FRANCE.

The weekly journal, *La Semaine*, has been condemned for insertion of an article exciting to hatred and contempt of the Government. The writer and the *gerant* were sentenced respectively to three months' imprisonment and 2000 francs fine, and to six months' imprisonment and 2000 francs fine. The *Messager de l'Assemblée* has also been fined 500 francs for inserting a bulletin of the Bourse without signature.

There is a balloon mania in Paris; nearly every one is gazing skyward at the monsters that float through the air. Each child in Paris has a balloon of its own, or cries till he gets one; and this, or a parachute, he is perpetually throwing out of his nursery window, to his own imminent danger, or dragging through the streets, to the annoyance of the passers-by. The new name for parachute is 'la distraction des enfans,' and the distraction sellers attract your attention at the corner of every street. The Poitevins now daily attain the greatest height of absurdity. Monsieur and Madame ascend each on a horse attached to a balloon, with a groom on another horse, at a respectable distance below.

GERMANY.

The King of Prussia is progressing to Ischl to meet the Emperor of Austria, visiting the royal family of Bavaria on his way.

The *Cologne Gazette* has advices from Vienna of the 15th inst., announcing the appearance of the British fleet, under Admiral Parker, off Tunis. This event has caused a profound sensation at Vienna, for it is thought to have some connexion with Lord Palmerston's speech on Oriental affairs, and it is again asserted that English influence is again predominant at the Porte, to the chagrin of Vienna statesmen.

ITALY.

M. Giuseppe Massari, a late member of the Neapolitan Parliament, has just published, at Turin, a letter to Mr. Gladstone, entitled *An Expression of Gratitude to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone*, thanking that gentleman for his powerful and effective exposure of the iniquities and cruelties practised by the Neapolitan Government, and declaring that every word of Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet is truth. After entering into a variety of details corroborative of Mr. Gladstone's statements, M. Massari says:—"It well became an illustrious son of glorious and powerful England, sole mistress and bright example of liberty and order, to raise his voice against so great ignominy and wickedness; the guardianship of the oppressed is the most enviable prerogative of the brave, and you have employed it nobly. To the applause of your own stainless conscience may it please you to add the homage of gratitude which every honest Neapolitan cordially proffers to you with all the force of his soul. You have well said that no man is so loved and admired by his fellow-citizens as Carlo Poerio by the Neapolitans; but now they blend in their prayers and blessings the name of this famous victim and martyr with another, with that of the courageous defender of the oppressed, of the inexorable adversary of the butcherly tyrants, of the frank friend of truth; with the name of the man who has found in his heart treasures of affection for the persecuted, and of magnanimous indignation against the persecutors—with the name of William Gladstone."

CALIFORNIA.—We have advices from San Francisco to the 14th of July. The state of affairs throughout California is startling. The authority of the Courts has been disregarded, the executors of the law set at defiance, and the Vigilance Committee of San Francisco, composed of some 800 or 900 respectable citizens, have accomplished more good in the detection of crime than could have been accomplished by the police in a lifetime. A man, named Jenkins, has been hanged at midnight by the Vigilance Committee, for stealing 200 dollars. A similar scene was witnessed on the 12th inst. A man named Jim Stewart, a Sydney convict, the leader of a gang of desperadoes, was arrested for robbing a house, and notwithstanding the officers of the law attempted to get possession of him, he was tried, convicted, and sentenced to be hanged the same day. The signal bell was sounded, and the populace rushed by hundreds to the building of the Committee. A the hour appointed for the execution, Stewart was brought out strongly pinioned, and guarded by about 500 members of the committee, walking eight abreast, each armed with a revolver, taken to one of the public wharfs, followed by thousands, a rope adjusted to a crane erected for hoisting goods, and swung between heaven and earth in full view of the assembled multitude. So solemn was the scene, that each head of that immense throng was involuntarily uncovered. No attempt was made to rescue him, nor was there any other feeling than that of entire concurrence. The execution took place at two o'clock in the afternoon. Previous to paying the forfeit of his guilt, Stewart made a full confession of his crimes. The details establish the fact that he was the leader of the most desperate gang of villains that has ever preyed upon a community. San Francisco is not the only point where summary justice is meted out; Sonora is equally prompt. A man named David Hill, *alias* Jim Hill, was arrested for stealing a horse, tried, and although subsequently rescued by Sheriff Works, was forcibly taken from him by the populace, after a hard struggle, and hung to a tree in the main street of the town. But a tragedy which has excited most attention and sympathy, was the hanging of a Mexican woman, named Josepha, at Downieville, on the Yuba, by the populace. Having had some difficulty with a miner, she stabbed him to the heart with a butcher's knife. The people immediately assembled, took her into custody, gave her a fair trial, and, upon conviction, sentenced her to be hung in two hours. A gallows was erected on a bridge crossing the river, at the lower end of the town, and at the appointed hour an immense crowd assembled, and, after bidding *adios* and shaking hands with those immediately around her, she ascended the scaffold, adjusted the rope herself, releasing a luxuriant head of hair from beneath it, so as to permit it to flow free, and in a moment the cords supporting the scaffold were cut, and she hung suspended between heaven and earth.—Indian troubles are not yet ended. On the Klamath river the Indians are in open war with the whites, and are murdering and robbing whenever an opportunity offers. The Indians have sent off all the squaws and children—a fact indicative of their design to commence a general war. Business has been a little more active since the sailing of the last steamer; but the immense quantity of goods forced upon the market at auction keeps prices very low. The intelligence from the mines continues to be extremely encouraging, and a general spirit of contentment seems to prevail among the miners. The effects of the late fire in San Francisco are yet perceptible, but the energy and enterprise of the citizens appear to be unabated. The burnt district, although not entirely rebuilt, is pretty thickly studded with tenements of all descriptions, and brick and stone buildings of the most substantial character are in process of erection in all parts.

