British News.

By the Mail Steamer Acadia.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT AT BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE, LONDON.

(From the London Morning Herald.)

A shocking accident occurred on Monday evening, about seven o'clock, at Blackfriars-bridge, by which the lives of several persons were sacrificed. A rowing match, called the "Bankside Regetta," had been going on all the afternoon, the parties engaged in which rowed from Blackfriars-bridge to London-bridge, and back. This match, caused a great many persons to congregate on Blackfriars-bridge, and all the available space where a sight of the rowers could be obtained.

It is customary with steam boat managers, on Sundays, when from 4,000 to 5,000 persons pass over the stages, to employ a man to keep off pickpockets and children, and in consequence of so many trespassing upon the stage, one of the piermen was appointed to this duty. As fast, however, as he cleared the thoroughfare the crowd accupied it again, and at length became abusive, on account of the man's apparent ill-nature in depriving them of the opportunity of witnessing the regetta; and it would appear that at the time of the starting of the competitors for the "last grand heat," in which, by reason of the odd oars, they came close to the city side of the river, the crowd braved all restraint, and insisted on occupying the stage, when the man, despairing of clearing it, or perhaps attracted by the race as well as the others, left them in possession. This stage was about thirty two feet long, four feet wide, and two inches thick, made of sound wood, and has lately been repaired; but, from the state of the tide, it being just after high water, it became almost level with the floating barge, or "dummy," to the centre of which it led, and, in consequence of the dead weight of no less than one hundred persons on it, just as the boats were starting, and every one straining to catch a sight, the stage snapped off at about twelve feet from the stone platform, and fell down with a terrible crash. Then followed a most heart-rending scene,—men, women, boys, girls, and even mere infants, went headlong one over the other into the water. The rush of the people on the landing-place above, ignorant of the cause of the deadful shrieks of those struggling for life, and the equally loud cries of those who saw the catastrophe from the bridge above added, we fear, to the casualities by precipitating from the platform those who were on its edge, from such a height and in a such a direction as to injure them in their decent, by their falling against the fragments of the broken stage. Above twenty was in the water, at almost the last grasp. With great promptness and presence of mind planks were sent adrift for the drowning to by hold of, and many persons who were in the barges jumped into the water to the rescue. Some were, of course, immediately drawn out, without greater damage than a wetting. Among them were a French gentleman and lady, who were endeavouring to make their way through the crowd to the outer pier, when the stage gave way. This gentleman gallantly supported his wife, and was the means of saving her. Others were picked up in various stages of exhanstation. A boy was saved by a watchman, who plunged into the water, and swam with him to a coal barge. In a short time the struggle was over; those who had not been rescued soon disappeared, but how many no one could tell; but it was too well known that many had perished. The barges and the pier were obstacles to a search. No time, however, was lost in bringing the Royal Humane Society's drags into operation, and the most praiseworthy zeal was evinced by all classes of persons, the police hastening to the shop, and, as usual in all cases of accident, rendering effective assistance by keeping back the crowd.

Up to eleven o'clock on Monday evening, the bodies of four persons only had been recovered.—These were a boy, four years old; a girl, ten years old; and a girl, aged seventeen; the children of Mr. Braidcent, butter and cheese dealer, in Newgate Market, and all of whom perished in his presence. The name of the other sufferer is Maria Polleston, fringe maker, Clerkenwell, aged twenty. One female child, about five years of age, named Aurelia Mundy, whose parents keep the Lamp and Lark, in Printing house-lane, was discovered on Tuesday morning. It is impossible, however, to state with accuracy the amount of the loss human lives, as it is probable that some persons may yet be confined under the numerous crafts with which this spot is so thickly crowded.

CAPT. WARNER'S EXPERIMENT OFF BRIGHTON.

The experiment illustrative of the powers of Captain Warner's invention, which he announced on Saturday morning as fixed for the afternoon of that day, was exhibited between five and six o'clock. The proposition which Capt. Warner undertook to illusterate by the exhibition of this experiment was, that no ship could chase a vessel furnished with his emplements of warfare, without herself being certainly destroyed. Whether these weapons were of a projectile or any other or specific nature, was not annonnced, so far as we could ascertain, by Captain Warner, though abundant were the conjectures hazarded upon the subject.—The fact to be proved was what we have above stated, but the mode of effecting that fact was kept a profound secret.

On the morning of Saturday crowds of visitors from all parts of the county of Sussex flocked into Brighton, and the first railway train brought down upwards of 500 passengers from London. We think there must have been from 30,000 to 40,000 spectators congregated to witness the scene. The ship to be operated upon was a stout bark of 300 tons measurement, but capable of carrying 450.—She was a perfectly seaworthy ship, and generously presented to Capt. Warner by Mr. Somes, the eminent shipowner, for the purpose of testing the powers of his alleged destructive invention. The Government had declined going to the expense estimated by Captain Warner as necessary for the exhibition of his powers, but Mr. Somes was determined at his own cost to put an end, so far as he could, to the doubts whether the invention in question were or were not of public importance.

