

# EUROPE.

## ENGLAND.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS, JANUARY 26. GENERAL FAST.

Mr. Percival rose, and addressing the Speaker, said: "I perceive strangers in the House."

Mr. Hume—I presume I may move the suspension of the standing order.

The Speaker then ordered the gallery to be cleared.

Mr. Percival could speak with more boldness in the absence of the public. He could persuade the Members who are all of them baptised and not allow the public to know the blasphemies that might be spoken in answer to his speech—that the blasphemers if any in this House, might not be able to give publicity to their blasphemies. That was the excuse for clearing the House of strangers. God was present amongst us, and he would witness all that passed. In the name of God the highest, he appealed to the House and as it was written in pealed to him, that he who rejected him that appeared in the name of God despised him that sent him, he that rejected him (Mr. Percival), rejected his God, in whose name he appeared. He would risk being tedious, in order to be understood. He was afraid to read the Book he held in his hand (the Bible) but he would read it. No man could deny that the state of the nation was truly deplorable. Nothing had altered his opinion since he last addressed the House on the subject. The nation trembled on the verge of destruction—no man could calculate on subordination in any society—in every district there were disorders. There was also the frightful collision of the two Houses of Parliament. The houses of the nobles and gentry were entered and pillaged—one of the cities plundered and robbed by the mob. Two parties were threatening a conflict so manifest, that amidst all these things, every body of considerate mind should consider their ways and mend them. Shall we not bow down before that God whose hand is on us—consider our ways, and go down on our knees to supplicate that mercy which is gone from us? He would read the grounds of a nation's prosperity. This nation stands as Jerusalem formerly stood. It has been the seat of true religion, and has reared up the finest system of civil polity that ever existed; and if we be as Jerusalem was, we must suffer equally:—

"Was unto thee, Chorazin, was unto thee, Bethsaida; for if the mighty works which were done in you were done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."

"But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of Judgment than for you."

"And thou, Capernaum, which exaltest thyself unto Heaven, shall be brought down to Hell: for if the mighty works which have been done in thee had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day."

"But I say unto you it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment than for you."

He then read further:—

"And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God."

"Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field."

"Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep."

"Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store."

"Blessed shall thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shall thou be when thou goest out."

"The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face; they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways."

"The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy store-houses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto: and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

"The Lord shall establish thee a holy people with himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in his ways."

"And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of thee."

"And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground in the land which the Lord swore unto thy fathers to give thee."

"The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasures the Heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow."

"And the Lord shall make thee the head and not the tail, and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God which I command thee this day to observe and to do them."

"And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day to the right hand or to the left, to go after other Gods to serve them."

Great and glorious had been the conduct of England, when the Admiral wrote home that "it had pleased the Almighty to bless his Majesty's arms."

He then read the converse:—

"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day, that all these curses shall come upon thee and overtake thee."

"Cursed shalt thou be in the city and cursed shalt thou be in the field."

"Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store."

"Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep."

"Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out."

"The Lord shall cause thee to be cursed, vexation and rebuke in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me."

"The Lord shall make thee the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land whither thou goest to possess it."

"The Lord shall send thee with a consumption and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish."

"And the Heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron."

"The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust; from Heaven shall it come down upon thee until thou be destroyed."

"The Lord shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies; thou shalt go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth."

"And thy carcass shall be meat unto all the fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth and no man shall fray them away."

"The Lord shall smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed."

"The Lord shall smite thee with madness and blindness, and astonishment of heart."

"And thou shalt group at noon-day, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways, and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee."

That pestilence is now in the land, and we are brought to hasten to address the throne to proclaim a fast and holy day in the land. We claim a fast and holy day in the land. We have here the truth. We have departed from our God, and God has departed from us. And unless this nation come on their knees, destruction is on us.

But if we return to God's ways we may effect forgiveness and blessedness. England is not the country of peace, glory, and strength; that it was, and we ought to repent and turn from our evil ways. Although we deserve the punishment of our sins, yet, if we repent, God's mercy is abundant, and we may yet be saved. I speak on authority not to be denied. The Word of God has expressed it, even when a curse against a nation has been given:—

"If that nation against whom I have pronounced doom turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil I thought to do unto them."

