London.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1846.

PRICES OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.

Bank Stock.....	—	India Bonds.....	37 pm
Ditto for Account.....	—	Ann. Jan. (1860)...	10 9-16
Three per Cent. Red.....	94⅞	Ditto, New (ditto)..	—
Consols for Opening.....	94⅞	Ditto (Oct. 1859)...	—
Three and ½ per Cents.	—	Ditto (Jan. 1830)...	—
Ditto Reduced.....	—	Ditto (Oct. 1880)...	—
Ditto, ditto, New.....	97⅛	Four per Cents.....	—
India Stock.....	—	Exchequer Bills.....	1¼d

Bank of Ireland Stock.....200¼.

WINDSOR, Thursday.—This being New Year's Day, the Queen, Prince Albert, the Duchess of Kent, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice proceeded to the riding school this morning, to be present at the distribution of the royal charity to the poor of the borough. Her Majesty was attended by Viscountess Jocelyn and the two Maids of Honour. There were also present—Lady Peel, Lady Graham, the Dowager Lady Lyttleton, the Hon. Miss Lyttleton, Lady Fanny Howard, Lord W. Russell, Mr G. E. and the Hon. Mrs Anson, Colonel Bowles, the Hon. and Rev. C. Leslie Courtenay, Sir George and Lady Couper, Colonel Berkeley Drummond, and also the clergy and the magistrates of the town. The royal party having arrived, the distribution of provision and clothing took place. The provisions, of the value of L.150, consisted of bread, meat, potatoes, pudding, and coals, and were distributed to 486 families from the two parishes in the borough of Windsor, viz. the parish of St John and the Holy Trinity. The clothing was of the value of L.100, consisting of blankets, red cloaks, calico, and flannel, and was distibuted to 228 families selected in a similar manner from the same parishes. 714 families thus participated in the royal bounty, receiving in value L.250.

WINDSOR, Friday.—The Queen and Prince Albert walked early this morning in the grounds around the Castle. Her Majesty and her Royal Consort again promenaded in the afternoon. The royal family were taken their usual airings this forenoon. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Alfred, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice were again taken out in the afternoon. The Countess of Charlemont arrived at the Castle this afternoon to pay her respects to the Queen, and will remain to dine and sleep. Sir Robert and Lady Peel, the Earl of Lincoln, Sir James and Lady Graham, and the Right Honourable W. E. Gladstone left the Castle to-day.

HER MAJESTY.—In the pranks and bunglings of the last three weeks, there is one part which, according to all report, has been played most faultlessly, that of a constitutional sovereign. In the pages of history, the directness, the sincerity, the scrupulous observance of constitutional rules which have marked her Majesty's conduct in circumstances the most trying will have their place of honour. Unused as we are to deal in homage to royalty, we must add, that never, we believe, was the heart of a monarch so warmly devoted to the interests of a people, and with so enlightened a sense of their interests.—*Examiner.*

THE DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE.—We understand that her Royal Highness has, since the last letters were received at Cambridge House, accepted an invitation from the King of Prussia to visit the royal family at Berlin. The royal Duchess accompanied by the Princess Mary, was to leave New Strelitz, where the Duchess has been staying with their Royal Highnesses the Hereditary Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg Strelitz, in the early part of this week for Berlin, and was to be present at a grand performance at the national opera house this evening, the 3d instant. Her Royal Highness and daughter were to remain for a week or ten days in the Prussian capital, and during their sojourn the royal Duchess would honour his Excellency the British Ambassador and the Countess of Westmoreland with a visit, when it was anticipated the *elite* of the musical talent of Berlin would be brought together in the *salons* of the British Embassy for the Duchess's entertainment.

The Earl of St Germans succeeds the Earl of Lonsdale, as Postmaster-General, and will enter upon the duties of the office at the commencement of the new year.

The Right Hon. John Lord Colville of Culross, has appointed the Rev. William Lionel Darell, M.A. of Christ Church College, Oxford, and rector of the parish of Fretherne, in the county of Gloucester, to be his lordship's domestic chaplain.

It is rumoured, that the opulent proprietor of Penryhn Castle is about to form a matrimonial alliance with the daughter of a ducal house.

The Emperor of Russia was expected at Vienna on the 28th or 29th ult. His Majesty was to lodge at the hotel of his minister, Count Medem, and was not to stop more than two days in that capital, being extremely anxious to return to St Petersburgh.

The mortal remains of the late Col. Gurwood were removed for interment, from Brighton, to the Tower, where his obsequies will take place. The appointment of Lieut. Governor of the Tower, which has become vacant by his demise, is in the gift of the Duke of Wellington.

