

Quem tu, Melpomene semel
Nascentem placito lumine videris.
Horace, Book IV., Ode 3.

Whom Humbug with approving eye,
Has viewed since first he learnt to lie:
Him never shall the fancy sing,
The glory of the fistic ring—
Him never shall the race-horse bear,
In bounding triumph through the air—
Him never shall the listening Bar,
Applaud as chief in legal war;—
But all the goods that placemen know,
Around the lucky dog shall flow—
Rewards which grateful tyrants spread,
For those who lick the dust they tread.

"The Court of Sydney deigns to place
"Me in the very highest place,
"Amid an amiable quire,
"While envy grinds her teeth with ire."

Oh, Humbug! thou whose dulcet note,
So long has gurgled from my throat;
Thou who canst strike (if such thy wish)
A patriot mute as any fish,
Or turn (let none the transit grudge)
A briefless bungler to a judge!
'Tis all thy doing, Humbug, all,
That makes me liked (if liked at all)—
That passers by the finger point,
And look me over joint by joint,
Whispering with reverential awe,
"There goes the man wot knows the law."

THE COUNTERPOISE.

Though from the Registrar we part,
We've got a Judge instead;
Content to lose the former's heart,
To gain the latter's head.

EUROPE.

GLEANINGS FROM THE CONTINENTAL PAPERS.

The town council of Ghent has voted 100,000 francs for preventing an extraordinary rise in the price of provisions during the approaching winter. This sum will be intrusted to the burgomaster and sheriffs, to be employed in the way most conformable to the above object. The price of potatoes in the market on the 3d inst., was from 15 to 16 francs per sack. About 200 sacks of white potatoes, from England, were sold at 15 francs per sack of something more than 200lb.

The King of the Belgians, during the late *fetes* wishing to cross the rue Royale just before the display of fireworks, had proceeded as far as the Porte de Schaerbeeck, when one of the cuirassiers on duty refused so let him go any farther, his orders being strict not to permit any one to pass. The king was in consequence obliged to retrace his steps.

The *Journal des Debats*, announces, under date Amiens, the 1st inst., that the celebrated institution possessed by the Jesuits at St. Acheul had ceased to exist. Forty of the fathers and novices abandoned the house at the close of September, many of whom expatriated themselves.

Letters from Hanover state that on the 25th ult., a public exhibition took place at the Royal Palace Hanover, of the presents, consisting of articles of vertu and baby-linen, sent by the Queen and the members of our Royal Family to the new-born Prince of Hanover. The infant is to bear the name of Ernest Augustus, after his grandfather, the King of Hanover.

The exportation of corn from the Electorate of Hesse Cassel is prohibited.

A Berlin letter of the 25th ult., in the *Manheim Gazette*, states that when the King of Prussia was present at Munich at the baptism of the Prince Royal of Bavaria, the officiating bishop having invited the distinguished persons near the child to lay their hands upon it, the King of Prussia stretched forth his hand, but it was set aside by the bishop. The King then, says the letter, turned his back upon the company, and immediately left Munich in anger. The bishop's behaviour is said to have been intended as a rebuke upon the King of Prussia for his not having acted with sufficient severity against the New German Catholic Church.

A letter from Osnaburg says—"A fact, which is the general subject of conversation in this city and in the country, may lead to a German Catholic movement in these parts. A young and accomplished Roman Catholic lady in Osnaburg was asked by her father confessor whether she believed in the infallibility of the Pope and in transubstantiation. The lady answering both questions in the negative, was told by her confessor that she could not have the benediction of the church, upon which, without receiving absolution, she left the church."

The *Amsterdam Courant* announces the death of an individual named Solomon de Haan, aged 103 years and 8 months. He was a native of Bamberg. He had seven children, two of whom survive him, as well as 32 grand-children and 29 great grand-children.

The *Staats Courant* states that the cotton of Java, after several unsuccessful attempts had been made to cultivate it properly, had, according to the last accounts, exhibited considerable improvement. A bale is shortly expected to arrive in Holland, where it will be subjected to the examination of persons qualified to decide on its quality.

Letters received from St. Petersburg, under date of Sep. 26, state that the town of Tomisk has been totally destroyed by fire, and that the emperor has subscribed 10,000 silver roubles towards the alleviation of the distress of the people.

