

PUBLIC OPINION.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—Lord Rosebery received two deputations on the subject of a "teaching University" for London, on the 22nd ult., and on that day Convocation met to consider the Gresham Commissioners' Scheme. The net result of the eventful day is that the chances of the reconstruction of the present University so as to include teaching as well as examining functions seem to be considerably improved. The Prime Minister told Professor Huxley and his friends who came to pray for the carrying into effect of the Gresham report that he could not think their desire unreasonable—he thought, indeed, that the present time was favorable for appointing a Statutory Commission for that purpose.—*The Educational Times*.

JOHN BURNS AND THE AMERICAN UTOPIA.—Mr. Burns does not find America a paradise, but comes back, he avows, rather cured of cosmopolitanism and with "a sneaking kindness for old England," where all problems, it is true, are not yet solved, but where there is a reasonable amount of unrefined happiness. There are no dukes in America, and bishops are invisible in the social landscape; but there is no division of the earth's surface where capital exercises a more absolute power, where labor is more exposed to "brigandage"—the truck system, for instance, reigns in all its predatory completeness—or where the lot of the lower people seems more absolutely hopeless. The States are free of all English institutions, all power is everywhere with the people, and the result has been, in Mr. Burns's opinion, "a plutocratic republic run by concentrated capital," that is, by great companies. Mr. Burns half

doubts, apparently, whether even a great English landlord can be as tyrannical as an American railway company, which in Chicago kills a citizen or two a day merely for his presumption in crossing its rails, and allows, or rather compels, its goods-brakesmen to "drop off the cars like flies," each drop meaning a human being smashed into a bloody pulp. These unhappy wretches do their work crawling over the roofs of the cars in all weathers; the roofs get slippery and the men fall off, to be crushed under the wheels. "I saw," says Mr. Burns to a reporter of the *Daily Chronicle*, "in one journey to Pittsburg, two horrible cases of mutilation." Nobody apparently cares, one result of perfect freedom being a "reckless waste of life," and people "slaughtered wholesale," so that the number killed at level crossings in Chicago alone exceeds the whole number killed annually on all the railroads in Great Britain. There is no redress and apparently no compensation paid, the corporations being, we believe, too powerful to fight.

This very Chicago should be the workmen's New Jerusalem. The city is quite new, is full of life and enterprise, pays to skilled workmen enormous wages, sometimes as high as £1 a day, elects its own government, is entirely free from any aristocracy of birth, is choked with means of education, and is the nearest approach to hell Mr. Burns is able to conceive. Or rather, it is "hell in a pocket edition," its workmen worked to death, its municipality cynically corrupt, its "unemployed," or half-employed, a festering mass of oppressed persons weltering in filth under sanitary conditions which even plain-spoken Mr. Burns dare not describe. Clearly,