

to be rapidly growing up in the Southern States. At the beginning of the present year there were 1,276,422 spindles and 24,873 looms, an increase of 562,433 spindles and 9,651 looms in three and one-half years. The value of the products of the Southern mills was \$21,000,000 in 1881; it had risen to \$40,000,000 last year. The New England manufacturers will soon require protection against the South, which has the advantage over them of raising its cotton on the spot. Georgia and the Carolinas are the chief seats of this progress, while Florida has her share. In Alabama over 1,000,000 tons of coal were mined last year, and the same wealth, both of iron and coal is possessed by Kentucky and Tennessee. "All these coal, iron, and cotton areas," says the *Chicago Current*, "will within twenty years be under transformation from purely agricultural regions to beehives of manufacturing industry. Old conditions must pass away; the thunder of the steam-hammer and the roar of the furnace, and the whirr of the revolving machinery of cotton mills, are forces more potent than those of self-seeking politicians to break a solid South, dissipate prejudices and equalize political forces." There is momentous truth in this, and if historical confirmation is needed, it will be found in the fact that the North of England which, since the development of manufactures, has been the land of English Liberalism, was the stronghold of Royalism and of all that remained of Feudalism in the time of Charles I. Yet in spite of manufactories and mines, of the thunder of the steam-hammer and the whirr of the cotton mill, the negro problem, social and political, will remain. The fact will remain that two races which cannot intermarry cannot unite and can hardly fail to be more or less hostile to each other.

A BYSTANDER

HERE AND THERE.

APROPOS of the latter-day mania for analyzing foods, and the apparent delight which scientists take in making us uncomfortable by discovering deleterious qualities in almost everything we eat and drink, the *Manchester Examiner* says: "The object of all research, of course, is to discover the truth; but in the interest of the contentment of mankind generally it may be said to be a beautiful dispensation of Providence that the people of the globe generally are not supplied with eyes of microscopic power." It appears that a gigantic electric microscope has lately been exhibited at the Crystal Palace. By its assistance a picture of a drop of unfiltered water was projected on a screen, with the result that there were seen floating about in it numbers of creatures likened to serpents, crocodiles, and forms and figures like those of antediluvian monsters. Sugar and salt, beef and vinegar, cheese, and, of all things, snuff, were magnified with similar results. From the description, this new instrument is more merciless than Herr Teufelsdröckh in his dissection of men from whom all sartorial disguises had been stripped.

AH SIN, the almond-eyed conserver of the pig-tail, continues to be a thorn in the side of his American and Australian fellow-workman. The outcry against the "Heathen Chinese" throughout the Western States, and more particularly in California, is so great that legislative means of checking his immigration are sought. A measure introduced for this purpose by Senator Wilkins is now under consideration by a sub-committee appointed by the Washington Parliament, and is understood to meet with considerable favour. On the other hand, the *Nation* roundly charges the opponents of Chinese labour with envy at "the spectacle of Chinese frugality, industry, and cleanliness," and says these qualities are the reason for American detestation of Chinese. A San Francisco correspondent replies that the bestialities of the Chinese are repugnant to civilized peoples, adding that they might be passed over did there seem to be any possibility of correcting them by allowing their perpetrators to stay, to cast in their lot with Americans, to become citizens of the State, as other immigrants become its citizens. But it is pointed out, that even the bones of John have to return to China—the safety of his immortal soul demands the pigtail and a final resting-place within the borders of the Flowery Kingdom. Damnation is for him averted *per contract*, and his forwarders to these shores agree to return him, dead or alive. "And this is the conclusive argument against the Chinaman. Not that he works for too small wages, not that his rate of living is too low, but that he comes here as a parasite—to feed upon our substance, not to increase it. In and about the city of San Francisco there are many thousand Italians, who, with the Chinese, monopolize certain work, especially market-gardening and fishing on the Bay. They live for at least as little as the Chinese, they work for as small wages, they have made it impossible for Americans to compete with them in their chosen labour; yet no man ever heard any Californian propose a restriction of Italian immigration. The Italian comes here to stay; his family, if he has any, comes with him; poorly qualified as he is to become

a citizen of a republic, he is welcome. We have faith to believe that his children will be an improvement over their father."

