

EUROPE.

ENGLAND.

SUGAR TRADE.

An Examination into the expediency of permitting Foreign Sugar to be refined in this Country for Exportation.

[From a Correspondent of the TIMES.]

The Vice President of the Board of Trade has recently given notice in Parliament of the intention of Government to renew "the Act of 10 George IV. c. 49, for allowing sugar to be taken out of warehouse to be refined."

The object of this Bill is to permit the sugar of Cuba and Brazil to be used by the refiners in this country at the same duty as that paid on British plantation sugar, provided the price paid for such foreign sugar does not exceed the *Gazette* average price of plantation sugar; and upon the stipulation that there shall be exported, receiving the same drawbacks, quantities of refined and bastard sugar and treacle, equal to what is estimated to be produced in the refinery of plantation sugar of the medium quality of the whole importation from the West India Colonies. It is evident that this measure is of vital importance to the British Colonies, and demands the most careful examination of facts and circumstances before the attempt is made, in the present pressure of public business, to hurry it through Parliament.

It is notorious, that at the present moment, the slave trade to Cuba and Brazil is carried on to an unexampled extent, unchecked by any sense of moral obligation, and in defiance of the most solemn treaties. It is equally notorious, and indeed is the subject of constant lamentation in Parliament, that all the treasure Great Britain has lavished, the charges of her cruisers, of her mixed commissions, and of her extensive establishments on the coast of Africa, have been expended in vain; and that, in point of fact, there is no effectual check to this traffic but the one—to lessen, if possible, the market for Cuba and Brazil Sugar, and thus to diminish the profit of the slave trade.

As a great principle, therefore, it is respectfully submitted to Parliament and the British nation, that if they have regard for consistency, justice, or humanity, they will not sanction any measure which must encourage the slave trade, increase the growth of foreign sugar, and thereby injure the British Colonies.

The experience of the West India Colonists enables them to assert, that the Bill proposed by the Vice President of the Board of Trade has this tendency, both in its direct and in its collateral effects.

It is well known that the foreign cultivators complain of their want of capital to prosecute their business to the extent which they desire. Hence their anxiety to open extensive connections with England, and to ship their produce to the British market. The conveniences of ready sale, the facilities of credit, the many accommodations which are given by our merchants, are eagerly coveted by the foreign planters, and it is openly avowed, that money would be lent to them, and sunk in their plantations and slaves, for the express purpose of causing their sugar to be consigned to England. Besides the increase of slaves which this supply of capital would give, there is no doubt that were a permanent connexion established with England, other causes would operate to increase the growth of foreign sugar; a better mode of management would be introduced, especially in Brazil; and, in all probability, many thousand negroes, now employed in raising cotton would be placed on sugar plantations.

It is thus clear to demonstration, that under such circumstances, the increase in the growth of foreign sugar must proceed with accelerated rapidity; and can any thing else than ruin be the final lot of the British Colonies?

In the West India papers, printed by order of the House of Commons, last session of Parliament, it appears that the cost of raising sugar for contingent expenditure alone in the British colonies, is per cwt.

In the foreign colonies, 15s. 8d.
In the British colonies, 10s. 2d.
The higher cost in the British colonies is caused by the restrictive system imposed upon our colonies for the benefit of the mother country and her North American possessions. The British manufacturers, exporting to the West Indies, enjoy a protecting duty in the aggregate of 20 per cent.; the Irish and Scotch bleachers have 30 per cent. on their linens; the provision merchant has 13s. per cwt. on his beef and pork; and those engaged in the fisheries enjoy indefinite protection, as all fish caught or imported by foreign vessels is prohibited.

The return required for capital invested in the British colonies, 20s. 0d.
In the foreign colonies, 12s. 8d.

This return is taken on the estimate that 10 per cent. is a fair rate of annual profit in West India cultivation. The higher price in the British colonies is caused by the superior cost of the slaves, as compared with that in Cuba and Brazil.

