DOWELLS & LYON'S
AUCTION SALE LIST.

HERITAGES in No. 13 GEORGE STREET.

This Day, at 2.—Merchiston Lodge, and Building Lease, — Upset.
House, 5 Nicolson Street, — £970
Bond of Annual Rent,

To-morrow.—SUPERIOR ASSORTMENT of SCOTCH TWEEDS, Cloths, Highland Cloaks, Dress, Morning and Top Coats, Vests, Scarfs, Gloves, &c. &c., in 18 GEORGE STREET, at 12. Catalogues ready, and the Goods on view To-day.

Mon. and Tues., 27 and 28.—EXCELLENT HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS, Large Mirrors, Out-side Safes, &c. &c. (belonging to the Trustees of the late Sir Francis Walker Drummond, Bart.), at the MANSION HOUSE of MIDFIELD, near HAWTHORNDEN, at 11 each day.

Edinburgh, 18 George Street, 24th January 1862.

SMITH & PHILPOT'S
LIST OF SALES BY AUCTION.
79 GEORGE STREET, Edinburgh.

To-morrow.—LARGE ASSORTMENT of ELEGANT FURNISHINGS, Two Pianofortes, Richly Carved Antique Cabinets, Writing-Tables, China and other curiosities, Cottage and Square Pianofortes, large Magic Lantern, Herberium on Stand, Plated Dish-Covers and Corner Dishes, Carpets, Printed Druggets, Gaseliers, Dinner China, and Crystal, &c. Full details in Catalogues, which are ready. Now on view within their Great Saloon. Sale at Twelve.

THE SCOTSMAN

EDINBURGH, FRIDAY, January 24, 1862.

THERE were two arrivals from America yesterday, the Norwegian at Londonderry, and the Borussia at Southampton, but the news of both appears to have been anticipated by that received by the Etna.

IT is announced that Lord Dufferin and Lord Sherborne will respectively move and second the Address, in reply to the speech from the Throne, in the House of Lords.

ACCORDING to the *Patrie*, the Forfait, a Government despatch boat, has been ordered to hold herself in readiness to proceed to American waters, and it is alleged by the same paper that similar commands have been imposed by the British Admiralty upon the frigate Doris. The *Patrie* presumes that these vessels are to be bearers of despatches protesting against a project about to be submitted to the Federal Congress, declaring the Southern ports to be shut against foreign commerce, and that ships not recognising this law shall be treated as pirates.

IF a rumour in the *New York World* prove true, the people of this country will be spared the opportunity of differing as to what kind of a reception Mason and Slidell should meet with on their arrival in this country. The paper mentioned comes to the conclusion, on data apparently of the most absurdly presumptive character, that the Rinaldo, having Mason and Slidell on board, must have been lost in a storm on the 1st. No doubt the "wish is father to the thought," but surely never before did thought so weakly begotten give deliberate expression to so grave an announcement. These most wretched suppositions are, so far as appears from the telegram, the only foundation the *World* has for declaring the Rinaldo lost.

COLONEL COLT, the inventor of the celebrated revolver known by his name, which has added so much to the deadly efficiency of cavalry regiments, is reported to have died at Hartford, Connecticut, on the 9th of this month.

FROM Buenos Ayres we have intelligence to the 14th ult. General Flores had captured Santa Fé, and Governor Rosas and General Lopez had sought refuge in the desert.

THE *Official Gazette* of Madrid announces that there is a prospect of an addition to the royal family of Spain.

THE *Moniteur* of Wednesday publishes the report of M. Fould to the Emperor on the state of the French finances. This State paper would appear to be of the very highest importance both in a political and financial point of view. The account of it by telegram is still, of course, imperfect, but its main features will be found to be something like the following. The ordinary expenses for 1863 will, it is stated, amount to £2,800,000 more than the estimated expenses for 1862, in consequence of certain supplementary credits which have been added to the Budget. These extra credits for 1860 are mentioned to have been £5,240,000, and for 1861 £6,080,000, but we presume a portion of these must now form part of the existing deficit. M. Fould seems to have been successful in getting at least a promise for the prospective reduction of the army. The number of effective men is stated at 467,000, to be reduced to 400,000 on 1st January 1863. This is in the right direction for a permanent saving; but whether the reduction will prove real or nominal time only can disclose.

Unlike the Federal Americans, M. Fould seems determined at present to steer clear of loans. He proposes, instead, to lay on various new taxes. By imposing a duty on horses and carriages he calculates on obtaining £250,000; from an increase in the existing Stamp-duties, he will get, he says, £380,000; and by means of a fixed tax on receipts, £500,000 more. There seems intended to be some sort of tax on trade, from which workmen with small means are however to be exempt; but this part of the report, as furnished by telegram, we admit is somewhat incomprehensible. Altogether, the new taxes for ordinary purposes are estimated at £2,000,000; but, in addition, M. Fould further proposes to raise £1,200,000 by an augmentation of the Salt-duties, and £1,160,000 by an increase in the Sugar-duties—these two last to assist in the construction of railways and in carrying on works of public utility. With the existing deficit of £40,320,000 M. Fould does not meddle, contenting himself with simply declaring *that there is no immediate necessity for having recourse to a loan*.

M. Fould in the same report farther indicates a plan for converting the 4½ per Cent. Rentes into 3 per Cents., on the principle of exchanging from the one stock to the other, without apparently intending to make any diminution in the income of the stockholder. When the conversion of the 5 into 4½ per Cents. took place in 1852, a pledge was given that no farther reduction would be made for ten years. The period will expire in March next, and of course till then any conversion must be voluntary. The state of monetary matters in France will scarcely admit at present of any great financial operation, involving, as in this case it might, considerable payments to dissentient stockholders. On the Paris Bourse M. Fould's Budget and attendant financial scheme have not been well received. When we are in possession of all the details we will be better able to say whether they are equal to the urgency of the occasion. It must be admitted that they show courage and a determination to grapple with a great difficulty, and we hope that ultimately he will at any rate be financially successful.

