

LITERATURE

A PICTURE ILLUSTRATED.

One flood of light, last glow of fading day,
Pours its rich glory over earth and sky—
A bright, but yet a melancholy glow,
Sad as the smile from lips of dying love,
Seeking to soothe the mourner's aching heart,
That aches the more, with the dread consciousness
That whispers to its inmost core, "It is the last!"
Sad as the gleam that falls upon a grave,
(And oh! what is this world but one vast tomb?)
Sad as that spectral light, our beacon, when
All other stars are dim—deceitful hope!
Sunset! aye, glorious sunset! Have not we
Together oftimes watch'd from the hill side,
The bright-hair'd god into the dewy arms
Of twilight sink? Oftimes—oh very oft!
And when gray evening wrapt the landscape in,
And all was dim and shadowy around,
Still, still 'twas bright as noontide unto me,
For in my soul shone the glad sun of happiness!
All's dark within me now!—

But here I gaze,
And those same tints do I again behold,
As if by magic on the canvass laid—
Sure thou hast stolen a portion of the sky,
And with a sorcerer's art hast fix'd it here!
See! how it glows! It seems a firmament
Of living radiance, pouring forth its flood
Of golden light upon the grassy mound,
Where those poor wanderers, wearied out, and faint
With travel, and perchance, with grief, have sunk—
One fainting lies—unconscious for a space
Her wearied spirit finds a brief repose
In blest forgetfulness—blest did she ne'er awake!
The elder, see! with grateful mien rejects
The proffer'd shelter which that pale-brow'd nun,
Within the convent walls, would friendly urge
Her to accept. And wherefore thus refuse?
There's rest within those walls—dost thou not know
The priceless value of that little word?
Within those gates, the ruder and mocking tongue
Of the world's children has no power to stab—
With sneering lip, the scorner comes not there,
Nor yet the giddy throng, that seem to think
This goodly earth was form'd express to be
A revel-house for their "fantastic tricks,"
A stage, whereon to play their gambols off,
And trumpet forth their own supreme contempt
Of all that's great, good, noble, and devoted!
But no! thou wilt not stay—for yet with thee
Dwells Hope, by the immortal German named,
The wretches' second soul—and thou dost dream
Of peace, of home, of tender parent's blessing,
A darling brother's kiss, perchance of greeting
From one, who, in thy palpitating heart,
Claims more than e'en a brother's share of love!
On, then! aye, on! Poor maid, I would not crush
That hope, the staff, which on thy weary way
Has still supported thee;—tho' it may prove
At last a broken reed—without its aid,
Who, who would bear the weight of this sad world?

Explanations: a Sequel to "Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation." Churchill.

[FROM THE ATHENÆUM.]

WE believe we were the first to point out the inaccuracies of the facts and the insufficiency of the reasonings, brought forward in "The Vestiges of Creation" (Our general remarks were followed up by elaborate criticisms in the *Quarterlies*, which left little room to doubt that the author of the work in question had been treading on ground which his previous pursuits and knowledge did not justify. He had ambitiously walked over the field of modern natural science, and endeavoured to connect its details into one grand whole. It was natural that each man of science should look to his own department, and enquire if the author of such a scheme understood the particular class of phenomena with which he was conversant. On this being done, each found that the author of the "Vestiges" had misstated or misunderstood the facts involved in his particular branch of science. The astronomer, geologist, zoologist, botanist, chemist, and political economist, have all complained that the facts of their science have been misrepresented, for the purpose of suiting the author's theory of Creation. After such a general exposure of the work, we were not prepared for an answer from the author. He has, however, ventured on the task of reviewing his reviewers, and the present volume is the result. The author has certainly, in many instances, discovered the weak points of his critics; but his work still stands in the same position that it ever did. His theory of progressive development, as applied to the universe, is still an assumption; and, although a variety of facts may be culled from various departments of science that are not opposed to such a theory, this is a widely different thing from the author's supposition that they are proofs of its truth. He has, however, re-stated the object of his work, and we give him the benefit of a second hearing:—