The plans of the new French Stamp-office, which is to be erected in the rue de la Banque, are definitively decided on. The adjudication of the works is to take place on the 29th inst., and the expense will be 499,446f. The new building will stand at the south-west angle of the square formed by the meeting of the rue de la Banque and the rue St. Pierre prolonged.

"For some time back," says the *Constitutionnel*, "the medical men of France have ordered to Algeria persons afflicted with pulmonary diseases. The Minister of War has just directed a scientific commission to proceed to that country to examine whether it

might not be advisable to establish at Algiers a military hospital for soldiers so affected."

The *Hamburg Gazette* states, from Riga, that the cholera has made its appearance in Livonia, and caused many deaths.

The Emperor of Russia has charged Count Woronzow Daschkaw, Master of Ceremonies of the Imperial Court, with the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, during the absence of Count de Nesselrode.

M. Chesneau, banker and mayor of Montoire, has been condemned by the Court of Assize, Vendôme, to a year's imprisonment, and a fine of 14,000f. to the *parties civiles*, as guilty of simple bankruptcy. His debts amounted to 1,200,000f., and his assets to 400,000f. Several families, have been involved in ruin by this failure.—*Galignani's Messenger*.

The Potsdam society for discouraging useless expenditure at funerals is actively progressing. One of the rules is that no coffin shall cost more than six thalers; that four and six horse hearses be dispensed with, and that the mourning be limited to a piece of crape round men's hats, and black ribbon round the women's head-dresses.

SPAIN.

We extract the following from a letter dated Madrid, Sep. 30:—

"The pending negotiations between her Most Catholic Majesty and the Pope have been actively resumed under the auspices of France. The grand hitch in them is the inflexibility of his Holiness regarding the marriage of the Queen with the eldest son of Don Carlos. That fair penitent, Maria Christina, supports the above prince's claims to her daughter's hand with all her influence; whilst Narvaez, who hates Don Carlos and his party, will not hear of them, and advocates the pretensions of the Duke of Serville, although on bad terms with the Infante Francisco de Paulo, his father."

PORTUGAL.

The financial embarrassments of this country are fast approaching to a crisis, or rather a catastrophe. This has been long foreseen by all reflecting men, who have watched the prodigal course of government, devoting its cares solely to the means of perpetuating its power, satisfying the exorbitant pretensions of its supporters, and in providing for a rainy day, when the official sun shall cease to shine on its members. There is one of the ministers who has not enriched himself in office—the Duke of Terceira. He is a man whose honour is not called in question, though his judgment is. For the last three years this administration has kept itself in power entirely by loans, anticipations of revenue, and transactions in the money market, and the shifting of stock between Lisbon and London. The annual deficit in the meantime has gone on increasing, not only on account of excessive taxation defeating its own fiscal purpose, but on account of the unwholesome stimulus given to money jobbing operations, and the taking away of capital from agriculture and commerce for investing in stock-jobbing transactions and money-lending companies. The exactions of the government have pressed heavily on both classes. They have laid on enormous import duties, varying from 200 down to 15 per cent. on foreign manufactures, not for the protection of native industry, but for the sake of increasing the Custom-house receipts. The balance of trade against Portugal by their fiscal mismanagement is now about 3000 contos a year. The revenue is falling off, the people are pressed for taxes, and the discontent has arrived at a pitch that threatens to break down all before it.

As the administration is now strongly pressed for money, which can no longer be obtained by foreign loans, it has restored to a new scheme to enable the company of Public Works to effect that object which they as a government are unable to accomplish. The company are to apply to England, on the credit of its members, for a loan of two millions sterling, under the plea of providing means for the construction of railroads and other works, which the said company engaged to make 12 months ago, when the government illegally granted to them the monopoly, and to the manifest injury of the national interests. This new financial project to raise funds in England, at a low price, upon the credit of mercantile and capitalist individuals here, and afterwards to make loans to the government at high premiums is too gross an imposition to succeed; if it does succeed, the financial operators who govern Portugal will have gained two millions more, that will be paid when the finances are finally organised." a period that is promised half-yearly, but it is to be feared will never come.—*Morning Chronicle*.

GREECE.