A female barber is one of the curiosities at San Francisco. She is a delicate little Frenchwoman, and is quite an adept in her profession.

A New York paper states that Miss Charlotte Cushman has adopted male attire,—hat, coat, and trousers,—it is believed permanently.

THE INDIA MAIL.

The papers and letters from Calcutta of July 15, and from Bombay of July 26, in anticipation of the Overland Mail, have come to hand, but they contain nothing important. Earl Dalhousie's term of service, as Governor-General, expires in October, 1852; but opposite reports are in circulation at Calcutta—one that his Lordship would retire before that period; the other that his Administration had given such satisfaction that he would hold office beyond that time. It appears quite certain that a portion of the Nizam's dominions will be seized for the debt due to the English Government. The Nepaulese have introduced into their country the punishment of transportation, and Allahabad has been selected as their first convict station. It is a singular fact that the King's brother and Gen. Jung Behadur's brother and cousin are the three first prisoners doomed to pay that penalty for five years, for being the principal instigators in the late attempted rebellion at Katmandoo. Several villages in the neighbourhood of the Runn of Cutch had been washed away by inundation, and many lives were lost. One of the persons in prison for setting the clipper *Ariel* on fire has made confession that he and others were employed by a Calcutta merchant to perform that nefarious act. Commercial affairs at Calcutta had undergone little change since the departure of the previous mail. At Bombay imports were in good demand, but exports were inactive.

The young Dahomean Princesses, brought home some time ago by Captain Forbes, and taken under the special charge of the Queen, have, by her Majesty's desire, been sent out to Sierra Leone, to be educated in the Church Missionary Society's Institution in that colony.

The Commissioners of Woods and Forests have issued instructions to fill up the different hollows in Primrose Hill Park, in order that the lower portion may be converted into a cricket-ground. A spacious carriage-drive has been formed from the Hampstead-road through the grounds of Chalk Farm Tavern, leading into the Regent's Park, and Camden Town. A number of gravel walks have been laid down, and seats placed for the accommodation of visitors. It is intended to plant this park with trees and shrubs similar to the enclosure in St. James's Park. The park-keepers appeared on Wednesday in their new uniforms.

The great Lunatic Asylum, which has just been erected at Colney Hatch, Middlesex, is said to have 1,045 rooms, 7,845 windows, and 1,470 doors.

The brigade of shoe-blacks who do duty in London streets, are stated to earn 26*l.* a week, one-third of which is devoted to liquidate expenses, one-third is placed in the savings bank, and the remaining third is given to the boys themselves. One of them has saved so much money in this manner since the month of May, that he is enabled to determine upon emigrating to Australia.

In Paris, during the six months from January to June inclusive, there were 966 fires.

The *Birmingham Journal* startled its readers last week by announcing three fatal cases of Asiatic cholera in the town, vouched for by medical men at inquests on the bodies. *Aris's Gazette*, however, on similar authority, consulting others in the town, denies the fact, alleging that the parties in question died of English cholera.

