Father Ignatius in his ecstasies, calls me his lamb and his dove, and all sorts of saintly names. But he knows that those convents are much easier to get in at, than to get out of; and again, I ask you, who has the power to interfere with Mrs. Dashingly? I am not a ward in Chancery, remember," she continued smilling.

"Lina, come hither," cried my aunt, putting in her head: "I want you. And nephew, it is upon the stroke of the dinner hour."

"So, Carry," I whispered, leaning over her chair when I got back to the drawing room, where she sat alone, "I thought you were to remain true for ever and a day."

Caroline tried to get up a blush. She had promised the like to a few score of admirers.

"Ah! you took yourself off so suddenly. Who was going to remain faithful to a runaway lover?"

"Took myself off! I think the boot was on the other leg."

"And you never wrote, or anything," pointed Carry, willing to attempt an excuse.

"It would have been all the same if I had, when the gallant captain made his appearance—eh, Carry?"

"Get away sir!"

"He is very handsome I suppose?"

"Mamma and Lina think so."

"In the Mars style or Adonis?"

"You can decide that point for yourself when you see him."

'A large fortune, now, I understood, and barony in prospect?'

"Just so."

"Well, cousin mine, you are a happy woman. Am I to give you away?"

"You indeed! Alfred's coming home, partly, for that, partly to make love to Lina."

"But Lina does not like him," I answered, anxiously.

"Oh, I don't know. Those quiet, say-nothing girls, such as Lina, seldom know what they do like. Alfred will make her as good a husband as anybody else. He has been extravagant lately, but he is looking for a place under government. I suppose he will get straight after a bit, and your sister has plenty."

"What is this whisper that I hear, of a convent being Lina's alternative if she rejects him?"

"Who told you that?—Lina?"

"What if she did?"

"She need not have brought up the subject now, when the house is occupied with more agreeable matters."

"Selfish as ever, Carry!" I muttered.

"But how comes it that a Roman Catholic convent will admit her, a member of the Established Church, within its walls, or that its governing priests will sanction her entrance?"

"They graciously waive the objection in Lina's case, in consideration of her near relationship to mamma. And from her residence in our family, and constant intercourse with Father Ignatius, I dare say they look upon her as a half Catholic."

"Now, Caroline, you cannot suppose that in this enlightened year of our Lord, 1851, a young lady is going to be immured in a convent against her consent, and she a Protestant! The very land would cry shame upon it—queen, nobles, and people."

"Well, if you have anything to say about it, for or against, just say it to mamma, without teazing me,' was Carry's answer. "I believe the affair is decided on, and for my own part I don't see any objection to it; but I have never interfered in the matter, even by a single word—I have had other things to think of. Not if a word would place Lina in the convent, would I utter it, so indifferent is the whole business to me."

"Nor yet speak the word that would keep her out, Carry?"

'She can keep herself out, by marrying Alfred.'

'What end do they propose by her residence there?'

'Her ultimate conversion, I believe, Father Ignatius dwells on most.'

'Conversion of herself, or her money—or both?'

'Don't be absurd. I am very sure of one thing, that if she knew half the comfort of the Roman Catholic religion, she would turn to it of her own accord. I am surprised anybody can remain in a different persuasion."

'Comforting, is it?'

'Very,' repeated Caroline. "You may lapse into no end of little sins, that in *your* religion would be called crimes and might lie heavily on the conscience; but in ours we get absolution for them all, as often as we like to go to confession."

"What a consoling faith this would be to some of us blades of the town! We have perpetually, or deserve to have, some peccadillo weighing down our conscience."

'Then why in the world don't you all become Roman Catholics?' rejoined Caroline, earnestly. "You might do anything you liked then."

'And so clear the arears of sin periodically, as with a feather. I will think of it, Caroline."

'Here they come, mamma and Lina. Don't get bothering now, cousin, about the convent; keep peace until the wedding is over.'

"And you gone, Caroline? Perhaps I may."

"Dinner, ma'am,' cried the stiff old butler, appearing at the drawing-room door.

Aunt's face and her turban glowed together at these words. I knew the signs well enough—a storm was brewing.

"Who told them to serve dinner? How could you think of such a thing? Captain Fitzhenry is not come in.'

"The Captain does not dine here, ma'am. He said he had business at the railway-stations, and should not be back."