The cost of rearing a slave in the British Colonies, according to the West India papers printed by order of the House of Commons, is £ 7 0 0

The cost of purchasing and transporting a slave from Africa to Cuba or Brazil, inclusive of the slave trader's profit, is 45 0 0

The British colonies, therefore, now languishing and suffering beyond all former precedent, cannot escape a great convulsion if their sugar is brought into actual contact in the British market with foreign sugar; because, if foreign sugar supply the export trade from Great Britain, as speedily it must do, according to the facts just stated, cultivation in the British colonies must be proportionably superseded, and so large a portion of each of the colonies must be abandoned as to render it impossible for the remainder to bear the expenses of their establishments and their local taxation and governments.

Although the West India colonists conceive that the great principle which is involved—the certain encouragement given to the growth of foreign sugar, and the consequent extension of the slave trade—is sufficient to induce Parliament to reject the Bill proposed by the Vice President of the Board of Trade; yet, as the refiners are influential, and are constantly importuning the Government, and complaining of being debarred from prosecuting their business to the extent they desire, it may be expedient to state in detail the points at issue between them and the West Indians, and to enumerate some other objections against the practical operation of the measure.

I. The foreign sugar in the process of its first manufacture in Brazil and Cuba is made into large loaves, which are afterwards crushed, the top part forming the white, the bottom part the brown sugar. The former description the refiners generally select for their purposes, and it must be obvious that in boiling it yields a greater return than the British Muscovado sugar. The drawback on each is at the same rate; and the consequence is, the refiner working from foreign sugar is enabled to export the

definite quantity prescribed by law, and to bring a considerable portion into the home consumption, free of any duty whatever. The advantage thus obtained, from the revenue alone, is estimated at about 5s. per cwt. It seems superfluous to detail the injury the British planters sustain by this operation. It causes the refiner to prefer foreign to British plantation sugar; it drives the latter from certain markets where white loaves are chiefly in demand; it throws British plantation sugar more into the hands of the grocers; in a word, it causes that great evil so much dreaded by every class of producers—the augmenting the competition of sellers, and the diminishing the competition of buyers.

II. An increase in the export of refined sugar causes duties to be paid into foreign treasuries, which tends to depress prices in England, and which would not occur if the export were less. Since the peace of 1815, the foreign States have sedulously endeavoured to encourage their own refineries. France, Holland, Russia, Denmark, all are peremptorily shut against us. In Austria, in Sardinia, and in several of the small German States, high duties are levied on refined, which are not exacted on raw sugar, and which consequently have the effect of depressing the net price to the British exporter, if he is constrained to ship to those quarters. It appears, by computation, that we can sell about 8,000 hogsheads to our colonies and places under our own control; about 12,000 in the Mediterranean, and about 25,000 in Germany, without payment of duties. If we go beyond this quantity of 45,000 hogsheads, or thereabouts, we must pay duties in some quarter or another; the exporter, after the payment of such duties, necessarily realizes a less net price, and consequently he is obliged to recompense himself by giving a less price to the merchant in England, who sells the sugar. Suppose by this Foreign Refinery Bill we increase the export to 55,000 hogsheads, then 10,000 will pay duties, and will have the same analogous effect upon the export of 55,000 as that export has upon the entire consumption of Great Britain. If the mean price on the continent is, say 50s. for loaves, and we are constrained to ship 10,000 hogsheads to Italy, for example, where 8s. duty is exacted, the mean return obtained for the entire will be 42s., upon the principle of the Italian market regulating our other sales on the continent in precisely the same manner as those continental sales generally regulate the price in Great Britain.