As usual, an undue significance is given in the American press to the announcement that a "mass meeting" was held on Saturday in the Princess Hall, Piccadilly, London, "for the purpose of denouncing the policy of the Government." The cablegram adds that an overflow meeting took place in St. James' square. Now, the Princess Hall is of very limited proportions, and therefore no importance ought to be attached to the fact that an "overflow meeting" was found necessary, especially when it is remembered that Saturday afternoon is a half holiday for the majority of employés in London. But in estimating the value of mass meetings in the metropolis it is more important still to remember that the slightest pretext is sufficient to bring together a huge crowd of what might be called the floating population of the streets—a constituency which, on Saturday afternoon, includes the average working man, the professional loafer, the man who loafs because he can get no work, the genuine rough, the thief, and the pickpocket. Those who are familiar with so-called people's "demonstrations" in Hyde Park and Trafalgar Square know perfectly well that widely divergent reasons will call exactly the same crowd together—a crowd which, as a rule, does not include the employed artisan, and cares as little about politics as it does about the origin of species, and which, like the Irishman, is homogeneous only in being "agin the Government," whoever is in power. These agglomerations are always critical, and shout with cheerful impartiality for the downfall of Government or the extension of the suffrage. These are the people who cheer Mr. Bradlaugh to the echo, accompany him to Palace Yard, and who would laugh at his execution. This residuum—the great unwashed—is the stuff "mass meetings" in London are usually made of. Baron Borthwick, Sir Robert Peel, and Lord Randolph Churchill, who were the speakers at Princess Hall, make use of this element to impress the country and foreign nations, but nobody in London is deceived by such meetings. Just as Lord Beaconsfield used the Music Hall Jingoos to bamboozle the country, so the tail of the Opposition uses the mob in its attempt to discredit Mr. Gladstone. In fact, the whole policy of the insubordinate Tories is based upon Gladstonophobia, which in turn is the outcome of a cheap Jingo effervescence.

THE Athens Archæological Society has decided to make researches at the bottom of the sea in the Bay of Salamis, where the famous naval battle between the Greeks and Persians was fought. The water is not very deep in the Bay, and it is hoped that the enterprise will succeed. Since the Greeks lost about fifty and the Persians nearly two hundred galleys, which have since been lying undisturbed at the bottom of the sea, it is thought that it may be possible to bring up some complete specimens, or at least portions of them, which may afford more accurate knowledge of the naval architecture of the old Hellenes and the Persians than can be gathered from their writings. The attempt is looked forward to with great interest.

A GREAT public benefit is to be conferred in Paris. The "pledges" left by the poor in the bureaux of the Mont de Piété are to be liberated by a Government grant of over 3,000,000 francs. What this means to many a starving being left in perforced idleness—by the forfeit of the very instruments of labour, upon which a few francs, to save a dying child or find bread for hungry mouths, have been raised—may be easily imagined. Strange that a Government performing such an act of charity should at the same time turn a whole colony of honest toilers adrift!

DISCUSSING the Reform Bill now before the Imperial House of Commons, in its most caustic style, the *Saturday Review* says:

If differences of opinion as to proposed methods are easily smoothed over, it will be wholly unnecessary to reconcile the conflicting reasons and motives which will induce Liberals and Radicals to vote for any measure which Mr. Gladstone proposes. In a humorous story published long ago a set of jovial boon companions apologize to one another for taking a dram. One of them takes a glass of brandy because the day is sultry, and another because he has felt unusually chilly all morning. Only one out of half a dozen confesses he takes his dram because he likes it. The proportion of those who like the coming Reform Bill will perhaps not be much larger, but there will be no lack of excuses for conformity. Mr. Chamberlain avowedly hopes to dis-establish the Church, to introduce payment of members, and in some indefinite way to mulct the richer classes, and especially the landowners, for the benefit of the poorer. On these grounds he supports household and eventually universal suffrage and equal electoral districts. Mr. Forster desires to maintain the Church Establishment, and it may be presumed that he disapproves of all Mr. Chamberlain's revolutionary measures; but he likes a dram because the day is chilly; or, in other words, he also supports a uniform and low franchise and equal electoral districts. There can be little doubt that Mr. Chamberlain judges more accurately than his less violent ally of the future consequences of democratic despotism; but many politicians have, like Mr. Forster, accustomed themselves to regard the diffusion of electoral power as an ultimate object. Mr. Forster himself passed the Ballot Bill, which has done more than any other measure to destroy the influence of the upper and middle classes. When the work is completed by the impending Bill, he will perhaps regret the destruction or insecurity of the best national institutions.