Innumerable were the instances of God's mercy—as when the Prophet went against Ahab, but he humbled himself, and God withdrew the judgment. There was the same fact in the case of Jonah in Nineveh—

"Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown."

If these applied to Heathens, how much more will God's mercy be shown to a nation of Christians! The Hon. Member then read the proceedings respecting Nineveh:—

"So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them."

"For word came unto the King of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes."

"And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh (by the decree of the King and his Nobles), saying let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed nor drink water."

"But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands."

"Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, and we perish not, and turn away from their evil way, and God repeated him of the evil that he had said he would do upon them, and he did it not."

So will it be with England, if we faithfully, humbly, and sincerely repent. I trust I shall be able to set before the nation the truth of its weakness—first the increase of crime shows the absence of religion and piety; secondly, the oppression of the poor was beyond his conception. He was lost in astonishment. The fact was so great that he could not account for it. The first lived in luxury and plenty; the labourer in a state of actual starvation, and a degree of distress that would harrow up your very souls. He could not point out the causes, but the fact was glaring. He appealed to Mr. Sadler to point out the sufferings of the children of the poor. The heathens made their children pass through the fire to their god, Moloch—we make our children pass through misery for our gain. The destruction of Bristol is a sample of God's wrath when abroad in the land. Passing that and the pestilence, the state of the poor is enough to induce this House to address the Crown to order a fast. It must not be supposed that he was a fool to call on this House, which he did, as a body, in love and truth. You sit here (said the Hon. Member) infidels—you do not consider your maker. This House meets here, and talks on public affairs as if there was no God. Let every man answer for himself. You have no more consideration than if you acknowledged no God. You are all infidels. Look at the public Press, the march of intellect, the spirit of the day is sheer idolatry. You forget God, and think of doing every thing by capital, by machinery, by Laws, &c.; but you are acting on a wrong principle. All those acts of ungodliness had been practised by other nations. For example, the French left out that the king ruled by the grace of God; that all power was from the people—sheer blasphemy, as all power is from God, and the duty of man is to submit and to obey!

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers, for there is no power but of God; the powers that are are ordained of God."

"Whosoever, therefore, resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God; and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."

"For the rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil; wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise for the same."

"For he is a Minister of God to thee for good; but if thou do that which is evil, he shall be a minister to thee for evil. For he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the Minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

See what is going on in France and England. It is blasphemy to attribute power to the people. He defied the Noble Lord to point out a word in the Bible—that power was from the people; that slavish bowing to public opinion that robbed the Noble Lord of all his honesty and manhood. In the Councils of the nation there were slaves to that blasphemy—but power was only from God. He was aware he was speaking loud and with warmth, but not with violence; he was sincere, and was urging these truths in his usual way, when he was under an influence. The motion belonged to each Member individually, as every man had been baptised into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and could not disobey the precepts and laws of their God. They might disregard the laws—father and brother, but would they refuse the precepts of God? "I was taken up," said the Hon. Member, "on the death of my father, by the nation, which abundantly provided for me and mine; and it is in gratitude for that kindness that I call on this House to address the Crown to issue a Proclamation for a fast. It has been done before by Parliament, and I do not admit the objection that this place is not a fit and proper place. Are we not chosen to meet and advise what as Christians we ought to do for the good of the nation? Are we to leave all religion at the door of the House, and listen to the wiles of Satan? No, I stated it last year, and I will repeat the character of infidelity that pervades the public mind. At that time there was the blasphemous proposition to admit the Jew into this House. If our Saviour was raised, and is now in Heaven at the head of his Church, is it to admit a Jew to our Councils? The *Edinburgh Review*, the fifth sign of the infidelity of the times, defend that. Man is a fool in his heart, and saith those things. It was enormous that this body of Christians should say we are not inclined to consider of God's greatness and mercy; if so ungodly as to entertain the question, what a state was the nation in? The bent of the human mind is now to set aside kings and priests and to set up the people as the Sovereign; and I