Letters from Athens of the 9th of October give an awful account of the condition of Greece. The first instance of the present state of things is the following:—About two months ago, a gentleman of the name of Agaethi, after a long law-suit, procured a sentence from the tribunals of Athens, granting him the possession of an estate in the north of Greece, which he had originally purchased of a Turk in conformity with the law established by the protecting powers of Greece. Taking with him some law-officers, he proceeded to the spot, when the peasants at once seized on him, deliberately murdered him, and publicly roasted his body, all of which they themselves described in letters written to the capital; and one of these letters was directed to the King.

Last week (say these letters,) a band of the Albanian soldiers, the amnestied brigands with whom M. Coletti has overrun the capital, to keep the population from rising against him, and to prevent the King from escaping from his trammels, proceeding during the night on one of their marauding excursions. Taking to the mountain districts, as is their usual practice, they visited an estate called Tchourka, next to that of Leosia, belonging to Mr. George Finlay, the wooded heights of which, it may be mentioned, have been entirely laid bare by incendiary fires this summer, and which the proprietor would as soon think of visiting, though only at a distance of ten miles from Athens, as he would of walking into a den of tigers. The Albanians were soon attracted by the sound of bells, which warned them of the vicinity of a flock of sheep, and it appears that a child, either from being asleep, or hidden from their sight by the darkness, fortunately escaped their observation. The aged shepherd tending this flock was now abruptly desired to slay and skin a sheep, which, after some hesitation, he consented to.

This done, a fire lighted, and the sheep placed before it on a wooden spit raised up between two stones, as is the usual custom, the shepherd was told by the Albanians to deliver up his hidden money. In vain did the poor old man declare that he possessed nothing; they deliberately tied him to a young tree, which they now formed into a huge spit, and placing him before the crackling and fierce fire opposite his own sheep, commenced roasting him. The excruciating pain obliged the unfortunate sufferer to divulge to his torturers the existence of all his little hoard under the roots of a tree in the neighbourhood. Removing him from the fire, but keeping him still tied to the spit, some of the party now went in search of the booty, which they found, but, not being satisfied with the amount, on their return they announced to their victim

that he must either have more for them, or submit to further roasting. The wretched man was then again placed before the fire, and the sheep being by this time done to their satisfaction, they sat down to their repast. After a time, the stench of the burning flesh, there being no one willing to leave his supper to turn the spit, seems to have inconvenienced them; as they at last chucked him away from the fire, and eventually took their departure. The non-arrival of the flock at the village at which it was expected, alarmed the peasants, some of whom arrived during the night at the scene of this dreadful occurrence; and found the shepherd still alive, his body half roasted, and his limbs falling off! Medical aid was now sought for, and, fortunately, a practitioner among the peasants and lower orders, reached the scene in time to take down in writing from the dying lips of the sufferer, in the presence of the assembled people, this painful recital.

An awful murder was, a few weeks back committed at the village of Kakossalesi, situated on the frontiers of Attica and Thebes. The murderers, a desperate gang, were secured and brought to Athens. These men, being set at liberty by Theodore Grivas, proceeded to the above-named village, where, in the night, they succeeded in gaining possession of the persons of four shepherds who had been most active against them. They kindled an enormous fire—stripped their victims, smeared their bodies with grease, secured them to stakes, and roasted them alive! One of the victims, by name Nassos, being a stout man, instantly expired; he was the father of eight children, and the other three are also since dead. The village of Kakossalesi belongs to M. Larriere, a French gentleman, and his report of the dreadful deed now lies on M. Piscatory's table.

BAHIA.

Letters have been received from Bahia and Pernambuco. The accounts from Bahia respecting the sugar crop are more specific than any which have previously come to hand. It is estimated that there will not be less than 90,000 cases in that province, with the quality rather above an average; and the cane fields are also in the most promising condition for the crop of the ensuing season. The prices obtained are nearly 20 per cent. higher than they were at the same time last year. The result of this change is that the markets have been gradually cleared of the load of manufactured goods thrown in before the expiration of the treaty in November last; and had it not been known that large cargoes are on the voyage outwards a considerable improvement would have taken place in prices. Not the least interesting part of the intelligence is some further account of the diamond mine lately discovered in the province, of which we have already had some scanty particulars. The site of the mine is about 200 miles in the interior from the capital of the province; and such an excitement has been produced, that upwards of 30,000 persons, drawn from all quarters, and of all sorts and descriptions, are estimated to have assembled around this El Dorado. Great quantities have been conveyed away surreptitiously; but the admitted produce amounts to several hundred carats per day. Considerable quantities have been shipped for Europe; and such seems to be the extent of the produce that it will lower the value of precious stones all over the world.

