milk to make a pound of cheese, it took only 8 lbs. 14 oz. in October; the milk at the later period being smaller in quantity but better in quality. The whole season's average is about 10 lbs.

The Orillia *Times* says that the Sunday evening meetings of the Y. M. C. A. have, for several months, been carried on with difficulty owing to the annoyance of a few roughs, whose only ambition is to show how they can disgrace themselves and parents by their conduct. One of them has just been made an example of.

Mr. Patrick Kennedy, of the Aboyne flax mills, it is rumoured has absconded. A meeting of a number of his principal creditors was held here yesterday afternoon. At the assemblage his brother stated that he had reason to believe the assets would cover the liabilities. Hard times are tales unfolding, says the Elora *Express*.

The Bracebridge *Free Grant Gazette* a few weeks ago announced that it would assume a position of neutrality in politics, the reason being that the place could not support two papers, one on each side. But as it has since been intimated that a Conservative paper will be started there next month, the *Gazette* at once goes back to the "Reform" side of the fence.

A Guelph paper says: There seems to be an immense crop of hogs in the country and prices keep declining:—Jas. Welch, Toronto, sold to Geo. Lees & Co., two cars of hogs delivered in Guelph, at $4.70, and four cars at $4.50 at Guelph, also one car to Hood, McKenzie & Goodfellow at $4.70 and 4,000 hams at 7c to J. T. Brill. These hogs are shipped from Essex county.

The Guelph Cattle Fair held on Wednesday, 6th inst., was but poorly attended, and prices ruled very low. The *Herald* says that some cattle were sold at 2½ cents a pound, and some very good cattle were disposed of at 3½. A considerable number of cattle was offered. A number of farmers, however, took their cattle home early in the day, refusing to sell at the figures offered.

At a supper given to the Warden of Frontenac recently, that gentleman spoke to the following effect:—"The old system of joint-stock roads served its purpose forty years ago, and is now at least twenty years behind the age. Tolls are a fossilized relic which do not become even an ancient county like Frontenac. They are seedy and old-fashioned, the free system making Lennox and Addington quite modern beside it."

Says the Port Elgin *Busy Times*:—"A person with a glib tongue is now canvassing this village endeavouring to dispose of a powder to be used in lamps, which he says will improve the light given by coal oil, and remedy smoking chimneys. The Paisleyites, who have been 'roped in' by the wonderful powder, are now disgusted with the effect of this 'common salt and indigo mixture,' and weep for their 25 cents paid per box."

A Guelph paper says that at Loretto Convent there the other day gathered seventeen men, seventeen bucksaws, and seventeen sawhorses. There had been gathered there before some forty-one cords of hardwood. And the object of the first mentioned gathering was the bisection of the second ditto. It was a bee. And the seventeen men sawed every stick of the forty-one cords in one day into two pieces. Good work—for a bee.

The Milton *News* thus gives its opinion on a matter of some interest:—"We do heartily detest the practice quite prevalent of late of making the occasion of a church opening an opportunity to test the extent of a man's liberality, and devise various means to absorb the few hard-earned dollars he may have in his wallet, and which, if properly expended, might liquidate some of his own personal debts. Churches are growing mad in the competitive race, and it is really schocking to hear of some methods adopted for raising money."

In some of the notarial forms of leases drawn up this season between landlords and tenants, the clause providing that the tenants are to pay the taxes and the water rates imposed upon the property "by the Corporation" has been extended by the addition of the words "or by any other competent or constituted authority." This is evidently done to cover the possibility of the Corporation being superseded by some other system of municipal government. —*Quebec Chronicle.*

A Western paper says that about two weeks ago Mrs. Wm. Stroud, 7th con. of Dereham, twisted a live fish over two and one-half inches long. Last August after taking a drink of water Mrs. Stroud told her husband that she thought she had swallowed something in the water. Since that time she has been constantly ailing, and her illness terminated in the strange way above described. The fish lived for twenty-four hours in water, and then Mr. Stroud killed it.

In Kingston a day or two ago, Mr. William Johnson, feeling hard up, concluded to offend the law, and by that means provide himself with lodgings in the county gaol. He first stole a parcel of goods from Mr. Waldron's, but he was detected in the act, the property taken from him, and allowed to go. He immediately went around to Mr. P. Harty's, and attempted to walk off with a lady's cloak. For this he was arrested, and this morning he got what he was working for—three months in gaol.

In the year 1860 Dr. DeGrassi rendered professional services to a man at that time residing near Lindsay. The same year he left Canada for the United States and the doctor heard nothing more of his patient, who had altogether passed out of his memory. The week before last, however, he received a letter from his "long lost" with five dollars "for services rendered" in 1860. For some time the doctor could not place this honest man, and it was only after a great deal of thinking that he remembered him.