Aunt flounced to the dining-room and down we sat—at least we should have sat down, but aunt remained standing, with her eyes fixed on an opposite door; so of course we did the same.

"Can she be waiting for Fitzhenry?" I mentally exclaimed; when the entrance of Father Ignatius solved my query. I was beginning to forget the routine of Dashingly House, or I might have remembered that the holy father dined there, five days out of the seven. I knew father Ignatius of old; and a perfect model of a father he was towards Mrs. Dashingly and all her household. He chanted an elaborate grace—all Latin—the footman removed the covers, and down we sat.

Sixteen courses of fish; five of eggs; omelets, and the like; a few of butter; seven of sweets and pastry; the richest of wines; coffee and liqueurs. The repast brought to my notice that it was Friday.

"Nephew,' said my aunt, 'I never permit a single dish of flesh to appear at my table on these days of abstinence, whoever may be seated at it. Captain Fitzhenry has good-humoredly accommodated himself to my customs; need I request you to do the same to-day, and hold it as a fast?'

Certainly she need not, and when I thought of my usual dinner, a solitary chop and a pint of porter, and compared it with the rich board before me, I wondered whether it did not, of the two, better deserve the name of fast.

"These periodical fast-days, my son," cried the priest to me, "are wholesome for the soul."

"Perhaps more so than would be for the body, holy father, if it attacked but half of the fast before us."

"Highly good," repeated the priest, these days of mortification."

"Is Fitzhenry not a Catholic, Carry?" I whispered, in reference to Mrs. Dashingly's late remark.

"There were never such quick ears as that priest's, I do believe! Caroline sat beside me, and my question was a whispered one; but he had caught it, and was answering before Carry could speak.

"A docile young man!—a worldly gentleman, is he of whom you speak, my son. I have sought and had frequent converse with him, and his deference to my opinions is remarkable. Reared enough he has been in the tenets of an opposite creed, he is perfectly willing to listen to reason; and I think have succeeded in confuting, to his own satisfaction, some of the more heretical of his doctrines. Had we found him otherwise, I might have held it my duty to warn my good daughter there against entrusting the welfare of that lamb in his keeping."

The priest bowed to Mrs. Dashingly, and waved his fork at Caroline, lest the company present should not understand that they were the daughter and the lamb spoken of.

"Should have stopped his pretensions in the bud, and referred him elsewhere," cried aunt, who in the present advanced stage of the affair could afford to talk largely. "And indeed, I do not know that I should not deem it right to do so, even now, were it not for the promise he has made."

"A tractable young man—a teachable spirit!" apostrophized the priest, my grandfather, tapping his snuff-box with the silver coin of rock melted butter.

"A most amiable disposition, I have heard my aunt, [illegible] Caroline [illegible] six months after Caroline shall have become his wife, he will, if she should still wish it, embrace the Roman Catholic faith."

"If all those who have been trained to walk astray would but take pattern by his example, what a blessed world it would be!" ejaculated the priest, with a side groan towards Lina.

"He has done all he could to convert her," chimed in Mrs. Dashingly, alluding to the captain, and looking daggers at Lina, who, what with the priest's groans and aunt's words, was turning crimson. "He has told me so himself twenty times, and feelingly bewailed her state of spiritual darkness to me."

"Ah!" sighed the priest, as he hesitated between potted lampreys and roast salmon, casting an eye alternately upon the tempting aspect of each, "that estimable young heretic is three parts of a saint already. He has promised his sweet lamb that when she is his wife, if she likes to endow a chapel, she shall."

"A generous fellow, this bridegroom elect of yours, Carry," I whispered.

A flashing, beaming, triumphant glance shot from her eyes towards me, as she looked up for a moment from her plate. It told that she was quite as sensible of the advantages to be derived from a rich and submissive husband, as they were.

For myself, I was anything but anxious to see him. He was already sketched, drawn, colored and hung up in my mind's eye—a harmless milksop of a baby, about twenty, who dared not say his soul was his own, and whose head had been constructed to carry as few brains as possible. Who else could be taken (in) by a young flirt like Caroline? Somehow, since aunt had so kindly helped to cure my own infatuation, I had grown wonderfully alive to the real worth and attractions of my fair cousin.