It is thus easy to perceive how a forced export, though trivial in itself, can cause a most extensive injury to the British Colonies. Considerable surprise has been expressed at the Board of Trade at the idea entertained by the West Indians, that so small a quantity of foreign sugar as that hitherto refined could inflict any injury. But, were it even one half what it is known to be, it might depress the price of sugar several shillings per cwt. Three thousand tons bear just as great a proportion to the surplus as that surplus does to the entire importation. If we affirm as a principle that prices in England correspond to those of the continent, must we not go a step further, and affirm that prices of one portion of the surplus sold in Germany correspond to those of another portion of the surplus sold in Italy?

It is also easy to perceive, and it is of the utmost moment, to keep the circumstance constantly in mind, that it is not one and the same thing to export 55,000 hogsheads of refined sugar, 10,000 being refined from foreign sugar, and to export 45,000 refined and 10,000 of foreign sugar in a raw state.

In the latter case not one shilling of duty is paid in foreign States: according to the price taken for illustration, 50s. per cwt. is obtained on the entire 45,000 hogsheads, the assumed amount of the surplus of British plantation sugar; but in the former case 8s. duty has to be paid on a portion which depresses prices generally, and causes 42s. only to be obtained on the 45,000 hogsheads. Is it wonderful, therefore, that the British colonists so bitterly complain of forcing the export trade in the present state of our commercial treaties; an export trade which, in point of fact, cannot be increased without enriching foreign treasuries? Foreigners do not object to our sugar, but they object to take it in a manufactured shape; and if they decree that in that shape it shall be peremptorily excluded, what is to prevent them, or where is the remedy?

The refiners sometimes assert that their superior skill compensates for these evils. Their skill, be it what it may, makes no difference whatever in the principle of the question. If through competition amongst their own body, they are compelled to surrender to others the whole or any part of the estimate put upon their skill, be it equal to 3s. or 5s. per cwt., the advantage in the case of the forced export goes to the foreign States: let the export be reduced to legitimate bounds, and the advantage will go into the pockets of the West Indians.

The refiners, also, or at least the most intelligent of them, in acknowledging the evils of the foreign duties, contend that Hamburg and Bremen are places of transit like England, and that we may advantageously compete with those places, and supplant the trade of their refiners. We may, undoubtedly do so, but it will be at a depression of prices just as injurious as the duties levied in other quarters. We have already nearly destroyed the refining trade of Hamburg and Bremen, and reduced the quantity, in the former port alone, from 20,000 tons to 8,000 or 10,000. Further we cannot go without a monstrous depreciation of price, as it is quite evident, from the fact that our exporters, rather than increase the competition with Hamburg, prefer sending the sugar to places where duties are paid.

The export to Hamburg and Bremen, in the year ending the 5th of January,

1828, was 231,959 cwt. Refined Sugar.

1829, " 242,013 "

1830, " 232,479 "

1831, " 251,336 "

It thus appears that the export is quite equal, and that we cannot advantageously carry the competition further.

But as the surplus has increased in consequence of the increased importation of Mauritius sugar, we are obliged to export more largely to other quarters, and we accordingly ship to places where duties are paid.

The export to Italy, in the year ending 5th January,

1828, was 31,457 cwt.

1829, " 122,425 "

1830, " 115,536 "

1831, " 214,020 "

It now remains to submit the proof that foreign treasuries are enriched by our attempts to increase the export trade by the refining of Cuba and Brazil sugar.

A large portion of the Italian export is to Trieste, where the restrictive duty on British refined sugar was formerly 8s. per cwt.; but which was further increased a short time back. The sugar exported to this market and to many other places in Italy, either pays the legal duty or it is smuggled: If it pay the duty there is

nothing to add on the subject. If it be smuggled, it is at a certain charge, equivalent to a lower duty, for in every case the smuggler divides with the consumer the amount of duty evaded. The state of the prices affords another proof of the injury inflicted on our planters by a forced export trade.

The refiners in this country have three advantages:

1. They have a sale for the treacle, not at all procurable on the continent.

2. They have a wider range in the purchase of their sugars, from the great extent of the London Market, having generally 30,000 to 50,000 hogsheads to pick and choose from, when the foreign refiner has only the choice in purchasing from amongst a few thousand.

