

The Bishop of London was present, and sat on the preacher's right hand, thus giving additional emphasis to his sanction of this and kindred efforts for bringing the Gospel to the masses of the people. Lord Panmure and Sir James Graham, M. P., saw by preference among the mechanics and others forming the general congregation in the body of the hall. On the platform we observed the Marquis of Westminster, the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Earl of Mayo, Lord and Lady Kinnaird, Lady Fremantle, Hon. and Rev. Canon Brodrick, Ven. Archdeacon Law, Rev. Robert Burgess, Rev. Capel Molyneux, Dr. Livingston, Mr. G. A. Hamilton, M. P. The attention of the congregation was most marked; and the effect of the Litany and the singing was overpowering. The Rev. Dr. McNeill preached from Matt. xix. 25, "Who then can be saved?" The rev. doctor concluded his discourse by an earnest and eloquent exhortation to the use of the appointed means of grace. A hymn, "Salvation, oh the joyful sound!" having been sung, the benediction was pronounced by the Bishop of London, in a very clear and impressive tone.—*Record.*

GREEN FROGS.—Our own verdants, kept in a parterre for all winter, had not the strength left to bear a voyage across the Channel, except one, who languished for a time, refusing meal-worms and such food as could be got for him; but who now thrives a prosperous frog in the repulse house of the Zoological Gardens. He and his companions had remained wide awake from October till April, when they ought to have been asleep, devouring flies greedily whenever flies were forthcoming. Other verdants, wintered in a cool cellar, returned to the realms of light in a much better condition. Hence it appears that animals, naturally falling torpid from cold, dissipate but little of their substance, and have no need of food; while if excited by the stimulus of heat to frequent breathing and exercise, they require more nourishment than is to be found at that time of year. It is only another proof of the harmony of nature's operations. In the reptile house, the stick-toes are supplied with meal-worms, which are to be had at all times of the year.—The voice of the hyla viridis, when heard in a room, is something astounding in respect to loudness, as coming from so small a creature. The captive vocalist may sometimes be excited to perform by a noise having a slight resemblance to his own melodious organ. One of my tree frogs commenced his song in answer to the sound of a carpenter's saw, who was sitting up a shelf in the closet. The experiment was repeated with gratifying success. The voice is not emitted so much from the lungs as from the pouch of skin beneath the chin, which is swollen out into enormous balloon-like proportions. The balloon, in fact, fulfils the office of the bag in a bagpipe, or the bellows in an organ. It must have been the sight of the hyla croaking which suggested to Æsop his fable of the proud frog swelling himself out to the size of the bull. In fact the fable is not a pure invention utterly devoid of foundation in nature. . . . The establishment of a colony of tree-fogs in an English park is an enterprise in which there would seem to be no difficulty wherever there was sufficiency of bushes for cover and hunting ground, and stagnant water for breeding, with a fair amount of summer warmth. In France the late severe winters have not diminished the number of the verdants. In captivity the grand desideratum is live flies, of which we have more than enough. I should like to offer a prize for the best cage for tree frogs contrived on the principle of their being self supplied with prey—a sort of fly-trap, in short. There must be holes through which flies of various sizes, from a green-bottle downwards, may find an easy entrance, without allowing any exit on the part of the frogs. A blue bottle is as big as an infant verdant, and where that could get in the frogling could get out. There must be the means of luring in the insect poultry in such abundance that froggy may live an independent gentleman with enough for himself and something to give away amongst his indigent neighbors. Such a mode of thinning the summer plague of flies would be much more humane than the atrocious system of converting flies into stick-toes by means of glutinous sheets of paper sold in the streets under the name of 'Catch 'em alive.' The commissariat is the principal difficulty in domesticating Mr. Verdant. He is very fond of spiders, but what properly-regulated house will own to harboring them? Several were collected in a paper-bag for some tree-frogs which are thriving pretty well in a small fernery, and into this they were put, hag and all. Next morning two of the frogs were found—like gluttons as they are when tried with spider-diet—inside the bag without a vestige of the spiders to be seen.—*Dickens' Household Words.*

PREBYTERIAN "MINISTERS" NOT "CLERGYMEN"—In the Assembly of the Scotch Kirk (Established Presbyterian), a report was read, and drew for it the following, which we take from the *Christian Times*, a dissenting paper:—

Mr. Phinn had only one objection to the report,—a purely clerical one,—it was the frequent use in it of the term "clergyman." Clergyman was not a Presbyterian phrase at all. "We," said Mr. Phinn, "are ministers, not clergymen." (Laughter.)

