CANADIAN.

Gold and silver are reported to have been discovered on a farm near Parkhill.

A bill abolishing saloon licences has been introduced into the Manitoba Legislature.

Dr. Schultz, M.P., is seriously ill, and cannot leave Winnipeg for Ottawa at present.

L'Evenement, Senator Fabre's paper, says either Hon. L. H. Holton or Major Bechard, member for Iberville, will succeed Mr. Anglin as Speaker.

A French Canadian named Chapul, at Napierville, Que., buried five children recently, all of whom died of diphtheria within the space of 24 hours.

The County Council of Middlesex have resolved to petition the Dominion Parliament for a tariff placing Canadian and American farmers on an equal footing.

A petition, which was largely signed, was circulated on the Montreal Stock Exchange on Saturday praying the Dominion Government to impose a duty of fifty cents per ton on coal.

Mr. John Langton, Auditor-General, Ottawa, has sent a cheque for $100 to Mr. Cherry, the carpenter, who saved his life recently in the Western Block Extension.

Several counterfeit $10 bills on the Ontario Bank have been passed in Ottawa. Their execution is almost equal to the genuine, the only difference being in the flowering around the figures.

A fire has occurred at Dresden, about a mile out, burning the house and two children of Mr. Johnson (coloured), aged respectively three and five years, the parents having left the children in bed while going to town.

Hon. J. A. Chapleau has taken an action of damages for $25,000 against the Montreal *Herald* Printing and Publishing Company, on account of certain charges preferred against him through its columns in relation to the building of the Laurentides Company.

Montreal statistics show that the number of persons imprisoned during the year was 2,685. 1,835 were born in Canada, 407 in Ireland, 157 in England, 112 in the United States, 55 in Scotland, and 48 in France. 2,227 were Roman Catholics, 296 Church of England, 92 Church of Scotland, and 39 Methodists.

The Council of the Board of Trade have drawn the attention of the authorities at Ottawa to the anomalies existing under the Weights and Measures Act. The Inspectors will stamp only the Imperial measure, while the old measures stamped by Toronto Inspectors are being offered for sale here.

A few days ago a couple belonging to St. Catharines went across the river and got married, the pair going to Pelham to live. The father not relishing this proceeding, went after his daughter, accompanied by about forty men, and captured her. A writ of *habeas corpus* will be taken out by the husband to rescue his wife.

A petition to the Dominion Government to impose fifty cents per ton on coal imported into the Dominion was circulated on Montreal Change recently and pretty largely signed. The object is to develope Nova Scotia mines, which the petition states will be done without materially increasing the price of coal.

The united counties of Lennox and Addington are the great battle ground of the Dunkin Act just now, and the Napanee papers are full of Dunkin and Anti-Dunkin. The opponents of the Act have succeeded in getting the question of its repeal before the people, and the voting begins on the fifth day of February. They declare themselves against the Dunkin Act, but in favour of a stringent liquor law.

Mr. P. E. W. Moyer apparently thinks that his temporary retirement from newspaper business has lasted long enough already, and is again on the war path. He has issued the prospectus of a daily paper, to be published at Berlin, Ontario, to be called the *Daily News*, one-third of the reading space to be in the German language. It will from the first take a decided stand in favour of National Policy and Protection to home manufactures, and we need scarcely add that we wish it every success as the advocate of so important a cause.

A letter from Lieut.-Col. Lord Eustace Cecil, of the War Office, acknowledging the receipt of Lieut.-General Sir Selby Smythe's annual report of the state of the Canadian militia, says the Minister of War, Right Hon. Gathorne Hardy, concurs in the opinion expressed in the report, that it is of paramount importance that Quebec, which is the key of Canada from the ocean, should have such an armament of modern rifled guns as would forbid the passage of the St. Lawrence to any ship of war that might escape the vigilance of British cruisers in the Gulf.

The Committee of Organization of the Montreal Musical Jubilee have issued their programme of a competition for prizes amounting to $2,000. There are to be two classes of entries, one for regular bands of music, that is, bands composed of regular soldiers, under control of the Government, and independent bands, the latter to be sub-divided into first and second classes. For the best regular band there is to be a prize of $600; for independent bands, first class, two prizes, $600 and $400; the same, second class, $300 and $100. The entrances for these three respectively are to be $20, $20, and $10, and the competition is to come off on the 21st and 22nd of June next, at Montreal. All bands competing must appear in uniform. The Committee is composed of influential citizens, with Judge Coursol for President.

A sad event has occurred in the Village of St. Albans, County of Port Neuf, Quebec, which has thrown the whole district into consternation. A rich habitant named Joseph Andy, of that place, had for some time past manifested signs of mental aberration, and on the night in question he bid his brothers farewell, which caused them some anxiety, and they determined to pass the night with him at his own house. Unfortunately their fears were fully realized. During the night one of them went and saw him sitting up at a table gazing steadfastly at a lighted candle. He enquired what he was doing there, and was answered that he was waiting for his son to come home. This answer satisfied the enquirer and he went to sleep. Deceased's son shortly afterwards came in, and Andy then pretended to go to bed, but went out to put away some vehicles in the shed, shutting the door after him. Shortly after this, a neighbour woman saw flames issuing from the shed and raised the alarm, though too late to render any assistance to the unfortunate man. His remains were found after the fire burned to a cinder.