We learn that Judge Watters in Chambers has given a decision in the case of J. H. Miller, charged with forgeries in Atlanta, Ga., and whose extradition was asked for under the Ashburton Treaty. Miller's counsel contended that the Treaty is not in force, the British law giving effect to it having been repealed. Judge Watters held that the Dominion law of 1868 gave effect to the treaty, and he ordered the prisoner's committal to gaol to await surrender to the United States authorities. Miller, through his counsel, will appeal.

The investigation of the Moncton mystery has finally concluded. The four Osbornes were committed for trial at the next term of the Circuit Court. The Parker girl is to be held in strict custody to await orders from the Attorney-General. It is reported that some new proof against the prisoners has been discovered, but the authorities are reticent. The Government is urged to offer a large reward for the recovery of McCarthy's body. Interest in the affair continues to increase throughout the Province, and there is much excitement in Moncton and the vicinity.

Miss Junkin, a young lady belonging to Brantham township, narrowly escaped being shot one night lately. Between ten and eleven o'clock at night, a gang of men passed along the road, which caused the dog on the premises to make considerable noise. Miss Junkin raised the window of her room to call the dog in, when some one in the crowd fired a pistol, the ball from which entered the window and struck within two feet from where the lady stood. Whether the shot was fired at her or the dog is not known, but it was fired with the result stated.

It will be remembered by some of our citizens, says the Petrolia *Advertiser*, that some time ago, Mr. Wm. Anderson, the popular landlord of the Anderson House, was brought before the Mayor on a charge of purloining a pocket-book containing $42, belonging to a man under the influence of liquor. The evidence not being sufficient to convict, Mr. Anderson was honourably acquitted. One day recently, when the chambermaid was making up the bed, in turning over the tick to shake it, out fell the pocket-book containing the exact amount of money lost. This was the bed and room occupied by the man.

THE ENGLISH MAIL.

Interesting Summary of News.

PARLIAMENTARY.

Business done in Parliament has not been of much importance so far.

In Committee of the whole House Sir C. Adderley obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to merchant seamen by placing them under the operation of the Employers and Workmen's Act, and abolishing arrest without warrant up to and until they went to serve on board ship, and consolidating and amending the discipline law of seamen.

A bill "for the punishment of fraudulent debtors and for other purposes," introduced by the Lord Chancellor, contains penalties for a bankrupt not making full disclosure of his affairs, not giving up all his property and all books and documents relating thereto, falsifying books or papers, absconding with property, fradulently obtaining credit, making false claims, and other offences.

MR. STANLEY IN ENGLAND.

Mr. Stanley has arrived in England. At Folkstone he was welcomed by the Mayor and Corporation, and expressed his gratification at his reception. He left for London amid loud cheers. The report that the Royal Geographical Society had resolved to extend no welcome to Mr. H. M. Stanley until he had sufficiently explained the circumstances under which he made war upon and slew many of the natives in Central Africa turns out to be altogether untrue. Mr. Stanley has been asked to read a paper before the Society, a deputation from the Council will wait upon him to congratulate him on his return to England, and, further, he will be asked to a dinner.

MERCHANT SHIPPING

Mr. MacIver, the member for Birkenhead, intends to propose "That a select committee be appointed to enquire into the powers with which the Board of Trade has been entrusted, and particularly as regards the operation of recent statutes relating to merchant shipping, and as to whether any or what changes may be desirable, with a view to a more complete separation of the executive duties of the marine and railway departments of the Board of Trade."

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

A great meeting of railway servants was to be held at Exeter Hall on the 30th inst. to consider legislative means of preventing the immense number of accidents to railway servants and the public. Three thousand and twenty-two railway servants were killed, and 11,476 injured, in the years 1873, 1874, 1875, and 1876, no compensation being given, and in consequence there is a strong agitation. Mr T. Brassey, M.P., was to take the chair, and about a dozen members of Parliament promised to attend.

PRINCE LEOPOLD.

Prince Leopold's illness is once more the subject of general discussion. The precise name of his complaint is known to the doctors as hæmaphilia, one of the numerous phases of debility assignable to hereditary causes. Its symptoms are, broadly speaking, a constantly recurring, subcutaneous hæmorrhage, aggravated at any time when, as often occurs, the outer skin is broken. The chronic sufferings of the Prince are described, by those who can appreciate the real nature of the malady, as severe, occasionally culminating in paroxysms of acute pain. It is difficult, says a London correspondent, to reconcile the Prince's physical state with the story so frequently put about that it is his intention to enter holy orders. The same restrictions which apply to ordination of infirm and maimed commoners could hardly be waived in the case of a Prince, and it is more than probable that his Royal Highness intends no more than to devote himself, should his health permit, to the active duties of a lay helper to the clergy of Windsor or the Isle of Wight, or wherever his medical adviser recommends him to take up his permanent abode. I believe, too, that the real foundation for all these rumours is the disinclination which the Prince has more than once expressed to receive any territorial title, as usual with the younger sons of the sovereign, which should confer upon him a seat in the House of Lords."

EMIGRATION TO THE COLONIES.