The intended trial was postponed until between 4 and 5 o'clock, for the purpose of giving time for the attendance of Lord Haddington and Mr. Sidney Herbert, who had expressed a wish to be present.

Shortly before 4 o'clock we repaired to the platform of the battery, from the signal of which we had learned that a flag was to be hoisted by the command of Lord Ingestre and Captains Dickson and Henderson to indicate to Captain Warner when the ship, the subject of his operations was to be destroyed. The reason of this arrangement was to remove any doubt of the *bona fide* nature of Capt. Warner's power of destroying a pursuing vessel at the moment of her destruction.

When we arrived at the battery we found it occupied by a very numerous assemblage of noblemen, those of the naval and military professions being in a large majority.

The company, who generally expected the experiment to come off at 4 o'clock, waited very good humouredly, and without evincing any tokens of impatience, until 5, when Lord Brougham who had been manifestly chafing for some time, gave loud utterance to his expressions of displeasure and distrust of captain Warner's intention to perform any experiment at all. In vain several of Captain Warner's friends reminded the noble and learned Lord of the many impediments which prevented a short-handed crew from getting a ship under weigh with the despatch of a man-of-war's complement of hands. Lord Brougham looked through a telescope and commented upon the tardy movements of the John O'Gaunt's crew in a manner which intimated that if he himself had been on board, matters would have gone on much more smoothly and swiftly.—His learned and mercurial lordship lying prone upon the battery parapet with a huge telescope resting upon his white hat, was not one of the least lenitive of the tedium of delay. At last, about a quarter to five the John O'Gaunt began visibly to move towards the destined spot of operation, abreast the battery. She was towed by the Sir William Wallace, and attended by a small Shoreham steamtug, the Tees, to take off the crew of the John O'Gaunt previous to her destruction, and to render other services. When the John O'Gaunt came abreast the battery, being at a distance of about a mile and a half from shore, a Union jack, the signal agreed upon, was hoisted on the flagstaff, to intimate to Capt. Warner that he was now to destroy the ship in the wake of the Sir William Wallace, on board of which he himself was with his implements of destruction. A short delay took place, and the Union Jack on the steamer's mast, which it was arranged should be hauled down previous to the destruction of the pursuing ship, was re-hoisted half-mast high, to indicate, as we understood, that some obstacle was in Captain Warner's way. We have since been informed that a cutter kept hovering in John O'Gaunt's track, in a direction very dangerous to herself, and this prevented Captain Warner's immediate operation. At last the Union Jack was fairly lowered, the steamer's head was turned somewhat towards the shore, and the devoted John o'Gaunt followed in her wake. We may say without exaggeration, that the suspense of all present was painful, the silence was deep and unbroken. A smoke seemed suddenly to envelope the John o'Gaunt, her mainmast shot up perpendicular from her deck, no noise save that of the rending of timbers was heard, and on the apparent smoke's clearing away, the smitten ship heeled over to port and sank. We say apparent smoke, because we have since ascertained that what we and a majority of those present, apprehended to be smoke, was in reality England water sent up in a huge column into the air. A similar phenomenon was reported to have been exhibited in an experiment performed by captain Warner, before Sir Robert Peel, Sir George Murray, Sir Henry Harding, and others in the year 1842. When the John o'Gaunt heeled over on her larboard side, we saw through a powerful telescope, and Captain Dickenson stated to us that he saw the same, through the main hatchway the sea on the starboard side—a plain proof that the ship's starboard bilge was carried away. The decks, however, were not blown up, but remained entire when the ship sank—a clear proof that the force, whatever it was, and from whatever quarter it proceeded, was external, and not from within the cavity of the ship.

We notice this as a fact from which important conclusions may be drawn; but we will not imitate the example of many around us in this scene of excitement, and hazard conjectures of our own.—To this fact we can bear testimony—the swift, and sudden, and complete destruction of the ship; and we are authorised by Lord Ingestre and Captains Dickenson and Henderson to give their decided opinion, founded upon an examination of the vessel and the facts displayed in the course of the experiment, that the cause of destruction was exterior, and not intrinsic. The applicability of this terrific power of purposes of actual warfare must be tested by the competent and constituted authorities, but of its existence in the possession of an individual there is now in evidence that an omission on the part of of government to sift this matter thoroughly would be culpable in a high degree. We understand that since the accession of Sir Robert Peel to power various negociations have been instituted between Capt. Warner and the government, all of which have gone off or been suspended, on the grounds that his experiments are too costly.

Capt. Warner was asked to permit a few gentlemen to be with him on board the steam boat; but he declined. Even the crew of the steamer were all sent below before he began to operate, and kept there until the explosion took place.

It is useless, therefore, to attempt to tell what we do not know. But one thing is clear—Captain Warner is in possession of a marvellous engine of destruction; and though it may be regarded by some persons as a horrible invention, if it become known it may be taken as a harbinger of universel peace. A war carried on with such agency would be indeed a war extermination—a war extermination to both parties, and therefore useless. Of necessity, then, men would appeal to reason and not to violence.