would call on the nation to humiliate themselves, and to avert such evils. Let the Kings and Priests be expelled, and all such mummery be averted, unless you will listen to my voice for a fast and humiliation. If you agree, I will request the House of Lords also to supplicate for a fast, and we all then be bound up together in one solemn act. He would not withdraw his motion as he did last year; he would not give way, but would divide the House. He would force the House of Commons to declare whether they would bend their knees to God. If they would not, the nation should know their refusal. He would have the whole nation, Lords, and Commons, to join in the act of humiliation. The Ministers had done it—the House of Commons had put it aside. But by that apostate name by which he acted, he would appeal to them, and it must be done. Moving the previous question would not do; the House must reject the motion. If they did all Europe would see (said the Hon. Member) that ye reject your God's authority. You cannot escape this charge. By the name and blood of that Saviour, I implore you to support this motion. But he had been told formerly, that in this blasphemous and unhalcyon atmosphere he ought not to have used that name. But it is in that blessed name—the name of that living God and Saviour, who now sees you, and is amongst you—that I alone appeal and act, Christian men should love to see him call on the name of him in whose name you were baptised. Cast not off the reverence due to that name; beware of that infidelity that is creeping on you on both sides of the House, and depriving you of your manhood; for the safety of your own souls I call on you to honor that name. I have done my duty to avert the evils that are coming on Christendom, preceded by the pestilence. Beware of the wrath that went forth on the plain against Sodom and Gomorrah—and those are a type of the judgment that is fast coming upon Christendom. My cry is that God's mercy may be on us if we humble ourselves. Let all the people praise and sing for joy, and the desolating force of God shall pass by. The Hon. Member concluded by moving, that a humble address be presented to the King, to order a day for a general fast and humiliation.

After some pause, the motion was seconded by Mr. Weyland, of Helston.

Lord Althorp stated that discussion on such a topic was highly inexpedient. That he disclaimed being tainted with infidelity; but he was of opinion that such discussions did not tend to the honour of religion. The motion was neither desirable nor necessary. He gave Mr. Percival credit for good intentions. He meant no disrespect to him by not following him in his argument, and should move the previous question; by which he intended that the House should express its opinion, that questions like the present ought not to be taken up. It was the intention of Government to appoint a day of fasting.

Mr. Hunt could not avoid reading two or three verses from the Bible. The Honorable Member had talked of Sodom and of Bristol, and had called us infidels, idolaters, and what not. He then read a passage from Isaiah.

"Is it such a fast that I have chosen, a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord?"

"Is not this the fast that I have chosen, to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?"

"Is it not to deal the bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked that thou cover him, and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?"

And added that this was not a real fast, but the real fast was one that would feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

Mr. Goulbourn understood the Noble Lord to say, that the object would be accomplished without going to the vote. If the Noble Lord did not make such a promise, he hoped the motion would be pressed.

Sir Thomas Baring would vote for the motion, if a fast day were not to be appointed.

Lord Althorp—it is the intention of the Government to appoint a fast day.

Mr. Briscoe heard the declaration of the Noble Lord with pleasure, and it was to him an additional reason for affording his support to the present Government.

Mr. Gordon (Dundalk) said it was a question highly fitting to occupy the time of the House of Commons; and that the House of Commons in former times was often occupied with such discussions.

Mr. Percival, in answer to the member for Preston, observed that a fast of hypocrisy was in no way acceptable to Him that judgeth the human heart, but which of the two was more likely to observe the fast of mercy? he who set aside as unnecessary, all signs of public contrition, or he who, consenting to such public acts, acknowledged the impropriety of ungodliness when going through the fast of humiliation? He would not state what he felt, if he did not say that the tardy consent at length given to the appointment of a day for a General Fast showed him with what reluctance the Government at length assented. He thought that this was done more for the sake of getting rid of the question than for any better motive. He believed this from the delay. He saw no reason for delay. The danger of delay was imminent. He still suspected that they never meant to do it. He would not withdraw the motion, but would take the sense of the House upon it, though he did not intend to press it to a division.

