these lands. We wish that the land shall go and that the millstone which has hung round neck of the 600,000 unfortunate tillers of the may be removed. This was done in Prussia; had the feudal system there, and found to work so badly that the Government transferred the land from the landlords to tenants. The landlords were compensated by the of bonds bearing four per cent. interest, the tenants in their turn compensated the ernment by paying them five per cent. on the till principal and interest were extinguished. Legislature of England established a pre- of a similar character. Under the Bright of the Land Act of 1870 the Government empowered to advance money to tenants de- to purchase their holdings from those land- who were willing to sell, the money to be re- to the state by annual instalments of five per for thirty-five years. The Parliament of and clearly showed by these clauses that it a desirable thing that the tenants in Ireland d be encouraged to own their farms, but they fell short of compulsory expropriation. Bright the other day, in speaking his point, said he believed that if these clauses amended in a certain direction, the landlords d find it to their interest to sell, and a major- them would sell. I am very much inclined ink so too, and if the present agitation goes a year or two longer, the majority of the lords will find it very much to their interest (Cheers.) I think it hard, however, that Parliament of England should throw upon the unate starving tenants the duty of doing by agitation, which the Parliament should do w. Objection has been taken to this transfer sell, and we have been told, "if the tenants not able to pay their present rents, how can pay their annual instalments to the Govern- t?" The example we have had of sales under Bright clauses, to the tenants, show the tenant will feel such security his holding that he will improve it extent never before contemplated, and will every nerve to meet the instalments, feeling the chain behind him is shortening instead of thening. It has been found in practice that tenants pay off before the expiration of the ty-five years, and in some instances in five or years. They exceed the instalments in order to the land from the Government charge. The don *Times* the other day published a letter, in h it took up this line of reasoning that if the ants could not pay their rents, how could they pected to pay their instalments to the Govern- t. It so happens that when the property of the lish Church in Ireland was sold, the right of pre- ion was given to the occupying tenant, and the was permitted to help them in the I have explained, by advancing the ey. Five thousand of the tenants of Church purchased in this way. The *Times* made sertion that they had failed this year to pay instalments. Lord Monck, Chairman of the rch Temporalities Commission, replied, showing the five thousand peasant proprietors only d $35,250, or less than six per cent. of the annual rent, and that they appeared to be a thriving He went on to snow that the tenantry of and were engaged in a life and death struggle their landlords to get an abatement of rent; e, on the other hand, the occupants of the rch lands were able to pay within six per cent. heir indebtedness to the Government. It is the d of property urning the land into peasant owners brought about this extraordinary state of gs. We feel, if the experiment were carried her, the same magnificent result would fol- and we would never again have another famine. (Cheers) Before sitting down, I to say something to you on the subject of the ress. It is enough to break the hearts of our ple to have to contend against so frightful a mity. They were beginning to be independent, to believe they had rights as well as the land- s, when this famine came upon them. The dis- s in Donegal cannot be exaggerated. I am told y, or sixpence a week, or less than a dollar a for each family. This state of things will only be credited, that next door to a rich nation England, the Government of that country did permit such a state of things to come t. I could scarcely have credited it, and ough we knew there was famine, we hoped it not be so bad as it turned out. When eit Ireland, we estimated the number of those would probably be without food by the middle ebruary at 250,000, and I regret that that num- has been exceeded, and that 500,000 or 750,000 have to be fed between this and next July. We d that the distress might not turn out so bad this, but, of course, our information was not pect as that of the Government. They have ns of knowing far superior to those we have, yet we were able to predict there would be 250,- people without food. The Government said at time there was no famine beyond what the inary machinery of the poor-laws could cope h. Recollect that under the poor-law system ch district is taxed for the relief afforded that district. Consequently, when there was ch distress in one of these districts, burden thrown upon it is so great that whole is forced into the poorhouse. had been telling the Government since last e there would be a famine, and they did not- g. In October the chiefs of the Irish hierarchy ted upon the Government, and said there must a famine. The Government took little notice of se gentlemen. I believe they did not ask them n down. They were treated with scant courtesy, ed. Another month passed, and the distress ame worse from day to day. The Government at last moved to take some action. They ed a circular to the poor-law boards throughout country in October, calling upon them to white- h the workhouses and provide a supply of n straw. (Laughter, hisses and cheers) This the only measure of relief uncertaken by Government up to the time we left Ireland. y have done nothing since. The £750,000 ap- priation voted by the House of Commons not yet passed the Lords, and it must be some e before it can receive the Royal assent, and be- the cumbrous machinery bound up with the tape of the English Government in Ireland can into action. (Cheers) Meanwhile, the people Ireland have been left to the charity of every tion in the world except England. I regret to it very much indeed, and yet it must be said England has contributed far less—infinite- lly less—according to her means than any other ntry which has been appealed to up to the pre- t time. If it had not been for the charity of United States, India, Australia, our people must e perished of famine in thousands. If this ap- priation had been made in June last, when we ted it, it might have been of some use. It might e been employed in productive works which uld have improved the resources of Ireland. en our people were not enfeebled by want and ation. I cannot but think that the Govern- nt of England allowed the progress of the mine, in order that they might break down the rit of the Irish people. ("Shame," and ours) I wish to say something in ference to a matter about which we e been much criticized. I refer to the rious relief committees which have been formed r the purpose of assisting the sufferers to get ol, and more particularly to the Mansion House d Duchess of Marlborough's reliefs. This is not pleasant subject to broach in the city which has nt a good deal of money to both these charities. e thought this, and think it still, that the relief the Irish people should not go through landlord nnels, that it was putting our people under a disadvantage in their struggle against the landlord stem to compel them to apply to the landlords r relief, and that it was not in the nature of ngs to suppose they can continue the struggle ainst the land system if they are forced apply for their daily bread to the ry class which was oppressing them. e have not accused the Mansion House Committee maladministration. I do not believe they would willingly maladminister any money entrusted to em for the purpose of relieving the Irish, but en I think this Mansion House Committee is very rgely composed of Government and landlord in- rest, and that its sub-committee throughout the untry largely partake of these elements also. Of urse, as the sub-committees, as they go down the nie, are not composed of men of the same elevated ition as the Mansion House Committee, but of e agents, bailiffs and drivers of the landlords, we e afraid if the starving people are compelled go to these men, hat in hand, for the ief you have sent them, they would e put under the greatest disadvantage, and erely handicapped in the magnificent struggle ey have been maintaining for the land of their untry. We trust that in the administration of lief you should not give a political advantage to e landlords. We do not blame you, we know st everything you have done you have done fairly d with the best and most generous intentions, t this matter has not been understood, and I ve a right to explain the true state of the case. regret has necessity exceedingly, for the subject an unpleasant one. I have said that we do not cuse the Mansion House Committee of mal-admin- tration, and I am ready to believe that the letter am about to read to you treats of circum- ances which are an exception to the general scope that statement. I have a letter here from the Rev. Wm. Joyce, parish priest of Lewisbury, Mayo. e says:—"The universal feeling here is that the ansion House Committee is only an engine to nk out the present land agitation." Their verdict is, 'Give up the name of Land League or die of arvation.' Whether right or wrong we are termined to stick to the name and to our ours. Mr. Parnell is not much wrong in his timation of the Mansion House gentlemen." The llowing resolutions were passed by the Land ague Committee, to which the Mansion House committee had refused to give any relief because f their name. The first is, "Having made three effectual appeals to the Mansion House Relief Committee for help in the dire distress of this dis- ict, we declare them unworthy of confidence rom the charitable public, and call upon them to withhold their contributions from the Committee n say they will allow men to die of starvation ecause they belong to the Land League." The econd resolution is, "We call upon our fellow- hristians at home and abroad to aid us by their contributions, and not to allow their fellow-creatures o die of starvation because of their politics." I end this letter to you *quantum valeat*, for what it r worth. I do not here advance charges which I annot substantiate, but I say the Committee is o much under Government and landlord interest. feel greatly encouraged by the attitude of the eople of this country, so far as I have seen them. me of the greatest supports we can have in our truggle in Ireland is the public opinion of other ountries. One of the strongest props of English overnments in Ireland is this land system, and e can cut down this prop, and I feel confident e shall break it down, and succeed in emigrating he landlords, English misgovernment in Ireland ill soon be a thing of the past. (Loud cheers.)

