

were buried by an earthslip on the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railroad, while forming a deep foundation for a locomotive engine shed, has been attended by some remarkable and most distressing incidents. They lay beneath a mass of earth and timber at a depth of 18 or 20 feet, which could not be forthwith removed without letting down a complete avalanche of earth from the remainder of the high embankment, which every moment threatened to fall.

It occupied many hours to shore up the embankment, before any of the fallen mass could be removed. The next step was to sink a kind of shaft as near as might be, in the direction of the men. On Saturday the work had progressed so far that human voices were heard issuing from the earth beneath the labourers' feet. It was now apparent that the three men, or some of them were alive, and the discovery stimulated the workmen if possible, to greater exertion.

Joseph Peasnell, carpenter, was uncovered on Saturday afternoon, when he had been in the earth about 24 hours. His head and shoulders were protected by timber; all the rest of his person was immured in earth. He was able to converse when lifted up, but the sudden change from all but total suffocation to the natural atmosphere, was too much for him; collapse came on, and he breathed his last before any remedial agencies could be administered.

The work of excavation had by this time brought the workmen into distinct communication with John Kemp, one of the two navvies who were still under ground. By descending the pit out of which Peasnell had been dug, and looking a little to the left, by the aid of a lighted candle, Kemp's head and one of his shoulders could be clearly perceived: he was in a cramped crouching position. The only part of him that was free was his head, which was boxed in by the timbers in a most extraordinary manner: the whole of the head was protected, and yet it was only just free from pressure. In the entire space which his person occupied or near it, there was not a single spot besides that in which his head could have been deposited, which would not have caused almost instant death. Brandy and beef tea were administered for sustentation, and the work of deliverance was eagerly pursued. Before any of the timber which hemmed him in could be removed, it was necessary to substitute other timbers to act as a roof, and the operators worked in perpetual danger of their own lives. At four in the afternoon the task appeared on the eve of completion, but it turned out that the ground required further excavation. At half past ten at night, a scarf was tied round the poor fellow's waist in order to hoist him up, when it was discovered that one of his legs was fast. The workmen were shocked at finding that while making the second excavation, and throwing the earth into the pit dug for the extrication of Peasnell, they had been burying one of Kemp's legs. They had now to work hard until half-past two next morning, in order to undo the mistake, when it appeared that the other leg was bound firmly among some huge balks of timber: the most tedious task of all had yet to be performed. The timber had to be cut away by morsels at a time, and it was 7 o'clock before the sufferer was drawn from his strange prison-house. He had then been in the earth about 40 hours; his tall, bulky frame compressed into a space little more than three feet in length. A warm bath and other stimulants were instantly applied, but owing to excessive injury at the lower extremity of the spine and general exhaustion, he died at half past 2 on Sunday afternoon.

William Ragg, the third man, was dug out quite dead on Sunday noon: a large stone, weighing about 3 cwt. had fallen upon him and broken his neck.

CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE.—A letter has been received by the Crystal Palace Company from Lord Derby, permitting the removal of this interesting column, and its erection in the Sydenham grounds, upon condition that the Government may hereafter reclaim it on payment of all expenses incurred in the transit. Steps have been already taken to effect the removal of the column from Egypt. Other interesting works of antiquity from Luxor and Karnack will accompany it.

THE MEDITERRANEAN.—The Genoa Mercantile Courier of the 4th instant, contains the following important announcement: a convention has been concluded between the Piedmontese Government, the French Government, and the English Submarine Telegraph Company, for the immediate execution of an Electric Telegraph between Genoa and Cagliari, in Sardinia. The land lines from Genoa to Spezzia, and from Sassari to Cagliari, are to be constructed at the expense of the Piedmontese government; that which will cross Corsica is to be executed by the French government, and the English company will supply and lay the wires between Spezzia and Cor-

sica, and across the straits of Bonifacio. The English steamer conveying the India mail from Malta, will call in at Cagliari. The director of the telegraph, M. Borelli, has already surveyed the line between Genoa and the Spezzia, which will cost a little more than 2,500,000*l.* The East India Company will pay the Piedmontese Government 200,000*l.* per annum for the transmission of its despatches. The English Company refused to prolong the telegraph to Leghorn, or to enter into any treaty with Tuscany.