DEATH OF THE EARL OF PORTARLINGTON.—The noble lord just deceased was in the 65th year of his age, having been born on the 26th of February 1781. He had the misfortune to lose his father when only 17 years of age; shortly before which event he entered the army, and served with his regiment during the disastrous campaign in Holland, when the late Duke of York had the command of the forces there employed against the soldiers of the young republic of France. Lord Portarlington also joined the expedition which went to Hanover in 1805, and served throughout the Peninsular campaign of 1815, during which the actions of Quatre Bras and Waterloo were fought. In 1814 he was included in the promotion which took place on the king's birth-day in that year (4th of June), when he was raised to the rank of colonel in the army.

DEATH OF SIR EDWARD DODSWORTH, BART.—This respected baronet died on Wednesday, at Thornton Hall, his seat, near Bedale, Yorkshire. He was born in 1768, and married, in 1804, Miss Dawkins, youngest daughter of Mr Henry Dawkins, of Standylynch, Wilts. On the death of his father, the first baronet, in 1789, he succeeded to the baronetcy; and in 1821 he assumed the name of Dodsworth in lieu of his patronymic of Smith, on inheriting the estates of his maternal grandfather, Mr John Dodsworth, of Thornton, Yorkshire. Having died without issue, the baronetcy and estates of Thornton Hall and Newland Park devolve to his brother, Mr Charles Dodsworth (now Sir Charles), born in 1775, and married in 1808 to Miss Armstrong, only daughter of Mr John Armstrong of Lisgold, and grand-daughter of the late Lord Blayney.

THE LATE REV. R. ASPLAND.—The death, on Tuesday morning, December 30, after a long and painful illness, of the Rev. Robert Aspland, the distinguished Unitarian minister of Hackney, has created a blank in the religious, political, and literary world which cannot easily be supplied. For the greater part of the last half century he maintained, with increasing reputation, a high character as a preacher amongst English Nonconformists. Rarely has any man, by his noble form, melodious voice, and strong powerful sense, communicated more dignity to the pulpit. In most of the leading religious and political questions of his time Mr Aspland took an active and prominent part. In politics his sympathies were with the Whigs, with some of the most distinguished men amongst whom he was on intimate terms. As a writer he was remarkable for conciseness and strength.—*Morning Chronicle.*

SECESSIONS FROM THE CHURCH.—The Rev. Edgar Estcourt, M.A. of Exeter College, Oxford, was received a few days since into the Roman Catholic Church at Prior Park near Bath.—*Morning paper.*

THE NAVAL RETIREMENT.—We are authorised to state, that the number of captains of the royal navy who have volunteered to retire under the offer of the 1st of August last, having amounted to no more than 267, and whereas the number required to make the measure of retirement effectual was 300, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty cannot accept of the list for retirement as it now stands; but the whole subject is still under consideration.—*Standard.*

CHATHAM, Jan. 2.—Yesterday afternoon the head-quarters of the 2d Queen's Royals marched into this garrison from Gravesend, where they disembarked from the ship Emperor, of 700 tons burden, from India. The strength consisted of 19 serjeants, eight drummers, and 244 rank and file, with four women and eight children, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel R. Carruthers, with the following officers:—Captain P. Grehan, Lieut. Godfrey Piercy, Lieut. T. J. D. Reed, Lieut. John Henry Grant, Lieut. E. S. Smyth, Ensign John T. Sadlier, Surgeon Wm. Harvey, and Assistant-Surgeon Thomas W. Barrow. The troops came in exceedingly well and orderly, the band playing them into the barracks, where they were welcomed by the depot of young recruits. The Queen's colour and the colour of the regiment were borne one by a serjeant and the other by Ensign Sadlier; each colour was so shattered that scarcely a vestige was left of them, being completely in ribbons, each piece being nailed to the flag-staff. At the rear was a colour which the regiment captured at the storming of Panella in December 1844, during the war in the southern Mahratta country. It appears that the above embarked at Bombay for England after serving in India twenty years, on the 22d of September last. The troops on their embarkation were extremely sickly, and during their passage they lost by death 13 soldiers. They had a most delightful passage of three months, only a week out of that time they were detained by contrary winds in the Downs. On their arrival at Gravesend they had one man died. The head quarters remain in quarters at Chatham until the arrival of the other wing of the regiment, when they will be removed to Canterbury.

TRANSFER OF LANDED PROPERTY.—Many large estates have changed hands this last year; among them Lord Ducie's magnificent domain of Woodchester; the fine and extensive estates of Hampden, in Bucks; and the Duke of Newcastle's famed Hafod estate; and as the sale of these extensive estates, with three or four others of importance, has been lately effected (it is said) by one agency house alone, in Waterloo Place, amounting in value to at least L.750,000, it may be safely inferred, looking to the sales by other old firms, that the transfer of land this past year must reach in amount two or three millions, or perhaps more. Several estates have been bought by mercantile capitalists.

The *Augsburg Gazette* states, that in consequence of the attacks made upon him by the Second Chamber of the States of Saxony, and a repeatedly and publicly expressed opinion, that he was the sole obstacle to the introduction of *viva voce* evidence in the courts and tribunals, M. de Koenneritz, who has been first Minister of Justice at Dresden since the year 1836, has expressed to the King his wish to resign his office; but his Majesty has not yet returned any answer to his request.