The *Moniteur* publishes eight royal ordinances, elevating to the dignity of peers of France the following gentlemen:—Lieut. General Fabrier; M. Jard Panvillier, Councillor of the Court of Accounts; M. Laurens Humblot, former Deputy; M. Legagneur, first President of the Royal Court of Toulouse; M. Mesnard, Judge of the Court of Cassation; M. Paulze d'Ivoy, and Baron Ræderer, former Prefects; and M. Rousselin, first President of the Royal Court of Caen.

MADAGASCAR.

The remarks we made a short time ago on the policy and spirit of the wars which have been raging within the last few years between the most civilized nations of Christendom and certain barbarous tribes in different parts of Asia and Africa, are not inapplicable to the question arising out of the hostilities which have occurred between the French and English troops-of-war and the Queen of Madagascar. If it be extremely difficult to recede from these contests, in which success is frequently scarcely less onerous than defeat, it is the more important to avoid rashly engaging in them, and to take a dispassionate view of the consequences before they are fairly begun. The French Opposition papers have at once solved the difficulty by announcing a grand maritime expedition, under the command of the gallant Prince who takes such infinite pains to keep up his martial training in these piping times of peace; and the only fear of our intrepid neighbours seem to be lest England should evince an excessive eagerness to share the toils and trophies of so glorious an enterprise. But these notions evidently take their origin in the spirit of party politics at Paris, rather than in a well-considered scheme of policy for the defence of European interests and rights in Madagascar; and fortunately it is not too late to discuss the measures, which are probably under the consideration of the two Governments, with perfect coolness and impartiality.

The act of the Government of Madagascar constitutes a *casus belli*, for although in the absence of formal treaties and engagements to the contrary, Queen Ranavalo might, rigorously speaking, claim a right to exclude foreign trade, she certainly had no right to subject the foreign traders in her dominions to a measure which left them no alternative but the loss of their personal liberty or of their property. We may see reason to regret that more time was not allowed by the French and English officers for a communication to be made from Tomatave to the capital, which we believe to be at least 160 miles from the coast; whereas the attack on the fort was made on the second day after the arrival of the squadron. Such an act of hostility of course put an end to all negotiation, and its failure raised the vanity of the natives to the highest pitch, in so much that some merchant vessels which entered the bay soon after the squadron had sailed away, were saluted by the heads of our unfortunate countrymen who had fallen in the action, stuck on the zazaies of the Ovahs.

The *casus belli* is complete on both sides, and it is precisely the same as regards the French and ourselves. The measure of expulsion was directed against all foreign traders. Twelve English agents were embarked on the Conway, and eleven French on the Borceau. There is not a shadow of distinction between the two cases. Nothing can therefore be more absurd than the claim of some of the French newspapers to an exclusive right of punishing Queen Ranavalo, and declaring war against Madagascar. If it be a question affecting our national honour, we are at least as much interested as the French in maintaining the *prestige* of our power and maritime strength in the East; if we have suffered losses which claim redress, our traders will not solicit it at the hands of the French Government. But, groundless as this pretension is, the reason assigned for it is even more ridiculous. It is actually asserted that France has exclusive rights of sovereignty in the island of Madagascar; and thus, instead of demanding reparation, or inflicting a merited chastisement for a particular injury, our neighbours propose nothing less than to assert their claims to the territory of the country. These rights, if they had any exis-

tence at all, must have originated in conquest and occupation. It is true that at various times in the course of the last two centuries letters patent have been granted by the Kings of France to authorize settlements in Madagascar. When the adventurer Benyowski established himself in the island on his own account, he was at first attacked by the French, though he subsequently held a commission from the French Crown. Twice the French formed a settlement on the island, Madame St. Marie, on the eastern coast. The first time they were destroyed by the climate, the second time by the natives. In 1821 they repeated the experiment with equally bad success. In short, all these enterprises prove nothing but that every one of these temporary settlements has failed; that France has never exercised any sovereignty in Madagascar at all, that her attempts to gain a footing there have always been successfully resisted by the natives, and that the island is independent *de jure* and *de facto* at the present time.