THE SEARCH FOR SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—On Monday, at the meeting of the Geographical Society, Captain Penny, in answer to the call of the president, made some interesting remarks respecting the future route of the search. He directed the attention of the meeting to the chart, and pointing to the Wellington Channel, he remarked, 'You will there see that Captain Sir Edward Belcher has only now entered upon the doors of the search. Then turn your eyes to the American Shore, you will there see H. M. ships Enterprise and Investigator vainly struggling with a drifting body of ice, in a position which, if Franklin had been there at all, we should have had him in England long ago by his own beaten path. The renewed search that I have now the honour to propose, in order to solve this great geographical problem, would be worthy of England's humanity and commercial wealth. We have now a new agent at command, namely, screw steam power. What I propose, then, would be that two steamers be despatched to Behring's Straits, so that they should be early on the ground to take advantage of the land ice. That they should pass along the Asiatic shore, through the strait formed by Cape Yakan and the land seen by Wrangell and Her Majesty's steamer Herald, into the Arctic Basin, where an extensive sea must exist, in the months of June, July, August, and September. Any one can easily conceive what an extensive search would be accomplished in four months traversing in every direction that vast ocean. The whole distance from Cape Farewell to Baffin's Bay, although one thousand miles, is icebound in April, but in August frequently not a piece of ice is to be seen. If now you will turn your attention to the north end of Spitzbergen, and lay down by compass one thousand miles, you will see that it will reach New Siberia and the Asiatic shore. This proves unquestionably that a large sea must exist even to the Pole. And who is he that would not be proud to see the flag of our beloved Queen floating upon it. With these facts before us, we should urge upon the Government the adoption of Mr Peterman's Nova Zembla route, the practicability of which he has so clearly demonstrated, and which possesses such great advantages of commercial wealth to this nation. I would suggest that a small screw steamer, of a light draft of water, not more than six feet, be likewise despatched to Captain Macquire, to search along the American shore, in order to watch over the brave men on board the Enterprise and Investigator, who, have become second Franklin's. Likewise, that Dr. Rae should be despatched again along the Victoria land towards Banks' land to watch that coast for the arrival of the same party, since Captain Macquire and his crew will probably be compelled to abandon his vessel this spring. I have yet a valuable fact to bring forward. I have this day received a letter from Stromness, which informs me that twelve American seamen who left their ship and wintered in an inlet discovered by me on the west side of Davis' Strait, have killed thirteen whales during the season, an amount of food upon which Franklin and his whole crew might have subsisted during the whole time he has been absent. With these valuable facts before us, and such inducements, is England to lag behind in the solution of the greatest geographical problem of the last three centuries, and which by the aid of steam power might now be happily resolved?

KOSSUTH IN LONDON.—The first Conversation of the season of the Society of the Friends of Italy, took place in London on Wednesday evening. In consequence of the promised appearance of M. Kossuth and Mazzini, the hall was densely crowded on the occasion by an audience composed in about equal proportions of English, Italian, German, and Hungarians. M. Kossuth was vehemently cheered as he took his place on the platform; and this being the first time he has presented himself at a public meeting since his return to England from America, the enthusiasm must be regarded as possessing the character of a welcome. In all respects he would appear to have improved by his American journey. He looks in splendid health, and his English has greatly advanced in correct accentuation. Rumour does not admit that he is in good spirits; but depression was certainly not visible in his demeanour during Wednesday evening. He is also considerably Anglicised in his dress: the black

velvet coat remains, but its cut is of our orthodox fashion; and were it not for the heavy encircling beard, the great Hungarian leader would now look like a quiet English gentleman. In the course of the evening Kossuth rose to speak, and after having taken the hand of Mazzini, as an acknowledgment of the brotherly fraternization and alliance between the natives of Italy and Hungary, he said, 'I have risen but only for the purpose to apologize for not making a speech. There is a time and a season for every thing in the world: there is a time and a season to speak, and there is a time and a season to be silent. You English are happy; you may hope to carry all that you may require by the peaceful means of the free word: for us, we can nothing carry with words; and therefore I have taken—in consequence of my duty I have taken—the rule, that for the future I have only a single speech, which is reserved for the due time, and depend upon it to be spoken in due time: and that only speech that I have in future is, 'Up, boys, and at them—follow me.' This unexpected communication was received with perceptible astonishment but the concluding phrase of the sentence produced overwhelming applause. 'Until (added M. Kossuth) I have occasion to deliver that speech, I have none else. So I am done with oratory.' The meeting immediately after broke up.

LATEST FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—A correspondent of the London Times writing from Adelaide, July 15, says:—The condition of this colony at the present moment is very peculiar. Six months ago it appeared to be on the brink of bankruptcy—money drained off, property worthless, population gone. Now it is wealthier than, perhaps, at any period since its foundation; landed and leasehold properties are higher in value than they were before the panic, and the people have returned. More than £700,000 has been added to the available capital of the community within the last four months, yet no perceptible effect upon the rate of interest has been produced. The value of money is still from £15 to £25 per cent. per annum. The greater part of the capital in the hands of persons accustomed to use it is employed in the purchase of gold, on which very large profits are realised; while the wealth of new capitalists—the successful diggers—lies dormant in the banks or in the pockets of the owners. There is consequently very little room for enterprise, and very little demand for labour, excepting by the shopkeepers; and on the other hand, there are very few labourers to be obtained. The bulk of the working population—the mechanics, shepherds, and day labourers—though they have returned from the diggings for the winter, will not work; for if they have realised a few pounds at the gold fields they are 'living upon their means,' and, if not, they contrive to exist upon their anticipations of success in the next trip. Money circulates freely, but the stream flows in a direction reverse to its ordinary current. Instead of rising from the coffers of the wealthier classes, and flowing either directly or by various media into the pockets of the labouring people, by them to be re-disbursed among the mercantile classes, it starts from the working class and flows upward into the already overfull fountains of capital. No public works are in progress—scarcely any for private persons; nothing is done but buying and selling. The people usually denominated labourers are enjoying holiday—the *otium sine dignitate*; the merchants and storekeepers, shipping-agents, and others employed in supplying necessaries, including therein many things not ordinarily so called, such as silks and jewellery, are reaping rich harvests.

