his wine cellar, he was as cheerful as could be.—He anticipated nothing but sport. He had allowed his mind to dwell only upon the probability of getting rid of a troublesome neighbour. He did not think much about the killing part; he believed Geryon to be a noble hearted fellow, and he thought that a man should creep into his garden and pour out such a mess of infamous falsehood about the intended husband of his child, made him mad. In fact, he only felt like crushing "the viper," as he called Ringwood, beneath his feet.—His prejudices were like mountains upon his soul.

Word had been sent by Augustin that the meeting should take place at seven o'clock, and at half past six Geryon Boothby set out, accompanied by his man Tom, and the Baronet. The cliff was a high, abrupt promontory, which overlooked the channel, and about a mile distant from the hall.—The path led up through a thick wood of oak, and was beautiful in scenery, a picturesque view of the sparkling waters of the Channel every now and then breaking upon the sight through the drapel frames of heavy foliage.

When they had reached the top of the cliff they found Ringwood already there, with a single companion—this companion being no less a personage than Sir Robert Paigne, a gentleman of well known purity and honor, and of more than ordinary influence. Augustin had made his acquaintance in Italy, and had since retained his warm friendship. Sir Robert happened to be stopping at Sidmouth, and thus had the youth happily found him.

The presence of Sir Robert began to put a new light upon the matter, in Overton's estimation, for he respected that gentleman for his high and honorable standing, as well as for his vast wealth. The two baronets shook hands; talked awhile on other matters, and finally began to arrange for the duel. Of its origin they spoke not a word, for Paigne despised Boothby as much as Overton pre-judged Ringwood.

"How shall we arrange for the fire?" asked the seconds.

"Toss up," uttered Geryon, nervously.

Augustin was appealed to, and he consented at once.

"Here, Tom," said Overton, having been thus far instructed by his companion, "you shall toss up."

"I call for *head!*" said Boothby. Ringwood nodded assent, and Tom tossed up his half-penny. Of course it was head. Both of the combatants chose to use their own weapons, and the ground was paced off; fourteen paces having been decided upon. Boothby had first asked for only ten paces and then twelve, for he knew he should have the first fire, and also that half-a-dozen paces would make no odds to his enemy. But the seconds arranged that. The young men took their places, facing each other. Sir William took out his watch—he was to count once a second—at the word *one* the pistol was to be in readiness; at *two* it was to be raised; and at *three* fired.

Sir William began to count. Ringwood stood with his arms by his side, as calm as a sleeping child. "One—Two—Three." The report of Geryon Boothby's pistol rang out loud and clear, but his antagonist was not touched.

Augustin Ringwood now cocked his pistol, and for a moment he gazed upon the man before him with more pity than contempt.

"Geryon Boothby," he said, in a tone the very calmness of which was startling, "there is not a button on your coat that I could not strike off at will. I shall aim at your heart, and I shall hit it if I fire. But I wish not to kill you. Acknowledge, here, before these witnesses, that in all I said to Kate Overton in your hearing, I spoke the truth, and I will spare you."

Boothby trembled like a leaf, and his tongue clove to the roof of his mouth. A few moments before, Sir William would have answered quickly to this; but there was something in the calm nobility of the young artist's face, that moved him especially when he compared it with the look of *his friend*.

"Count!" said the youth, as Boothby made no answer.

"One—Two—"

At this instant, when Ringwood's pistol was raised, the coward quailed.

"Stop!—Don't fire! he gasped. "*You told the truth!*"

"Sir Robert," spoke the youth, dropping the muzzle of his pistol, and turning to his second "we will go now."

And without another word they started. An instant, Sir William stood like one thunderstruck, and then, started up from the load that was upon him, he cried:

"*Sir Robert, Sir Robert!* Hold on. By heavens, *I go with your party!*"

When the trio reached the hall, Sir William Overton made his companions stop. When he had reached the drawing room he called his daughter. She came, and a cry of joy escaped her lips when she saw Augustin safe.

"Kate," he said, in a broken tone of voice, "I will never attempt to make choice of a husband for any body again. And as for you, Augustin, if I have been harsh heretofore, let me give you a balm for all the wounds I have caused your heart. Take Kate off out of our way, and—and keep her as long as you choose!"

An hour afterwards Geryon Boothby came down and entered the hall, but the host was "not at home." So he took his few articles of clothing, and in a few minutes more he had mounted his horse and ridden off.