"BRING any club or company of intelligent men together again after ten years," writes Emerson, "and if the presence of some penetrating and calming genius could dispose them to frankness, what a confession of insanities would come up!" Intelligence, in any robust sense of the term, was not plentiful amongst the promoters of the Young Ireland burlesque on a rebellion, the leader of which ought to have had raised to him by his admiring associates a statue of dough, wreathed with a coronal of cabbage-leaves. But although the returned convict, Smith O'Brien, and the runaway convicts, Mitchel and Meagher, may mouth against "Saxon" sway as fiercely and foolishly as ever, even they must secretly confess that they acted like consummate asses in 1848, whilst some of their party, possessing more courage and common sense, are openly recanting their former opinions, and refuse to indulge in safe bravado, and to continue their boyish folly, now that they have become men. A short time ago, Mr Thomas D'Arcy M'Gee expressed in emphatic phrases his preference of the Union Jack to the Stars and Stripes, and informed the Hibernian "white-washed Yankees," who were bragging of their intention to annex British America, that if they presumed to plant hostile feet on Canadian soil, they would meet with a warm Irish welcome of a very different kind from that which they anticipated; and now Colonel Eugene O'Reilly writes from Constantinople to Mr William Smith O'Brien, and, heedless of the fire of the ragged remnant of the Irish rebel-press, almost in so many words calls his brother conspirator a fool. The arguments by which Colonel O'Reilly strives to convince Mr O'Brien of his folly, his ingratitude, and, under a profession of extraordinary, his real lack of common patriotism, in themselves are truismatic enough; but the fact that an ex-rebel O'Reilly employs them imparts freshness to them. Though they are neither rich nor rare, a natural wonder is at first excited as to how they got *there*—into the brain of a whilom insubordinate Celt. The answer is, that thirteen years' observation of European Governments has done for Colonel O'Reilly what a comparison during the same period of mixed monarchical and republican Governments in America has done for Mr M'Gee—converted him to a belief that the British is the best of all existing Governments to live under. Eugene O'Reilly turned soldier of fortune after the failure of the most ludicrous attempt at insurrection which history chronicles (if, indeed, history can be expected to embalm such a stingless midge in its amber), and after serving in sundry Christian armies, at last entered the Turkish service, in which he has attained the rank of colonel of cavalry. Hearing of the probability of a war between England and the Federal States, he began a letter to Mr O'Brien urging him to use his influence to prevent any preaching of the old disloyal and Ireland-injuring doctrine of "England's extremity," &c. Before this letter was finished, Colonel O'Reilly read Mr O'Brien's to Mr Seward, and resolved to give his incorrigibly ridiculous old leader a very plain-spoken screed of his mind. He tells Mr O'Brien that he had no right to address Mr Seward as he did—first, because Mr O'Brien owes his life, liberty, and property to the clemency of the Government which he would fain overthrow. That clemency may have been *contemptuous*, but this circumstance does not justify Mr O'Brien in doing his worst to render it, *ex post facto*, a real exercise of generosity. In the second place, Mr O'Brien is accused of wanton cruelty in unsettling the minds and destroying the prospects of a few hot-headed young Irishmen, since he is well aware of the nature of the "stuff" (appropriate word) of which the revolutionary element in Ireland is made, that it will not work up into anything worthy of being even called a rebellion. The converted Colonel gives the ungrateful grievance-monger the opinion which a wide foreign experience enables him to say that foreigners have formed of Irish *wrongs*—to wit, that either a completely ungrounded outcry has been made about the misgovernment of Ireland, or else that there is no public virtue in the Irish people; since, if great grievances did exist, and the Irish were as intensely patriotic as they are made out to be, they could easily force their members to combine for the redress of their country's wrongs. The utter folly of an attempt to stir the Irish people up to mutiny after years of unprecedented prosperity, when, after a famine which lying teachers had made idiotic disciples believe to have been imposed, like an Act of Parliament, by English rule, the descendant of the Irish Kings was compelled, through lack of support, to seek the harmoniously verdant shelter of the Widow M'Cormack's kitchen-garden, is pungently exposed. A London boy, who had purchased, from a peripatetic vender, a draught of mulled elderberry wine, is reported to have passed upon the beverage the uncomplimentary opinion that, "there warn't much in it, but its hotth." The same judgment might be given of the weak but fuming rebellion-meeting which was recently held in the Dublin Rotunda. Colonel O'Reilly speaks of it with well merited scorn. He points out that none but a lunatic could expect an American army to land in Ireland, and contemptuously adds, "you know well that Ireland, by herself, will make no move." A slight stimulation of the sale of the few Irish newspapers which still favour Britain with Bedlamite abuse, and the conversion of a score or two of silly counter-jumpers into would-be Catilines or sham Catostreet conspirators, are the only results which Colonel O'Reilly, with very good reason, expects from the latest flare of the flame and "flam" of "national" feeling in Ireland. His indignant rebuke and rebutter of Mr O'Brien's shamelessly complacent expectation that, in case of war with the Federal States, the Irish troops sent against them would prove false to the flag they had sworn to defend, shall be given in the Colonel's own words:—

"Why do you assert that one-half of the army which may be sent to Canada will desert? Because that half will be Irish, of course! How can you, an Irish gentleman, rejoice in the prospect of soldiers, your countrymen, deserting their flag? How dare you assert that our countrymen are perjurers, ready to break the oath which they took when they entered the ranks? What gives you a right to speak thus of the Irish soldier, and to endeavour to cast a stain upon our military honour, and remove the *prestige* of the only merit which the nation still possesses in the eyes of Europe? And, moreover, you are ignorant of the subject you are treating. Now, I am not so. I have served in the ranks of the British army, and I can tell you how Irish soldiers feel. While they serve, their corps is their country, is their family; and its honour, its fortune, its weal, and its woe, are their own. They have proved this on a hundred fields of battle, and will yet prove it again and again, please God."

Colonel O'Reilly dissipates another of Mr O'Brien's delusions. The latter is of opinion that if England should go to war with the northern fragment of what was "the Great Republic," the Irish serving in the army of the southern fragment would desert in order to have a chance of fighting their hereditary Sassenach foe. Colonel O'Reilly reminds Mr O'Brien of the insults which the Native American party in the North have heaped upon the Irish, and pointedly inquires, "Do you imagine that their officers have not recalled these outrages to the minds of the Irish soldiers who fight under the Southern flag against the fanaticism of the North?" We must make one more extract from the letter of the Red Republican of 1848:—

"If it surprises you that I should speak in this way, I can tell you that it is simply the result of the experience of the world, which I have had during the thirteen years that have passed since I last saw you. During that time I have been in many countries, and in Italy and Germany I lived much with the classes of men amongst whom the great thoughts which move nations to revolution germinate and take root, and the German philosopher and student, and the Polish, Hungarian, and Italian patriot soldier repeated to me the same thing. 'England is the Ark of the liberty of the world,' and by degrees I came to believe in this creed, and I believe in it still. Do not miscalculate. Many of the educated men who were with you in 1848 now think as I do.

"By Mac and O
You always know
True Irishmen, they say;
For those who lack
Both O and Mac,
No Irishmen are they."

"David Buchanan" certainly does not look much like an Irish name; but the owner of it, in a letter which he has addressed to the editor of the Dublin *Daily Express*, states, "The name I now sign is not that which I bore when a clubbist and a rebel." Mr Buchanan—we are not sufficiently up in the history of the Great Rebellion of 1848 to be able to give him his Hibernian name, and besides, he seems to be ashamed of it, and, therefore, we would not re-inflict it on him even if we could—rates Mr O'Brien even more roundly than Colonel O'Reilly does. Mr Buchanan actually calls Mr O'Brien "the silliest of Irishmen." Can the force of sarcastic language by any possibility farther go? After this, of course, it cannot be expected that Mr Buchanan should manifest any respect for the speakers at the Rotunda meeting. The chairman he dubs the "snuffed-out O'Donoghue," and Mr Neilson Underwood, a North of Ireland member of the English bar, and of English and thoroughly loyal extraction, who has recently been making himself ridiculous by an affectation of ultra-Hibernian patriotism, "the silly Strabane body." Mr Buchanan freely admits that, finding himself "wanted," he left his country for his own and his country's good, and settled in *Australia*. Whilst winning a competency there, he has also gained a conviction that Ireland has no wrongs which cannot be quietly and constitutionally righted. He has spent six months on a visit to his native land, and has been utterly astonished by the prosperity which has spread throughout it since he left it—he, an observer accustomed to the independence and plenty of Victorian country-life.