FRENCH POPULATION STATISTICS.—The French Bureau of Statistics has just published its report upon the population for the year 1853, and the two preceding years. Among the results there stated are the following:—The number of births in the year 1853 was 27,000 less than that of the preceding year, and is barely more than that of the average of the last fifty years. The average duration of life, however, which was estimated in 1820 at only 32 years, has risen in 1853 to thirty-nine. For the last 35 years the numerical superiority of the births of male over female infants has been in the proportion of one-sixth. Throughout France, generally, the illegitimate births, as compared to the legitimate, have been one to thirteen. The number of second marriages on the part of men, as compared to women is nearly double. One of the most remarkable facts stated with respect to marriages, is that out of those celebrated in 1853, nearly one-third of the men, and more than one half of the women were unable either to read or write. Another fact more to be lamented perhaps still, is that in the same year 38 marriages were celebrated between nephews and aunts, 107 between uncles and nieces, 629 between brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, and 2,309 between cousins-german.

A PICTURE OF EDITORIAL LIFE.—Captain Marryat evinced a proper appreciation of editorial life when he wrote: "It is not the writing of the leading article itself, but the obligation to write that article every day, whether inclined to or not, in sickness or in health, in affliction, distress of mind, winter and summer, year after year, tied down to the desk, remaining in one spot. It is something like the walking of a thousand miles in a thousand hours. I have a fellow feeling, for I know how a periodical will wear down one's existence. In itself, it appears nothing; the labour is not manifest, nor is it the labour, it is the continual attention it requires. Your life becomes, as it were, the publication. One day's paper is no sooner corrected or printed, than on comes another. It is the stone of Sisyphus, an endless repetition of toil, a constant weight upon the mind, a continual wearing upon the intellect and spirits, demanding all the exertion of your faculties, at the same time that you are compelled to do the severest drudgery. To write for a paper is very well, but to edit one is to condemn yourself to slavery."

News Department.

Extracts from latest English Papers.

ENGLAND.

Our readers will have read, through the usual channels, the details of the last meeting of Convocation.—We congratulate the promoters of synodical action upon the evidence afforded by that assembly of the wisdom of the struggle in which they have so long been engaged. The moderation, the obvious utility, and the fair and practical character of the proposals made in the reports of the several committees on Home and Foreign Missions, are a testimony that must forever silence those who were wont to foretell in such confident terms, that the revival of Convocation would be the signal for an internecine war between the two great parties in the Church. So far from such a result, it would seem as if Convocation had done more than anything else to quell our party spirit, and to unite men of very opposite theological views in projects of practical usefulness and thoroughly regular work. Surely it is some gain to see men of such opposite schools as the Archdeacons of Maidstone and Chichester, and the Deans of Bristol and Norwich, joining hands to promote one common object—the efficiency of the Church, by means of a systematic rule of working in the task of raising funds for missionary operations. But apart from this union of excellent but oppositely thinking men, which in itself is an augury of good, it is especially satisfactory to find them united in an effort to give system to the Church's work. It is the want of system that has retarded the progress of the Church in the missionary department of her labour.—That Convocation should have produced the promise of both unity and system, is a result for which, as far as it goes, we cannot be too thankful.—*Literary Churchman, July 25.*

William Stuart Farquharson, alias Frederick William Stewart, the person who officiated as a clergyman at Chacombe, but was last April detected as a pretended priest, and the author of a forgery on the Bucks and Oxon Bank at Binbury, has been sentenced at the Oxford Assizes to twelve years' penal servitude, having pleaded "Guilty" to the forgery.—The man appears to be the natural son of a gentleman residing at Finzeau, Aberdeenshire; he has also officiated as a curate in the diocese of Winchester. In 1853 he obtained £250 by forgery and false pretences from a person named Furrian, whom he was afterwards compelled to reimburse; a Mr. Price was duped in the same way to the extent of £100; later, he has been a captain in the 2nd Somerset militia, but had to resign in consequence of the Colonel finding out some of his antecedents; subsequently, however, he contrived to get into the Lincoln and the Elthorne regiments, obtaining his outfit from Gardner & Son by a forged acceptance. Lastly he figured also as a literary character, obtained "diplomas" for

those who were foolish enough to pay for forged documents, and published the *Pleasures of Hope*.