After what has occurred at Tamatave, and the indications of a savage spirit displayed by the Malegash Government, it may be necessary to obtain redress; but the task is one of uncommon difficulty, and of most doubtful success if it be combined with any intentions of territorial conquest. A savage people have scarcely anything to loose by war except their lives. They have no commerce to intercept, no cities to threaten, none of the great interests of property and government against which the military skill of civilized nations is directed in their wars with each other. That is the reason why these contests are so inhuman and so interminable. The only species of coercion to which such a people can be brought to submit is that of the sword; and even this submission lasts no longer than the danger by which it is extorted.

Madagascar is an island 800 miles in length, intersected by high mountains and numerous rivers, inhabited by a population of at least two millions—some travellers have supposed five millions—of inhabitants. Its principal towns are situated in the interior. The coast presents no points of attack, except this fort of Tamatave; and the principal place on the coast, such as Bembatooka, have been established by the foreign traders. The climate is most fatal to Europeans, and it is impossible to contemplate the fate of a body of disciplined troops engaged in operations in the island without dismay. They would encounter no enemy worthy of their arms; they would have to treat or to fight with hordes of faithless and cruel savages; and they would rapidly sink under the malignant diseases which infect the air of that pestilential coast. What are the claims of the French to Madagascar compared to their rights in St. Domingo, which had only shaken off their power ten years before? Yet who can look back without grief and horror to the fate of Leclerc's expedition, and the false policy of Bonaparte in endeavouring to employ his army and amuse his people by reconquering a large island in the tropics? A campaign in Madagascar would lead to no other result.

We sincerely hope that the produce of the French Government may induce them to confine within strict limits the measures which they may think fit to take, in conjunction with our own forces, to protect European trade in that part of the world; and we are at a loss to conceive on what ground politicians, who profess a strong regard in the abstract for the alliance of the two countries, should vent their ill-humour and jealousy at a combination of their power, which is dictated by all the circumstances of the case. But we equally hope that nothing will induce our own Government to embark in protracted hostilities with such a people as the Malegashes, whom it would be impracticable to govern, and impossible to subdue without frightful sacrifices. Their island may be the richest and most fertile that the sun of the tropics shines upon; but it is the most unhealthy; and it is the excess of ignorance and presumption to forget the formidable power of a savage population and a bad climate in the mere lust of territorial acquisitions.

PEEL AND COALITION.

The political world has been comparatively quiet since the date of my last communication. The rumours of a coalition ministry which were so rife a fortnight previously, have completely died away—though there are many intelligent persons who still deem a junction between Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell exceedingly probable. So far as these two statesmen are concerned, there certainly is nothing in their political views which need interpose a barrier to such a coalition. But it is to be remembered that there are other parties who would require to be consulted before the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition could officially coalesce. Lord John could not, in honour, go over to the ministerial benches alone. He would irretrievably damage himself in public estimation if he did. Before he could listen to any overtures from Sir Robert Peel, he would feel himself under a moral obligation to stipulate that Lord Palmerston, Mr. Macaulay, Mr. Labouchere, and one or two others who occupied important positions in the Whig cabinet should also have the door of office under Sir Robert Peel thrown open to them. The question then comes to be, "Can or would Sir Robert Peel be willing to take some half dozen members of the late ministry into collegialship with himself?" I do not see how he could, even were he privately so disposed. There is a certain degree of respect which he must observe, even though he should not feel it, towards those with whom he has been so long associated in office. To displace five or six of these, to make room for the same number of Whigs, would be a step which would so flagrantly violate the decencies of political life, that the idea of Sir Robert Peel's resorting to it is not to be for a moment entertained. If, indeed, some half dozen members of his cabinet were to relinquish office of their own accord, the rumoured coalition would then become a probable event. From the free-trade tendencies of his policy, it may naturally be inferred that he would, in the supposed case, select his new colleagues from the more influential and talented Whigs. But there is not, judging from present appearances, the remotest chance of such a secession from his present cabinet. His colleagues seem one and all determined, at all hazards, to stick to place. And assuredly it may be confidently concluded, that if the past measures of the Premier have not had the effect of inducing them to relinquish office, there is no ground to hope that any future policy he may adopt will produce that result.

