

of Great Britain in those distant seas. The accounts we recently published of the attack of the *Nemesis* on the Malay pirates, and the narrative of the captives, are sufficient to show the fearful nature of the atrocity it has been one of Mr. Brooke's most anxious thoughts to suppress. These ruffians roam about the islands of the Archipelago, and landing here and there, sieze upon and make captive whomsoever they can find. Men, women and children are torn from their homes, and consigned to dreadful and perpetual captivity. When they were attacked by the steamer they caused their prisoners to sit on deck during the action, that they might fall the victims to the fire of those who would fain have been their liberators. It is impossible of course, to approve the wild justice of the Sultan and the Pangeran Moormen when the pirates were delivered up to them. It is possible however the terror of the example may operate to deter others, and the men richly deserved their fate. When Mr. Brooke is installed in the government at Labuan, if sufficient means be placed at his disposal, it is to be expected that the system of Malay piracy will be thoroughly rooted out from the Archipelago. The general interests of Borneo and of English commerce are not likely to receive any harm from Mr. Brooke's temporary absence. All is quiet at Brunei and Sarawak. He will be back at his post in April or May of next year, and it would not be possible to carry on proceedings at Labuan in the interval, on account of the north east monsoon. The first notice Mr. Brooke will have of his appointment as governor will be on his landing in England. This, however, will not, we trust, be the only token he will carry back to the land of his adoption of the admiration and respect of his countrymen.—*London Times*.

THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

An extraordinary instance of the application of the electric telegraph occurred lately at the London-bridge terminus of the South-Eastern Railway. Hutchings, the man found guilty and sentenced to death for poisoning his wife, was to have been executed at Maidstone Gaol at 12 o'clock. Shortly before the appointed hour for carrying the sentence into effect a message was received from the London-bridge terminus from the Home Office, requesting that an order should be sent by the electric telegraph, instructing the Under-Sheriff at Maidstone to stay the execution two hours. By the agency of the electric telegraph the communication was received in Maidstone with the usual rapidity, and the execution was for a time stayed. It seems that the Under-Secretary of State had been in conference with a gentleman who had interested himself in the case, and a re-examination of the evidence was humanely determined on; pending the consultation, the Under-Secretary ordered the temporary respite. Shortly after the transmission of the order deferring the execution for two hours, a messenger from the Home-Office conveyed to the Railway the Secretary of State's order that the law was to take its course, and that the culprit was to be at once executed. As we have heard it stated, Mr. Macgregor, chairman of the South-Eastern Railway, happened to be at the terminus when this order arrived. The telegraph clerk hesitated in sending such a message without instructions, and the propriety of transmitting it was accordingly submitted to Mr. Macgregor. The messenger from the Home-Office could not be certain that the order for Hutchings' execution was signed by the Home Secretary, although it bore his name, and accordingly Mr. Macgregor, with great judgment and humanity, instantly decided that it was not a sufficient authority on such a momentous matter.

It now became the duty of Mr. James Walter, the chief superintendent of the South-Eastern Railway, to see the Home Secretary on the subject of the message, and accordingly Mr. Walter proceeded to Downing street, and stated to Sir Denis le Marchant, the Under-Secretary of State, that the Railway Company, in being required to deal with such a matter as a man's execution, must have the signature of the order affixed in the presence of their responsible officer; that the second telegraphic message was in fact a death warrant, and that Mr. Walter must have undoubted evidence of its correctness. It is stated that on Mr. Walter drawing the attention of the Secretary of State to the fact that the transmission of such a message was, in effect, to make him the sheriff, the conduct of the Railway Company in requiring unquestionable evidence and authority was warmly approved. The proper signature was affixed in Mr. Walter's presence, and the telegraph then conveyed to the sad criminal news that the suspension of the awful sentence was only temporary. Hutchings was executed soon after it reached Maidstone.

An extraordinary sensation was created in Maidstone; it was generally believed that the man would not be hanged. The sheriff delayed the execution the full time of two hours and did not get the second mandate, ordering the execution, until after the expiration of the time. This was in consequence of the wires being engaged in transmitting a message from the Sheriff to the Home-office, so that the Secretary of State's order could not pass through until the Sheriff's conversation had ended. We believe this is the first instance of the employment of the electric telegraph on such a service.—*English paper*.

CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL IN JERUSALEM.—The King of Prussia has directed the subscription of the Protestants of that country towards the establishment of religious institutions in Jerusalem, £7,800, to be applied to the foundation of a hospital there for Christians of every profession of faith, giving a preference to Germans.

