

## EUROPE.

### ENGLAND.

#### THE LATE WILLIAM COBBETT.

We have to announce to-day the death of one of the most remarkable men which England, fertile as our country has happily been in intellectual excellence, ever produced. WILLIAM COBBETT, Esq., Member of Parliament for Oldham, expired on Thursday at Normanby Farm, in the county of Surrey, in the 74th year of his age. The disease which has deprived the country of Mr. Cobbett was an intestinal inflammation of but a few days' continuance, and we are gratified to learn, accompanied with little pain to distract a change made in a calm and resigned temper. We but repeat upon his death, what we have again and again confessed during his lifetime, when we say that Mr. Cobbett was by far the first political writer of his age. No man has written so much upon public affairs, and we think no man has written so well. In the attributes of a severely correct and unaffected, a clear and a vigorous style, Mr. Cobbett was wholly without a rival, we venture to affirm, since the day of Swift; nor did this necessary staple of good writing want the ornaments of copious and striking illustration, or strong and well-connected argument. From the immense magazine of Mr. Cobbett's voluminous compositions may, without difficulty, be collected samples of the highest eloquence to be found in our language; while it would be nearly impossible for the most malignant jealousy to winnow from the mass a single dull or feeble article! And let it be remembered, that nearly all was improvisation; the labour of a mind constantly employed in pouring forth its thoughts without, during forty years, a day's, perhaps an hour's, opportunity for preliminary rumination or subsequent review! This must have been a great mind; and undoubtedly Mr. Cobbett was a great man. \* \* \* We shall conclude with a repetition of the opinion with which we commended—namely, that Mr. Cobbett was one of the greatest men whom England has ever produced; that, as his powers were vast, his instincts were good; and that, if he had faults, as he had many, the circumstances of his birth, education, and manner of life, and the treatment he received from those who ought to have acted a different part, must bear the blame. He has left us, in his writings, some of the best models—a monument of industry unequalled, and of genius scarcely excelled—Mr. Cobbett has left several children; among others three sons, endowed, we believe, with a full share of the hereditary genius. It may be hoped that as these gentlemen possess advantages of education, such as their father never enjoyed, the literary reputation of the family will be continued.—*Standard.*

"The readers of the *Register*, (says Mr. J. M. Cobbett, in a statement dated from Clifford's Inn,) will, of course look to this number for some particulars of the close of my poor father's life; but they will, I am sure, be forgiving if they find them shortly stated. A great inclination to inflammation of the throat had caused him annoyance from time to time, for several years, and, as he got older, it enfeebled him more. He was suffering from one of these attacks during the late spring, and it will be recollected, that when the Marquis of Chandos brought on his motion for the repeal of the malt tax, my father attempted to speak, but could not make his voice audible beyond the few members who sat round him. He remained to vote on that motion, and increased his ailment; but on the voting of supplies on the nights of Friday, the 15th, and Monday, the 18th of May, he exerted himself so much, and sat so late, that he laid himself up. He determined, nevertheless, to attend the House again on the evening of the Marquis of Chandos' motion on agricultural distress, on the 25th of May, and the exertion of speaking and remaining late to vote on that occasion were too much for one already severely unwell. He went down to his farm early on the morning after this last debate, and had resolved to rest himself thoroughly, and get rid of his hoarseness and inflammation. On Thursday night last he felt unusually well, and imprudently drank tea in the open air; but he went to bed apparently in better health. In the early part of the night he was taken violently ill, and on Friday and Saturday was considered in a dangerous state by the medical attendant. On Sunday he revived again, and on Monday gave us hope that he would yet be well. He talked feebly, but in the most collected and sprightly manner upon politics and farming; wished for "four days' rain," for the Cobbett-corn and root crops; and on Wednesday he could rem in no

longer shut up from the fields, but desired to be carried round the farm; which being done, he criticised the work that had been going on in his absence, and detected some little deviation from his orders, with all the quickness that was so remarkable in him. On Wednesday night he grew more and more feeble, and was evidently sinking; but he continued to answer with perfect clearness every question that was put to him. In the last half-hour his eyes became dim; and at 10 minutes after 1 p. m., he leaned back, closed them as if to sleep, and died without a gasp. He was 73 years old; but as he never appeared to us to be certain of his own age, we had some time ago procured an extract from the register of Farnham parish, in which it appears that the four sons of my Grandfather, George, Thomas, William, and Anthony, were christened on the 1st of April, 1763, and as Anthony was the younger son, and William was the third, we infer that he was born one year before he was christened; that is, on the 9th of March, 1762. He might, therefore, have been older.

