

&c., but in the first place protect the birds from the snare of the fowler, and the salt-petre myrmidons, who would depopulate our groves and our fields for a moment's enjoyment of a "capital shot." We hope that a better feeling respecting the birds will exist in the minds of all, and that the feathery tribe will be looked on as blessings—as indeed they are in every sense of the word.—"Spare the little birds,"—*Flushing Journal*.

NEWS.

Parliament is about closing its session, and the Queen is arranging for a continental tour.

Money in the British metropolis is plentiful, and the rate of discount is low. The share market and the public securities are in a confident and healthy state.

The price of American stocks is looking up. The determination of the "drab colored Pennsylvanians" to shame their traders, has improved feeling, which exists in the Bourse of Paris, as well as London.

THE SABBATH AND TEMPERANCE.—There was issued, May 6th, the 21st Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Public Petitions, from which it appears that there are now lying on the table of the legislature, (amongst many others), 112 petitions in favour of stricter observance of the Sabbath-day, signed by 10,317 persons—170 for the repeal of the malt tax, signed by 22,256—722 for diminishing the nuisance of public houses and gin palaces, signed by 162,117, whose object is to pray the legislature to adopt measures for preventing the increase of houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating beverages, and for diminishing to a very great extent the number already existing, and to pass a law for entirely abolishing the sale of intoxicating liquors on the Lord's day.

CHRISTIAN UNION.—A public meeting of the friends of Christian union was held during the sittings of the General Assembly, in Edinburgh. The meeting was attended by a respectable audience, belonging to various denominations. Sir Andrew Agnew was called to the chair; and on the platform with him were Dr. Merle D'Aubigne, from Geneva, and Rev. Mr. Monod, from France; Sir W. Dunbar, the Rev. T. D. K. Drummond, and the Rev. Mr. Crowder, of the Episcopal church; the Rev. Dr. Candlish, Dr. Duncan, Dr. Smyth, Mr. Begg, Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Tweedie, and Mr. Sorley, of the Free church; the Rev. Dr. Peddie, Dr. Ritchie, Mr. Reid, Mr. Cupar, and Mr. Johnston, of the Secession church; the Rev. Mr. Bunting, and Mr. McLean, of the Wesleyan Church; the Rev. W. L. Alexander, and the Rev. Jonathan Watson, of the Independent church; and the Rev. Mr. Innes, and Mr. Winslow, of the Baptist church, &c. Letters of apology were also read from Dr. McFarlane Moderator of the Free church; Rev. Thomas McCrie, Rev. Andrew Thompson, of the United Secession church; and the Rev. James Campbell, of the Independent church; and from Dr. Chalmers, highly approving of the object of the meeting.

The Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel has published a pamphlet, in which he advocates the destruction of the Protestant Church Establishment of Ireland, and perfect civil and religious equality for Roman Catholics.

The Voice of Jacob, a respectable periodical supported by the leading English Jews, advocates the "establishment of agricultural Jewish settlements in Palestine."

The Quarterly Review, a high Tory periodical, advocates "a state provision for the Roman Catholic clergy," as "the only measure that now offers any reasonable prospect of tranquilizing Ireland, and securing the integrity of the empire."

PENNY POSTAGE.—The total number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom, in the year 1844, was 212 millions, which is an increase of nearly 22 millions on the previous year. The number, before the reduction of the rate, it may be necessary to remind our readers, was 75 millions. In the London district, or old two-penny-post, the letters have more than doubled since the penny rate was established.

The sale of opium is now legalised in China to all intents and purposes, although the government has issued no formal edict on the subject. It is openly admitted at every port, and carried about the streets.

Hong Kong is getting on most prosperously; houses and streets are spreading in all directions. It is by no means an unhealthy place. The drunken soldiers die, as they do in all hot climates,

fevered with spirits and debauchery; but as for the civil part of the community, the colonial surgeon has returned 368 cases with only nine deaths in his report of six months' practice. Such a proportion might be exceeded in England. British sovereignty is zealously established over the Chinese of the colony, and they are so well contented with it as to flock over with their wives and families, so that the population is now increased to 30,000.

The greater part of the French Legislation Session which is now at a close, has been taken up, like our own, with railway projects. Except the bill for the arming of the fortifications of Paris, the bill to meet the expense of the squadron to be placed on the west coast of Africa, in terms of the slave trade convention, and the Savings Bank Bill, no measure of the slightest public importance has been placed upon the statute book during the session. The railway bills passed are the Northern, the Paris and Lyons, the Lyons and Avignon, the Paris and Strasbourg, the Tours and Nantes, the Avignon and Aix, and the Fecamp and Dieppe, besides short branch lines, the whole extending to about 1500 miles, and establishing a direct line of communication between the capital and the straits of Dover, the Belgian and German frontiers, and the Mediterranean.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY TRUMPET.—Cassius M. Clay seems to be blowing the anti-slavery trumpet in Kentucky, with blasts long and loud. In a late number of the *True American*, he meets the common argument that the "time has not come" for the emancipation of the slaves, in an able editorial, and closes thus:—

"The time for our masters to free us from our impoverishment and death, from the straw-subtracting system of slavery, has not yet come! When did men as a body, ever, in the history of mankind, lay down, voluntarily, unjust power? Never! The time has never, with them, come! it never will! When the last straw shall fall us, and death come upon us, in bitter mockery they will cry, 'Fools, as soon as they learned to live without eating, then they died.' Free laborers of Kentucky, let us not lie down and die like beasts in the hands of those who have for half a century been taking from us straw after straw! From the garrets and the cellars, and the cheerless alleys of slave-oppressed cities; from the rocky hills and remote, neglected valleys—let the cry be borne on every breeze that sweeps over our long down-trodden and slave-ridden State—'The time has come! and Kentucky shall be free!'—*N. Y. Evangelist*.

The amount of stock for the Atlantic and St. Lawrence railroad, allotted to British capitalists, has been taken. The books for application for stock were to close on the 21st of July, but on the 18th, the applications had far exceeded the amount allotted. This secures the Canadian end, and from the liberality in subscription in Maine, there is no doubt that a commencement will soon be made to build a road of more value to the State of Maine than any public work for a long term of years.—*ib*.

SYRIA.—The French papers publish lamentable details respecting the civil war between the Maronites and the Druses, and the criminal negligence of the Turkish authorities. "The Maronites," says the *Constitutionnel*, "have suffered the most severely. They have lost more than two thousand of their people, among whom women, children, and aged men form a majority. The losses of the Druses amount to about one thousand persons, and these, for the most part, able bodied men.—*ib*."

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Most distressing accounts have been received from this colony during the past week. The whole of the Northeastern province beyond Colesberg is in arms. The missionary station of Philippolis has been abandoned. From the 6th to the 16th of April there was continuous fighting between the Griquas, or bastard natives, and the immigrant boers. No quarter was given on either side; the prisoners taken were instantly knocked on the head; troops and artillery were hurrying from all quarters. On the whole, the Griquas appear to have maintained their ground, but the boers had despatched messengers to Natal for reinforcements, which there was little doubt would be readily furnished to them, and a collision between her Majesty's forces and her Majesty's subjects was, at the latest dates, the most probable of impending contingencies.—*ib*.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.—Active efforts are made in Scotland for the better observance of the Lord's day. It formed a part of the doings of the assembly, and a large Committee on the subject has been in existence for some time. The subject of Christians holding stock in Sabbath-breaking railroads, is one greatly agitated; and the committee above referred to have published the following unanimous decision on it, which, as it is not without interest on this side of the water, we publish it: