

on a scale proportioned to the representation of the two former classes, choose representatives of their own.— Lastly, let not the rights of the proletariat be lost sight of; by all means let those who cannot make good their claim to a vote, either among the property, or among the industry, or among the intelligence of the country, have representatives of their own to watch over their interests, and to make their wishes or their grievances known.

Such evidently is the form which the representative system must assume, if it is to answer to the postulate of Mr. Bright,—“a fair representation of the property, the industry, the intelligence of the country.” In proportion as any plan of Parliamentary Reform shall approach to this ideal of national representation, will it deserve the name of “Reform,” and tend to cure the defects of our old representative system, without entailing, as the first Reform Bill has done, mischiefs of a more formidable kind. At the same time it must be borne in mind that no change,—however sound and excellent the principle on which it proceeds,—can be really beneficial, unless it is effected gradually, and with the least possible violence to existing institutions. That the principle of representation which we have pointed out, is no novelty in the British Constitution, that it already exists and only requires to be expanded and adjusted, has been ably shown in a pamphlet,—to which we confess ourselves indebted for the suggestion of this mode of arriving at “a fair representation of the property, the industry, and the intelligence of the country.”—from the pen of Mr. A. G. Stapleton, a gentleman who is entitled to a hearing on this subject, not only on account of the soundness of his political reasoning, but as the private secretary of the late Mr. Canning. Without pledging ourselves to the details of Mr. Stapleton’s proposals, we would strongly recommend his interesting essay on our representative system for attentive perusal, which it will abundantly repay.

We are well aware, and so is Mr. Stapleton himself, of the various objections likely to be raised against such a plan of national representation as that now suggested. The consideration of these we must reserve for some future occasion, when we may return to the subject, and call attention to certain collateral advantages which would result from a representation, not of numbers but of classes, and to certain facilities which the tendencies of the times seems to offer for its adoption. In the meantime let us express the hope that as the Reform Bill of 1832 was adopted under the influence of the alarm caused by the French Revolution of 1830, so the history of France since that period, its revolution of February, 1848, and still more its revolution of December, 1851, may act as a salutary warning; teaching us that it is not in the direction in which France is hunting after the phantom of political optimism, but in the very opposite direction, that we must look for the guarantees of public safety and for the means of national improvement; not by making a nearer approach to the Manchester nostrum of universal suffrage and vote by ballot, but by working out the problem so happily proposed by Mr. Bright, “a fair representation of the property, the industry, and the intelligence of the country.”—John Bull.

SCHOOL FOR THE INDIGENT BLIND.—At a recent meeting of the Governors of the School for the Indigent Blind, the Rev. J. Evans in the chair, the report stated that since the opening of the Institution in December, 1799, upwards of 450 persons had been returned to their families able in most instances to earn a livelihood, or at least some considerable portion of it. The number of pupils had gradually increased from fifteen males to upwards of 150 of both sexes. The receipts for the past six months amounted to £3,427-1.

FURTHER REINFORCEMENTS FOR THE CAPE.—The Horse Guards have determined on meeting Sir Harry Smith’s demand for further reinforcements at the Cape, by sending by steam-vessel the battalion of Rifles now at Dover; and orders have been sent to Dover, to the battalion, to hold themselves in readiness for immediate embarkation. It was at first intended to send them by Her Majesty’s steam frigate Birkenhead, at Portsmouth; but it is now decided that they shall proceed to the Cape in the new iron screw frigate Megara, at Sheerness. Mr. Hoopneister, and the officers and crew of the Cyclops, just returned from the Cape, having been turned over to that ship, the Megara having been thoroughly fitted for the conveyance of troops. Like the Vulcan she has received Grant’s distilling galley, and possesses every comfort and convenience for a regiment. The Rifles, we believe, are above 600 strong.

Much interest has been excited in Dublin by an extraordinary trial for false imprisonment. The plaintiff was a person named William Henry Matthew, a scholar of Dublin University, of considerable distinction, and the action was brought against Dr. Hartly of Dublin, a Physician 71 years of age, and proprietor of a Lunatic Asylum. The most singular feature in the case was, that the plaintiff was totally ignorant of his parents, his education having been paid for, and he himself supported by Dr. Hartly, against whom the action was brought. The mystery of his parentage was cleared up on the trial, the defendant confessing up an examination, that he was the father of the plaintiff, whose mother, though unmarried, was strictly a lady, and died about 20 years ago, leaving a small sum of money in his (the defendant’s) hands, for the support of the issue of their criminal connexion. From the evidence it appeared that Dr. Hartly had done his best to atone for the sin of his youth, by giving the unhappy young man to whom he was father, the best education in his power. The reason for confining him in the Lunatic Asylum was stated to be, that Mr. Matthew had, on several occasions evinced marks of considerable aberration of intellect. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff—damages £1,000—the announcement of which was received with a general burst of applause from all parts of the crowded court.