I must start with a more explicit statement of the general argument of the *Vestiges*, for this has been extensively misunderstood. The book is not primarily designed, as many have intimated in their criticisms, and as the title might be thought partly to imply, to establish a new theory respecting the origin of animated nature; nor are the chief arguments directed to that point. The object is one to which the idea of an organic creation in the manner of natural law is only subordinate and ministrative, as likewise are the nebular hypothesis and the doctrine of a fixed natural order in mind and morals. This purpose is to show that the whole revelation of the works of God presented to our senses and reason is a system based in what we are compelled, for want of a better term, to call LAW; by which, however, is not meant a system independent or exclusive of Deity, but one which only proposes a certain mode of his working. The nature and bearing of this doctrine will be afterwards adverted to; let me, meanwhile observe, that it has long been pointed to by science, though hardly anywhere broadly and fully contemplated. And this was scarcely to be wondered at, since, while the whole physical arrangements

of the universe were placed under law by the discoveries of Kepler and Newton, there was still such a mysterious conception of the origin of organic nature, and of the character of our own fitful being, that men were almost forced to make at least large exceptions from any proposed plan of universal order. What makes the case now somewhat different is, that of late years we have attained much additional knowledge of nature, pointing in the same direction as the physical arrangements of the world. The time seems to have come when it is proper to enter into a re-examination of the whole subject, in order to ascertain whether, in what we actually know, there is most evidence in favor of an entire or a partial system of fixed order. When led to make this enquiry for myself, I soon became convinced that the idea of any exception to the plan of law stood upon a narrow, and constantly narrowing foundation, depending, indeed, on a few difficulties or obscurities, rather than objections, which were certain soon to be swept away by the advancing tide of knowledge. It appeared, at the same time, that there was a want in the state of philosophy amongst us, of an impulse in the direction of the consideration of this theory, so as to bring its difficulties the sooner to a bearing in the one way or the other; and hence it was that I presumed to enter the field.

Now nobody that we are aware of ever denied that organic beings are under the influence of law any more than other departments of nature. What is really the case is this—that no expression of facts that we have at present arrived at is capable of comprehending the relation between cause and effect, in the creation of the various distinct forms of animal and vegetable life. Whether the Creator, from time to time, forms distinct species of plants and animals, or causes one to proceed from the other, accordingly to the author of the "Vestiges," we believe that such a fact is capable of being expressed in words and thus forming a law. We believe that it is only in accordance with the modesty of true science not to dogmatize on either theory at the present moment. The "Explanations" of the "Vestiges" prove that with regard to the facts of geology alone, we are not in a position to give a positive character to any theory of their origin and relation. The greatest point which the author, in this work, discusses with his reviewers is, the succession of animals in the geological series. This, however, is a mere matter of fact, and though we were to find that there had been a gradual appearance of more complicated animals upon the surface of the earth, from the monad up to man, yet we need not say how little way this goes to prove the position that man is nothing more than a complicated monad. The author still adheres to the truth of the experiments of Messrs. Crosse and Weekes in the creation of acari by galvanism, although the evidence for the inference that they are thus formed has again and again been shown to be wholly unsatisfactory. One of the novel features of the present volume are, two communications from Mr. Weekes on the subject of the creation of acari and fungi by galvanism. We need not go into details; it will be sufficient to observe that there is no proof in Mr. Weekes's experiments that he has adopted anything like the precaution necessary to prevent other causes than galvanism originating the animals and plants he has observed.

There is one ground on which the author has the advantage of some of his reviewers, and that is where he throws back the taunt of his views not being in accordance with certain facts admitted as true on other grounds:—

It has appeared to various critics, particularly to the writer in the *Edinburgh Review*, that very sacred principles are threatened by a doctrine of universal law. A natural origin of life, and a natural basis in organization for the operations of the human mind, speak to them of fatalism and materialism. And strange to say, those, who every day give views of physical cosmogony altogether discrepant in appearance with that of Moses, apply hard names to my book for suggesting an organic cosmogony in the same way liable to inconsiderate odium. I must firmly protest against this mode of meeting speculations regarding nature. The object of my book, whatever may be said of the manner in which it is treated, is purely scientific. The views which I give of this history of organization, stand exactly on the same ground upon which the geological doctrines stood fifty years ago. I am merely endeavouring to read aright another chapter of the mystic book which God has placed under the attention of his creatures. A little liberality of judgment would enable even an opponent of my particular hypothesis, to see that questions as to reverence and irreverence, piety and impiety, are practically determined very much by special impressions upon particular minds.