The idea of a second Irish famine he scouts, and as to the so-much-talked-of depopulation of Ireland, he affirms that it was good, not only for those who stayed, but for those who went—that hundreds of thousands of the latter are not rotting, according to the representations of the Irish "nationalists," in paper graves, but doing well abroad. Like Mr M'Gee and Colonel O'Reilly, Mr Buchanan "goes in for" the superiority of British Government. These testimonies from quondam malcontents whose experience embraces America, Europe and Asia, and Oceania, are valuable as well as curious.

THE PANTOMIMES.—The popularity of the "sensation" pantomimes both at the Queen's and the Operetta-House—judging by the practical and satisfactory test of attendance—seems still as fresh as ever, though the time is fast approaching when they must perforce make way for still fresher novelties. This evening, what are called "grand juvenile performances" of both entertainments will be given—the pantomime coming first, so as to allow the junior branches to admire its magnificence and enjoy its fun without keeping them from their beds beyond their usual hour—though we doubt if, after seeing it, they will sleep much for several hours when they get there. In the Operetta-House pantomime, a number of new features, chiefly in reference to the comic business, have been added this week; and it will be observed that in the Queen's, this evening's is announced as the second and *last* juvenile performance.

THE PRESS IN CHINA.—From a packet of newspapers received by the last China mail, we perceive that there are now at least four newspapers issued in Shanghae, the chief port of Northern China. There are at least three things remarkable about these four papers—they seem all printed in one office; they are all marked as edited by one man, our former townsman, Mr Samuel Mossman (a brother of Bailie Mossman); and one of them is printed in Chinese. Those in English are well written, and we can say nothing to the contrary regarding the one in Chinese.

LAW HONOUR.—The annual public examination of the students of the four Inns of Court, London, was held on Wednesday the 8th inst., and two following days, when the Council of Legal Education awarded to Mr John Forbes of Lincoln's Inn, son of Bailie Forbes of Aberdeen, the first of the three certificates of honour of the first class. Mr Forbes is the youngest student that ever gained this high distinction. Mr Forbes was educated at Marischal College, Aberdeen, where for three years successively he gained by comparative trial the prize annually given in the law class of that University.

PLEASANCE TERRITORIAL CHURCH ANNUAL SOIREE.—The annual soiree of the Pleasance Mission or Territorial Church (Rev. T. Cochrane's) was held yesterday evening. There was a crowded attendance of the members of the congregation and others belonging to the district. The Rev. Dr Hanna presided (in the absence of Dr Guthrie), and among other clergymen on the platform were the Rev. T. Cochrane, Rev. Duncan Ogilvy (Portsburgh U.P. Territorial Church), Rev. Mr Balfour, Rev. James Robertson, Newington, &c. After tea, the Rev. Mr Cochrane stated that apologies for absence had been received from the Rev. Dr Guthrie, the Rev. Dr Johnston, Rev. A. C. Rutherford, Rev. T. Smith, and Rev. Mr Gillespie; and proceeded to read a short statement showing the progress which had been made in connection with the mission in the district during the last four years. At the close of 1858 the number of members on the communion-roll was 206, and the income for the year derived from the members was £25, 17s. 1d.; at the close of 1859 the membership was 281, and the congregational income £57, 18s. 1d.; at the close of 1860 the number of members in full communion was 345, and the income for the year £93, 15s. 1d.; and at the end of 1861 the number of members on the roll had increased to 445, and the congregational income to £123, 5s. 11d. It was expected that at the approaching communion 35 additional members would be added to the congregation. The various district meetings were very largely attended, and he had ascertained that the average attendance at the day-school (St John's Hill) was 305; at the Sabbath-school about 150, and at the minister's class, 60. Dr Hanna congratulated Mr Cochrane and the congregation on the steady progress which had been made, and which he said, was to be traced in a great measure to the indefatigable, zealous, and persevering labours of Mr Cochrane, whose conciliatory manners and conduct on all occasions had at the same time won for him the goodwill and respect of his neighbours of all denominations. Dr Hanna then referred to the commencement of the mission by Free St John's congregation. He well remembered that the first religious meeting held in connection with the mission nine or ten years ago was attended by just six persons; and how very slowly the movement grew; because from the first they most carefully avoided everything which had the appearance of a desire to draw hearers from other ministers or congregations—their design being to endeavour, within the limited locality which they had selected, to get every child to *attend school and every adult* to go regularly to church. After adverting to the more recent success of the movement, he stated that the sum expended by Free St John's congregation in the erection, first of the schools, and then of the church, was about £2000, and that the current annual expenses of the church and schools now amounted to about £200. Had not the church been unfortunately built too small (which was the great mistake of the enterprise), he had no doubt that the congregation would ere long have become self-sustaining; as it was, a considerable sum was yet required to be made up annually by their friends outside the congregation; but he hoped that, by the efforts of the members themselves, this sum would every year be diminished. (Applause.) Addresses were subsequently delivered by Rev. Mr Balfour, Rev. James Robertson, Newington; Rev. Mr Miller; Rev. T. Cochrane, and other gentlemen.

SHERIFF CRIMINAL COURT.—At this Court yesterday, before Sheriff Gordon, William Smith pleaded guilty to embezzling the sum of £69 between the 8th October 1860, and the 9th November 1861. It appears that Smith acted as treasurer of the Grassmarket Male and Female Yearly Society, and that the money which he embezzled belonged to the society. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. Nicol Gibson pleaded guilty to stealing a hurley on the 7th October last from Spring Gardens, Abbey Hill. Having been previously convicted, he was sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment.

SHEBEEN CASE.—At the Police Court yesterday, before Bailie Johnston, George Ross Rosie, residing in Rose Street, was found guilty of selling spirits without a certificate on Sunday the 5th inst. This being his second offence, he was fined £10, one-half of the penalty to go to the Magdalen Asylum.

GLASGOW—BOY DROWNED.—Yesterday morning, the body of a boy, named Thomas James Scobbie, son of John Scobbie, tailor, 35 Blenvale Street, was found floating in a pool of water in a clay hole near Foundry Open, Great Eastern Road. Deceased had been amissing nearly four weeks, and told his mother on leaving home that he was going to Hogganfield Loch to slide.

DUNBAR—TOWN COUNCIL.—At a meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday evening, the salary of Mr Dick, burgh schoolmaster, was raised from £30 to £50. So far as we are aware, this is the first instance of a purely burgh school obtaining the benefit of the recent Act, and may, perhaps, be a precedent to others. At the same meeting of Council, Mr Hendrey, Inspector of Poor, was appointed assessor for the burgh at a salary of £20.