We are told that the new Emperor of all Frenchmen lately expressed himself as follows:—“My life may be divided into four epochs. The first was wasted in rash enterprises; the second, in the triumph over anarchy in France; the third, in reconstituting a strong Government, and in the pacification of Europe; the fourth, a coup de pistolet.” Louis Napoleon has made his political testament in case he is killed off. He leaves his office to his cousin Lucien, the youngest son of his uncle Napoleon; that is, he calls on the people to confirm his successor as they have confirmed him. Five generals are appointed executors of this singular will, namely, Marshal Vaillant, and Generals St. Arnaud, Magnan, Carrellet and Baragny D’Hilliers.

Application has been made for a charter to a company for the purpose of establishing steam communication between Galway and New York.

THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER.—Granville George Leveson Gower, second Earl Granville, and now Her Majesty’s Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, is comparatively a young man, having been born in 1815. He graduated at Christ Church, Oxford; he was for a short time attaché to the British Embassy at Paris, and subsequently Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; he was appointed a Railway Commissioner in 1846, in which year he succeeded to the Earldom; Master of the Queen’s Buckhounds, July 1846; Vice President of the Board of Trade, May, 1848; was M. P. for Morpeth, from February 1837, to February 1840, and sat for Lichfield, from September, 1841, to January, 1846. Earl Granville was, it must be remembered, chairman of the council of the Royal Commission of the Great Exhibition of 1851. The first Earl was a distinguished diplomatist, and was some time resident as British Ambassador at Paris. He was uncle to the second Duke of Sutherland, and was long known as Lord Granville Leveson Gower.

The Emperor of Russia has been obliged to pass a law to prevent his subjects from mutilating themselves, to avoid military service. Sixteen hundred persons had mutilated themselves, to avoid enrolment, between January 1850, and July, 1851.

The Christian religion is professed by about one-third of the human race. Of the 260,000,000 of the population of Europe, all but 10,000,000 are nominal Christians. These 10,000,000 are made up of Mahomedans, Jews and Heathens. About 60,000,000 of people live on the American Continent, and of these 57 or 58,000,000 are nominal Christians.

The next expedition to the Arctic regions of 1852, in search of Sir John Franklin and the missing officers and crews of the Erebus and Terror, discovery ships, will be made as efficient as possible, and in addition to the Pioneer and Intrepid screw steamers employed in the recent expedition, the Phoenix, a much larger screw steamer of 260 horse power, is ordered to be fitted at Deptford for service in the polar seas.

A woman was lately buried in a grave-yard, near London, who had been dead upwards of five years, a near relation having left her an annuity of £30, to be paid on the first day of each and every year, so long as she should remain on earth. In consequence of this legacy her surviving husband hired a little room over a stable in the neighborhood of his dwelling, where she was kept until after his death.

A society has just been formed in Dublin for the preservation and publication of the ancient melodies of Ireland.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—Notwithstanding the intimation given to the foreign exhibitors that all the goods were to be removed by the 13th instant (Saturday,) there is still a large quantity within the building, chiefly belonging to France and some of the German States. It is still hoped that the building will be so completely cleared of the goods that it may be thrown open to the public on the 1st of January, as already arranged.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY.—A few days ago a lad named White, errand boy to a respectable printer at Kensington, was charged at Westminster with endeavouring to get a sum of money advanced by a cheesemonger, at Brompton, upon a forged cheque and a letter, purporting to be written by the Rev. Mr. Bowler, of Onslow-square. The suspicions of the cheesemonger being roused, he made the boy accompany him to the Rev. gentleman’s house, the boy stating on the way that he had got the letter from a man who was standing on Mr. Bowler’s door step. On arriving at the house, it was ascertained that neither Mr. Bowler nor his butler knew anything of the cheque or the character which the lad bore, Mr. Arnold, on these facts having been stated, was inclined to believe that he had been made the dupe of some designing scoundrel, who had poisoned the butler. The case, however, assumed a widely different complexion upon a Mrs. Faulkner, of King-street, Westminster, butcher, coming forward, and stating that the prisoner had uttered a similar cheque to her, drawn by a person signing himself M’Dermott, in favour of a Mr. Partridge accompanied by a note from that gentleman, containing the same request, couched in precisely the same words as in Mr. Bowler’s case, the cheque having been cashed by her. On Mrs. Faulkner and her foreman positively swearing to the identity of the prisoner, he was accordingly remanded. Nevertheless on Wednesday, immediately after the disposal of the night charges, a very respectable-looking man, addressing Mr. Arnold, said that he had seen an account of the case in the newspapers, and as it was very shocking that any person should suffer innocently, he had considered it his duty to come forward and put the Magistrate in possession of the fact, that the accused was not guilty of the charge, but that his (the speaker’s) son was the person who had obtained the money as described, at the request of a person who had accented him as he was walking along, and had given him the letter, and had received the cash. Mr. Arnold directed the stranger to remain in Court, and the case of White being then called, Mrs. Faulkner again swore with the utmost positiveness to the identity of White, who was placed in the dock. The other boy was now brought in, and detailed minutely the facts, of which his father had given the substance. Mrs. Faulkner’s convictions, notwithstanding that the boys did not at all resemble each other, now began to be more qualified, and gradually gave way, she admitting her belief that White was not the lad, while she received a severe rebuke from Mr. Arnold for the incautious manner in which she had sworn. Poor White was then discharged.

