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Assize of Bread.

Published November 1, 1831.

	lbs.	oz.
THE Sixpenny Wheaten Loaf of Superfine Flour, to weigh,	2	4
The Sixpenny Rye,	3	9

And Shilling, Three-penny, and Penny-half-penny Loaves in the same proportion.

LAUCHLAN DONALDSON, *Mayor.*

Weekly Almanack.

November—1831.	Sun Rises.	Sun Sets.	Moon Rises.	Full Sea.
9 Wednesday	7 11	4 49	8 48	2 43
10 Thursday	7 12	4 48	9 41	2 21
11 Friday	7 14	4 46	10 39	3 5
12 Saturday	7 15	4 45	11 40	3 56
13 Sunday	7 16	4 44	morn.	4 57
14 Monday	7 17	4 43	0 44	6 18
15 Tuesday	7 19	4 41	1 50	7 27

First Quarter 12th, 2h. 21m. evening.

THE GARLAND.

COMMUNICATED FOR THE OBSERVER.

[We esteem it a privilege to snatch from oblivion the following very beautiful lines, which we believe have never before been published, although the production of a highly gifted Scottish bard of the eighteenth century. The piece abounds in all that simplicity and beauty of expression which so naturally flows from the pen of the true poetic genius.]

HAVE MEN OR WOMEN THE KINDEST HEARTS? *

"It's maybe mensless o' me for to say't,
But trouth your question maist wad gar ane greet:
For now this night you've brought us down to hear
O' a' the ills puir folks are born to bear—
'An' syne gin *lads* or *lassies* kindest cares
Hae laid the saftest plaisters to our sairs?'
But since ye mint to hae this point disputit,
I'll tell ye frankly what *I* think about it.

"Meikle indeed's the help that men hae geen
To folk in need, wha's face they've never seen;
But then, they're aye sae jealous and sae slack
To lift the burden aff a puir man's back,
That while they're doutin o' the bodies skaith,
Death's cauld hard fingers birzes out his breath.

"Far differ'nt this frae that kind generous care
That instant warms the bosom o' the fair:
Trembling they hear the puir worn sufferer grieve,
And feel each pang until their hard relieve.
Frae high to low, frae kintra wives to Queens,
Women hae ever proved our kindest friens.
Speir at the begger cripplin thro' the street
Wha gies him moniest farthings, meal or meat?
Wha aftenest fills him up a taukard reamin?
He'll shake his head an' say—"God bless the *women*."

"Should you, guid sir; or any ane that's here,
Some night, while fuddlin ower a horn o' beer,
Chance to kick up wi' rungs a bluidy racket
And get your dizzie pericranium cracket—
While lyin in your bed in doleful' dumps,
Sick, sick wi' drink, an' black an' blue with thumps;
Tho' chiels might laugh to see your dunel'd pan,
The wife wad aye be kindest to you than,
Wad wash the bark'ned bluid frae aff your snout,
Straik up your head an' buckled wi' a clout;
Wi' saftest blankets cuir you up frae harm,
An' syne slip in hersel to keep you warm.

"Ae eenin wearid wi' a lang day's cruise,
I plied for quarters at a kintra house;
The auld guid-man aside the bunker sat;
Jannet was stappin down the big caff pat.
"Frien," quo the canker'd carle, "pack up your gear,
"We're pincht enough oursels ye'se no be here."
Vext was the wife to see me forc'd awa,
But John was fix'd—an' John's word was a law.

"The stormy night now darken'd on me fast,
An' rain an' hailstanes batter'd in the blast;
Druicket thro' claes an' wallet to the skin
I reach'd a gentle house an' ventured in:
The kitchen fire was bleezin like a caule,
Befor't a roast was rowin wi' a haule.
My heart grewligit to see sic blythesome cheer.
Thanks to the road, thinks I, that brought me here.
But scarcely had I lean'd, when wi' feil din
A black ramskourie carle cam marchin in;
A furious, girnin look at me he threw,
Then sternly roar'd "pray who the devil are you?
"Out of my house this very instant pack"—
Syne threw the door wi' vengeance on my back.