Near midnight on Wednesday, a determined effort at suicide was made by a man named Middleton, who resides with his wife on Winona street, St. Catharines, in a small tenement house. He first procured a revolver, and discharged the contents of one barrel at his head. The bullet struck him on the temple, inflicting a not dangerous wound. Finding he had not accomplished his purpose by the aid of powder and ball, he got a table knife, the blade of which was pretty sharp, and the end ground to a point. With this he cut his throat, but again bungled the job, as he did not succeed in severing either his windpipe or jugular vein. He made a big gap in his throat, however, and lost a large quantity of blood. P. C. Ramage, who was in the neighbourhood, having got word of the occurrence went to the house, and finding the door fastened, burst it open, and found Middleton lying on the floor covered with blood. He turned him on his back and sent for a doctor. This promptness on the part of the policeman probably saved the man's life. His injuries are not of a fatal character. The cause of this tragical occurrence is said to be jealousy on the part of the husband. Middleton came here from the United States about three weeks ago. The husband became jealous of a man named Henry Collier.

THE ENGLISH MAIL.

Interesting Summary of News.

A QUARTER'S FOOD FROM AMERICA.

Statistics have been compiled of the quantity of American food landed at Liverpool during the past three months. In that period 48,024 quarters and 1,569 sides of beef, 4,037 carcases of mutton, 25 carcases of pigs, 6,614 packages and 243 firkins of fresh butter; and 1,322 live cattle, 4,311 sheep, and 357 pigs arrived, against 17,648 quarters and 646 sides of beef, 616 carcases of mutton, 50 carcases of pigs, 20,814 packages, 3,152 tubs, and 100 firkins of fresh butter, and 4,419 live cattle, 197 sheep, and 119 pigs, in the previous quarter. It will be seen that there is a large increase, in the three months just closed, in the quantity of beef and mutton over the previous three months, though in live cattle there is a great falling off. This is accounted for by the fact that the winter season, which is so suitable for the transit of fresh meat, is a very bad time for the conveyance of live stock, as the weather is usually so rough as to cause great loss amongst the animals. The experiment of bringing live stock over during the cold months has been tried this year, but it did not result favourably. The turn of the year leaves the market for American beef in a somewhat depressed condition. The great stagnation in trade in the provincial towns has caused the demand to dwindle down to less than 1,400 quarters weekly, while the average quantity arriving at Liverpool each week is 4,000 quarters, so that the surplus has to go to the London market, which also receives a large supply direct. In consequence the Metropolitan markets of late have been overstocked; and the price of home-fed beef, as well as that imported, has been much reduced. At the corresponding period of last year, while sides of American beef realized from 6d to 6½d per lb., and mutton as much as 7d, the price at present obtained does not exceed 5d to 5½d respectively. The total imports for the half-year just ended are 65,672 quarters and 2,215 sides of beef, 4,653 carcases of mutton, 75 carcases of pigs, 27,428 packages, 3,152 tubs, and 349 firkins of fresh butter, 5,741 live cattle, 4,508 sheep, and 476 pigs.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

A judgment of the highest interest as affecting municipal elections has been given at the Plymouth Law Courts by Mr. Prentice, Q.C., sitting as judge. Two Conservative councillors were elected for two wards on Nov. 9th last. After the nominations, but before the election, notice was served on every elector by post, and also given by placard and advertisement, that these candidates were ineligible because they were contractors for supplying materials for the Corporation. They were, nevertheless, elected, and petitioned against. The judge decided that the petitioners must be deemed elected, and that the rejected councillors must pay all costs.

MR. FORSTER AND THE ENGLISH CHURCH.

Recent speeches of the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., have elicited the following letter to the *Echo*:—

"SIR,—The cause of Mr. W. E. Forster's leaving his early religious principles and the Liberal Party, on the Education and Disestablishment questions, has so often puzzled men who do not know the home influences that have operated on him, that I wish you would state that Mr. Forster married the eldest, ablest, and most charming daughter of that strong religious-educationist and churchman, the late Dr. Arnold, Head-master of Rugby School; that her influence on him in church matters has undoubtedly been like that of the late Charles Kingsley's wife on him—all honour to her for it—and that Mr. Forster's change of convictions is most probably mainly due to the happy circumstances of his home life and its connections.

"A LIBERAL, ONCE A CHURCHMAN.

"Jan. 8."