Captain Warner received the congratulations, personally, on Saturday evening, of Lord Brougham and the other noblemen and officers who remained in Brighton; and Mr. Somes, who says he fully expected that Captain Warner would destroy his ship when he gave it to him, has expressed his willingness to give him another for the further proof of the captain's power, if the government are not now satisfied, or will not provide one to satisfy themselves.

(From the Observer.)

And now a few words as to the *modus operandi*. The prevailing impression is, that two "detonating shell" secured together by means of a chain or rope are suspended at a certain distance beneath the surface of the water, directly in the track of the vessel, which upon meeting with the obstruction offered by the chain or rope, forces it forward, a motion which inevitably draws the "shells" against the sides of the ship, upon coming in contact with which they are so constructed as to explode instantaneously, and by such explosion destroy the vessel.

A close observation of the whole proceeding this day led the writer to believe that some such mode of proceeding must be adopted. There certainly was no appearance of an explosion from the hold of the vessel, and, so far as could be ascertained, the injury the ship sustained appeared to be about the centre of the larboard and starboard sides. It is true that two of her mast were destroyed, and that her back appeared to be broken, but this might have very well arisen in the manner described.

RENEWAL OF THE MONSTER MEETINGS--WORK FOR LORD HEYTESBURY.

(From the Dublin Evening Mail.)

The first business that awaits Lord Heytesbury's hand, after his arrival in this country, is the suppression of the *Loyal* Repeal Association: the second, the prohibition of Monster Meetings. If he begin firmly and at once, his administration will be calm and untroubled; if he await the recruiting of that spirit which it required "the battle of Clontarf" to repress, he may bid adieu to peace and prosperity. He must put down the Association, lest the Association get the better of him. He must get the upper hand of agitation, lest the Hill of Tara witness another Monster Meeting. We now speak partly with reference to certain speeches at the Conciliation Hall on Monday last, but chiefly with a view of calling the Noble Lord's attention to the following audacious and mendacious announcement from the *Drogheda Argus*:—

"'TARA OF THE KINGS.'

"We have the very great gratification to be able to announce that a requisition was prepared in Navan, on Wednesday last, for a meeting in the county of Meath, to be held on the hill of Tara, on Thursday, August 15th—the Feast and assumption, and the anniversary of the 'monster meeting of 43.' The objects of the meeting will be to prepare an address to the Liberator, to prepare a petition to parliament, and to declare in the calm and earnest manner worthy of such a people as the people of the county of Meath to persevere in seeking by constitutional means, the repeal of the act of union. The requisition received an immense number of signatures on Wednesday, and several others have since been added."

On this subject, we copy from the *Newry Telegraph* the following just and pertinent observations:

"The contemplated meeting on 'Tara of Kings' must not be permitted, because, in the first place, to allow it to take place would be unjust to the 'Orangemen' of Ireland. This body was forbidden, by the law, to engage in a party demonstration. The commemoration of anniversaries Protestants had been accustomed to celebrate was prohibited. To tolerate the proposed political demonstration on Tara, avowedly in commemoration of the repeal display last year, at the same spot and on the same day, would be virtually to confer on one portion and class of her Majesty's subjects privileges and immunities forbidden to another. In that case, the cry might be fairly raised, that the Roman Catholic repealer was treated with unjust favour, while the Protestant loyalist was the object of insult, injustice and oppression. We are satisfied that the government or Sir Robert Peel will not provoke such a cry. In the name of the Protestants of Ulster we press the claim which, as we have stated, they are now in a condition to prefer, and demand that in a political display, which they have wisely abstained from, those who differ from them shall not be permitted to engage. There is another reason why the government should prevent the contemplated meeting at Tara. Let it be tolerated, and to no purpose has the demonstration at Clontarf been suppressed—in vain have the conspirators been hunted thro' all their shifts and doublings, condemned and imprisoned; the grand object of the prosecution has not been attained; the government have failed in their object. We do not exaggerate when we speak thus. A moment's reflection will satisfy our readers that were the government, after punishing O'Connell for raising the mobs to menace, to permit the same to be played over again by other agitators, the advantages would be sacrificed to attain which was the design of the state prosecutions. If, then, the Meath repealers show that they are resolved to keep to their purpose, they must be dealt with summarily. Temporising in the case there must not be. The government must not be content to remain passive, under the erroneous notion that the punishment of the leading conspirators should suffice for the present. The strong arm of the law must be made to fall again promptly and heavily. Nay, more—what the *John Bull* talked of the other day as 'about' to be done, must be done without delay, and the *coup de grace* be effectually given to the repeal confederation."

MODEST ADVICE.