BURNTISLAND.—*Harbour Improvements*.—At a meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday evening, the estimates for additional alterations and improvements on the Harbour, including the erection of a substantial stone pier on the east side in place of the present insecure landing, known as the Timber-jetty, were opened, and the lowest, that of Mr Chalmers, contractor, Burntisland, was accepted. The amount of Mr Chalmers' estimate is £1493, which will make a total of about £15,000 expended by the town in improving the Harbour within the last few years. *The Drainage and Sewerage Scheme*.—Plans and specifications for a thorough drainage of the town, to be carried out at a cost of about £2000, have been prepared by the town's engineer, Mr Sang, Kirkcaldy, and are presently exposed in the Town Hall to public inspection. *The Herring Fishing*.—Stormy weather has prevented the fishermen on this side the Firth, with few exceptions, proceeding out during the present week, and those who ventured secured but a few hundred herrings, which sold for about 3s. per hundred. Boats from Newhaven and the south coast have, however, been more successful, realising in some instances as many as ten crans. Price per cran, 26s. to 30s. *The Late Melee*.—Stokes, Archer, and Helen M'Arthur were apprehended in Burntisland, and lodged in Cupar prison on Wednesday morning, charged with being implicated in the late disturbance. The chief offender, Jackson, is yet at liberty, notwithstanding every effort of the authorities to trace his whereabouts. Tushack and Phillips, the officers, are now in a fair way of recovery.

FIRE AT THE NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY STATION.—Shortly after two o'clock this morning, a fire, which at first bore an alarming aspect, broke out in the kitchen attached to the refreshment-rooms of the North British Railway Company, Waverley Bridge. A detachment of the fire brigade, under Superintendent Mitchell, was promptly in attendance, and with the aid of a plentiful supply of water, they succeeded in *extinguishing the flames shortly after three o'clock*. The apartment in which the fire originated being immediately under the parcel office, considerable apprehension was felt as to the safety of the articles which were deposited there. These, however, were speedily and safely removed, and within an hour after the breaking out of the fire it was completely got under. The premises, which are leased by Mr David Ridpath, are fortunately not much damaged. The fire is supposed to have been caused by hot ashes having been put into a bucket.

JEDBURGH—POACHING CASES.—At a Justice of Peace Court, held at Jedburgh on Wednesday, before Provost Wilson, John Ferguson and Robert Aitken, residing in Jedburgh, were found guilty of trespassing in pursuit of game on the estate of Mr John Paton, Crailing, on the 23d December. They were each fined 10s., and 20s. costs, with the alternative of twenty days' imprisonment.—William Turnbull and Peter Mars, both belonging to Jedburgh, pleaded guilty to similar offences, committed on the estate of the Earl of Stratheden on the 26th December, and were fined 10s. each and costs, with the alternative of twenty days' imprisonment.—Thomas Robson, stockingmaker, Hawick, pleaded guilty to a like offence, committed on the estate of Hassendean Burn on the 8th January, and was fined 20s., and 40s. costs, and, failing payment, to go to prison for thirty days.—Robert Riddell, Ancrum, pleaded guilty to a similar offence, committed on the estate of Sir William Scott of Ancrum on the 5th January, and was fined 10s., and 20s. costs, or ten days' imprisonment.

LIDDESDALE—FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Saturday last a man named William Nixon, in the employment of Mr Elliot, Mangerton, lost his life under the following circumstances:—He left Mangerton at two o'clock in the morning, with two carts, for Hartsburgh Mill, in Rule Water, and about an hour afterwards one of the carts was found overturned on the road, about half a mile from Mangerton. It is supposed a young horse in the second cart had become excited and overturned the cart. The lifeless body of Nixon was found below the cart. He had a wound in the forehead, and the back part of the head was severely fractured. Deceased was a steady, industrious man, thirty-six years of age, and unmarried.

MR J. L. TOOLE.—From the Liverpool papers, we perceive that this popular comedian has at once risen into enormous favour with the Liverpudlians, the Prince of Wales' Theatre being crammed every night with delighted audiences.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen passed their primary examinations in anatomy and physiology at a meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 22d inst., and when eligible, will be admitted to the pass-examination:—Messrs James Atkinson West Spence, John Shepherd, Henry Albert Pattinson, and Donald M'Iver, of Edinburgh, and William Davenport, of Glasgow.

THE SHEDDEN CASE.—This case, which occupied so much of the time of the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, in November 1860, again came before it on Wednesday morning, upon an application by the petitioners for a rule *nisi* for a new trial. It will be remembered that the suit was instituted by William Patrick Ralston Shedden and his daughter Annabella Jean Ralston Shedden, for a declaration that William Shedden, who died at New York on the 13th November 1798, was lawfully married to Ann Wilson, and that Mr Shedden, the first petitioner, was his legitimate son; that after a long trial their Lordships came to the conclusion that the petitioners had not established their case, and refused to make the declaration prayed; and that an application for a new trial had since been commenced by Miss Shedden, and had been interrupted by her illness. Dr Deane, Q.C., and Mr Powell watched the case on behalf of the Patricks, the respondents, and Mr Bourke appeared for the Crown. Miss Shedden's address occupied the Court the whole day, and was to be resumed yesterday.

A CREAM CHEESE.—Pour upon one quart of good cream half a pint of new milk, so heated to make the whole equal to the warmth of milk just *from the cow*; then add half a wine glassful of sweet rennet; let it stand before the fire until it forms a curd; break it as little as possible; then place it into a wooden frame, about 7 inches long inside, 4 wide, and 3 deep, without top or bottom. It must be placed on a coarse doubled cloth, rushes, or straw, to encourage the whey to run away from it. A board must be put within the frame to support a weight to press the curd, between which and the curd the cloth or rushes must be fouled. After standing two days, renew with a clean cloth, or fresh straw, or rushes; then the cheese should be taken from the frame, and turned as frequently as necessary. This is thought by some a much better cheese than when made all of cream without rennet, *as it contains a due proportion of cheesy* and butyraceous matter. In making cream cheeses, the utmost attention should be paid to the rennet, which must be perfectly sweet. Without this precaution, it will be impossible to make a good cream cheese.—*"H. H. B." in Scottish Farmer.*

TO MY BAIRNS!

Oh, dreary was that winter morn,
  Sae dark I scarce could see,
And solemn was the house o' death,
  Where, bairns, ye watched for me.

. . . . .

And round our hearths, as years gaed by,
  Ye grew, and smiled, and throve;
Without a parent's right I held
  The tender right of love.

At times the ills o' childhood brought
  Their anxious days and cares;
But though ye suffered as ye lay,
  God spared ye to my prayers.

And when the snell wind whistled loud,
  Wi' cauld and wintry sound,
I happed ye in your wee beds a'
  And blest ye round and round.

Sore sickness o'er our roof-tree swept,
  And death and sorrow came,
And still ye nestled by my side—
  Mother in all but name!

Time sped with soothing on his wings,
  And, bairns, your sangs and play
Brought chastened gladness to our home,
  Though one had passed away.

When winter's snaw lay *drear and deep,*
  And frost was on the pane,
A change cam' o'er the auld home-hearth,
  For death cam' back again.

And still ye gathered round me, bairns!
  And mony a tear was shed,
As in that chamber hushed we sat,
  And mourned our latest dead!

Then, side by side, in yon kirkyard,
  Wi' yearning hearts, we stood,
And said farewell to one lone grave,
  Where slept our loved and good.

My bairnies! we were parted then,
  But deep within my heart
Lie hid your looks, your words, and ways—
  From them I will not part.

. . . . .

I listen for their voices dear,
  Their wee bit dancin' feet;
Then look a' round the empty room,
  And bow my head, and greet!