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The Board of Trade returns for December and the year just concluded are published. They exhibit a considerable increase in our imports, but only a slight improvement in exports, as compared with the preceding year. The declared value of the exports for December was £15,941,497, against £15,269,520 in December, 1876, and £17,297,543 in December, 1875. The value of the exports for the year 1877 was £198,731,073, compared with £200,639,204 in 1876 and £223,465,963 in 1875. The value of the imports for December was £32,159,643, against £29,105,022 in December, 1876, and £32,114,441 in 1875. The value of the imports for the year was £393,941,256, against £375,093,711 in 1876, and £373,941,125 in 1875.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

The London correspondent of the *Scotsman* writes:—"I hear of an important discovery in the art of photography on wood. The method of transferring by photography drawings or sketches to wood blocks for the purpose of engraving has long been known, although attended constantly by technical difficulties which have occupied the attention of many scientific minds, with a view to their removal. The chemical preparations in use up to the present moment appear to have produced a surface too hard and brittle for engraving purposes. By the "Hentschell process," the latest discovery in this direction, the grain or surface of the wood is hardened, and prepared for the graver by the processes employed to fix the picture. The value of this method is said to be beyond estimate in the way of securing exact replicas of old prints or engravings, or of original drawings direct from the hand of the artist."

THE REVISED BIBLE.

The Rev. Dr. Angus, one of the revisers, in preaching at Glasgow, referred to the revision of the Authorized Version of the New Testament. He said that when the work was done they would find the same Testament that they had been using from childhood; and although there had been many changes, chapter after chapter would be read without their observing the changes, unless by comparison. They would have substantially the same text and the same translation; and he held that in these speculative times it was worth while for fifty men to spend ten years of their lives simply to obtain this negative result.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* says on the subject:—"The labours of the Bible Revisionists are likely, I hear, to occupy from 30 to 50 years, after which another version is pretty sure to be demanded by the then existing condition of things. This speculation is not indulged in at random, but is the result of wide observation and a knowledge of the very "conservative" lines on which the Revisionists are working. Their instructions may prove to be rather short-sighted, being based on the general principle of altering 'as little as possible.'"

LABOURER'S COTTAGES.

We read in the *World*:—"In Mr. Joseph Arch's paper 'The Labourers and the Vote' there is at least one passage in which the truth is most strangely dealt with. Says Mr. Arch, enumerating the advantages which will accrue to the labourer by the extension of the county franchise, 'He will have a cottage decent and fit to live in; he will no longer be content to have but one sleeping-room, where father, mother, boys, and girls are herded together like pigs—where the virtue and chastity of the daughters cannot be preserved for want of proper sleeping accommodation.' Now no one knows better—or, at least, no one ought to know better—than Joseph Arch, himself a labouring man, that landlords have built cottages all over the country with a proper number of bedrooms; and that the almost universal practice of the labourer has been, when accommodated with such cottages, to let off one bedroom to a single man, herding his children just in the way Mr. Arch complains of, and adding to their temptations the presence of a young unmarried man in his cottage."

DEFENSIVE MEASURES IN THE BALTIC.

The London *Globe* understands that the Russian Government has issued an order for the whole of the Baltic defences to be supplied with guns of the heaviest calibre before the opening of the navigation in the spring. A large number of 12-inch 38-ton guns are being mounted on the batteries at Sveaborg.

MR. COWEN, M.P., ON THE TURKS AND RUSSIANS.

Mr. Cowen, M.P., the well-known Radical, and proprietor of the Newcastle *Chronicle*, in reply to an invitation to address a meeting at Newcastle-upon-Tyne on the English Government and the agressions of Russia, says:—"I have not been able to join many Liberals in their somewhat rancorous attacks on the foreign policy of Ministers. It has not at all times seemed to me faultless, but upon the whole, in my judgment, it has been fair and temperate. I willingly give Russia credit for every effort made towards improvement, but it surprises me as much as it does you to see true and honest English Liberals throwing up their hats and shouting 'Hosannah!' in the wake of a conquering and corrupt military despotism. Dislike of the Turks is intelligible—perhaps not quite justifiable—but how Liberals can forget Siberia and Poland, and the sorrows that cluster round these names, is more than I can understand."

PRINCE LEOPOLD.

The health of Prince Leopold continues to cause great anxiety.

THE REPRESENTATION OF PERTH.

A candidate is announced for the vacant seat. Mr. Charles MacLean, of Glenearn, a landed proprietor in Perthshire, has issued his address. He announces himself a Liberal, and in favour of progressive legislation to such an extent as is demanded by the requirements of the age. His nomination is not regarded favourably, Colonel Williamson and the Solicitor-General for Scotland are mentioned in the Conservative interest.

A NICE BOY.