The number of visitors to the British Museum on the day after Christmas was 28,667, being an increase of 10,428 as compared with last year, when the number was 18,239.

The mammoth horse, now exhibiting in London, is twenty hands high; and his width, length, and physical development are in accordance. His proportions are beautiful, and his coat shines like satin.

FOREIGN FRESH BEEF.—The revenue authorities having had under consideration numerous applications requesting that foreign preserved fresh beef, or beef only slightly salted, may be shipped from the bonded warehouses as stores, and being of opinion that the article in question may be added to the list of stores allowed to be shipped duty free, have issued directions to their officers at the department at this port, and at all the outports of the United Kingdom, to permit the same in future, under the usual form and regulations. This privilege has reference, it is presumed, to the fresh-killed meat most lately introduced from the Continent of Europe, especially Hamburgh, in quarters, in a slaughtered state, and which is understood to have increased to a considerable extent, the quality of the same being generally excellent.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

Miss Cushman made her appearance here on Monday night with her sister, Miss Susan Cushman, who had not previously acted in this country. They played the characters of Romeo and Juliet, not in the ordinary acting tragedy with which David Garrick favoured the world, but in the tragedy as written by Shakespeare. It is enough to say that the Romeo of Miss Cushman is far superior to any Romeo that has been seen for years. The distinction is not one of degree, it is one of kind. For a long time Romeo has been a convention. Miss Cushman's Romeo is a creative, a living, breathing, animated, ardent, human being. The memory of play goers will call up Romeo as a collection of speeches delivered with more or less eloquence, not as an individual. Miss Cushman has given the vivifying spark, whereby the fragments are knit together, and become an organised entirety. She initiates us into the temperament of our hero, and in this respect the restoration of the allusions to Rosaline is particularly valuable. She disclosed that ardent passionate disposition, that waited but for the opportunity to break forth with irresistible violence, so that the first scenes contained the whole possibility of the tragedy. They prepared the way for those passionate breathings of love that rendered the interviews with Juliet so remarkable. The short gallant speeches at the ball were delivered with the eagerest spirit of earnestness, as though not a word should fall without kindling a feeling in the heart of the fair hearer. The garden scene was an inspiration, an impetuous outpouring of devotion, here and there delicately tempered by the opposite quality of a shrinking reverence. It was no fine speech-maker, no stage-lover, no victim to maudlin sentiment, but an impetuous youth, whose whole soul was absorbed in one strong emotion, and whose lips must speak the inspiration of his heart. The indignation with which Romeo rushed on Tybalt, after the death of Mercutio, was another expression of the same quick sensitive temperament. The grief in Friar Lawrence's cell when Romeo set forth the sorrows of his banishment in tones of an ever-increasing anguish, till at last it reached its culminating point, and he dashed himself on the ground with real despair, took the house by storm. All the manifestations of Romeo's disposition were given with equal truth, and the one soul was recognisable through them all. To drop to more material considerations, Miss Cushman looks Romeo exceedingly well. Her deportment is frank and easy, she walks the stage with an air of command—her eye beams with animation. In a word, Romeo is one of her grand successes. Miss Susan Cushman, the new Juliet, is a most interesting young lady. Her figure is very beautiful, her face handsome and strongly marked, and fully capable of every variety of tragic expression. That fire and intensity by which her sister is animated, and which gives such a strong reality to her impersonations, she has not acquired; but there is an intelligence in all she does, an earnest striving after perfection of detail, that are promising in the highest degree. At the conclusion, the sisters were called before the curtain with honest, unfeigned enthusiasm, by a crowded audience.—*Times.*

LOSS OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT STEAMER PAPIN.

The French Government has just received intelligence o the loss of the Papin steamer. The following are the details of that melancholy event as published by the *Moniteur*:—