Only a Dog's Bite.

CHICAGO, March 6.—Charles Neberg (tailor), died to-day of hydrophobia. He was bitten two weeks ago. The wound was cauterized and every precaution taken. Five physicians attended him. The paroxysms in the last moments were terrible beyond description. He had to be restrained by force from attacking his wife and children.

HARTMANN, FERRY, BLANQUI.

The Alleged Author of the Moscow Explosion set at Liberty.

HALF AN HOUR WITH M. BLANQUI.

The Inner Life of the Veteran Arch-agitator.

BELGIAN EXPLORATION IN AFRICA.

Attempted Intimidation of the Russian Advocate-General.

[BY CABLE TO THE MAIL.]

PARIS, March 6.

The Hartmann affair and the discussion in the Senate of M. Jules Ferry's higher education bill have kept the hands of the Government pretty full this week. It was for a long time thought to be fully proved by official documents received from Russia that Hartmann was identical with the author of the Moscow attempt. This morning, however, he was set at liberty. His liberation was due to the decision of a Council of Ministers held in the forenoon, and the decision was based on the reports of the legal authorities, who consider the identity and participation not proven. The result gives general satisfaction, and relieves the Ministry from a great responsibility. As soon as the prisoner was set at liberty, he was conducted to Dieppe and crossed to London this evening. He is forbidden to re-enter French territory.

UNWELCOME VISITORS.