Of William Cobbett (says the *Times*) no fact can be told that has not long been known. His origin and progress in the world—his habits and character, public as well as private—his errors, contradictions, prejudices, hatreds, unblushing effrontery, shameless disregard of truth for its own sake, and matchless power of illustrating or confounding it, as might suit the temper of the moment—all these have for a quarter of a century been so familiar to the minds of men, that long before his death they had ceased to inspire any lively interest, or to draw any active attention. Against Cobbett's moral character in domestic life, as we have no exact knowledge, we do not feel ourselves justified in saying any thing. Of his management on points of honour and fair dealing between man and man, it has been reported that others besides Sir Francis Burdett were qualified to speak with more certainty than we can pretend to. But take this self-taught peasant for all in all, he was perhaps in some respects a more extraordinary Englishman than any other of his time. "Nil in adversum" was a motto to which none could lay equal claim with William Cobbett. Birth, station, employment, ignorance, temper, character, in early life were all against him. But he emerged from, and overcame them all. By masculine force of genius, and the lever of a proud, confident, and determined will, he pushed aside a mass of obstacles of which the least and slightest would have repelled the boldest or most ambitious of ordinary men. He ended by bursting that formidable barrier which separates the class of English gentlemen from all beneath them, and died a member of Parliament, representing a large constituency which had chosen him twice. Cobbett was by far the most voluminous writer that has lived for centuries. He has worked with incessant industry for more than 40 years, without, we verily believe, the interruption of so much as a single week from languor of spirit, or even from physical weakness.—The first general characteristic of his style is, perspicuity unequalled and inimitable. A second is homely, muscular vigour. A third is purity, always simple, and raciness often elegant. His argument is an example of acute, yet apparently natural, nay involuntary, logic, smoothness in its progress and cemented in its parts by a mingled stream of torturing sarcasm, contemptuous jocularity, and fierce and slaughtering invective. His faults are coarseness, brutality, and tedious repetition. We must add, that the matter of this most forcible of writers rarely shows much inventive faculty; though his active and observing mind supplied abundance of illustration to his argument; and, when he happens to present an original view of any subject, it is almost invariably more eccentric and ingenious than just.—But as a political reasoner, considered with reference to a series of publications throughout successive years, if we admit Cobbett to be the most copious and diligent of writers, it is only to pronounce him by far the most inconstant and faithless that ever appeared before his countrymen. \* \* \* He was a man whom England alone could have produced and nurtured up to such maturity of unpatronized and self-generated power. Nevertheless, though a vigilant observer of the age, and a strenuous actor in it, he lay upon the earth as a loose and isolated substance. He was incorporated with no portion of our political or social frame. He belonged neither to principles, to parties, nor to classes. He and his writings formed a remarkable phenomenon. He was an English episode, and nothing more, as greater men have been; for what is Napoleon, while we write, but an episode? As a portion of history he is ex-

inct. He has struck root no where, not in Europe, not even in France, as Cobbett has, not either in America, where his intellect first sprung to life; or in England, where it ripened into almost unexampled vigour.

#### HORSE GUARDS—GENERAL ORDER.

*Horse Guards, 13th June, 1835.*—Some cases have lately occurred, in which soldiers have drawn their bayonets upon each other, and also upon other persons who happened to come in contact with them, whilst quarrelling in the streets, and in public houses, the General Commanding in Chief desires that the soldiers of the army may be reminded that they are armed for the protection of their King and Country, and for the support and execution of the laws, when lawfully called out for these purposes; that they wear their side arms as an honorable distinction of the profession to which they belong; that they are not to use them in private broils, or even for their own personal defence upon such occasions; and, that it is the duty of the soldiers to avoid resorting to places in which such broils are likely to take place, more particularly when dressed, as soldiers, with side arms.

"The General Commanding in Chief is determined to put an effectual stop to so dangerous and disgraceful an offence, by the punishment and degradation of every soldier who shall, hereafter, be convicted of it.

"To this end, Lord Hill desires that the Commanding Officers of regiments and depots will bring to summary trial for unsoldierlike and disgraceful conduct every man who shall be reported to have drawn, or attempted to draw, his bayonet, for the purpose of using it against another person, in any case of dispute, affray, or interference.

"His Lordship further desires, that every soldier convicted before a court martial of having used, or attempted to use, his side arms, in any of the cases herein contemplated, may in addition to the punishment awarded by the court, be degraded on the public parade, in front of the regiment or depot to which he belongs, by being there stripped of his bayonet and bayonet belt, and proclaimed by the Commanding Officer as a man unworthy to be entrusted with the care of his bayonet, except in the ranks, under the view and command of his officer.

"In all such cases, the offender shall be stripped of his side arms by the pioneers, in order to enhance his degradation. He who is thus degraded, shall not be suffered to wear his bayonet or bayonet belt, except upon duty, for one year from the date of his degradation, during which time he shall be denied every indulgence to which the good soldier is entitled; and shall march to church, in the ranks, without side arms; his name shall, moreover, be posted up in some conspicuous place in the barrack room of the company to which he belongs, on the barrack gate, and on the door of the guard house and canteen.