The London *Globe* says:—"Without question, William Laidlaw Emers Hemsley deserves to be considered the prince of boy-burglars at the present time. With the assistance of a subordinate, he has reduced petty larceny to a system, and has created a new order of chivalry for thieves. When the police recently searched the premises occupied by the interesting youth and his father at Hawick, they discovered the most miscellaneous assortment of property ever collected outside a pawnbroking establishment. Nothing seems to have come amiss to the confederates. Books, brushes, keys, tools, dark lanterns, ladies' bags, walking sticks, shop weights, lamps, and meat-choppers, were found piled up in a huge heap. But the most interesting discovery of all was a neatly written book, kept by the senior partner, giving some details of his exploits. On the title page it bore the ambitious legend, 'United Order of Outlaws,' together with the names of the two knights. The remainder was made up in very methodical form, each branch of the business having a separate portion to itself. Under the head of "what I have stolen in money" the first entry is "from mother, 1d." This seems to have been a lucky beginning, as there immediately follow such items as "13s by altering figures in shop pass book," "£4 stolen from till," and a variety of small filchings from neighbours. Then we come to "what I have stolen from shops," a list including a good deal of jam, some beef, and half a barrel of ale. There are many other headings of an equally satisfactory sort, and then the second part of the business is dealt with—the prospective. Here we find Master Hemsley showing "the sort of boy he is." Not a diffident young gentleman, it would appear, as under "what I have to buy and make," a steam engine with boiler complete and a musical box are leading items. But it seems as if he feared the strain inseparable from so extensive a business might tell on his constitution, for the next page, devoted to "what I have to write for" mentions several medicines and "a cure for the nerves." He also felt in want of a volume of poetry, a proof that he was paying due attention to culture, while an entry of "cosmetics" suggests that he intended to make himself "beautiful for ever," physically as well as intellectually.

PERSONAL STATISTICS, 1878.

The oldest member of Her Majesty's Privy Council is Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe, G.C.B., aged 90; the youngest, H.R.H. Prince Leopold, aged 25. The oldest Duke is the Duke of Portland, aged 78; the youngest, the Duke of Montrose, aged 26. The oldest Marquis is the Marquis of Donegal, aged 81; the youngest, the Marquis Camden, aged 6. The oldest Earl in the House of Peers is the Earl Bathurst, aged 87; though the oldest bearer of that title is the Earl of Kilmorey, an Irish Peer, aged 90; the youngest is the Earl of Hopetoun, aged 18. The eldest Viscount is Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, aged 90; the youngest, Viscount Clifden, aged 15. The oldest Baron is Lord Chelmsford, aged 84; the youngest, Lord Southampton, aged 11. The oldest member of the House of Commons is the Right Hon. Joseph Warner Henley, M.P. for Oxfordshire, aged 85; the youngest, Viscount Helmsley, M.P. for the North Riding of Yorkshire, aged 26. The oldest Judge in England is the Right Hon. Sir FitzRoy Kelly, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer Division of the High Court of Justice, aged 82; the youngest, the Right Hon. Alfred Henry Thesiger, Justice of Appeal, aged 40. The oldest Judge in Ireland is the Hon. James O'Brien, of the Court of Queen's Bench, aged 72; the youngest, the Right Hon. Christopher Palles, LL.D., Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, aged 47. The oldest of the Scotch Lords of Session is Robert Macfarlane, Lord Ormidale, aged 76; the youngest, Alexander Burns Shand, Lord Shand, aged 49. The oldest Prelate of the Church of England is the Right Rev. Alfred Ollivant, Bishop of Llandaff, aged 80; the youngest is the Right Rev. Rowley Hill, Bishop of Sodor and Man, aged 42. The oldest Prelate of the Irish Episcopal Church is the Right Rev. John Gregg, Bishop of Cork, aged 80; the youngest is his son, the Right Rev. Robert Samuel Gregg, Bishop of Ossory and Ferns, aged 44. The oldest Prelate of the Scotch Episcopal Church is the Right Rev. Robert Eden, Bishop of Moray and Ross, aged 74; the youngest, the Right Rev. George R. Mackarness, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, aged 55. The oldest Baronet is Sir Richard John Griffith, aged 94; the youngest, Sir Thomas Lewis Hughes Neave, aged 4. The oldest Knight is Major-General Sir John George Woodford, K.C.B., aged 93; the youngest, Sir Ludlow Cotter, aged 25.

THE VACANT GARTER.

The London correspondent of the Birmingham *Gazette* writes:—"The vacant Knighthood of the Garter caused by the death of the Marquis of Ailesbury is, it is said, to be conferred on the Earl of Beaconsfield. Note can be said to have a greater title to it, and yet I suppose we shall be told this is another instance of her Majesty going out of her way to honour her favourite Minister, and I do not doubt, also, that some Radical politicians will herald the event as a menace to Russia."

GREENOCK ELECTION.

The contest at Greenock is being conducted spiritedly. Sir J. Fergusson received a vote of confidence from a meeting of Conservatives on Tuesday, and Mr. Scott Moncrieff declared his intention to go to the poll as a Liberal candidate. Mr. J. Stewart, of Garvock, is also in the field as a Liberal candidate.

EARL BEACONSFIELD.

A London correspondent says that the Premier is being attacked with an amount of venom rarely known in English public life. It is the penalty of success. He cares no more about it than does the moon at the barking of a dog.

