

minister having been recalled from Paris, and hostilities being about to commence, the noble lord, much to his honour, and greatly to the advantage of America, of France, and of England, offered a mediation, which had a happy issue. Whether under the name of mediation or of arbitration, what the honourable member for the West Riding (Mr. Cobden) wants, is that the country shall avoid war by every means in its power; and not only avoid war themselves, but use their influence with other nations to effect conciliation, and obviate those differences which occasionally arise. This country, in its present situation, is the very country which ought to lessen the incentives to war. Lord Ashburton told me that he was not tied down by precise instructions in the Oregon case, but that, on the contrary, he exercised his own discretion with respect to several points. His lordship, therefore, acted as an arbitrator, to a certain extent, and the beneficial results of his mission were acknowledged by a vote of the House of Commons, upon my motion, for I think it right that peace should "have its triumphs as well as war." The country is now obliged to pay between £28,000,000 and £29,000,000 annually on account of wars, and I hope that that circumstance will prevent them from ever acting in such a manner in future as to justify a Government in assuming that war would be popular.—*Joseph Hume, M. P.*

From Burrill's Year-Book of the Nations.

FACTS AND FIGURES.

The Balance Sheet of Great Britain for 1853.

	Pounds.	Dollars.
Total net Revenue,.....	54,430,344	= 261,265,651.00
Total Expenditure,.....	51,171,819	= 245,639,227.00
Surplus,.....	3,258,525	= 15,626,424.00
Total Exports,.....	9,333,161	= 471,392,142.00
National Debt,.....	764,511,295	= 3,669,793,210.00
Interest of National debt,.....	27,864,814	= 133,403,231.00
Interest of War Debt per head,.....		4.75
Appropriation to War Department,.....	20,789,365	= 85,788,952.00
Amount per head,.....		3.01
Civil Expenditure,.....	2,510,815	= 12,651,912.00
Amount per head for Civil Expenses,.....		0.43
Amount per head for Wars Past and Prospective,.....		7.75
Railways at the end of 1853, 7,686 miles.		

Balance Sheet of France for 1853.

	Fraucs.	Dollars.
Total Revenue,.....	1,520,288,089	= 304,037,018.00
Total Expenditure,.....	1,516,821,459	= 303,341,422.00
Surplus,.....	3,466,630	= 693,596.00
National Debt,.....	5,345,637,300	= 1,069,127,472.00
Interest of Debt,.....	233,440,981	= 46,682,200.00
Appropriation to the Army,.....	309,346,646	= 61,677,269.00
Appropriation to the Navy,.....	116,176,161	= 23,295,220.00
Total for Wars Past and Prospective,.....		131,660,629.00
Amount per head,.....		3.43
Total Exports,.....	1,682,000,000	= 336,410,000.00
Total Imports,.....	1,437,000,100	= 287,600,100.00
Excess of Exports,.....	244,000,000	= 48,800,000.00
Mercantile Marine,.....		2,506,726 tons.

FACTS FROM THE LEEDS FREEMAN.

COINAGE AT THE MINT.—The coinage of money at the Mint, Tower-hill, is one of the most interesting operations imaginable. The metal is first melted in pots, when the alloy of copper is added,—to gold, one part in twelve; to silver, eighteen pennyweights to a pound weight,—and this mixed metal is cast into small bars. The bars, in a heated state, are first passed through the breaking-down rollers, which by their tremendous crushing power, reduce them to only one-third of their former thickness, and increase

them porportionally in their length. They are now passed through the cold rollers, which bring them nearly to the thickness of coin required, when the last operation of this nature is performed by the draw-bench,—a machine peculiar to our Mint, and which secures an extraordinary degree of accuracy and uniformity in the surface of the metal, and leaves it of the exact thickness desired. The cutting-out machines now begin their work. There are twelve of these engines in the elegant room set apart for them, all mounted on the same basement, and forming a circular range. Here the bars or strips are cut into pieces of the proper shape and weight for the coining-press, and then taken to the sizing-room to be separately weighed, as well as sounded on a circular piece of iron, to detect any flaws. The protecting rim is next raised in the marking room, and the pieces, after blanching and annealing, are ready for stamping. The coining room is a magnificent-looking place, with its columns and its great iron beams, and the presses ranging along the solid stone basement. There are eight presses, each of them making, when required, sixty or seventy—or even more—strokes a minute; and as at each stroke a blank is made a perfect coin,—that is to say, stamped on both sides, and milled at the edge,—each press will coin between four and five thousand pieces in the hour, or the whole eight, between thirty and forty thousand. And to accomplish these mighty results, the attention of one little boy alone is required, who stands in a sunken place before the press, supplying it with blanks. The bullion is now money, and, after undergoing the proper test, is ready for circulation. The facilities for coining are so great, that fifty thousand in bullion received one morning, may be ready for delivery in coin the next.

NATIONAL DEBTS.—The following statement of the debts owing by the principal States in the world, corrected up to a late period, is contained in Ayer's edition of "Fenn on the English and Foreign Funds," very recently issued:—"Austria, amount of debt, £211,000,000; Baden, £7,000,000; Bavaria, £14,117,000; Belgium, £26,000,000; Bolivia, £521,000; Brazil, £12,392,000; Buenos Ayres, £2,500,000; Chili, £1,784,000; Columbia, £6,625,950; Cuba, £311,230; Denmark, 13,069,000; Ecuador, 3,817,000; England, £773,923,000; France, £233,000,000; Granada (New), £7,500,000; Greece, £8,250,000; Guatemala, £594,500; Hamburg, £4,000,000; Hanover, £5,174,000; Holland, £102,451,000; India (British), £48,000,000; Mexico, £10,000,000; Peru, £9,953,800; Portugal, £19,122,000; Prussia, 33,500,000; Roman States, £17,152,000; Russia, £68,000,000; Sardinia, £23,000,000; Saxony, £6,223,000; Spain, £70,000,000; Sweden, £450,000; Switzerland, £160,000; Turkey, £5,000,000; United States of America (Federal), £10,000,000; Venezuela, £3,789,000; Wurtemberg, £4,850,000; total, £1,736,229,550.

A CHINESE OATH.—A Chinaman (that is to say, a native, not a vendor, of China), was charged at the Thames Police Office, on Wednesday, with wounding one of his countrymen, when the following odd scene occurred:—It seems that, on Chinamen being sworn, a saucer is presented to them, which they dash upon the ground and break to pieces. The prosecutor, though seated and very weak, broke the saucer presented to him into pieces; but the second Chinaman, on receiving a saucer of the same size, which he threw with violence on the floor, could not break it. Mr. Ingham (the magistrate) told the Chinaman to try again. He did so, but with no better success; the saucer rolled along the floor unbroken, amid considerable laughter. A third and fourth time