And the coward suitor never came into Devonshire again. Sir Robert Paigne remained at the hall long enough to see his youthful friend united to Kate Overton in those bonds which death alone can sever, and then he took his leave. But he left a happy household behind him, for even the old baronet had come to love the young artist for the noble and virtuous qualities he had found in him. And as for Kate, her husband never had to look beyond her face did he want the subject for a happy smile.

SHOCKING TRAGEDY.

At Thornton Heath, about a mile from Croydon, a shocking tragedy has occurred. The whole of a family—a mother and her two sons—were poisoned by the eldest son, Mr. William Helton Smither, on Thursday morning. The servant girl at the house had taken up a wine glass to Mr. William Smither the first thing in the morning: some time afterwards finding the brothers did not make their appearance to breakfast she went to the bedroom of Charles and listened for a moment or so, and hearing no noise, she pushed the door open, and the first thing that caught her view was the countenance of her young master, with a quantity of coloured foam about the mouth and nostils. The sight so alarmed her that she retired from the room, and at once ran to the house next door for assistance, and returned with the servant man. The two persons then entered the bedroom, where they found both the brothers perfectly lifeless, and a phial and wine glass on the foot of the bed. The first exclamation of the servant was, that she was sure the shock would kill her mistress, and she hesitated for a few moments as how she could break it to her. In a few moments, however, she summoned resolution and proceeded to her mistress's bedroom, on the same floor, and on entering it, shocking to relate, found the unfortunate lady numbered amongst the dead also. She lay on the bed with her head resting on her right hand, the bed perfectly unruffled. It appears that Mrs. Smither had been ailing for some days, and that her son William had been in the habit of giving her the medicine prescribed for her illness, and by this means had been enabled to give her the fatal dose, which must, in a moment, have terminated her existence. It is the opinion of those that had seen him that the fatal drug must have been poured into the mouth of the youth Charles while he lay on his back, and the sudden shock to the circulation had caused foam to the mouth and nostrils. It is believed that the quantity of Prussic acid taken by the unfortunate murderer himself was so great that his death was instantaneous. William Smither was a clerk in the Bank of England, and his brother Charles was expecting an appointment in the same establishment. The murderer was in difficulties from speculating in the funds, and dreaded exposure. An inquest was opened on Saturday, when the servant girl was the principal witness. After telling the sad story, as given above, she added—

William was a very excitable young man, and had drank to excess on the two days previous to his death. Mrs Smither gave William £20 to put away for her; but he had used the money, and could not bear to tell his mamma of it. I think William did not like to die alone. All the family seemed to live very happily together, and to love one another very much. I think William gave Charles and his mother the prussic acid out of affection for them.

A phial,) labelled "Prussic acid—poison," was found in the bed. The medical testimony was to the effect that the two brothers had undoubtedly died from prussic acid; but the cause of the mother's death was not so clear. The inquiry was therefore adjourned for the purpose of having a *post mortem* examination made. It was resumed yesterday, when the medical evidence was to the effect that Mrs. Smither had also been poisoned by prussic acid. The jury found—"That the deceased Mrs Mary Smither and the deceased Charles Smither were both wilfully murdered by the deceased William Holten Smither, and that the said William Holton Smither committed suicide while in a state of temporary mental derangement."

A NATIONAL SIN.

We entered upon the conquest of India against the national will, and pursued it trembling at our shadow. We added day by day to the extent of our territory, courting and flattering all the while the races whom we subdued. Think of what has been felt in every principality which either by conquest or cajolery, has passed under our dominion, when the people saw their native rulers set aside, their gentry degraded, and the very tenures by which the peasantry held their lands subjected to investigation and revision; and, finally, consider how entirely, by the constitution of our army, we have shut the door to honors and advancement against all the noblest spirits in Hindostan. Meanwhile, professing to be Christians, we have sedulously kept our own religion in the background, and ostentatiously flattered and paid deference to the superstitions of our subjects. The Mohammedans, though they ceased after a time to convert by violence, never failed to patronize and protect such proselytes as came over to them of their own accord. We long refused to give any employment, either in civil or military life, to native Christians, and repealed a law only the other day which doomed such as received baptism to the loss of their property. The Mohammedans took no other notice of the impure rites of Hindooism than to tax the pilgrims who come from a distance to take part in them, and to see that breaches of the peace were either prevented or put down. We have been in the habit of furnishing guards of honor to attend upon Hindoo processions, and of saluting with our artillery wooden idols as they passed. The Mohammedans commanding, as well as in civil life, the services of men of all castes, subjected all who followed their standards to one common discipline. We put arms into the hands of persons whose caste prejudices we fostered and encouraged, till in war they became useless for some of the most important operations of a campaign, and in peace proved themselves untrustworthy. The Mohammedans so far agree in policy with the Romans, that they introduced their own language into their own courts; but differed in this respect, that they suffered the Hindoo population to seek redress for wrongs before tribunals to which they and their fathers had been accustomed, and to plead in the dialect of the province, whatever it might be, in which they happened to be resident. We, finding that in the Mohammedan courts pleadings were carried on in Persian, adopted the Persian as our legal language, though it be quite as much as English a foreign tongue to nine-tenths of the inhabitants of India, and become intelligible in many instances to our own judges themselves only through the medium of an interpreter. In a word, our system of administration has been from first to last a series of blunders, in extenuation of which we can urge this and no more, that they were errors of judgment only; for the most rigid of our critics will hardly deny, that, as far as might be compatible with the realization of a competent revenue, we have endeavored to secure to the great body of our subjects protection from foreign violence, and safety to their lives and property at home. But is this enough?—*English Paper.*