The *Nation* of Saturday contains the following gentle and well timed hints to Lord Heytesbury, as to how, and in what manner, that nobleman is to demean and deport himself when he assumes the functions pertaining to the office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland:—

"Well, Lord deGrey is gone (says the *Nation*), and Lord Heytesbury, is coming, and we have neither malice nor welcome for old A'Court, the veteran of a thousand intrigues, but we have some advice to give him. We advise him to determine whether he means to coerce, to conciliate or to humbug. If the first, we are ready with popular discipline, funds and friends that will then increase—patience, *and if the worst come, why, we say frankly, there are those who have foreseen it.* If he thinks of trickery, let him remember that there are diplomatists here—that his own party are hasty bigots, and that against men full of resolve, resources and bitter patience, intrigue is well nigh useless. If he will concede—but stay; when he has dismissed the spies and back bullies of the castle—when he treats our flag with respect—when he makes the magistracy pure of bigotry, without humbling it to stipendiaries, as the Whigs did, when, in short, he does all Lord de Gray did not, *we'll talk of receiving from him the only concession we'll ever accept from any man—the repeal of the union.*"

This is pretty cool; but there is a sentence at the conclusion of the admonitory article so justly conceived, and so admirably suited to the purpose that we ourselves have no hesitation in strenously recommending it for his Excellency's adoption:—

"Meantime, (continues our contemporary) we advise him to *study the publications of the Repealers, the disciplined anger of the people, and examine the lives and tempers of the men who, like us, have sworn never to rest while one ray of English supremacy flutters in the air of Ireland.*"

Here is a text book admirably calculated for Lord Heytesbury's contemplation. Let him say we in conjunction with our contemporary, let him "study the publications of the Repealers"—let him contemplate sedition advocated, treason inculcated, and rebellion recommended in every column of their newspapers: let him consider well the "disciplined anger of the people"—let him look to disloyal associations, monster meetings, factious badges and teetotal processions; let him, we repeat with the *Nation*, "study the tempers of the men engaged in this treasonable conspiracy—let him examine their means, be advised of their "sinews of war," and cognizant of their "order of battle;" and when the time shall arrive—when the attempt is made to act upon the sworn obligation thus audaciously proclaimed of extinguishing "every ray of EXOTIC SUPREMACY that flutters in the air of Ireland"—let him be prepared to meet the crisis—not with diplomacy, but the—SWORD.—*Dublin Evening Mail.*

TWO YOUNG LADIES AND A GENTLEMAN DROWNED.

Dover, July 15.—About one o'clock this afternoon a most melancholy loss of life occurred in Dover Bay, by the upsetting of a small pleasure boat. The party in the boat consisted of Mrs. Bentley, two of her daughters, and a young gentleman said to be the nephew of Mrs. Bentley, but whose name we could not learn, and the two men who were in charge of the boat. The boat was under sail and tacking, about a mile off the land, when she was observed to upset, there being rather a brisk breeze at the time. On observing the accident, several boats were immediately launched from the beach, but before they could get to the sufferers a fishing smack that was about a half a mile to the windward bore down, and sent her boat to the spot. The fishermen fortunately picked up Mrs. Bentley, and the two men; but the gentleman and the two young ladies had disappeared. The boatmen saved themselves by swimming, and it is supposed Mrs. Bentley's clothes kept her above water.—Mrs. Bentley was brought on shore almost lifeless, but on being taken to Mr. Marsh's bathing-house she was fortunately recovered. Mr. and Mrs. Bentley were strangers here, from Preston, we understand. Mr. Bentley was absent from Dover at the time of the melancholy event, and was not aware of his loss till he arrived by train in the afternoon.

STATE OF TRADE.

MANCHESTER, Aug. 2.—Our staple markets continue in a very satisfactory state, and prices, for both yarn and goods, are not only firmly maintained, but exhibit a further tendency to advance. The trade reports of Manchester for the past month state that the manufacturers were in a steadily improving position, and that for many descriptions of piece goods there are large orders still remaining to be executed, while Water Twist is scarcer than ever known since 1838, and there is scarcely a spinner without contracts for some time hence.

LEEDS, Aug. 2.-The sales of bulk goods have been of the same character as the last few weeks; the great bulk is delivered to order off the market days, and in consequence the supply to the cloth halls continues to be very small. Prices are without any alteration. Business continues brisk in the warehouses.

HUDDERSFIELD, July 30.—The warehouses engaged in the home trade are generally buoyant with activity as the buyers who have visited the town during the week have been numerous. The summer orders in most of the American houses are nearly executed, and less business in this department may be expected until the fall trade. The continental houses are more actively engaged, and on the whole more business is doing than is usual at this season of the year.

ROCHDALE, July 29.—There has been an excellent demand for flannels to-day, especially for the coarser qualities, which have been rather difficult to meet with.—The manufacturer is getting some small advance in price, but not equal to the advance in the raw material. Wool continues in good demand, at firm prices.

BRADFORD, July 31.—There is a very steady business doing in the piece trade, and for goods suitable for the autumn, particularly those made of worsted, the demand is even increased, and prices are very firm. Mixed goods have been rather more in request, and the prospect is more satisfactory. Yarns are in good request, and the buyers disposed to purchase for future delivery at last weeks prices.