The London correspondent of the Glasgow *Herald* says that an Association is being formed to stop the tide of emigration to the colonies—not on the ground that the colonies are over-populated, but because there is more land in Britain that there are hands to cultivate, and thirty millions of acres not at present under cultivation.

THE CATTLE TRADE.

A deputation from the Foreign Cattle Trade Association has waited upon the Duke of Richmond to protest against any restrictions upon the importation of cattle from abroad being embodied in the bill which he is to introduce this session. The Duke of Richmond said he could only promise to consider the deputation's statements.

THE CANADIAN MILITIA.

"Observer" writes to the *Times*:—"During a profound peace with a friendly neighbour, whose standing army is less than 25,000 men, it would be most uncalled for for the Canadian Government, even if it had the means, to call out, arm, and equip its reserve militia of 600,000 men. I repeat, however, that this enormous force is enrolled, and every man must turn out when called on or take the consequences. No such law, I believe, exists in any part of the Empire, and the Canadians deserve credit for it. With regard to the active militia, it is seven years since the Fenian raid mentioned by your correspondent 'Linesman,' during which time there has been a great improvement. I saw very fine regiments last September in Canada, and from that time have been impressed with the source of strength stored up in such young and loyal nations as Canada and Australia on the flanks of our Empire. Their hearty co-operation, which is to be had for the asking, alone is wanted to enable us to garrison India in case of war, and set our army there free to support the interests of England where it may be most required."

LIBEL ACTION BY AN EDITOR.

In the Court of Appeal at Westminster, the case of Leyman v. Latimer and others came on. This was an appeal from the decision of Barons Cleasby and Pollock in the Exchequer Division, who held that it is libellous to call a man a "felon" who has been convicted of a felony, but has undergone his sentence and is thereby placed in the position of a man who has received the Queen's pardon under the Great Seal. The libels complained of were contained in certain paragraphs in the *Western Daily Mercury*, wherein the plaintiff, who is the editor and proprietor of the Dartmouth *Advertiser*, was spoken of as "a convicted felon," and again as a "felon editor." The defence was a justification on the ground that the plaintiff had been convicted of stealing feathers and had been sentenced to twelve months' hard labour. To this the plaintiff replied by admitting the conviction and sentence, but pleaded that, having endured the sentence imposed by law, he became in the same situation as if he had been pardoned by the Crown. To this reply the defendants demurred. The action having gone to trial before Lord (then Justice) Blackburn without a jury, that learned judge gave judgment for the defendants on the ground that the statements complained of were literally true. A rule for a new trial having been obtained, came on to be argued with the demurrers. The Court below held that, upon the authorities, it was clear that the plaintiff's contention as to his status after having undergone his sentence was correct, and that it was an actionable libel to call him "a felon editor." With regard to the words, "he is a convicted felon," their Lordships differed from the view taken by Mr. Justice Blackburn, who held that they meant only that he had been convicted of felony. If that was all that they meant, it would have been easy to phrase it differently, and a man who is making a defamatory and injurious statement of another must take care to keep within the literal truth. Their Lordships now affirmed the decision of the Court below, and dismissed the appeal with costs.

AMERICAN HANDICRAFT.

Mr. Goldwin Smith writes to the *Times*:—"Mr. John Fernie first fastened on me the statement that America would not produce machinery. In his letter published by you this day he fastens on me the statement that she will not produce rifles. I said neither the one nor the other. I was addressing a School of Art, and I said that with regard to the lighter, finer, and more elegant goods, such as the Schools of Art are specially intended to improve, the old countries, with their cultivated taste, would long have an advantage over the new."

FORGED LIQUOR BRANDS.

Some of the principal distillers have united in common action for the discovery and punishment of retail dealers who sell under their brands inferior liquors. A wine and spirit merchant in Chester has been convicted of the fraud of selling three hogsheads of whiskey purporting to be the genuine "John Jameson," whereas it was something quite different. He had obtained casks bearing an imitation of the well-known brand, and, filling them with some other stuff, had sent it in fulfilment of an order for the real thing. The principal Irish distillers have united in offering a reward of £500 for a conviction of offenders in a similar way of business.

Mayfair remarks upon this:—"We venture to suggest to Messrs. Bass & Co. and Messrs. Allsopp & Sons that the matter is worth their looking into. There is no doubt that tens of thousands of bottles of ale are sold bearing the brand of Allsopp or Bass, but which have no other connection with the firms. This is especially the case in small towns. It is not a matter difficult to manage. A retail dealer having obtained a supply of the labels with a corresponding quantity of ale, may go on filling and sending out the returned bottles till the labels drop off. Some painstaking upholders of the truth, having finished a pint bottle of Bass or Allsopp, are accustomed to take a knife and cut down the middle of the label. But few will take this trouble, and the fraud prospers. It would be worth the while of our great brewers to devote some attention to this matter. A conviction such as that obtained in the whiskey case at Chester would have a very wholesome effect."

A GOOD IDEA.

