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Further, Mr. Whateley's own letter settled the matter, for he stated that he noticed contraction of the leaves when irritated with a pin. If that were so the D. rotundifolia must have altered its character and conduct considerably in 95 years, for no such contraction was to be seen now. His (Mr. Tait's) own observations completely confirmed those of Mr. Bennett on the matter, for nothing short of the natural food of the plant, or at least something closely resembling it, would induce the leaf to close. He preferred to think that Mr. Whateley was mistaken, and that his observation was accidental and purposeless, while Roth's was scientific and discriminate. The word which Roth used, "irritability," was that which, to cover their ignorance of the exact nature of the process, they were compelled still to employ, even though it must be admitted that mere irritability would not account for the whole of the phenomena. The leaves of the sundew had no difference in structure from that of other leaves, save that there was a great abundance of regularly distributed spiral vascular tissue, extending from the leaf stalk to the leaf and thence into each of the glandular hairs. Indeed, the latter fact was the great peculiarity of the plant, for in that particular the hairs differed so far as he knew from the hairs seen in the leaves of plants belonging to any other natural orders. In fact it removed them entirely from the category of hairs, and placed them apart by themselves, and he preferred to call them "gland-tipped fingers." In the saxifrages and in pinguicula the glands were set on simple epithelial hairs, into which no vascular tissue entered; in fact, they were composed of single epithelial cells placed end to end. In the leaf of the drosera the bundle of spiral vessels could readily be seen leaving the tissue of the body of the leaf, and could be traced up to the very centre of the gland. Throughout its course in the finger it was covered with ordinary cellular tissue, the cells elongated and mingled with air spaces and covered with chlorophyll containing epithilium, on which prominent stomata were scattered. In the more mature condition of the plant, especially if it were exposed to the sun, the epithilium of the fingers formed erythrophyll, and then the leaf seemed less active. The glands were composed of epithilium set into some cellulose on the fibro-vascular bundle, and between the cells were inter-cellular spaces, which might be absorbant canals. The glands and fingers on the leaves of the D. rotundifolia seemed to be divided into two sets, one of which he termed central and the other fringe. The central fingers were shorter than the fringe fingers, and they very rarely contained erythrophyll ; but there seemed to be an important difference between the functions of the two. Thus the presence of moisture round the central glands was much more constant than it was round the fringe glands, the former alone seeming to act as the traps for the flies. He had not often seen an insect caught in the fringe glands. The central fingers did not bend much, while it would be seen that the fringe fingers closed completely over the victim, and that after they had done so, and then only, certain very interesting foldings of the leaf took place. If under favourable circumstances an insect were placed living in the central glands of a mature leaf, it would adhere to those with which it came in contact, probably drawing some more to it by its struggles. If the leaf were watched from time to time through a lens, it would be found that the amount of viscous secretion in the central glands would increase in quantity in a few hours, and that many of the fingers in the immediate neighbourhood of the fly would bend towards it. As the glands approached one another the secretions touched, and three or four little drops would be seen to unite into one larger, and by the time they reached the fly the quantity became quite considerable. In about twelve hours the fly would be found to be dead, and completely saturated with the moisture from the glands. The death of the insect was due to this secretion, because it would remain living for an almost indefinite time if the glands were amputated, and it was secured in its place by a little gum. In fact, amputation of these glands, without any injury to the body of the leaf or to the fringe glands, completely stopped the whole process, while it was very materially hastened if the fly were killed before it was placed in the leaf. On the contrary, if the fringe glands were amputated and the central glands left intact the insect was wetted and killed, though not so rapidly as when the leaf remained uninjured. The next action consisted in the gradual bending inwards first of a few and then the whole of the fringe glands if the object was large enough to require it. For it was one of the most interesting facts of the whole enquiry that if the insect was very small, and was caught in the glands near the margin of the leaf, only those fringe fingers in its immediate neighbourhood closed over it. Nothing short of some rudimentary form of nervous system seemed to him enough to account for this action, and though he could recognise no structure in the leaf which he could identify as such, he thought it was not impossible that the fibro-vascular bundle might have such a function. The closing of the fingers generally took from twelve to thirty-six hours. After it was accomplished a set of movements took place affecting the body of the leaf. The upper and outer margin curved forward and inwards over the fly, so that the latter was embraced within the leaf, and evaporation was prevented. If the leaf was very active, still another movement took place, consisting of the bending of the leaf forward and downward, so that the back of the leaf was turned upwards, and the incurved face downwards. This condition lasted for two or three days, and then the folds gradually widened, and the dried remains of the insect dropped off. He also described the action in the D. binata, and in the leaves of the saxifraga tridactylites, the D. intermedia, the dionæa muscipula. The latter beautiful fly-traps had recently been the subject of investigation by Dr. J. B. Sanderson. In describing this Mr. Tait said that when the leaf was hungry the lobes were widely separated, and the surface was seen to be speckled with red dots. This was due to the erythrophyll of numerous glands exactly the same in construction as those already described in the D. rotundifolia, but without fingers. They were not wet while the leaf was open, and the fluid they secreted when in action was not viscid. On these points he knew that he was not in harmony with other observers, but he was very positive about them. Besides these glands three fibres almost colourless might be seen regularly placed on the inner surface of the lobe. They consisted of substance of the leaf, and were the sensitive fibres. They were not hairs. Stimulation of the fibres induced closure of the trap in a few minutes, and when a large blue bottle fly was put into the trap it closed almost instantaneously, and with each struggle of the fly spasmodic efforts on the part of the leaf to close more tightly might be seen. The closing of the lobes took place quite independently of the temperature or nature of the substance used to stimulate, so that it was not due to any communicated current. The method of closure was curious, for it did not depend merely upon an influence exerted at the base of the lobes where they joined, for it began by the bending downwards of the marginal spikes, and the incurvation of the whole margin of the lobe, so that its inner surface, previously almost plane, became in a great measure convex. He had found that too large a meal was detrimental to the leaf, and of course for a very small one. But after some hours the contracting force of the leaf seemed to be re-exerted very slowly but very powerfully, for the spikes were straightened, the incurvation of the leaf greatly diminished, and the lips of the trap brought accurately together, so that evaporation of the contents was impossible. This force was unquestionably exercised at the hinge. By this time secretion had begun and the insect was killed. There was a large number of most important questions in connection with these wonderful movements which required most careful working out. 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This was completely in accordance with what was observed with reference to nerve. He was enabled by accident to make observation which was singularly suggestive of the absolutism of the analogy. He was engaged one day repeating Dr. Sanderson's experiments on a dionæa, when he was summoned away to a distance, and on his return he found the plant attached to the electrodes in a hot drawing room, exposed to the full glare of the sun, and the plant seemed in a dying state. To try if it were dead he touched the sensitive fibres of the leaves that were open, and found that irritation of the fibres of one lobe produced no effect on it, but caused incurvation of the margin of the opposite lobe, which finally advanced to the median line. This was precisely the same thing as reflex action, and the case of the damaged dionæa leaf was identical with that of a man who had had his back broken, and the spinal cord severed in the injury. 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They knew only three varieties in this country, the *drosera rotundifolia*, *drosera Anglica*, and *drosera intermedia*, with perhaps a doubtful fourth, named *drosera obovata*, which was probably an hybrid between the *rotundifolia* and *Anglica*. The British *droseraceæ* were small and rather fragile herbs, often stemless, having the leaves on a rosette, or with elongated stems, having alternate or whorled leaves. These variations seemed due to the condition of growth. The flowers were regular on a raceme, and the leaves were covered with hairs tipped with glands. The English name "sundew," as well as the Greek appellative "*drosera*," were descriptive, as under certain conditions the leaves appeared as if wet with dew, though the statement that they were always wet, even in the hottest sunshine, was not quite accurate. The habitat of the plant was always wet and associated with the growth of peat, and it seemed to prefer a spot where an edge of peat overhung it, so that it was not exposed to the sun's rays directly; and it certainly was under such conditions that its peculiar physiological functions were most active. Withering told them that Mr. Whateley, a surgeon, of London, first noticed that the folded leaves of the D. rotundifolia all contained dead insects so long ago as August, 1780, but he thought the merit of the first accurate observation on the matter must be given to a Bremen naturalist, named Roth, who published in 1782 a paper, "Von der Reizbarkeit der Blätter des sogenannten Sonnenthaues." Withering's reference to Whateley was not published for eight or nine years after, and the way in which it was done bore evidence that it was an attempt to claim credit for an observation made and previously published by another. Further, Mr. Whateley's own letter settled the matter, for he stated that he noticed contraction of the leaves when irritated with a pin. If that were so the D. rotundifolia must have altered its character and conduct considerably in 95 years, for no such contraction was to be seen now. His (Mr. Tait's) own observations completely confirmed those of Mr. Bennett on the matter, for nothing short of the natural food of the plant, or at least something closely resembling it, would induce the leaf to close. He preferred to think that Mr. Whateley was mistaken, and that his observation was accidental and purposeless, while Roth's was scientific and discriminate. The word which Roth used, "irritability," was that which, to cover their ignorance of the exact nature of the process, they were compelled still to employ, even though it must be admitted that mere irritability would not account for the whole of the phenomena. The leaves of the sundew had no difference in structure from that of other leaves, save that there was a great abundance of regularly distributed spiral vascular tissue, extending from the leaf stalk to the leaf and thence into each of the glandular