PERTH AND GREENOCK—THE REPRESENTATION OF LEITH.

The liabilities of Mr. McGregor, late M. P. for Leith, are from £200,000 to £300,000, assets about £10,000. The Conservatives, it is said, intend bringing forward Mr. Macdonald, the Solicitor-General, who unsuccessfully contested the Edinburgh election in 1874. Among the candidates named on the Liberal side are Sir W. Millar, M. A. R. Macfie, Mr. John McLaren, and others.

At Greenock it seems to be considered certain that four Liberal candidates will go to the poll. Sir James Fergusson, the Conservative candidate, is therefore pursuing his canvass vigorously and hopefully. Mr. Alexander Mackie, of Warrington, has issued his address to the electors of Perth. He describes himself as a Liberal-Conservative. He is opposed to the disestablishment of the Churches of England and Scotland. At a meeting of the Perth Liberal Committee it was announced that Mr. Parker had consented to vote for Disestablishment, but declined to vote for the Permissive Bill. A motion declaring Mr. Parker a fit and proper person to represent the constituency was passed by a large majority.

CHARITY PROPERTY IN ENGLAND.

At a large meeting of agricultural labourers in Somersetshire, convened for the preservation of England from war, the nationization of the land, the compulsory formation of School Boards, the disestablishment of the Church, the assimilation of the county with the borough franchise, and the preservation of the charities. The Speakers dwelt very severely upon the frightful malversation of charity property which had been going on at Bruton, Yeovil, and Crewkerne, in Somersetshire, as well as Sherborne, in Dorsetshire. Bruton-Hospital, which is one of the richest charities in England, was spoken of as being in an awful state, and the poverty of that little town is hideously squalid. Plenty of cases of strong men working for 8s per week were found. The Duchy of Cornwall estates were found to be very poor for the labouring people. The cottages baffle all description. The awfully squalid poverty to be found on "Prince's" land is hideous in the extreme.

MR. ROEBUCK ON RUSSIA.

The member for Sheffield has not addressed his constituents on the Eastern Question; but a letter which he has sent to a friend has been published, giving his views thereupon. He had believed that the Ministry intended to do what was required by the honour and interests of England, and furthermore known them to be men of ability as well as honesty. Because he felt that he could do no good by speaking, he had hitherto remained silent. He has strong opinions on the subject, and it will be his duty to set them forth in Parliament. Until then the safest course for anyone like himself, having no official position, is to abstain from interference in matters which are at present veiled from public view. In his mind the war is a thoroughly unjust proceeding on the part of Russia; and he thinks that we should withhold aid from both parties, but give Russia plainly to understand that we shall make territorial aggrandisement a *casus belli*. That Power would not dare to go to war with England. We need, Mr. Roebuck says, no armies; a fleet in the Baltic and one in the Mediterranean would paralyse Russia, and we may rest assured that Austria, France, Germany, and the lesser States look upon her with no friendly eye.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK ON CONFESSION.

In the course of his reply to the Manchester memorial adopted in July last, the Archbishop of York observes:—"I trust you will excuse the delay in answering the memorial addressed to the archbishop and bishops of the Northern Province before an important meeting at Manchester. I concur with the memorialists in their regret that some of the clergy have adopted an attitude of resistance towards the decision of the law courts and the authority of their bishops. It would seem to be impossible that such a state of things can continue. It must be a great weakness in any institution to be obliged to confess that any of its members continually disregard the law. Such a condition of things could not long exist without endangering the existence of the institution itself. With regard to the scandal which has arisen in connection with the secret society called the Holy Cross, and with the book prepared by that society for the promotion of systematic confession in the Church. I have all along felt the serious injury which this society has done towards the Church of England. The laity of this country will ever tolerate, and not to tolerate, the introduction of systematic confession as part of the system of the National Church. No parts of the Prayer book seem to me to show more wisdom and caution than those which relate to private confession. It is clearly the intention of that book to limit most strictly the use of private confession, and only to permit it in two cases as a special medicine for an evil. No one who really believes that confession and absolution are the ordinary means of obtaining forgiveness of sins could consistently use the Prayer book, which does, by every means, encourage the direct resort of sinful souls to the Throne of Grace, and which discourages as an ordinary measure, the resort to any human agent of the penitent soul. It is right, however, to point out that the course of legislation for a long time past has been practically to diminish the power of the bishops in such matters; and so long as the law continues in its present state the bishops ought not to be held responsible for failing to exercise powers which they do not in fact possess. The practice of confession, being chiefly carried on in private, would be very difficult to deal with in any condition of the law. So far as the bishops are concerned, I have reason to believe that there is not one of them who would not direct his clergy to abstain from enforcing systematic confession. My own opinions are very clear upon this point, and I believe they are the same as those of the great majority of the clergy, and of almost the whole of the laity in this country."

MANY MOUTHS, MUCH FOOD.