"I now had starv'd maist sure wi' cauld an' hunger,
Come life, come death, I couldna tramp it langer,
Hadna twa lasses slippet thro' the ha'
An' kindly whisper'd "dinna gang awa,
"Grape for the stable door wi' little din,
"An' sune as he's asleep we'se let ye in."

"Wi' joy my heart now flutter'd like a bird,
An' weel-awat they were as guid's their word;
Before the fire I dried my reekin duds,
An' suppit out twa luggie-fou o' cruds.
An' when the mornin forced me to set out,
Below my weary wallet for to lout,
They stappit in my pouch wi' kindly speed
A lump o' beef amaist as big's my head.

"Let *men*-folks syne about their greatness blaw,
Facks are the starkest arguments ava.
Sae then wi' reverence due to but an' ben,
Women I think are kinder than the *men*.'

* This question was proposed for discussion in a Society of Young Men of Genius, formed in Edinburgh in 1789.—The Poet gave in these lines as his opinion on the subject.

MISCELLANEA.

SKETCH OF THE POLISH LEADERS.

From the Metropolitan.

General Chlopicki is descended from a noble, though not an opulent, family in the Ukraine. So early as the days of Kosciusko he developed great military talents, and after the fall of his gallant leader, he refused to serve any of the partitioning powers. His merits, however, were known; and, on the romantic formation of Dombrowski's legion in Italy, he was one of those selected and sent by the patriots of Poland to that country. It is impossible within the narrow limits of this notice to enter into any details of his achievements, but it may suffice to say that there are few pages of the history of the legion which are not illustrated by his deeds.

On the creation of the Duchy of Warsaw, Chlopicki did not enter the army of the Duchy, but was entrusted with the command of the legion of the Vistula, then first raised. The French officers with whom he served rendered him ample justice, and his *coup-d'œil* on the field of battle is compared with that of the most eminent commanders. Marshal Suchet's Memoirs bear honourable testimony to the merits of the Polish chieftain. After having served in Spain, the legion of the Vistula found itself among the invaders of Russia, and shared in all the vicissitudes of their imperial leader. The immediate commander for his eminent services received various marks of honour and the title of a baron. When Alexander conceived the idea of becoming King of Poland, he was singularly desirous of propitiating this officer, and gave unlimited pledges of realizing all that Napoleon had ever promised: but in no one instance was the pledge redeemed. Thus injured, he became an object of persecution; but his nobility of character protected him from petty persecution, until one day on parade, the Grand Duke being less decorous than usual in his language, Chlopicki tendered his resignation, and remained for three years in his house, until it was accepted. He then visited Italy, and on his return home lived in perfect retirement until the bursting out of the revolution.

His knowledge of the influence he possessed throughout the nation probably excited the idea of assuming the Dictatorship. In the conduct of the duties thus self-imposed, he has displayed high talent, though in some important points he failed. The events, however, are too recent to enable mankind to form a dispassionate judgement on them. History hereafter, in recording even his errors, will plead for the man who, accustomed to disciplined troops, could form but an imperfect estimate of the prowess of raw and enthusiastic levies. On resigning the chief command, with a singleness of purpose that can only be found in a truly great mind, he served with the army as a volunteer, while its operations were directed by his master hand. The severe wounds received at Praga have for some time disabled him from taking any active share in the military exploits of his country.

The immediate successor of General Chlopicki, Prince Michael Radziwill, was quite an infant at the period of the last Polish partition. He thus never shared in the falling glories of Kusciusko, and as he possessed ample wealth, rank, and personal attractions, he had access to the gayest circles, to which his time was principally devoted; yet even in the midst of dissipation he was distinguished for his amiable manners and high principles of honour, which soon excited in his breast a powerful sympathy with his bleeding country.

