

is doubtless a secret worth knowing.—Who would hang an old woman—more especially now, that criminals are gibbeted? A very old woman, like Sarah Stokes mentioned below, would, in case she were hung up, *ludibrium ventis*, depopulate the most fertile neighbourhoods—nay, produce a strike in all Manchester itself—were justice so ruthless as to exhibit her immortal remains in its vicinity—"the cynosure of neighbouring eyes."

Old women, we see from the police reports, are the dread and scourge of constables, and puzzle their worships, the Magistrates, even more than the thirty thousands of the frail sisterhood. We have lately read of a sort of Cerberus old woman, who is the terror of her neighbourhood, the autocrat of Aligate and White-chapel—the pensioner of four parishes, and yet receiving her contributions, as a monarch takes his civil list, that is with a kick of condescension.—To be below all law, is the same thing as being above it. 'Wild in streets the wrinkled savage runs' in the midst of civilization: on the mere strength of age and rheumatism and a biting tongue, she indulges in all the wilfulness of nature. In ancient times, a short way would have been found for her—a stake or stream would have relieved her oppressed neighbours; but modern humanity lets her loose to prey on her kind—the hyæna of the East—of London.

It will be necessary in a Reformed Parliament to take into consideration the law of Old Women. If the great Bentham had not departed, alas! too soon, we might have hoped from its all-embracing mind, a good tough Old Woman 'Codification Proposal.' But he is gone, and we shall be driven to consult the Twelve Judges. The infants puzzle the administrators of City laws, very seriously, but they are not a fiftieth part so dangerous as the other childhood.

INDIA.—It is confidently reported that the following are the intentions of Ministers with respect to the East India Company's Charter:—

'The trade to China is to be thrown open, and the Company's Charter renewed only so far as vesting in them the government of India; and this for a shorter period than before.

'They are not to be allowed the monopoly of any article of trade to or from India.

'Free colonization is to be permitted, and no British subject removed from India but by judgment of one of the King's courts.

'The Duke of Clarence (that is to be) will go out as governor-general. Bangalore will be made the capital of southern India in place of Madras, which will become the head-quarter division of the eastern division of the Madras army.

'Hydrabad, and the southern portion of the Doah, will be given over to the Madras government, and the northern Circars to Bengal.

'The greatest part of the Nagpore territory to be occupied by the Bombay troops, instead of the Madras.

'Hindustani is to be the general language of business throughout India, in the revenue and political departments.

'The regulations of the three Presidencies are to be assimilated, and the pay of the civil servants equalized, with the exception of the supreme council, which is to continue on a higher scale than the councils of Madras and Bombay.

'The settlers in the upper country are to be made amenable to the Company's judges and regulations. Governors, commanders-in-chief, and members of council, to be appointed by the India board.

'The Company's marine at Bombay to be done away with—the duties to be done by the Royal Navy.

'With regard to the land settlement (a most important point, and one little understood in this country), no determination appears to be come to.'

There are many other minor subjects, but their detail would occupy too much of our columns.

We forbear making comments on this important subject at present; because we doubt the accuracy of the statements, at least we are confident that no steps will be taken without a very full investigation of the probable results arising from free colonization and an open China trade. The appointment of the Duke of Clarence (that is to be!) (Qy.) as governor-general

being made one of the provisions of the new charter, is too good.

A letter from Alexandria, of July 20th, mentions further success of the Egyptian army in Syria. In an engagement on the 11th, the Turkish army of 10,500 men was nearly destroyed. Only 1600 escaped; the remainder were killed or made prisoners. On the 12th, the Egyptians were on the march for Aleppo, and even threatened the Turkish capital.

The health of Polignac has suffered much lately from his captivity. It has been preying upon his mind, in spite of his fortitude and of the constant and affectionate attentions of his excellent lady. She is at Ham, and permitted to visit him from 12 to half past 4 in the afternoon.

Mr Rothschild stated before the Committee of the House of Commons, that he buys bills on foreign houses to the amount of eighty or a hundred thousand pounds per week; and he received in the year 1824 in two months bills to the amount of £1,500,000.

The public discussions between Mr. Cobbett and Messrs. Atwood and Jones, on the subject of their respective plans for the relief of the country, took place at Beardsworth's repository, Birmingham, on Tuesday and Wednesday week, in the presence of a large assemblage of persons who were admitted at one shilling each. Mr Atwood commenced the discussion, by contending that the abolition of paper money had nearly doubled the real weight and the real value of every tax, debt, and contract in the kingdom; and his proposition was—to revert to the ancient English standard which existed until 1816—to increase the issue of Bank of England notes, permanently from sixteen to twenty five millions—to allow the issue of one pound notes—and to make bank notes to a limited amount legal tenders from all persons except the Bank of England itself. These measures, he said, would raise wages and restore the capital and profits of productive industry. Mr Atwood's speech occupied upwards of four hours and a half in the delivery, and at its conclusion an adjournment took place until the next afternoon.—Mr. Jones followed Mr Atwood, contending that gold was not fully adapted to the multifarious commerce of the country, and argued for the establishment of a 'National Bank,' through which a paper currency might always be at hand.—Mr Cobbett contended, on the contrary, and said he would draw up an act, if he were in the next Parliament, adjusting the value of money in every past year, which could be easily found by finding the prices of a bushel of wheat, a pound of wool, and a pound of mutton, and then apply the pound standard of value to the different contracts brought before the commissioners. This act should, in the preamble, reprobate Peel's bill, and follow in its clauses with the provisions to rectify the evils by the applications of the standard values. Such a plan would not create anarchy and confusion: on the contrary, it would enable him to put down all the internal taxes of England, leaving the Customs to be dealt with another time, but he would not abolish the Post Office, because it was doing some good for its expenditure, just in the way he [Mr Cobbett] was doing good by speaking at that meeting and receiving money for it.—The Chairman then put the question to the vote, by desiring that those who were of opinion that Mr Atwood's plan was preferable to Mr Cobbett's would hit up both their hands. Mr Atwood's plan was carried by a majority of at least ten to one.