Oh, some have every blessing here
  A gracious God can give;
And some in loneliness of heart
  Must bravely learn to live.

Be still my soul! God gives to each
  The portion he sees best;
The "wherefore" shall be all revealed
  In Heaven's eternal rest.

AMITA.

HISTORICAL FICTIONS.—Sir Archibald Alison, in his "Life of Castlereagh," has made the odd blunder of placing among the attendants at the Duke of Wellington's funeral, "Peregrine Pickle." The *lapsus pennæ* is not strange in an historian whose wild statements savour of Roderick Random.—*Punch*.

THE GREAT MORNING CALL NUISANCE.—In little social matters it very often happens that our French friends are ahead of us. Is it not so, Mr Smith? Do, pray, just look at this:—

"*Two million visiting cards passed through the Paris Post Office the first three days of the year, besides the ordinary letters.*"

Now, why can't we make calls by post in England, as they do in France? Surely, to have one's card delivered by the post would be just as good as having it delivered by a footman, supposing that one goes one's rounds in one's own carriage, or by a cabman if a Hanson be the vehicle employed. What can it matter to receivers of one's pasteboard whether it be handed by the servants of Her Majesty, or simply by our own? Of course, when one makes calls one hopes people will be out, and goes just at the time it is most likely they will be so. And supposing that unluckily they chance to be at home, of course one always views it as a most untoward circumstance, and about the last thing in the world that one could wish. As for morning calling with the intent to see one's friends, clearly that is nowadays a quite exploded notion. If they are at home, the chances are they are employed in doing some more profitable work than merely chatting with chance visitors; and when this is the case your intrusion is a nuisance, as of course you come with nothing particular to say. Your call is a mere form, and might be just as well transacted by the post; and indeed far better, as you would then take up but half a moment of the time which now is wasted in exchanging stupid vapid common-placities, if you are ever so unlucky as to find your friends at home, when you do them the great honour of a morning visit.—*Punch*.

THE CHAIR OF SANSCRIT.

(*From a Correspondent.*)

WHEN the Cambridge Dons were asked by the University Commissioners what reform they thought necessary to complete their academical machinery, they are reported to have replied that "all they wanted to make them perfect was a professorship of Chinese."

At this idea John Bull laughed, and perhaps not unwisely in the circumstances—but what will brother Sandy say when he hears that the University Commissioners have created in the University of Edinburgh, not a chair of Political Economy, which Lord Jeffrey, as is well known, was willing to found, and for which Sheriff Hallard petitioned, but a chair of Sanscrit? Sandy, perhaps, will laugh also, but laughter, though generally agreeable, is not always wise, and Sandy in this case, with his very large utilitarian bump, would certainly be wrong; for of the two chairs, Sanscrit and Political Economy—though we would gladly have seen both, and hope soon to see both, in our academical equipment—Sanscrit is the more necessary for obvious reasons. Universities are not mere shops for the retailing of useful knowledge—that is, of all knowledge directly applicable to the business of life. Useful knowledge will take care of itself; and if it does not, the Messrs Chambers and their fellow-labourers in the same lucrative field will take care that the great mass of Scotsmen shall not lack the means of furnishing their brains with all the apparatus necessary for the great object of making money and pushing their way in the world. Political Economy, in its practical character as in its history an essentially Scottish science, will know how to take care of itself on Scottish ground, though its name should be never mentioned in any one of the four Scottish Universities; but Sanscrit and other sorts of learning more remote from the vulgar necessities of common occupation are sure to be neglected altogether, *if they do not find a city of refuge* in the natural home of all learned research—our National Universities. Here, indeed, lay the weak point of the Scottish academical institutions; academical learning, strictly so called, received no encouragement—an encouragement which they can no more do without than certain plants without stimulating manures, scientific gardening, and *hot-houses*; and the consequence was, that while Medicine, as a practical art, and the allied sciences, by the native energy of the Scottish mind, shot up in Edinburgh to an extraordinary degree of luxuriance, learning of all kinds, especially the more abstruse, became more and more rare in the country, till at last our young men travelling over to Germany came home and told us that we are not named in the great world of erudite European research—and that our Universities, in the few classes specially devoted to learning, had sunk to the level of mere upper schools, and did the work of schools badly. This witness was true. The people awoke from a long sleep, and from the lethargic effect of an opiate dose of vain self-laudation. Mr Lorimer and his noble band of pioneers brought together an assembly of Notables; the University Commission was appointed; Lord Advocate Inglis, in his grand despotic way, carried everything before him; the Town Council foamed and fumed, and called upon gods and men to witness the damnable injustice of not allowing a crude shopocracy to mould the whole intellectual expectancy of the country; learned professors, conscious of a new dignity, assumed square caps and various-coloured robes, and paraded themselves before the public, like the Pope and his Cardinals; University Councils, University Courts, Chancellors, Rectors, and Assessors started at once into august being; and Brougham, Gladstone, and Brewster were, amid loud acclamations, put prominently forward, to prove to all men that the University of Edinburgh, like the world at large, is governed by names. And now we have Ferguson scholarships, and Pitt scholarships, and class-tutorships, and a miraculous multiplication of Masters of Arts, and chairs of Public Law, and English Literature, and finally, a chair of Sanscrit, and of the venerable wisdom of the old Gymnosophists, and the modern Pundits. May we not say, after this, *Plaudite!* in a small way? Assuredly, in all things, and in all places, something is better than nothing; academical learning may be considered as beginning to look up a little in Scotland, and profound study is not, as hitherto, destined to be altogether the high road to banishment or starvation.

We think, therefore, the Commissioners were clearly right in founding a Sanscrit chair. But we must take care not to give them more praise than they deserve in this matter. Fettered as they were by unfavourable financial conditions, and the traditional stinginess of a Government liberal only to lawyers, it is more than probable that they would scarcely have ventured on a Sanscrit chair had they not been led on to this object by the liberality of a gentleman, a native of this country, and resident in this city, well known in Europe for his successful cultivation of Oriental lore. Dr John Muir, long known and valued among a select circle of friends, no less for his learning than for his remarkable modesty, simplicity, and generosity of character, is the gentleman to whom the Edinburgh University primarily owes the institution of a chair which the progress of philological science has now rendered indispensable to every well-equipped University. It is not going too far to say that some acquaintance with the curiously scientific grammar of the sacred language of the Hindoos is now as much a necessary pre-requisite to the philosophy of language as Italian is to the musician, and German to the man of erudite research. As the great coal formation may, indeed, be studied elsewhere, but is best studied in England where it is most abundant, so the curious harmony of euphonious changes in human speech may no doubt be partially learned from the study of Greek and other languages, but is grandly revealed only to the student of Sanscrit. But this is not all. The Sanscrit chair has also a thoroughly practical aspect. Our connection with India has long rendered it in the highest degree advisable that our public functionaries in that part of the world, and above all, our missionaries should not allow themselves to remain ignorant of the valuable literature of the nation over whose fate Providence has in so remarkable a way called on us to preside. If we are to govern that distant people by love and insight, and not by mere force, our first duty is to study the feelings, to sympathise with the virtues, and to respect even the prejudices of those with whom we have to deal; and this cannot be attempted without some knowledge of their sacred language, and their sacred books. What would we think of a missionary amongst the Jews ignorant of the Old Testament and of Hebrew? A giant in such circumstances could deal only blind blows, and a dwarf would only make himself ridiculous. St Paul was an evangelist of the true stamp, a pattern to all missionaries. He converted the Jews, because he was himself a Jew, and a master of the Jewish Scriptures; he outwitted the Pharisees, because he had been himself a Pharisee; and he confounded the Greeks, because he was himself born and bred in a Greek city, and knew all the worth and all the vanity of the vaunted Greek philosophy. One thing only we lament in reference to this Sanscrit chair—that Dr Muir himself should not have been the first Professor; but, by constituting himself patron, he seems to have shown a determination to prevent himself being made presentee. Thus it is that modesty, the most amiable of the virtues, often cheats genius of its own undoubted right, and deprives the public of the services of its most trustworthy men.