I rose after dinner when the ladies did, fearing Father Ignatius, if we were left alone together, might carry my faith by storm, as it appeared he had almost done the captain's, and send me back to Glasgow a conscientious Papist; but the priest had risen also, and was leaving us to go his own way. However, I did not care to drink wine by myself, so I followed them, and leaning over the back of Carry's chair, made violent love to her, by way of passing away the time. She was relapsing into her old coquettish ways ere I had been there ten minutes—on my honor she was—and we were on the point of as hot a flirtation as ever when the room door suddenly opened, and the butler popped in his head:

"Captain Fitzhenry."

(End of Part First.)

[From the Wiltshire Mirror.]

POPISH POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

It is high time that the people of this country should awake to a sense of danger, and arouse themselves to energetic action. Lord John Russell proposes to abolish the oaths which were imposed as a protection to the Church; and not only to admit Jews to Parliament, but even to take away those safeguards of Protestantism which still remain. We should not be at all surprised, if his lordship would next introduce a measure for the separation of Church and State. We call upon all who value our true honoured institutions, to use every opportunity which may be afforded them, from time to time, to defeat the iniquitous efforts of the enemies of the Church of England.

Lord John, in bringing forward his propositions, takes it for granted that Romanism has changed in many respects. He admits that when the oath of supremacy was first drawn up there was need for such a measure; but he asserts that now there are no persons who hold that a Prince, excommunicated by the Pope, may be deposed by his subjects. We were not a little surprised at the tone of assurance with which his lordship made this statement. He must have known the reverse, or else be altogether ignorant of the laws and canons of the papacy. It would have answered his purpose better had he given evidence upon the subject, instead of taking it for granted that his view of the matter was correct. Why did he not put his hand upon the bull of the Pope which repudiates and condemns the ancient doctrine of the Romish Church, as to the deposition of kings? Why did he not refer to the *consensus* of modern divines, against the king killing doctrine? Why did he not give the Canon of the Council which denounces such just indignation so horrible a tenet? The fact is—his lordship would have been glad to do so, if he could. No one knows better than he himself the worthlessness of mere assertion, and the emptiness of unsupported declamation; but Lord John Russell, with all his cuteness, could not perform impossibilities. There is *no* bull of a Pope—there is no *consensus* of divines—there is no Canon of a Council which repudiates the dogma that it is in the power of the Pope to depose Princes, and that, under such circumstances, it is the duty of subjects to get rid of their Princes in the most effective way they can. So far from giving up her ancient views on this and kindred questions, the Church of Rome of late has set her seal upon Jesuitism and Ultra Montanism, and is now, even more than ever, dangerous to the liberties of the world! She has solemnly sanctioned the moral teaching of Alphonsus Liguori, and *canonized* the author. And even in this country, Cardinal Wiseman has had the temerity to publish the works of Liguori with his official approval.

If the reader will but consult the moral theology of Alphonsus Liguori, or if that be too cumbersome to him, extracts from it published by "The Protestant Reformation Society," he will find abundant proof of the truth of our statement, and of the utter groundlessness of the assertions of my Lord John Russell.

His Lordship has even the audacity to propose that the oath now administered to Romish members of Parliament shall be so modified, as to leave them quite unfettered in their opinions and actions. As it is, they are obliged to "Disclaim, disavow, and solemnly abjure any intention to subvert the present Church establishment as settled by law within this realm;" but Lord John would remove this. Pray for what purpose? Is it not that they may have full scope for the carrying out of their hostile intentions as to the church? Despite of the oath the majority of Romish members already attack our venerable establishment at every point. And my Lord John would now take away the oath itself, that without even the charge of inconsistency, they may go forward in their work of sacrilege, and carry on their bold crusade against the Protestant cause. Should at any time the houses of Parliament repeal the oath, and thus trample down this safeguard, the Romanists will prosecute their designs with renewed vigour, and regard its removal as a sort of sanction to their efforts. It would have been far better never to have required such a test to be applied to Roman Catholic members than now to draw back. Retrogression on our part will give greater confidence to the foe, and invite the assault.

Again, Lord John displays what we are compelled to characterise by either of two terms—ignorance or dishonesty. The path plough with the following affirmation—"I do make this declaration, and every part thereof in the plain and ordinary sense of the words of this path, without any evasion, equivocation or mental reservation whatever." Lord John considers this as altogether unnecessary, and takes it for granted that there are now no persons who hold that it is lawful to swear with equivocation! We have said that we must characterise his statement by either of two terms—ignorance or dishonesty. We are sorry to be compelled to choose the latter alternative. Lord John cannot be ignorant of the fact that Liguori, to whom we have already made reference, is now the great authority in the Church of Rome, and that he in the most distinct manner teaches the lawfulness of equivocation and mental reservation. We give but one passage from that moralist:

"These things being established, it is a *certain* and a *common* opinion among *all* divines that it is lawful to use equivocation in the propounded modes, and to confirm it with an *oath*." p. 316. tom. 11, Mock. 1845.