The *Figaro* states that M. Mouravieff, the Russian Advocate General, who is here in connection with the Hartmann affair, received a visit from two representatives of the Revolutionary Committee, threatening him with death if he persists in his object. M. Mouravieff states that yesterday morning, while still in bed at his hotel, a servant brought him the card of a gentleman, whom he recognized as an old friend, and he desired that he be at once shown up to his room. This was followed by the entrance of two men, evidently partially disguised, who, on entering locked the door, and presenting their weapons, told M. Mouravieff that if he consented to listen quietly to what they had to say, they would not harm him, but if he attempted to ring or call for help they would kill him on the spot, and go out as they entered. The Advocate had no choice but to obey, and his visitors proceeded in low, emphatic tones to state the decision of the Committee in reference to M. Mouravieff's connection with the Hartmann case. He replied to their threats by assuring them that he held his life at no higher rate than they held theirs. If they were ready to risk everything for the bad cause they had espoused, he was equally ready to risk his for the Czar and the country. The interview ended by the members of the Committee exacting from him a promise not to reveal the fact of their visit till they had been at least one hour gone from the house. With further warnings of the serious results sure to follow to himself, if he persisted in pressing the extradition of Hartmann, they took their departure as quietly as they came. M. Mouravieff, after recovering from the agitation naturally caused by this unexpected *rencontre*, proceeded to the *Palais de Justice*, where he gave an account of what transpired, and left with the Prefect an accurate description of the personal appearance and costumes worn by his guests.

A POLITICAL ISHMAELITE.

In describing the meeting of the students at the Salle des Ecoles the other night, you may remember I mentioned that the irrepressible Blanqui took the chair. "What had you made of a man over seventy years old to do with students?" you may ask. Very little to be sure, but he had much to do with the Hartmann agitation. M. Blanqui is always ready for a quarrel with the administrators of the law, whether Republicans or Monarchists. From his appearance, nobody would suspect what fierce unflinchable fires smoulder in the old agitator's heart. Forty years of imprisonment have been powerless to quench them. He is a political Ishmaelite. His hand is against every man, and every man's hand is against him. It was curious to see the aged rebel at the meeting. Amid the tempest which raged around him, he sat perfectly calm. More than once the rush of students threatened to bury him under the ruins of the committee table. Half choked with dust, deafened by the uproar, he yet refused the glass of water which I offered him. He would fain have declined the escort which fought his way out of the room for him.

HALF AN HOUR WITH THE OLD DEMAGOGUE.

The day after the meeting I called on the old demagogue, and had half an hour's talk with him. In private life he shows little sign of a turbulent or sanguinary nature. I found him in a little back room of an humble building on the Boulevard Mont Parnasse. The room was very like hundreds of cottage parlours in England. It was furnished in the simplest fashion, with cheap engravings on the walls, and a rough print of the Republic, typified by a female with a cap of liberty, hung over the mantelpiece. A little old man, feeble and bent, sat behind the fire, apparently lost in thought. He had white hair and whiskers, and something innocent besides in look and manner. You might have fancied him a plain, well-to-do peasant, with a love of established order, and a becoming respect for Monsieur le Maire. It was not easy to get much talk out of him, and it was difficult to hear what he did say. He has lost the voice and fire that made him a power at the Revolutionary Clubs of 1848. When I called he was evidently about to go out, for he had on a huge pair of blue cloth gloves. More, I noticed a bulky blue umbrella of the Gamp pattern, and a very bad hat on the mantelpiece. He hardly acknowledged my considerate inquiry whether he had recovered from the emotions of the previous night. "I had no emotions worth mentioning to recover from," said M. Blanqui, coldly. I asked him if he knew Hartmann. "No," said he. He was not convinced that the man who had been arrested was Hartmann. It was all the same if he were, Blanqui protested against the arrest of any man.

A HATER OF KINGS, CHRISTIANS, AND INTERVIEWERS.

I need not give our conversation *in extenso*. M. Blanqui was studiously guarded on all important subjects. He was talkative only when the topic was indifferent. Evidently the memory of that interview in prison with the correspondent of the London *Times* still rankled in his mind. "What was the truth about that interview," said I. "Why," he replied, "M. de Blowitz called and stopped for about half an hour. I said very little. He said a great deal. He wove a romance out of the conversation. You journalists always fancy that you are going to hear wonders when you call on people." Briefly, M. Blanqui has no reverence for anything. He despises the present French Government, which, he thinks, will very soon lead France to a monarchy, or be swept away with much besides. He hopes that a century hence there will be no kings, no Christians, and no interviewers. He thinks that Nihilism grew out of the religious doctrines of a Russian religious sect, practising self-mutilation.

"Well," said M. Blanqui, with a touch of sarcasm, as I rose to go, "you have not got much out of me."

"No," said I, "but I have seen something of your private life, which is all I wanted."

DIPLOMACY ON THREE WHEELS.