THE BRIDGWATER WILL CASE.—Judgment in the case of Egerton *versus* Brownlow has been delivered by Vice-Chancellor Lord Cranworth. The questions arose under the will of the late Earl of Bridgwater, and involved the disposition of a fortune of 60,000*l.* or 70,000*l.* a year. The late John William Earl of Bridgwater, who died in 1823, left his estates in eleven of the Southern, Midland, and Northern counties of England, in this manner:—To trustees in trust, that they should allow his grand-nephew, Lord Alford, son of Earl Brownlow, by the testator's niece, a practical life-interest at all events. Then, after the death of Lord Alford, to the heirs male of his body in either of two events: that is to say, in the event that Lord Alford should in his life time have obtained the dignity of Duke or Marquis of Bridgwater; or in the double event that Lord Alford should become Earl Brownlow (which it was likely, through family descents, that he would become), and that he, or the heirs male of his body, should attain the dignity of Duke of Bridgwater within five years after Lord Alford had so become Earl Brownlow. If neither of these events occurred, and neither Lord Alford nor his heirs got the Dukedom or the Marquisate in the requisite time, the estates were not to go to Lord Alford or his heirs; but they were to go to his brother the Honourable Charles Henry Cust, the next son of Earl Brownlow, under similar conditions with regard to the attainment of a title. And ultimately, if the title were still unattained, the estates were given to still remoter parties—the Tatton Egertons. Lord Alford died in the present year, without having become Earl Brownlow, or made any step higher in the Peerage. He left an infant son, the Honourable William Spencer Brownlow Cust, who has taken the name of Egerton; and this infant claims the estates, on the ground that the condition which made his interest dependent on the advance of his father in the Peerage is, in the language of the law, "contrary to public policy." This claim is contested by his uncle, the Honourable Charles Henry Cust, now Egerton, brother of the late Lord Alford, whom the will of the Earl of Bridgwater had placed next in the succession, if Lord Alford should not obtain the promotion coveted. It was maintained that such a condition was bad, because it tended to the influencing of the Crown unduly to confer or withhold honours. Lord Cranworth held that it did not do so. The power of the Crown to grant such a dignity was undoubted, and would be exercised in a just and fitting manner, without reference to interests which might be collaterally affected. The demurrers of the defendant must therefore be overruled. Notice of appeal to the Lords was given.

Two men, on the farm of Mr. Keynes, sen., of Chesscome, Whitechurch, near Blandford, lately espied a small jar in the hedge, near where some women had been at work; the men, thinking it was a jar of tea, drank its contents between them, which was about a pint each; the effects of poison soon shewed themselves, when alarming symptoms set in. One of the men died almost directly, and the other remains in a dangerous state, and not likely to recover. The jar contained, instead of tea, as was supposed, sheepwash—a poisonous liquid, most probably composed of sugar of lead and corrosive sublimate, both very strong poison.

A NEW TRICK.—A number of pickpockets, who are now carrying on an active business in Liverpool, have adopted rather a singular mode of effecting their object. When they see a couple of ladies walking or standing together, one of them steps up to knock away from the dress of the ladies a large bee. The lady is naturally alarmed at seeing the bee so near her, and in the confusion of the moment easily becomes a prey to the designing pickpocket, who, for this purpose, carries with him a box of bees ready to be used when opportunity serves. The bee is placed on the dress of the lady by one of the thieves, and then his companion takes care to rifle her pocket whilst the other is apparently busy in protecting the lady from the sting of the insect.

The audience at the Liverpool Amphitheatre have been convulsed with laughter at the climax of a tragedy. Mr. Vandenhoff, who was enacting *Brutus* in *Julius Cæsar*, was about to stab himself, when a venerable-looking goat came on the stage and walked deliberately to the foot-lights. The goat could not be removed instantly, and Brutus killed himself with what gravity he could; the goat, seeing the Roman fall, walked to the body and sniffed at it; this was too much for the gravity of even Mr. Vandenhoff, who joined in the chorus of laughter as the intruder was hurried off the stage.

SINGULAR AND FATAL ACCIDENT.—The death of Henry Sudell, Esq., of Ashley House, Wilts, resulted from a somewhat remarkable cause. Mr. Sudell had called at the Queen's Head Inn, at Box, and whilst conversing with some gentlemen there he saw a dog suddenly spring at one of them, Mr. Lewis, of Colerne. Mr. Sudell quickly stepped forth to restrain the dog, and Mr. Lewis being equally on the alert, simultaneously aimed a blow at it with his walking-stick; but unfortunately, instead of striking the animal, struck Mr. Sudell's hand. Inflammation was the result, and it having alarmingly increased, the assistance of Dr. Sprague was obtained; but notwithstanding that gentleman's efforts, mortification took place, and Mr. Sudell expired on Thursday last. An inquest was held on the body on Saturday last by Mr. Whitmarsh, when the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."—*Bath Chronicle.*

SARAH BARBER.—This criminal, who up to a recent date has been lying in Nottingham County Gaol under sentence of death, was on Wednesday conveyed to Millbank prison, prior to removal to one of the penal colonies, her punishment having been commuted to transportation for life.

OXFORD, WORCESTER, AND WOLVERHAMPTON RAILWAY.

The extraordinary general meeting of this company, adjourned from July last, to consider the proposal for leasing the line to the Great Western Company for 999 years, and to receive the report of the committee of shareholders then appointed to inquire into the subject, took place on Wednesday at the London Tavern, London. Mr. Graysbrook in the chair.

The Secretary read the report of the committee, in which they strongly recommended the proprietors not to confirm the agreement with the Great Western, and expressed their opinion that so soon as they shall be free from the Great Western, a beneficial and liberal arrangement might be made with the narrow gauge interest; and stating that the communications they had opened with that interest had been met with candour and cordiality, or suggested that the line might be carried out as an independent one with far more advantage to the proprietors than could be obtained from the Great Western agreement.