A statue of the celebrated James Watt, from the studio of Mr Chantrey, is about to be placed in Westminster Abbey by the side of the other British worthies.

The lady of the late Sir Benjamin West West, died of Cholera in London on the 11th Sept.

Sir S. Canning arrived at Ancona Aug. 29, in an English frigate, on his return from Constantinople, where he had successfully finished his mission.

ANOTHER WHALE CHASE AT STORNOWAY.—On the last memorable occasion, when Stornoway charged with all her chivalry against the whales, as recorded at the time, a premium was given to the two boats which had met the monsters of the deep in the offing; and drove them to the harbour, where there is a greater facility of capture than in any other place along the coast. This induced others to be on the look out, and on the morning of Thursday last, a shoal was described by the people on shore to be in Brabali Bay, a few

miles to the westward. Several boats put immediately to sea, and succeeded with difficulty in driving them to the mouth of Stornoway harbour. Many more boats joined the pursuit, and in a short time the floating squadro amounted to upwards of fifty; provided with the necessary weapons, and manned each with a dozen of bold, eager, resolute fellows, expert in the best mode of conducting the extraordinary warfare on which they were bent. Till the whales are chased to shoal water, they are easily driven forward. Accordingly, on the present occasion, when they found themselves advancing too near the shore, they made a bold but futile effort to regain the deep. The crescent formed by the boats met them in every turn, and they were forced to continue their progress towards the future scene of slaughter, frightened by the stones, darts, splashing of oars, and hallooing of their assailants. When near the quay within which is the inner harbour, the monsters made an attempt, if any thing still more furious than the former, to escape, and the greatest danger was apprehended, since they were of an unusually bold and large description. They renewed and added to the vigour of their efforts to wheel outwards, but in vain. They were obliged to yield, and on they were pushed, till at length they were cooped up in the inner harbor, where the grand final struggle took place. Two rows of boats guarded the entrance, leaving about a score to engage in the *melee*, and to complete the capture. The scene was animating beyond description; the shores were lined with spectators of every class, cheering in the most enthusiastic manner, those who were most daring and resolute, and whose efforts were told by the bloody and troubled aspect of the water, and the frequent spouting, to an immense height, of the discoloured sea, by one or more of the captive and wounded monsters: on some occasions, the boats were actually on the backs of the fish, and on others dragged with the greatest velocity through the harbor. Towards evening the struggle became gradually faint, till it finally ceased in favour of the human combatants. The tide receded apace, and stretched on the mud lay the leviathans, which but a few hours before, had waged so fierce a warfare with their captors. The whales are of the bottlenosed species, and are 92 in number, which is 5 less than on a former occasion; they are of an extraordinary size. They were, by order of the Board of Health, immediately appointed to be removed to a spot clear of the town. Accordingly, as soon as the tide flowed, the victorious boats, furnishing a fresh scene of animation, proceeded with them to Arnish, one of the promontories which environ the harbour. A committee of their own number and of respectable individuals in town were appointed by the captors to manage their interests and the whales were to be sold, on Friday by public roup, for behoof of all concerned. No accident occurred.—*Inverness Courier.*

From the Barbadian, Sept. 5.

STARVATION AT ANGUILLA.

An appalling description of the distress of the inhabitants of the island of Anguilla was on Sunday last most unexpectedly given from the pulpit of our Cathedral by the Lord Bishop, after sermon, which was calculated to affect the feelings of the congregation most sensibly. The melancholy picture, indeed drawn by his Lordship; from a letter which had that morning been put into his hands, of a people suffering from FAMINE, which had actually caused the death of many, and the feeling appeal made by the Bishop DID excite the compassion of the whole congregation. The sad state of our afflicted fellow-colonists is exhibited in the extracts which we have alluded to. It is quite a private and unofficial communication, but there is not a doubt of its authenticity. The wonder is, how the public authorities of Anguilla could have suffered matters to come to such a melancholy crisis, without taking any steps to make their immediate neighbours of St. Kitts, and other islands, acquainted with the misery which they saw gradually coming upon them—*actual starvation!* We find by a letter dated as far back as 29th June, but which has arrived here since the one from the same writer of 7th August, that there was then every prospect of famine; yet our Antigua papers to the 21st August, and St. Kitts to the 17th, give no intimation whatever of the distress of their neighbours. It is truly gratifying to us to record the active and prompt exertions made here to procure relief to the surviving