Prince Hohenlohe met with an accident on Thursday, which would have somewhat disturbed the arrangements of M. de Bismarck had it not been for the well-known adroitness with which M. de Hohenlohe always manages to preserve his equilibrium. The German Ambassador was proceeding in a hired fiacre to the Luxembourg to listen to the debate of the famous Article seven, when one of the wheels of the vehicle came off, and for several seconds the external relations of Germany may be said to have been running on only three wheels. Happily the Prince escaped being overturned, and succeeded in reaching his seat in the diplomatic tribune in the Senate safe and sound.

ARCHÆOLOGY AND EXPLORATION.

Will no archæological enthusiasts interfere to stop the acts of vandalism that threaten to destroy the Pyramids. Under the very eyes of Mariette Bey huge blocks of stone are being carted away from the Pyramids to build a hideous new Mosque which is in course of construction by the Khedive. The Egyptians themselves are indifferent. Foreigners must interfere. Talking of Africa I should say that at the last meeting of the National Belgian Committee of the African Association at Brussels, it was announced that the subscriptions for 1877, 1878, and 1879 to the internal fund amounted to 664,000 francs. The Belgians intend to continue the work of taming elephants for domestic purposes. A station for that purpose is to be founded at Simba, in Africa. A south expedition to Lake Tanganyika is also to be organized. It will probably be led by Capt. Ramaekers and his brother.

CAPRICIOUS ARTISTES.

That most capricious of artistes, Marie Heilbronn, has left the Grand Opera. She could not endure the suspicions that her frequent indispositions were imaginary. Perhaps, too, she felt that her success was not proportionate to her salary. However that may be, she wrote the other day to M. VanCorbell, asking him to cancel her engagement. M. VanCorbell immediately consented, without even claiming the forfeit money, to which he was entitled. This is fortunate for the fair artiste's purse, but rather wounding to her vanity. Mlle. Beaugrand, the premiere danseuse of the Grand Opera, will follow Mlle. Heilbroun's example. M. Van Corbell refuses to renew her engagement, which has just expired. Mlle. Beaugrand will be much regretted by the habitues of the Grand Opera for, though not pretty, she is one of the finest artistes in the profession.

EXECUTION OF MELIKOFF'S ASSAILANT.

He Meets His Doom Smiling.

LONDON, March 5.

St. Petersburg specials state the assassin Melodetsky, which is probably a blunder for Vladetsky, when first arrested behaved so as to suggest mental derangement. A surgeon being sent for to ascertain whether he was under the influence of poison, pronounced him well. When he appeared for his preliminary examination he had fully recovered his self-possession. He said he was a native of Minsk, aged 30, and became a convert from Judaism because it was impossible for him to live in St. Petersburg.

Gen. Melikoff on Wednesday evening ordered a Court Martial to assemble on Thursday morning. The trial of the prisoner opened at 11. The prisoner was insolent and refused to stand up or take any part in the proceedings. He said he had nothing to say, he did not wish to be troubled any more, and wanted the matter finished. Depositions were then read, the prisoner withdrawing while the Court deliberated. He was brought back at one o'clock, when judgment was pronounced.

Vladetsky was brought to-day from the fortress to the place of execution, strapped in a sitting posture on a black vehicle, with his back to the horses, a placard bearing the words, "State criminal" being attached to his breast. A company of Cossacks formed the escort. The scaffold was surrounded by infantry. On the way to the scaffold, and after reaching it, Vladetsky was quite calm, smiling occasionally. After the sentence had been read he turned and bowed on all sides to the people. Just before being delivered to the hangman, he said a few words to the priest and kissed a cross. The execution took place in the presence of an immense concourse. The body remained hanging twenty minutes.

The police arrested seven men in the crowd having the appearance of students. They were taken to the fortress under a strong escort.

In reference to the attempt to assassinate Gen. Melikoff, the *Molwa*, an influential journal of moderate views, says:—"The Government and the public should begin to face firmly the realities of the situation. This new attempt is only another proof of the uselessness of combating the evil by mere police measures. The conditions which foster the disease must be put an end to."

A Paris despatch says the irreconcilable journals publish what purports to be a manifesto from the Russian Revolutionary Executive Committee, expressing regret at the death of the soldiers in the Winter Palace, but declaring such catastrophes are inevitable as long as the army is the bulwark of the Imperial autocracy. It says a revolution is forced on Russia by the Government's repression of intellectual development. The struggle must continue until the Czar abdicates or grants a constitution. It declares "We will triumph at any cost." *Le Temps* says the manifesto published at Paris to-day is merely the work of intriguing agents, seeking to embroil France in a quarrel with Russia.

Russia's Undeveloped Wealth.