NOTTINGHAM, July 30.—Trade is dull in all branches of the silk and cotton glove and hose, and lace manufactures.

CAPTAIN WARNER'S DISCOVERY.

(From Punch.)

We have received the following report of the proceedings the other day at Brighton from Lord Brougham. We are obliged to his lordship for his prompt attention, but had rather that his style of addressing us had been a little less familiar. We have no objection to liberties being taken with us; but we must, we suppose, allow much for that love of freedom which has always been one of the salient points of Lord Brougham's character:

Brighton, July 26 1844.

"Dear Punch—I believe you know my opinion of the invisible shell. I thought it a piece of humbug, and, hating all humbug, perhaps on the principle of two of a trade never agreeing, I came down, determined to blow up Captain Warner if he did not blow up a vessel, according to the pledge he had given to the public.

Having reached Brighton, I took up my station on the battery, and amused myself by lying at full length on the wall, and making my white hat a support for my telescope, and reporting to the people around me the result of my observations. Two was the hour fixed for the experiment. Two came but no blowing up. Humbugs are never punctual. They never keep their appointments; though, by the by, if I could get a good appointment now, I think I should keep it.

I, of course, got rather impatient, and spoke my mind pretty freely. They told me it took time to bring the ship up to her moorings. Pooh! all humbug my dear Punch. As if they could not have hoisted her gaff, put her mizzen in the wind, and let her luff on the larboard tack till she got abreast the eyes of the spectators. I said as much to the bystanders, who agreed with me, with the exception of a meddling fellow of a naval officer, who was, of course, in Warner's pay, and put there to puff up the invention. I offered to go myself and bring her up, if they would allow me. I also offered to go and remain in the vessel while Warner tried to blow it up—so certain was I that the whole affair was a hoax; but even this they would not agree to. At last, tired out by importunities, without which the people would have seen nothing at all—for I was only by sticking to the thing as I did that got Warner to make the attempt—a noise was heard, the vessel went away, and the thing ended in smoke as I always said it would. The ship turned right over, so that the daylight was visible by the aperture in her timbers, and I saw through it of course immediately.

The ship sunk, true enough: but, my dear Punch, I just tell you how the thing was done.—It was either done by a rope, or else by something that floated up to the ship which pulled a trigger—that would be easy enough of course—or an electric battery, a by an air-gun, or a quantity of gunpowder made to act by Ryan's process from the bottom of the sea or a submarine shell—or something or other. At all events it's a mere trick, and being a trick, anybody could do it. I could at all events, if the proper materials were supplied to me. If you mean, my dear Punch, to assume a sort of scientific air upon the subject, put in the following paragraph, which I should have put into the *Penny Cyclopædia*, if the work had not been completed;—"Sunder is an odour like ot—chlorine salts acting in coalition with a pure phosphate, and coagulating chymically with the sublimate of marine potash, will create combustion in nitrous bodies. It is a fact in physics, that sulphurous acids held in solution by glutinous compounds, will create igneous action in aqueferous bodies, and therefore the pure carbonate of any given quantity of bituminous or ligneous solids will, of themselves, create such a result as that which Captain Warner produced on Saturday by his alleged discovery. It will, therefore, be seen that we gain no new fact—that there is, in reality, nothing due—and that the whole is rather a semi-optical delusion than a great truth in science."

There my dear Punch, print that, and you will gain the credit of knowing something about every thing. That's the way I got my reputation for all kinds of useful knowledge.—Ever, my dear Punch, your devoted friend, BROUGHAM.'

THE MANCHESTER STEAMER.

ALTON, July 16.—We have received from Basingstoke the following notice respecting the bodies fro't ashore here from the Manchester steamer: There are, in all, six; those of Captain Dudley (which as interred on the 3d inst. in the church yard of Wesselbourn.) Mrs. Smith, Mr. George Smith, two sons, and of an unknown gentleman, on which there was found a sum of 3,900 marks.

Cuxhaven, July 11.—Yesterday and to day the bodies of Miss Emily Smith and Mr P. Rothery, were found near Busum and brought to this place.

THE STADE DUES.—A treaty has at length been concluded and signed in London between the Ministers of Great Britain and Hanover, for the adjustment of the protracted and embarrassing discussion arising out of the Stade dues. The principle established by this convention will substitute a uniform and moderate tariff of dues for those numerous and ill-regulated charges which have so long been a serious burden on British shipping in the principal commercial outlet of northern Germany. We believe that a reduction of not less than one-third has been effected.

