

horses. A few minutes after 9 o'clock on Saturday, 76 horses suddenly broke loose, and galloped madly in all directions. The vast expanse of common is intersected by the Basingstoke Canal and numerous ditches, into which many of the animals plunged and fell and were rescued with difficulty. The lives of some of the pursuers were placed in great danger, and one man narrowly escaped drowning in a large reservoir in which three horses were found swimming about. Of the number that broke loose no fewer than twenty four were officers' charges. A charger belonging to Captain Grotorex had an eye cut out; while another broke its leg so severely that the bone protruded a considerable distance through the skin, and it was obliged to be shot. At five o'clock on Sunday, the number dead did not exceed three, but four were so seriously injured that it was feared they would have to be shot, and others were badly lacerated in various places; while seventeen were still at large, and scouts were searching the country for miles in every direction. A meeting of the officers was held afterwards to inquire into the circumstances, and shortly afterwards directions were issued to the men to tether their horses according to the system formerly used. The 1st Life Guards have also resumed the old system. The cause of the stampede of Saturday night is attributed to a runaway horse from an adjacent camp.

PEERS AND COMMONS.

A CONTRAST.

In three or four London papers no pro- tence is so common just now as that the house of Lords is a company of obstinate fools, whose judgment, as compared with that of the other House is merely contemptible. Now if it can be granted that the ability of a deliberative body may be judged by the number of able men in it, this assertion is simply untrue; and if it be said that something must be allowed for the general average of capacity and fitness amongst what is called the rank and file of the assembly it is still untrue. For as a matter of fact the House of Lords contains an incomparably greater number of considerable intellects than the House of Commons. It would not be too much to say that three-fourths of the brains and the political cultivation of the legislature is in the Upper House as five minutes comparison of the men in both houses will show. Begin with Russell, Grey, Derby, Granville, Salisbury, Cairns, Carnarvon Argyll on the one hand, and with Gladstone Disraeli, Foster, Hardy, Palmer, Henley, Goschen, Cardwell on the other, and add the best names you can find to either list, and you will presently find yourself obliged to couple such names as Bruce and Kimberley, Ayrton and Overstone, Mundella and Dalling. All our best authorities in diplomacy, in law, in military matters, are in the House of Lords, as well as a preponderance of such minds as Lord Grey, Lord Stanhope, and Lytton represent. Let the reader ask himself how long Mr. Bruce could live in the House of Lords as Minister. The conception is ridiculous; and precisely as absurd is the current newspaper fiction that the House of Lords is an assembly of prejudiced, uninformed, foolish persons. No doubt the main body of the chamber is composed of men of no intellectual importance and with little knowledge of affairs. But no other description can be given of the bulk of the members of the Lower Chamber. And as for the insinuation, so common in journals like the *Telegraph*, the *Daily News*

and the *Spectator*, that peers are generally born with feeble intellects, that is disposed of by the fact, that when you have paired off the passionate imperfect intellect of Mr. Gladstone (a patrician) you will find that the soundest and most capable and best stored political minds in England belong to nobles, Granville, Derby, Grey, Russell, Carnarvon and Argyll, all belong to that class which is so calmly, and with all the confidence inspired by proof, dealt with as hereditary idiots. Out of the half dozen names here cited take four; try to match them as ministers or politicians, with any four commoners, or lately promoted commoners, and note the result. It may not be flattering to the "great middle classes," and it will give the lie to a long course of humorous sneering; but, however agreeable they may be to the general reader, these sneers are based on falsehood of a very poor and mean kind. Another misrepresentation is very common just now. Every day we read somewhere in the ministerial journals that the opposition in the House of Lords to the purchase bill was a Tory opposition—party opposition, and we have even seen the question asked whether the people can consent to be thwarted by "men like Lord Abinger." But as a matter of fact, the opposition was led by Earl Russell, who is not a Tory; and the most telling and powerful speeches in the whole debate were his own and Earl Grey's, who also is not a Tory. Lord Dalhousie, a Liberal, who has held high office under Liberal governments was also among the foremost opponents of the bill. These circumstances are never mentioned. Another misrepresentation is equally frequent, still more daring, and vulgar and malicious. It is conveyed in the form of a sneer at the Lords for assenting to the purchase bill now in order to save the money of their own connections and friends in the army. The people, four-fifths of whom suppose that the Government "keep a shop for the sale of commissions," are led to believe that these commissions are almost all bought by "scions of the aristocracy," and hence the Lords are ready to accept a good deal of humiliation in order to get the illegal over regulation prices for their sons, nephews, and cousins. The fact is, that nine officers out of ten are the sons, nephews and cousins of tradesmen and professional men—of doctors, lawyers and clergymen who never opened their lips in their lives to a Peer except in the way of business. If the Peers had jeopardized the payment of over regulation prices, almost the whole mass of wrong and loss would have threatened men who no more belong to the aristocratic classes of the country than to the House of Lords itself. —*Pall Mall Gazette*.