"The Papin left Cadiz at two o'clock P.M. on December 5, and was bound for Senegal. The weather was fine during the whole afternoon of the 5th and the morning of the following day, but towards night it began to blow hard from the south-west. At eleven o'clock at night on the 6th the vessel grounded on a sand bank nine miles to the north of Mogadore, and about three cables' length from the mainland. The order to 'back' could not be executed, as the paddles had already become choked by the sand. For three hours the vessel withstood the violent shocks of the waves, the sea running high at the time, without any very visible damage, but she then began to fill, and at four o'clock on the morning of the 7th she was quite full, and the sea dashing over her deck. At five o'clock the chimney fell, and killed several persons. At half-past five A.M. M. Marey Monge, the French Consul at Mogadore, was washed overboard by a wave, and instantly disappeared. A few moments afterwards, M. Dieul, Second Lieutenant on board, met with the same fate. Several persons then threw themselves into the sea to lay hold of the spars, &c., which were constantly being washed from the wreck, or to try and gain the shore by swimming. The greater part of them sank to rise no more. Some few, after the most desperate efforts, reached Azimour, a village three miles to the north of the scene of the wreck. They fell in with some Moors, who instantly came to their relief; one of them gave his burnous (cloak) to M. Du Bourdieu, commissary de Gorée, and who had embarked as a passenger on board the Papin. Some camels, laden with brambles, having arrived, the Arabs instantly kindled a fire to warm the unfortunate shipwrecked passengers. At 11 A.M. the persons who had succeeded in reaching the shore amounted to thirty. The mainmast, which had continued standing until that time, although the Papin was divided in two, fell, and in its descent either crushed to death or carried overboard not less than thirty persons. About this time, Messrs Doinesnard, Mirabeau, Desforges, Natalani, and Royoti who had succeeded in reaching the beach, got into the lifeboat, which had been washed on shore, for the purpose of returning to the vessel and saving such persons as might still be alive; but they were unable to make head against the waves, and were again cast upon the shore. Mr Redman, the English Consul at Mogadore, together with the French Consul in that place, who had started that same morning for Rabat, hearing that a vessel was wrecked upon the coast, instantly repaired to the scene of distress. Mr Redman having attended to the immediate necessities of the passengers on shore, exerted his influence with the Arabs to induce them to go to the vessel and bring away the unfortunate persons who still remained on board. The Arabs displayed, upon this occasion, as much courage as humanity. In less than two hours they succeeded in bringing off 44 persons, carrying them upon their shoulders, and swimming with them through a very heavy sea. After being assured that no other persons remained on board the vessel, and having interred eight bodies which had been washed on shore, Mr Redman conducted the sufferers to Mazagran, where every attention was paid to their wants by him and his three brothers. Letters received from Mazagran, says the *Moniteur*, "speak in the highest terms of the conduct of Mr Redman. It is certain that the forty-four persons who remained on board the vessel are indebted to him for their safety. When intelligence of the shipwreck reached Gibraltar, Sir Frederick Nicholson, who commands the naval forces there, instantly wrote to our Consul, offering to despatch the English steamer Flamer to render the necessary succour. The Flamer accordingly sailed shortly afterwards. Mr Redman has placed a guard of thirty men to save as much of the cargo of the unfortunate vessel as possible. Of 151 persons on board the Papin, 76 only remain to tell the tale.

CAMEOS.—The Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade having transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, with the expression of their lordships' concurrence therein, a report of the Customs' authorities on an application of certain parties complaining of the injurious effect of the existing duty on cameos; a communication has been received by the commissioners of Customs, from Mr Cardwell, one of the Secretaries to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, to the effect that he has been commanded by their lordships to acquaint the board, that having had the subject under their consideration, their lordships are pleased to desire that they will give directions for the admission of cameos at the duty of five per cent. *ad valorem*, as recommended by them. This order of the Lords of the Treasury has been communicated to the officers of the revenue at the various departments throughout the united kingdom, with directions to carry the same into effect from the present time, and the reduced rate of duty above-mentioned will, therefore, in future be levied on this ornamental article.

THE JESUITS.—There are at this moment in Italy 150 houses of the Jesuits, containing nearly 4000 persons, of whom 1800 are priests. In France there are 56, containing 872 Jesuits, of whom 362 are priests. In Germany there are 88, of which 14 are situate in Bavaria, 21 in Austria, 3 in Wurtemberg, 7 in Baden, 2 in the two Hesses, 2 in Nassau, 5 in the province of Rhenish Prussia, 3 in Westphalia, 6 in Silesia, 3 in Saxony, 1 in Anhalt-Kothen, and 5 in Hanover and the free cities. In the grand duchy of Posen there are 7—in East and West Prussia, 5—in Pomerania, 2—in Brandenburgh, 2—in the province of Saxony, 1. The total number of the Jesuits living in these houses is 1000, of whom 400 are priests. In Spain there are 87 houses, containing 537 Jesuits, of whom 220 are Priests; and in Portugal 8, containing 160 Jesuits, of whom 75 are priests.—*Frankfort Postamts Zeitung.*

NEWSPAPER STAMPS.—A return was some time since issued by order of the House of Commons, showing the number of stamps issued for newspapers in Great Britain from January 1, 1842, to January 1, 1845. In 1842, in England, there were issued 50,145,912 newspaper stamps at one penny, and 1,473,664 supplement stamps at one halfpenny—in 1843, 51,282,900 stamps at a penny, and 1,893,682 at a halfpenny—and in 1844, 53,933,848 penny stamps, and 3,739,128 halfpenny stamps. In Scotland, in 1842, the number of penny stamps issued was 4,977,344, and at a halfpenny, 443,550—in 1843, 5,293,729 penny, and 243,150 halfpenny stamps—and in 1844, 5,727,585 penny, and 317,620 halfpenny stamps. In Wales the number in 1842 was 440,200 penny, and 10,830 halfpenny stamps—in 1843, 456,925 penny, and 2000 halfpenny stamps—and in 1844, 472,700 penny, and 7000 halfpenny stamps. In Ireland, in 1842, there were issued 6,099,656 stamps at one penny, and one halfpenny—in 1843, 6,494,652 stamps—and in 1844, 7,018,617 stamps. By the act 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 76, the purchasers of L.10 and upwards of these stamps are allowed L.25 for every L.100.