Gold in excessive quantities and unaccustomed hands is the cause of this anomalous state of things. But it will work its own cure. By attracting to these colonies a much larger proportion than hitherto of the emigrating population of Great Britain, it will supply the chief want—viz., labour at a moderate price. That need met, agricultural, mining, pastoral, and commercial pursuits will absorb tenfold more than our present redundant capital, which, after all, is no vast amount. The quantity of gold deposited in the Assay-office here, from the opening of the office to the 13th inst., inclusive, is 189,403 ounces, producing in the colony upwards of £680,000. Nearly the whole of this gold has been brought hither from the Mount Alexander diggings in small quantities, from an ounce upwards, and is the product of six months' labour of about 3000 persons. They, however, do not realise the amount named as the reward of their toil. Most commonly, they dispose of their small lots of gold at from 65*s.* to 69*s.* per ounce to brokers, who again resell it at an advance of 6*d.* an ounce to parties who deposit it at the Assay-office, and wait six or eight weeks for its return in the shape of stamped ingots. These buyers usually obtain about 73*s.* per oz. for the quantity originally deposited, clear of all expenses. The ingots remain in the cel-

lars of the banks, and are represented by their paper.

So great is the demand for Notes, that one of the banks (the South Australian) has just been compelled to employ two additional clerks to sign them for the manager and accountant, and also to issue for the first time £100 notes, printed in the colony. Considerable uneasiness is felt lest the Bullion Act passed by the Legislative Council of this Colony in the short supplementary session of 1851-2, should be disallowed by the Home Government. In that case the whole of the system established under that act, and which has resuscitated the commercial life of this colony, would necessarily be suspended. This would be a serious blow to our prosperity, and might lead to disagreeable consequences of a political kind. Probably the first step of the local Legislature would be to re-enact the Bullion Ordinance, delaying its operation, however, until a second decision had been formed in the Colonial office.

The diggers are the persons who reap the last benefit from the diggings. They endure all the fatigue and privation, and brave all the dangers of gold seeking, and earn on an average no more than common wages. The lucky exception, who secure £300 or £400 by six months' work, usually spend it in reckless extravagance, and are soon left in as bad a state as that from which they started, with the additional misfortune of having acquired dissipated habits. The best test of great success is undertaking a voyage to England, and this is done by very few indeed. Some of the working farmers adopt a sensible course. They get their seed into the ground, go off to the diggings, and return in time to gather their crops. They secure thus an ample reward for their labour, and have also a chance of drawing a prize in the great gold lottery.

DESTRUCTIVE FLOOD IN BIRMINGHAM.—One of the most alarming, if not disastrous, floods which has occurred in this part of the country for many years past visited Birmingham on Thursday evening.

During the afternoon, owing to the heavy and incessant rain which has fallen during the last few days, but more especially in the course of Wednesday night and Thursday, the river Rea, a small and unimportant stream, which runs through the lower part of the town, rose to an unusual height between five and half-past seven o'clock.

It is stated that the water in some parts rose between eight and ten feet; and the consequence was, that the arches of the bridges being inadequate to convey the water pouring down the river, the surrounding neighbourhood was speedily inundated.

For some miles south-west and north of Birmingham the fields on both sides of the river are covered with water, and present the appearance of our great lake. In Birmingham the effects have been disastrous. In the neighbourhood of Balsall Heath and Vaughton's Hole a considerable amount of property has been destroyed. Mr Harrison, an extensive brickmaker, is supposed to have suffered to the amount of several hundred pounds.

The streets connecting the parish of Birmingham with the hamlets of Deritend and Bordesley—Mosley-street, Cheapside, Bradford-street, and Digbeth—were rendered impassable except by vehicles; but the more injury was done to property in those streets which run parallel with the Rea. The works situated on the immediate banks were flooded and stopped, and the greatest damage done to machinery. The loss to manufactures located in this neighbourhood will it is calculated amount to some thousands of pounds.

In Boa street, and other streets in the vicinity, the inhabitants of the houses were flooded out or obliged to take refuge in the upper stories of their dwellings.

The family of one poor woman had a narrow escape. A new row of houses has recently been erected, one of which abuts on the river in Mill-lane, in the neighbourhood of Deritend-bridge. About half-past six o'clock a crack was heard; the inmates fled, and the end wall of the house was almost immediately precipitated into the river. No person, very fortunately, was hurt.

During this evening the carcasses of pigs, sheep, &c., have been frequently seen floating on the stream leading to the agricultural district of Worcestershire.

It is supposed that considerable loss to property has occurred in the neighbouring districts of Worcestershire. The immense flows of water is believed to come from the Lueky-hills, and no doubt is greatly augmented by the recently constructed culverts of this town.

At the time of writing the rain continues to come down in torrents, and the flood is increasing. No train has arrived from Bristol or Gloucester since ten minutes past three this afternoon and the Walsall station is several feet under water.

Several slips of earth are said to have taken place between King's Norton and Bar-