The author of the "Vestiges" is, we think, wrong scientifically, and it is on this ground alone that his book ought to be condemned. He feels, too, that it is to men of science that he has made his appeal, and they have one and all pronounced his work a failure as far as its scientific object is concerned. He has felt this, and endeavours to make for himself a court of appeal beyond the world of Science. Speaking of the position of his work in relation to the class of men of science he says—

As the case really stands, the ability of this class to give, at the present time, a true response upon such a subject, appears extremely challengeable. It is no discredit to them, that they are, almost without exception engaged, each in his own little department of science, and able to give little or no attention to other parts of that vast field. From year to year, and from age to age, we see them at work, adding no doubt much to the known, and advancing many important interests, but, at the same time, doing little for the establishment of comprehensive views of nature. Experiments in however narrow a walk, facts of whatever minuteness, make reputations in scientific societies; all beyond is regarded with suspicion and distrust. The consequence is, that philosophy, as it exists amongst us, does nothing to raise its votaries above the common ideas of their time. There can, therefore, be nothing more conclusive against our hypothesis in the disfavor of the scientific class, than in that of any other section of educated men. There is even less; for the position of scientific men with regard to the rest of the public is such, that they are rather eager to repudiate, than to embrace general views, seeing how unpopular these usually are. The reader may here be reminded, that there is such a thing in human nature as coming to venerate the prejudices which we are compelled to treat tenderly, because it is felt to be better to be consistent at the sacrifice of even judgment and conscience than to have a war always going on between the cherished and the avowed. Accordingly, in the case of a particular doctrine, which, however unjustly, is regarded as having an obnoxious tendency, it is not surprising that scientific men view it with not less hostility than the common herd. For the very purpose of maintaining their own respect in the concessions they have to make, they naturally wish to find all possible objections to any such theory as that of progressive development, exaggerating every difficulty in

its way, rejecting, wherever they can, the evidence in its favor, and extenuating what they cannot reject; in short, taking all the well recognised means which have been so often employed in keeping back advancing truths.

We would, however, remind the author that it is from this scientific class alone that all great discoveries have emanated, and we know of no great generalization that has ever been made by a man unacquainted with the details on which it rests. That the author is not intimately acquainted with any department of science we have his own statement, and his work abundantly proves it. He may, however, console himself that he has thrown together many of the facts of science in an interesting manner, and produced a book which may in some manner serve as an outline to the vast range of the natural sciences.

Punch.

THE POLITICAL AUTOMATON CHESS-PLAYER.

One of the wonders of mechanism is an automaton chess-player which has astonished the world by the facility with which it beat everybody, though it was obvious that, being a mere automaton, he could only be playing some one else's game. The secret was eventually discovered to consist in the fact that a Monsieur Mouret pulled certain strings, which directed the game of the puppet, and enabled him to defy all opposition. One of the greatest wonders of the age is, however, the great political chess-player, Sir Robert Peel, who makes a series of the most successful moves, none of which are the result of his own skill, but are suggested entirely by others. His last grand move, in which he was very nearly giving check to the Queen, and by which he forfeited some of his best pawns—when we say pawns, we mean, of course pledges—was dictated by Cobden, who has lately been to the political automaton what Monsieur Mouret was to the original chess-player. This move very nearly lost him the Queen's Castle, and will subject him to a sharp attack from the Knights and Bishops on the other side; but there is no doubt he will, with his usual good luck, succeed in bringing Cobden's game to a successful issue.

PUNCH'S POLITICAL DICTIONARY.

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS.—A body appointed to look into the revenues and duties of the Clergy. They have recommended a better distribution of the loaves and fishes, and have made the extraordinary discovery that the revenue of half the bishoprics did not pay their expenses, the income being positively below the outlay incurred. Perhaps, however, the ideas of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were rather extravagant, and their own notorious bankruptcy may be thus accounted for.

EDUCATION.—From *educio*, to lead out. The bringing forth of the innate faculties. The State does not trouble itself much with education in this country, but the most usual schools for the young and destitute are the prisons, where Education of a certain kind is easily imparted. It quickens the apprehension, for it frequently leads to the apprehension of the scholar upon some various charge. It moreover sharpens the wits, which are all that they who come under the influence of prison education generally have to live upon.