We read in the *Echo*:—"The consuming capacities of the people, in these British Islands, appears to be without limit, and equally so the power of foreign countries to keep upon a level with them. No circumstance, however seemingly hostile, close, or even narrow, the food markets of the world against our hungry demands. Last year, notwithstanding war, saw Russia assisting, to an enormous extent, in feeding us; India, in spite of famine, doing the same; the United States, all their political and financial difficulties apart, pouring fleet loads of grain upon our shores. We were the customers of these three communities, for the staff of life alone, to the tune of about twenty-four millions sterling; but this gigantic total by no means sufficed to satisfy our wants. There was corn in Egypt, and we purchased it wholesale; also in the impoverished territories of Germany; moreover, Turkey, with her devastated Moldavian and Wallachian provinces, could afford to sell her harvests even more prodigally than in the previous year of peace by millions of hundredweights. Her own children in the New World helped in supplying this egregious commissariat, which, with the bargains done in France, Denmark, Chili, and elsewhere, cost us, in round numbers, £34,000,000, leaving flour of all kinds out of the question. We find in the returns a proportionate traffic in live stock and meat of all descriptions, the general upshot being that Great Britain cannot possibly produce enough under existing circumstances to nourish her own population. Whether the land is absolutely incapable of yielding a sufficiency for the national wants, or whether an unnatural amount of it is kept out of culture is another matter entirely. At present, we simply look at the figures as they lie before us, and certainly they are not a little suggestive. In point of fact, we pay for bringing a single article of popular sustenance from beyond the seas a sum equalling half the total of the Imperial revenue."

MISTRESSES AND SERVANTS.

At Runcorn the late cook in the family of Mr. Shaw, a well-known alkali manufacturer, has just brought an action in the County Court to recover damages for being wrongfully dismissed, but she was sent away with small consolation. Mrs. Shaw having occasion to censure the disorderly state of the larder, complained to the cook, who at once assailed her by saying she was "no lady," and had no business in the larder. Mrs. Shaw thought differently, and then the parlour-maid took up the cudgels on behalf of her fellow-servant. Various means, even violence, were adopted to foil Mrs. Shaw's attempt to ascertain the state of the larder, and when she returned to the library, the rebellious servants followed demanding their wages. They after a time left the house, and on their return Mr. Shaw, who had been made acquainted with the state of affairs, very properly dismissed them on the spot. The judge having heard both sides of the story, said, "We live and learn." He had heard many strange things in his lifetime, but it was certainly a novelty to hear that a servant had a sort of demise on her master's larder. The dismissal of the two servants was perfectly justifiable, and they had no claim whatever upon Mr. Shaw. If such a state of things were allowed as had been shown in that case, domestic life would be intolerable. The cook ventured to assert that she had been in service in Liverpool and Manchester, and had never heard of such a thing as a mistress claiming a right to go into the larder, and "no lady would think of doing it."

SCARCITY OF FARM LABOUR IN SCOTLAND.

A correspondent of the North British *Agricultural Gazette* writes:—"I have been a land steward for thirty years, and it is grievous to see the harm done by putting the farms into large holdings. This County of Fife is as bad as any that I have been in. It is impossible to get people here to do the farm work. You may get some people out of the towns, but what kind of workers are they? I have seen them coming at nine o'clock, and by three remarking if it was near six o'clock. There is part of the fields in this country where the rakings are not lifted, and never will, for want of people to do it."

NAPOLEON THE FIRST.

Among the changes in general opinion, during one or two generations, none, says the *Echo*, is more remarkable than that regarding the life and character of Napoleon. What was once considered as peculiar to the intense national hatred of the English, is now common among intelligent Frenchmen in their treatment of the great Emperor. Observe the close of the following paragraph from the *British Quarterly Review*, referring to Lanfrey's third volume of the "History of Napoleon I.":—

"If Napoleon does not deserve severer reprobation than almost any man with whom history makes us acquainted, moral deductions lose their validity, and crime is graduated by station and success. Beyond all reasonable doubt, Napoleon was the greatest liar, the most treacherous diplomatist, the most unscrupulous politician, the most ruthless tyrant, and the most reckless of bloodshed and murder of any ruler in modern history. We have read this volume with this criticism of the author constantly present to us, and we deliberately say that—making more than due allowance for those necessities which are the tyrant's plea, and which are sometimes held, if on no other grounds, yet on that of exceptional temptations, to justify exceptional morality—he makes no statement and passes no reflection of which he does not patiently adduce detailed and abundant evidence; nor have we once felt that the depth and strength of his moral detestation is in any degree in excess; more frequently has it seemed inadequate to this man's enormous crimes against human society. History would be worthless if it did not gibbet the author of the Russian expedition, the treacherous appropriator of Portugal and Spain, and the unscrupulous tyrant of Holland. After the venial homage which too many have paid to Napoleon' successful acquisition of unequalled power, it is an unspeakable satisfaction to find a Frenchman sternly bringing his falsehood, treachery, and tyranny to the tests of ordinary moral principles, and estimating at its true worth the meretricious and treacherous glory which these purchased. 'Let us,' he says, 'abandon the discreditable sophisms which have too long served as an excuse for crimes of which we can only prevent a repetition by representing them in all their frightful reality.' It will be many generations before the evils which Napoleon wrought for France will be remedied."