An interesting social experiment is about to be tried in Edinburgh. A "Sanitary Protection Association" is in course of formation, with the object of giving sound and cheap sanitary advice to its members. By clubbing together, the body will do at small cost what would cost each member a considerable sum but for the application of the co-operative principle; and the recommendations made will be subject to the control not only of a professional man of high standing, but also to that of a body of men of many professions, who will form the council of management. The Association will retain the exclusive services of one or more young but well-trained engineers, who will act under the general superintendence of a consulting engineer of high standing. The premises of each member will, in the first instance, be very thoroughly inspected, and a report furnished, giving, if need be, specific recommendations as to improvements in drainage, ventilation, and water supply, with estimates. Any alterations in his sanitary fittings which the member makes, with the approval of the Society's officers, will be supervised by them. The first inspection of each house will of course be of special importance; but although sanitary appliances are once set in order there is no security that they will remain so. There are numberless ways in which drains may go wrong, in their legitimate as well as illegitimate use, and to guarantee continued efficiency periodic examinations must be made. The engineer of the Association will inspect every member's house once a year, and give a report upon the state. Besides these privileges, a member about to build a house may receive advice on the sanitary merits of his architect's plans, or one about to buy or hire a house may send the engineer of the Association to report upon it. All the inspections will be carried out on general lines laid down by the consulting engineer. The fees charged will be regulated in proportion to the rental of the buildings, examined in such a way as to prevent the abuse of this rule.

RUSSIAN DEFENCES IN THE BLACK SEA.

Manthorpe Bey, the English commodore of the Turkish flying squadron, has returned to Pera, and reports that Sebastopol is practically impregnable against a sea attack, even if it were made by the whole English navy. Sebastopol is defended by huge earworks, armed with 35-ton guns. The Bey also reports that Kertah is impregnable, and that the Russian artillery fire exhibits good practice, several shells having, at different times, burst on the decks of the Turkish ironclads, fortunately without doing any injury. He speaks of the Turkish sailors as being courageous fighters, as well as good seamen.

COMING GREAT STRIKE.

The strike of the London carpenters is expected to begin towards the close of February. It was the intention of the leaders of the men to give the masters a longer period for the consideration of their demands, but the employers having taken no notice of the appeal for a rise, it has been determined to organize the strike at once.

PAUPERS IN SCOTLAND.

The actual number of paupers of all classes in receipt of relief on the 14th of May last in Scotland was 100,640, being a decrease of 2,018 from the previous year. The ratio per cent. of paupers to the rest of the population is 2·8, against 2·9 last year. These figures show a diminution of pauperism very marked and satisfactory; for in 1869 136,065 paupers received relief on the same day, and formed 4·1 per cent. of the population. The gain has been very great; nor is it the less striking when we reflect that the years which have elapsed since the last named date have been years in which trade, and there'ore highly-paid employment, have been suffering from a gradual but real and progressive decline.

REPRESENTATION OF CLARE.

Sir Bryan O'Loughlin, M.P. for Clare, who has accepted a Government situation in Australia, has resigned the representation of the county. The hon. gentleman was elected for Clare in August last.

A BIG REFORM IMPENDING.

The London correspondent of the Leeds *Mercury* writes:—"I believe the Corporation of the City of London have agreed at last to accept the inevitable, and that before long a bill may be expected which will promote a thorough reform of London Government. What the precise terms of this will be is as yet unknown. The probability, however, is that the vestries will be swept away, and the jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor made paramount over the entire metropolis, instead of being confined to the City.

THE TELEPHONE.

This invention continues to excite great interest on the part of scientific men and also of the general public. At a meeting of the Physical Society Mr. W. H. Preece, of the Postal Telegraph Department, read a paper on "Some Physical Points connected with the Telephone." The invention is not only of value as a new means of oral communication, but it gives us a new instrument of research of extreme delicacy. For the examination of certain kinds of electricity, it is the most sensitive yet invented, and it has rendered evident currents which, though suspected, have hitherto eluded the grasp of the electrician. It is, indeed, the extreme delicacy which originates the difficulties that lie in the way of its practical application for communication. As a generator of a species of current hitherto unknown, it is, too, a source of electricity novel and unique. For several months the application of the telephone to telegraphy has been studied by the Post Office staff, but all attempts to increase its power have hitherto failed. It is known that a horse-shoe shaped magnet is the best; but all changes in this or a bar magnet, as to size or strength, have no apparent effect on the speaking power. It has been found there is a remarkable difference in the power of different voices. Shouting is no use; a clear intonation and distinct articulation are the qualities required. Voices need to be trained for speaking through great length of wire; and Mr. Preece mentioned that there is one voice in the Post Office staff which he has heard clearly when others have been quite inaudible. Among the other troubles electricians have to contend with are "leakage" arising from the difficulties of obtaining perfect insulation, and "bad earths," or the imperfect connections for the currents which have to go to earth. So delicate is the instrument, that a flash of lightning in the neighbourhood of one end causes electrical disturbances which produce sound at the other end. So minute are the amplitudes of the vibrations of the disc that all attempts at measurement have so far failed. Mr. Preece takes a hopeful view of the possibility of bringing the telephone into general use.