If, indeed, the members of the present cabinet were not more attached to the pay and patronage of office than to principle, there would have been a very general resignation of their ministerial seats in the course of the week that is past. Sir Robert Peel has caused a bill for the emancipation of the Jews from their municipal disabilities to be introduced into the Lords. Now, this very same measure, when introduced by the Melbourne ministry, was most strenuously opposed by nearly all the members of Sir Robert Peel's cabinet. Mr. Goulburn was the man who seconded the motion for its rejection, and, in doing so, made a most violent speech, denouncing the idea of admitting the Jews to any corporate or other office, as one which it would be discredit to a Christian country to entertain for a moment. And yet Mr. Goulburn, and the other members of the cabinet, now become parties to the very same measure! What a gross dereliction of principle! How sad the spectacle when we are doomed to witness such glaring in-

consistency in public men! It seems, as if public principle and character were things which are only fit for being held up to ridicule. Even the Bishop of London, the aspirant at the primacy of all England, and who is paid little short of £90,000 a-year for inculcating, when he inculcates anything, a regard for principle, and an adherence to a consistent course—even he, though the mover of the rejection of the very same measure when introduced into the Lords by the Whigs, had not a word to say against it on Monday last, when the Lord Chancellor moved its second reading. Charles James has his eye, just now, so intently fixed on Lambeth Palace,—its present possessor being in his seventy-third year, and very feeble, to boot—that he would not, I verily believe, make any serious opposition to a measure, were it brought in by Sir Robert Peel, having for its object to admit Mahometans or Hindoos to offices of importance.

Some time ago I referred to rumours which were then current, relative to the health of an illustrious personage. Some mischievously disposed persons have chosen to revive these rumours within the last few days. There is not, your readers may rest assured, the slightest foundation for them. In connection with this subject, it is stated that Sir Robert Peel has given a pledge in a high quarter, that the present session of Parliament shall close early in July. This also is a groundless report. Sir Robert Peel never gave any such pledge; he was never asked to do it. Parliament will not be prorogued early in July, nor in July at all. It is impossible it can, unless, indeed, the public business is to be trifled with in a way which Sir Robert Peel is not likely to become a party to. Why, there is as much railway legislation alone before the House as would occupy its attention until July, provided the requisite care be bestowed on the transaction of that business.

I have every reason to believe that the report of her Majesty's intention to visit Ireland in the ensuing summer is correct, Sir Robert Peel is convinced that he will be a much more popular man in Ireland by that time than he has ever been before. He grounds his expectations of this increase of popularity on the favors which it is his intention to confer on the Catholic religion in the course of the present session.

Measures are concerting in different parts of England for getting up an opposition to the contemplated additional grant to Maynooth, and the erection and endowment of two new colleges, which, though in name to be open to all classes of religionists, will be for all practical purposes Popish institutions; but circumstances have come to my knowledge which justify me in saying that in the case of many persons his opposition will be mere sham, notwithstanding the loudness of their tones, and the seeming sincerity of their manner when denouncing the Ministerial policy. It is not unlikely that some curious disclosures may be made in reference to this matter.

I have repeatedly referred to the Puseyite predilections of the Bishop of London. I believe I am correct when I say that he has of late been one of the chief instigators of the Bishops of Aberdeen and Glasgow, in their persecution of Sir William Dunbar and Mr. Miles. It is firmly believed that certain Tractarian prelates are preparing to institute with ecclesiastical proceedings against the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel, and the Rev. Mr. Bickersteth. The grave offence with which Mr. Noel is charged, is that of having preached in a Presbyterian pulpit in the Highlands of Scotland in the autumn of 1843. The accusation preferred against Mr. Bickersteth is, that he preached in the pulpit of Sir William Dunbar of Aberdeen, after that excellent clergyman had been excommunicated from the Scotch Episcopal Church. I should be delighted to learn that the report which is in circulation respecting a Puseyite persecution of Mr. Noel and Mr. Bickersteth were true. It would give another blow to the English Establishment, which is already tottering to its fall.—*Scotch Paper.*

ARRIVAL OF TROOPS FROM THE EAST AND WEST INDIES.