—London Sun.

LONDON, March 2.

The plan of operations by which the Opposition in the House of Lords are likely to attempt the ruin or the mutilation of the reform Bill, in its progress through that branch of the Legislature, is naturally a subject of very general speculation at the present moment.

The speculation acquires not only a strong impulse, but a certain degree of light and assistance, from the result of the recent struggle which took place in the House of Commons on the motion of the Marquis of Chandos.

We do not participate in the opinion avowed by some of our contemporaries, that the issue of that struggle is calculated to discourage the Lords from making a similar attempt in their own Committee, if as rumor informs us, their war against the measure is to be a war of detail.

On the contrary, we consider a majority of eighty, upon such a question as the giving of new Members to the metropolitan districts, a direct encouragement to the anti-reform Peers to try their strength on the same cause. We state this broadly, and without hesitation, because we deem it of importance that neither the Ministers nor the public should deceive themselves on the subject, and because we are convinced that the best way of resisting danger is not to underestimate, but, as nearly as possible, to compute and ascertain it, that we may apporportion our efforts to its extent. In this view, and bearing in mind what we do not hesitate to call the smallness of the majority—for there

is no use in mincing matters at such a time—we strongly incline to believe that the great effort of the anti-reformers in the Upper House will be directed against the very provision upon which Lord Chandos has already made an impression favourable to their undertaking. We apprehend that the Duke of Wellington have or have not the Duke of reform in his pocket—we know he had none in his head when the present Ministers came into office—but, whether his Grace be now a reformer or not, a reaction seems to have taken place in quarters where it was least expected, and the Bill is more in danger now from reformers of a certain caste than from those who take their ground boldly on the assertion that no reform is necessary.

As there are many experienced tacticians amongst their Lordships, the falling off of numbers in the last division can scarcely fail to be taken advantage of. It is something to know the weak point of a cause—it is something to have ascertained where defection has begun, if it were only for the advantage of looking to such defection for countenance. We shall hear many a triumphal allusion to the independent members who deserted the colours of reform upon this occasion, and who were so justly jealous of the privileges of their constituents, or to keep them from making any compromise could be adopted, which, securing upon one hand the principle of the Bill, and conciliating upon the other, the support of those who are conscientiously adverse to some of its details, would ensure the success of the measure without recourse to any strong exercise of the prerogative, the country would be satisfied with such an arrangement. But the point to which we have been alluding is not one of those which the public would be willing to surrender. If we were radical reformers it would be our wish that such an attempt should succeed, for that would be the way to keep the question open for a new Parliament; but, as we wish to see an end of the deliberations and contentions which threaten the peace of the Empire, our anxious desire is that no such pretext may be afforded to men of violent politics for carrying on their struggles with increased energy in another state of things.—Herald.