"The General Commanding in Chief feels confident that these measures will, with the zealous co-operation of all classes of officers, and the vigilance of the non-commissioned officers, soon rescue the army from the stigma which a few unworthy individuals would attach to it, by resorting to a base and unwomanly expedient heretofore unknown amongst British soldiers.

By command of the Right Honorable the General Commanding in Chief.

JOHN MACDONALD,  
Adjutant-General."

ONE HUNDRED LIVES LOST.—On Thursday about half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, one of those dreadful explosions which have been so lamentably frequent in mining districts took place at one of Mr. Russell's collieries, at Wallsend, known by the name of the Church Pit, or Russell's Old Wallsend, by which it is feared 25 men and 75 boys have lost their lives. The number of workpeople employed in this colliery is about 220. The hewers commence working early in the morning, and having finished getting the coal, it is left to be brought to the bottom of the shaft by the younger men and boys during the day, which is the reason why so great a proportion of boys were in the pit when the accident took place. As every individual who was down the shaft at the time of the explosion remains there still, it is not known, nor, as all have probably perished, is it likely to be explained by what means it was occasioned. Similar accidents have generally been produced by incautiously removing the gauze from the safety lamps, and it is supposed in this instance to have originated in the same way, though every precaution was taken to prevent its removal. The colliery was viewed in the morning by Mr. Atkinson and his son, under-viewers, and it was by them considered perfectly safe and secure in every respect, there not being the least indication of any escape of gas, and at the time of the explosion there were four overmen and deputies down who had been accustomed to work in the pits for upwards of 30 years.

These are among the sufferers. The catastrophe was made known to the banksmen by a considerable report, which they speak of as being like an earthquake, accompanied by a rushing of choke damp to the mouth of the shaft, bringing up with it some of the pitmen's clothes and other light articles from the bottom. There are other two shafts connected with this colliery, in one of which two men were at work, who say they felt a slight shock at the time, and soon after a quantity of choke damp. They happily escaped by being drawn up immediately. In the third shaft no one was at work. On the alarm being given, eight men volunteered to go down in the hope of being able to save and bring up some of their companions. After descending to the bottom, however, in attempting to go into the works, they instantly found themselves being suffocated by the foul air; they had the greatest difficulty in regaining the ropes, and were almost insensible before they could be drawn up again. Between ten and eleven o'clock on Friday night, another effort was about to be made to descend the shaft, and if possible, to reach the sufferers, but small hopes are entertained of being able to save any of their lives, as it is feared that either by being burnt at the moment of the explosion, or suffocated since, they are already the victims of this melancholy accident. It is barely possible, and that is all which can be said, that some of them may have been at the instant at a distance from the spot where the blast happened, and that the atmosphere may be such as to allow them to breathe until they can be got out and rescued; but the probabilities are so much against this, that an escape would be little of a miracle. The relatives and friends of the poor sufferers are in a dreadful state of anxiety—almost to distraction. [On Saturday morning access was, with great difficulty, gained, and in the course of the day the bodies of two men and nineteen boys were brought up.]

#### APPOINTMENT OF LORD DURHAM.

It is announced that Lord Durham has been appointed Ambassador from the Court of St. James's to St. Petersburg. The appointment appears to us to hold out a strict, honest, and able discharge of the duties appertaining to that important office. The general abilities of Lord Durham, and the earnest and straightforward exertions of which he is capable for the accomplishment of any great public end, are to well known to be now made matter of controversy. His Lordship, we are sure, must already be conscious that the post he is about to occupy is at once the highest and most arduous in the diplomatic service of Great Britain. He must know that Russia harbours projects, some of which aim directly at the subversion of British power, while others, though appearing to shape a different course, tend with no less certainty to the same results, and involve consequences equally fatal to Great Britain. Of the former class of enterprises is the removal of every obstacle from the path of her long-meditated encampment on the Indus; of the latter, we need hardly say, is her design upon Constantinople, the Dardanelles, with the consequent sovereignty of the Greek Archipelago, and of the whole commerce of that great basin of the Mediterranean. Both schemes are alike imbedded in and incorporated with the fundamental policy of Russia. All her measures are calculated for their rapid promotion, and all her declarations for their immediate concealment until they can be developed and completed in the same hour. The system of a British Ambassador, therefore, at the Court of Russia, now more than at any former period, is to watch every movement, and to distrust every word, as the only means of preparing seasonably the defeat of every ultimate object. If we have any fear respecting his Lordship's mission, it arises from a cause which certainly reflects no dishonor on his character. His own integrity makes him unsuspicious, and the bonied words of the Emperor Nicholas had on a former occasion almost persuaded his Lordship that the Czar was a liberal. Subsequent events, however, must, we think, prevent the possibility of such an illusion again overshadowing his lordships clear understanding.—*Times.*

COFFEE.—The deputation of the W. India Body which waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Monday, state that the question of the West India Coffee duty is entirely settled.—No East India Coffee now in the warehouses, or on the voyage homeward, can be admitted for the home consumption, at the low duty of 6d. per lb. After the passing of the act here, copies of the certificates required will be made out here, and sent to India, and only the Coffee afterwards landed in England under these certificates, can be admitted at the reduced duty.