The *Daily News* says that on Tuesday night communication was established between the House of Commons and the *Daily News*, in Bouverie street, by means of the telephone, which was specially attached to the ordinary telegraph wires running between the House and the *Daily News* office. Conversation was distinctly audible, and part of the Parliamentary debate and summary in its issue of yesterday was received by this agency.

A correspondent of the Glasgow *Herald* writes:—"An amusing and highly successful telephone experiment was made at Wishaw yesterday. Mr. Mitchell, draper, has a theory that 'all the talk about magnetism and electricity in connection with the telephone is merely to hood-wink the public.' All that is required to conduct sound, he says, is merely a connection of 'any kind' between the bells. To illustrate this he yesterday supplied himself with a couple of old tin coffee canisters and a two-penny ball of twine, and along with a number of friends went to the Public Park to experiment. A hole was bored in the bottom of each of the coffee canisters, and the twine being opened out (about 200 yards) a canister was fixed to each end, with a common shirt button to prevent the cord from slipping. Mr. Mitchell now announced the telephone to be in working order, and applying his mouth to one of the canisters, a newspaper reporter put his ear to the other, and was immediately greeted, in clear and distinct tones, with 'How do you do?' A regular conversation was then carried on for about a quarter of an hour. Several songs were sung, and in much 'Auld Lang syne,' the words were clear and distinct, while in songs with rollicking airs, such as 'Paddy, says she, but you bother me,' the words, from the rapid succession in which they followed each other, were not so easily made out. In the evening the same 'instrument' was tested in houses on opposite sides of the street, and the result was equally successful."

THE DIOCESE OF LONDON.

A bitter discussion is going on as to the need of a second or coadjutor Bishop of London. According to the supporters of this view, East London is totally unknown to the Bishop of the Diocese, the Bishop is unknown to the clergy and laity of East London, and that from this results great loosening of the control which should keep the Church in order. The expedient they suggest is the appointment either of a suffragan Bishop to the existing prelate, or the subdivision of the diocese into East and West. The *Leeds Mercury* says:—"In this case the original diocese would retain all the prestige, power, emoluments, and seat in the House of Lords, which are now the attribute of the entire see, whilst the holder of the new diocese would be little more than a general superintendent, without position, influence, or means of sustaining the enormous demands upon his means, which his connection with so many poor parishes would entail. It is to be sincerely hoped that neither the Church, by the consecration of a suffragan, nor the State, by the unequal division of the existing diocese, will commit a fatal blunder, which can have no other result than to widen more and more the gulf which already yawns between the aims, lives, and aspirations of East and West London."

ITEMS.

At Dundee an old woman and her daughter have been suffocated in bed by gas escaping through a fractured pipe.

Baron Grant's house at Kensington Gardens is to be sold this month by auction, by urgent orders of the mortgagees.

A Roman Catholic journal alludes to the late King of Italy as "the foul carrion that is now rotting in the Pantheon."

A series of meetings is being held throughout the western counties in opposition to the practice of auricular confession.

The *Belfast News* expresses great satisfaction at the falling off of emigration to Canada, as shown by the official Canadian figures lately published.

At the meeting of the Belgian Chambers, the Minister of the Interior asked for a grant of fifty thousand pounds for fortifications along the Scheldt.

The attention of the House of Lords is to be called to another work on the confessional. In this instance the book is the work of the Rev. Dr. Pusey.

The funeral of ex-Sergeant McCarthy, the Fenian prisoner, was "immense," and only exceeded by that of O'Connell. About 100,000 persons were present.

Lord Lytton has gained greatly of late in public opinion, and many who when he first he arrived had but a poor idea of him, have been obliged to change their estimate.

It is said that the passing of the Mines Regulations Bill has resulted in the addition of an annual sum of fourteen millions sterling to the cost of raising coal in England.

The Irish members are going to move for a Parliamentary Commission to inquire into the prison treatment of the late Sergeant McCarthy, and the circumstances attending his death.

Osman Pasha denies that he committed or sanctioned any Turkish cruelties to Russian prisoners or wounded. On the contrary he hanged five Bashi-bazouks detected in marauding.

Mr. W. A. Donnelly, a promising young artist of the Scotch school, has been commanded by the Prince of Wales to paint a large picture in commemoration of his visit to the Duke of Hamilton.

Birley Carr Wesleyan chapel, near Sheffield, a new edifice, was opened for worship on Sunday, the 20th, and destroyed by fire shortly afterwards through defects in the heating apparatus.

The Manchester School Board has petitioned the House of Commons to prevent young children from vending articles in the public streets for lengthened periods and at untimely hours without regulation or control.

The result of the polling at Greenock was the election of Mr. James Stewart, of Garvock, the advanced Liberal candidate. Sir James Fergusson, the Conservative, was second; Mr. Donald Currie, third; and Mr. Scott Moncrieff, fourth.