[From the Examiner.]

Free Speech in India.—Dr. Duff lately preached to an overwhelming congregation on the past sins and shortcomings of the East India Company. Many civilians and others were present on the occasion, and were not overpleased with the accusations against the government and officials of past times—for in truth not a few of Dr. Duff's auditors were descended from these very men. The sermon is described as having caused a great sensation; yet it could not be published in Calcutta. The printer would actually be liable to indictment under the Press Act, and any journal giving an outline of it would be subject to the risk of a "warning" or "suspension." So the pulpit is in India the last refuge of freedom of speech.

Lucknow.—The battle which was fought between the British troops, under Sir Colin Campbell, and the rebel forces, before Lucknow, on the 16th Nov., is described by Sir Colin as one of the most severe fights he had ever witnessed.

Great Britain and Ireland.—Russell, of the London *Times*, has left for India.

The *Court Circular* says the Nuns of Pau have received instructions from Her Majesty Queen Victoria, to furnish a large quantity of handkerchiefs embroidered with the names of the various members of the Royal family, intended as presents for the wives and daughters of certain diplomatic personages expected to arrive in England on the occasion of the approaching marriage of the Princess Royal. This circumstance has partially revived a suspicion which existed in the public mind some years ago, that Her Majesty has a greater leaning toward Rome than is consistent with the duties of an English monarch.

The Liberal press condemn the appointment of the Marquis of Clanricarde to the office of Privy Seal.

The Marquis of Clanricarde, who has been appointed to the office of Privy Seal, is a Romanist. The wife of Earl Granville, the President of the Privy Council, is a Romanist; Lord Castleross, the Comptroller of her Majesty's Household, is another; the Attorney-General for Ireland, is a Romanist; the Chief of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, is more than a Romanist; and six of the Irish Judges are Romanists.

The Hon. Mr. Cavendish, a Liberal, has been returned for Buckinghamshire by a majority of 103 over Captain Hamilton, the Conservative candidate. Maynooth was the rock on which the Tory party split, and it was clearly exemplified at this election. When Captain Hamilton was asked how he would vote were he returned? he answered for a "continuation of the grant." When the question was put to Mr. Cavendish, he said, "Against the grant."

Application has been made for a writ of *habeas corpus* in Dublin against the superiorress of the Tuam convent. The case was that of an orphan girl called Bridget Cooney, the daughter of Protestant parents, left under the charge of a Mrs. Griffiths, who had mysteriously disappeared during Mrs Griffith's absence in Dublin, and had afterwards been seen at a window of the convent. Mrs. Griffiths had been refused permission to see her except in the presence of the nuns. She swore before Judge Crampton that she was convinced that the girl was detained in the nunnery against her will and consent. The order has been conditionally granted.

The London *Post* advocates the construction of a railroad to the Pacific through the British provinces.

The larger part of the "regalia" of England, has been decided, by three English judges, to belong to the Crown of Hanover. Jewels to the value of over $5,000,000 will leave the tower of London, and cross the Channel.

The *Court Circular* says:—"Notwithstanding what has been asserted to the contrary, by certain wiseacres, there is every probability that the Dutch Court will demand the hand of the Princess Alice, in favor of the young Prince of Orange."

France.—Twenty seven nuns of the order of St. Vincent de Paul, were about to leave Paris for China.