3. They have cheaper fuel, larger capital, and, as they allege, superior skill.

These advantages ought to make prices of raw sugar in England considerably higher than on the continent; but such does not appear to have been the case for the last season: the advantages have all been surrendered to the foreigners.

It is worthy of observation, that we generally compare our prices with those of Hamburg and Bremen, and the interior of Germany, and also with Gork, the great Austrian refinery in the neighbourhood of Trieste, it is then we perceive the full extent of the depression of prices caused by the restrictive system adopted on the continent.

It is proper further to remark, that a bounty on the surplus of British plantation sugar, confined to itself alone, produces effects very different from those attributed to the refining of foreign sugar. A bounty does not increase the surplus, it keeps quantities unchanged within the free admission of the continent, and merely tenders to remunerate the planter for the higher cost of his cultivation compared with the foreigners. But the refinery from foreign sugar positively increases quantities, and places the export beyond the free admission of the Continent.

The effects, too, of foreign governments in the refined sugar of this country is made from the produce of her own colonies, which form an integral portion of the empire, this country has a just right to complain of the foreign restrictions, and must entertain hopes of getting them removed. But it is a purely carrying trade established, and this country attempt to import foreign sugar and manufacture it for foreign consumption, the right to complain ceases, and there is no chance whatever of foreign States rescinding the restrictive system.

III. In regard to the next point, both West Indians and refiners agree as to the premises but differ widely as to the conclusion.

It is admitted that the obligation to export a surplus does not necessarily tend to depress prices during the entire year. Prices in England correspond to those on the continent only at the time the export is actually taking place. From January to June the prices may be higher in England than abroad; from June to August they may fall, and then all the surplus may be exported; from August to December they may recover, and the English market resume its superiority. The refiners say this operation is a great evil, and ought to be remedied: the West India planters say it is a redeemable and alleviating circumstance, and out to be cherished; and upon these two statements issue is joined.

The refiners urge that they have not sufficient sugars to work from; that their business is stopped during a portion of the year; and a few merchants periodically hoard up the sugar, to the great advantage of themselves, but to the great injury of the exporters, and without benefit to the aggregate of West India planters; they call out, therefore, for the means of preventing, at any time, a rise in the price of British plantation sugar, which they affirm may be done by permitting foreign sugar to be refined.

Now this argument of the refiners might be correct and reasonable, if British plantation sugar was at a fair and remunerating price; but when it is depressed beyond example, and when the Legislature is employed in devising means to remove that depression, it does appear an extraordinary request, most inconsistent as far as the Legislature is concerned, to perpetuate that depression. It is quite untrue that merchants retain sugar for the benefit of themselves, and not for the benefit of the planters; there is in fact, no speculation whatever; the merchants act merely as agents, and any advantage obtained in price is distributed over the Colonies. Neither is it true that there is an inadequate quantity of British plantation sugar in the market to enable the refiners to conduct their business. At any given time during the year they have more latitude in purchasing different sorts and qualities than exists in Hamburg. In every case it is a question of price, not of quality. When the refiner discovers that he cannot advantageously export, he should blame the lowness of prices abroad, not the want of means of conducting his business.

According to all received principles relative to the cost of production, prices in England should conform to the state of our own colonies. If a deficient crop occur, would any person deny that prices in England should advance, to indemnify in some degree, our planters? But such advance never can take place, if we permit foreign sugar to be refined. We are then brought into constant collision with the continent; and, be the crop ever so deficient, the sugar of Jamaica must sell at the same price as the sugar of Brazil.

In the great debate which took place some years back on the sugar question, it was acknowledged by Mr. Ricardo and Mr. Huskisson, that the surplus was an evil, and that it was peculiarly unfortunate that the British planters were brought in constant collision with the slave traders. What do we mean, when we denounce an evil, but that it ought to be diminished whenever it is practicable. But no, exclaim the refiners, always have a surplus, keep up a constant relation with the slave-trader, never let the British colonies recover their property; if a deficient crop take place punish them for their misfortune by throwing in increased quantities of Cuba and Brazil sugar.