A CARD.

M. Julien begs to announce that, encouraged by the unrivalled success and distinguished patronage which have attended the production of his "Cricket Polka," and other compositions of a similar kind, he will, in his ensuing season, introduce to the public notice two new pieces, namely, "The Household Valse," and "The Menagerie Quadrilles." The former will include faithful imitations of all the peculiar sounds incidental to the course of household occupations during the day, from the cleaning of the boots and knives in the morning to the fastening of the hall-door at night. M. Julien conceives that this valse will be particularly adapted to the domestic and home-loving habits of the British nation.

The Menagerie Quadrilles (dedicated by permission to the Zoological Society) will comprise combinations of the cries of the principal animals of note in the Zoological Gardens.

The very flattering reception which has been given to M. Julien's musical productions has emboldened him to bring forward these novelties, in doing which he believes he ventures upon ground which former masters have hesitated to tread.

THE BAD ENGLISH PARLIAMENT.

The English Parliament, we believe, is supposed to express itself in the English language. In the opinion, however, of a competent judge, this supposition is questionable; for Judge Alderson, the other day, in the Court of Exchequer, on the trial of the case *Young v. Smith*, remarked, respecting the 25th section of 7 & 8, Victoria, c. 110,—the Joint Stock Companies Act,—

"That Clause is generally the most unintelligible in the whole Act; and is not unlike some interpreters, who speak such bad English as to puzzle one more than the language of the party interpreted."

Both the Lords and Commons have standing rules; but these do not seem to include the rules of Syntax. We propose that these rules should be inscribed, by way of legends, on the walls of the interior of the new Houses of Parliament, where, handsomely emblazoned in old English characters, they would form very appropriate decorations. As, for instance, "Ye Nominative Case governs ye verb, and replies to ye Question Who? or What? with Ye Verbi," Conjunctions, copulative, and disjunctive, connect similar Moods, Cases, and Tenses;" or, "Ye Relative agrees with ye Antecedent in Gender, Number, and Person."

When Parliament turns over a new leaf in the Statute Book, which we hope, on more accounts than one, that it will do when it gets into its new houses, let us trust that the sentences committed to the fresh page will accord with the above-mentioned axioms. Adam Smith is a parliamentary authority; why not Lindley Murray? To the list of officers of the Lords and Commons, it would really be desirable to add a grammarian, to be entitled to be Professor of Plain English. His duty should consist in putting their enactments into an intelligible form; and surely, so many charity boys as their are in the kingdom, there are plenty who would undertake it for a trifle.

VESTIGES OF THE NATURAL HISTORY OF PROTECTION.

There is no doubt that Protection originated in a mist, which, however, was not a fine mist, but an intellectual fog of singular density. Its vestiges are apparent in the imperfect state of Agriculture, which no doubt would have been improved by competition; also in a crippled and shackled condition of Commerce. Pauperism and the Union Workhouse are vestiges of Protection, which are also observable in the ducal skull; with whose thickness it has an evident connection.

A GREAT IDEA.

It will be recollected that Mr. B. D'Israeli said that Sir Robert Peel was not a fit Premier, because he had not a "great idea." In the event of a resignation, her Majesty has determined to offer the Premiership to Mr. D'Israeli, as being, by his own definition, the *beau idéal* of a great statesman: for it is evident that no man, in the course of history, ever had a *greater idea*—of himself.

The Drama.

The First Part of King Henry IV. was played on Monday evening for the first time in this colony.

Taking into consideration the present very attenuated condition of the *Victoria* company, it would be unreasonable to look for *Shaksperian* plays to be performed with a high degree of efficiency. Under "present existing circumstances," (as the literary Mrs. Gubbins has it,) we are content to accept the *will for the deed*. Indeed, so far from speaking discouragingly of the attempt, we think the management deserving of much commendation—for surely it is better to have a good play indifferently performed, than to have *play and performance* both bad together! In the former case, the piece sustains itself; and in enjoying the sentiment, the wit, the humour of the *author*, the audience comparatively lose sight of the *actor*. This essentially takes place with the plays of Shakspeare—the dialogue carries us along, and, provided there be no palpable delinquency in the actor, our interest is kept alive throughout the piece. Doubtless, good acting creates vivid excitement, and enhances the intensity of our interest; we merely maintain that a play, intrinsically good, is, to a certain extent, independent of superior acting; that it will be a more gratifying exhibition in *mediocre* hands, than a worthless production would be, though represented with ability; and further, that where there is no particular ability for pieces of any kind, it is infinitely more judicious in the management to introduce good pieces than inferior ones, and infinitely more satisfactory and beneficial to the public to witness them.