THE NEW PLANET ASTRÆA.—Astronomers are unanimous in deciding the new star to be another planet of the solar system. The discoverer, Professor Schumacher, has left the determination of the name to Mr Encke, and Mr Encke calls it "Astræa." It is not yet decided whether it is an asteroid, or a planet beyond Herschell. In the latter case it is probably not less than 3,686,000,000 of miles from the sun, and will require 240 years to perform its revolution.

A well-sinker has been suffocated at Market Weston, by incautiously descending a well without having first tested the air by means of a candle. In the course of the previous hour, a stratum of carbonic acid gas had formed a depth 30 feet; and as soon as he went down, the man fell senseless; many hours elapsed before the body could be got out, and of course life was extinct.

THE EXPLOSION AT BOLTON.—The coroner's inquest on the bodies of the persons who were killed by the bursting of a steam engine boiler at Bolton, last week, has terminated in a verdict of "manslaughter" against Mr Kitts, one of the proprietors of the mill.

FATAL OCCURRENCE—LOSS OF THREE LIVES.—On Saturday morning, between the hours of six and seven o'clock, a man named Maurice Dunne, of Drummond, distant about four miles from Mountmellick, was preparing to take corn to the market, his wife went to look for something in a chest, with a lighted piece of chip, over which there was a quantity of flax, which immediately caught fire. Dunne's three daughters ran into a room for the purpose, it is thought, of saving some articles of furniture, but sun was the rapidity of the devouring element that in a very short time the whole house was in flames, and all hope of escape became futile; nor could they be extricated until the vital spark became extinct. Nothing could exceed the appalling spectacle, when taken out, the upper parts of the bodies being literally burned to a cinder. Thomas Budds, Esq. coroner for the county, held an inquest, in the course of the day, when a verdict in accordance with the foregoing was given by the jury.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE RICHMOND RAILWAY.—On Thursday evening an inquest was held in the board room of the Wandsworth Union Workhouse, before Mr Carter, the coroner for East Surrey, upon the body of James Giles, aged 20, a labourer lately employed on the works of the Richmond Railway. It appeared that the deceased was a "tip" driver on the line, and had been accustomed to that work for the last three years. On Monday afternoon, about half-past four o'clock, the deceased was driving a truck loaded with earth towards the tip head, which is within a few yards of the South Western line at Falcon Bridge, Battersea, where the junction is to take place. The deceased, instead of keeping on the roadway, ran along the metals on which the truck was being propelled, and accidentally slipping, he caught at the reins of the horse to steady himself, which movement released the horse from the truck, caused him to fall forward, and in an instant the truck passed over his back, momentarily depriving him of life. Although the accident was witnessed by several men, it was impossible for them to prevent it. The jury, being satisfied that the occurrence was purely accidental, and that the deceased had not been obliged to have recourse to the metals from any defect in the roadway, returned a verdict of "accidental death," coupled with a remark that they considered there was no blame attributable to any one.

ACCIDENT ON THE BRISTOL AND BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY.—On Thursday a very serious slip took place near the Stonehouse station of the Birmingham and Bristol Railway, but by which, fortunately, no accident to the passengers occurred. The utmost exertions were immediately taken to repair the injury, but the company were compelled to use a single line for the succeeding trains. The down mail train from Birmingham, which was due at Bristol at five o'clock this morning, had not arrived, and a red light and a bar were placed upon the line above the engine to stop the Birmingham down mail train until the six o'clock Great Western up train had passed. Just at this moment, however, and fortunately before the Great Western engine was attached to the train, the Birmingham mail train came rushing down the steep incline, passed the red light without stopping, and a collision between the two engines was the consequence. The buffers were driven in, the engines dashed off the line, and much injured, but fortunately beyond the alarm necessarily arising from such an accident, the passengers received no injury.

FATAL ACCIDANT ON THE GRAND JUNCTION LINE.—A man named Higham was killed, together with a donkey which he was driving, on the evening of Tuesday last, by a luggage train from Liverpool, on the Grand Junction, not far from Warrington. The bodies of the man and the animal were shockingly mutilated. Higham was rather deaf, to which misfortune the calamity may be attributed.