His personal attractions led the government to name him to the office of chamberlain to Napoleon, when he visited Warsaw in 1806. But the eagle eye of the Emperor soon discovered a higher destiny for the youthful Prince, on whom he at once conferred the rank of Colonel, and gave a regiment of 5000 Poles, formerly in the Prussian service. These well trained men were eminently useful in the siege and subsequent capture of Dantzig. In the campaign of 1812, the Prince served with distinction under Marshal Macdonald on the shores of the Baltic; and after the desertion of General D'Yorck, the handful of Poles protected the retreat of the main body even to Dantzig. For these services Prince Radziwill was named a member of the Legion of Honour and a general officer. After the establishment of the kingdom of Poland, he declined the appointment of aid-de-camp general to the Emperor Alexander; and having married the step-daughter of the illustrious General Kniaziewiec, an amiable and accomplished person, he retired to his estates, where he devoted himself to agricultural pursuits and general improvements. Subsequently, on being called to the senate, he has been a distinguished advocate of just principles and of a true national feeling. He particularly resisted the political persecutions, disdaining to court favour, and preferring a consciousness of fidelity in the cause of truth.

After the revolution broke out he was called upon by the Russian functionaries to associate himself with them with a view to bring back order; for he still retained his weight. When General Chlopicki resigned the dictatorship, the two chambers elected him generalissimo by an overwhelming majority; and although his fortune, wife and children, were all in the hands of the Russians, he did not shrink from the responsibility. The nomination was received with equal enthusiasm by the people and the army, considering him the representative of many of the best qualities of the lamented Poniatowski. He commanded only in few actions, but in these he did not lose his claims to the confidence of his countrymen: the term however of his services was short; for, contrary to the narrow principles that influence men of small minds, he made a condition on his elevation to the chief command, that he should only retain it until he should discover a real military genius capable of conducting Poland to victorious independence, and he has rendered this eminent service to his country by discovering and nominating as his successor the chivalrous—

Skryznecki. This extraordinary man, who is in the forty-fifth year of his age, entered the army in 1806, and served in the regiment commanded by Casimir Malachowski, now a General of division, to whom he became particularly acceptable from the frank artlessness of character peculiar to both. Although from the commencement of his military career he was remarkable for a scrupulous attention to all his duties, yet he had no opportunity of developing his remarkable talents before 1809, when he signalized himself in the campaign in which 8000 Poles defeated 40,000 Austrians, and made themselves masters of the whole of Galicia. On this occasion he obtained the cross of the Polish order of Military Merit. He also contributed most essentially to the formation of that fine regiment raised by Prince Constantine Czatoryski at his own expense, and commanded in 1812 the grenadiers of that corps, which in the battle of Mojaisk took thrice, and eventually retained possession of, a mound which was completely covered with the Russian Guards. Our limits prohibit us at present from following this gallant soldier through all his various battles; but we may mention in evidence of his not having reposed, that he was actively employed by Napoleon from the period above named; and in one of those murderous conflicts, (at Arcis-sur-Aube,) previous to the abdication of Fontainbleau, the Emperor finding himself in extreme danger threw himself into a hollow square formed and commanded by Skryznecki, whose superior resources were strikingly displayed. After the battle he was decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honour, and Napoleon pronounced this remarkable prediction, "*C'est un commandant qui commandera.*" Europe bears testimony to the sagacity which gave birth to the presage. Any estimate of General Skryznecki's military genius would be so imperfect in this place that we shall not attempt it, but content ourselves with some notice of his personal character.

Descended from a noble family, he has all the principles that characterize the high-born gentleman in the truest sense of the word. For steadiness of religious faith, attachment to the conservative principles of society and morality, and a deep conviction that constitutional monarchies are the best adapted to answer the happiness of the people, and ought therefore to form a part of all European institutions, he is so very remarkable, that he has acquired the name of The Aristocrat, not however in an invidious sense—such Aristocrats only seek the honour and welfare of their country. In private life his manners are mild and amiable, rendering him the idol of his domestic circle, where he finds his truest happiness. His friends speak of him with an enthusiasm, that proves the extent of influence which he can now fortunately exercise on behalf of his hitherto tortured country.