A miracle has taken place in Paris. There was a dense fog, so dense that people could not see before them. It penetrated into the houses, among others that of Madame Croix, in the Rue St. Honore. It was "darkness visible" with a vengeance. Madame Croix, not willing to leave the safety of herself and company to chance, hunted up a bottle of holy water, which she uncorked and sprinkled over the ladies and gentlemen. It was an obstinate fog, and despite her prayers, it took a considerable time to disperse the fog. At length Monsieur Fog evaporated, and the parties were providentially uninjured, which Madame attributed solely to the precious water. The shutters had been closed at the first approach of the unwelcome visitor, but now they were thrown wide open; when the company found, to the destruction of their white dresses and muslin handkerchiefs, their coats, waistcoats, and unmentionables, that, instead holy water, the pious Madame Croix had sprinkled them with ink!

Austria.—The Empress is again in an interesting situation.

Sardinia. The King has written a letter to the Pope complaining of the conduct of the priests.

Last Thursday, about noon, Mr. Thompson, a merchant transacting busines in the Manchester Corn Exchange, suddenly missed his pocket book which he laid down for a moment on a stall, and which contained £3,600 in bank notes;—

Immediately the robbery was discovered the doors of the Exchange were closed, and intelligence was conveyed to the detective police-officer; the officers at once went to the railway stations. Serjeant Shandley, with a gentleman from the Exchange, went one of the stations, where they arrived just as a train was about to move off. They were passing a first class carriage when the gentleman with Shandley said (pointing,) "I saw that person in the Exchange about the time of the robbery." Having seen no one else who could be spoken to as having been noticed in the Exchange, Shandley and his companion at once joined "the person." Shortly after the train moved on Shandley began to converse with him, and ultimately questioned him as to certain matters. Awkward answers were given, and the confusion of the man became so great that at length he told shandley he was a most impertinent fellow, and ought to be ashamed of himself for putting such questions to a foreigner and a stranger. Shandley then told the new thoroughly suspected person that he was a detective officer; that his answers had been such as would induce him to take him back to Manchester, and that he must prepare to get out when the train next stopped. At Newton Junction the prisoner was searched, and upon him was found the whole of the money that had been lost. Shandley telegraphed to Manchester that he had captured his man, and immense crowd assembled outside the terminus, who saluted the clever detective with three cheers.

[It was by the mutineers mentioned below that General Wyndham suffered the defeat:]

While the Commander-in-Chief was engaged in raising the siege of Lucknow, Cawnpore was menaced by the Gwalior mutineers. These battalions forming, a compact and disciplined force of about five thousand men, with powerful field and siege artillery, have always been watched with considerable anxiety. They committed themselves beyond redemption by the murder of their officers, but from the moment that they broke into revolt they showed themselves singularly irresolute. Had they exerted the same activity as the Bengal Sepoys they might have turned the scale against us, either at Delhi or Lucknow. It is said that they were kept stationary, or nearly so, by dissensions among their leaders, but whatever the cause of their inaction, it was most fortunate for us, and must in the end prove fatal to them. Previous mails stated that they were encamped at Calpee on the Jumna, and that they were about to join the Oude rebels.—We now learn that in the first days in November they crossed the river into the Doab, and advanced within fifteen miles of Cawnpore by the 13th or 17th of the month. General Windham, collecting the reserve under his command, went out to offer them battle, but they retired quicker than they came, without firing a shot, and the general was not in a condition to pursue them. It was believed that they had been joined by the Dinapore mutineers, and that the Nena Sahib was at their head, and it apprehended that they would make an eruption into Bundelcund, or move upon Saugor. There can be no doubt that they had the means of making mischief but there could be as little question that their career would be speedily checked.

At Agra some fears were entertained of an attack from the Rohilcund mutineers, but the garrison were made prepared. Brigadier Showers, after making a circuit over a large tract of country, occupying four forts, taking seventy guns and eighty laces of Rupees, returning to Delhi on the 9th of November. Intelligence received three days afterwards caused a fresh column to be formed under the command of Colonel Gerrard. He marched rapidly to Rewarree and then upon the town of Karnal in Jhuggir, where he found the enemy awaiting him in force. The Jondpore legion, which had been lost sight of for some time, was there, in addition to a native force, headed by a native chief. The enemy numbered altogether about five thousand men with six guns. Colonel Gerrard attacked without hesitation, and, after a fiercely contested battle which lasted several hours, completely routed the rebels, capturing all their guns. On our side the loss amounted to seventy killed, and Colonel Gerrard was among the number. Another great success was achieved at Neemuch on the 22nd of November, when General Stutt completely dispersed the Mundesore rebels, taking all their guns. In Bombay there had been some disturbance caused by the insurrection of a hill tribe, but it was without importance. Holkar was still in some danger at Indore from his mutinous troops, but a British force was rapidly moving in his assistance. In running over various accounts of detached operations, we find that in the settled districts the natives welcomed the British columns as friends and protectors. All danger is over, and although montes must elapse before Oude can be reconquered, or the various guerilla bands spread over India can be dispersed or destroyed, the end is at last within view.