hairs. Indeed, the latter fact was the great peculiarity of the plant, for in that particular the hairs differed so far as he knew from the hairs seen in the leaves of plants belonging to any other natural orders. In fact it removed them entirely from the category of hairs, and placed them apart by themselves, and he preferred to call them "gland-tipped fingers." In the saxifrages and in pinguicula the glands were seen on simple epithelial hairs, into which no vascular tissue entered; in fact, they were composed of simple epithelial cells placed end to end. In the leaf of the drosera the bundle of spiral vessels could readily be seen leaving the tissue of the body of the leaf, and could be traced up to the very centre of the gland. Throughout its course in the finger it was covered with ordinary cellular tissue, the cells elongated and mingled with air spaces and covered with chlorophyll containing epithelium, on which prominent stomata were scattered. In the more mature condition of the plant, especially if it were exposed to the sun, the epithelium of the fingers formed erythrophyll, and then the leaf seemed less active. The glands were composed of epithelium set into some cellulose on the fibro-vascular bundle, and between the cells were inter-cellular spaces, which might be absorbent canals. The glands and fingers on the leaves of the D. rotundifolia seemed to be divided into two sets, one of which he termed central and the other fringe. The central fingers were shorter than the fringe fingers, and they rarely contained erythrophyll; but there seemed to be an important difference between the functions of the two. Thus the presence of moisture round the central glands was much more constant than it was round the fringe glands, the former alone seeming to act as the traps for insects. He had not often seen an insect caught in the fringe glands. The central fingers did not bend much, while it would be seen that the fringe fingers closed completely over the victim, and that after they had done so, and then only, certain very interesting foldings of the leaf took place. If under favourable circumstances an insect were placed living in the central glands of a mature leaf, it would adhere to those with which it came in contact, probably drawing some more to it by its struggles. If the leaf were watched from time to time through a lens, it would be found that the amount of viscous secretion in the central glands would increase in quantity in a few hours, and that many of the fingers in the immediate neighbourhood of the fly would bend towards it. As the glands approached one another the secretions touched, and three or four little drops would be seen to unite into one larger, and by the time they reached the fly the quantity became quite considerable. In about twelve hours the fly would be found to be dead, and completely saturated with the moisture from the glands. The death of the insect was due to this secretion, because it would remain living for an almost indefinite time if the glands were amputated, and it was secured in its place by a little gum. In fact, amputation of these glands, without any injury to the body of the leaf or to the fringe glands, completely stopped the whole process, while it was very materially hastened if the fly were killed before it was placed on the leaf. On the contrary, if the fringe glands were amputated and the central glands left intact the insect was wetted and killed, though not so rapidly as when the leaf remained uninjured. The next action consisted in the gradual bending inwards first of a few and then the whole of the fringe glands if the object was large enough to require it. For it was one of the most interesting facts of the whole enquiry that if the insect was very small, and was caught in the glands near the margin of the leaf, only those fringe fingers in its immediate neighbourhood closed over it. Nothing short of some rudimentary form of nervous system seemed to him enough to account for this action, and though he could recognise no structure in the leaf which he could identify as such, he thought it was not impossible that the fibro-vascular bundle might have such a function. The closing of the fingers generally took from twelve to thirty-six hours. After it was accomplished a set of movements took place affecting the body of the leaf. The upper and outer margin curved forward and inwards over the fly, so that the latter was embraced within the leaf, but so that the fingers did not become involved. The back of the leaf was turned upwards, and in two or three days, and then the folds gradually widened, and the dried remains of the insect dropped off. He also described the action in the D. binata, and in the leaves of the saxifraga tridactylites, the D. intermedia, the dionæa muscipula. The latter beautiful fly-traps had recently been the subject of investigation by Dr. J. B. Sanderson. In describing this Mr. Tait said that when the leaf was hungry the lobes were widely separated, and the inner surface was seen to be speckled with red dots. This was due to the erythrophyll of numerous glands exactly the same in construction as those already described in the D. rotundifolia, but without fingers. They were not wet while the leaf was open, and the fluid they secreted when in action was not viscid. On these points he knew that he was not in harmony with other observers, but he was very positive about them. Besides these glands three fibres almost colourless might be seen regularly placed on the inner surface of the lobe. They consisted of substance of the leaf, and were very sensitive. Stimulation of the fibres induced closure of the trap in a few minutes, and when a large blue bottle fly was put into the trap it closed almost instantaneously, and with such strength as to prevent the fly from escaping. The closing of the lobes took place quite independently of the temperature or nature of the substance used to stimulate, so that it was not due to any communicated current. The method of closure was curious, for it did not depend merely upon an influence exerted at the base of the lobes where they joined, for it began by the bending downwards of the marginal spikes, and the incurvation of the whole margin of the lobe, so that its inner surface, previously almost plane, became in a great measure concave. He had found that too large a meal was detrimental to the leaf, and if there were several it might cause its death. But after some hours the contracting force of the leaf seemed to be re-exerted very slowly but very powerfully, for the spikes were straightened, the intervening portion of the leaf greatly diminished, and the lips of the trap brought accurately together, so that evaporation of the contents was impossible. This force was unquestionably exercised at the hinge. By this time secretion had begun and the insect was killed. There were a number of most important questions in connection with the wonderful movements which required most careful working out. Some of these Mr. Darwin was engaged upon, and some he (Mr. Tait) had taken up, but none as yet were completely answered, save the one undertaken by Dr. Sanderson—namely, "What is the electrical condition of the leaf in relation to these movements?" He quoted from the results of Dr. Sanderson's investigations as published in the proceedings of the Royal Society. Dr. Sanderson's observations showed completely that the currents in the dionæa were exactly similar in the laws to which they were subject to the currents in animal muscle and nerve; for when the leaf-stalk was placed in the electrodes the galvanometer indicated the existence of a current opposed in direction to that of the leaf, showing that the electrical conditions in opposite sides of the joint between stalk and leaf were antagonistic to each other. Consequently, so long as leaf and stalk were both unaltered, no current passed, nor was there any manifestation of the electro-motive force by the other. This was completely in accordance with what was observed with reference to nerve. He was enabled by accident to make observation which was singularly suggestive of the absolutism of the analogy. He was engaged one day repeating Dr. Sanderson's experiments on a dionæa, when he was summoned away to a distance, and on his return he found the plant attached to the electrodes in a hot drawing room, exposed to the full glare of the sun, and the plant seemed in a dying state. To try if it were dead he touched the sensitive fibres of the leaves that were open, and found that irritation of the fibres of one lobe produced no effect on it, but caused incurvation of the margin of the opposite lobe, which finally advanced to the median line. This was precisely the same thing as reflex action, and the case of the damaged dionæa leaf was identical with that of a man who had had his back broken, and the spinal cord severed in the injury. Looking at the phenomena, he was not at all clear that they were in a position to deny consciousness to the dionæa and drosera. When he related these curious results to Mr. Darwin, that gentleman replied to the effect that he had noticed similar results. It was singular that Mr. Darwin should have noticed the same fact as he (Mr. Tait) had done, and it was natural that he should attribute it to the injuries he had inflicted; but as in his case the injury was universal, his explanation was not applicable, while on the other hand his (Mr. Tait's) explanation of a true reflex action, and therefore the existence of a definite nervous system, seemed to be so. That conclusion, however, still wanted a great deal to make it substantial. The insect coming in contact with the hairs, the leaf closed, and the process of digestion began. The first step was the closing of the lips of the trap, as he had already described; the next was the pouring forth by the glands of an abundant secretion, which ultimately filled the cavity of the trap. There did not seem to be more than one system of glands in the dionæa for the reason that the dionæa was enough to kill the animal. He therefore regarded the glands in this case as equivalent to the fringed glands of the sundew. With regard to the acidity of the fluid secreted he thought the question required further investigation. In the secretions, however, there was one of those peculiar ferments which had such strange actions on organic substances. He had not been able to procure the secretion of the dionæa in sufficient quantity to analyse it, but from the viscid secretion of the drosera binata or dichotoma he had been able to separate a substance which he proposed to call *droserin*, and which had some most remarkable properties resembling pepsin, but differing very materially from it. That this droserin had a solvent action on insects might be seen by anyone who tried the experiment. It did not completely dissolve the insect, but neither did the human gastric juice completely dissolve such food, but it did help to cook the "goodness" out of what they were applied to. Droserin was specially applicable to insects, and was not intended for general diet, for raw mutton, cooked beef, fish, potato, bread, and a host of other things which he tried were all swallowed up by the leaves, but they were not digested, and seemed to do the plants harm. Cheese positively killed them. They were most completely taken in with dry sponge, and tried hard to get at it. Here again he (Mr. Tait) as it were followed Dr. Beaumont in the case of Alexis St. Martin, it enabled him to gather the gastric juice. What became of the products of digestion was one of the problems still unsolved, and on this point Mr. Darwin and he differed. Mr. Darwin was of opinion that the leaves absorbed the products of digestion, and he (Mr. Tait) thought so at first, but he had failed to find any evidence of absorption by the surface of the leaves. On the other hand, his experiments tended to show that the products of digestion ran down the leaf stalk to the roots, and were there absorbed as manure was. The physiological interest of the whole matter was that there they had a number of plants possessing a function, that of gastric digestion, which had been supposed to be exclusively the property of the animal kingdom, and some of them had further something very like a rudimentary nervous system. In fact, it must be concluded that plants were nearer relatives of our own than we had ever yet believed.