Such is the teaching of Liguori canonized in 1839. Such is the doctrine now introduced into England by Cardinal Wiseman, who lauds Liguori in the highest terms, and commends his works. What then shall we think of the assertions of Lord John Russell, who pleads for the removal of the oath on the ground that there are now no parties who hold the lawfulness of equivocation.

We are sorry to see at the ministry of his lordship in a measure such as this. How he could dare to do it, in the face of the events of the present day is surprising to us. We should not have wondered so much at the enunciation of views like these, had it taken place fifty years ago. Bigotry never changed, nor abated one jot of her unlawful and most presumptuous claims. She kept them in abeyance, for a time, through fear, through the Revolution and other events were, as vials of wrath, poured upon her. She lay prostrate in the dust. Even in the time of John Bunyan, she was so crippled in her power that the "Pilgrim's Progress" represents the giant Pope as perfectly infirm and harmless, and only able to show his teeth at the travelers passing by. We should not have wondered, we say, if parties fifty years ago had proposed to repeal the oath of supremacy; (though even then, as the event has shewn, it would have been unwise); but that Lord John should dare propose to repeal that and similar oaths at this time is to us amazing indeed! What! have we already forgotten the aggression made upon us but two years ago? Has Lord John himself ceased to remember his famous Durham letter? Can we close our eyes to the fact that Rome is embroiling the world in feuds by her proud pretensions? Look at her conduct in New Grenada—in Holland—in Prussia, and at this moment, look at her doings in Eaden. Look too at the dreadful war in which all Europe, aye, and three quarters of the globe are likely to be involved ere many days pass over. Whatever may be our estimate of Russia—whatever may be our feelings towards the Turks, it is well that we should know a fact, and that fact is this—*it was Rome that threw in the apple of discord.* She made aggression upon the East—she, by her *French* diplomacy, induced the Sultan to bestow upon her the privileges that he had before given to the Greeks, and then the strife commenced, the issue of which, time, and that perhaps a time far hence, alone can tell. On *her* head rests the responsibilities of the war which is likely to kindle all Europe into a flame. She is the disturber of all nations—a plague wherever she exists; and yet now, my Lord John proposes the repeal of oaths in order to give freer action to her nefarious designs in this country. Out upon him, and out upon Lord Aberdeen and his associates—the real concoctors of these measures—the real cause, by their vacillation, of England's share in the war.

STRANGE REVELATIONS REGARDING THE CHINESE INSURGENT ARMY.

In a late number of the *North China Herald* is a letter from Doctor Mendhurst, a learned Oriental scholar, in which he gives quite an interesting account of the Insurgent Army at Nanking, derived from a Chinaman just arrived at Shanghae, who had served a long time under Tae-ping-wang. So little has been given to the world regarding the organization, motives and character of the Rebel forces, that this sketch, coming from one who possessed a full knowledge on the subject, is entitled to more than ordinary consideration. Doctor Mendhurst says—

I have just fallen in with a Canton man, who was for some time a follower of Tae-ping-wang, and who left Nanking in August last. His account may be considered trustworthy, because it corresponds in its main points with that we know of the state of things there; and it is important, inasmuch as it reveals certain facts with which we were not before acquainted. I do not conceive that the man had any motive for deceiving me, and his statements were delivered with an air of candor which carried with them a conviction of his sincerity. True or not, you have them, as nearly as possible as he delivered them, and you may take them for what they are worth.