A long discussion followed, and the Secretary then read some remarks of the Directors upon the report of the Committee, pointing out several errors into which the Committee had fallen.—A further and somewhat stormy discussion then took place, but finally the following resolution was adopted:—

"That the agreement with the Great Western Railway Company, as proposed and submitted to this meeting, be adopted and confirmed, subject to the following conditions—viz., that there be added thereto, or inserted therein, a clause or clauses to the effect that if at any time after the expiration of four years from the date of such agreement this company shall notify to the Great Western Company their readiness to sell the undertaking to that company, at the price (over and above all debts, charges, and preferential interest and dividends) of 30*l.* for each 50*l.* share, or, at the option of the Great Western Railway Company, an annual payment at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on each such share of 50*l.*, to be secured by their debentures, the Great Western Company shall and will, therefore, forthwith accept and complete the purchase on these terms. And further, that if within one year from the expiration of such period of four years this company shall not have given such purchase to be made, it shall be at the option of the Great Western Company, at any time within two years from such last-named period, to require the company to sell the undertaking to them at the price (over and above all charges, debts, and preferential interest and dividends) of 40*l.* for each such share, and the company shall and will, therefore, forthwith sell and convey the undertaking to them on these terms. That the directors be, and they are hereby, authorized to affix the common seal of this company to any deed or agreement containing, in addition to the clauses in the deed already prepared, such further clause or clauses as above stated, and to do all other acts which may be required for giving effect to this resolution. That the condition attached by this meeting to the agreement be considered as not accepted by the Great Western Company if not accepted by that company in due form within a month."

A vote of thanks was then given to the committee of shareholders, and the special meeting terminated.

The business of the ordinary half-yearly general meeting was then proceeded with.—The Secretary read the report of the Directors, as follows:—

"The Directors have so recently communicated to the proprietors the position of the undertaking that on the present occasion little remains to be stated. The general balance-sheet to 30th June last, and statements of receipts and expenditure on the Stourbridge Extension Canal, and for the Stratford and Moreton Railway, for the half-year ending 30th June, are subjoined. The proprietors are aware that the Company kept an account with Messrs. Ruffords and Wragge, bankers, at Stourbridge, and that Mr. Francis Rufford, one of the partners of the house, was connected with this Company, as its Chairman, from its original formation. This bank stopped payment about the 26th of June last, there being at that time a considerable amount of the Company's money in its hands. The report of the auditor hereunto annexed details the amounts and the circumstances. The Directors are, through the medium of the Company's solicitors, engaged in ascertaining the exact position of the Company, believing that some portions of the loss will fall on third parties. The Directors fear the assets of the bankrupts will suffice to pay but a small dividend. The various works upon the line are progressing satisfactorily, though more slowly than the Directors contemplated when they made their report to the special general meeting of the Company in January last. This is attributable to the unsettled state of the Company. On one contract, that for the Mickleton Tunnel, the contractors stopped the works in June last, and refused either to go on or to give the Company possession. In order that the works upon the whole line might not be rendered unproductive by the non-completion of this tunnel, the Board, acting under advice, took possession of the contract, they are happy to say, without absolute violence or injury to any individual, though the menacing conduct of the contractor at one time rendered such an issue probable. The question touching the Company's rights against the contractor, and his rights against the Company, is now the subject of arbitration. The offices of the Company will be removed, almost immediately, from Worcester to No. 4, Colemanstreet-buildings, London; this step will occasion additional expense to the secretary, owing to his having resided at Worcester, in a house belonging to the Company, rent free, and the Board therefore recommend the proprietors to increase his salary from 400*l.* to 500*l.* per annum. A resolution will be submitted to the proprietors for the confirmation of the forfeiture of certain shares. The following report from the Company's engineer will shew more particularly the progress of the works:

'18, Duke-street, Westminster, Aug. 26.

'Gentlemen,—Shortly after my last half-yearly report the works were resumed upon the whole of the unfinished portions of the line between Tipton and Oxford, and, except in the case of the Mickleton Tunnel, are now proceeding regularly and satisfactorily; between 2,500 and 3,000 men are now at work. The viaducts at Coalbourn, near Stourbridge, and at Blakedown, near Kidderminster, are nearly completed; that at Hoo Brook is about being commenced; and those over the river Avon, at Fladbury, Hampton, and Aldington, are in hand. The ballasting upon those already laid down has been completed, and the earthwork and masonry on the other portions, are proceeding vigorously, especially at the south end of the line, where the work was most backward. The permanent way of the permanent way from Worcester to Stoke Prior is laid, and large quantities of timber are deposited on the line, near Abbott's Wood, ready to commence laying south of Worcester, and a considerable stock now in the yards at Gloucester is being converted into sleepers for the line. In the Mickleton Tunnel considerable difficulties have occurred, the cause of which and their consequences are now the subject of inquiry, and of arbitration, and I am therefore be referred to in this report beyond stating the fact that the Company have taken possession of the works themselves, by subcontractors, who are mostly the same parties who have previously worked for the contractors; and that the works are now proceeding vigorously. If no unexpected impediment should occur, there is every reason to hope that the tunnel may be completed as soon as the rest of the southern portion of the line. Contracts for an additional quantity of rails which will be required in completing the line, amounting to 10,000 tons, have been entered into with the Rhymney Company and the Ebbw Vale Company. All the land required for the deviation line and station at Wolverhampton has been purchased or agreed for, so as to allow of the main line being completed throughout; but the works between Tipton and Wolverhampton have not been commenced.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

'To the Directors of the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway Company.' 'I. K. BRUNEL.'