Notice has been given at Lloyd's that Government require a ship immediately to carry 400 male-convicts from England to Fremantle, Western Australia.—Amongst the 400 will be Sir John Dean Paul, Strahan, and Bates, Robson, Redpath, Agar, and Seward.

Gordon Cumming, the "lion-hunter," figured characteristically before the Liverpool magistrates last week. He was charged with assaulting two American gentlemen in the coffee-room of the Grand Junction Hotel, who, according to their own account, gave no provocation beyond offering to join a discussion which had arisen at the table of Mr. Cumming and two friends with reference to the merits of the American vessel *Niagara*, in which the complainants had been passengers. According to Mr. Cumming, however, one of the Americans provoked the assault by first making insulting remarks about the English flag, and when they were resented, challenged Mr. Hunter and his friends to fight, saying that if they would get upon the floor "he would take the bounce out of all three of them." In common politeness (Mr. Cumming said) he accepted the invitation, and as he did not do these kind of things by halves, he gave the man a sound thrashing for his impertinence. The magistrates considered that the complainants had drawn the chastisement on themselves, and dismissed the summons.

London, Wednesday, July 29.

The excited rumours which prevailed so greatly yesterday, concerning the much-anticipated news from India, have been quieted this morning by the publication of the following telegraphic despatch from Trieste:—

"The steamer *America* arrived at Trieste on the 28th of July, at 9 a. m. She left Alexandria on the 23rd of July.

"The India mails left Alexandria on the morning of the 23rd, with advices from Calcutta to the 21st of June, from Madras to the 28th of June, from Ceylon to the 1st of July, from Bombay to the 1st of July, and from Hong Kong to the 10th of June.

"The mutiny had continued to spread among the troops of the Bengal army.

"The Ex-King of Oude has been arrested, and, with his Minister, has been imprisoned in Fort William. The Government has obtained proof of his complicity in the conspiracy.

"Up to the 17th of June General Barnard had repulsed several sorties from Delhi with heavy loss to the insurgents. He was waiting for reinforcements.

"From Madras it is positively stated that Delhi has been captured, but the intelligence is not confirmed from Bombay, and seems premature.

"An act has been passed by the Legislature placing the Indian press under a licence system.

"The native troops at Calcutta and the brigade at Barrackpore have been quietly disarmed.

"An uneasy feeling prevails at Madras, but the army of that Presidency and of Bombay are both without the slightest sign of disaffection.

"At Calcutta business both in exports and imports is almost at a standstill. The money market is rather tighter. Government securities have declined. Exchange for document bills, 2s. 2½d. to 2s. 2¾.

"At Madras the import market had continued brisk, the money market was becoming less easy.—Government securities had suffered depreciation.—Exchange, 2s. 2 3-16d.

"At Bombay the import market may be considered to have closed. Money was becoming scarce, and the rate of interest had been raised 1 per cent.—Very little business had been done in Government paper. Exchange 2s. 2½d to 2s. 2¾d."

From Hong Kong the intelligence is that—"The Chinese fleet has been destroyed in two severe engagements. The Chinese fought their guns with unexampled constancy. We have 83 men killed and wounded. Major Kearney was killed in the last engagement. Commodore Keppel and the Master of the *Raleigh* have been tried for the loss of that vessel and acquitted. All is quiet in the North."

In addition to the despatch published in the preceding columns, the *Morning News* and *Chronicle* state that "a great battle has been fought, and the Europeans have been beaten." The former adds—"Under this latter paragraph is written the word 'doubtful'—and yet, with this acknowledgment, it uses the clap-net of putting its columns in morning, as if it had full faith in its own doubtful report."

GREECE.—The Queen has been showing great attention to the Russian Ambassador, and has recently taken her departure for Germany in a Russian Frigate. A letter from Athens states the objects of the visit to be—

To try to secure the succession to the throne of Greece for her youngest brother, a prince of the house of Oldenburg. But, in order to succeed she must first set aside the family of Bavaria, which, for the last fourteen years, has hesitated to accept the conditions—a change of religion—by which only the crown can be obtained. You may depend upon the fact, in spite of any denial to the contrary, that the Queen will employ every diplomatic intrigue, without the slightest scruple, to attain her object. She is accompanied by her confidant, the First Lady of the Bed-