A writer in the *Molva*, of St. Petersburg, remarks that some of the richest territories in Russia are still almost unexplored. Although she has been in possession of Siberia—"that Russian California, which might be made an inexhaustable source of wealth to the whole Russian nation"—for 300 years, she has not derived any advantage from it. "We might," he says, "have become as rich through Siberia as England has through India; yet we turned it into a penal settlement, instead of making it a colony and opening its natural resources to us by means of good roads with Central Russia." The immense mineral wealth of the Caucasus, too, has been scarcely touched. Extensive coal fields in the Government of Kutias, and the iron mines in the Government of Tiflis, represent so much dead capital. No iron goods are manufactured in the Caucasus, though the raw material is there in abundance. The soil and climate are admirably adapted to the cultivation of the vine, of tobacco, and the silk-worm; yet the wine produced is of a very inferior kind, there is but little tobacco, and the silk of the Caucasus is poor in quality. Much has been said lately about a development of the beet-root sugar industry in Transcaucasias; but little has been done, although the plan has the best prospects of success. The writer concludes by expressing a hope that the promised establishment of technical and agricultural schools in the Caucasus will assist in the development of manufactures by spreading technical acquirements among the people.

EPPS' COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—*Civil Service Gazette.* Sold only in packets labelled—"JAMES EPPS & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London, Eng."

THE ENGLISH MAIL.

Interesting Summary of News.

THE OPPOSITION AND THE EASTERN POLICY.

The *Times* says:—"The recent elections must tend to confirm the more moderate Liberals in their opinions, and to encourage them to express them more freely, both to their constituents and to their leaders. The plan of the Opposition campaign, in short, as hitherto conducted, seems to have completely broken down; and it is even pleaded on its behalf that the Opposition leaders have deliberately sacrificed the interests of their party to the duty of protesting against a line of policy which they believe injurious to their country. It is remarkable that this magnificent self-sacrifice was never avowed as long as it was not thought likely to be its own sole reward. But though it may be transcendental morality, it is not politics; and if the Liberal leaders have placed themselves out of harmony with the nation, they know very well that they must sooner or later alter their course. It may well be that they will find it extremely difficult to change their tack at the very crisis of the political race without considerable risk to their chances of success. Circumstances, indeed, may come to their aid, and after all they may have but the choice of two evils. If the course they have hitherto pursued is leading them to shipwreck, they have no option but to change it. But there are other considerations which cannot fail to have great weight with such men as Lord Granville and Lord Hartington. Although there may be no reason for alarm respecting the present state of affairs in Europe and the East, it is not less certain that important questions are in process of being solved, and that the constant exercise of wisdom and firmness will on all hands be required in order to insure their being solved successfully. The Treaty of Berlin supplies a new point of departure, and marks out the lines of further progress. If those lines are steadily adhered to and patiently pursued, the Eastern Question, with all it involves, may be gradually and peacefully dealt with. But if the ground thus won were once more cut away from our feet, and Europe were thrown back into the uncertainties of three years ago, the prospect would at least be very perilous. In such circumstances, it is of the first importance that England should be known to have a fixed policy, and that the Continental Powers should feel they can rely on its continuity, no matter what party may be in power. If the Opposition can make up their minds to give, once for all, their sincere adherence to the main lines of the policy approved by Parliament, they may exercise a most valuable influence over its details; and if they thus show that they are capable of making the due position of the country the first object of their political conduct, they will do more than by any other measures whatever to recover the confidence of the constituencies."

AN ENGLISHMAN FIRST.

The Radical member for Newcastle-on-Tyne has done good service at a critical time by proving to his countrymen that to be a party man does not of necessity mean the subordination of patriotism. We are well aware that any favourable remarks on Mr. Cowen's manly and straightforward conduct from a Conservative source are little likely to be cordially received by his fellow-Liberals; and we run the risk of doing him the reverse of a service when we commend the spirit and tone of his observations on public affairs. Freedom of discussion and fair play to opponents are, however, of more value to Englishmen than the interest of party, and we feel sure that Mr. Cowen's expression of the unjust and cowardly detraction to which British soldiers in South Africa and in Afghanistan have been subjected will attract general sympathy and approval. "Many Englishmen," says the member for Newcastle, in a letter published this morning, "seem to be in the unhappy state of mind of accepting without question every evil report against their fellow-countrymen." We have of late had too many illustrations of this "state of mind," which, whatever may be the party predilections of the subjects of it, must be distasteful to all true Englishmen. If the lowest criminal by the law of England is entitled to be held guiltless until proved guilty, much more surely ought we to suspend our judgment regarding our own troops when, at the time they have been bravely fighting their country's battles, they are denounced as foul murderers and accused of crimes that outrage civilization. Against the absolute denial of Sir Garnet Wolseley in respect to the alleged deeds of cruelty in South Africa, and the equally explicit disavowal by General Roberts in reference to those attributed to our men in Afghanistan, there is to be put only the loose gossip of newspaper correspondence. An attitude of suspense is surely the least that may be required in such circumstances, in bare justice to the British army. Mr. Cowen, in boldly taking the position he has done, has given one more proof that his political and party views are not allowed to destroy his independence or stifle his voice because he is compelled to censure some with whom he may have generally acted.—*London Globe.*

THE NEWMAN HALL DIVORCE CASE.