Last week, in consequence, it is supposed, of the rapid rate at which they were travelling, the engineer and fireman of a train on the Norfolk Railway from Norwich for London were thrown under the engine. The former was killed on the spot, and the latter had both his thighs and an arm broken

PEEL AND THE DUKE OF RICHMOND.—As a proof of the schism which rules amongst Peel and the agriculturists, we subjoin the following extract from the speech of the Duke of Richmond at an agricultural meeting, held this week in Sussex:—The Duke of Richmond said—Gentlemen, a bad cold under which I am suffering will prevent me from tresspassing long on your attention to-day, but I hope I may say, that it will afford me the highest gratification to present at the foot of the throne a petition emanating from so large a body of the clergy, owners and occupiers of land, and labourers of my native county as I now see around me—(cheers.) A hand bill has been placed in my hand since I came into the meeting, signed by a person who subscribes himself "One of the Million," and who recommends the labourers here present "to sign petitions in favour of free trade, and not to mind what the Duke tells them. Now, I will put this matter to you at once, and ask you whether you are more likely to believe an anonymous writer than the individual who now stands before you, who has been long known to you, who has resided amongst you, and who has always felt the deepest anxiety in your welfare—("no! no!") Gentlemen, it has been said by some, that we ought not to move at the present moment, but that we ought to wait and hear what Sir Robert Peel's plan is. My opinion is, that if we were so to wait we should be too late. It would be something like shutting the door after the steed is stolen—(hear, hear.) We know Sir Robert Peel is going to get rid of protection—whether gradually or not we know not—but we know that he is going to do it—(hear, hear.) How do we know it? Why, I will call your attention to the facts of the case. About a fortnight or three weeks ago, shortly after Lord John Russell, the leader of the Whig party, had proclaimed his anxiety to join the Anti-Corn Law League, what did Sir Robert Peel do? Because one or two members of his Cabinet were not prepared to violate every pledge they had made upon the hustings, and the opinions expressed by them throughout their lives, he resigned his office, and that office having to be filled up, the Queen sent for Lord John Russell, who would have been able to form a Cabinet had it not been for some disagreement between one or two of his friends. Well, then, I say, what did Sir Robert Peel do? Why, he gave up the reins of Government to the party who he knew would carry the immediate repeal of the corn laws—(hear, hear.) Well, then, I would say, I wish rather he had done it himself—(a voice—"And so he will") If a man can be guilty of such treachery, for heaven's sake let him come forward and avow it—(hear, hear, and cheers.) What was it he wanted at that moment? A repeal of the corn laws. But he could not carry it, and therefore he threw up the Government that it might come into the hands of Lord John Russell—(cheers.) I have no hesitation in declaring my opinion, that such conduct is altogether unworthy of a statesman—(loud cheers.)

THEATRE ROYAL, EDINBURGH.

This present Evening, MONDAY, January 5, 1846,
Will be performed
A HUSBAND AT SIGHT.
To which will be added
THE RIVAL VALETS.
After which will be repeated the New Grand Frightfully and Delightfully Comical Pantomime, entitled
HARLEQUIN AND BLUE BEARD,
OR THE CAVERNS OF THE DEMON JEALOUSY,
AND THE GOLDEN GROVES OF THE QUEEN OF FAIRY LAND.
Harlequin by Mr G. HUNT.
Columbine by Mrs G. HUNT.
Clown by Mr HOGG.
Pantaloon by Monsieur GOURIET.
To-morrow—The New Pantomime—and a variety of other Entertainments.

☞ The MERCURY is published on Mondays and Thursdays. Price, 9 annum, £2 4s. credit; £2 paid in advance. Half-year and Quarter in proportion.

Caledonian Mercury.

EDINBURGH.

MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 1846.

THE MINISTRY.

At length the Ministry is reconstructed as follows:—

Sir Robert Peel, First Lord of the Treasury.
Sir J. R. G. Graham, Secretary of State for the Home Department.
Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Chancellor.
The Duke of Buccleuch, Lord President of the Council.
The Duke of Wellington, Commander-in-Chief.
The Earl of Aberdeen, Secretary for Foreign Affairs.
The Earl of Haddington, Lord Privy Seal.
The Earl of Ripon, President of the Board of Control.
The Right Hon. H. Goulburn, Chancellor of the Exchequer.
Lord Granville Somerset, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.
Earl of Lincoln, First Commissioner of Land Revenues.
The Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, Secretary at War.
The following are the new members of the Cabinet:—
The Earl of Dalhousie, President of the Board of Trade.
The Earl of Ellenborough, First Lord of the Admiralty.
The Earl of St Germans, Postmaster-General.
The Right Hon. W. Gladstone, Secretary for the Colonies.