## SCOTLAND.

### DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN GLASGOW, AND LOSS OF LIFE.

One of the most destructive fires that have ever taken place in Glasgow within the memory of man, occurred on Saturday morning in Queen Street, where a court of three sides (Queen's Court) of great extent, occupied chiefly as warehouses, has been burnt to the ground. The premises consisted of two large lands fronting the street, five stories high, with garrets above; the street floor being occupied as shops, and the other flats as warehouses; behind, there were also two large lands, of equal extent, one on the north, and the other on the south side of the court, while a wall ran across the upper end, separating it from the premises occupied by Stirling, Gordon & Co., and other proprietors. These back buildings consisted also of warehouses; and the whole property, back and front, is now one mass of ruins. How the fire originated is a mystery that has not yet been explained. It was first discovered shortly after one o'clock, by a smell of burning in the adjoining street, and shortly after flames were observed issuing from the premises. No appearance of fire was at that time perceptible from Queen Street, but from Miller Street the flames were seen issuing from a back window of one of the warehouses on the second floor. The watchman in Queen Street could not at first get admittance to the court, the iron gate being locked; the alarm was, however, instantly conveyed to the police office, and a porter who kept the key of the gate was soon found, and admission obtained. The fire now began to show itself in front of the building, and by the time the first engines arrived, one of which was at the scene of the conflagration a few minutes after the first alarm was given, the flames were issuing fiercely from two of the front windows to the south of the entry to the court. A good supply of water was at hand, and one of the pipes was led up the front stairs, and played upon the fire. The strength of the flames, however, was so great, and had made such alarming progress in the interior of the warehouses, that the water had no effect. The cotton yarn and goods with which the building was stocked presented materials but too apt for conflagration. The devouring element burst out in every direction with awful rapidity, and communicated to the other warehouses in a time incomparably short. All was now a scene of bustle and alarm, and every thing that could be done to save the goods in the warehouses was tried by a few persons, who had collected together. The extensive warehouse of Messrs Wingate and Sons, which was stocked with an immense quantity of silk goods situated on the first floor, was entered by several people, and a great deal of valuable property, with the books, taken out before it was reached by the flames, but in that, as well as in the other warehouses, the destruction of property was immense. The fire ran from warehouse to warehouse, and from flat to flat, with surprising rapidity, and the most zealous efforts of the firemen were completely set at defiance. The whole of the front of the extensive buildings was at last enveloped in flames issuing from about 50 windows, presenting a spectacle the most awful and imposing that can be imagined. The two sides of the court were next subjected to the ravages of the conflagration, and the whole Court may be said to have been in one sheet of flame at the same time; the engines placed behind, though wrought with all the energy for which our fire department is so remarkable, were as unsuccessful as those situated before, and produced an effect scarcely greater than a drop of water thrown into a furnace. Part of the roof of the first building at last yielded, and fell with a tremendous crash, and was soon after followed by the remainder. The spectacle at this time was awfully sublime; a dense cloud of dust and smoke rose from the fallen ruins, which, for a while, nearly obscured the brilliancy of the flames, but as it rose over the burning ruin, a wall of sheet of fire was seen blazing to an unparalleled height, brighter even than before, and illuminating the whole sky, while the surrounding streets were almost as light as mid-day. A good deal of the property in the shops below had been saved; but we regret to say that a promising young man—Mr. D. N. Penman, about 22 years of age, fell a victim to his activity in endeavouring to save property from the shop of his father, Mr. Penman, bookseller. He entered the shop along with one or two others; and while the floor fell and completely obstructed all passages to the street, even upon the supposition that he was not instantly killed by the falling ruins. So far as has yet been learned, the others escaped; and a fireman, who was inside at the time, was only saved by the shop window being broken down, and he drawn out by the people outside. But for this timely rescue, he would

instantly have fallen a victim to the flames, as a few minutes longer would have placed him beyond the reach of the bystanders. Another fireman, at a later period of the morning, was killed in a way which made the spectators shudder. He was standing in the back part of the court, on a ladder about two stories high, when it fell, and precipitated him upon the spikes of an iron railing, where he was completely transfixed—the spikes having pierced him through the lungs and bowels. The whole of the buildings were now completely gutted by the flames, and the walls were tottering to their foundations. The front wall which was of great extent and height, threatened several times to tumble down, and at last that of one of the lands fell with a crash that for a while stunned the spectators, and paralyzed every exertion. It was soon after followed by the other, with a similar crash, leaving exposed the back walls and the gable, though the wide range of ruins behind were still hidden from their view. The sudden fall of the front walls excited a considerable degree of astonishment, though the circumstances are easily accounted for, when it is considered that the shops on the first floor were all supported by cast metal pillars, betwixt which and the stones above were blocks of wood; the wood was of course soon consumed by the fire, and the connection between the pillars and the immense weight above being removed, the overthrow of the walls was inevitable along the whole extent; besides, there was only one separating wall in the front range, and the other ranges were separated only by the stair-cases. The north and south walls of the north side of the court, fell nearly at the same time, and crushed a large portion of one of the ranges of workshops in Conventer McLeod's coach work; but the most valuable of the property in them had been previously removed. The gables of the front range, the stair case, the gable of the north side, and the gable and part of the walls of the south side of the court being all left standing, towards the afternoon showed symptoms of falling; but Sir John instantly procured the aid of several tradesmen of experience, who proceeded to take measures for pulling down whatever seemed dangerous. The value of the property destroyed is estimated at £150,000, but it is understood that most of it was insured. The only property saved was from the warehouse of Messrs Wingate and Company, and from the shops below. There were from 30 to 40 tenants in the property, which was rented at about two thousand pounds.