The launch of the Leviathan was resumed, and up to January 9th there was an advance of 12 feet 8 inches aft, and 11 feet forward.

The Chronicle.

St. John, N. B., January 29, 1858.

FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

London, January 8th, 1858.

London people are beginning to settle down to the every day business of life once more. The juveniles will continue to look for Pantomimes and Punch and Judy at the Crystal Palace, and some few of the elderly will continue to turn night into day over "*a hand or two of cards;*" young men and maidens still give and receive invitations to little "dancing affairs," but the world, the men and women of this vast metropolis begin to meet the new year and seriously look to its business.—Notes of another kind to those passing between the younger people are now coming and going; accounts are being delivered and people who have danced all night must be at the counting house in the morning. Events thicken around us too and call our attention to the fact that the year '58 is wending its way along the silent pathway of time and that therefore we must be up and doing.

The first matter of importance that the London people have in hand is the marriage of the Princess Royal. There has been in this instance such high hopes raised, that great disappointment will be the result. For sometime past floating rumors have carried to all classes of society the news that all and every of her Majesty's heges resident in or near, or capable of getting near to the metropolis, would be afforded the means of enjoying the pageant connected with the marriage of the Princess Royal in one way or another, according to their station in life. By and bye it became known at the clubs that the marriage would take place at St. James's Palace, and then gentlemen shrugged their shoulders and wondered where they should be placed; confiding however as usual, they supposed it would be "all right." Commoner people were promised all kinds of good enjoyment. The "swings" and the "Magician," and the Christmas tree at the Crystal Palace were very common-place matters, even to juveniles, in comparison to the amusements which were to be provided for the children of larger growth. Fireworks were to be let off in the Parks, and the Theatres were to be thrown open to all comers; bonfires and illuminations were to keep London in a blaze of glory for a whole week. Rumour is a sad rogue, and has once more deceived us. What a falling off is here! The arrangements at St. James's Palace are such that a hundred will be disappointed to one gratified, while the only theatre thrown open will be her Majesty's, in the Haymarket, where the price of admission is such as to preclude the presence of "the people" altogether. In the face of these facts our readers will not be surprised to hear that grumbling is the order of the day. Noble lords and noble ladies, members of parliament and members of the jockey club or of Tattersall's, Guardsmen and Post Captains, merchants, tradesmen, tailors and milliners, crossing-sweepers and boot blacks are all dissatisfied. There will be nothing to be seen, or if there happen to be anything worth seeing, Court etiquette requires that it should take place in a palace, where it cannot be got at. Truly this is a very bad arrangement and *somebody* is to blame. One thing said by rumour we hope will prove true, and that is, that the Queen will grant a general amnesty to all the Crown debtors and political offenders. This will rejoice some hearts at least, and make up much for general disappointment.

The flosting rumouts which have prevailed for some days as to the receipt by the government of unsatisfactory news from India, have been unfortunately to some extent confirmed by the telegram published yesterday. The fears expressed as to Sir Colin Campbell's position are not however verified; as, although General Windham has evidently met with a severe repulse from the Gwalior mutineers, the latter were afterwards severely defeated by Sir Colin. That Sir Colin had evacuated Lucknow and moved on Cawnpore seems probable, as it was in the neighbourhood of the latter place he defeated the Gwalior contingent. The most important item, the intelligence of the death of General Havelock, is sufficient to throw a gloom over every one, not likely to be dispelled by news of the most brilliant success. Like the Delhi generals, he appears to have succumbed to fatigue and over-anxiety. It will be a consolation to very many to hear that the women, children, and sick, so long blockaded in Lucknow, had arrived at Allahabad in safety. Fresh troops had arrived at Calcutta; but we much fear that further and large reinforcements from this country will be required.