It is hoped members of the Legislature will perceive how dreadful is the injury inflicted on the British Colonies by this collision with foreign production, and how trivial is the advantage accruing to the refiners. In reality by the exclusion of foreign sugar, the business of the refiner is scarcely at all diminished; the alleged destruction of his business is virtually a figure of speech; he has all the home market, and the surplus of British plantation sugar must still be exported at some period of the year. It is therefore, for the paltry profit obtained on refining a few thousand hogsheads of foreign sugar that the very existence of our own colonies is endangered. If the price of sugar is affected to the extent of 5s. per cwt., a very moderate interest, the gain to the refiners is a few hundreds and the loss to the West India colonies is 1,000,000 sterling a year. What animation would be diffused in all our ports, were a revival of

prosperity to that extent to take place in that great interest.

IV. The race which is now running amongst sugar refiners in all countries, each endeavouring to outstrip the other in cheapness, depressing the sugar market generally, the injury of which is borne by the planters so long as production rather exceeds the consumption. The refiners are not purchasers for the consumption, they are intermediate vendors, and when our refiners endeavour to supplant their continental competitors the latter are not passive; they sell at lower prices in order to retain their customers; the advocates of this decline reach England, occasioning our market to droop; this, in return, has its effect upon the continent, and so, reciprocally, there is a constant tendency to depression. Let an investigation take place in the sugar trade for the last season, and the truth of this must appear manifest.

No matter, indeed, in what point of view we examine the subject, we will arrive at the same conclusion—the British colonies cannot compete with Cuba and Brazil, and when their productions are brought in contact, the former must give way. This great principle, taken in conjunction with the other principle, taken must, it is conceived, induce Parliament not to renew the Bill for refining foreign sugar. The East Indians are aggrieved as well as the West Indians. By the late Act, the sugar of Cuba and Brazil was placed on a more favorable footing than East India sugar. The former, when sold at prices not exceeding the *Gazette* average price of plantation sugar, was admitted at plantation duty; and the only disadvantage to which it was subject was the obligation to export the estimated product in the refinery of bastard sugar and treacle, which might occasion a loss of 1s. 6d. to 2s. per cwt. on the treacle.

When the late bill was originally proposed, it was expressly stated that it was introduced as an experiment. It is surely proper to inquire if that experiment has been satisfactory in its results, and all members of the House of Commons are entreated, if they entertain doubts on the subject, to give the benefit of that doubt to those soliciting examination, and to vote for a Committee of Enquiry, as the safest, fairest, and most satisfactory mode of arrangement to all parties.

[From a Correspondent of the Times]
THE MOVEMENT.

The very considerable number of petitions agreed to, or in progress, requiring the House of Peers to pass the reform bill, demonstrates that a great mass of the people are in favour of this measure. It is of no use to state that many of the movers of these petitions are the known agitators and hunters after notoriety, who have pestered the country for years, or that they often multiply themselves in the characters they perform, being now a citizen of London, then of Westminster, here of the ward or parish, and there of the county or vestry: making all deductions for these metamorphoses, it must be allowed a loud and very general voice has been raised for the reform. And it would have been very astonishing had it been otherwise. To say we love reform is to say we love day-light; that we prefer amendment to abuse, and good to evil. And it is only against perversion of this, in the abstract common-sense principle, against its being made a tool or stepping-stone for the accomplishment of a dangerous revolution, that we have to be upon our guard. In this I speak the language of moderation; I ask you to look at the extent of the ills under which the body politic has suffered, and is suffering, and to apply no more drastic remedy than the case demands. Do not treat the British constitution as the epitaph records a foolish individual treated himself, with the consequence—

I WAS WELL.
WISHED TO BE BETTER.
TOOK PHYSIC,
AND
DIED!