There were exhibited fine specimens of *Cristatella plumosa*, which has lately been plentifully distributed by the Waterworks Company through their mains. The newly discovered animal [illegible] *polymorpha* was also exhibited. A specimen of a young pup, perfectly formed in all but the head, having no eyes, no nose, no mouth, was exhibited by the secretary.

LOCAL BILLS IN PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords, yesterday, the Birmingham Gas (No. 2) Bill and the Wednesfield and Wyrley Bank Railway Bill were read a second time. The London and North-Western Railway and the Bletchley, Northampton, and Rugby Bills were read a third time and passed.

PROPOSED SKATING RINK AND MARINE AQUARIUM FOR BIRMINGHAM.

Curzon Hall, long familiar as a place where circus and panoramic exhibitions and dog shows have been held, is about to be applied to an entirely different use, which will furnish the inhabitants of Birmingham with a new source of amusement and instruction. We understand that Mr. Thomas Crane, draper, of High Street and Bull Street, in connection with his partner, has taken the hall on a lease of seven years for the purpose of opening a skating rink and marine aquarium there, and that the necessary work for constructing these will be proceeded with as speedily as possible. The rink will consist of two parts, one being on the floor of the hall, and the other in the gallery or promenade. The whole of the ground floor will be laid with the finest asphalte, and will present a surface 35 yards in length and 31 yards in breadth. The promenade, which is about 125 yards in length, all round the hall and 30 feet in width, will also be covered with asphalte. Plenty of skating room will therefore be provided. The patent Brighton roller skates will be used. The most novel, and perhaps most interesting, part of Mr. Crane's scheme is that which embraces the provision of an aquarium. In this respect Birmingham is somewhat behind other places, and Mr. Crane will deserve thanks for his effort to supply the deficiency. The aquarium will be constructed on a similar principle to that at Brighton, though, of course, on a smaller scale. Tanks will be fixed around the promenade in each recess, and in these will be placed an extensive collection of marine specimens. The great difficulty to be met in the formation of a salt water aquarium is, of course, that which is created by the extreme inland position of the town. The distance of Birmingham from the nearest sea-side place is considerable, and consequently the expense involved in obtaining a constant supply of water will form no small item. The promoter, however, is not to spare expense in order to render his new venture a success. Sea water will be conveyed to Birmingham as often as necessary in tanks made for the purpose. When established, Mr. Crane's rink and aquarium will form a valuable addition to our places of amusement and recreation, and will undoubtedly become a popular place of resort.

THE SULTAN OF ZANZIBAR.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, as Primate of All England and Metropolitan, paid a State visit to the Sultan at noon yesterday. His Grace wore his full robes as "Archbishop," and had in attendance upon him the Rev. Craufurd Tait, M.A., of Christ Church, Oxford; and the Rev. H. Maxwell Spooner, M.A., Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford (two of his Grace's Chaplains), and Mr. John Hassard, the registrar of the Primate's diocese. Yesterday afternoon the Sultan visited the British Museum, accompanied by the principal members of his retinue, and in the evening attended the theatre. To-day his Highness will visit the Botanical Society's Exhibition, and afterwards go to Brighton to attend the reception of the Mayor of that town, and visit the Aquarium. On Thursday, after his return from Brighton, his Highness will receive an address from a deputation, which will be presented by the Right Rev. the Bishop of London. Afterwards his Highness and suite will visit the Alexandra Park Horse Show, and later in the evening attend Lady Derby's evening party.

LOCAL LAW CASE.

In the Bail Court, yesterday, before Justices Blackburn, Mellor, and Lush, the case of Pritchard and others v. Dunkerley was argued. Mr. Seymour, Q.C., and Mr. Mellor showed cause against a rule for a new trial upon the ground of misjoinder. It seemed that the plaintiffs were Mr. Pritchard, a fire-clay manufacturer, at Wednesbury, Mr. Knowles, a merchant, at the same place, and Mr. Hill, of Vienna. The last-named person ordered some gaspipes to be forwarded by Mr. Pritchard and Mr. Knowles, and they were delivered to the defendant's forwarding agents at Hull to be sent on. A portion of them were lost, and an action was brought in which a verdict for the plaintiffs was returned for £100. The point was reserved by Mr. Commissioner Stephen, who tried the case, as to whether the three parties could sue, it being alleged that there was a misjoinder in the names of the plaintiffs. It was argued at great length that the Court had power to alter the name of the plaintiff if there was any error, and the Court decided that Mr. Hill being the real plaintiff the verdict should be entered for him, the defendant being paid any costs he might have incurred extra.