PLANTS IN ROOMS.

The *Gardener's Magazine* has some interesting remarks on plants in rooms. It says:—"A few plants in a school-room or ward of a hospital, or even in a sitting-room where there are only one or two persons, will certainly not suffice to remove the carbonic acid so quickly as to obviate the necessity for ventilation. But the experiments in the Munich Winter Garden do certainly go to show that a considerable number of plants exposed to the daylight in a closed chamber exert an influence on the atmosphere that can be measured, and it must be borne in mind that the greatest winter garden or conservatory ever constructed is a very small affair when we come to the delicate study of the conditions of the atmosphere in relation to plants. And it is here indeed that an explanation of the general negativeness of the results of inquiry is forced upon us. It is something to know that plants in rooms are not injurious, for there are those who so regard them. It is something to know that plants in rooms are not a sufficient substitute for a supply of fresh air from without, for there are those who so regard them. But having arrived at these conclusions, it must be clear to every reflective mind that the subject is by no means exhausted. The points to which we would now direct attention are the power of plants to purify the air by mechanical action; and their power to influence the health of man beneficially by their green colour, which beyond all doubt comforts the mind and exercises a direct hygienic influence akin to that of actinism. The argument from the sentimental view of their use is of inestimable value; but in a quite material view we have to consider what is the effect on the sensorium and thence on the nervous system generally, and thence on the circulation, the digestion, and the general health, of the frequent contemplation of the green colour of vegetation, varied and lighted as it is by the different colours of flowers and leaves that are, in the economy of vegetation, subordinated to the prevailing colour-tone of a world that is in "verdure clad." The question of the proportion of the carbonic acid is important, but it is only one of many questions that must arise in connection with this subject. To what extent do plants modify the qualities of water in the soil and in the air; to what extent do they diminish the amount of dust, and the floating disease-germs that the atmosphere wafts to and fro; to what extent do their colours, mingling with the prevailing white light of the common day, influence our health as well as our happiness, and suggest to us that "they alway must be with us or we die?"

ITEMS.

The Prince Imperial of France has been on a visit to the Prince of Wales.

The Norwich Union Fire Insurance Co. have just declared a dividend of 53 per cent. per annum!

Prince Albert Victor, eldest son of the Prince and Princess of Wales, completed his 14th year on Tuesday.

Mr. Melton Prior has left London for the scenes of the Kaffir war as the representative of the *Illustrated London News*.

It is stated that no princely house has produced so many individuals distinguished in politics and war as the House of Savoy.

Salisbury Plain seems likely once more to be the arena of the military manœuvres this year, and a very strong muster of the British army is in contemplation.

A sum of £40,000 has been bequeathed to the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, by the will of Mr. John Freeland, a Glasgow merchant, who died lately at Nice.

Dr. Tristram, Chancellor of the Diocese of London, has ordered a reredos in St. Ethelburgha church to be removed, and the communion table to be replaced.

The inevitable American speculator has, it is said, waited on Mr. Forbes and offered him £5,000 for a series of lectures on the War, to be delivered in the United States.

A memorial will (the *Bristol Post* says) shortly be forwarded to Mr. Gladstone, asking him to attend a public meeting in that city at Easter. It has already received many thousands of signatures.

The 31st, 40th, 90th, and other corps at Aldershot have been supplied with a new bayonet and scabbard, each 4½ inches longer than those hitherto in use. The bayonet is very sharp—a formidable weapon.

The Manchester Town Council, by a majority of forty-eight against three resolved to apply to Parliament for power to obtain a supply of water from Lake Thirlmere. The scheme will cost nearly £4,000,000.

Lord Stourton has been summoned to the House of Peers by the title of Baron Mowbray, he being one of the heirs of Roger de Mowbray, who was summoned to Parliament in the eleventh year of the reign of Edward I.

We hear, says the *Standard*, that the ribbon of the Order of the Thistle at the disposal of the Premier by the death of Lord Kinnaird is to be conferred on Sir Thomas Gladstone, of Fasque, eldest brother of the ex-Premier.

It is now known that the wound of Osman Pasha is in the left calf, and that the ball went clean through the flesh without injuring the bone in the slightest degree. It is believed that the wound will be healed within a few weeks.

A letter to the *Times*, from the Isle of Wight, says:—"The magnolia is in full bloom here; primroses and other summer flowers in blow; and last month (December), a fine dish of out-door green peas was pulled and brought to table."

Like cures like, or is expected to do so in Egypt. A telegram from Alexandria says:—"Great excitement prevails among the native population. Hundreds of men are taken forcibly as soldiers for the expedition for the suppression of slavery on the Nile."