Such are the three distinguished men who have been called to the highest military trust in the revolution.

Amusing Description of the Streets of Madrid.—The stranger who walks for the first time through the streets of Madrid, is struck with the sombreness of the prospect that is presented to him: this, he speedily discovers, arises from the costume of the women. It is the varied and many coloured attire of the female sex that gives to the streets of other great cities their gaiety and liveliness. No pink, and green, and yellow, and blue silk bonnets nod along the streets of Madrid; for the women wear no bonnets,—no ribbons of more than all the colours of the rainbow chequer the streets of Madrid; for the women of Madrid do not understand the use of ribbons. Only conceive the sombreness of a population without a bonnet or a ribbon, and all, or nearly all, in black! yet such is the population of Madrid. Every woman in Spain wears a *mantilla*, which varies, in quality and expense, with the station of the wearer; and for the benefit of those who, though they may have heard of a mantilla, have an imperfect idea what it is, I will describe it. A mantilla is a scarf thrown over the head and shoulders; behind, and at the sides, it descends nearly to the waist, and falling, in front, over a very high comb, is gathered and fastened, generally by something ornamental, just above the forehead, at the lower part of the hair. Of old, there was a veil attached to the fore part of the mantilla, which was used or thrown back, according to the fancy of the wearer; but veils are now rarely seen in Spain, excepting at mass. Of the rank and means of a Spanish woman, something may be gathered from the mantilla, though this cannot be considered a certain criterion, since Spanish women will make extraordinary sacrifices for the sake of dress. Yet there are three distinct grades of the mantilla: the lady in the upper ranks of life, and most of those in the middle ranks, wear the lace mantilla; some of blond—some of English net, worked in Spain; and these vary in price, from £4 or £5 to £20. The Bourgeoises generally wear the mantilla, part lace and part silk, the lace in front and the silk behind, with lace trimmings; and the lower orders wear a mantilla wholly of silk, or of silk trimmed with velvet. Spain is the only country in Europe in which a national dress extends to the upper ranks; but, even in Spain, this distinction begins to give way. In the streets, no one yet ventures to appear without the mantilla; but French hats are frequently seen in carriages and in the theatre; and the black silk gown, once as indispensable as the mantilla, sometimes gives place to silks of other colours; and even a French or English printed muslin may occasionally be seen on the Prado. But although the sombre dress of the women, and the consequent absence of bright colours, seemed at first to give a gloomy cast to the exterior of the population of Madrid, a little closer observance of it disclosed a variety and picturesqueness not to be found in any other of the European countries. The dress of the women, although sombre, bears, in the eye of a stranger, a character of both novelty and grace. The round, turned up hat and crimson sash of the peasant: the short green jacket and bare legs and sandals of the innumerable water-carriers, who call *aqua fresca*; the sprinkling of the military costume; and, above all, the grotesque dresses of the multitudes of friars of different orders, gave to the scene a character of originality exclusively its own. No feature in the scene before me appeared more novel than the universality of the fan; a Spanish woman would be quite as likely to go out of doors without her shoes as without her fan. I saw not one female in the streets without this indispensable appendage. The portly dame and her stately daughter, the latter six paces in advance, as is the universal custom throughout Spain, walked fanning themselves; the child of six years old held mamma with one hand and fanned herself with the other; the woman sitting at her stall, selling figs, sat fanning herself; and the servant coming from market, carried her basket with one arm and fanned herself with the other.—To me, who had never before seen a fan but in the hands of a lady, this seemed ridiculous enough. The streets of Madrid presented a totally different aspect at different hours of the day. Before one o'clock, all is nearly as I have described it, bustling and busy, and thronged with people of all ranks, of whom the largest proportion are always females; for the women of Madrid spend much of their time in the streets, going and coming from mass, shopping, (a never-failing recourse,) and going and coming from the Prado. But, from one o'clock till four, the aspect of every thing is changed: the shops are either shut or a curtain is drawn before the door; the shutters of every window are closed; scarcely a respectable person is seen in the street; the stall-keepers spread cloths over their wares and go to sleep; groups of the poor and idle are seen stretched in the shade, and the water-carriers, throwing their jackets over their faces, making pillows of their water casks. But the siesta over, all is again life and bustle: the curtains are withdrawn, the balconies are filled with ladies, the sleepers shake off their drowsiness, and the water-carriers resume their vocation, and deafen us with the cry of *aqua fresca*. These water-carriers are a curious race, and are as necessary to the Spanish peasant as the vender of beer is to the English labourer. With a basket and glass in the right hand, and a water jar on the left shoulder, they make incessant appeals to the appetite for cold water, and, during the summer, drive a lucrative trade; and so habituated is the Spaniard to the use of cold water, that I have observed little diminution in the demand for it when the morning temperature of the air was such as would have made an Englishman shrink from so comfortless a beverage.—*Inglis.*