With these cursory remarks, we may say that the performance of King Henry IV., on Monday, may be spoken of in terms of commendation. The character of *Falstaff* is, in itself, sufficient to interest the hearer, for, as Johnson observes, although he is a glutton, a winebibber, a liar, a thief, and a coward, yet his imitability wit not only reconciles us to him, but even invokes our sympathy in his behalf. (Griffiths' representation of Sir John was very *forced*, and, in the end, very *flagging*.) The whole of Shakspeare's historical plays are valuable, not alone for their graphic delineations of character, and the practical philosophy they present, but as *books of record*. In fact, the first Duke of Marlborough declared they were the only books of English history he had ever read, or was acquainted with. To sum up, although very little can be said in favour of the *performance*, we think the management entitled to the thanks of the lovers of the drama for the *play*.

Macbeth was repeated on Tuesday, and most favorably received. Mr. Hambleton also renewed, with variations, his *Polka vagaries*. In his imitations, he introduced the *soi-distant* Kemble—the hero of many characters—the copy was excellent—the only fault being that it was *better than the original*!

The house has been extremely well attended this week, which evinces a desire on the part of the public to encourage the introduction of sterling pieces, albeit the present company is somewhat inadequate to their efficient representation.

The *Bohemian Girl*, and a long catalogue of novelties, are announced to be forthcoming.

FASHIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

(From the London and Paris Ladies' Magazine of Fashion)

Dresses continue to be made with higher bodies; no others seem admissible. Some are with *basquines*, and a little jacket behind; others are with *brundenbours à la czarine*, and have little *pattes* of velvet; others are of the waistcoat make, with jackets *à la catalane*, consisting of small square pieces laid one on the other. In full dress, lace flounces are fashionable, with *berthes* to match; when the *corsages* are not *drapés*, a style much in favour this season, the sleeves are still short and much trimmed; the gloves also continue short, and generally ornamented with lace or ribbon. Bracelets are very fashionable. Gimp is universally worn even on ball dresses.

The colour *bouton d'or* has been much worn in Paris: also very pale blue and green, with ornaments in diamonds; the skirts for dress are made to train a little, unless for dancing; double and triple skirts are again in favour, and *montants* of flowers or ribbon are used to raise them at the side.

The *Pamela* bonnets have not been very much approved in Paris, and the form is already undergoing a change; the new ones, though not so *évasés* as the *Pamela*, are less close than those worn last year. The beaver colour in velvet and *velours épinglé* is still in favour. There is much variety in the *coiffeurs* for dress; some are in the Greek style *à la Haïde*, Spanish, Milanese, Algerine, Oriental, &c., gold, flowers, ribbon, feathers and gauze, with velvet, composing the materials; dress hats and *résilles* inclosing the hair, terminating with long ends and tassels, and wreaths of flowers on blond of gold or silver, all from elegant *coiffeurs*.

Memoranda of Men and Things.

LINNEAN SOCIETY.

NOV. 18.—THE BISHOP OF NORWICH, PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

Specimens of preparations of a *Fucus*, used by the Japanese, were presented.—Dr. Lankester exhibited specimens of a *Fucus*, sold in London under the name of "Australian Moss." It is procured from the rocks on the sea shore, at Swan River, and is recommended as a substitute for Carrageen moss, Iceland moss, Ceylon moss, and other forms of *Fuci* containing lichenin. In some points of its structure it resembles the *Fucus striatus* of Turner, to which it was referred by Sir W. J. Hooker. From specimens in the Herbarium, Dr. Lankester thought it more nearly related to the *Fucus spinosus* of Linnæus.—A paper was read by Mr. Newport, "On the Natural History, Development and Structure of the British *Melæ*, *M. violaceus*, *M. proscarabæus*, and *M. cicatricosus*. Although the adult insects are common, scarcely anything has heretofore been known of their young state, their habits or their metamorphoses. The perfect insect comes forth in March and April, and feeds on the butter cup and dandelion, and deposits her eggs in the earth, at the roots of grass. She deposits eggs three or four times during the spring. The first laying forms a packet of upwards of four thousand in number, but there are fewer at each successive laying. The eggs are hatched in from three to five weeks, according to the temperature and their degree of exposure to the light. The larva is hexapod, and identical with the insect well known to naturalists as the *Pediculus apis* of Fabricius, often found on the bodies of