When questioned as to the religion of the insurgents, he answered with an air of reverence that they worshipped God (Shang-te.) When asked when they did it? he replied, every day, and previous to every meal. He was then requested to repeat something of what they said; when he chanted the doxology, as it is found in the Book of Religious Precepts of Tae-ping-wang, in such a tone and manner as showed that he was familiar with it. As he had referred to their daily meals, he was asked whether they had sufficient to eat: Abundance, he replied. And whether they had enough to wear? To which he answered that they had plenty of clothing. He was then asked how long he had been with them? he said that he had followed them from Canton, and that his hair had grown three or four inches long.—How came it then, he was asked, as he had quite enough to eat and to wear, with good instruction, and a prospect of going to Heaven when he died, that he came to leave them? Oh, he replied, a man could not smoke common tobacco, and by no means opium; a man could not gamble, nor drink; nor indulge his lust, nor quarrel nor steal; and if one did but rail at another, he got a bamboozing. It was suggested that by urging these as the reasons for leaving, he exposed himself to the suspicion that he was fond of all these bad practices; and thereby laid himself open to just ridicule and reproach. On hearing this, he looked rather ashamed, and seemed willing, if he could, to retract his expressions. He was then asked whether he got any pay? to which he replied, not a cash; no pay being dealt out to the troops from one month's end to another. He was also asked whether he was allowed to enjoy the society of his wife? to which he replied in the negative—adding that the women in Nanking were all kept in a particular quarter of the city, where there were whole streets of them, but that no men were allowed to approach, under pain of death.

On a subsequent occasion he was asked whether such a person as Tae-ping-wang actually existed, or whether he was dead, and his image carried about, as some had reported. He said that he had no doubt Tae-ping-wang was an actual living man; that he frequently went about in a chair, but so shrouded in deep folds of silk, that the common people could not get a glance at him.—The highest officers, however, saw him every night, when they went to consult about affairs of state, and to receive his orders. He was asked whether he had ever heard that Tae-ping-wang had been up to Heaven? to which he replied—"it certainly—it was commonly reported, and fully believed among his followers." Recurring to the subject of the soldiers receiving no pay, he was asked whether any of them possessed any property of their own? to which he replied "none whatever;" and if more than five dollars are found in the possession of any man, he is immediately bamboozed for not having given it up previously. All moneys, immediately they are acquired, were instantly to be handed over to the general treasury, and any person secretly hoarding wealth, is suspected of treasonable practices. Was there much, then, in the general treasury? oh, abundance,—heaps upon heaps of untold silver, which was all reserved for the carrying out of the great cause.—As no person was allowed to have any private resources, how did they manage, it was asked, when they wanted to buy anything nice for food? There was no need for that, he said, as the centurion of every company bought what was necessary for the mess, and when it was put upon the tables they shared every one alike, the dish of the highest officer being no way different from that of the very meanest soldier. He was then asked why the men were separated from the women, and when such separation took place? He said that during all their progress from Kwangsi, the women fought by the side of the men, and conducted themselves as bravely; but when they arrived at Nanking, they were separated, because there was no need for them to engage in warfare. They were therefore kept apart, and their various duties to perform, and were engaged for a great part of the time in learning; every band of twenty-five women having an instructress over them. As for the men, they were told that it was their business to fight and to work for the present; and when the Empire was gained they might enjoy their wives. But how, it was asked, is each one to find his own, when the war is over, among such a multitude? He replied, every man and woman is marked or registered, and there will not be the slightest difficulty in restoring to each man his original partner. He was asked whether there were any secret societies among Tae-ping-wang's followers, resembling Triad societies, Small Knives, Green Band, and others? Small Knives, he thought, had actually implicated themselves here, for the king certainly had them in his service. How did the Small Knives come, was asked, thus by his side? Simply, he replied, that in the march of events they had joined the rebels, and he knew that they had taken Ningpo, Shaohsing, and Hangchow, and that they had joined the insurgents. Also there were Triads in the service of Tae-ping-wang, and so there was Green Band, strong enough, he said, to do all. Speaking of learning, he was asked what books they learned? He said, in reply, that he was never fond of the books himself, but he had heard others say that the books were those of the Tang dynasty, and of the Ming dynasty. He was then asked whether he had ever been to a school, and what books he had then learned? He said he had only been to school for about a year, when a boy, and the school master flogged him so grievously that he ran away. During that year what books did he learn? He said the Te-heoh and the Chung-yung. Had he ever seen these books in Nanking? Yes, he said, he had seen them, but they were altered. Were books on history permitted? He did not know.—What about the books of Budha? Oh, everything belonging to Budaha and Taou were indiscriminately destroyed; the temples and images were all smashed to pieces, and he supposed that the books of those religionists shared the same fate. As for the priests, they dared not show their faces, and together with gamblers, whoremongers, and opium smokers, were scattered to the four winds. There was no use talking about such, as they were utterly exterminated. He was then asked whether they kept the Sabbath? to which he replied that it was regularly observed; that no work was done on that day except what was necessary; that they all assembled for public worship in large halls, where they knelt down to prayer, and that the Chiefs exhorted them. On being asked who the exhorters were? he mentioned among others Lae, at Nanking. He knew nothing about Baptism or the Lord's Supper. He was asked if he had heard much of Jesus? He replied that he had heard his name very frequently, but he was not competent to detail what he heard. He was then asked what was his settled opinion—he had been for several months with Tae-ping-wang, and several months with the Imperialists—which, now speaking honestly, did he prefer? He looked round, and he asked if no one was near, and whether we would accuse him? We replied, there was no danger. Upon which he exclaimed with emphasis, "I am for Tae-ping-wang." Why, then, it was again asked, did he leave him? Because, said he, I had a brother among the Imperialists, and I wanted to see him; in order to accomplish this, I went out secretly; my brother then had my head shaved, and reported that I was a distressed subject of the Emperor, who had been deceived into following the Insurgents. I was then taken into the pay of the Imperialists, and was afraid to go back lest I should lose my head.