It will be seen that the changes consequent on the death of Lord Wharncliffe and the retirement of Lord Stanley are rather important, assuming that the Administration once acquires stability in reference to the great question of the day. But that is a large assumption, looking to the perplexity of the Ministerial party, while their opponents are steadily forming in close column. Lord Haddington abandons the navy to Lord Ellenborough, for whom it has been determined to make room. That noble lord will no doubt endeavour to gain popularity with that service, but he will find a Cabinet Council very different from his Legislative Council in India, should he attempt any of his grand freaks. Mr Gladstone succeeds Lord Stanley as Secretary of the Colonies—a change which will be hailed with great satisfaction. The Earl of Dalhousie returns to the Presidency of the Board of Trade, but with a seat in the Cabinet. These are the material changes, which will be regarded with little interest by the country. The anxiety is as to how that Ministry will dispose of the corn laws—whether they will manfully grapple with the evil, and finally put an end to this fertile source of strife, or whether they will strive to shuffle off the difficulty and eventually sink in the struggle. We may infer, that the support of Lord John Russell and his party now offered to Sir Robert Peel in the event of him preferring a total repeal will be at once converted into uncompromising opposition should he falter. If we can put faith in the fierce denunciations of the Richmond party, there is no medium course for Sir Robert Peel; he must either shape his measure to secure the Protection party, however reluctantly their support may be tendered, or he must throw himself on Lord John Russell and Mr Cobden heedless of the indignation of his quondam friends, to whom he owes his official being.

At a time when the country has seen public men trucking to expediency contrary to their long professed principles, and classes of the community bewildered, not knowing where to put their trust, we turn with pleasure to a more than usually able article in the present number of the *Edinburgh Review*, entitled "Earls Grey and Spencer." Both those distinguished men have passed away during the last year, but their memory will be venerated by an intelligent and virtuous people, so long as consistency and exalted integrity of purpose are prized. It is to such examples of public virtue that the rising generation of Statesmen should look—to men who at the outset based their political faith on enlarged and well defined principles, which they ever struggled to advance, and which finally they were enabled in a great degree to realise. They thus saw their views put to the test; they could point to the result, in proof that they had been expounding no visionary theories—inculcating no doctrines which were either intrinsically false or incompatible with the working of that Constitution which it was always their object to cherish and protect. "It is the interest of the country at large (observes the eloquent Reviewer), that its rulers should be pure and high-minded—lofty in their objects—faithful to their convictions—steady in their attachments—ready to affront with courage the proscription of a Court—and to bear with patience the revilings of the multitude. It is the interest of a country, when there are many roads to wealth, and many sources of tranquil enjoyment—that the 'great art of Government' as it has been called, should have its attractions for those who seek not their fortune in the emoluments of office, or their amusement in the exciting variety of political intrigue. The men who are qualified by talent, prepared by education, and fitted by integrity for the highest posts in Parliament and in Council, ought to be encouraged by high example, and inflamed by that love of fame,

Which the clear spirit doth raise
To scorn delights, and live laborious days.

But this cannot happen, unless it is clearly shown that high desert has high fortune attached to it; and that the vulgar depreciation of political pursuits cannot soil the pure mirror by which true Statesmen are tested in the opinion of after ages."

Of that high stamp was Earl Grey and also Earl Spencer—the patriotism of the former adorned with the graces of a finely balanced, polished, and nervous oratory, while the genuine truth of the latter came forth in the appropriate garb of plain and manly good sense. Each was actuated by that honesty of purpose, that while they stood forward as the two great pillars of the Whig Government of 1830-34, all their measures, however objectionable they might be deemed by some, had at least the advantage of being received as those of men who enforced the same because they believed them to be for the good of the country, and for no other reason. When the reform in the representation was so keenly agitated and denounced in high quarters as revolutionary, Earl Grey rested on the vantage ground, that he urged nothing then when in power which he had not as strenuously sought in 1793, and down from that period, without swerving, unawed alike by the hostility of the Court and the Patrician power on the one side, and by the fickle fears of the multitude on the other. In short, we may say of Earl Grey, when he did obtain the voice of the people, that they came to him, not he to them; his principles were not fashioned to meet the transient caprice of the multitude, but rested on the strength of early conviction, only deepened and matured by after experience.

So long had the country been accustomed to associate the Whig principles with eloquent declamation ending in nothing, that some were apt to consider those opinions as a vain unsubstantial dream which, in the very nature of things, could never be realised. Mr O'Connell, when he stood for Clare in 1828—a master-stroke of policy on his part—gave the first blow to the fancied security of that party, who ruled on the principle of yielding nothing to justice even when demanded by the most obvious expediency to the State. The downfall of the Wellington Ministry in 1830 was the next emphatic indication that these principles were steadily working to a practical conclusion. Then did Earl Grey, at seventy years of age, receive the helm, and by the acceptance gave a solemn pledge that either his principles must prevail in the Councils of this country or that he must descend from power. As to how he redeemed that pledge we would refer to this distinguished Reviewer, who in describing the measures of the Grey Government affords one of the most luminous digests of Whig principles it has ever been our fortune to see.