living Hymenoptera. The larvæ ascend the flowers and attach themselves to the bodies of bees, when they alight on the flowers for pollen, and are thus conveyed by them to their nests, in which the young *Melæ* then take up their abodes as parasites, and subsist on the food laid up for the young bee. This fact reconciles the anomaly of their being found on bees, with the habit of the parent *Melæ*, the food of the insect in all its stages being thus shown to be of a vegetable nature. The author then described the larvæ of *Melæ cicatricosus*, which undergoes its changes in the nest of *Anthophora retusa*. The growth of the larva is rapid, during which its form is entirely altered, it loses its external appendages, antennæ and legs, and becomes a thick, apodal creature, preparatory to its change to a nymph. It remains as a perfect insect in its cell in the earth during winter in a state of hibernation, and comes forth early in the spring. In the course of the paper the author pointed out some remarkable effects of light on the development and instinct of the young larva, as shown by experiments which he detailed; and then stated he had been led by these and other facts, in conformity with the great discovery of Prof. Faraday of the analogy of light with magnetism and electricity, to consider light as the primary source of all vital and instinctive power, the degrees and variations of which, he suggested, may, perhaps, be referred to modifications of this influence on the special organization of each animal body. The close relation which Mr. Faraday has now shown to subsist between light and electricity, and by Matteucci between electricity and nervous function, and the known dependence of most of the functions of the body on the latter, were remarked on as leading to the above conclusion.

Miscellanea.

BRITISH AND IRISH EXPORTS.—Declared value of the exports of the principal articles of British and Irish produce and manufactures, in the ten months ending November 5, 1845, as given in the *Economist*, and compared with the exports in the corresponding periods of 1843 and 1844:—

	1843.	1844.	1845.
Coals and culm.....	£602,423	£569,090	£841,687
Cotton manufactures....	13,330,581	15,923,434	16,288,958
Cotton yarn.....	6,250,109	6,137,839	5,976,769
Earthenware.....	520,347	675,786	720,488
Glass.....	289,217	332,637	331,325
Hardware and cutlery....	1,413,646	1,839,114	1,827,916
Linen manufactures.....	2,291,374	2,562,702	2,537,612
Linen yarn.....	717,686	864,991	893,670
Metals, viz.:—			
Iron and steel.....	2,187,537	2,850,571	3,080,964
Copper and brass.....	1,414,853	1,440,955	1,502,941
Lead.....	228,199	235,155	192,696
Tin in bars, &c.....	93,855	67,817	45,608
Tin plates.....	344,437	417,643	519,493
Salt.....	183,424	195,572	186,888
Silk manufactures.....	550,725	636,357	638,081
Sugar, refined.....	348,562	290,634	407,936
Wool, sheep or lambs'....	385,405	451,455	493,685
Woolen yarn.....	587,676	857,182	925,993
Woollen manufactures....	5,604,311	7,230,387	6,669,099
Total.....	£37,344,364	43,578,821	44,090,816