What an extraordinary view does the above represent of the Insurgent Army! What a moral revolution! To induce 100,000 Chinamen, for months and years together, to give up tobacco, opium, lust and covetousness; to deny themselves in lawful gratifications, and, what is dearer to a Chinaman's heart than life itself, to consent to live without dollars, and all share alike, braving death in its worst form, and persevering therein without flinching. There may be defective teaching among them—there may be errors of a greater or less magnitude—but if what is above detailed be true, or the half of it, it is confessedly a moral revolution—it is the wonder of the age.

As the prospect of war becomes more decided, so does the desire of the British population increase to take part in the struggle.

We understand that the authorities of the Horse Guards have been quite inundated with volunteers proffering their services in every rank of the military profession.

An example of patriotism and military courage has been set by the officers of the Monmouthshire Light Infantry Militia, which cannot fail at the present moment to have a very salutary influence. The officers held a meeting at the courthouse of the county town, Colonel Clifford, the commanding officer presiding, when it was unanimously resolved, upon the motion of Lieut. Colonel Vaughan:—"That Lieut-Colonel Clifford, commanding the Monmouthshire Light Infantry Militia, be requested to make known to her Majesty's Government the unanimous desire of the officers of his regiment, in the event of a war with Russia, to place themselves entirely at her Majesty's disposal, to serve for any period or in any country where the public service may demand. They would also express their confidence, from what they know of the temper and character of the men, that a very large proportion of them would volunteer for any service which the country might require."

FATAL CATASTROPHE.—On Sunday morning last, the people of Belturbet were startled and shocked by a report that a desperate married couple were both suffocated in their bed on the preceding night. On inquiry, the melancholy report turned out to be too true. It appears that the young man, whose name was Magee, was recently married to a young woman of the name of Henderson and that they both went to reside in a house not far from the barracks. On Sunday night, the weather being cold they injudiciously brought a pan of burning coals into their sleeping apartment, a freshly plastered room, which had no chimney or other means of ventilation, and then, it appears, they retired to rest. Next morning the neighbours perceiving the house to be closed until an unusually late hour sent for the police, who forced an entrance, when the unfortunate couple were found dead in their bed. An inquest was held, and a verdict in accordance with the above facts returned. On Thursday the remains of the unfortunate pair were consigned to the earth in the grave yard attached to Belturbet Church, exactly seven weeks after their marriage.—*Anglo Celt.*

ADVERTISING.—A recent English writer alluding to advertising, remarks:

"You will reap more advantages from a journal circulating 5000 among the upper and middle classes than from a journal circulating 50,000 among the lower classes. Of this you may be sure, that any journal which inserts advertisements cheap, is in fact, a worthless medium. If it were really a good one, it would have no need to lower its prices, for its sheet would be filled without the sacrifice. You may lay it down as a rule that every journal knows its own value, and that if it adopts low prices, it is because it is conscious that it has a low circulation in numbers or in respectability.