The Auditor's report states that the balance-sheet represents an expenditure of the sum of 68,063*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for land and compensation in the half-year, but several amounts, parts of that aggregate amount, have been deposited in provincial and joint-stock banks, leaving in deposit with bankers 24,912*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, and the Gloucestershire Bank, Stow-on-the-Wold, 210*l.*, a purchase since completed. These sums, for the most part, have been so deposited in the names of a Director of the Company and the vendor or his agent; but a sum of 275*l.* deposited in the bank of Rufford and Wragge was so placed in the name of Mr. Rufford alone in the matter of the executors of William Page, deceased. Two several cheques, the one 5625*l.*, and the other 5500*l.*, appear to have been paid to the agent of Lord Ward's estate, being the consideration for the purchase of lands; they are both drawn on the bank of Messrs. Rufford and Wragge, but in the pass-book of that bank the check for 5500*l.* does not appear to be debited. The balance due from Messrs. Rufford and Wragge, according to the ledger account of the Company, and as expressed in the balance-sheet, is 4166*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* In that account they have credit for all sums drawn upon them by the Company; but I am informed that one cheque for 470*l.*, so drawn, has not been issued, whereby the balance is increased to the sum of 4636*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*; and I am further informed that the following cheques, drawn on them and issued to Messrs. Bedford and Pidcock, are also outstanding:—April 18, 1848, 31*l.*; March 6, 1851, 60*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; March 12, ditto, 150*l.*; June 16, ditto, 263*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*; ditto, 182*l.* 14*s.*; ditto, 192*l.* 10*s.*; ditto, 137*l.* 10*s.*; ditto, 210*l.*; total, 839*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*: and one to Mr. Elgie, May 15, 1851, 100*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*

In answer to a question put by a shareholder, Mr. Parsons stated that the sum of 4166*l.*, mentioned in the report, was not the whole amount due from Messrs. Rufford and Wragge. There were other charges, into which inquiry was now making, and which it was believed would shew that blame rested with some persons connected with the Company. Two cheques, one for 5625*l.*, and the other for 5500*l.* (a most mysterious item), paid to the agent of Lord Ward's estate, were at this moment under consideration.

Several formal resolutions were then passed; the sum of 200*l.* was voted to pay the expenses of the committee of shareholders; and, after a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Directors, the proceedings terminated.

HOP INTELLIGENCE.

Worcester, August 27.—The weather for the last three weeks has done wonders for the hops, and a good crop we are now almost certain of, probably within a trifle of last year's. The quality too is likely to be first rate; and, better than all, the planters will get a good price for their produce, in consequence of the crop failing in Sussex and some parts of Kent, so that our district will probably grow more than a fifth of the whole kingdom. Our market is quiet, and prices somewhat lower than last week. 1850's, 95s. to 105s.; 1848's, 45s. to 56s.; 1846's, 35s. to 52s. per cwt.

Maidstone.—The boisterous winds of Sunday last have knocked the hops about a good deal. Many poles are prostrate, and some considerable quantity of hops have been blown away, while others are greatly bruised. Until this untoward visitation the plantations continued improving, and many of them have still a most luxuriant appearance. The College ground has fortunately escaped the rough handling of the wind, and is going on well. Allowance must be made for the effects of the gale in estimating the value of our district reports, most of which were written before it took place. We see by our Borough letter that the duty has gone up to 105,000*l.* Now this nearly approaches half a crop, the prospect of growing which we are unable to discover. The prevailing opinion here is that the duty will not reach 100,000*l.*

THE JUDGE OF THE LIVERPOOL COUNTY COURT.—The Earl of Carlisle, as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, has decided that, after weighing the evidence on both sides relating to the charges arising from infirmity of temper, against Mr. Ramshay, Judge of the Liverpool County Court, that he does not feel called upon to remove that gentleman from his office. On Monday Mr. Ramshay again took his seat in his Court, and feelingly alluded to the attempts made, during the time he was afflicted with illness, to remove him from office, by accusations from ill-disposed and unscrupulous persons, who had made him the object of their unceasing calumny and misrepresentations ever since he was appointed. Having intimated his intention of applying to another Court, if their persecution was continued, he declared that the townspeople might rely upon it he should continue fearlessly and independently to discharge his duties—to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly before God.