PROGRESS IN CASE OF PEACE.

(*From Punch.*)

A PROSPECT unpleasant has passed for the present,
  Shall we, ceasing war-preparations,
So costly already, return to our steady,
  Pacific, and useful vocations?
    We've plenty of work and must do it,
    And somehow contrive to get through it,
To hold a position in our Exhibition,
  Since we have asked all nations to it.

Our leisure regaining, all London to draining
  We now must devote our attention,
And the Thames' embankment, 'mongst wonders to rank meant,
  A scheme of such vast comprehension!
    The purified *River*, a new age
    Will use for its drink and its brewage,
'Twill run no more muddy; and then we've to study
  The utilisation of sewage.

Poured out in our waters, the fish that which slaughters,
  With plenty will crown all our acres;
We'll economise it, and deodorise it,
  To be of its produce partakers.
    Then beauty shall touch the piano,
    And warble in dulcet soprano,
"Now rich in home-treasure, exceeding all measure,
  No longer we'll roam for our guano."

There's work for next Session; by means of compression
  Of speech it may vanquish its labours;
Make new laws, old cobble, if out of a squabble
  We manage to keep with our neighbours.
    Oh, let not their turbulent courses
    Force us to re-marshal our forces!
And pile shot and shell up, but may we develop
  In peace our internal resources.

CON. FOR EXETER HALL.—Why are American Treasury-notes like the Jews? Because one has to pay a great deal to effect their conversion.—*Punch.*

THE STAMP OF IMPRUDENCE.—The imprudent man carries postage stamps in his pocket-book, the prudent man never does—for he knows well enough that he can always borrow of the man who has them.—*Punch.*

Letters to the Editor.

PROFESSOR HUXLEY AND HIS CRITICS.

The Government School of Mines,
Jermyn Street, London,
January 21, 1862.

SIR,—In accepting the invitation to lecture in Edinburgh with which the directors of the Philosophical Institution honoured me last year, I was fully aware of the unusual difficulty of the task I undertook.

For my acquaintance with the conditions of the enterprise led me to see the necessity of striving towards the attainment of three very different objects—the first and the most important of these being the discharge of my obligation to the Directors and of my duty to myself, to state fully and fairly those conclusions at which I, as a man of science, had arrived, after no brief or hasty study of a great scientific question.

My second aim was, not only to avoid all unnecessary offence to persons whose views differed from my own, but to present the doctrines I espouse in such a manner as to win at least a fair and favourable consideration even from those who had been taught to regard them with disfavour.

And, in the last place, while feeling assured of the just and reasonable dealing of the respectable part of the Scottish press, I naturally hoped for noisy injustice and unreason from the rest, seeing, as I did, the best security for the dissemination of my views through regions which they might not otherwise reach, in the certainty of a violent attack by an Edinburgh paper for which the striking abilities of the lamented Hugh Miller once earned an honest fame, but which since his death has swiftly sunk to its now universally recognised position of a regenerate "Satirist" or Pharisaic "Age."

The fulfilment of these my aspirations has afforded me unfeigned satisfaction. For, much as I was obliged to condense my lectures, the accusation that their meaning or purport could be doubted has yet to be brought against me.

Nor has any report which I have seen affirmed that my audience listened with other than the kindest and most uninterrupted attention. And if I now recal with genuine pleasure the unmixed applause which fell upon my ears, it is not, I trust, because that recollection solaces a petty vanity, but because it bids me continue in the faith on which I acted—that a man who speaks out honestly and fearlessly that which he knows, and that which he believes, will always enlist the good-will and the respect, however much he may fail in winning the assent, of his fellow-men.

Thus, my first ends have assuredly been attained; and who that has read in the *Witness* the articles (exceptional, even in its columns, I trust) directed against my doctrines, my audience, the directors of the Philosophical Institution, and myself, can accuse me of having failed in reaching the third?

I do not trouble you with this letter, however, for the mere purpose of expressing my justifiable satisfaction at a success, whose sole importance consists in the conclusive evidence which it affords of the feebleness of the hold which the bigots really have over the minds of your countrymen; nor will you suspect me of any intention of replying directly or indirectly to the *Witness*. I should not even feel justified in asking permission to occupy your well-filled columns with a detailed reply to criticisms of such a totally different stamp, as those which are to be found in the pages of the *Week of Friday last*.

But I desire to be allowed to state that all such comments as these last are very welcome, and will receive my most earnest and respectful attention. I am not without hope that when my intention of publishing these well-abused lectures in full is carried into effect, the scope and weight of my argument will wear a different aspect to my candid, though hostile critic; but, in the meanwhile, let me thank my unknown adversary for his practical demonstration, that even the strongest dissent from, and opposition to, the views held by my revered friend Mr Darwin, and by myself (so largely, in these matters, a mere disciple of that great naturalist) are perfectly compatible with the courtesy of a gentleman, the language of a scholar, the knowledge of *a man of science*, and even (incredible as this may seem to the *Witness*) with the genuine piety of an orthodox Christian.—I am &c.

THOMAS HENRY HUXLEY, F.R.S.,
Professor of Natural History in the Government Schools of Mines.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL SCHOOLS.

SIR,—You say that you formed your judgment on these schools mainly on information supplied to you concerning Scottish Episcopacy in the south. An inquiry into the recent history of the Church in the north would, I am sure, confirm you in your views in every particular. The passage quoted from your columns by Mr Sandford contains, I believe, the truth, and "nothing but the truth," so far as truth can be conveyed in a general statement; and as Mr Sandford wants cases, I give you one from the town of Inverness, of a school which, some time ago, I personally examined. I do not doubt that you will be supplied with many others from different parts of the country.

On Bishop Eden establishing himself in Inverness at the head of the High-Church party there, he proceeded almost at once to take active measures for making proselytes; and one of his first organisations was a comparatively handsome school erected within a stone-cast of Bell's Central School in a poor district on the west side of the town known as "The Green." I can vouch for it that in this district no new school was required; and I do not believe that prior to the aggression of which the Episcopal school was the out-work, there existed within its area so many as half-a-dozen Episcopalians. On visiting the Bishop's school, I found its pupils almost without exception to be children of Presbyterian parents, mostly drawn away from the Central School. I found that some of them had been gained over to Episcopacy, and were in training for confirmation, and that the means through which conversion were effected were precisely those named by you. There was a system, the nature of which I forget, by which the pupils got or "won" certain small sums at short intervals; and the school itself was the centre of an old-clothes and cheap-coal charity which worked outwards, embracing the parents of pupils, and then their neighbours (whose children in turn were drawn within the system), till it overlay almost the whole of the poorer classes in the town.