TOM THUMB AT PARIS.—As it is the intention of Mr. Barnum to visit Paris with Tom Thumb, he in the handsomest manner invited *Punch* to have a private view of the General in the costume in which he will exhibit to our lively neighbours. The General having worn out Napoleon in England, he will there in politic deference to French prejudice, appear as the Duke of Wellington. The decided style in which the General wears his hat is in the finest imitation of the noble Duke whilst his management of the double eye-glass is perfection. He will besides, for the especial delight of the Parisians dance a hornpipe after the manner of his Grace, and moreover sing a comic song on the Reform Bill. When the General returns to America he will we understand, enchant Jonathan by appearing as Prince Albert.—*Punch.*

WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.—The one hundred and first annual Wesleyan conference opened on Wednesday, in Birmingham, the committees having previously assembled. From the financial statement of the Education Committee, it appeared that, including a grant from the Centenary Fund, about £12,000 had been already contributed or promised. There had been 110 candidates for training as masters or mistresses, 42 of whom had been accepted, and sent to the Glasgow Normal Seminary. Since August last, about 13 had finished their preparatory courses, and had been sent out to different places, and there were a number of applications which would be met in the course of a few months.—There had been an increase, during the year (if we caught the numbers correctly), and 143 Sunday schools, and 15,627 scholars. Of week day and infant schools there were 183 for boys, 109 for girls, and 40 for infants, containing 13,138 boys, 8,776 girls, and 3,349 infants,—making a total of 25,463, and an increase of 4,659 children. In the Missionary Committee the Rev. Dr. Bunting then took a general review of the receipts and expenditure, showing that the former, for the current year, could not be estimated at a higher sum than £98,000, while the latter would reach £110,000, involving a probable deficiency of £12,000, and he called upon the meeting to determine whether there must be a sweeping reduction in the missions or a permanent increase of income. A long discussion ensued in which Mr. Burton, of Leeds, having playfully expressed an opinion, that the Wesleyan body would come nearer to £110,000 in contribution than the committee would keep to that sum in expenditure, the idea was taken up, and a resolution was passed unanimously, pledging the connexion to raise that amount within the year.

WINE AND SPIRITS.—A return has been laid before the House of Commons, which shows that the total quantity of wine imported into the United Kingdom, in the year ending January 5, 1844, was 6,807,053 gallons, and in bond 10,649,652 gal's; of this the Spanish and Portuguese wines formed the great majority, the former amounting to 3,636,402, and the latter to 6,298,420 gallons. The total quantity of spirits in gallons imported was Rum, 3,729,754; Brandy, 2,408,378; and Geneva 362,689; and the net amount of duty as follows:—Rum, £981,905; Brandy, £1,185,478; Geneva, £15,861; and for spirits of the manufacture of the United Kingdom, £4,903,201; making, with some other items, a total of £7,095,261. The rates of duty per gallon are:—Rum, 9s. 4d.; Brandy and Geneva, 22s. 10d.; spirits manufactured in England, 7s. 10d.; Scotland, 3s. 8d.; Ireland, 2s. 8d.

RIGHT OF BILL BROKERS TO RAISE MONEY UPON COLLATERAL SECURITIES.—A case has been tried in the Court of Exchequer, Acraman *v* Cooper and others, which involved an important question to the commercial world. It was an action of trover, to recover £10,300, the alleged value of the scrip receipt for 300 shares in the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. The defendants, who are bankers, claimed a lien upon the scrip for advances made upon this and other securities, deposited with them by Colls, Thompson & Co., the plaintiff's bill brokers. A verdict was returned for the defendants, thus marking the opinion of the jury, that the bankers had a right to recover their advances, but, at the same time, they gave an intimation that they considered it a dangerous practice for the mercantile world to raise money upon collateral securities, while the original securities were still running.

In the peers, on Friday the 26th, Lord Wharncliffe moved that the house should go into committee on the Bill for continuing, until the 1st of June next, the Act against Party Processions in Ireland.—The Earl of Wicklow opposed it, observing that it had a restriction on Protestants, which Repealers, under the designation of teetotallers, were able to evade. The Earl of Roden expressed similar views.—The Duke of Wellington supported the measure as efficient for the prevention of all offensive processions, and took occasion to speak in high terms of the good conduct of the Irish Protestants.

In the Commons, on Wednesday, the 31st, Sir Robert Peel, in reply to a question from Sir C. Napier, said, the government had received accounts from Tahiti, and he had no hesitation in saying that a gross outrage had been committed on the person of the British Consul, (hear, hear.) The information was received on Monday last, and no time was lost in making the proper representations to the French government. He believed the outrage was not sanctioned by the government of France, and that they would lose no time in making that separation which this country had a right to expect.

THE ARMY.

22nd—Major General Sir C. Napier, on being appointed Colonel of this gallant regiment, issued the following appropriate address:—

"Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to place me at your head, and I shall end my military career wearing the uniform of the regiment. Your glory must be my glory, and well I know that it will increase when you have again an opportunity to use your bayonets. Never were the musket and bayonet wielded by stronger men, nor were the Royal colours of England ever confided to more intrepid soldiers.

"Many General Officers have been made Colonels of regiments that they had formerly commanded, and with whose glory their own fame is associated—but old comrades have passed away!—to the new men they are strangers, and nought remains to bind them to the regiments but memory and renown.