STATE OF TRADE.—*Manchester, August* 26.—As might be anticipated from the tone of feeling described as existing in this market on Saturday, the continued attempt to force up the prices of cotton at Liverpool has been productive of an unfavourable influence here. Beyond the addition of ¾d. per lb. obtained on cotton last week, sellers succeeded yesterday in putting a further advance of an eighth of a penny upon the material. The sales reached 10,000 bales in Liverpool yesterday, of which the large proportion of 4000 were taken on speculation, while the stock in the hands of brokers on this side the Atlantic is 668,000, against 556,000 bales at this time last year. However, reasonable or unreasonable, this rise encouraged spinners and manufacturers to ask an advance—the former to the extent of ½d. per lb. on yarns—a course which had a very decided result on the market in checking operations. Buyers having pressing orders to execute, have been obliged to meet the difficulty as best they could, and there has been a considerable aggregate business both in yarn and cloth, but there cannot have been any thing like the sales that would otherwise have taken place. Houses, both in the home and export trade, were disposed to give out large orders at the rates of last week, but where these have not been accepted, their offers have been withdrawn, and business to some extent suspended. A great many buyers treated the advance as entirely absurd, having not the slightest confidence in the advance which has taken place in the raw material, and retired from the market rather than give a fraction beyond the rates of Saturday.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

On Friday, August 22, 1,957*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* was the amount taken at the doors of the building, the number of visitors being 17,978.

On Saturday the receipts at the doors amounted to 1,434*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* the number of visitors being 14,908.

The number of visitors to the Exhibition on Monday was 40,021, and the receipts were 2439*l.* 14*s.*

On Tuesday 2,493*l.* 10*s.* was taken at the doors, and the number of visitors was 51,311. The weather during the afternoon was exceedingly unfavourable, and but for that circumstance the attendance would no doubt have been larger.

The sale of season tickets on Wednesday produced 5*l.* 10*s.*, and the receipts at the doors 1896*l.* 1*s.*, making a total of 1901*l.* 11*s.* The number of persons who entered was 38,228.

On Thursday the total receipts were 2173*l.* 11*s.*, and the number of visitors 43,244.

A gentleman has made a calculation which shews that if every article in the Crystal Palace were to be examined for three minutes, it would occupy twenty-six years to examine all.

THE GENERAL LAND DRAINAGE AND IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.

The general ordinary meeting of this Company, which was incorporated in 1849, was held on Wednesday, August 20, at the Offices, 52, Parliament-street. Mr. H. Ker Seymer, M.P., the Chairman of the Company, presided.

Mr. Clifford, the Secretary, read the report. It referred with satisfaction to the steady progress of the Company since the last meeting. The amount of capital, prescribed by Act of Parliament before executing any work, had been subscribed for and paid up, and a number of eligible contracts were under consideration, or in course of completion, which would afford a profitable employment to the greater portion, if not the whole, of the subscribed capital of the Company. The applications which had been made to the Directors for the assistance of the Company had been very numerous, and though it had been deemed inexpedient to entertain a great number of them, yet those that the Directors had selected to enter upon involved the drainage of upwards of 3000 acres of land, and the erection of farm buildings to a very considerable extent. The terms and arrangements which the Company had adopted had met with very general approval, and they were such as not only fully to remunerate the shareholders, but amply to repay landowners for the expenditure upon their estates.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the Report, observed that the powers which the Company possessed were very great—so great indeed that considerable responsibility attached to all who were entrusted with the execution of them, and he should be sorry that a body of English gentlemen should obtain such extensive powers as they possessed, and not be able to carry them out for the public good, more particularly for the good of the agricultural interest, understanding thereby, landlord, tenant, and agricultural labourer. That great interest was still, he believed, the most important interest in this country, and one with which the prosperity of all other interests was very closely connected. He did not of course speak of the general public, because, if the agriculturist did not produce beef and bread in sufficient quantities and at a sufficiently low price, the beef and bread produced pab shewn that they knew where to go for them; and, in fact, it was the competition to which the agriculturist was subjected which made the operations of this Company so important. It could not be denied that the law of entail had been, to a certain extent, injurious to the agricultural interest, in offering obstructions to expenditure of money in permanent improvements. In travelling about the country, they saw many estates which were being cultivated under great disadvantages; they saw land undrained, no roads, and farm buildings in ruins existing where they ought not to exist, or so inconveniently constructed as to do more harm than good, especially in reference to the waste of manure. When they saw all this they must feel that the agriculturists, occupying such farms, had not a fair chance in competition with foreign rivalry. When he saw under what circumstances some land was cultivated, he was puzzled to think how the rents were paid, and he was quite sure that without some extraneous assistance they could not continue to be paid much longer. By improving such lands, of such lands by a sound system of drainage, and the erection of farm buildings adapted to the improved modes of cultivation in this country, especially of estates under settlement, was a subject of vast national importance. He thought it was incumbent upon those who, like himself, were not prepared to recommend any violent change in the laws of property, to do all in their power to prevent those laws being injurious to the public welfare. For he both thought and believed that many of the Commissioners, and in all the arrangements, the Secretary and Surveyors of the Company would do nearly all that was requisite. The Directors spoke in the Report of having "selected" land for their operations. Having many proposals before them, they had, in fact, selected the cases which they thought most likely in the result to be beneficial to the great cause of agriculture, to be remunerative to the parties themselves, and to bring the Company into a good position on its first introduction to the notice of the country. These were the objects of the Company, and everybody must admit, in this crisis of the country, that they were objects of very great importance. Whether land-owners would avail themselves of the powers which the Company possessed, remained to be seen. He trusted that, before they met again, they should have many contracts approved by the Commissioners, and that they should be speedily at work in many parts of the kingdom. (Hear.)