The *Morning Post* states that the marriage of Mr. Lionel Tennyson, younger son of the Poet Laureate, and Miss Eleanor Locker, daughter of Mr. Frederick and the late Lady Charlotte Locker, will take place at Westminster Abbey early in March.

The Queen has given instructions for a set of telephones to be supplied at Osborne House. Telephones are already laid down to Lord Derby's residance in St. James' Square, and even that drowsy monarch the Shah of Persia is to be supplied with these instruments.

Mr. J. Whitwell Pease, M.P., intends to reintroduce this session his bill for the abolition of capital punishment. He has secured a favourable opportunity for its discussion, viz., the first place on the list of debates in the House of Commons for Wednesday, March 13th.

New Zealand is economising, and has commenced with the Ministry, a bill having been introduced to reduce the salaries of the Ministers. It has also been decided that the financial conditiof of the colony will not warrant any expenditure on the organization of its defences.

At the election of Royal Academicians the other day, three ladies were proposed as candidates, but were unanimously rejected on grounds more decisive than logical, which found expression in the words attributed to Mr. Horsley, R. A.—"We don't want any womankind here!"

According to the latest advices from the Cape, Sir Bartle Frere, replying to a deputation at King William's Town, said he thought the crisis very serious, but believed that the Galekas were subdivided, and that the Galkas were not in such a disaffected condition as was generally reported.

The planting of trees in the London streets excites much interest. Eight or ten gentlemen have expressed their willingness to pay half the expense of planting the Euston road with trees from the Angel Inn, Islington, to the Edgware road, provided the municipality are willing to pay the other moiety.

The irrepressible "Bob" Lowe has written the following letter on the Eastern difficulty to a gentleman in South Wales:—"Dear sir, I am of opinion that the occupation of Constantinople by Russia would neither injure our trade nor endanger India, and I should be adverse to our going to war on that ground."

In consequence of failing health, Mr. Henley, who has sat for the county of Oxford in the Conservative interest since 1841, has issued an address stating his intention of retiring from the representation. The right hon. gentleman was President of the Board of Trade in the first and second Administrations formed by the late Lord Derby. Mr. Henley is in his 85th year.

On the front of a house in Albert Terrace, Knightsbridge, has been recently painted, in large letters, the inscription, "Naboth's Vineyard." The house is the residence of Mr. Charles Meade, and the legend is supposed to refer to a prevalent idea that some one covets the site, desiring to pull down the modest tenements and erect magnificent mansions.

As renewed efforts are about to be made to encourage emigration to Brazil, the Colonial Office will either re-issue the old warning to intending emigrants to South America or prepare a new statement setting forth the risks run by Englishmen attempting to settle in a country where the manners, religion, laws, and language are entirely different from what they have been accustomed to.

The Paris correspondent of the *Scotsman* writes:—"I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Stanley here. He appears in excellent health, after all his hardships and dangers. His hair is a good deal whiter, and his skin a good deal browner than when he left Paris three years and a half ago, but he looks as strong and determined as ever. He is keeping the cream of his information for London, and has simply thrown us a few anecdotes concerning hairbreadth escapes."

The pawnbrokers are threatened with serious competition. A prospectus has been issued of a company entitled the "Mont de Piété of England," with a capital of one million, divided into certificates of £10 each. The object is to establish here large pawn-broking institutions based on the principle that has been current for many years abroad. The rate of interest to be charged to borrowers is 12½ per cent. The present authorized and legal charges made by pawn-brokers are 20 per cent.

After long investigations and trials the officials of the Royal Gun Factories and the officers composing the Select Committee have agreed upon the form of a 12-pounder gun with which it is probable that the Royal Horse Artillery and light field batteries will be armed in place of the present 9-pounder. It is a very much more powerful and efficient weapon, and the carriage and equipment having been considerably lightened, there will be scarcely any more weight behind the team than at present.

The London School Board have passed a resolution allowing to candidates and pupil teachers, for the purpose of private study, one hour and a half per day during school hours, the time being left to the discretion of the head teacher, provided always that the candidates and pupil teachers must attend the Scripture lesson of the head teacher at least one morning in the week for the purpose of acquiring the art of teaching.

It is announced in the London papers that the cable of the Direct United States Company, between Torbay, Nova Scotia, and Rye Beach, New Hampshire, is interrupted. The interruption does not affect the transmission of messages between Europe and the United States and Canada, which are now sent from Torbay by the Company's alternative route, *via* the lines of the Dominion of Canada and Western Union Telegraph Companies.

A farmer named William White, 36, committed suicide at the village of Walesby, eight miles from Retford, in Lincolnshire, through fear of exposure by an action for breach of promise of marriage. He was married on the 2nd of December last, but, having subsequently received two or three letters from a Lincoln lawyer threatening him with an action for breach of promise of marriage with his old love, he became much affected, locked himself in one of his barns, and hanged himself.