A letter from Constantinople of the 20th ultimo, says—"Throughout all the empire voluntary contributions to a large amount, consisting of money, horses, and objects of all kinds are made in order to assist the Government on the war. The highest personages are at the head of this movement, which extends to the poorest classes. All the members of the Divan, all the great dignitaries, the religious, civil, and military bodies, give their aid to the Government. The women, particularly, distinguish themselves in this movement. The harems of the Sultan, of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, of Acem Bay Effendi, and of Abdoul Bey, and also of all the Governors, have given a very large quantity of jewels and other valuables; women, young girls, and even children, contribute their money and their jewels. Smyrna, in addition to other objects, has sent a first sum equal to a million of francs, of which the European population contributed more than 300,000fr."

In the House of Lords, Lord Clarendon had declared that Austria and Prussia are now joined with England and France. The Czar had defied Europe and his challenge would be accepted.

The House of Commons has voted for a supply of 112,977 men for the army, exclusive of those in the East Indies.

The text of the treaty of alliance offensive and defensive between France and England has been published. It stipulates that Turkey shall not conclude any treaty of peace with Russia except with the consent of the two Powers; that they are not to derive any territorial advantage from the present war; and that they have the liberty of sending the armed force they may think proper. Of the army England is to find 50,000 and France 70,000 men to be assembled there about the 1st of April.

Wine, Brandy, Gunpowder, &c.

THE undersigned have on hand, in Stock, 1 Cases OLD WINES, and in wood, the following, viz: Sherry, Port, Madeira, Lisbon, Claret, Hock, Hollands, Cognac, Brandy, Jamaica Rum, Gunpowder, Cordials, Cognac, Curaçoa, Orange, Peppermint, Cordials, Cordial Gin, Old Jamaica Spirits, Cordial Gin, Old Tom, Geneva, Whisky, Brandy, Gin, Rum, Port Wine, Sherry, Old Port, Sherry and Madeira Wines, Brown Stout, Porter, East India and Alloa ALE, &c., are offered for sale by

RANNEY, STURGES, & CO.

March 31. Wine Merchants.

New Fall Goods.

Per steamer Prince, by the "Admiral," from Boston. And on Sale by

March 10. JOHN KINNEAR.

The Evening Mail.

Saint John, N.B., March 31, 1854.

The late European intelligence will be found in the two following Despatches, received by telegraph to the News Room in this city:—

NEW YORK, March 28.

Steamer Africa arrived this morning, from Liverpool.

The reported capture of Kalafat by the Russians is untrue.

No fighting worth notice had occurred.

The messenger with the ultimatum of France and England to the Czar, left Vienna on the 8th, for St. Petersburgh. Prusia and Austria have not signed the ultimatum.

First division of the Baltic fleet, 16 ships, under Sir Charles Napier, sailed from Portsmouth on the 11th; 3000 British troops to go with the fleet.

The 77th Regt. embarked at Liverpool.

First division of French troops leave Toulon on the 20th.

Flour declined 1s. to 1s. 6d.

HALIFAX, March 29.

The steamer *Canada* arrived at 4 P. M., with dates to 18th.

No news of the *Baltic*. It was feared she had got into the ice. *City of Manchester* met ice and had to run 16 hours south to find a passage.

All the steamers with troops had arrived at Malta.

The "Niagara" will return with more. Several ships are taking troops on board at Liverpool. The Cunard steamer "Taurus" sailed on the 18th, with a regiment.

The "Cambria" also returned from Malta.

Czar's reply could not arrive until the 26th or 28th March.

The correspondent of the London *Chronicle* says that despatches from the Ambassador at London were read in Council. The English Cabinet is not disposed to look upon the proposition made by Prussia, for the resumption of negotiations as serious, and thinks there is no occasion for the Cabinets to occupy themselves with them. The only thing to be done at present is to hasten the embarkation of troops to Constantinople and the despatch of the third squadron to the Baltic. This opinion is fully approved of.

It is said that the subscription to the loan already amounts to 310,000,000 francs.

The Gulfs of Bothnia and Finland are still covered with ice. The Swedish papers report that 30,000 Russians are employed in cutting a channel from Constradt to Sweaborg.

The merchants at St. Petersburg feel certain of war.

The Czar's reply to the last peremptory message from England and France was due on the 15th, but not received. There were numerous reports of concessions on the part of Russia; these were regarded as meant to create discussions and retard the complete combination of European powers.

On the Danube there was no movement of importance.

From Asia there is no news.

Public expectation looks now to the Baltic for the next move.

Kalafat continues to be strengthond.