AWFUL COLLIERY EXPLOSION AT RAWMARSH.—About seven o’clock on Saturday, while not less, it is believed, than 78 men and boys were at work in the Warren Vale Pit, at Rawmarsh, two miles from Rotherham, the party of Earl Fitzwilliam, and worked by Messrs. J. and J. Charlesworth, the bosses of many collieries in the Yorkshire coal district, the whole neighbourhood around was astounded and horrified by an irruption like that of a volcano. Smoke and flames burst out of the pit in an appalling volume. Two cores which were being drawn up out of the pit were projected upwards with volcanic force, and lodged in the gearing over the shaft. A quantity of coals, stones, and other matters which had been carried high into the air, descended all around the pit in a terrific shower. Crowds of persons immediately hastened to the spot, and as soon as the damaged gearing of the shaft could be repaired, several men descended the pit, and in the course of the day a large number of the workmen, many of them so fearfully mutilated that their recovery is hopeless, together with numerous dead bodies, were brought up. The search was continued during Saturday night and the whole of yesterday, and up to last night there had recovered from the pit in all 49 dead bodies. Two or three others still remain to be brought

up. Those who escaped in such a condition as to be able to give any account of the affair speak most confidently to the satisfactory ventilation of the pit. There are ten of the bodies so dreadfully mutilated as to render identity impossible.

FRANCE.—The press continues in the same position of absolute subjection to the Government. The most rigid censorship continues, and even the lithographic circulars which communicate intelligence from the capital to the provincial papers, have to be submitted for inspection. The only papers which occasionally publish leading articles, are the *Constitutionnel*, *Presse*, *Pays du Soir*, *Patrie*, and *Moniteur*. The *Siècle*, which re-appeared for a short time, was again for a day or two suspended. The *Débats*, *Ordre*, *Union*, *Opinion Publique*, *Assemblée Nationale*, and others, contain nothing whatever, and have not even the old resource of the *feuilleton* to fall back upon, owing to the double stamp imposed upon papers which publish a novel in numbers. The *Univers*, which has recently given in its adhesion, has resumed its leadership, and in an article on the revolutionary party in Switzerland leagued with the Socialists of France, suggests to Louis Napoleon that the party in Switzerland will have to bow with humility to any intimation of his will, since he has the power to enforce that will. M. Emile de Girardin has given up his connexion with the press; some say he is about to leave France, others that he will retire into Brittany, owing, it is said to his pecuniary position. He is stated to have sold his share in the *Presse* to the Elysée for a million of francs. M. de Lamartine has written to the *Débats* to say that a novel of his, the publication of which the proprietors of the *Pays* have announced in their *feuilleton*, was purchased of him before the 2nd of December, since which time he has had nothing whatever to do with that journal.

By way of a substitute for the public journals a plan has recently been adopted of distributing on a large scale lithographed bills and circulars. One of these contains the following sarcastic comments on recent events:—

“CONSTITUTION OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, REVISED, CORRECTED, AND CONSIDERABLY DIMINISHED.”

“ART. I.
The National Sovereignty is imprescriptible and inalienable.

“Consequently, the French people abdicates its rights to Louis Napoleon, and delegates to him the care of making such a Constitution as he pleases, and promises beforehand to obey blindly whatever conditions it may contain.

“ART. II.
“No one can be arrested or detained except according to the forms prescribed by law: the abuse of every one who inhabits the French territory is inevitable.