A correspondent states that he saw yesterday a portion of the soldiers collected in the Isle of Dogs for the Spanish expedition. Their appearance was most miserable. Indeed it is not to be expected that any but men on the point of starvation, would enlist in a service which promises nothing but hardships and privations. The best soldiers in

the English army would require long preparation to fit them for mountain warfare. What must be the fate of men already debilitated by poverty, undisciplined, and inexperienced, and with no other qualification but that which belongs to Englishmen in all classes—a stout heart.—*Times.*

The Gazette of Friday night contains an order in council, dated the 24 inst, directing that the assizes for the county palatine of Lancaster, hitherto holden at Lancaster; shall in future be holden at Liverpool and Lancaster; the county to be divided into two divisions, northern and southern; the assizes for that part of the county to be called the northern division, including the hundreds of Lonsdale, Amounderness, Leyland, and Blackburn, to be holden at Lancaster, and those for the southern division, including Stafford and West Derby, to be holden at Liverpool; and that the castle at Lancaster, be the county gaol, for the northern division, and the House of Correction at Kirkdale for the southern.

The Gazette also contains an order in council, directing that the assize commissions for the despatch of civil and criminal business, for the county of Wilts, heretofore holden at Salisbury, shall be hereafter holden alternately at Salisbury and Devizes; that is to say, on the summer circuit at Devizes, and on the spring circuit at Salisbury.

REPRESENTATION OF OLDHAM.—We have seldom heard of such a host of candidates as common report has, for the last few days, been busy in assigning to the borough of Oldham in the approaching contest. A meeting, convened "for the purpose of considering the relative suitability of certain candidates," was held at four o'clock yesterday afternoon, in a field behind the Albion Inn. Mr. Knott introduced to the meeting Mr. Fergus O'Connor, who had arrived that morning. Mr. O'Connor addressed the meeting at considerable length. If Mr. John Cobbett was acceptable to the electors, and should give those pledges which they required and thought indispensable, then would he (Mr. O'Connor) retire from the contest. Mr. Condy thanked Mr. O'Connor for this offer, and entreated the electors to suspend their promises till Mr. J. Cobbett should arrive and clear up any doubts that might exist. It was stated, that unless Mr. John Cobbett would support a separation of church and state, he would not receive the support of that class of the electors. By the request of the chairman, a messenger was then dispatched to the Albion Inn for Mr. Ashton Yates, who came and addressed the meeting at some length.—*Manchester paper.*

IMPRESSMENT OF SEAMEN.—The ship-owners and seamen of England will learn, no doubt, with great pleasure, that the present ministry, to whom Sir James Graham's bill was transferred, have struck out all those clauses which went to give power, by legal enactment, to the exercise of impressment. The bill, in its present state, omits all this, and consists only of bounties, rewards, and inducements to voluntary enlistment, with limitation of service, and protection for a certain time afterwards; all which will be hailed by our seamen as a vast improvement.

The Broadway, Westminster, was on Sunday morning, during the hours of divine service, thrown into a complete state of uproar, in consequence of an eccentric individual, a man of considerable property, having taken it into his head to open a butcher's shop, literally giving away the meat. The shop and the carriage way in front, were crowded with a dense multitude, anxious to obtain a Sunday dinner; and being only a door or two from a great gin-palace, "confusion became worse confounded;" but it was at last put a stop to by the lunatic proprietor ordering a very handsome phaeton, into which he crammed the meat of which he had not disposed, and drove off to his country seat, in order to make it a present to the villagers.

A few days ago, a person belonging to the Union, waited upon a manufacturer of earthenware to inform him that several of his men were in arrears to the Union, and that unless he caused the money to be paid in the course of a few days, his manufactory would be stopped!—*Stafford Manufactory.*

ASCENT OF A PARISH CHURCH STEEPLE.—On Tuesday week hundreds of persons in different parts of the town, were interested in witnessing the ascent, outside the spire of St. Peter's Church, Sheffield, of Mr. Brown, of that place, in order to examine the spot which was struck by the lightning, as detailed in our last. A block of pulleys having been suspended at a loop-hole, near the top of the spire, a rope was lowered therefrom, to which was attached a sort of cage; in this Mr. Brown was drawn up to the place where the injury had