UNCLAIMED VALUABLES IN THE POST OFFICE.—An official return has just been printed, showing the number of letters now lying in the General Post Office containing coin, bank-notes, bills of exchange, or other property. The return shows that 4,201 such letters are lying in the Dead Letter-Office,—containing property valued at the almost incredible sum of £40,410 5 7; this too has accrued during the last three years. For the system pursued in such cases is, that when all inquiry after the destination of the misdirected letters is found unavailing the letters are kept three years to give time for application for them; after which period so much of the property as consists of money is paid into the revenue,—and this has been done up to the beginning of 1844. Any other description of property is periodically sold, and the proceeds also paid into the revenue. The articles now lying for claimants are of the most varied character,—some of them of a bulk and description little calculated for transmission per post. There are trinkets of all kinds, silver spoons by the dozen, spectacles, watches, waistcoats, shirts, soda-powders, artificial flowers, books, snuff-boxes, fiddle-strings, dish-mats, petticoats, old clothes, fishing-flies, razors, pictures, night-gowns, a clarinet, brass weights, buttons, window curtains, a whistle, Prayer and other books, bunches of keys, brad-awls, scissors, and a panorama. The more portable articles consist chiefly of lace and Berlin work in the form of collars, cuffs, "dolls' things," and purses. Of documents and papers there are wills, railway and other shares, one Greek manuscript, subpoenas, a vast number of pawn tickets, and postage stamps innumerable. The number of money orders undelivered is 346,—for cash to the amount of £407 12 8. The return from Scotland is quite characteristic of our more careful neighbours. The valuables undelivered, remaining in the General Post Office in Edinburgh on the 6th January last consists chiefly of coin and bank-notes,—£4 16 1 of the first, £13 10s. of the latter; and only 10s. worth of other property, all contained in 89 letters. Only five epistles containing money orders are among the "dead,"—for sums amounting to £3 17 9. In the Irish General Post Office are 457 undelivered letters,—containing property valued at £462 9 11. Several of these missives contain "a free passage to New York." The number of unclaimed money orders is 64,—for £88 14 9.—*Daily News*.

INGENUITY OF FRAUD.—In 1780 a gentleman of eminence in the mercantile world was grieved by the contents of a letter which he received from a correspondent at Hamburg, the post mark of which it bore. From the statement it contained, it appeared that a person, most minutely described, had defrauded the writer, under extraordinary circumstances, of £3000. The letter continued to say, information had been obtained that the defrauder—the dress and person of whom it described—was occasionally to be seen on the Dutch-walk of the Royal Exchange. The object of the writer was to induce his correspondent to invite the party to dinner, and by any moral force which could be used, compel him to return the money; adding, that if he should be found amenable to reason and evince any signs of repentance, he might be dismissed with a friendly caution and £500, as he was a near relative of the writer. As the gentleman whose name it bore was a profitable correspondent, the London merchant kept a keen watch on the Dutch-walk, and was at last successful in meeting, and being introduced to, the cheat. The invitation to dine was accepted; and the host, having previously given notice to the family to quit the table soon after dinner, acquainted his visitor with his knowledge of the fraud. Alarm and horror were depicted in the countenance of the young man, who, with tones apparently tremulous with emotion, begged his disgrace might not be made public. To this the merchant consented, provided the £3000 were returned. The visitor sighed deeply, but said that to return all was impossible, as he had unfortunately spent part of the amount. The remainder, however, he proposed to yield instantly, and the notes were handed to the merchant, who, after dilating upon the goodness of the man he had robbed, concluded his moral lesson by handing a check for £500 as a proof of his beneficence. The following morning the gentleman went to the banker to deposit the money he had received, when, to his great surprise, he was told that the notes were counterfeit. His next inquiries were concerning the check, but that had been cashed shortly after the opening of the bank. He immediately sent an express to his Hamburg correspondent, who replied that the letter was a forgery, and that a fraud had been committed upon him. The whole affair had been plotted by a gang, some of whom were on the continent, and some in England.—*Francis's "Bank of England"*.

A CURIOUS WILL.—The "*Courier des Etats Unis*," gives an account of a singular will left by a wealthy notary in Paris, about 25 years since, and which is yet in course of fulfilment. His greatest pleasure in life had been to gather his numerous friends around his table and treat them splendidly, being generous and a good liver, and he conceived the notion of perpetuating these social gatherings after his death. Accordingly, by his will he instituted an annual banquet for 20 of his chosen friends, appropriating to the purpose 2000fr. The details of the feast were strictly enjoined, directing the expense always to be 100fr. a head. The memory of the deceased was to be toasted, and the subject of conversation to be as friendship or politeness might dictate. The feast was to be inviolably the same, 21 plates to be always set (one for himself as perpetual head of the table,) and the 2000fr. to be expended. The first year the 20 friends were all there, but year after year they were removed by death, until in 20 years they were reduced to eight.