Who will be the Empress of the Indies when the double form of Government is abolished, we know; but there is much more room for doubt as to the Minister for India. Everybody seem agreed about one thing, namely, that Mr. Vernon Smith is not strong enough for the place. The last piece of news about the present President of the Board of Control is, that he has just broken his collar bone in the hunting field, while following the Earl Fitzwilliam's hounds. This is not favorable to the steady thought and vigorous action which we imagine to be required in the face of the all-important events now transpiring in our Indian possessions. But while the public voice has set aside Mr. Vernon Smith under the new *regime*, public rumor points to his successor in the person of no less a man than Lord John Russell. His lordship who has been everything by turns, (and nothing long,) may possibly be willing to accept whatever *clat* may belong to the functions of the new and important office soon to be created. But there is more to be considered than the mere acceptance of office. Lord John must feel that the Ministry are likely to submit measures in which he cannot concur. Above all, he, the author of so many reform bills, must be satisfied with the proposal which Lord Palmerston is pledged to bring forward on this head. No doubt the latter would like very much to secure his services in the coming campaign; but Lord John has his own cards to play, and if he plays them skilfully, and fortune favors him, as it has done before, he may oust my Lord Palmerston from office, find means during the reform bill debates to secure the good graces of the House and the country, and to make himself the Prime Minister once more.

People better informed perhaps than the government themselves, pretend to know something of the contents of Lord Palmerston's India Bill.—The secret meetings of the Directors in Leadenhall street have not yet resulted in any overt act either of defiance or submission. Whether they will yield meekly to the force of circumstances, or make a start fight for the double government by the aid of Mr. Disraeli and the opposition, remains to be seen. But the Ministry have done not a little to conciliate them, if it be true that a Council of India, six in number, is to be appointed, and whereof the members will in the first instance be chosen from the Court of Directors. This body will only deliberate and advise; it will not have any power of independent action whatever; but to compensate for this, six lucky fellows who compose it will no doubt be well paid for their services. Report has it that there will be a Secretary and an Under-Secretary for India: the European army in the Peninsula will be greatly strengthened; and the native troops proportionately reduced in number, the former being directly under the authority of the Horse Guards, the latter being left to the administration of the local government. That India will be made to maintain its own military force; and that the Court of Proprietors is to be wholly abolished without any equivalent.—Such is the forestalment we have of the government intentions.

The Reformers are stirring themselves, and even yet a demonstration may be got up such as will compel Lord Palmerston to bring forward a Bill such as may be accepted by the country, or—sad alternative—compel him to resign. The Reform Committee have published their Manifesto, and as might be expected, ask for a little more than they will get. We give a synopsis of their requirements, as showing what the extreme liberals will contend for. 1. The borough franchise is to be extended, so that lodgers as well as other occupants may obtain a vote. 2. The county franchise to be extended also, by lessening the qualifications. 3. Votes to be taken by ballot. 4. Seats in the House to be re-apportioned according to population, &c. 5 Abolition of property qualification. 6. Triennial parliaments. These may be all very good, and what Reformers are accustomed to ask for; but we much doubt Palmerston giving either vote by ballot or triennial parliaments.

The first Sunday evening service in Westminster Abbey can hardly be considered successful. In point of numbers it certainly was, for 3000 persons were present, and as many more were turned away from the doors. But they did not belong to the class for whom these services were specially designed. Dean Trench, who preached, addressed himself to the meanly clad, the ignorant, the profane, and the careless, inviting them, not the well-to-do, to attend in future. But, though people will hardly care to class themselves among the ignorant, the careless, and the profane, it is not likely that the curiosity of the rich, or the regular church goers will be abated. "You, the poor," said the preacher, apostrophizing an imaginary poor congregation, "complain sometimes that the rich shut you out from the church. If you would come here in such numbers as to shut them out from the services of the Abbey, we should be all the better pleased, and should thank God that the object for which these services were commenced—namely, the preaching of the Gospel to the poor—was in the act of being fulfilled." These services, it should be added, are experimental merely, and will not be extended beyond the three months for which they are announced, if it be found that the churches of the neighborhood are emptied of their regular evening congregations, and that the poor are not attached to them. Besides the Sunday evening services, the new year has been prolific in week day discourses, which have been addressed to the working classes in almost every poor district throughout London, and by the most gifted preachers of the establishment.