How far the Bishop's school has been found effective for the purposes of its promoters I cannot say, nor have I any reflections to make upon a policy which it seems to me all Churches alike adopt.—I am, &c.

R. F.

SIR,—As Mr Sandford wants instances of Episcopal schools to which the remarks in your leader of Saturday last are applicable, I beg to ask him to inquire into the case of the school at Burntisland, founded by Mr Forbes, son of the late Lord Medwyn.—I am, &c.

G. T.

Edinburgh, January 20, 1862.

SIR,—I observe that in one of the letters addressed to you on the above subject, the ground alleged for establishing new schools under the auspices of the Scottish Episcopal Communion in districts already adequately supplied with the means of education, is that the children of Episcopal parents are required to learn the Shorter Catechism in the schools established by law or by the General Assembly. The fact is, that I doubt if a single case could be produced of a parochial teacher having refused to exempt Roman Catholic or Episcopal children from *learning* the Shorter Catechism when requested by the parents to do so. The spirit which has pervaded the national parochial schools which are under the direction of the Church of Scotland has been liberal in the extreme. And now that teachers are not required by the Church to teach the Catechism, and that it is held sufficient if they conform to its doctrine in their lessons on religion, there is no probability of their interpreting less liberally their relation to Dissenters of all kinds. Not only has the practice of the Parochial Schools been what I have indicated, but in the General Assembly schools the observance of this wise and liberal discretion is, I understand, enjoined. And yet, as these schools are maintained solely by the voluntary contributions of the Church, there would be a fair ground for exclusiveness, as great as that which characterises Episcopal schools in these districts and the great mass of Church of England schools on the other side of the border. There can be no doubt that the erection of Episcopal schools in those districts already adequately supplied with the means of education under a system so enlightened and liberal as ours practically is, is much more sectarian and factious than the similar act of English Dissenters in the English parishes where the national school can meet the wants of the population.—I am, &c.

FACT.

Perth, January 21, 1862.

SIR,—You do not require to confine yourself to the south of Scotland, for evidence to substantiate your assertion as to the aim of many Episcopalian schools. Such a school has long existed in this city, where until lately (and more about that presently) there were literally *no* children belonging to Episcopalians of the working *classes*, for whose benefit such schools are primarily intended.

It is perfectly notorious here that the children who do attend that school have been solely attracted by gifts of rolls of bread, clothes, books, frequent soirees, and even small sums of money given to their parents. If either of your correspondents who doubt the accuracy of your statement would come to Perth, and question any schoolboy on the subject, he would soon *know all* about the "weekly does."

But I am not going on mere rumour, however general. Instances have come under my own personal observation of scholars being wiled away from other schools by gifts of the nature already indicated. And the scholars I refer to were the children of average working men quite able to pay for their education, but who were careless or indifferent, and yielded to the importunities of their children, who could not resist the twofold temptation of "furls" and easy lessons.—I am, &c.

J. M. Z.

January 20, 1862.

SIR,—In speaking of the scant subsistence afforded to the Episcopal clergy, in doing which I am satisfied you were influenced by kindly motives, you have fallen into mistakes calculated to do injury to a class of unobtrusive men, which I hope you will allow me, as one of them, to correct. You commend as one of the characteristics of Scottish Episcopalianism accounts for the imperfect knowledge you exhibit of their ecclesiastical proceedings. And, indeed, critics who are disposed to be severe in their logic may find it difficult to reconcile your approval of our unobtrusiveness, and our liberality towards other denominations, with your strictures on our alleged aggressive proselytism.

But my present object is to touch upon a point which has not been attended to as yet by other correspondents.

You argue against our schools, not, as you admit, on their own demerits, but on an injustice, because they appropriate funds which would otherwise be applied to *the maintenance* of the clergy. The objection is one which it is fair and reasonable enough for one to raise who looks at our communion *ab extra*. But, I assure you, this is a matter in which the clergy may be said to have been, *proprio motu*, their own enemies. Their schools have not been forced upon them by the laity. I have never yet met with one of our body who, however mean his stipend might be, would look upon his schools as interlopers between himself and his temporal advantages. We think our schools and schoolmasters almost as necessary to our religious organisation as ourselves. And in none but the extremest cases of destitution, such as those described by some of the speakers at the meeting of the 11th inst., can I imagine any one of our number consenting to give up the educational functions of our Church for the sake of obtaining a better emolument for himself.

One painful part of these public avowals of the financial relations between Episcopalian pastors and their flocks is the appearance of antagonism which they are apt to produce, presenting the one party as dissatisfied servants, and the other as grudging masters. Such an impression would be very wide of the truth. Some instances certainly do exist which would justify actual direct complaint. But generally the feeling pervades the best and most thoughtful of our body that our embarrassments are the natural consequence of the recent revival of our Church from a state of political oppression, and that it requires only time to allow the patient forbearance and the conscientiousness of those concerned to mature the adjustment of their relative duties in the happiest and fullest way.

The meeting of the 11th inst. was just such a recognition of duty as was needed to hasten the remedy of the evil it dealt with, and was as honourable to the gentlemen who proposed and conducted it as it is encouraging to those who rely, as I have intimated, upon the true-heartedness of their fellow-believers.—I am, &c.

AN INCUMBENT.

DR CHEEVER ON EUROPE AND AMERICA.

Edinburgh, January 18, 1862.

SIR,—We had fondly hoped that, with the unworthy fling of the Rev. Dr Cheever against England, in page 35 of his "Wanderings of a Pilgrim," we had seen the last of his "anti-British" feelings, and more especially after his kind reception and the tangible manifestation of practical sympathy shown to him during his visit to the "Old World," but to our extreme sorrow and mortification and disgust, I have been pained to witness a renewed manifestation of it in his comments on the Trent outrage, in a sermon preached by him in the Church of the Puritans, New York, December 29, 1861.

In the summary given of this sermon in the *Morning Chronicle*, January 16, 1862, the Rev. Dr Cheever maintains—

That we "Americans were *right* in boarding the Trent, and in taking out Mason and Slidell with their under-strappers!"

That "no insult being intended, there was no cause for war!"

That "justice had been defrauded of its due in the release of those men to the demand of the British Government!"

That "this release gave Great Britain and other nations an advantage over us, and drove us to the humiliating necessity of submitting to such a concession, even when we were in the right!"

That "these men—Mason, Slidell, & Co.—when landed on our shores from the San Jacinto, ought to have been *solemnly* tried for the crime of high treason; and if their complicity in this vast conspiracy had been proved, should have been taken from the prison to the scaffold and hanged until they were dead, *no matter whether all the nations of the earth threatened to make war upon us!*"

That "these things ought to have been made so plain (by us Americans) that every nation on earth would have cried shame on Great Britain for this *supposed insult!*"

That "this demand was by him, and ought to have been by others, considered the *most boundless cruelty* on record except the war on China, for the sake of forcing opium on that unfortunate people!"