The Master of the Rolls has suspended two solicitors, Mr. Lowe, of Liverpool, for two years, and Mr. Le Riche, of London, for six months. They had made a secret arrangement with one another for the division of a commission to be obtained by Mr. Lowe from the vendor, on his finding a purchaser for an Irish estate. The purchaser heard of the arrangement, and that led to the matter coming before the Incorporated Law Society, who brought these proceedings.

There seems some prospect that the hardened glass introduced recently by M. de la Bastie will soon be sold as cheap as ordinary glass. At a recent meeting of the French Society of Encouragement M. de Luynes made a communication in the name of M. de la Bastie, on the progress which the industry has been making since first it was brought into notice. Numerous specimens were shown, of the most varied and accurate forms—lamp-glasses, gas-globes, goblets of various forms, tumblers, mortars, and pestles.

The Government have determined to make an attempt to meet the complaint of inadequate Parliamentary reporting, urged from some quarters during the debate on Mr. Hanbury-Tracy's (Lord Sudeley) motion last session. They have arranged to increase the allowance paid to Mr. Hansard, that gentleman undertaking to provide longer reports of proceedings in committee and after one o'clock in the morning, these being periods of debate which the morning papers are inclined to deal with in summary fashion. The arrangement is tentative. It will come into operation this session, and if it be found to work well the principle may be further extended.

At the Hampshire Assizes yesterday, Tom Fat, the young Chinaman who pleaded guilty to forging the name of his master, Lord Charles Beresford, Commander of H.M.S. Thunderer, and defrauding him thereby of large sums of money, came up for judgment. The prisoner was bought for $25 by Lord Beresford of his father, in China, and in his position as confidential servant he defrauded his master of about £1,400 since 1874. Mr. Justice Mellor told the prisoner that his skill in penmanship was a remarkable gift, and by a clever imitation of his master's name he had proved himself to be a dangerous person, whom he ought not to let loose upon society. His Lordship then sentenced him to five years' penal servitude for each of the three charges which the prisoner had admitted, but ordered the sentences to be concurrent, the term thus virtually being five years.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER

American Competition and the Free Trade Philosophers—The Old Masters—A Visit to the House of Commons—Hanlan and Higgins—Miscellaneous.

LONDON, Jan. 24.

Each issue of the London papers brings news of a fresh depression in trade; of yet another district in which hundreds of men have been thrown out of work and countless families plunged into a starving condition. Trades' Unions, thinking men say, have mistaken the course of action which would justify their existence. In place of being benevolent aids, they have been injurious and too often malicious instigators of the very evils which it would be their natural and legitimate mission to ward off. They have disintegrated the whole machinery of British business, put it out of gear, and driven the work to neighbouring countries. The great contractors are getting their woodwork—frames, mouldings, doors and flooring, prepared in Sweden, who by the bye has just ceded her only West Indian island—St. Bartholomew—to France; other branches of the building trade have gone to Belgium, and I know a case where a week ago a banker here sent for the man of whom he had ordered a new set of books, and complaining of the delay was told that for a month after Christmas it was impossible to get such jobs done in London; but that he expected the books in question over from Belgium the next day. The Cunard Company is getting the fittings of their new steamer Gallia made in Japan. Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad. Every trade has its Joseph Arch, and it is easy to see that the not very distant result is a more dangerous collision than yet has occurred between capital and labour. But, I may here note, it is not only to European states that the unsettled condition of English trade has driven those whose duty it is to supply the public with the necessaries of every day life. Pins are coming from the United States, and in every shop where such things are sold American calico is offered as the best and cheapest. As an Anglo-Canadian, jealous of imperial prestige, I feel exasperated by the apathy of the over-educated doctrinaires who fail to see the signs of the times, and wrapping themselves in a panoply of ethics and metaphysics preach, preach, preach till the hard common-sense of the country is drowned in the daily, weekly, and monthly torrent of pseudo-philosophy. I have not come to that point when I am content to hug myself on living 5,000 miles off, and to vote England what the witty Fijian called it, "a civilized tom-tom," made up of thirteen shilling trowsers, counterfeit coins, adulterated food, secret poisonings, baby farming, and a divorce court."

