

mark, Scotland. It happened that for the first time since the Revolution, Divine Service had begun to be conducted in the year 1852. At present 104 families, English, Scotch, and Irish, avail themselves of the Rev. Mr. Jayland's ministrations. The morning attendance on the Lord's day averages upwards of 50 worshippers. The services are held in a rented room, which is in many respects unsuitable; and it is in contemplation of building a church capable of receiving 350 persons. The sum of £800 will be required. A sum amounting to upwards of £220 has been contributed by small weekly subscriptions from the congregation, and by donations from others. A Scotch nobleman has promised £50, provided that with this help the requisite amount be raised.

The Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, in whose diocese Lanark is situate, recommended this request. The Board voted £25.

News Department.

From Papers by Steamer Canada, Oct. 24.

ENGLAND.

At the Surrey Agricultural Meeting at Epsom the repeal of the malt-duty was the burden of the day. The chairman, Mr. Atcock, M. P., declared it a most unfair and odious impost, and he should rejoice to see it taken off altogether, as it was neither just, honest, nor reasonable that a revenue should be raised from the beverage of the people equal to that raised upon real property. He therefore thought the malt-duty ought to be taken off before the income-tax. The deleterious compound of poisonous drugs now infused into beer, and which caused madness rather than drunkenness, was the result of the malt-duty, precluding the brewing of wholesome beverage; the teetotallars would support the repeal. On the same subject, Mr. Henry Drummond said he had advocated more than anybody in the house the removal of the tax upon ale:—

"I am not only fond of ale myself, but I positively believe it to be a national institution. I don't like the nasty beastly black compound which goes under the name of London porter. (Cheers and laughter.) And yet, although I am so fond of ale, I know, I believe, not one single House in the whole county of Surrey where good ale is to be had. (Laughter.) A little while ago we had a song about the golden days when there was ale in the cottage and ale in the hall, but I candidly confess that I have never seen any ale in the cottage since I was a child. I must, however, do Mr. Disraeli the justice to say that he was willing to take off half the malt tax; but by whom was he prevented? Why, by the same gentlemen who cry out, 'Oh, dear me, don't tax the poor man in the articles of his consumption. No, no; tax realised property.' They were great advocates for taxing realised property. 'Well, then,' thought Mr. Disraeli, 'what is so much realised property as a house? I'll put a tax upon houses.' But what was the consequence? All London got up in arms. Every large provincial town got up in arms, and declared how shamefully they were served. By what? By his putting a tax upon what? Why, upon realised property. And there are people who say, 'Don't drink beer.' Beer, forsooth! Why, there's hardly anyone in the country who knows what beer is now. If we were to shut up all the brewers in London in a room and give them nothing but malt and hops, I don't suppose that all the malt and hops in the world would enable them to turn out that nasty black stuff they call porter. I recently got out of a friend of mine how much malt was used to a hogshead of liquor in the great London porter breweries. I dare say most of you—at all events some of you—remember a time when it was thought a point of honour never to send the great barley rake into a field to clean it until after the labourer had been there to glean, so as to get enough to brew himself a little beer. Some of that beer I have tasted, and certainly it was not very strong. The proportion of malt put into a hogshead—I don't mean to say the labourer brewed a hogshead or anything like it—but the proportion of malt he put in was six bushels—the farmer brewed eight and the gentleman ten or twelve. But what do you think the proportion of malt put in the London porter is? Two bushels. (Loud laughter.) Now, I was telling this to a friend of mine in the House of Commons who is a capital brewer himself, and I wanted to pump out of him how much he put in his. (Laughter.) He would not tell me that, but he said, 'I'll send you a dozen as a present.' And he did send a dozen, and very good it was. 'But,' said I, 'don't it appear to be very strong?' 'Well,' replied he, 'I'm a good deal accustomed to go out deer-stalking, shooting, and sporting in the Highlands; I always drink it, and I never

find it affects me.' (Laughter.) I fear that we shall never get the malt-tax off for the benefit of the farmers unless there is a very strong effort made. (Cheers, and a cry of "Bravo!") Now, what's the use of crying 'Bravo, bravo!' unless you can come up with petitions and remonstrances and back me in the house. Gentlemen, I believe this question of beer presses as much upon the morals as the comforts of the people, and if by the means of removing the malt-tax you can give them plenty of really good beer you will do more to reform their morals than by all the trumpery schemes that are now being so strongly advocated. (Cheers and Laughter.)