SALE OF PROPERTIES.—At the Hen and Chickens Hotel, New Street, last night, Messrs. Thomas and Bettridge, auctioneers, sold the freehold residence known as Kingswood House, Church Road, Moseley. The house is surrounded with upwards of eighteen acres of land, and is let on lease (which expires at Midsummer next) at £170 per annum. The property realised £11,000. A freehold ground rent of £61 5s. per annum, for ninety-nine years, from Lady-day, 1861, secured by 1,200 square yards of land, fronting to Bradford Street and running through to Warwick Street, and the manufactory of Messrs. Kirby, Beard and Co., pin and needle makers, with the reversion at the expiration of the term, was sold for £1,935. Lot 3, a freehold ground rent of £10 16s. 4d. per annum, for ninety-nine years, from Lady-day, 1861, secured by 323 yards of land and buildings thereon in Bradford Street, occupied by the Park Wood Mills Company, with the reversion, was sold for £275. £345 was given for a freehold ground rent of £13 15s. 3d. per annum for 99 years, from Christmas, 1854, secured by 397 square yards of land and two houses, and an ironfoundry thereon, fronting to Warwick Street, with the reversion. Highgate Cottage, Moseley Road, let on lease (which expires at Midsummer) at £30 per annum, was sold for £330. This property is leasehold, and is subjected to an annual ground rent of £10 13s. 1d. The total amount realised for the sale of these properties, which belonged to the late Mr. E. Cook, was £15,860.

ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

Yesterday a meeting of this association was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel, London, to consider the Local Authorities Loans Bill, the Pollution of Rivers Bill, and the costs of prosecutions at Assizes and Sessions. The following members of Parliament attended, and some of them took part in the discussion:—Sir Thomas Bazley, Sir C. Legard, Sir E. Watkin, Sir Charles Forster, Messrs. Carter, Wheelhouse, Tennant, Leatham, James, Wait, Dodson, Callender, Stevenson, Monk, Ferguson, Mellor, Charley, Pagot, Russell Gurney, Sanderson, Hill, Starkey, Leeman, and Birley. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the Mayor of Birmingham, presided.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES LOANS BILL.

Sir Joseph Heron proposed the following resolution on this subject:—"In the opinion of the association, the Local Authorities Loans Bill is exceedingly objectionable, so far as it proposes to interfere with the present system of borrowing by authorities constituted under local Acts, or with the credit of accounts of corporations as provided for by the Municipal Corporations Acts; and that the proposal in the bill to centralise the management of local finances is a violation of the principles of local self-government, upon which the stability and efficiency of municipal corporations mainly depend. He could not help observing that after reading the remarks made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Childers, and Mr. Sclater Booth, the latter stating that in his opinion local authorities had good grounds for complaint that the bill had not been earlier introduced, he must say that he never read a bill with more surprise and disappointment. He found that instead of any boon or benefit being conferred upon municipal corporations or local authorities generally, centralisation in the most offensive form was proposed to be introduced, and that practically the whole management and control of the county expenditure—he might say all the county authorities, all municipal corporations, and the thousand and odd local boards would practically be placed in the hands of the Local Government Board, at Gwydyr House, if such a bill could pass. He did not believe that Corporations would practically have much to fear, inasmuch as the very proposition itself was so utterly impracticable that the bill would be a dead letter, as, if attempted to be carried out, the business at Gwydyr House would be very soon brought to a dead lock. (Hear, hear.)

Alderman Biggs, of Birmingham, seconded the resolution.

Mr. Hayes, town clerk of Birmingham, objected to the appointment of a Government auditor under the direction of the Local Government Board, and he regarded it as most objectionable for any central authority to interfere with the accounts and payments of local authorities.

Mr. Rayner, town clerk of Liverpool, said the two objectionable features in the bill were contained in clauses 13 and 20. By clause 13, if they borrowed £100,000, they must have all the accounts audited relating to the whole expenditure; and by clause 20, the effect would be that any local authority which had power to borrow under a local Act, would be told by Lord Redesdale that there was a public bill under which they might borrow, and consequently he would strike out the borrowing powers. At the same time, the bill might be of some value to small Corporations, enabling them to borrow from the Public Works Loan Commissioners at a lower rate of interest than they could borrow in the market from individuals, and there was no objection to this clause of the bill.

Mr. Stevenson, M.P., reminded the meeting that, only last session, a Select Committee of the House of Commons enquired into the whole question of the credit of the borough fund account, which resulted in the almost unanimous decision of the committee that the present system was quite satisfactory, and that there was no need whatever for subjecting Municipal Corporations to the vexations and stringent credit, under which the Poor-law Boards now most reasonably fretted. As the bill was read between twelve and one o'clock, there had been no opportunity of discussing it. He must say that he had approved of the intentions of the bill as enabling Corporations to borrow money on debentures in small amounts, which he thought would prove a valuable source of revenue to Corporations, and a suitable means of investment for the public; but such a privilege was not worth having if purchased at the cost of the loss of local self-government. He had been requested by one of the most important harbour authorities in the kingdom—the Tyne Improvement Commissioners—to express their views in regard to this bill, protesting that the bill applied to harbours. They feared that it would be impracticable to carry on the financial business.

Mr. Carter, M.P., agreed with the previous speakers, and remarked that he would like to hear some Conservative members speak on the bill.

Mr. Tennant, M.P., said he accepted the challenge, and would remark that there was a great misapprehension as to the scope of the bill. So far as he could read it, he did not think it applied to any corporation who did not elect to take the benefit of the Act. (Cries of "No, no.") If that was not its real meaning, he believed the Government would modify it. He did not look upon it as a blow to our constitutional liberties, but as a bill to protect the public in a great measure, and therefore did not join in the expressions against the bill.

Mr. Hammond, M.P., said they were discussing the bill on a false issue, for the bill when again presented to the House would be amended, and therefore it was unfair to the promoters to oppose it *in toto*. He thought the Government, as the parent of the State, was bound to see that when the public purse was devoted for local benefit that the objects for which it was obtained should be carried out, and that the ratepayers who had to pay the cost should be protected by the Government seeing that it was appropriated to the purposes for which the money was lent. The principle of the bill was just, for it protected the public purse, and it protected the ratepayers. Though the principle was sound some of the clauses were objectionable, but those could be altered in committee.

Sir Charles Forster, M.P., urged that there should be a short, sharp, and decisive opposition to the bill.

Sir Thomas Bazley, M.P., said they were assembled on a vital question, one touching their common rights and their common independence, and the question was whether they should tamely submit to have their affairs put into the hands of a central government, which would manage the local affairs of the great cities and towns of the empire. (Hear, hear.) He urged the necessity for resisting the scheme which the bill contained, and he was quite sure, if a proper representation were made to the Government, that they would shrink from giving effect to its provisions.

Sir Edward Watkin, M.P. (who has an amendment to the bill on the paper) said they believed in the exercise of self-government, and they ought to stand by in opposing the principle of the bill.

Mr. Lawley, as a representative of the city of London, was entirely opposed to the principle of the bill.

After some further discussion, the resolution was carried unanimously, the representatives of the Corporations only voting.

THE EXPENSE OF PROSECUTIONS.

Mr. Rayner moved, and the Town Clerk of Bristol seconded, the following resolution:—"That, in the opinion of the association, the provisions of the Treasury minute of the 29th January, 1875, for payment of the costs of criminal prosecutions upon the basis of an average is exceedingly objectionable, and that there is no sufficient reason for making the distinction between the criminal costs at assizes and at sessions."