I think there are few such enjoyable methods of spending a wet morning in London as doing the now annual exhibition of old masters at Burlington House. It is to the Academy, which opens in May, what Shakespeare is to Miss Braddon. An acquaintance with even the outline of half the history and biography on the walls is itself a liberal education. The first gallery of this year's collection of pictures, lent by the art-worshippers and old families of England, is devoted to works of the Norwich school founded by John Crome in 1805. This great artist began life as an errand boy, went on to sign painting, became a drawing master, and so attracted the attention of the county magnates, and eventually founded the first provincial association of artists in England. A large number of his pictures, chiefly sea views, landscapes, river-bank pieces, and wood-scenes sketched round Norwich, are on view. Scenes on the Yare and Wensum, at Lakenham, Yarmouth, Thorpe, and Carrow Abbey should make the room a favourite lounge for Eastern Counties' people. But we will away to Gallery No. 2, where famous works of Sir Joshua Reynolds, George Romney, West, Canaletto, and Gainsborough challenge a more devout attention. Among Sir Joshua's are the Countess of Spencer, the Girl and Kitten, Lord Ashburton, and in the centre at the top of the room "on the line" is his picture of Lady Cockburn with her three boy children, James, George, and William, the first-named being the grandfather of Sir Alexander, the present Lord Chief Justice of England. The artist was so proud of this picture that it is the only one with the exception of his Mrs. Siddons, on which appear the words, "Reynolds, pinxit." The story is told that after Sir James had allowed an engraving to be made of the picture, he was so dissatisfied that he protested against its publication, whereupon the engraver, ignoring the anachronism of the transatlantic macaw on the pedestal, effaced the name and substituted "Cornelia, mother of the Gracchi." It is a curious thing that all the three children succeeded to the baronetcy. The naked baby in its mother's lap, one child on her right arm and the other looking over her left shoulder constitute a group that it surpasses modern drawing to imitate. On each side of this charming centre-piece are portraits by Romney of Emma Harte, Lady Hamilton, the artist's favourite model and Lord Nelson's too dangerous fascination. But assuredly the great admiral could plead the witching beauty of his foe in extenuation of her conquest. Few sailors—or any other man—but would strike his flag to those witching eyes and rosy lips. Whether I was most in love with the three-quarter life-size figure, seated at the entrance of a cavern gazing carelessly at the sea, in a straw hat, white dress, and blue sash—*simplex munditiis*—or with the possibly overcoloured figure seated on a balcony, arms crossed, large black hat, black overskirt, red petticoat, white neckerchief, and checked shawl, I don't know; but, reclining on the easiest of lounges, I thought how "happy one might be with either." In No. 3 gallery the eye is instantly caught by a life-size portrait by Gainsborough, of a gentleman skating, and the funny thing is that the skates are of the very latest pattern adopted by modern performers. Next to it, and occupying the pride of place in the room, is Sir Joshua's beautiful picture of Cymon and Iphigenia, lent by the Queen. The subject is from Boccacio's tale. The idiot clown Cymon, suddenly inspired with love at the sight Iphigenia, whom Cupid shows to him, lying almost nude in a bower of foliage. Mr. Ridout, of Toronto, has a mezzotint engraving of this valuable work. Vandyck and Rubens are largely represented in this room; the former being seen at special advantage in two portraits of Henrietta, wife of Charles I., one lent by Lord Clarendon, the other by Lord Portarlington. The bust of the Queen, executed by Princess Louise, and presented to the Academy, is here too, and is the most faithful likeness I ever remember to have seen chiselled in marble. In another room, the most striking picture on the wall is Hoppner's portrait of the prize-fighter, Richard Humphreys, the conqueror of Mendoza ninety years ago, executed with such rare skill and of such wonderful colouring that, in admiration of the man, his pugilistic attitude, so out of time with the present estimate of the prize ring, is quite lost sight of. Curiously enough, next to this representation of the physical world is the spiritual representation of Mrs. Goddard, looking from the clouds upon her two little girls, by Gainsbourgh, a celebrated picture, but not a pleasant one. There is William Pitt in a blue coat by Gainsbourgh, and Sir Coutts Lindsay's portrait of Pitt as a boy in a red coat by Romney. Altogether there are 300 magnificent oil paintings, patriotically lent by their fortunate owners. And there are as many old mezzotint engravings in another gallery, all framed in the orthodox ¾-inch flat strip of oak. The most of them are lent by two collectors, the Duke of Buccleuch and Mr. Addington: Bartolozzi, Green, Fisher, Smith, Dickenson, Watson, and John Jones being the the principal engravers. The chief exhibitors of oil paintings are the Queen, Miss Hannah Rothschild, Messrs. Cartwright, M.P., Anderdon, Fordham, Grenfell, Colman, M.P., Rev. J. F. Russell, and Lord Warwick. There is no crowd, no crush, comfortable seats, and the choicest treasures of art in Great Britain to look at: the masterpieces of Reynolds, Romney, Gainsboro', Jan Steen, Vandyck, Wilkie, Canaletto, Rembrandt, Rubens, Raphael, Cuyp, and Hogarth.

Having an order for the House, and finding myself at London Bridge at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, I took a penny boat for Westminster; a route which on a fine day is infinitely the most agreeable way of getting from end to end of London. The solid, well-kept embankment, to which the several little floating piers are attached, the classic bridges which span the river in close proximity to the iron viaducts giving access to Cannon street, Ludgate Hill, and Charing Cross, and which only derive new nobility from the contrast, the various historic buildings on the river front, and the grand panorama to be seen on either hand when the rapid little craft is rounding the river's curve, midway between the towers of Westminster and the dome of St. Paul's, are all features in the trip that make it in my eyes the best pennyworth of travel in the world, even if one is not taking it in the natural course of getting to a special destination. The Russo-Turkish interrogatories of Mr. Childers having been pleasantly and frankly answered by Sir Stafford Northcote, I found myself a listener to