The last crisis of our constitutional disease approaches—their lordships is the last physicians called in to kill or cure the state. Their task is most arduous, their responsibility incalculably great: may Heaven endow them with wisdom and firmness.

They must look at the multitude of petitions on their table, and allow them their full weight; for their lordships are well aware that the natural love of change inherent in man, and the human desire, so universal, to level what is above us to our own standard, must have largely operated towards the production of these documents. Their lordships are well aware that the elements which minister to such wishes are manifold, and spring from various sources, from the well-informed and enlightened in some instances, from the weak but well-meaning in more, and more than all, from the discontented and mischievous. It is for them, therefore, to discriminate, and act accordingly.

In most of the reasoning, if such fiery diatribes can be called reasoning, I have seen on the question, as it respects the lords, it seems to be assumed that there is no middle course. Our minds are staggered by the presentation of utter rejection, on the one hand, and immediate revolution on the other. Every true patriot, every friend and admirer of the English constitution, must deeply deplore that the latter idea has been made so familiar, and that an alternative of civil war and bloodshed should be continually held out as the only result of one of the three estates of the realm doing its duty, whatever it may consider that duty to be. But this is the effect of the *Movement*, which has been generated in the spirit of the many. They are not taught the truth, that our constitution is competent to the cure of its own imperfections; but brute force is in the first appeal. Denounce the nobility, point out the Church for apostasy, influence the passions, and excite to rebellion—these are the common, and happy modes for bringing about reform! Why, Sir, if this be the right way, then all that has ever been uttered in praise of the British constitution is a mere parrot's note; and truly it is but too generally little better. How few have even casually studied and appreciated the construction of this wonderful fabric; how few observed the plan which wisdom and liberty combined to project, and generations to improve and perfect; how few examined the fitness and bearing of the parts, the harmonious workings of the whole. Not one in ten thousand of these petitioners: they have been told that there are some faults in the machine, and they holla for the chances that may arise out of its demolition.

But the hope of England is upon the House of Lords, that it will make itself master of the subject; and understanding what is sound, and what defective, will prudently preserve the former, and virtuously amend the latter. And this is the safe middle course, which it is the purpose of this letter to recommend.

I say that the experiment of the bill, as sent to the lords, is far too sweeping and revolutionary; that it is uncalled for, by the evils un-

der which we labour, and out of all proportion to the exigency of the case.

Let us look at the consequence: In the first occurrence, so dangerously have the people been tampered with, there is too much ground to fear that riots and disturbances would ensue. This would be much to be deplored, but it would not peril the country, and the rebellion would speedily subside, and the rebellion would be prepared to sustain the laws of the land. Indeed the military force is at present very easily disposed, so as to be ready to move rapidly upon any given point where their presence may be required in support of the civil power. Having re-established order, ministers would be called upon to re-shape their measures, with the view to secure their ultimate adoption. It is understood they would not resign; but in the dilemma to which the rejection of the bill would reduce them, his Majesty might consent to a further creation of peers, and thus enable them to carry it.

Here is the extent of the mischief, should the Lords throw out the bill; and I put it to the intelligence of the people of England, if that be a sufficient cause for stirring up a civil war, rooting every blessing from the land, and ruining its prosperity for ages. Yet such are the undisguised aims of the Movement party—the destructive tendency of a vicious and violent press.

I adjure my countrymen calmly to consider these things; and not to be led away by the fury of the moment, to wreck all that is property, and subvert all that is constitution, upon which we have risen to the highest pitch of national happiness and greatness. Let them remember there is no Utopia on earth, and that with all our pains and privations we are yet the country of earth most favoured by Providence with wealth and freedom, and exemption from the scourges to which others are exposed.