"My good fortune has been greater, for while I rejoice in the past and present honours of my old corps the 50th regiment, I am, as Colonel of the 22nd regiment, placed among men with whom I so lately fought and to whose valour I owe much.—Soldiers! we are not men without feeling, as pseudo-philosophers pretend; obedience, discipline, war—they deprive us not of manly sentiments. I shall always have the strongest attachment to the troops with whom I have served, and among the honours won for me by the army of Scinde, the greatest is that of being your Colonel.

(signed) C. J. NAPIER.

Maj. Gen. and Col. 22nd Reg't."

34th—Major George Roxton, from half-pay Unattached, to be major, vice James John Best, who exchanges: Captain Richard Willoughby Byron to be major by purchase, vice Roxton, who retires; Lieutenant Edward Plantagent Aiery Talbot, to be captain, by purchase, vice Byron; Ensign Edward Wilmot Sitwell to be lieutenant, by purchase, vice Talbot: Henry Townley Parker, gent, to be ensign by purchase, vice Sitwell.

PORTUGAL.—The Lisbon advices of the 17th announce that the affairs of the government are in such a miserable plight that it had been obliged to suspend its payments; a bill for so small a sum as £120 having been protested!

TURKEY.—A letter from Constantinople of the 10th ult., states that an extraordinary sensation had been created there by the publication of a French pamphlet, in which the Turkish Minister of Finance and a celebrated banker and contractor are accused of a long continued and enormous system of plunder upon the state purse. A report was in circulation at Constantinople that the Russians had been beaten in a severe battle with the Circassians, and had lost a large portion of their army.

GREECE.—Supposed attempted assassination of the King.—Letters from Athens of the 10th state that a man, evidently a maniac, had forced his way into the palace, in spite of the opposition of the sentinel, who, in the struggle, wounded the individual with his bayonet. The unfortunate maniac carried a roll of paper in his hand, which was considered to be a petition to the King; but, on examination was found to be a rambling composition about Alexander the Great. The loss of a small property and domestic troubles are said to be the cause of his mental alienation. He has been placed in safe custody.

PRUSSIA.—A letter from Paris says—"On the 26th July, at the moment when the King of Prussia was about to set out on a journey, an assassin named Tscheck, burgomaster of a little village some leagues from Berlin, fired a pistol at him. The ball glanced off the King's breast, without doing him any mischief. The King continued his journey. The assassin is arrested." It appears by an official bulletin, which has reached London from M. Bulow, the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Prussia, that the assassin fired two barrels of a double barrelled pistol at the King, one of the balls missed, but it is said that the Queen, who was in the same carriage with his Majesty, would have been hit had she not just at the moment, leaned forward. The other ball struck the King on the breast, but glanced off, leaving only a slight bruise.

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, AUGUST 23, 1844.

The Steamship *Acadia* arrived at Halifax on Friday night last, in 12 days and 6 hours from Liverpool. The mail arrived here on Monday.

It was expected that the regular business of the British Parliament would be disposed of by end of the first week in August. The parliament will not however, be then prorogued; but the session will be continued by adjournment to the 25th of August. The purpose of this arrangement is to afford time for receiving the reports of the judges, and making up the judgment of the House of Lords upon the writ of error brought by Mr. O'Connell and his fellow-prisoners.

Arrival of the Hero of Jellalabad and Lady Sale, &c. at Lyme Regis.—On Monday 22nd, Major General Sir Robert Sale, the equally heroic Lady Sale, and their widowed daughter, Mrs. Sturt, and child, arrived at Swann's Bank House Hotel, Lyme Regis, Dorsetshire, accompanied by Sir Francis Ford, E.I.C.S.; Capt. Scober, ditto; Capt. Anslie, 21st Fusileers; Mr. Robinson, 7th Dragoon Guards; Mr. Remington, 5th Bombay Cavalry.—The gallant General and family and friends were landed by a Cowes pilot boat, the Tres Britos, Indiaman, being wind-bound in the Channel. As soon as their presence became known, the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood, and the inhabitants of Lyme, vied with each other in offering their congratulations, while the church bells poured forth their merriest strains of harmony to welcome the gallant veteran and his truly courageous lady to their native land, after so many gallant actions and "fair breadth 'scapes by flood and field." They left for London on Tuesday morning 23d amid the cheers of a great number of persons who assembled to witness their departure.

Advices had reached England of some high-handed acts on the part of the French naval officers at Tahiti, in which a most gross outrage had been committed by them on the British consul at that place. The news had created considerable excitement, and explanations were asked of the Earl of Aberdeen in the House of Lords and Sir Robert Peel in the Commons—in answer to which they both most warmly condemned the acts of the French officers, and stated immediate explanations had been demanded of the French Government by whom, they expressed a strong conviction that the proceedings of its officers would be warmly regretted, and that every reparation would be made for the insults offered.