Mr. Haskell Peace, Town Clerk of Wigan, said the borough of Wigan had suffered severely by the disallowance of costs, and if the average of three years proposed were taken as a basis, the injustice that Wigan had been done would be perpetuated for ever.

Mr. Wheelhouse, M.P., said the whole thing was so inconsequential that it only required to be pointed out to the Government to have the matter rectified.

The resolution was carried.

THE RIVERS POLLUTION BILL.

A short discussion took place on this bill, but when it appeared that there was a division of opinion on its merits, the Chairman suggested that they should be united in making their representations to the Government, and he submitted a resolution, which, on being moved and seconded, was carried unanimously. It was as follows:—"That, while this Association of Municipal Corporations is not prepared to enforce all the provisions of the Pollution of Rivers Bill, now before the House of Lords, it desires to urge upon the Government not to lose the opportunity of passing into law the provisions for effectually preventing the putting of solid matter into streams."

This closed the business of the meeting, and deputations will be appointed to wait on the Ministers who have charge of the several subjects discussed.

SHOCKING ASSAULT ON A WIFE.

Last evening, a woman named Mary Ashton, aged 25, living in 6 Court, Wharf Street, was subjected to horrible treatment by her husband. It is alleged that the man returned home the worse for drink, and because something his wife had done displeased him, he got into a passion and beat her unmercifully. When she attempted to escape from him, he knocked her down with a poker, wounding her on the head, and kicked her as she lay on the ground. During a struggle between them, he caught her right ear in his mouth and bit the lobe of it off. Her cries for help brought the neighbours to her assistance, and she was rescued from her husband's brutality, and removed to the Queen's Hospital. After her injuries had been attended to she was able to leave the institution.

THE PRESTON TRAGEDY.

Yesterday, at the Preston Police Court, Mark Fiddler was charged with murdering his wife. Prisoner seemed well, the wound in his throat rapidly healing. Evidence was given narrating the circumstances surrounding the tragedy, and it was stated that the instrument with which the deed was committed was a razor, which Fiddler had borrowed from a militiaman. Prisoner was committed for trial at assizes. The murderer was subsequently visited by some relatives, who exhorted him to prepare for his end. He is now very communicative, and treats the matter very lightly. It is stated that the defence which will be set up at the assizes will be the unchastity of the murdered woman. The police have discovered in a house where she lodged a portrait taken last Whitsuntide of herself and a farmer. The general opinion is that the accused is certain of being executed.

A "PERVERSE" VERDICT.

An action was concluded yesterday, at the Liverpool County Court, in which a draper named Kerrison sued the Cheshire Lines Committee for £15, value of two sealskin jackets lost in transit between Liverpool and London. The goods were handed to the Great Northern Railway, and lost upon one of three railways embodied in the Cheshire Lines Committee—viz., the Great Northern, the Midland, and the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire. The action was brought previously against the Cheshire Lines Committee, and, in spite of the ruling of the judge that the defendants were not liable, inasmuch as it was not proved upon which of the three lines the goods were lost, the jury found for the plaintiff. Thereupon the defendants moved for a new trial, and yesterday, when this took place, the judge ruled, in even more distinct terms that the plaintiff, it was necessary to prove the goods to have been lost upon the particular railway, and to sue that company, or to bring the action against the company to which they were delivered. Notwithstanding this, the jury again found for the plaintiff. The judge remarked upon the perversity of the verdict, and discharged the jury.

SPORTING INTELLIGENCE.

RACING NOTES.

Only moderate racing was witnessed at Windsor this afternoon, and the number of competitors for the various races did not prove up to the average. The talent had a rare day, as no less than six favourites proved victorious, pencillers having nothing like a turn up all day. Bella had an exercise canter in the Royal Stakes, and the principal event of the afternoon fell to Whitebait, who defeated the 1874 Derby favourite Glenalmond, after a good race, Mr. Merry's uncertain son of Blair Athol cutting it when he looked to have all the best of the race. For the concluding day my selections are as follow: Windsor Handicap, SCAMP or WHITEBAIT; Welter Cup, WHITEBAIT or MONITOR; Royal Cup, FRAULEIN or TANGIBLE; Scurry Welter, POURSUIVANT; Windsor Stakes, CREAM CHEESE or CERINTHA FILLY.

Tuesday Night. VERITAS.

WINDSOR RACES.—YESTERDAY.

The June gathering at Windsor always proves fairly successful, and the meeting under notice commenced very favourably as regards the weather, which was fine and bright, though several sharp showers came down as time went on. Although the morning in town had been dull, the holiday people were not to be deterred from mustering in strong force, and the assemblage proved an excellent one in every department. The Clewer Meadows are generally at this time of the year very hard; but such an unusually large quantity of rain has fallen during the past week that it afforded good going. Large entries are always obtained at meetings over which the Messrs. Frail preside, but the fields of competitors generally dwindle down, and none of the races brought forth more than half a dozen runners this afternoon. The presence of Bella in the Royal Stakes frightened away all but Merry May and Lord Eldon, and, with long odds betted on her, M. Dawson's filly won in a hand canter. Rolet, who, when known as the Amethyst filly, carried off the Nurseries at Hampton, was made favourite for the Thames Handicap, and won all the way, Touche-a-Tout (an own sister to Tangible) showing little of the speed possessed by her illustrious brother. Whitebait somewhat compensated his party for his Ascot defeat by winning the Eton Handicap; but he is evidently an over-rated horse, and would not have won but for the cowardly Glenalmond swerving all over the course when called upon for an extra effort. The remainder of the racing needs no comment, and, together with the betting on the course, will be found below.

The ROYAL STAKES of 100 sovs, added to a Sweepstakes of 10 sovs each, for two-year-olds; colts 8st 12lb, fillies 8st 9lb; untried allowances; winners of 200 sovs 5lb, twice or 500 sovs 7lb extra. Five furlongs.

Mr. Dawson's Bella, 8st 12lb .... F. Archer 1
Mr. Brown's Merry May, 8st 3lb .... Hopwood 2
Mr. Gretton's Lord Eldon, 8st 12lb .... T. Cannon 3

Betting: 6 to 1 on Bella, and 8 to 1 agst Merry May.—Bella held a slight lead of Merry May to the distance, and then drew away, and won in a canter by four lengths; bad third.

The THAMES HANDICAP of 100 sovs, added to a Sweepstakes of 10 sovs each, h ft; winners after June 3 7lb, if of 200 sovs 10lb extra. Five furlongs.

Lord Poulett's Violet, 3 yrs, 7st 10lb ...... Constable 1
Mr. Gretton's Bank Note, 5 yrs, 8st 6lb ...... T. Cannon 2
Sir G. Chetwynd's Touche à Tout, 3 yrs, 7st 4lb ...... Newhouse 3

Miss Gertrude (Mordan), Banshee (F. Archer), St. Helens (G. Grimshaw), and Emma (Glover) also ran.—Betting: 5 to 2 agst Violet, 100 to 30 agst Bank Note, 4 to 1 agst Touche à Tout, 7 to 1 agst Banshee, 8 to 1 agst Miss Gertrude, and 10 to 1 agst Emma.—Banshee made play, slightly in advance of Violet and Bank Note, with Touche à Tout next to the distance, where the leader gave way to Violet, who went on and won in a canter by three lengths, Touche à Tout being a bad third; Banshee was fourth, Miss Gertrude fifth, and Emma last.

The SHORTS SELLING STAKES of 50 sovs; two-year-olds 7st 9lb, three 8st 11lb, four and upwards 9st 5lb; m and g allowed 3lb; winner to be sold for 100 sovs, if for 50 allowed 7lb. Five furlongs.

Mr. Percival's Namesake, 6 yrs, 8st 0lb (£50,).. Butler 1
Mr. Masterman's Hannah, 4 yrs, 8st 0lb (£50,).. Parry 2

Betting: 7 to 4 on Namesake.—Namesake led for a quarter of a mile, and then gave place to Hannah, at whose girths the favourite lay to the distance, a good race from which point ended in favour of Namesake by a length.