Mr. J. Villiers Shelley (Deputy Chairman) seconded the adoption of the Report. Having been a drainer for 18 years, and having nearly drained the 2,000 acres of land which he occupied, he was enabled to say that hundreds of pounds were annually wasted in a bad system of drainage. Any man, who laid down a system of drainage, to be adopted in all cases, without reference to soil, circumstances, or climate, must frequently fail. (Hear.) The Company did not bind themselves to be either deep drainers or shallow drainers, but their surveyor, Mr. Bailey Denton (in whose ability and careful attention the Directors felt the highest confidence,) would in every case take care to adopt that system which was most likely to be successful, and which would bring the quickest return. No doubt, until the present competition arose, land-owners had not been brought to see the necessity of learning their own business; but now, wherever they went, they would be found seeking for information, and endeavouring to learn new modes for improving their land.

Mr. J. Bullar suggested that the Company should take the initiative in some public work of drainage. There was the Valley of the Test, for example, in Hampshire, which belonged to several proprietors, who might, under the powers and through the agency of this Company, be induced to co-operate in carrying out an effective system of drainage, which the efforts of any single proprietor, however powerful, might never attain. They might not come individually to the Company, but, if the Company made a proposal, they might all fall into it. He knew an instance there in which a farmer told him that he paid 11*s.* per acre for some of this land, and that, if it were drained, he would gladly give 25*s.* an acre. This, it was to be observed, was not the extent of the improved value, but what the farmer said he would give.

The Chairman said, that they had had the case of the Valley of the Test under their consideration that very day, and that they had determined to open a communication with the land-owners at once.

Mr. Bullar said, it would be well if the Company would make known their terms. He had tried a little draining himself, and had been unable to get it done under £12 an acre, and in some cases £20 an acre. (A laugh.)

After some further discussion, the Report was unanimously agreed to.

The retiring Directors, Mr. J. V. Shelby, Mr. Cobbold, M.P., Mr. H. Currie, M.P., and Mr. S. M. Peto, M.P., were re-elected; and, after a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting separated.

HER MAJESTY'S VISIT TO THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS.—There is now but little doubt that the 10th of October, the day on which the Queen is expected to visit Manchester, will witness a fête such as has not been seen in the manufacturing districts before. The Mayors of Manchester and Salford, assisted by committees of the authorities, are proposing arrangements every way worthy of the occasion; and, besides using their influence to induce employers to make it a general holiday, will celebrate the event with a grand illumination of the two boroughs. The Queen is to be received at the Peel Park by the Mayor and other authorities of Salford, and the Sunday schools, which Manchester and Salford have long been so conspicuous in supporting, as a means of educating the working classes, will no doubt play a conspicuous part in the assemblage congregated on the occasion. They are to be drawn up in the park so as to see her Majesty pass, and it is expected that nearly thirty thousand children will thus be brought together. The programme of the intended proceedings is not yet complete. But we learn that a triumphal arch is to be erected on Victoria Bridge, by which her Majesty will enter the city, and that the proprietors of the Exchange have at once consented to grant the use of that immense building, affording the largest room in the kingdom as a place of public reception for her Majesty. The county magistrates and other officials are prepared to co-operate cordially with the authorities of the two boroughs in making arrangements.