The following is an admirable picture of "*the Trade,*" as it is conducted in the city of New-York:—

[From the Winchester Republican.]

Martyrdom.—The New York daily papers are cutting each others throats for the benefit of the public. In old times a ship used to come from the ocean in a quiet, unassuming way, pass through the Narrows without molestation, and arrive at the wharf in a respectable manner. The captain, after seeing the vessel well fastened, and serving a glass of grog all round, would jump ashore, take a moderate run up to his house, kiss his wife and children, shake hands with his neighbours, and then return to carry his letters and papers to the post office. In a day or two the New-York papers would furnish their readers with half a dozen items of foreign news—the people were satisfied, and there was an end of the matter. But the "march of intellect" has set them all adrift. In an evil hour, our esteemed friend of the Gazette bought a little boat, and hired a little man to row it down the broad and beautiful bay of New York every day, on a voyage of discovery; and every evening the little traveller would return with a report of all the news brought by foreign vessels anchored at the quarantine ground.—To add to the astonishment of the people, this news was actually published in next morning's paper. The Mercantile Advertiser was guilty of a similar enormity—and the consequences were that their compositors were sometimes obliged to work so late as 11 o'clock at night. These irregular hours shortened human life somewhat; it took about seven years, then, to kill a journeyman printer.

The proceedings were equally quiet on the other side of the Atlantic. A few papers from the principal towns and sea ports—the last London Sun and Times, and perhaps one sheet from the Courier office and one from the Chronicle—were deemed amply sufficient to enlighten the western continent. But now—heaven save the ship, as she lies at the Liverpool wharf! First must be gathered all the Liverpool newspapers proper; then in rolls the London mail—two cart loads at least. The rail road groans and squeaks under the ponderous masses which hurry on in time for the just sailing packet; the boatmen, as they push down the Mersey, cross themselves, and pray they may not go to the bottom with their double cargo of editorial wisdom; every city, town, village and hamlet, pours forth its drop to swell the general torrent. The porters fret—the sailors swear—the captain sighs for the days of his grandfather. The anchor is weighed; the sails are set, and at last they are off. But not to rest, has been decreed by Mr. Wilmer, the Liverpool agent of the New York papers. Alas! poor infatuated crew—they think, because some few waves roll between them and trouble, they are safe. Not so—scarcely do they begin to draw a little comfortable breath, before a speck is descried in the distance behind: nearer and nearer, on they come—a host of little streamers. A fresh supply of gossip has reached Liverpool since they left there, and they are absolutely chased out on the ocean with another boat load of news.