A TRUE PROPHECY.—Few years have elapsed since Sydney Smith indited as follows [*Letter on the Ballo*]:—"There never was an instance in this country where parties were so nearly balanced, and in a very few years either Peel will swallow Lord John, or Lord John will pasture upon Peel; parties will coalesce, the Duke of Wellington and Viscount Melbourne meet at the same board, and the lion lie down with the lamb."—However (says the *Globe*) events—as events always do—have occurred otherwise than anticipated, there is something in the above shrewd prophecy, the essential truth of which events cannot alter. We mean the sort of inevitable relation established by Nature between Russell and Peel. We can hardly, for our parts, imagine any result between two such opposite characters, but the one "swallowing" or pasturing upon" the other. The question for the country is, *which of the two* can best serve its present wants. This being settled, the deglutition of the other will present less difficulty.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The great alterations in mechanics, the application of chemistry to agriculture, and the unlimited powers of steam, seemed to have opened to the people of this country a new, and assuredly no unreal, field of view. Under forms from which the philosopher may turn away, as from empty symbols of material civilization, the great ideas of the infinite extension of manly power and manly industry have been developed,—with the exception of the *superficial* extent of this little island, every element of society is here in a state of rapid and endless growth. The population almost doubles itself in the course of a man's lifetime. The natural resources of the soil are continually increased by the application of science. What can always be achieved by power can now be executed with certainty by means of the wonderful natural element which man renders subordinate to his service. In all directions, the walls of the world—the horizon of society—appear on the point of vanishing, and nobody can venture to fix a limit to the exertions or the acts of mankind in reference to his earthly existence upon this planet.—*On the Condition of England in the Augsburg Gazette*.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT STATISTICS.—[From a Correspondent.]—During the last fifteen years the annual number of prisoners has been rather above 3,000 who have been adjudicated upon, and during that period it is pleasant to find that "juvenile delinquency" has been reduced more than one-half. The offences charged, too, have been wonderfully changed *i. e.*, reduced in number. Among the most prominent may be ranked forgery, highway robbery, housebreaking, burglary, receiving stolen goods, and pewter pot stealing. Subjoined is a comparative statement of the 220 prisoners who were committed for trial at the session just terminated, and the yearly average proportion may be calculated from it.—Under 10 years, 1; above 10 and under 15, 11; above 15 and under 20, 62; above 20 and under 25, 69; above 25 and under 30, 30; above 30 and under 40, 28; above 40 and under 50, 10; above 50 and under 60, 8; above 60 and under 70, 1. Total, 220.

TAXES, &c.—A parliamentary paper has been issued, giving a return to all taxes repealed, reduced, expired, and imposed, in Great Britain and Ireland respectively, from 1841 to 1845, with other information on the subject. The net balance of taxes repealed, reduced, &c., in Great Britain, in the years mentioned, was £2,937,537; and in Ireland £339,855. The taxes imposed in Great Britain in the same period amounted to £5,100,400, and in Ireland £367,242. In the present year none were imposed, and those repealed, reduced, &c., were, in Great Britain, £215,000, and in Ireland £17,000. The particulars are given in the returns which follow the aggregate statement, from the respective revenue departments. In the list given, it seems that under the 6th of George IV., c. 30, £490,606 was advanced for "railways," of

which, on the 5th of January last, £171,759 3s. 11d. was unpaid. For the "Thames Tunnel" £250,600 was advanced, no portion of which had been repaid. It also appears that for building and enlarging workhouses and for emigration under the Poor Law Amendment Acts, £1,734,700 had been advanced, of which sum £950,660 14s. 6d. remained unpaid on the 5th of January last.

LONDON LIBRARY.—This valuable institution, which was first opened in Pall-mall, in 1841, has now been removed to one of the splendid houses in St. James's-square, where its rooms were thrown open on Saturday to the view of several members of the fashionable and literary world. In the short period of its existence, it has collected a library of more than twenty-five thousand volumes, consisting of the best works in the English, Latin, Greek, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and German languages. It is rich in all these departments of literature, but especially so in German, for which the foundation was laid by a magnificent donation from his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the patron of the institution. To the middle classes, especially, this library is of invaluable benefit; for it enables them to have at their own homes many works which are only accessible to the visitor at the British Museum. For the purposes of study, or of amusement, it gives to all persons, whether in London or the country, facilities such as are not to be found in any other city in Europe. It enables a person to have in his own house ten different works, which may be parts of sets of books, not purchaseable for £200 or £300. To those whose days are occupied, and who wish to improve their leisure hours of the evening, it is of inappreciable value. Such an institution, it is gratifying to know, is not only honoured by the patronage of Prince Albert, but its president, the Earl of Clarendon, takes a most active interest in its affairs, which are managed by a committee, including in their body names of such distinguished note as Lord Mahon, Rev. H. Milman, Mr. Hallam, Mr. Carlyle, Professor Maurice, Mr. Forster, Mr. Grote, &c.

