

may be found effectual for the remedy of evils the existence of which has long been a reproach to this great metropolis, and may conduce to the health and comfort of its inhabitants.

"The extension of popular rights and legislative powers to my subjects resident in the Colonies is always to me an object of deep interest; and I trust that the representative institutions which, in concert with you, I have sanctioned for New Zealand, may promote the welfare and contentment of the population of that distant but most interesting Colony, and confirm their loyalty and attachment to my Crown.

"It is my intention, without delay, to dissolve this present Parliament, and it is my earnest prayer, that, in the exercise of the high functions which according to our free Constitution will devolve upon the several constituencies, they may be directed by an all-wise Providence to the selection of representatives whose wisdom and patriotism may aid me in my unceasing endeavours to sustain the honour and dignity of the Crown, to uphold the Protestant institutions of the country, and the Civil and Religious Liberty which is their natural result; to extend and improve the National Education; to develop and encourage Industry, Art, and Science; and to elevate the moral and social condition, and thereby promote the welfare and happiness of my people."

THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION OF 1852.—The fifth session of the Parliament whose career terminated on Thursday, though comparatively a brief one, has endured longer than at one period could have been anticipated. It was opened by the Queen in person on the 3rd of February, and has therefore lasted four calendar months and 28 days, being one month and six days shorter than its predecessor of 1851. The House of Commons has sat during that period on 80 days, their sittings occupying in all 580 hours, or an average of 7¼ hours each. The number of hours sat past midnight was 55¼. The Lords during the same time have sat only 69 days, and their sittings occupied 157 hours, being an average of 2¼ hours each. The first session of the defunct Parliament assembled on the 18th of November, 1847. The last Parliament, which was dissolved on the 23rd of July, 1847, was in existence 5 years eleven months and four days, which was the longest period since the 7th George IV. In a recently-issued document by the house of Lords it is stated, "that the average duration of a Parliament may be estimated at four years." According to the new act, Parliament may be appointed to meet 35 days after the proclamation for the assembling of the same.

There has been a serious riot at Stockport arising out of the religious animosity existing between Protestants and Roman Catholics, brought into play by the recent Government proclamation against Roman Catholic processions. Great destruction of property and severe loss of life was the result of this unfortunate disturbance.

#### A MINIATURE IMITATION OF THE YACHT AMERICA.

On Thursday last the first race of the season for the yachts of the first class of this club took place upon the Mersey. Four boats were entered for the race, viz—the *Fairy Queen*, two tons, J. Watkins, Esq.; the *Polly and Anne*, schooner, five tons, John Holme, Esq.; the *Truant*, sloop, three-and-a-half tons, Lt. W. Grinnell, Esq.; the *Quiz*, sloop, three tons, Hamilton Laird, Esq. The steamboat *Cleveland*, on board of which was the commodore and a select party of ladies and gentlemen, left the Monk's Ferry soon after two o'clock, and the boats having been signalled to make ready, the starting gun was fired at half past two o'clock precisely, and the whole of them got immediately under weigh. The start was very good, sail being made quickly, and all the boats getting fairly into the race in less time than it takes to tell it. There was very little wind, but, with great spread of canvass, the boats made good way, and soon took up relative positions, which continued to the end of the race.

The race finally concluded off the flag-boat Monk's Ferry; the commodore's gun announcing the arrival of the boats at the following times:—

<i>Truant</i> . . . . .	4h. 7m. 24s.
<i>Quiz</i> . . . . .	4h. 23m. 20s.
<i>Polly and Anne</i> . . . . .	4h. 27m. 20s.
<i>Fairy Queen</i> . . . . .	4h. 30m. 30s.

The winning boat was greeted with three cheers from the party on board the steamer, and the owner, who had sailed her, came on board to receive the congratulations of his friends. The *Fairy Queen* appeared to lose her place by hauling down her gaff topsail. And it should also be observed that a large yacht not in the race, very improperly stood in the way of the *Quiz*, by sailing as much to windward of her as she could place herself.

Much interest was felt in the race, as was evinced by a large concourse of spectators at Rock Ferry and also at the Potteries. A band of music was on board the steamer, which played appropriate airs throughout the race.

After the whole of the yachts had come in, a circle was formed around the commodore, Mr. Hamilton Laird, who handed the prize to Mr. Grinnell, consisting of two handsome silver goblets, suitably chased and inscribed, and who said, in handing them to the fortunate competitor, that it was a pleasing duty to him to present the prize to Mr. Grinnell, the owner of the beautiful craft the *Truant*, and at the same time to congratulate him on the seamanlike manner in which he had sailed her. It might have been more gratifying if an English boat had taken the prize; but still he considered it no small honour to hand the prize to the son of a gentleman who had a more than English—a European—reputation, for the gallant manner in which he had sent out a squadron in search of Sir John Franklin's fleet; and he was sure that every member of that club would join him in saying that if anything enhanced the pleasure, it was the perfect harmony which had prevailed throughout, and he thought that all who had lost would bear it with a good grace. To this address Mr. Grinnell replied that he felt gratified by the cordial manner in which he had been received as a stranger, and by the John Bull way