“Consequently, it is permitted to every agent of the police, furnished or not by a regular warrant, to arrest all persons whom he may please, to force his way, armed, and under cover of the night, into the house of any citizen, to violate the secrecy of epistolary correspondence, and to put a seal on the printing-presses of those journals who have the audacity not to join in singing the praises of the Government. The Bastille, which by a mistake was destroyed 60 years ago, shall be replaced by the Castle of Ham, the Forts of Mont Valerien and Vincennes, and by the prison of Mazas. All citizens who do not declare that they are perfectly satisfied with these arrangements will be expelled the country.

“ART. III.
“No one shall be removed from the authority of his natural judges.

“Consequently, Courts-martial will sit permanently; all assemblies of three persons are secret societies, and every member of a secret society will be deported, unless he shall have been previously shot.

“ART. IV.
“The right of instruction is free.

“Consequently, M. Montalembert and his friends, the Jesuits, are alone charged with the instruction of youth.

“ART. V.
“No tax can be imposed or levied except by virtue of a law to that effect. All taxes are raised for the public benefit.

“Consequently, the Minister of Finance, our dear friend F. Uid, will alone have the management of the Budget, and expend the money of the taxpayers, subject to our control alone.

“ART. VI.
“A High Court of Justice is established to take cognizance of the crime of high treason committed by the President or his accomplices.

“Consequently, the President and his accomplices shall have the right to dispose by force the said High Court, and to cast into prison its members. Those members shall be placed in solitary confinement, and shall be authorized to deliberate at their leisure on the proper means for seizing on the delinquents and bringing them to trial.

“ART. VII.
“The public force is established in order to guarantee the execution of the law throughout the whole extent of the Republic.

“Consequently, those who violate the law have the sole right to invoke the aid of the said public force, and to make use of it to illuse, imprison, and shoot at their good-will and pleasure all who have the audacity to demand the strict observance of the law and the Constitution.

“ART. VIII.
“Universal suffrage is re-established.

“But it will never be called into operation except on the 20th December instant, and then its sovereign decision will only be respected in case it proclaims Louis Napoleon Bonaparte President of the Republic.

Letters from Algiers of the 7th inst. state that the Governor had been informed of the events in Paris by a telegraphic despatch from Oran, but that he had kept the news secret until the steamer *Philippine-Auguste*, which left Marseilles on the 5th, had been telegraphed in sight of Algiers. When the vessel arrived she was kept at a distance, until the Governor had received his despatches. The documents explaining the events which had taken place in Paris were then posted in the streets, and the Governor issued a decree declaring the colony in a state of siege. The town of Algiers was completely tranquil. General Raouin has since been named Governor-General of Algeria, vice General Pelissier, who was only Governor ad interim.

INDIA.—The Overland Mail brings intelligence from Calcutta to the 7th November, and from Bombay to the 17th. The Governor-General was expected at Calcutta on the 10th of January. The alarm occasioned at Bombay by the disturbances between the Mahomedans and Parsees has subsided. The state of affairs at Gwalior was unsatisfactory. A

force of 2,000 men, under the command of Brigadier General Sir Colin Campbell, left Peshawar on the 25th of October, to chastise the Mowadays of Mithchin, a town commanding one of the main roads into Afghanistan, and blew up the fort of Mithchin and the surrounding villages. No casualties on the British side have been reported. Another force was out on the frontier, from Kohat under Captain Coke, to aid in the revenue settlement of the newly occupied districts in the Bannoo county. A body of 300 horsemen, from the Sheoranee Hills, surprised a post of Panjab Irregular Cavalry (the 5th or Fitzgerald’s) on the 21st of October, at a place called Zuber Khan-ke-kote, under the Sheoranee Hills, and killed five on the spot and severely wounded several others. The Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan, the ruler of Cabool, was again reported dead. His decease was said to have been followed by a fearful scene of anarchy in Afghanistan. The Hindoo traders and other peaceable inhabitants were flying, some into the British districts. Two of the claimants to the succession are the Ameer’s brother, Sultan Mahomed, and his son Ghulam Hyder. The Nizam had paid off the whole of the enormous debt to the British Government. A destructive storm was experienced at Calcutta and off Diamond Harbour on the 29th of October which caused much injury to the shipping, as well as loss of life. The ship *Tyra* had been captured near Penang, and all the Europeans on board murdered by Malays of her crew. Her Majesty’s steamer *For* had been ordered to Ragoon to demand satisfaction for injuries done to English subjects.