In the Probate and Divorce Division of the High Court of Justice on the 17th ult., the last stage of the celebrated case of Hall v. Hall and Richardson came before Sir James Hannen at Westminster. It will be recollected that this was a petition presented by the Rev. Newman Hall, the minister of Christ church, Lambeth, for the dissolution of his marriage on the ground of his wife's misconduct with the co-respondent, Frank Walter Richardson. The petition was heard in August last year, and, after a trial extending over seven days, a decree was granted for the dissolution of the marriage on the grounds stated in the petition. Dr. Tristram now applied that the decree then made should now be absolute. His lordship made the decree absolute as prayed, there being no opposition.

The following letter from Mrs. Hall appears in the London *Times*:—

"By this evening's papers I learn that the decree for the dissolution of my marriage with the Rev. Newman Hall has been made absolute, and that there was no opposition. I am anxious that it should be understood that this was done without any notice whatever to me. It was only this morning that I was informed the application would be made—too late for me to attend the Court, as I purposed. If the judge would have heard me I would have told him that I protested and will ever protest against the injustice of the verdict recorded against me, but that the practice of the Divorce Court shuts me out from the remedy which in any other Court of the kingdom would be open to me. Let me shortly remind you of the facts. Charges were made against me at the trial, of three separate kinds—one generally of intimacy with the co-respondent in the year 1868. This and all the incidents on which it rested were charged against me in the year 1873. The petition was abandoned and dismissed with costs, the judge declaring that it was treated as unfounded. In 1879, ten years after their alleged date, these charges were revived by the permission of the Court, after a long argument, and once more I had to meet them, reinforced by two specific charges, referred to as the Salisbury street and Elstree charges. The date of the former was alleged to be April, 1870, and the latter 1878. To both these charges, the publicity of the proceedings in Court, and that alone, enabled me to furnish refutation. Witnesses came forward on my behalf unsolicited and unexpected, and disproved these charges. That as to Elstree was admittedly disapproved by the evidence of a perfect stranger, whose alibi was called to the facts by the newspaper reports. As to the Salisbury street charge, an *alibi* was conclusively proved by the production of the diary of a deceased friend of the Rev. Newman Hall and an elder and trustee of his chapel, which diary was withheld from the jury on the ground of some legal quibble. You kindly inserted a letter on this subject, immediately after the trial. The jury, it is true, found a verdict against me, but without specifying which charge, if any, they considered to be proved. The public will possibly remember your comments on the Judge's charge, by means of which that verdict was obtained; but I may add that after the trial my solicitor was assured by several of the jury in person that it was their decided intention to give me their verdict, but that after the Judge's charge they considered they had no option but to hold against me. (It may be asked why I have not appealed. My legal advisers tell me that an appeal for a new trial in these cases is granted only when the Judge is dissatisfied with the verdict. What chance should I have in a case where he dictated it? I am also told that in every other court in this kingdom an appeal is referred to other Judges than the Judge who tried the case; but that in the Divorce Court no appeal disapproved of by the Judge can be heard. To the mind of a woman smarting under a sense of cruel wrong, these things are unintelligible. Other women, perhaps more helpless even than I, have suffered and found no remedy, unless, indeed, it is to be found in the emphatic protest which, I trust, your columns will allow me to make.

"I am, sir, yours truly,

"Feb. 17. "CHARLOTTE HALL."

THE FRENCH VINTAGE OF 1879.

The gross production of wine in France last year was only 25,700,000 hectolitres (565,400,000 gallons), or 25,000,000 hectolitres (550,000,000 gallons) less than in the previous year. This enormous falling-off—nearly one-half—is not entirely attributable to the ravages of the *phylloxera* and *oïdium*. These pests have certainly spread widely and rapidly, but in addition to them the wine growers had to contend with very unfavourable climatic conditions. The cold and wet which prevailed throughout the year prevented the grapes from fully ripening, and some districts were visited besides with very sharp frosts as early as September. The districts which suffered most severely were the Burgundy and Champagne districts, where the crop was almost entirely destroyed. The south of France suffered less than the east and centre. The Departments of l'Aude, Hérault and Pyrénées Orientales gave an increase in the production amounting to about 2,000,000 hectolitres, or 44,000,000 gallons. The area of land under vine cultivation was reduced during the year by 51,512 hectares, or 129,000 acres, making the total reduction in the acreage of French vineyards since 1874 no less than 150,000 hectares (370,000 acres). Compared with previous years it is some satisfaction to find that the rapid diminution in the production of wine in France is not without a parallel. From 1853 to 1856 the produce fell gradually from 22, 21, and 15 to 10 millions of hectolitres in the four years. By 1863 the quantity of wine produced had increased to 50,000,000 hectolitres, and finally in 1875 it reached the unparalleled figure of 83,000,000 hectolitres. The production of cider last year also fell off, being 4,197,000 hectolitres (92,334,000 gallons) less than in 1878, and more than 3,000,000 hectolitres less than the average of previous years.