The ETON HANDICAP of 100 sovs, added to a Sweepstakes of 15 sovs each, 10 ft; winners of a handicap after June 3 7lb, if of 200 sovs 14lb extra; second saves stake. One mile.

Captain Sterling's Whitebait, 4 yrs, 7st.... F. Archer 1
Mr. Merry's Glenalmond, 4 yrs, 7st 2lb ...... Glover 2
Mr. Lowe's Herbert, 5 yrs, 8st 2lb ...... C. Archer 3

Fraulein (W. Goater), Florinel (Rossiter), and Beggarman (A. Cooke) also ran.—Betting: 3 to 1 agst Whitebait, 100 to 30 agst Herbert, 4 to 1 agst Glenalmond, 6 to 1 each agst Florinel and Fraulein, and 100 to 8 agst Beggarman.—Fraulein and Glenalmond got away together, the mare taking a slight lead of the four-year-old, to whom succeeded Whitebait and Herbert. Thus they ran for about five furlongs, when Fraulein gave way to Glenalmond, who came up the straight attended by Whitebait and Herbert. The latter was the first in trouble, and opposite the Stand Whitebait headed Glenalmond, and beat him by three-quarters of a length; which distance divided the second and third. Fraulein was fourth, Florinel fifth, and Beggarman last.

The MANOR TWO-YEAR-OLD STAKES of 10 sovs each, with 100 added; colts 8st 12lb, fillies 8st 9lb; winners of 100 sovs 3lb, twice or 200 7lb extra; winner to be sold for 300 sovs; if for 150 sovs allowed 7lb. Half a mile.

Mr. Blanton's Agate, 8st 0lb .... Parry 1
Mr. H. Goater's Yellow Rose colt, 8st 5lb.... J. Goater 2
Mr. Trimmer's Hoya, 8st 5lb .... Barlow 3
Mr. Stevens's Simplicity, 8st 9lb .... Skelton 4

Betting: 6 to 4 on Agate, 5 to 2 agst Yellow Rose colt, 100 to 15 agst Simplicity, and 10 to 1 agst Hoya.—The Yellow Rose colt was the first off, and was immediately attended by Agate, who drew to the front, after going two hundred yards, and made the rest of the running, winning by two lengths; a bad third.

A SELLING WELTER STAKES of 5 sovs each, with 50 added; two-year-olds 7st 0lb, three 9st 7lb, four 10st 6lb, five and upwards 10st 8lb; winner to be sold for 100 sovs, if for 50 allowed 7lb. Three-quarters of a mile.

Mr. Masterman's Hannah, 4 yrs, 9st 13lb.... Loates w. o.

The CLEWER WELTER HANDICAP of 100 sovs, added to a Sweepstakes of 10 sovs each; winners after June 10 5lb, twice or 100 sovs 10lb extra. Three-quarters of a mile.

Mr. Davenport's Blue Rock, 5 yrs, 8st...... G. Cooke 1
Mr. Percival's Rattle, 6 yrs, 8st 3lb ...... Butler 2
Mr. Henry's Flintlock, 3 yrs, 7st 7lb ...... Constable 3

Betting: 13 to 8 agst Flintlock, and 5 to 2 agst Rattle.—Rattle led, with Flintlock next till nearing the distance, where Blue Rock came through, and made the rest of the running, winning by six lengths; about a neck between second and third.

BETTING ON THE COURSE.

THE NORTHUMBERLAND PLATE.

4 to 1 agst Chivalrous—taken and offered.
5 .. 1 .. Fève—taken.
100 .. 8 .. Blantyre—taken.
100 .. 6 .. Daniel—taken.
100 .. 3 .. Marie Stuart—taken.

THE ST. LEGER.

7 to 2 agst Salvator—offered.
6 .. 1 .. Camballo—taken.
6 .. 1 .. Claremont—taken.
100 .. 12 .. Bay of Naples—taken.
100 .. 9 .. Gilbert—taken.
20 .. 1 .. Balfe—taken.
50 .. 1 .. New Holland—taken.
100 .. 7 .. Balfe and New Holland, coupled—taken.

ENTRIES FOR THE STAND STAKES.

Scimitar	Elizabeth filly	Strike
Verdant Green	Laird of Glenorchy	Golden Sand

ENTRIES FOR THE HEAVY-WEIGHT HANDICAP.

Ella	Touche à Tout	Blatchington
Marvel	Algebra	Speranza
Uncle Tom	Bank Note	Carpet Slipper
Ferdinand	St. Helens	Kinross

ORDER OF RUNNING.—Scurry Welter, 2.0; Welter Cup, 2.30; Stand Stakes, 3; Windsor Handicap, 3.30; Heavyweight Handicap, 4.0; Royal Cup, 4.30; Windsor Stakes, 5.

The Selling Stakes did not fill.

ADDITIONAL ARRIVALS.—Restless, Hannah, Mistake, Whitebait, Scamp, Kinross, Secret, Banshee, Simplicity, Strike, Herbert, Hoya, Algebra, Scimitar, Receipted, Black Prince, Packington, Flintlock, and Rattle.—Expected: Thunder and Bloomfield.

In the list of Scratchings sent last night, Restless should not be included in the scratchings for the Royal Cup. The mare was only struck out of all Handicaps at Windsor.

The filly by Saccharometer—Miss Farmer, has been named Miss Gertrude.

The objection to Tattie at Lewes has been withdrawn.

BEVERLEY RACES.

ENTRIES FOR THE KINGSTON-ON-HULL STAKES.

Activity	Princess Theresa	Explosion
Lady Christiana	Clara	Louise of Lorne
Buttercup	Cigarette	Murillo
Birthright		

ORDER OF RUNNING.—Kingston-on-Hull Stakes, 2.0; Bishop Burton, 2.45; Londesborough Handicap, 3.15; Beverley Cup, 4.0; Grimston Plate, 4.45; and Farmers' Cup, 5.30.

ARRIVALS.—Esther, Mineralogy, Louise of Lorne, Activity, Fly colt, Lioness, Non Proven, by Julius or Sundeelah—Lady Highthorn; Viscountess, Domidula, Upsilon, Daisy, Vevette, and Buttercup.

EXPECTED.—Bargee, Sunrise, Yorkshireman, Lady Christiana, Roskell, Andacieuse, and several others in the morning. Messrs. T. Green, Cunningham, and Heslop train on the course.

SCRATCHINGS.—Flora Macdonald and Straggler, out of Beverley engagements.

CARLISLE JULY MEETING, 1875.

CUMBERLAND PLATE.—About one mile and three-quarters.

	age	st	lb		age	st	lb
Chivalrous	6	8	12	Charles	4	6	8
Freeman	6	8	7	Evening Standard	4	6	7
Organist	4	8	7	Horse Chestnut	3	6	7
Munden	4	7	13	Rose of Eltham	3	6	7
Prodigal	6	7	10	Rock Rose	4	6	0
Jesuit	5	7	9	Escort	3	6	6
Servia	4	7	9	Earlston	3	6	5
The Swan	a	7	7	Perkin Warbeck	3	6	5
Industrious	4	7	7	Nugget	4	6	3
Birthright	4	7	6	Crusader	5	6	3
Tam o' Shanter	4	7	5	Lady-day	3	6	2
Coventry	4	7	5	Mars	3	6	1
Agglethorpe	4	7	5	Picnic	3	6	1
Production colt	4	7	4	Pluto	3	6	0
Redcar	4	7	3	Mintdrop	3	6	0
Chimes	4	7	2	Burgundy	3	6	0
Controversy	4	7	1	Robin	3	5	12
Princess Theresa	4	7	1	Piercy	3	5	12
Owton	4	7	0	Telegraph	3	5	12
Truth gelding	5	7	0	Lady Christiana	3	5	10
Falkland	4	7	0	Harriet Laws	3	5	10
Polonaise	4	7	0	Darwin	3	5	0
Roderick Dhu	4	6	12	Darlington	3	5	0
Lady Mary	5	6	12	Cantuar	3	5	7
Sweet Violet	4	6	10	Marshal Saxe	4	*	
Bloomfield	4	6	9	Barrowden	4	*	
Trout	4	6	8				

Weights published June 15, at 9 a.m., and forfeits to be declared to Messrs. Weatherby only at noon, June 22.