AUSTRALIA.—Sydney journals to the middle of Aug., are filled with accounts of fresh discoveries of gold. Another large piece of gold had been found at Ophir, which weighed 51 ounces 13 dwts. The ship *Bondicar*, now on her way to England, had on board gold from the Bathurst country state that the diggings at the Turon continued remunerative, the average for each man being about £1 daily. From Melbourne papers to the 19th of Aug., we learn that the Lieut. Governor had issued a notice cautioning against gold digging without licence. At Buninyong, fifty miles from Geelong, eight cradles were at work. Gold had been discovered in various places, among others in the very heart of Melbourne, by two children, while rooting about for amusement in the soil. The *Bathurst Free Press* says that a body of gentlemen in Sydney, at the head of whom are the Colonial Secretary and the Speaker of the Legislative Council, have determined to offer to Her Majesty a crown of pure gold. At Adelaide the Chamber of Commerce and many of the colonists had memorialized the Legislative Council on the necessity of revising existing imposts. The principal changes suggested are a reduction on spirits from 10s. to 5s. per gallon; on tobacco, 2s. to 1s. per lb.; on cigars, 5s. to 2s. per lb.; and the substitution of a general rate of 6s per cent *ad valorem*, instead of the present scale of duties on merchandise. Wine is retailed in Adelaide at a higher price than in London, where the duty is about 50 per cent, more than in South Australia. A number of female emigrants sent out by Mr. Sidney Herbert’s committee had arrived at Sydney and had been eagerly welcomed.

ITALY.—The Pope has addressed a letter to his Nuncio in Paris, in which he expresses his “entire approbation” of the acts of Louis Napoleon, which have “saved society and religion.”

The Roman correspondent of the *Chronicle* gives the following particulars of an occurrence at Rome, in which the meddling authority of Lord Palmerston is again pleaded for setting at naught all deference by Englishmen abroad to Episcopal authority:—

“The Bishop of Gibraltar arrived in Rome a few days ago, on his way to Malta. The object of his visit to Rome is stated to be the promotion of the project for building a new English church within the walls, which was alluded to in Parliament last session. I have on a former occasion sent you an account of the result of investigations made here with that view, and am sorry to say differences which have arisen between the Bishop of Gibraltar and the Church committee here seem to oppose further obstacles. The English Church committee consists of three or four persons, who are, I believe, self-appointed, the Right Hon. John Nicholl, M. P., being the most influential person. These gentlemen have repudiated the Bishop’s authority, and, consequently, endeavoured to place the congregation in a state of separation from Episcopal superintendence. For this, it appears, they plead the authority of Lord Palmerston and the Archbishop of Canterbury, whose opinions on the legal part of the question are in favour of the views entertained by Mr. Nicholl. The friends of the Bishop, however, state that he has never laid any claim to legal authority, but has placed the whole question of his superintendence on the ground of scripture and primitive authority; and that, as the committee have repudiated this, he declines officiating in the chapel, or holding any ecclesiastical intercourse with them. The congregation in general seem, up to the time of the Bishop’s arrival, to have taken little interest in the doings of the committee. It is greatly to be regretted that such an occurrence should have happened in a place like Rome; and at a season of such peculiar religious excitement as the present, when peace and unity are more than ever valuable. The English nation distinguishes itself abroad by establishing places of public worship in every town where even the smallest congregation is to be convened; but Church quarrels, it is to be lamented, are of frequent occurrence, and give foreigners but a poor idea of our union. Divine service was celebrated last Sunday in two different places here; at the regular chapel, by the Rev. Mr. Woodward, the appointed clergyman; and in a private dwelling, by the Bishop of Gibraltar—the congregation being thus already in part divided between the two. And this in Rome the capital of the Papal Church!

“P. S. Since writing the above, I have received information to the effect that though there is no prospect of a reconciliation between the Bishop and the existing Church committee, there are good reasons for believing the foundation of a Protestant Church within Rome to be probable.”

PRACTICAL RESULTS OF GERMAN THEOLOGY.

Professor Alexander, now travelling in Europe, writes from Paris to the *Presbyterian*, and says:—“M. Gasparin has lately given some frightful accounts of Germany. Among his statements are these: Public worship is disregarded. In Berlin, out of four hundred thousand souls, there are three hundred thousand who never attend any of the thirty-two churches. Dr. Thielack declares, that a few months ago, at Halle, in the principal services of the cathedral, there were present fourteen persons; in another church six, and in a third five! Not a day he attended a sermon, of which he was the only auditor. The theatres are as full as the churches are empty.”

Suggestion for a Conservative and Popular Reform in the Commons House of Parliament. By Augustus G. Stapleton, Esq.—London: 1850.