The Atlantic, though 3000 miles wide, is but a step across in a brisk gale; lucky is he that is becalmed on the way, for he has some slight opportunity of putting his brains in order, collecting his ideas, &c. &c. to meet the uproar which awaits him here. In the days of old, there was some care to be taken in approaching a coast; there were soundings to be made, charts were examined, and the telescope was more than hourly elevated to descry, if possible, some far glimpses of "home, sweet home." Not so at present. A ship may be very sure she is a goodly distance from shore as long as only herself is on the water; for long before light houses or blue hills are visible, her tormentors are on the alert, and forth sally a whole navy of that venturesome small fry, yclept "news boats."—Then comes the tug of war. Ten questions to one answer—mail bags here and letters there—and a tax-general laid on the memory of the unfortunate captain and passengers for all they ever heard and saw.—Each one tells a different story; some only half an one; for the 'news boats' have no time to spare on particulars. All is confusion and clatter, and in the midst of it push off the little fry, and steer, like "neck or nothing," for Long Island. Horses then take the precious burden, and such of them as are not killed on the road, deposit it on the north side of the island, and thence its last step is taken to the printing offices. Editors, compositors, pressmen, devils, all stand, with pen and type to pounce upon it without delay. No time to part truth from falsehood, or the probable from the impossible—print it all; two, three, four o'clock, A. M.—no chance for sleep; and by five the carriers are flying round in all directions.

Four years suffice to kill a journeyman; and twice four years more sees a rival newspaper establishment, with a little more capital, a newsboat that can get a little farther out to sea, a press that can strike off sheets a little faster, a carrier that can run sixteen knots an hour, and the hitherto prosperous concern groans and gasps and dies!

Remuneration of the Working Clergy in England.—From an article in a late number of the *World* newspaper, the whole stipends of the working clergy of the Established Church of England, appear to have amounted only to a shilling in the pound, or five per cent. of the sum levied in tithes from the people of England.

COLONIAL.

Quebec, Oct. 24.

Brig *Sophia*, Neill, arrived at Quebec this morning on her *third* voyage *from Europe*, an undertaking not previously accomplished by any other vessel. The Sophia was only 22 days on her last passage to Greenock, and but five days in port. In returning this trip, she experienced very heavy gales, at N. W. and N. N. W. previous to making the Banks, and at one time was obliged to lay too for 24 hours. The *Cherub*, Millar, had not arrived at Greenock when the Sophia sailed; but it will be remembered that this vessel did not leave until a week after her, which made her only 19 days out from this, when the Sophia left the Clyde. There is, therefore, good reason to expect that the *Cherub* will also succeed in making the three voyages this season.

Deals to the extent of 450 M. standard, and four Saw Mills; valued at 430,000 rubles, the property of the celebrated deal merchant Gromoff, were destroyed by fire, at St. Petersburgh, the latter end of August. Accounts from England state that the prices were already advanced in consequence, and expected to be very high.

The arrival of this day's mail from Halifax, has caused an alteration in the route of the 71st Regt. These orders now, we understand, are not to touch at Halifax but to proceed to Bermuda direct.—*Gaz.*

The transports *Layton* and *Maulius* with the 71st Regt. on board, sail this day. The manner in which the distinguished corps left the Garrison on Thursday, was highly creditable to the discipline that had been preserved in it, under all the disadvantages incidental to the detached service, in Upper Canada, from which it has recently returned. We looked narrowly at the men on the King's Wharf, when drawn up for embarkation, and our own observation was in accordance with the remark which was made by the many military officers, of other corps, who were present—not a single instance of intoxication was to be seen, every man seemed as steady under arms as if Quebec had been under the absolute dominion of the most rigid Temperance Society, instead of abounding, as it does, with shops for the sale of intoxicating liquors.—It was generally said, that on no occasion had a Regiment been seen to leave quarters in so correct and steady a manner.—*Mercury.*

From the Quebec Gazette.

Substance of the English and American Passengers' Acts.

English;—enacted 22d May, 1828. Not more than *three* persons to be allowed on board for every *four* tons register. Two children under 14, or 3 under 7, or 1 under 12 months and the mother, to count as one person. Vessels to have 5½ feet between decks, or platform and deck.

To have fifty gallons good water for each person on board, and fifty pounds bread stuffs. Vessels having the whole number of passengers, not to carry any thing else between decks, and not more than three cubical feet for each passenger wanting.

Lists to be exhibited to the chief officer of customs at the port of lading, and deposited with him. No persons to be landed before coming to port, without their consent, under a penalty of £20, recoverable before two justices of the peace. Violating the act or other matters a misdemeanor. No prosecution after 12 months:—extends to North America and West Indies.