CHATHAM, Sept. 23.—The following detachments of regiments serving in India have arrived at the invalid depot, Casemate-barracks, at Brompton. They consist of 104 men, including 7 sergeants of the 78th Highlanders, with 10 women and 8 children, and 29 men, including 5 sergeants, of the 17th Regiment of Foot, with 4 women and 16 children, under the command of Major R. J. P. Vassall, of the 78th and Assistant-Surgeon John Innes, of the same corps. The above troops embarked at Bombay, on board the ship *Columbus*, of 500 tons burden, Captain Short, on the 13th May last; and during their passage, lasting 130 days, arriving off Gravesend on Sunday the 21st instant, the troops lost by death 9 men of the 78th, and 8 men of the 17th, also 3 children, and Mrs. Moore, wife of Lieutenant Moore, of the 28th Foot. The whole of the men of the 78th are completely worn out by the fatigue and the sickness they have endured in India. Their accounts of the maladies in their regiment—of the hundreds that died, is horrible. The men of the 17th that have arrived are all sick, and were so at the time they embarked. The ship brought home Major Minto and lady, Lieut. Whitehill and lady, of the 2d Bombay European Regiment, and Lieut. Moore of the 28th. A private of the 10th Light Dragoons was brought home, he having been discharged with ignominy. The troops will undergo medical inspection at Fort Pitt, previous to their discharge.

The following detachments also arrived at the invalid depot from Gravesend, where they disembarked from the ship *Princess Royal*, Captain Stephenson, from the West Indies. They consisted of 2 sergeants and 17 men, 5 women and 11 children, of the 71st Highland Light Infantry; 2 sergeants, 6 privates, 2 women, and 1 child, of the 1st Royals; 6 privates, 2 women, 5 children, of the 7th Royal Fusiliers, and 3 corporals, 6 privates of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers; 85th, 1 corporal and 13 privates; 1 sergeant and 1 private, with 2 women and 2 children of the 2nd West India Regiment; and 2 privates of the 3rd West India Regiment. The above embarked at Barbadoes on the 4th of August last, under command of Lieut. Conway, F. C. Seymour, 85th Regiment. Dr. Hardy and Dr. Hugh Bone, Inspector-General of Hospitals, came home with the vessel, the Inspector-General having been relieved by Mr. Davies. The men of the 23rd, with the exception of one, are all so bad that they are obliged to be in the hospital. The following deaths occurred on board:—one man and one child, 71st; two men, 7th Fusiliers; and two men, 85th.

NAVAL COURT-MARTIAL.

A court-martial assembled on board the *Amazon*, 26, Captain Stopford, in Valetta Harbour, Malta, on the morning of the 27th August, to try George White, of the *Amazon*, able seaman, on the following charges preferred by his captain, James J. Stopford:—

"1. That on the evening of the 29th of May, the ship being at anchor off the town of Smyrna, he did, when doing duty as coxswain of the gig, make use of mutinous language when ordered by Lieutenant Thomas H. Downes, the senior lieutenant, to pull a certain number of times round the nearest vessel, as a punishment for making a noise in coming alongside, and that he took command of the said gig out of the hands of the Hon. H. F. Deane, naval

cadet, under whose orders she had been placed, and obliged him, the said Hon. H. F. Deane, to land.

"2. That he did on the same evening desert, and entice the rest of the boat's crew to desert, and run away with the said gig, and did not return until brought back to the ship on the afternoon of the 31st."

The Court, having heard the evidence of the first lieutenant and the Hon. Mr. Deane of the *Amazon*, and what the prisoner had to say in reply to the charges, was of opinion that the prisoner was not guilty of having used mutinous language to Lieut. Downes when ordered punishment, but that he was guilty of having used mutinous words to the Hon. Mr. Deane, whom he had disobeyed and dispossessed in his command of, and landed him from the boat; and that he had deserted and enticed others to desert, in breach of the first part of the 16th, the 19th, and the latter part of the 22nd articles of War (excluding any breach of the 15th).

The sentence of the Court, therefore, was, that the said George White should suffer death by being hanged by the neck from the yard-arm of such vessel as the Commander-in-Chief might be pleased to order and direct; but from the circumstances of the case, the Court strongly recommended the prisoner to the merciful consideration of the Admiralty.

LORD ASHLEY UPON THE CORN-LAWS.

In a letter addressed to the gentry, clergy, and freeholders of the county of Dorset, Lord Ashley makes the following significant remarks on the subject of the corn-laws:—

"I will seize this occasion to touch upon the subject of the corn-laws, and the certain result of the present movement against them. It appears to me that their destiny is fixed, and that the leading men of the great parties in the Legislature are by no means disinclined to their eventual abolition. The debates of last session have left no doubt on this head; both the candidates for power, and the occupants of it, approximated so much more closely than at any former period, that most of the hearers were induced to believe that their difference was less a matter of principle than a question of time.