Reform in the lower branch of the Legislature was the first and vital question. In calling for this change, Earl Grey did not proceed on speculative views of abstract perfection; for, as he once said of Mr Fox, "If, in his political creed, there was one article which he held more steadfastly than another it was, that while a system was practically good, he would always abstain from mending it by theories." But that system could not be held as practically good which, avowing to give the people a voice in the administration of the country, excluded Manchester, Leeds, and Birmingham, while it retained the green mounds of Old Sarum and other deserted boroughs, which were notoriously bought and sold like any lawful article of merchandise. There was something so radically anomalous in the system and so opposite to the spirit of our admirable Constitution, that it could not be "practically good." When Lord John Russell unfolded the bold and comprehensive plan of reform on the 1st March 1830, the sensation in the House is thus vividly described by the Reviewer:—"The House was silent, curious, anxious, till the first elements of the plan were unfolded. Amazement succeeded. But when it was explained that fifty boroughs were to be disfranchised, and fifty more were to return one member only, instead of two, the Opposition took courage. They could not believe that the intention was serious. They triumphed in the anticipation of certain victory. Laughter took the place of indignation; each subsequent announcement was treated with derision. Many of the Whigs despaired of success; the Radicals jejoiced at the developement of a plan so much in accordance with their own views. Parties were at fault. The great majority of each party was mistaken. The Tories were wrong in thinking that the plan could be easily rejected; the Whigs were premature in their forebodings of failure; the Radicals deceived themselves when they supposed that so large a ruin must lead to a more uniform construction. The authors of the plan were alone justified by the event."

We remember well the popular feeling was that this scheme had been devised on a scale commensurate with the lasting exclusion of the Tory party of that day. Such was not the aim of its authors. Property justly formed too large and conservative an element in the representative principle to admit of such an idea. But which ever party may prevail for the time, it is undoubted that the various interests are now more directly represented. We have not time to refer at greater length to the rapid and brilliant sketch which the Reviewer gives of the other great measures that marked the career of the Grey Administration—the reform of the Irish Church—the national system of education in that country—the amendment of the English poor laws—the opening of the India trade—and the reform of municipal corporations; all of which were bold and extensive measures, comprehending great interests, and requiring an immensity of practical detail ere they were matured. Lastly, there was that memorable measure, the abolition of slavery throughout the British dominions, by which the interest of humanity was reconciled with justice to the slave proprietors, and the great experiment at length happily accomplished without shaking the framework of society. But the deeds of that Administration will have their due place in our annals, and at the fitting season. As to its two leading spirits, it may then be calmly conceded, in the language of the Reviewer—"It was neither for democracy nor aristocracy, not for the liberty of ancient republics, nor for the perfection of an ideal commonwealth, that Lord Grey and Lord Spencer administered the affairs of England. It was to purify and to maintain the English Constitution, that they gave their lives to labour, and exposed their names to the reproach of the prejudiced, the timid, and the interested."

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

LONDON, SATURDAY MORNING.

The period is now so short before Parliament meets, that the ministerial business of the session may be said to have already commenced; for besides a privy council believed to have been fixed for to-day at Windsor Castle, to admit of the recent changes and appointments in the Cabinet being ratified, her Majesty is to hold a court, to be attended by the great officers of state, at which to receive the addressess of the London and Dublin corporations, which are to be presented in state by the civic functionaries of both capitals, praying for the total and unqualified repeal of the corn laws. There is more than the usual amount of importance attached to the presentation of these highly interesting appeals to the wisdom and justice of the Sovereign in behalf of the poorer class of her subjects, upon whom the high price of food now presses with severity. The deputation from the Dublin Corporation, including the Lord Mayor, have arrived in town, and as the prospects of famine are more visible in their country than in any other part of the empire, the reply which the Prime Minister, through her Majesty, is to give to the address excites a lively degree of interest amongst all classes in the metropolis.

The active and enterprising members of the Anti-Corn Law League, are spreading their influence over the length and breadth of the land, and everywhere the fruits of their labour are already to be found, but their signal success is reserved for the general election, which is considered inevitable, from the position in which Sir Robert Peel finds himself. The monopolists declare their determination to resist to the uttermost the contemplated change of the Prime Minister, who, in return, has as firmly made up his mind to take the sense of the country upon the much agitated subject, and abide the issue. It is scarcely possible that the landed interest will drive matters to such an extreme, for whatever Ministry is in power, their hope of sanctioning the corn law is utterly and entirely destroyed. The Anti-Corn Law League has grown into gigantic proportions, and its co-operation with a reforming Ministry, is decisive of the fate of any factious resistance that might be offered to a plan approved by the will of the people. No greater evidence need be afforded of the power which the League wields in the existing crisis than what is discernible in the pregnant though simple fact, that in the course of *a few days* they have realised a sum of nearly one hundred thousand pounds, in subscriptions varying from a shilling to one thousand pounds, in aid of the quarter of a million of money proposed to be raised in furthering their designs against the enemies of trade, commerce, and practical industry. The triumph of the free trade principle at Hereford just at this moment is hailed as the foreboding of another and more conclusive one,

"HAYMARKET THEATRE. I." Caledonian Mercury, 5 Jan. 1846. British Library Newspapers, https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/BB3205451744/BNCN?u=bayreuth&sid=BNCN&xid=6a905867. Accessed 15 Oct. 2020.