American;—enacted March 2, 1819. Number of passengers not to exceed *two* for every *five* tons, all ages included. Penalty 150 dollars for each person over. Not to include the crew. If the number of passengers exceeds the number allowed above twenty, vessel forfeited.

Vessels to have 60 gallons water for each passenger, 100lbs. *salted provisions*, 1 gallon vinegar, and 100lbs. ship bread. If passengers be put on short allowance, master to pay 3 dollars per day to each such passenger.

Masters to deliver to the collector, reports of the age, sex, and occupation of such passenger, their country, and that of which they intend to become inhabitants, and the number died on board, all under oath. Collectors to transmit lists to Secretary of State.

By a British act, 5th July, 1825. It was provided, that passengers should not exceed *one* for every *five* tons, if loaded vessels, without a special licence, or *one* to every *two* tons if in ballast; each vessel to have a surgeon, if 50 passengers; 5 pints water, 1 lb. bread, 1 lb. beef, or ¾lb. pork for each daily, and 2 lbs. flour, 3lbs. oatmeal, pease or barley, and ¼lb. butter weekly. Vessels to be aired and fumigated.

The act of 9th May, 1828, being posterior, however does away with the regulations of the act of 1825, which may be contrary thereto.

By the official census, just published at Washington, it appears that the whole number of inhabitants in the United States is 12,856,407, of which 10,526,368 are whites, 319,467 free colored, and 2,010,572 slaves. By the census of 1820, there were 7,856,269 whites, 233,400 free colored, and 1,581,436 slaves. The increase of whites has therefore been 2,670,099, or 34 per cent; of free colored 86,247, or 37 per cent. and of slaves 479,136 or 38½ per cent. Total increase, 3,218,276, or 32½ per cent.

Speaking Pipes.—The mainmast of the Briton is fitted with a tin pipe, for the conveyance of the voice, in boisterous weather, from the quarter deck to the main top. The pipe is about one inch in diameter. It was a proposition of Mr. Parsons, of the dock yard in this place.—*Hampshire Telegraph.*

Spirit of Candour.—"Where are you going, Sawney?" said one Scotch journeyman baker to another. "Even to the club, man, to contradick a bit," was the sapient reply. How much existing opposition is precisely of this description!

HOUSE OF COMMONS—September 6.

PUNISHMENT OF DEATH.