Some idea may be formed of the intensity of the fire, when it is stated that the iron sides formed no protection to the books locked up in them. They became red hot, and for two hours after the walls had fallen, flames were seen issuing from the shelves, which were all placed in the gables at the extremities of the buildings; the iron doors were burnt off their hinges, and the greater number fallen among the ruins, without any vestige of their ever having been in existence.

A great many complaints were made by gentlemen among the crowd, that the fire engines and pipes were not in a proper state of repair, and that the arrangements for directing the engines were incomplete; and investigation was loudly called for. It was complained of by some, that before the flames in the front range had reached the shops, and while it was thought they were preserved, the engines were ordered from the front of the building to Miller Street to protect adjoining properties, and that for two hours during which the fire was approaching the shops, not a drop of water was thrown upon it; while others say that it was then impossible to save the shops, and that all that could be done was to secure the safety of the adjoining properties.

It is impossible to reconcile the statements of different individuals present at various times and in different places. One account represents the firemen as ineffective, and another describes them as exhibiting the most astounding fortitude and daring. We understand the commissioners were on Saturday afternoon to examine thoroughly into the ground of the complaints.

The warehouses or shops destroyed or seriously injured, we learn, are those of Messrs Wingate, Son, and Co.; Ellis, McCall, and Co.; Ferguson, Robertson, and Co.; James McDougal and Co.; Cochran and Brown; David Goudie and Son; Henry Knox, jun.; Lawrence Macdonald; Laird and Buchanan; Rankine and Gibson; Paterson and Gibson; J. Murdoch and Co.; Andrew McNair; Blackie and Co.; wine merchants; John Robertson; Black and Falconer; Jameson and Thomson; James Carswell and Son; Wm. Watson; J. A. Muir; and Penman and Co., stationers.

—Glasgow Evening Post of Saturday.

## EMIGRATION.

From the Edinburgh Evening Courant.

That great and unexampled distress prevails at present among the working classes is unfortunately too evident to admit of dispute. For this distress various causes are assigned. It is asserted by some that the country is over-peopled; that we have multiplied beyond the means of our subsistence; and that this is the source of all the existing misery; while this doctrine is repudiated by others as neither consistent with humanity nor with reason. But it is clear that, from whatever cause, there is a scarcity of work, and low wages; and of what moment is it whether we account for it on the hypothesis of a declining demand or an increasing supply of labour. Either of these causes is sufficient to produce the effect; and it is of no practical consequence to which of them it is ascribed. The true remedy for an over supply of labour is to take part of it out of the market, and this can only be done by carrying it to another market. On this subject some important information is contained in a paper lately laid before the House of Commons, respecting the condition of our Australian colonies. It appears that in these colonies, as in all new settled countries, there is a scarcity of labour—wages are high; and workmen readily find employment. In our settlements in north America—in the Canadas, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, &c. the demand for labour is greater than can be supplied; and wages vary from 30s. to 35s. a week. Several settlers in Nova Scotia were examined on this subject before the Emigration Committee of the House of Commons, and they all concurred in the same statement. They affirmed that a large family of children in these colonies, far from being a burden on their parents, were considered a valuable property; and they had no doubt that from 30 or 40,000 labourers would be annually absorbed in the increasing population of these flourishing colonies. In New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land there is the same scarcity of labour. The Commissioners for Emigration state that L. 25 to L. 30 a year, besides board and lodging, are the wages usually paid to common labourers; that artisans find no difficulty in obtaining £50 a year, besides board and lodging. There are advertisements in the *Sidney Gazette* for tradesmen and mechanics of different descriptions namely, boat-builders, brick-layers, black-