* Entered but not handicapped.

LONDON CITY BETTING.

VICTORIA CLUB, Tuesday.

Mr. Frail generally manages to gather round him the *élite* of the turf at any of his ventures, whether at Shrewsbury or elsewhere. The racing world would appear to have journeyed to Windsor to-day, for there was only a small sprinkling left in the town. Business was dreadfully flat in consequence, the only transactions which came under our notice being 100 to 7 about Daniel, which, however, was always forthcoming. The following are the prices at the close of business:—

THE NORTHUMBERLAND PLATE.

7 to 2 agst Chivalrous—taken.
5 ... 1 ... Fève—taken.
11 ... 2 ... Agglethorpe—taken.
100 ... 7 ... Daniel—taken and offered.
100 ... 6 ... Blantyre—taken and offered.
200 ... 9 ... Marie Stuart—taken.

THE ST. LEGER.

7 to 2 agst Salvator—offered; 4 to 1 wanted.
500 ...100 bar one.

NEWMARKET TRAINING NOTES.—All the trainers here continue doing healthy work with their charges, but as there is no great event impending it may be said the exercise gallops provoke much less than the usual interest. The crack three-year-olds are resting awhile, prior to going into strong work again for the St. Leger, Gilbert being the most notable exception, Arnull having sent him a good gallop, along with others of the team, on Long Hill, yesterday morning.

THE FAILURE OF T. S. WEBB.

Mr. Registrar Keene delivered judgment in the London Bankruptcy Court, yesterday, upon an application to register the resolution of the creditors liquidating the estate by arrangement with a trustee and committee of inspection. The debtor, who was a colliery proprietor, of 85, Gracechurch Street, failed in January last, and the statement since filed shows a total indebtedness of £34,814., against assets £10,552. The learned Registrar said the question he had now to decide was on the objection to the registration, which objection was on the ground that the debtor's statement of affairs was irregular in form, untrue, and insufficient. The objection wholly pointed to the latter ground. In his opinion the statement of affairs was insufficient, but not so much so as to warrant his refusal to register. It had appeared from the evidence that the debtor, after having purchased certain collieries for £56,700., had agreed to sell them to a company called the Consolidated Collieries Company for the sum of £172,000. The debtor had in his statement put down a claim against this company of £100,000., but had estimated it to be worth "*nil*," and it was against this item that Mr. Hemming had addressed his argument. He (the learned Registrar) thought that should this turn out in the end to be of any value it would be so much additional assets available for dividend. The insufficiency was not in his opinion material, and he should overrule the objections and direct registration of such of the resolutions as related to the liquidation of the estate.

CLEVELAND IRON MARKET.

[*From our Correspondent.*]

MIDDLESBROUGH, Tuesday.—There was a good attendance on 'Change to-day. Business, however, was quiet. There has been a better feeling, as the regular settlements have been promptly met despite of late rumours which unsettled trade. The pig market, however, is considerably weaker. As compared with last Tuesday, there is a full decline of 1s. per ton. In the transition which is now in progress prices are necessarily very unequal, and it is difficult, therefore, to quote with accuracy. No. 3 could be bought at 53s. to-day from makers, though some were asking less money. Merchants were offering for less money than either of these quotations. No. is 59s. 6d. to 60s.; No. 4 forge about 52s. Some speculative enquiries appear for future delivery, but the transactions are almost *nil* on this account, as makers will rather hold their iron on the chance of a turn in the market rather than sell at the prices offered, which are considerably below those now current. The shipping requirements are still very small.

There is no change in prices or condition in the finished iron trade.

The ironmasters, from their conversation to-day, appear to be willing to consent to the proposition of the men to refer the settlement of the wages question to an arbitrator to fix the minimum, which is now the question in dispute.

The coal and coke trades remain about the same.

YESTERDAY'S MARKETS.

LIVERPOOL CORN.—There was a fair trade done in wheat, at an advance on the week of 1d. to 2d. per cental. Flour supported Friday's rates. Oats quiet. Beans unchanged. Peas firm. Indian corn slow, at an advance of 1s. 6d. per quarter on the week for new. Mixed American barley 1d. per bushel dearer.

HULL CORN.—At our market there was a short supply of English wheat, and it was sold readily at an advance of 1s. per quarter. For foreign no enquiry. English white, 43s. to 46s.; red, 41s. to 48s. Indian corn quite 1s. per quarter dearer, but sales not brisk. Beans, peas, and oats in small request, at late prices.

MELTON MOWBRAY CORN.—At our market there was a small show of wheat from farmers; the trade proved slow, and prices were about 1s. per quarter higher than last week. Little or nothing doing for barley. Oats came slowly to hand, and the demand was quiet, at last week's currency. For other kinds of grain a slow trade ruled at full prices.

MARKET HARBOROUGH CORN.—There was a moderate show of wheat on offer, and only a limited amount of business was transacted, at an improvement of 1s. per quarter. Barley nominal. The supply of oats was scanty, and the trade firm, at the extreme currencies of this day sen'night. Beans were scarce, and recent quotations were realised.

RUGBY CORN.—There was only a small attendance to-day, but more firmness is apparent in the grain trade. The supply of English wheat has been very short, the demand has been firm, and an advance of 1s. per quarter has been asked, but only obtained in a few instances, business generally being concluded at late rates. Barley has been in only moderate supply. Malting produce has commanded scarcely any attention, and prices have been nominal. Grinding has been inactive. Oats have been offered with much less freedom, and there has been a falling off in the condition. Sales have been few, and prices have ruled about the same as last week. Beans and peas have been quiet, and without change.

WALSALL CORN.—At our corn market to-day the flour trade was dull. A limited supply of wheat, holders asking an advance on last week's prices. There was a fair attendance of farmers, millers, &c., but very little business done.

CORK CORN.—White oats, 10s. 6d.

METROPOLITAN MEAT.—The market has been moderately supplied with meat. There has been a good demand, as follows:—Beef, 4s. to 5s. 8d.; mutton, 4s. to 6s. 6d.; lamb, 6s. to 7s.; veal, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 4d.; and pork, 4s. to 5s. 8d. per 8lb. by the carcase.

RUGBY CATTLE.—There was a moderate attendance to-day of farmers, dealers, and butchers. The show was smaller than usual, but trade was brisk. The animals shown were of a very good class. Best beef averaged 9d. to 10d. per lb., and inferior qualities 8d. per lb. The sheep were very good, and best mutton realised 9d. to 10d. per lb., being a slight reduction on last week. Lambs were in fair supply, but very dear, averaging 1s. per lb., very little ones realising 30s. each. Veal fetched from 8d. to 9d. per lb. Small pigs fetched 12s. per score, and large ditto from 11s. to 11s. 6d. Store beasts were very scarce on offer, and store sheep were a good trade, at a high price.

DERBY CATTLE.—There was a fair show of fat beasts on offer here, and the attendance of buyers was tolerable. The trade proved firm, and prices ranged from 10s. to 10s. 6d. per stone. Calves met with a slow demand, and last week's prices were supported. Sheep and lambs were in fair supply, and changed hands at last week's quotations. There was a moderate show of pigs at market, and sales were effected slowly, at 7s. 6d. to 8s. per stone.