The Duke of Sussex said he rose to have the honour of presenting to their Lordships one of the most important petitions that had ever been laid before the House; and, were he not satisfied that he should, at a future period, be assisted by several of his Noble Friends, and, he trusted, by the Government itself, he should feel great difficulty in presenting that petition to the notice of their Lordships. The petition which he should have the honour of presenting to their Lordships prayed, "That their Right Honourable House would take the criminal laws into consideration, for the purpose of the revision and amendment of the same, by drawing a distinction between the simple invasion of the rights of property, and crimes of violence and blood, and by abolishing the penalty of death in all cases in which the legislative power cannot justify, in the eyes of God and man, that last and dreadful alternative, the extermination of the offenders." This petition, the Royal Duke observed, was signed by seven individuals, who, in the course of the last year, had filled the situation of foremen of seven successive grand juries, for the county of Middlesex, at the Old Bailey. It was also signed by upwards of 1100 merchants, traders, &c. all of whom had either served, or were liable to serve, as jurors. The number of individuals who had signed this petition was very large; but they must go farther—they must look to the property of the petitioners; and, when they saw ninety-one names, the property attached to whom amounted to no less a sum than £10,000,000 sterling, he thought that he had showed to their Lordships sufficient to convince them that this petition was entitled to great consideration and respect. These respectable individuals stated to their Lordships their own private feelings, and the situation to which they were frequently reduced in fulfilling their painful duties. They stated, that at various times, such was their unpleasant situation, that, though under the obligation of an oath, they ought to have found different individuals guilty, yet, from the impression on their minds, that the sentence, as the laws stood, would greatly exceed the enormity of the offence, they had felt themselves compelled to pursue a different course, and, in consequence, they feared that very frequently criminals escaped justice. He had himself heard from a variety of individuals, that persons, who had signed petitions praying for an alteration of the law, had themselves severely smarted from the loss occasioned by forgery, and, knowing the severe penalty which was attached to the commission of that crime, had actually assisted the offenders to escape from the country. Knowing the individuals who now compose his Majesty's Government—one of whom had last year presented elsewhere a petition on this subject—being aware of the feelings which actuated the Noble Earl who was at the head of his Majesty's Government, as well as many other Noble Lords—he was perfectly confident that due attention would be paid to the prayer of this petition. He thought that it would be better to leave the consideration of such a subject in the hands of Government, in order that they might treat it with all the wisdom and prudence which it certainly deserved. They, by their prudent views of the subject, might further the object of the petitioners, while others, by haste and precipitancy, might rather mar the petitioners' efforts. He professed that he was one of those who was in nowise prepared to say that the punishment of death should at once be abolished. He wished that to be distinctly understood. But when he looked back to the present state of the law of this country—when he recollected that, according to an able writer, there were very recently 160 crimes punishable by death, without benefit of clergy, one could not help feeling that such a system should be essentially altered. At the same time he was aware that the punishment of death could not be wholly done away; but he thought that in a great many cases the certainty of punishment would effect much more good than the keeping a severe law in existence, the operation of which was always evaded and set aside in consequence of its severity. It appeared to him, that many offences might be successfully punished by imprisonment, and by other similar means; and he was quite convinced that the country would be greatly benefitted if, while the laws punished criminals, an endeavour was made, at the same time, to reform their moral character, and to render them, ultimately, fit persons to enter into Society. He would say further, that, to promote such an object, it would be right, so far as every man had it in his power, to assist in cultivating conscientious feeling and religious principle—not here only, but throughout the world. He looked with confidence to this point, that Government would, so far as was reasonable and practicable, attend to what he had stated. He begged leave to call most particularly the attention of his Noble Friend at the head of the Government to this question; and he begged leave to state, that whenever it came before the House, he would give every support in his power to the arguments used in the petition. The Royal Duke then read a document, giving a comparative statement of the number of committals and convictions in England and Wales, as compared with committals and convictions in France, in the years 1825, 1826, 1827, and 1828, from which it appears that the committals and convictions in England and Wales were much more numerous than those in France during that time, although the population of France was so much greater, and expressed his opinion that an amelioration of the law would do away with that inequality. The Royal Duke concluded by reading the petition, which was signed by the different foremen of seven successive Old Bailey Grand Juries of 1830, and by upwards of 1,100 merchants, traders, &c. who either have served or are liable to serve as jurors. It deprecated the punishment of death, except for atrocious offences, and expressed an opinion that the severity of our criminal laws have not tended to diminish crime. The petitioners also assert that in the present state of the law, juries are reluctant to convict, and thus a painful struggle ensues between the feelings of a just humanity and the obligations of an oath.

The Lord Chancellor said, there were one or two things mentioned in the petition, which ought, in his opinion, to be noticed. He thought that our penal code might be amended, by being rendered less exceptionable on the score of indiscriminate severity; but he was not prepared to adopt the line which was drawn by the petitioners—namely, that the punishment of death should only be inflicted in cases of murder, or of robbery accompanied by excessive violence. It was his opinion, and a practical not a speculative opinion, that nothing was more injudicious than to place under the denunciation of the same punishment of death, various shades and degrees of offences.—This was contrary to sound principles of legislation; but at the same time he never would admit that the state ought to take away the life of a man only when that man had taken away the life of another, that the blood of man should be shed only when the criminal had shed the blood of his fellow man. We had no right to take away the life of a murderer, except because it was expedient that a murderer's life should be taken away. We had no right to shed a criminal's blood because he shed the blood of another man; we had no right in reason to do this; we had no warrant from religion, except that the tendency of the ex-