ENGLAND'S MANUFACTURING SUPREMACY.

Aside from the question of coal supply, indications are not wanting that Great Britain is losing the pre-eminence in manufactures, which has been unchallenged for half a century. It is not a great many years since she was the great workshop for the continent, and to a good degree, for the whole world. Now rivals and competitors are springing up in all directions. Continental rivals exhibit a superiority in many branches of manufactures where British skill has hitherto taken the lead. The manufactures of the continent have made such rapid progress within a few years that the German, Belgian, French and Swiss artisans surpass in ingenuity and skill their

British competitors, in many branches of industry. The scientific schools of Continental countries give a training to superior artisans which is unknown in England, and the transfer of the skilled labor of Europe to the United States is enabling our own countrymen to gradually undermine certain kinds of British manufactures which had long held sway in our markets. As an alarm is not only felt in England lest the coal mines may give out but, it is stated that the copper, tin and lead mines have been worked to so great a depth that they have great difficulty in competing in cheapness of production with other countries. If British manufactures lose the pre-eminence in the markets of the world, the commerce and wealth of England would soon decay, unless British intelligence and energy should contrive some plan for directing the natural industry into new and productive channels. It is natural therefore, that sagacious Englishmen should seriously apprehend that England has reached the meridian of her glory. With the failure of her coal mines, or a loss of industrial superiority, her fall would be inevitable, and prophetic eyes even now affect to discern the hand writing on the wall.

Since the foregoing was in type, the report of a Parliamentary Commission on the coal supply has been received. The report admits that if the present rate of exhausting the coal supply were to go on indefinitely and in any probable ratio to the increase of population and manufacturing, the progress towards the final extinction of that supply would be "very rapid." In reality, however, this rate could not steadily continue. As soon as the impression of scarcity began to be felt, coal would rise in price and this would diminish consumption, and prolong the duration of the supply, though at the expense of the prosperity of the country. Again in the natural order of things, only the best and most easily accessible, coal has thus far been mined; but ultimately high prices will bring poorer qualities and those not so conveniently obtained into market. "A time," says the commission, "must even be anticipated when it will be more economical to import part of our coal than raise the whole of it from our residual coal beds; and before complete exhaustion is reached the importation of coal will become the rule and not the exception of our practice. Other countries would undoubtedly be in a position to supply our deficiencies, for north America alone possesses tracts of coal bearing strata, as yet almost untouched, of seventy times the area of our own." The commission, however, confess that the manufacturing supremacy of England could not be maintained after the importation of coal had become a necessity. —*N. Y. Shipping List*.

An Irish paper states that as three men were polling a boat along the Abbe river, county of Limerick, on Saturday, August 19, the pole which they were using stuck in the bottom of the river, and for a long time their united exertions failed to extricate it. At last they succeeded, when to their astonishment they discovered that it was caught in an enormously large metal bell, which remained suspended to it, and which they got into the boat. The bell, which weighs about twelve stone, bore some inscriptions which have not yet been deciphered. On a close inspection it was, however, found that it bore the date 1181, and is supposed to have belonged to St. Mary's Cathedral, and to have been thrown into the river during the siege of Limerick.