"If this be so, it is needless to argue the policy or impolicy of such a change; it would rather be wiser to consider in what way you can break the force of an inevitable blow. The sudden repeal of these laws would be destructive; the gradual abolition of them would be less injurious. You have, at this moment, the power to offer such terms—there is no certainty that you will retain it much longer—our actual prosperity must come to an end; and then the wide and fearful pressure of commercial distress, with the hostility on the one side, and the indifference on the other, of the great political chiefs, will leave you, in an hour of especial difficulty, altogether without a refuge or recourse."

HISTORY OF IRON VESSELS.

The construction of iron vessels is not an invention of such recent date as many people suppose. The value of iron as a material for ship-building has long been known, and has for many years been making a sure, though slow, progress towards the improved state it has already attained. The first iron vessels for the purposes of navigation were those built for the canals of this country. Of these some were built as far back as forty years since; and it is stated by those who have an opportunity of knowing that some of these may be still in existence. The first iron steam-vessel, and the first that ever put to sea, was built for the Seine in 1842, and called the *Aaron Manby*, after the name of the projector. Mr. Manby, describing his project, states that under a patent which he took out in France for iron steam-boats in 1820, he, with his friend Captain (now Admiral Sir Charles) Napier, formed a society, and immediately began to construct their first boat at Horsley; but, owing to some circumstances connected with the parties at Paris, she was not completed till the end of 1821. She was then sent to London in parts, and put together in dock. She took in a cargo of linseed and iron castings, and Captain Napier took charge of her and navigated her from London direct to Havre, and thence to Paris, without unloading any part of the cargo, she being the first and only vessel of any description that ever went direct from London to Paris. After this, Mr. Manby built another iron vessel of the same description for the navigation of the Seine. The next iron steamer was built in 1824, for the navigation of the Shannon; she was put together in Liverpool, crossed the channel, and proceeded to her destination—Lough Dearth, on the river Shannon. This vessel was the origin of the extensive and spirited company which now occupies that splendid river. Iron vessels now began to attract the attention of those who were engaged in river and canal navigation, and ultimately numerous river steamers and sailing vessels of larger tonnage were built, and employed in making sea voyages with heavy cargoes; for which purpose they have been found so efficient as to induce a belief that they will, in course of time, supersede those built of timber.

THE PROTESTANT CHURCH AT JERUSALEM.

The following extract of a letter dated Constantinople, Sept. 20, will be read with much interest, as it fully confirms a statement which appeared in the *Messenger* a few weeks since:—

"The firm for completing the Protestant Church at Jerusalem has been made over to Sir Stratford Canning. He was, it is said, given to understand, that the Porte in making it over expected that the English would not make proselytes there, but would use the sacred edifice solely for such Protestants as already profess that faith; but his Excellency received it without any such restriction, and it may be concluded that we have the same right to make conversions as the Catholics and others, on abstaining solely from meddling with the Mussulman population. Thus this matter is finally got over, and Sir Stratford is entitled to great credit for the spirit of patience and moderation he has displayed in overcoming the scruples of the Porte and the opposition of rival powers, who would, if possible, monopolise the possession of all the temples dedicated to Christian worship."

We are happy to have it in our power to add that the latest accounts from Jerusalem speak of the mission as proceeding prosperously.

WRECK OF A FRENCH GOVERNMENT SCHOONER—THIRTY-ONE LIVES LOST.—The *Armoricain* of Brest announces the loss of the Government schooner, the *Doris*, from Martinique, and having on board sixty-seven persons, of whom nine were passengers. The vessel was entering the harbour of Brest on Sunday evening last, at half-past seven, at which time the weather was very bad, when a sudden squall laid her on the side, and she immediately filled and went down. The persons on board had not all time to throw themselves into the sea. The boats, which at once went out when the alarm guns were fired from the forts, under the direction of M. Binet, Enseigne de Vaisseau, on duty at Brest, picked up thirty-two men, and four others gained the shore by swimming, so that thirty-one persons were lost. Amongst the latter was Lieut. Lemoine, in command of the vessel; whose family is residing at Brest.