St John Orphan Benevolent Society.—Some years ago a society under this name was originated in this City, and for a time its meetings were regularly held, and its contributors payed in their dues to a considerable amount, and at one time there was a prospect, with assistance tendered by the Provincial Government, of establishing an Institution of a permanent character for children who had the misfortune to be left desolate and destitute.—This, so desirable a consummation, however, was defeated, we believe, through a jealous feeling entertained by a portion of the members, against the Government proposition.—Soon after this was found to be the case the attendance of members at the meetings fell off, and the dues fell into arrears, and finally the meetings altogether ceased to be held.—Eventually the last elected President of the Society, James Gallagher, Esq., ordered a meeting of the members to be called on the 12th inst, with a view to doing something with the Society's available funds, when £180, which was the greater part of the amount at command, was voted to the two Orphan Asylums now in this City. The division was, we understand, made as nearly as possible in the proportion, in which Catholics and Protestants had been members, which, it is said, was about two of the former to one of the latter. The Society has still £200 invested in City Corporation Bonds undisposed of. The other officebearers of the Society are John Doherty, Esq., Vice President, Mr. P. McCourt, Treasurer, and Mr. Wm. Cunningham, Secretary.—*Courier.*

The Calais Steamboat Company.—The *St. Croix Herald* publishes a report of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting. The report of the Treasurer states that the earnings of the *Adelaide* in 1857 were $68,227 06; Expenses, $53,089 43; Nett Earnings, $15,137 63. The nett earnings in 1856 were $1,114 08. The following Directors were elected for the ensuing year:—Hon. Wm. Todd, Wm. Deming, A. McL. Seely, John McAllister, Geo. A. Boardman, T. J. Copeland, D. K. Chase, T. Chipman, Jos. A. Lee. Liabilities of the Company in 1856, $60,877 91; in 1857, $25,976 54; 1858, $14,766 51, with $5,000 available assets.—Mr. Todd said the property outside the boats was worth $15,000.

The Horrible Murder at Poolville, N. Y.—[From the Utica Telegraph, Jan. 12.]—We are indebted to the politeness of Mr. John H. Francis, of the Utica and Oxford Telegraph line, in this city, for the following report of the horrible tragedy at Thompson's Mills:—

Hamilton, N. Y., January 12.—A tragedy unequalled in the annals of crime occurred at Thompson's Mills, about five miles southeast of Hamilton village, on Sunday night. Jared Comstock and Clarissa, his wife, were brutally murdered by their own son, William Comstock. The murderer was arrested by officer Tucker. The parricide is a man 37 years old, about 5 feet 7 inches in height. His clothing was besmeared with blood when found.—He has always resided with his parents in this town and is unmarried. He has been drinking hard for some time and is evidently labouring under the effects of insania a potu.

He conversed calmly in relation to the awful deed, manifesting no concern for himself, speaking of the manner in which he deprived his parents of life as if he had been butchering hogs.

Taking the Number of the Stars.—A most magnificent and interesting work is now being issued at Paris, a complete map of the heavens, so far as our knowledge goes, prepared under the auspices of the Imperial observatory. It is to consist of sixty-five plates, each one of which indicates the position of 25,595 stars of the third magnitude, or 1,659,125 in all. The eighteenth plate, now finished, was recently presented to the Academy of Sciences by M. Leverrier, where it excited immense admiration.

Immigration to the United States.—The immigration for the year up to the 9th ult. has been 178,611, an increase of 38,230 as compared with the immigration of last year. The total immigration for the year will probably be 190,000. It should not be forgotten that if the immigration of this year is large, the number of those who have returned is also large. This has been owing mainly to the hard times. It is doubtful, therefore, after all, whether the arrivals will be really be larger than they were last year, though the figures would make it appear so.

ST. JOHN FORGE COMPANY.

This establishment is in full operation on the Straight Shore, and it will fully repay a visit to it. Every one who wishes prosperity to our Province must feel an interest in the success of whatever is calculated to give employment to our people, and as a consequence keep our money in the country, and thereby benefit every class in the community. We wish to this new enterprise every success, and trust that all who are connected with it will receive an ample remuneration for their outlay. Our Province will never attain to a really independent position so long as it is dependent upon the growth of foreign fields and the labour of foreigners workshops for its supply. Let farmers, mechanics, merchants, and capitalists ever bear this fact in mind and encourage home industry in all its branches.

THE GOVERNMENT.

Many are the indications that the days of the present Government are to be few. The dissaffection toward it is deep and wide spread; it raised expectations which were never to be realized, and reached power by a continued assault on the part of its members and supporters against its predecessors; and yet in every particular it has not only followed in its footsteps, but has far outstripped it. If the people were ignorant, this course of policy might be successfully followed for a time, but happily for the country, there is too much intelligence to allow such presumption to pass unnoticed or uncared for. What have they done for the Province? Nothing. What have they done for the great body of their active supporters? Nothing. All their thoughts and anxieties have been bestowed upon their own dear selves. Brothers, cousins, nephews, &c.,—in fact there never was a Government in New Brunswick which so strikingly illustrated what was meant by Family compactness as the one now in power. They will soon learn that their days are numbered. A Government to be sustained, must have an intelligent as well as a fixed policy; the present government has neither.

