

THREE COURSES OPEN.

I must here point out the differences between the three systems of Penny Postage which are before the public. Some years ago, I proposed in the House of Commons a motion for Universal Penny Postage, and 142 Members voted for it. This, of course, implied an agreement with foreign Governments for a common postal charge of 1*d.* from any part of the civilised globe to any other. But I have found it expedient, in the first place, to get Penny Postage for the British Empire, and this may be had in two ways. We may have what is called "Imperial" Penny Postage, which involves the conveyance of our mails to the Colonies by the quickest routes both *by sea and by land*, or we may have Ocean Penny Postage, under which system our mails would reach the Colonies entirely by sea. Now, mark this. In the cases of Canada, the West Indies, South America, and South Africa, Ocean Penny Postage is the only possible plan. But with respect to India, the East, and Australasia, we gain several days by sending the mails across Europe, by rail, to be taken on board at Brindisi, instead of sending them round by Gibraltar. To Ocean Penny Postage no objection has yet been raised. Even the late Mr. Raikes became, before his death, a convert to the idea. He could not resist the fact that the actual cost of conveying a letter, by sea, for any possible distance on this planet, does not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.*, leaving $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* for the Post Office.