SEED POTATOES FOR IRELAND.

Connected with the various efforts to mitigate the effects of the distress in Ireland, and even to convert it into an agency for ultimate good, the very sensible suggestion has been made that advantage should be taken of the present opportunity to introduce an improved description of potatoes for seed. By the Government bill Boards of Guardians will be enabled to furnish seed to distressed tenants and cottiers. Another such season as the last would be a terrible calamity, but a season without being so deplorable might yet be bad enough to develop a large amount of disease in the "lazy root" to which unfortunately the population is still obliged to trust, and hence the healthiest and hardiest kind of tubers available should be selected for the sowing. But who is to decide on such a point? The correspondent of a contemporary strongly recommends the purchase of such well-known descriptions as that called the "Scotch Champion" in preference to others of the worn-out varieties which might be chosen on the ground of cheapness. It is to be feared, however, that few Boards of Guardians in remote country places will discriminate between seed varieties, or will be able to institute inquiries on the subject in the brief time left to them, and therefore it would be well if those who are competent would publish authoritative information, not only as to the kind of seed potatoes, but the easiest and cheapest mode of obtaining them.

THE VALUE OF IRON.

Some curious statistics with regard to iron were given at a social gathering of persons interested in the trade a day or two ago in Glasgow. The speaker was Sir James Bain, whose association with the iron trade in Glasgow is well known. The quantity of pig-iron which is estimated to be annually made throughout the world is 13,000,000 tons, and of this amount rather more than one-half, or 6,608,000 tons, are made in Great Britain. It was not long ago calculated that the output of rails—to take one item of iron manufacture alone—when all the rail manufacturers in every country are in full work, is less than ought to be required for new lines and for renewals. It is clear, therefore, that the future of the iron trade is far from hopeless; and Englishmen may especially take consolation from the reflection that at least one-half of the business done must be done in their country. The value of the raw material is very small, for the iron as it lies in the earth is not worth more than 10s. a ton. When worked up, however, iron becomes very valuable, and in some cases far more valuable than even gold itself. A pound of the finest pig-iron is worth about one penny, but when worked into balance-springs for watches it is worth £1,600, or more than twenty-five times the price of gold. The difference between the penny and the £1,600 is paid almost entirely in wages. From this Sir James Bain deduces the very sensible lesson that nothing can be more injurious or foolish than the argument that the position of workingmen can be improved by restricted production. The less work men do the less wages they must eventually draw. The consumer is sure in the end to use less if the price is higher, as it must be if the advice of those who would restrict production be followed.

THE AFFAIRS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

A ponderous blue-book of 534 pages has been issued, containing further correspondence on this subject, extending to the end of 1879. Among the despatches is one from Sir Bartle Frere, forwarding a verbatim message from Cetewayo to the Queen. Captain Poole, R. A., the officer in charge of Cetewayo, says that the idea of sending the message was spontaneous on the ex-King's part. Written as he dictated it on the 28th October, 1879, the message runs thus:—"Ketohwayo begs permission to be allowed to send his humble respects to the Queen; he is staying here awaiting the Queen's pleasure and will willingly and cheerfully go wherever the Queen directs. At the same time he is living in the hopes that at some future time he may be pardoned. He feels greatly honoured to hear that his portrait is going to the Queen, whom he has always looked up to as his 'mother' and still regards her in that light." Among the later documents now published are several relating to the admission of missionaries into Zululand. In a despatch dated November 17, 1879, Sir Garnet Wolseley sends to the Colonial Secretary a copy of a private letter received from John Dunn, "which serves to show, I think, that the spirit manifested by John Dunn in regard to the admission of missionaries into his territory, and to his relations with the British authorities, is most proper and conciliatory, and is by no means such as it has been represented to be by numbers of people speaking rashly and without information." In this letter John Dunn says:—"What the missionaries want is to form little independencies in the country and set themselves up as petty chiefs; this I think should not be, but I intend to give all the assistance in my power to any who will try and do some good in the way of teaching knowledge and industry, and not merely stick to the Bible. They acknowledge themselves that they have not done much good since they have been in the country. The class of foreign missionary that have been in the Zulu country have not been men of the right sort. They have been mostly tradesmen and men of no standing. In a little while I am sure all will go on smoothly. The feeling now is nothing but a feeling of jealousy and disappointment at Sir Garnet not having thrown the Zulu country open to the colony of Natal, and allowed a free run over it. There would be some allowance for the outcry if most of the missionary stations were still standing, and I had forbidden them entering their homes; but as it is they must commence afresh again, and I think ought to on a new footing."

A GLADSTONE CELEBRATION.

