sixteen men had been drawn up alive, but seriously injured, a resolution was come to to stop up the mouths of the shafts, in order to put out the fire, by preventing the draft of air throughout the mine. Later in the evening a number of miners, with the most praiseworthy courage, volunteered to go down and explore. They found an area of coal, sixty feet square, in flames, rendering it impossible to proceed far; nineteen men were, however, found alive, and safely drawn up. On the northern side of the pit the explorers found ten corpses blackened by the explosion, and fearfully mutilated, evidently having been driven with great violence against the displaced masses of coal. Seven of these bodies were brought to the bottom of the working shaft, but the explorers had no time to remove any of the others before they found it necessary to quit the pit, on account of the accumulation of carbonic acid gas. At this time there were 155 men, in all probability, dead, left in the pit. An inquest was opened on Monday, on the body of one of the victims, Abraham Turner, who had been taken alive out of the pit, but died shortly after. The proprietors of the pit were in attendance, and Mr. C. Morton, the Government Inspector. A fireman, one of those saved with the deceased, was the principal witness, but could give no reason for the explosion. On the previous Thursday he had been round his half of the pit, and found everything in excellent working order. Naked candles, however, were in constant use by the pitmen; they were considered safe. John Warhurst, another fireman, and one of those who volunteered to descend after the accident, said:—

"As we descended we heard men at the bottom screaming for assistance. We found a number of men congregated at the bottom, and sent them out as soon as possible. On reaching the cupola (up-cast shaft) I found that it was on fire about the furnace. I found a man lying on a heap of burning coals, and took him off. I could only get a few yards further up the board-gate, as the fire-damp fired in my lamp. I returned into the level, and there met with another dead body. Further on the south level I found a third and fourth body, after which I returned to the shaft, not thinking it prudent to go further by myself. Mr. Coe then went down the pit along with me. We went on the south side, where we found four or five more dead bodies. The lamp showed fire, and we were afraid to go further lest it should explode again. We found fifteen or sixteen bodies in all. We went up every board, both north and south, as far as we could get. We found inflammable gas up every board." The inquiry was adjourned for a week.

The *Journal Phrenologique* contains the following description of the peculiarities presented by the head of Verger:—

The organs of imitation and credulity are strongly developed. The upper region, seat of benevolence, conscientiousness, veneration, and firmness, present only a horizontal line depressed in the centre, these organs being nearly absent; on the other hand, the organs of secretiveness and circumspection are

strongly developed, as likewise that of destructiveness. The organ of self-esteem is exceedingly prominent, while those of amateness and procreancy do not exist.

The Austrian General who had the command of the troops in Bologna is dead. The immediate cause of his death was a hundred oysters of the largest size, which he ate at a sitting.

The Paris *Univers* states that it is evident, from statistics, that Protestants are increasing in all the Catholic cities of Germany in a fearful manner.

The Marchioness of La Rochejaquelein has just died at Orleans, in her eighty-fourth year. During the Vendean war she rode on horseback by the side of her husband, and commanded a regiment.

A LIBERAL PAPIST.—The King of Bavaria, who is a Roman Catholic in the strictest sense of the word, has just given a proof of his tolerant spirit by authorizing the Protestant pastors in his kingdom to raise subscriptions for a monument which is about to be erected to the memory of Martin Luther at Worms.

STATISTICS OF THE POPISH CHURCH IN GREAT BRITAIN.—The following table shows the number of Popish Churches, Priests, Monasteries, and Convents in 1829, when the Emancipation Act was passed, compared with their number at the present time:—

	1829	1857	Increase.
Priests, &c., in Great Britain,	477	1162	685
Chapels, &c., do.,	449	894	445
Religious houses of men, or Monasteries,	—	23	23
Convents,	—	106	106

Our readers must be struck with the great increase that has taken place. The number of priests has been doubled, the chapels very nearly so, and convents and monasteries have started into existence, and are increasing to an enormous amount under the fostering of Privy Council grants.—*Bulwark*.

INFLUENTIAL FISHERY MEETING.

Agreeably to announcement, a highly influential meeting of our Merchants and other citizens was held at the Merchants' Exchange Rooms, on Monday last at noon, for the purpose of giving expression to their sentiments relative to the visit of the Delegates to Nova Scotia, asking the sympathy and co-operation of the Legislature in this Province in memorializing the Queen to stay the further progress of the Convention of January 14, 1857, entered into between Her Majesty's Government and H. I. M. the Emperor of the French. His Worship the Mayor was called to the Chair, and C. W. Dickson, Esq., was chosen Secretary to the meeting. The Mayor was supported on either hand by the Hon. Mr. Kent and Mr. Carter, both of whom were exceedingly well received, and listened to with marked attention by the numerous audience present. The hon. E. M. Archibald, ex-Attorney General of Newfoundland, also addressed the meeting on the subject of the Newfoundland Fisheries in one of the most clear and convincing speeches it has ever been our good fortune to hear. Want of space precludes the possibility of furnishing even an outline of the addresses delivered by the several gentlemen; the gist of them all was the unjust aggressions of the French on the one hand and the unwise concessions of the British on the other. The orators on this occasion enjoyed the somewhat singular advantage of apparently perfectly understanding what they were talking about.—We subjoin the Resolutions, all of which were unanimously passed at the meeting.

No. 1.—Moved by Wm. Pryor, Jr., Esq., seconded by Jno. Strachan, Esq., and passed unanimously: Resolved that the convention entered into on the 14th January last between the Governments of Great Britain and France, conceding most valuable fishing rights on the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador to France, if confirmed will be extremely detrimental to the interests of the people of this Province.

No. 2.—Moved by W. B. Fairbanks, Esq., seconded by B. Salter, Esq., and passed unanimously: Resolved that it is our duty, both as regards our own interests and those of the people of Newfoundland to protest against the concessions contemplated by this convention, and for which there does not appear to be anything beyond a nominal equivalent.

No. 3.—Moved by I. LeViscomte, Esq., (of Arichat,) seconded by J. G. A. Creighton, Esq., and passed unanimously: Resolved that the carrying out of this Convention without the sanction of the Newfoundland Legislature would be an invasion of constitutional right, and that the recognition of this principle, by the 20th article, should be maintained in all its integrity.

No. 4.—Moved by Wm. Dawson, Esq., seconded by R. Noble, Esq., and passed unanimously: Resolved that a Petition be prepared and presented to the Legislature soliciting their earnest and hearty co-operation with the people of Newfoundland in averting the danger threatened by the proposed concessions.

The proposed Petition was subsequently submitted to the meeting and passed unanimously.—Wm. Pryor, Esq., then took the chair when an unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor for his able conduct in presiding over the meeting.—A vote of thanks was also passed to C. W. Dickson, Esq., for his efficient services as Secretary.—After some complimentary remarks had passed between several gentlemen present and the Delegates, the meeting adjourned. This is probably one of the most unanimous and best conducted public meetings that has been held in Halifax for some time past.