BIRMINGHAM CATTLE.—The number of beasts on offer was smaller than on Tuesday last; there was more animation in the beef trade, at higher prices. Sheep and lambs a fair supply. The trade for pork, mutton, and lamb ruled slower. Fat pigs a moderate supply, for which there was a fair enquiry. Beef, 8½d. to 9½d. per lb.; mutton, 8d. to 9½d. per lb.; lambs, 9d. to 10½d. per lb.; bacon pigs, 9s. 6d. to 11s. 6d. per score; porket ditto, 12s. to 12s. 6d. per score.

BIRMINGHAM WHOLESALE FISH, GAME, AND POULTRY.—FISH: Codfish, 2s. per stone; turbot, 1s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per stone; soles, 2s. 7½d. to 4s. 3d. per stone; eels, 8s. 2d. per stone; conger eels, 2s. 4d. per stone; brill, 3s. 6d. per stone; halibut, 4s. 3d. per stone; plaice, 1s. to 1s. 7d. per stone; mackerel, 24s. to 27s. per box; salmon, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 10d. per lb.; lobsters, 1s. per lb.; crabs, 20s. to 22s. per barrel; bloaters, 9s. 6d. to 10s. per 100; red herrings, 3s. per 100; mussels, 3s. to 5s. per bag; whelks, 12s. to 15s. per bag; winkles, 10s. to 12s. per bag; oysters, 7s. to 8s. per 100; shrimps, 5s. per 12lb.; prawns, 2s. 6d. per 12lb.

BIRMINGHAM WHOLESALE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE.—FRUIT: Oranges, 5s. to 8s. per 100; lemons, 6s. to 8s. per 100; Barcelona nuts, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. per 12lb.; Spanish ditto, 3s. to 3s. 6d. per 12lb.; Brazil ditto, 3s. 6d. to 4s. per 12lb.; cocoa ditto, 4s. to 4s. 6d. per dozen; cherries, 3s. to 5s. per sieve; ditto, 20s. to 22s. per pot; strawberries, 8s. to 10s. per 12 pottles.—VEGETABLES: Cabbages, 8d. to 1s. 2d. per dozen; cucumbers, 3s. to 6s. per dozen; lettuce, 2d. to 10d. per dozen; radishes, 2d. to 5d. per dozen; turnips, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 9d. per dozen bunches; rhubarb, 8d. to 1s. per dozen bunches; parsley, 3s. 6d. to 4s. per dozen bunches; new potatoes, 1s. 6d. to 2s. 4d. per 20lbs.; Spanish onions, 14s. per box; peas, 4s. 6d. to 6s. per pot; asparagus, 1s. to 2s. per 100; horseradish, 1s. to 1s. 4d. per bundle.

WHITECHAPEL HAY AND STRAW.—The supply of hay and straw on sale here to-day has been moderate. There has been a steady enquiry, and for the best qualities more money has been paid:—Prime clover, 100s. to 130s.; inferior ditto, 85s. to 95s.; prime meadow hay, 90s. to 126s.; inferior ditto, 55s. to 75s.; and straw, 33s. to 38s. per load.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE.—Sugar in improved request. Coffee, rum, and rice quiet. Nitrate of soda, 11s. 9d. to 12s. per cwt. Lard dull, and 6d. per cwt. easier. Palm oil in moderate request. Tallow firm. Olive oil dull. Linseed oil quiet, at prices in buyers' favour. Rape oil steady. Cottonseed oil firm. Rosin dull. Petroleum, 9¼d. to 9½d. per gallon for refined. Ashes: Pearls, 38s. to 3.s.

CORK BUTTER.—Ordinary: Firsts, 122s.; seconds 118s.; thirds, 107s.; fourths, 87s.; fifths, 61s. Mild cured: Firsts, 123s.; seconds, 119s.; thirds, 109s. 1,321 firkins in the market.

CLYDE SUGAR.—Small business. Prices in buyers' favour.

LIVERPOOL COTTON.—Market closed quiet. Sales, 10,000 bales; speculation and export, 2,000 bales.

GLASGOW PIG-IRON.—Market flat; business done at 59s., closing sellers over buyers, 58s. 9d.

LONDON PRODUCE.

SUGAR.—The market continues quiet, without change in prices. In auction Barbadoes sold at 20s. 6d. to 21s. 6d.; crystallised Demerara, at 23s. 6d. to 26s.; Natal, at 17s. 6d. to 20s.; Martinique crystals, at 28s. 6d. Floating, a cargo of No. 12 Havana sold at 24s. 6d.; and for arrival, 100 tons Palmyra jaggery, at 15s. per cwt. Present stock at the four principal ports of the United Kingdom 165,390 tons, against 233,050 tons same time last year.

COFFEE.—The public sales have gone off quietly, at rather lower prices; small to middling East India sold at 99s. 6d. to 106s.; bold, 109s. to 110s.; fine colonry, at 116s. 6d. per cwt.

SHELLAC.—The market continues very quiet, and of 196 chests on auction, only 125 chests sold, consisting of red orange. Gil, in diamond, sold at £10. 15s. to £10. 17s. 6d. per cwt.

TURMERIC is firmly held. By auction, 600 bags Bengal were offered, and bought in at 24s. per cwt.

CUTCH.—A parcel of 128 boxes Calcutta, J. S. and Co.'s, in diamond, bought in at 25s. per cwt.

CHINA GALLS.—157 casks in auction were bought in at 43s. per cwt.

STICKLAC.—In auction, 10 boxes Siam were bought in at £5. 10s. per cwt.

SAPANWOOD.—20 tons Batavia, in public sale, were bought in at £14. 10s. per ton.

LEATHER.—The attendance at Leadenhall to-day was only moderate, and a steady tone prevailed, and in the business done full rates were obtained. Quotations:—Hides, crop, light, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 9½d.; heavy, 1s. 5½d. to 1s. 9d.; English butts, light, 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d.; heavy, 1s. 9d. to 2s. 8d.; foreign butts, 1s. 5½d. to 2s. 3d.; crop bellies, 9d. to 1s. 1½d.; shoulders, 1s 1d. to 1s. 7d.; dressing hides, common, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 7d.; shaved, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 10d.; and calfskins, 1s. 8d. to 3s. 1d. per lb.; kips, East India, best, 1s. 8d. to 2s. 6d.; second and inferior, 9d. to 2s. 1d.; Australian sides, 11½d. to 1s. 2d.; horse hides, English, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 9d. per lb.; River Plate, 9s. to 24s. each.

OILS.—Linseed is quiet. London, 24s. 6d. on the spot. Rape steady; English brown, 30s. 9d. spot. Other oils remain unaltered.

TALLOW is steady. New YC, 44s. to 44s. 3d., spot and month.

METALS.—Tin active and dearer; 100 tons Straits sold at £85, July and £84 10s. since July delivery, £84. to £85. cash. Copper quiet. 50 tons Chili bars sold £83. cash. Scotch pig-iron, 58s. 9d. to 59s. cash.

BRONZE COINAGE.

The annual report of the Master of the Mint, issued yesterday, alludes to the necessity which arose in March, last year, owing to the lack of resources at the Mint, to call for tenders for making 100 tons of bronze coinage by contract. The tender of Messrs. Ralph Heaton and Sons, of Birmingham, was accepted, and their contract was completed in July. The nominal value of the coinage was £40,962, 13s. 4d., and the amount of each denomination of coin delivered to the Mint was as follows:—Pence, 62 tons; halfpence, 28 tons; farthings, 10 tons. The coins struck at Birmingham under this contract bear the Mint mark "H" on the reverse under the date, to distinguish them from those made at the Mint.