What though the land be made—as was said on a former occasion when a batch of peers was created—what though the land be peopled with nobility, is there ought in this to set a competition for an instant with the horrors of anarchy and revolution. No, let us, at any rate, leave to Lord Grey, with the additional argument of being foiled, to persuade his royal master, which he has taken the last ten days to endeavour to do, that another lot of lords are absolutely necessary to carry his reform and support his administration. There is comparatively little harm in this.

But I am inclined to think it likely that the lords may pursue the second course to which I have referred—namely, allow the bill to go into a committee, where it can be materially altered and improved. From such an order I have not the slightest doubt it would come so modified as to be far more acceptable to the whole country than it is in its present form; and in the hope of such a consummation I now take my leave, having in this address no other object but to recall my fellow citizens from the wild and perilous dream with which they are perpetually inflamed to a patriotic and deliberate consideration of their own affairs.

ESCAPE FROM SHIPWRECK.

A lecture was delivered on Thursday night by Mr. Alfred Canning, engineer, at the Theatre of the London Literary and Scientific Institution, Aldersgate-street, on the best means of escaping from shipwreck. The theatre was crowded in all parts by a most respectable auditory, who appeared to take a lively interest in the subject.

Mr. Canning, who stood before a table covered with plans and models of life-boats, rafts, &c., commenced his lecture by describing the various inventions hitherto in use for the preservation of life from shipwreck; and after explaining how ineffectual they were in their practicable application, he proceeded to exhibit to the company his own simple contrivance for effecting the desired object. His plan is to join together five spars placed crossways, and connected by ropes both in the centre and at each angle. To every point presented by these spars, six in number, he proposes to affix an empty barrel for the purpose of giving buoyancy to the machine, the outer heads of each barrel to be protected by a sort of stuffing, in order to resist concussions with sharp-pointed rocks. A machine of this description properly secured by ropes, Mr. Canning assured the company, was capable of carrying off persons from wrecked vessels to the shore with the most perfect safety, without the slightest danger, either of its upsetting, or immersing those who took refuge on it in the water.

Mr. Canning added, that he tried the machine himself on the coast of France and Jersey, and suffered himself to be towed from the mouth of the port of St. Heliers to near Elizabeth Castle, when he cast off the tow-ropes and abandoned himself to the mercy of an impetuous wind, and the waves of a raging sea, by which he was driven to the dangerous rocks of La Collette, reclining backwards in the centre of the raft, with as much security as if he was extended on a sofa. The raft continued to drive among the rocks, against the points of which it was dashed repeatedly, until at length a tremendous breaker threw the machine high upon the shore, where he was received by the congratulations of those who witnessed the undertaking. The great perfection of a raft of this description, Mr. Canning observed, consists in this, that it is capable of surmounting the most stormy seas, and of resisting the sharpest pointed rocks, in situations where a life-boat, life-raft, or any other known means would have failed and been dashed to pieces. Another great recommendation, the lecturer observed, to the machine which he described, was its simplicity, and also this fact, that putting it together by seamen would occupy but a very few minutes, there being always materials at hand in vessels of every size and description out of which to form such a raft. Mr. Canning produced a double raft, made upon the same simple plan, which, with the addition of a board nailed slung from the centre, and capable of bearing its weight in the heaviest sea, would, he said, be competent to the carrying off a great number of persons. Had this invention, he added, been applied to in the case of the *Rothsay* steamer, every soul on board that ill-fated vessel might have been saved. After describing a line of his invention for the purpose of carrying a line from a wrecked vessel to the shore, and sending a number of high testimonials from distinguished persons to whom his inventions were submitted, Mr. Canning concluded his very entertaining and instructive lecture with a public exhibition on the Thames of his invention, preparatory to a definitive trial on a storm. He proposed to place himself on his raft above Vauxhall-bridge, and at half-ebb of a spring tide, when the fall of water in the river is greatest, he will suffer the raft to be carried with the current though the bridges, causing the machine to dash with violence against the abutments and upset in being propelled with violence by the rush of water over rocks extended across the most dangerous arch of old London-bridge. The trial will be sanctioned by