That but for our being "stripped of all manliness, nobleness, and independence by slavery," we should not have trembled at *our enemies* as at Bull's Run, or at the command of Great Britain; and, therefore, he has left the inference that we Americans are such a people, but for slavery, should have blown *Johnny Bull and his little island to atoms, or have sunk them fifty fathoms under water.*

That in the midst of our disgrace and weakness "we had exercised, too much *leniency* already towards England."

That from the "low views of moral duty and political obligation of the nations of Europe, they would not delay much longer the recognition of the Southern Confederacy, or the raising of the blockade!"

And that as Great Britain, by her treaty engagements with other nations, had godfathered the infidelity of France, the polygamy of Turkey, the superstitions of Spain, so now she was about to put the crown of shame on her guilt by taking into her embrace a nation of slaveholders! This is the last feather that is to break the camel's back of England, or the culminating guilt of your crime that is to hurl you from your pride of place among the nations, and to associate you with the things that were amongst *the powers that be!* How dismal these statements! And what a public misfortune that Dr Cheever should be the man to utter them! And how it makes our hearts sore when we *think of the injury such imbecility*, and madness, and folly does to the *cause* of liberty he is professing to serve. Our cause has often been injured by injudicious advocates in America; but no Parker Pillsbury, William Loyd Garrison, or Joseph Barker have the power to produce such irreparable injury as a Mrs Harriet Beecher Stowe, shown in her letter to Lord Shaftesbury, a Henry Ward Beecher, demonstrated in his defence of that old, rotten, corrupt proslavery board—the American Board of Missions, for which the Free Church are now unrighteously making a collection, and also now made manifest by Dr Cheever in the sermon referred to above. We were anticipating better and higher things in the cause of liberty when God raised up Dr Cheever to espouse that cause. But, alas, our hopes are dashed to the ground by such exhibitions of folly as the above, and we are left to mourn over their misguided zeal, whilst the admonition falls on our ears, "Cease from man."

With inexpressible satisfaction and pleasure I read your articles on the Trent outrage in the *Scotsman* of Saturday.—I am, &c.

J. R. BALME,
An American Clergyman.
At Mr Ferguson's, 2 St James' Place.

TOWN COUNCIL AND TRINITY COLLEGE CHURCH.

Edinburgh, January 22, 1862.

SIR,—From the report of the Town Council proceedings in your paper of the 8th inst., I observe that that body proposes to appeal the suit as to the Trinity College Church to the House of Lords, and to defray the costs either out of the funds obtained from the railway company *or out of the funds of the Hospital*, and I see that this proposal was confirmed by the meeting of yesterday. Now, looking at the report which was laid before the Town Council by their agent, it appears to me that the ratepayers of Edinburgh have a greater interest in this question than some at first sight may imagine. The report states that "the old Trinity College Church was by charter from James VI., dated 12th November 1567, made over with certain other subjects to Sir Simon Prestoun, 'present Provost of our said burgh of Edinburgh, and his successors the Provosts, Bailies, Councillors, and community of the said burgh for the time being; for the building and construction of the said Hospital, houses, yards, and policies thereof *for the maintenance of the poor and sick*, to be placed by them therein only, and for no other use.'" When this charter was granted, the Provost, Bailies, and Councillors were the proper administrators of the funds for the relief of the poor within the burgh—were, in fact, the Parochial Board, and did so continue to be till 1845, when the present Poor-law Act was passed. By this Act, the duty of caring for the poor and providing funds for their relief was transferred from the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council to a new Board specially appointed, and by section 52d thereof it is enacted "that where any property whatsoever, whether heritable or moveable, or any revenues, shall, at the time of the passing of this Act, belong to or be vested in the heritors and kirk-session of any parish, or *the Magistrates, or Magistrates and Town Council, of any burgh*, or in commissioners, trustees, or other persons, on behalf of the said heritors and kirk-session, or Magistrates, or Magistrates and Town Council, under any Act of Parliament, or under any law or usage, or *in virtue of gift, grant, bequest, or otherwise*, for the use or benefit of the poor of such parish or *burgh*, it shall, from and after a time to be fixed by the Board of Supervision, be lawful for the Parochial Board of each such parish, or of the combination in which such parish or burgh may be respectively, to receive and administer such property and revenues, *and the right thereto shall be vested in such Parochial Board*; and the said heritors and kirk-session, Magistrates, Town Council, commissioners, trustees, or other persons, are hereby authorised and required either to continue to hold all such property and revenues for the behoof of such Parochial Board, or to make grant, subscribe, and declare such dispositions, assignations, and conveyances of all such property and revenues as may be necessary to enable such Parochial Board to administer the same for behoof of the poor of such parish or combination."

With this remarkably plain and distinct declaration of law upon the subject, it is not easy to understand why the Town Council did not at once hand over to the new Parochial Board the whole funds and property held by them under the gift of King James VI., "for behoof of the poor and sick," and why the Parochial Board did not demand these funds, and administer them in terms of law; and it would be desirable to know why that body does not now demand them, and to prevent them being wasted in litigation, or, as the Town Council's agent hints, at being applied to make up the deficiency in the fund required to rebuild the Trinity College Church. There may be good reasons why these funds are still held by the Town Council, but certainly the report of the Council's agent, which I have read with the above-cited clause of the Poor-law Act, would lead to an opposite conclusion.

I understand the capital fund of this mortification in the hands of the Town Council amounts to a very large sum—about equal, I am told, to the sum required for the support of the whole poor of the city for two years. This, surely, is no small matter, especially at present, when we have the prospect of additional taxation for paving purposes. I trust that attention only requires to be called to this subject to have it put right without delay, as there would appear to be no good reason why we should be heavily taxed to support the poor while there are other funds available for the purpose. Looking, however, at the nature of the resolutions agreed to at yesterday's meeting of the Town Council, it is evident that immediate action is necessary.—I am, &c.

W. S.

[PARAGRAPH ADVERTISEMENTS.]

DULL EVENINGS MADE MERRY by purchasing any of the following Games of the Season, at HOULDEN'S BAZAAR:—Squails, Gamama, Cockamaroo, Bell and Hammer, Spellicans, Parlour Bowls, Chinese, Japanese, and American Billiards, American Texilles, Solitaire, &c.; also, the New Comic Game of Happy Families, Quartetts, &c.—HOULDEN'S ROYAL FANCY BAZAAR, 63 GEORGE STREET and 9 and 11 NICOLSON STREET, EDINBURGH.

OF all modern innovations in gentlemen's dress, none, perhaps, combines a greater amount of comfort with economy than the fashion recently introduced of wearing Leggings. In cold wet weather especially, they are found to be truly valuable, keeping the legs warm and comfortable, and the trousers dry and clean. The largest and best choice in town is to be seen at NIGHTINGALE'S, in St Andrew Street, where they are also charged at extremely moderate prices.

GAZETTE NOTICES.—1st Aberdeenshire Rifle Volunteer Corps—Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Knight Erskine to be Lieutenant-Colonel. Memoranda—1st Caithness Artillery Volunteer Corps—Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to accept the resignation of the commission held by Captain Robert Macalister. 3d Argyleshire Rifle Volunteers—Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to accept the resignation of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Alexander Stewart as Captain-Commandant of this corps. London Scottish Rifle Volunteer Corps—Henry David Anderson to be Ensign.