In Suffolk, Mr. Sheriff Mechi has been giving the farmers the benefit of his experience. First, he pulled down the tumble-down old rickety buildings on his farm, and put up brick and slated ones—the cheapest in the end, for after fifteen years they now appeared as good as new. He then, not being a game preserver, pulled down four and a half miles of fences upon 138 acres to begin with, and it was perfectly astounding to see what acreage he had gained. He next put up a steam engine, and was counted mad; but there were now seventy in his neighbourhood. These cost money, but the landlords must do it, and then they would get two or three times the rent they did now, and their tenants be better off. He would illustrate this:—

"He could show them upon his own farm a crop of oats, and other crops as well, but particularly a crop of oats, in which the difference between those of some of his neighbours was six or seven quarters per acre. Now, that arose simply from the want of drainage, of deeper cultivation, and of more manure. Well then, he said, if the difference were three, four, five, or six quarters in the crop of oats per acre, with other things in proportion, they would be better off if they had to pay 10 per cent. upon the improvements effected; and he maintained that he could go from one end of the kingdom to the other, and point to farm after farm, where, by investing a sum for drainage, 10 per cent. could be charged upon it, and the tenant be in a better position than now." Speaking of the steam-plough, he said—"They were aware there were two kinds of steam ploughs now in operation; one was Mr. Fowler's, which was worked with a wire rope, which he thought some of them might have seen at work on his [Mr. Mechi's] farm. It had been at work ever since, and he could tell them that his neighbour, Mr. Crump, a capital farmer, was working it on his land; but his fields were not limited to three or four acres, but were twenty, thirty, and forty acres in extent, so that the gentleman had no difficulty in that respect, and with his common engine he was working the steam plough with perfect satisfaction. Then there was Mr. Boydell's traction engine, as seen at the Royal Agricultural Show at Chelmsford, walking about like a mammoth. [Laughter.] This engine had been doing work which they would see reported in the *Agricultural Gazette*, by a careful witness, after two days' close examination.—It was stated that it drew ploughs after it and cultivated land at a great depth, at a cost of only one fifth of the expense of ploughing by horses; and that the work it was doing, which would cost 15s. by horse power, was done by it at 3s. But let them give 7s. 6d. in, and say it did for 10s. what with horses they could do for 15s., then see what the result of that saving would be to the agriculturist. Instead of the horses being obliged to leave off at half past one or two—and sometimes when the work was really wanted to be done—which was necessary, to enable them to continue at work from day to day, if they had got a vean horse they would not require to be quite so kind to him, but would make hay while the sun shone. [Cheers.] He saw Mr. Boydell the day before yesterday, with a view to arrange that one or two of his engines should form part of the civic procession of the Lord Mayor elect—[loud cheers and cries of "bravo!"]—for as the Londoners could not do without country-made food, they thought it was quite proper they should as closely as possible identify agriculture with commerce. [Applause.] But, to return to Mr. Boydell, he had no hesitation in saying that his invention was one of those events in agriculture and in the annals of this country that would work one of the mightiest changes ever known. When he [Mr. Mechi] said to him, 'I want this engine,' he replied, 'The Emperor of Russia will have me and my engine in a fortnight. He has secured my engine and me with it, in order that it may be used in Russia for various purposes, but above all for drawing cannon, for it was a remarkable fact that that engine would take a weight up or down hill or over a swamp where horses could not go, a fact he recently saw illustrated at the Ar-

mal-hill, at Woolwich, which had an inclination of 1 in 10. First of all he saw ten powerful artillery horses attached to a gun, but they failed to move it; but twelve being put on, they at last got it up the hill; whilst Boydell's engine took the gun [which weighed ten tons, and itself twelve] up the hill, and, what was still more surprising, down the hill as well; in addition to which the commanding officer told him it had gone over rough ground and deep ravines in an extraordinary manner."