The Russians made an excursion to the right bank of the Danube to cover the advance of a flotilla with supplies. This succeeded in passing up. The Turks performed a similar manouvre.

The Russians seemed to have suspended their intention to attack Kalafat and now menace the Turks at Galatz and Brailer. Omar threatens various points.

The Greek insurrection has not quite subsided but is not formidable. The garrison of the citadel of Arta had chased insurgents across the Greek frontier, where they were themselves repulsed by the Greek troops.

Servia quiet.

The Allied fleets still at Beicos—Russian fleet still at Sebastopol.

It is reported that the first operation of the Anglo French army will be to attack the Crimea. The troops will land at Ballakhlaven to attack Sebastopol by land, while the fleets attack it by sea.

The Russians are fortifying the interior cities of Wallachia and Moldavia, especially Focksham; 10,000 workmen are strengthening the fortifications at Sebastopol and also fortifying Odessa, and the entrance of the Dnieper. They are also fortifying Cronstradt, Wilburg and Sweaborg and the Baltic.

The Baltic still covered with ice.

The French fleet being employed in conveying troops to the East, will for the present, send only the Austerlitz line of battle ship to the Baltic. Admiral Deschenes squadron will soon join Napier's.

Admiral Corry, in the Neptune, had sailed to join Napier, and other ships are despatched as reaily.

Twenty-seven sailing vessels and six steamers are embarking men and horses at Woolwich.

The Coasting Trade Bill was read a second time in the House of Lords. In the Commons in reply to D'Israeli, it was stated that no new proposals had been made by Russia to settle the Eastern question.

There is a number of heavy failures.

The steamer Sydney had arrived from Australia, with half a million sterling in gold.

Prince Hohenzollern presented an autograph letter from the King of Prussia to the French Emperor defending Prussian neutrality. Napoleon replied that his mission was altogether too late.

The Sultan has sent a friendly autograph to the Pope.

Denmark is fortifying her cities, and fitting out a fleet of 300 guns.

Sweden arms actively—is fitting up 7 line of battle ships, and has formed two camps.

Affairs in Birmah continue unsatisfactory.

Pekin is reported to be strictly invested.

MARKETS.

Flour further receded about 1s. 6d. to 2s.; Eastern Canal, 33s.; Philadelphia, 36s. to 36s. 6d. Wheat in retail only 3d. to 4d. lower—White, 11s. 2d. to 11s. 6d.; Red, 10s. 6d. to 10s. 10d. Indian Corn difficult of sale, offered at a reduction of 6d. to 1s.

THE CITY ELECTIONS for an Alderman, a Councillor, and a Constable, for each ward, will take place in the different wards on Tuesday next; and as the election is to be conducted by ballot, and none but rate-payers will have a voice, the electors must go to the polls prepared with a legibly written or printed paper, naming the candidates for whom they vote to each office; and they are also required to produce a receipt or certificate from the collector of taxes, shewing that they have paid the last year's assessment. A list of persons qualified to vote has been prepared, and will be held by the presiding officer, so that persons not entitled to a vote, and who have therefore given more or less trouble at elections, had better remain at home on the present occasion.

NEW SHIPS.—Two very superior ships were launched at high water, Saturday, at Williams' ship yard, Sand Point; one of about 1200 tons, from the ship yard of Thompson & Steadman, called the *John Bamsfather*; the other about 900 tons, built by M'Lauchlan & Stackhouse, called the *Manual Hamilt*. They are both first class vessels, and constructed with all the care it was possible to bestow upon them.

SOLDIERS' WIVES.—A movement has been made in Portland towards the soldiers' wives and families of those who have gone from that place to the seat of war in Turkey and Russia, a very laudable object, we think. We hear that a committee of ladies has been made to visit the families of those who have gone, to ascertain what they need, and to make it their business to see that they are properly cared for during the absence of their husbands. We understand that the committee have made a very commendable beginning, and that the ladies have met with a very cordial response to their efforts. We hope the ladies will be encouraged in their good work, and that they will be the means of stirring up others to follow their example. We know of no more deserving class of our fellow citizens than those to whom we are thus enabled to extend our sympathies and secured friends where it hapet to be most needed.

We think, too, that the ladies of Portland will be the means of stirring up the people of other towns to similar acts of kindness. We predict that if the ladies of Portland will make a beginning, the ladies of other towns will follow in the same path. We know that the ladies of Portland are noted for their benevolence, and we know