Original Correspondence.

BISHOP BROUGHTON'S CROSSES.

MR. ATLAS.—The crosses which have lately been multiplied, and exhibited upon the places of worship erected in connexion with the Church of England, in this city, and in other parts of the colony, have attracted the attention of your correspondent and excited his regret. They are exhibited upon St. Andrew's, St. Lawrence's and Trinity Church, in this city, but not upon St. Phillip's, St. Matthew's, at Windsor, after it had stood for nearly a quarter of a century, received the present of a costly cross a few months ago. Will you allow me to clear my conscience and wash my hands from any sin that may attach itself to the silent allowance of these innovations, by inserting in your valuable journal the following protest against them. I have forborne to enter within the sanctuary, but "*every tree is known by its fruit*."

I am, sir,

Yours &c.,

A PROTESTANT.

These crosses, at first sight, may appear insignificant things about which to call the attention of the Protestant public, but these are eventful times, times when religious principles and institutions are, by universal consent, tending to a great crisis; when no real changes, even in a matter like the present, can be considered with indifference, either as to their causes or their effects. Indeed the prominence which is given to these crosses shows the passer-by what importance is attached to their use by the persons who placed them there. However, for good or for evil, there they are. Let us enquire, then, for what end they have been erected. Do they form a part of the architectural design merely; so that, as taste might have dictated, they might have been balls, or cones, or crescents, as easily as crosses? No; their large unseemly proportions, their prominent positions, &c., &c., bespeak not architectural taste, but religious design. For a cross, viewed apart from its association with a solemn historical event of our holy religion, is as repulsive to a classic taste, as a gallows would be to the commonality of our day—the cross being the horrid instrument by which the Roman Government put to death its vilest criminals. But an image of this instrument of death *ornamented*, (as may be seen, in, of all others, the most repulsive to good taste, and, if intended for a religious use, not only repulsive to good taste, but abhorrent to all correct religious feeling. Now, without the slightest apprehension of violating the 9th Commandment in our defence of the 2nd, we charge the supreme ecclesiastical authority which authorised and tolerated, and the subordinates that "carved" and "set up" these "images of wood and of stone," with setting them up as effigies of the crucifixion of the Son of God, and designed for the *religious* use of those that may behold them. Whether they have, as yet, received any kind of religious worship or no, I know not; but, certainly, the first part of the 2nd Commandment—"Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image"—has been violated; and it is to be feared the "bowing down to them and worshipping them," is not far hence. Let, then, the candid churchman read the good old "Homily against idolatry and superstitious decking of churches," and let him learn to characterize the proceedings of the Anglican church of this day, in respect of this matter, as *idolatrous*.

The principles which dictated the display of these crosses are superstitious and unscriptural. The principles which call forth such means for the promotion of Christianity, are repudiated by thousands of the protesting sons of England's church, in this land and elsewhere. There are now new editions of the once-reputed "Books for Laymen;" books which the laymen of this enlightened age decline reading (they are in the Protestant "Index Prohibitorum"), so long as they may be allowed a Bible at their homes, and be permitted to hear the doctrine of Christ crucified for sinners, preached from the pulpits of their churches. Their fathers have told them that it was the refusal on their part to bow down to such images as these that cost them their liberties and their lives. Yes! for the abolition of the "religious" use of crosses, &c., Protestant blood has flowed amain, and has been but lately staunch. These are the weapons by which Christ has been wounded again in the house of his professed friends; and these are the practices that, above all others, have contributed to make the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ of no effect.

These are the signs of that reviving superstition of the dark ages, which like a land-flood is sweeping many parts of the Church of England, and spreading spiritual desolation all around. Exhibited upon the roofs of the churches, these crosses may, at present, appear unworthy of notice, as not likely to meet the eye or steal away the heart of the worshipper within. But those who know the subtlety of the spirit of Antichrist, and the stealthiness by which he ascends to holy places, cannot but expect, now that such prominence is given to this image without, that ere long it shall find a place within. It may be observed that the cross is generally placed above the chancel, nor shall it be long before it shall be thought sacred enough for the "altar." It may be reserved for another generation to place it there, enshrined in gold, and for the next to "fall down and worship it;" but man's proneness to idolatry—the historical records of past ages—and observation of