To the Petition below we give our cordial concurrence, and feel that there never was a better opportunity for the Government to show that they are not lost to all sympathy for the poorer classes in society. Not only have they the power to mitigate much of the existing distress, but also an opportunity to get much labour performed on our Public Works for a sum far less than it will be done for a few months hence. Here is a favourable opportunity for popular action on their part—Will they move in the matter?

To His Excellency the Honorable J. H. T. Manners Sutton, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.

The Petition of the undersigned Magistrate, Merchants, Citizens and other inhabitants of the City and County of St John, humbly sheweth;—

That your Petitioners learn with much regret, that owing to the stagnation of business, there are now in this City and its suburbs, from Three Hundred to Five Hundred able bodied Mechanics and labourers, altogether destitute of employment a large proportion of whom have families dependent upon them for support.

That although able and willing to work, many of these persons have been forced to seek charitable relief, and this state of things must continue until the revival of business in the Spring, when their services will be needed to carry on the commerce of the Country.

That viewing the probability of these men and their families suffering great privations during the rest of the present winter, and to prevent the possibility of them thereby being driven out of the Province, where their labor will be greatly needed next season.

Your Petitioners humbly pray Your Excellency to take the painful condition of of these unemployed men into Your gracious consideration, and relieve their destitute situation by taking measures for providing employment near this City at low wages, for such as desire it, during the next three months, in such description of labour as will subserve the Public interest, thus giving substantial relief to the unemployed, and preventing the necessity of them seeking charitable relief, or of being driven out of the Country.

And Your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will for ever pray.

St. John, N. B., 26th January, 1858.

The above Petition will remain for a few days at the following establishments for signature;—Messrs Chubb & Co., Doherty & McTavish, R. D. McArthur, and T. M. Reed.

Concert.—In consequence of the stormy state of the weather, the first of Mr. Rowe's Music lectures has been postponed to Tuesday next.

Fires.—Early on Wednesday evening, a fire broke out in the large old building at the corner of Portland and Mill streets. It was occupied as a fish market, a shingle shop, and a cabinet maker's shop. We understand the latter was insured.—By a plentiful supply of water the fire was confined to the vicinity of its commencement.

At 3 o'clock on Sunday morning, a fire occurred in the house south of and adjoining Fellows' drug store in Germain street, occupied by Mr. R. Sweeny, and owned by Joseph Fairweather, Esq. The house was nearly destroyed; but we learn that Mr. Sweeny was insured for £250.

Reporting the Debates.—We see it stated in the *British Constitution* that the proprietor of that journal has succeeded in getting the contract for reporting and printing 3000 copies of the Debates tri-weekly. We have no doubt the work will be as well and efficiently performed as it was on a former occasion when Mr. Woodrow had the contract.

Godey's Lady's Book for February is a magnificent number, and contains no less than fifty three separate engravings. It is particularly interesting to ladies, as containing an illustration of "Douglas & Sherwood's patent adjustable Bustle and Skirt," besides descriptions of various other ladies work handsomely illustrated, and a variety of excellent reading matter.—Godey is yet unrivalled.

☞ We are glad to hear that the Rector of St. Mark's Parish, in this city, received from his Parishioners and friends a New Year's gift amounting to £76. Had we been regularly informed of this before, we should have noticed it earlier.—*Church Witness.*

The Calcutta Gazette extraordinary contains an interesting detailed account of the defence of Lucknow, being an official report of Brigadier Inglis. The privations endured by the heroic garrison, and particularly the ladies, were fearful.

Accounts have been received that the Circassians have massacred 1200 of the Russian garrison of Adekow.

Wilmer & Smith's paper states that the Gwalior Contingent was a regularly organized army, 8000 strong—infantry, cavalry, and a strong artillery. General Wyndham had 2000 British soldiers, the 64th, 82d and 88th regiments. One account says that all the regiments but the 82d were present in full force. The London Globe doubts that the 64th was cut up, as part of it was with Sir Colin Campbell in Oude.

The Gwalior Contingent is said to have been the great remaining obstacle to the pacification of Central India, as it formed a sort of reserve for the insurgents.

Three Englishmen have purchased a Church in Paris for £7000, to be served by a Clergyman of the Church of England, at a salary of £400.