The Levant mail has arrived, and, we are sorry to say, confirms the worst fears so long apprehended respecting Colonel Stoddart and Captain Conolly. It seems now ascertained beyond a doubt that the gallant officers were executed at Bokhara in the month of June, 1842. The object of Dr. Wolff being thus happily ended, and the reverend gentleman was to leave Bokhara towards the end of May, on his way to Europe. He has written an official letter, by order of the King of Bokhara, in which the following are stated to be the reasons for the execution of Col. Stoddart and Capt. Conolly. The former had been put to death, firstly, on account of his having treated royalty with the greatest disrespect on different occasions; secondly, that he had turned Mussulman, and then returned to the Christian's faith; thirdly that he had promised to get letters from England in four months, by which he would be acknowledged ambassador from England, and fourteen months had elapsed without receiving any answer, though the King had erected jaspar khans (post houses) on his account. And with regard to Conolly, that he had been put to death for having induced the Khans of Khiva and Kohan to wage war against the King of Bokhara.

THE BOY JONES (the interesting chimney sweep, who so ingeniously contrived to secrete himself in the private apartments of the Queen at Buckingham Palace), now a first class boy on board H.M.S. Warspite, when between Tunis and Algiers, was last month rescued late at night from a watery grave by the life-buoy. The ships crew are of opinion that if it had been a rough night Jones would not have gone overboard at all; they think that he jumped overboard for no other purpose than to see the life buoy light burning, and this is in some measure confirmed by the fact of his brawling out when falling, "a man overboard!" and again, when immersed, "let go the life-buoy."

The mails from London to Edinburgh now reach their destination in 29 hours. Further acceleration is spoken of.

The Duke of Norfolk will not permit a beerhouse keeper to have employment on his estates. His eldest son, the Earl of Arundel, is a teetotaller.

At the present time passengers are actually being conveyed from Newcastle-on-Tyne to London, by steam boat, at the rate of two shillings per head.

It is stated that in consequence of the alteration required in the business of the Bank by the new charter, no less than ninety additional clerks will have to be taken on.

Her Majesty has nominated Sir Henry Hardinge, Knight Commander of the Bath, to be a Knight Grand Cross of that order.

It is calculated that the four hundred Mechanics' Institutions of Great Britain comprise 80,000 members, possess about 400,000 volumes of books, raise nately £30,000 a-year, and occasions the delivery of nearly 400 lectures.

The Plans for the harbours of refuge of English Channel are progressing as fast as the important nature and the improvements which suggest themselves will permit. Every port is to have a strong adjacant defence.

The French papers state that a sum, equal to £4,000, has been paid to Eugene Sue, for his forthcoming novel, 'Le Zuif Errant," by the proprietors of the daily newspapers, in which it is to appear. A sum, equally large, has been given by a bookseller, for liberty to publish it afterwards, in volumes.

A discovery has just been made in the properties of guano, which is likely to obtain for it equal notoriety as an article of colouring, to what it at present enjoys from its important and valuable vegetable productive quality. Besides this, it is now becoming known as a purifier in the cleansing of woollen goods.

A professor of philosophy at the College of Avignon, who was suffering from brain fever, threw himself from the window of his room, last week, and, in falling, broke both his legs. The shock caused an instant return of reason. The unfortunate man, on being picked up, uttered a well-merited reproach. "You knew that I had lost my reason," said he, "and yet you left me unwatched."

The engines of the Manchester have been found on the Rossen Sand, about four miles north of the Elbe, and about one mile south of the entrance to the Elder; they were in two fathoms water at low water. The body of a lady has been picked up, her linen marked M.A.S. or H.A.S. Large quantities of the vessel's cargo have been found and landed at Cuxhaven.

The quarterly returns of the revenue, exhibit an increase in the Customs of £312,029, compared with the July quarter of last year, and an increase in the Excise of £85,479. There is decrease in the Property-tax of £9,224; in Crown lands of £2,500, and in the Miscellaneous department one of £641,337. The latter deficiency arises from the large amounts received in the July quarter last year, of Chinese ransom money. The total increase in the ordinary sources of revenue is £446,850; the aggregate increase of the year's revenue is £2,440,336.

Coins found in Wales.—There has been lately found near the Penrhyn slate quarries, several ancient silver coins. They were discovered very near the surface in cleaning a plot of ground for building. They are of three sizes, being the groats, half groats, and silver pence of Edward the Third. The groats weigh from 45 to 50 grains, and bear the King's head within a treasure of nine arches; inscribed *Edward. D. G. Rex. Angl. Z. Franc. D. Hyb.* The reverse on the outer circle has *Pos. Dominatior. Em. Men.* and the inner circle some bear *Civitas. London*, the others *Civitas, Eboraci.*—The half groats weigh about 23 grains, and the impression upon them is nearly similar. The penny is very much like those lately found on the Friars ground near Bangor, but smaller, and also distinguished in having *Edwardus* in full on the obverse. One of them is moreover distinguished from the rest in having *Civitas Dvnelmie* inscribed on the reverse. The third Edward was the first to issue groats and half groats.

On Sunday last no less than four accidents took place on the Thames, by which seven lives were lost by drowning.

The *Aurora*, Russian frigate, at Gravesend, bro't on account of the Russian government, her g