FRIGHTFUL AND MELANCHOLY SUICIDE OF MRS. COLONEL CROWDER.—(Abridged from the *Cheltenham Chronicle* of Thursday.)—Scarcely any event has ever occurred in Cheltenham which has occasioned a more painful and distressing feeling throughout all ranks of the community, or one that has taken society more by surprise, than that which we are now called upon to chronicle; so extensively known and so universally respected was its subject. From the evidence given on the Coroner's Inquest, it appears that Mrs. Colonel Crowder had, a few weeks ago, experienced a severe attack of illness from which she had nearly recovered, and, in fact, by her friends and medical attendants, was pronounced convalescent, though still much confined to the house. It was, however, evident to the domestics that their mistress laboured under a mental depression, widely different from her general habit previous to her late illness, though not to such an extent as to excite any alarm or apprehension in consequence. But such, unhappily, appeared to have been the case, for yesterday afternoon, between two and three o'clock, she went up stairs into her bed-room, which was situate on the second floor over the drawing-room, at the back of her residence in Saint Margaret's Terrace, and locking the door behind her proceeded to the window, and thence flung herself out. The body falling from so great a height was literally dashed to pieces on the pavement of the area below, and death must have instantly ensued. The deceased lady was seen by two or three persons in the act of projecting herself from the window, but before any alarm could be given had accomplished her fatal purpose.—The Jury, without any hesitation, returned a verdict that "the deceased destroyed herself while labouring under insanity." It is felt by many among the circles which, for a long series of years, have experienced the value of a tried and faithful friend, that the gloom cast in the town by this distressing occurrence will not speedily be dispelled, and that the loss of a beloved parent, under such afflicting circumstances, will still much longer have to be unaffectedly deplored by her afflicted relatives.

The largest drops of rain, which are about one-fifth of an inch in diameter, will fall 2040 feet in a minute; but the ordinary drops in this climate will seldom fall half as fast. Hailstones in the south of Europe, having sometimes the enormous diameter of two inches, will fall with a velocity of 113½ feet in a second, or more than a mile and a quarter in a minute; a rapidity of stroke which destroys cornfields and ravages vineyards.

THE WASHINGTON COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—The inquest on the bodies of the sufferers by this explosion terminated on Wednesday at Newcastle, with the following verdict:—"We are of opinion that William Hall and the 32 others named in the depositions came by their deaths by the firing of the Washington Pit, in M'Nare's board, on the 18th of August inst.; and we are of opinion that the air, having been highly charged with gas previously, and probably receiving a sudden check, had caused the fire to increase outside this board; that lamps ought to have been used instead of candles; and there should have been more brattice, as recommended by Mr. Dunn."

WORCESTER MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

The 128th festival of the three choirs of Worcester, Hereford, and Gloucester, commenced on Tuesday, at Worcester, under tolerably promising circumstances, though it was evident that the Exhibition had had an evil influence upon the numbers who usually patronise this benevolent institution. The opening sermon at the Cathedral on Tuesday was preached by the Rev. E. H. Cradock, one of the Canons of the Cathedral. The musical service consisted of the pieces and responses of Tallis, the Dettingen Te Deum of Handel, and the Jubilate of the same composer. Dr. Elvey's "In that day," and Mendelssohn's "When Israel out of Egypt came," were the two anthems selected for the occasion; besides which the old version of the 47th Psalm was sung. The solo vocalists were Miss Birch, Miss Dolby, Miss Williams, Mr. Lockey, and Mr. Machin. The congregation was very large, and the contribution at the doors amounted to 302*l.* The service was preceded by a public breakfast at the Guildhall, under the presidency of Mrs. Robert Serjeant, the wife of the secretary of the festival, who acted for the mayoress, who was unavoidably absent.

The attendance at the evening concert shewed a sad falling off in point of numbers when compared with the attendance on the first evening of the festival of 1848. Although the *prima donna* of the festival, Cruvelli, was announced to sing, the whole number of tickets taken did not exceed 200 (excluding the 3*l.* tickets), and on the whole the concert lacked spirit. The bad weather throughout the earlier part of the day no doubt deterred many from attending the concert. The chief portion of the first part of the programme was made up of Mendelssohn's "Walpurgis Night," with vocal pieces by Cruvelli, Sims Reeves, and Miss Dolby, and a violin solo by Mr. Blagrove.

On Wednesday morning, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* was given. Mademoiselle Cruvelli and Miss Birch were the sopranos; Misses Dolby and Williams the contraltos; Messrs. Sims Reeves and Lockey the tenors; and Herr Formes the bass.

The collection at the doors amounted to 215*l.*, which, with 302*l.* obtained on Tuesday, already places 517*l.* at the disposal of the charity.

The second concert took place on Wednesday evening, and was well attended. On Thursday morning the performance at the Cathedral consisted of a great portion of *Samson*, and a miscellaneous selection; the attendance was large.

The *Times*, in its account of the proceedings, says:—"It is a fact worth nothing—since it has acted materially against the interests of the meeting—that none of the great Catholic families of the counties of Worcester, Hereford, and Gloucester, who were wont, not only in some cases to officiate as stewards, but to promote the prospects of the triennial festivals of the three cities in a substantial manner, have come forward on the present occasion. The inference, that the charity being in behalf of the widows and orphans of clergymen of the Church of England, is the cause of the withdrawal of patronage in certain quarters, appears harsh at a first glance; but recent events and controversies allow of no other to be drawn."

IRELAND.

Independent emigration from Ireland still proceeds on a

"FRANCE." Jackson's Oxford Journal [1809], 30 Aug. 1851. British Library Newspapers, https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/BA3200091753/BNCN?u=bayreuth&sid=BNCN&xid=ee21329a. Accessed 15 Oct. 2020.