On his way south from Midlothian Mr Gladstone, it may be remembered, was welcomed at Chester by the local Liberals with great enthusiasm, which found vent in demonstrations of a picturesquely exciting character. It was after nightfall that the distinguished traveller reached the old city and passed through it for Hawarden, and a torchlight procession was improvised in his honour, which served the double purpose of making a very pretty show and letting the worthy townsfolk get a glimpse of their eminent visitor's features as he bowed response to their stimulating cheers. It is lamentable to think that this brilliant episode should find its ending in the County Court. A local rope and sailmaker brought an action against the Chester Liberal Association to recover the sum of £19, the value of the tarred rope supplied to the ardent burgesses for getting up their torch-light display, but his claim was disputed on the ground of being excessive. In the end the Judge awarded £13 2s 6d, with court costs, which would indicate that the rope-maker had asked too much. No doubt charges of this nature often look excessive next day, on the principle that "the evening's festivities will not bear the morning's reflection;" but it is a pity that so fine a display of enthusiasm should be subjected to the chilling analysis of a law court. The real test of such charges is result, and the torchlight ovation at Chester was a brilliant success. Perhaps less rope or less pitch would have led to a fiasco, and the promoters were therefore justified in giving a generous order. A certain adage as to spoiling the ship for a ha'porth of tar should be borne in mind.—*London Telegraph.*

ITEMS.

Dorndon, the estate of the Marquis of Lorne at Tunbridge-wells, has been purchased (through Mr. Brackett, of Tunbridge-wells) by Mr. James Harrison, of the Laund, Wallasey, Cheshire and of Quernmore, Lancaster.

On the evening of Wednesday, the 18th ult., a lecture was delivered in the Volunteer Drill Hall, Peebles, Scotland, by Mr. Thomas Grahame, agent of the Canadian Government. The lecturer was accompanied to the platform by Lord Arthur Cecil, Captain Euman, and Messrs. J. D. Riddle and Wm. Todd. Lord Cecil took the chair.

A circular has been issued by the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs to all Russian consuls and ambassadors abroad, instructing them to afford every assistance to three officials appointed by the Minister of Justice to traverse Europe for the purpose of bringing to light the manufacture of forged Russian bonds and rouble note in foreign countries.

A small crater has appeared near Paterno, on the west side of Etna, and the other craters are again issuing a saltish oily fluid, which has formed a small lake and is injuring the neighbouring fields. Numerous slight shocks of earthquake have also been felt to the north-north-east and south-south-west of Etna; jets of steam have issued from the new craters, and steam, mixed with ashes, from the central one.

Up to the present time nearly £4,000 has been collected towards the fund for erecting a memorial to the late Prince Imperial. The sympathy of the United Services towards the above object is evinced by the large number of members who have contributed, which includes field-marshals, admirals, generals, officers of the staff at home and abroad, and the following regiments and departments:—Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Household Brigade, Cavalry, Infantry, Brigade Depôts, Commissariat, Pay Department, Army Medical Department, Militia, Volunteers, Native India Regiments and Volunteers, &c.

EUROPEAN JOTTINGS.

A monk belonging to a monastery in Palestine having been assaulted and robbed on his way from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, his superior has appealed to the intervention of the French Consul, but the Italian Consul protests against this, the monk being an Italian. The dispute is to be settled by the Ambassadors of the two Powers at Constantinople.

The London *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—"The Strathleven, with is large cargo of beef and mutton from Australia, has arrived, and it is said that the meat is in admirable condition, the dry cold air process having preserved it from any deterioration whatever. If this is so, and there seems no reason to doubt the statement, it is good news for Australian landowners and squatters, and for English consumers."

London *Truth*:—"Two days ago I received a letter from a friend of mine, who is an officer of long standing, and now serving in Afghanistan. He tells me that the quasi-official telegrams which appear in the press respecting the campaign excite shouts of laughter when the newspapers containing them reach Afghanistan, owing to their impudent inaccuracy. If we are ever to engage in a European war, he says, with any chance of success, we must have other soldiers than those now in the ranks, ann another commander than Sir F. Roberts, who, it is considered, has taken to himself all the credit due to Gen. Massey.

The chief artistic treasures of Studley Royal, Lord Ripon's seat, are its numerous portraits, among which is one of Lady Jane Grey by an unknown hand, and one of Dr. Johnson by Reynolds; and its most interesting architectural feature is the beautiful ruin of Fountaine Abbey. The magnificent church is yet almost entire, little but the roof being wanting to it. The chapter house and refectory are hardly less perfect. It requires little effort of the imagination to people it once more with its former denizens, the monks of St. Bernard, so many generations of whom passed their lives there. The well, from whose waters the abbey takes its name—Santa Maria de Fontibus—still flows through the Abbey.

London *Truth* believes that Dr. Russell's strictures on the British soldiers in Zululand are not a whit too strong. The non-commissioned officers had no control over their men, and the men were a mere mob. In Zululand there were countless scares, and as soon as the Nat