It is stated by the Metropolitan Asylums Board, that imbecility, idiocy, and insanity are largely on the increase in the Metropolis. The Board have purchased one hundred acres of land at Darenth, near Dartford, Kent, where an asylum to accommodate five hundred idiot boys is being erected.

The Government have entered into a contract with Colonel Reynolds for the supply of a large number of telephones. Indeed, the introduction of the new invention into the postal service promises to become general. The English patent will, it is said, be sold to a company for a sum of £30,000.

Mr. Archibald Forbes, the well-known correspondent of the *Daily News*, has returned to England. He was in bad health when he started for the seat of war. On his arrival he found that the inclemencies of a winter campaign would be too much for him.

Mr. Leonard Courtney, M.P., in an address at Plymouth upon the rise and decline of national industries, and the migration of industrial centres, remarked that within the present century England would have to face the possibility of the decline of which he does not patiently adduce detailed and abundant evidence; nor have we once felt that the depth and strength of his moral detestation is in any degree in excess; more frequently has it seemed inadequate to this man's enormous crimes against human society. History would be worthless if it did not gibbet the author of the Russian expedition, the treacherous appropriator of Portugal and Spain, and the unscrupulous tyrant of Holland. After the venial homage which too many have paid to Napoleon' successful acquisition of unequalled power, it is an unspeakable satisfaction to find a Frenchman sternly bringing his falsehood, treachery, and tyranny to the tests of ordinary moral principles, and estimating at its true worth the meretricious and treacherous glory which these purchased, 'Let us,' he says, 'abandon the discreditable sophisms which have too long served as an excuse for crimes of which we can only prevent a repetition by representing them in all their frightful reality.' It will be many generations before the evils which Napoleon wrought for France will be remedied."

The Roman correspondent of the *Lancet*, writing before the death of Victor Emmanuel, remarks that the death of General De la Marmora was a great shock to him. The General was his old companion in arms, and trusty councillor. On receipt of the news the King rose from the table, and "was observed to be out of sorts for the rest of the day.

Some interest is still felt in the fate of the three detectives and the solicitor Froggatt. At first they were set to pick oakum, but now they are put to the menial various parts of the prison, and doing what is in reality domestic service. As during the trial, Metklejohn keeps up the best of all, Palmer "frets" very much, and Froggatt is continually "weeping."

The first of the series of drills authorized by the war office in connection with the Volunteer Ambulance Department has taken place at the Albany street barracks, Liverpool. There was a good attendance, and the members, many of whom were in uniform by desire, had the advantage of some important and beneficial practice. These drills will be continued weekly.

Each of our leading publishing firms, says the *Athenæum*, is naturally anxious to give to the world Mr. Stanley's detailed account of his discoveries. It is probable, however, that the profitable task will fall to Messrs. Sampson Low & Co., a member of whose house has gone to the continent to make the necessary arrangements with Mr. Stanley.

The London correspondent of the Liverpool *Courier* jocosely remarks:—"It has begun already. I knew it the moment his Royal Highness crossed the Channel and arrived at Dover. You know what I mean—'The Crown Prince of Austria is going to marry Princess Beatrice.' Her Royal Highness has been so often betrothed to strangers that one more added to the number can be of no earthly consequence."

The Glasgow *Herald* hears that the important post of Colonial Secretary to the Government of Jamaica, which has not been filled up since the death of Mr. Rushworth in the summer, will be conferred upon Mr. E. Newton, C.N.G., at present Colonial Secretary at the Mauritius. Mr. Newton's successor is not at present known, but Lord Carnarvon's idea of shifting able officers from one colony to another will in this case be also followed out.

The Benchers of Dublin have been engaged in investigating a serious charge made against Serjeant Armstrong. It was made by Inspector Croker, who alleges that Serjeant Armstrong had been retained for his defence, and had subsequently taken a brief against him. Both Serjeant Armstrong and Mr. Croker appeared before the Benchers, who decided, by a casting vote of the Lord Chancellor, to leave the matter in the hands of the Bar.

According to the *Printers' Register* there are now published in the United Kingdom 151 daily newspapers, as against 149 at the same period last year. The number is made up thus:—London, 20; the provinces, 89; Wales, 2; Ireland, 19; Jersey, 1. Of these 83 are issued in the morning and 68 in the evening, all the latter, except seven, being halfpenny papers. In politics 67 are returned as Liberal, 41 as Conservative, 29 as Independent, and 14 "of no politics."

William Dunbar, aged 26, residing in Dundee, met with a fearful death at Inverness. He was engaged in repairing the steeple of the Free High church in that town when, either owing to the excessive cold, or from suddenly turning giddy, he lost his footing and fell from a height of 70 feet. He alighted, and was impaled, on a spiked iron railing. His death, fortunately, was instantaneous. Deceased was a native of London, and had previously been a sailor.

The *Fanfulla* gives the exact words of Victor Emmanuel in regard to his policy towards the Pope, as follows:—"I die a Catholic. I have always felt a special affection and deference for the person of the Pope. If by any act performed by me I may have displ