The sneers of Mr. Baxter, the new member for Montrose, at his colleagues in the House of Commons, have been responded to by Mr. Sergeant Stee, who has been addressing the inhabitants of Buckie a thriving seaport and fishing town on the north-east coast, which rejoices in a new harbour just finished). He says—"When I came into the House of Commons I confess that my impression was very different from that which has been lately promulgated in Scotland. I found it composed of orators who would have held, if not the first rank, at least a place amongst the first in the earliest annals of our Parliamentary history—of statesmen not only familiar with the interests of their own country, but with the power and the resources of all the empires and countries of the world—of lawyers of the first eminence—of eminent merchants, manufacturers, and bankers, whose mere signature would be the key to treasures of wealth in every city in the known world—of a landed aristocracy who would bear comparison in intelligence, patriotism, and independence with the aristocracy of any country on the face of the earth. My opinion of that house, I confess, was very different indeed from that which younger men have lately expressed of it. I found that every man who had anything to the purpose to say—every man who had taken the trouble to prepare himself, and exhibited that reasonable diffidence which all well-bred men will exhibit when they address an assembly composed of persons of education—is sure of an attentive audience—that a fairer assembly does not exist in the known world than the House of Commons.—For the presumptuous and self-sufficient, the loquacious without information—with nothing to attract attention about them but their presumption and their ignorance—there is no toleration, nor ought there to be; but to every man who has anything to say to the purpose, who knows what he is talking about, every encouragement is given by the House of Commons.—I have observed that the oldest members and the most distinguished members of that house are those who would be least likely to find fault with the well-meant industrious efforts of younger members to serve their constituents, and do good service to their country.—They are not the men to sneer at persons—members who have hobbies to ride upon; they are not the men to talk of persons in terms of disrespect, who do their best for the service of their country."

There was a public meeting at the Town-hall, Brighton, last week, to discuss the vexed question of the union of the Danubian Principalities. The Mayor, Mr. Hallett, presided. It was attended by Mr. Scholesfield, M. P., Signor Bratiano, a Wallachian refugee; Dr. Arnold Ruge, "several other foreigners," and a good number of gentlemen having local weight and influence. Several members of Parliament sent apologies for absence—Mr. Roebuck among them: he expressed his opinion that the Principalities might be made a means of checking the spirit of despotism which is supported by Russia, Austria, and Turkey:—

"My only hope of justice to the Principalities is in England. Every other nation that has any influence upon their well-being is an enemy to freedom and liberal institutions. But the Government of England is, I fear, too much controlled by the despotic Governments of Europe to permit the power of England to be employed, as it ought to be employed, in the negotiations which are now taking place with respect to the Principalities. The people of England, however, may compel their Government to act wisely."

The whole tenor of the speaking—chiefly by Mr. Montagu Scott, Mr. A. Dodson, Mr. Scholesfield, and Dr. Ruge—went the length of advocating the union of the Principalities; and the meeting adopted with unanimity the views set before it in a resolution and a memorial to the Queen—

"That this meeting is in favor of the union of Moldavia and Wallachia, in order to erect the Roumain people into a free, powerful, and self-governing nation, as the best barrier against Austria and Russia; and that this meeting expresses its earnest hope that the Government of England will, in conjunction with France, insist upon the fulfilment of the resolutions of the Paris Conference, in order to satisfy the just expectations of the Roumain people as to their internal government."